

# LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Fourth Session  
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 29, 2010/Vaisakha 9, 1932 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Sahib): Tytler has been given a clean chit in the matter of anti-sikh riots.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: If you have any problem, you can raise it during zero hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please raise it in the 'Zero Hour'.

Q.481 - Shri Joseph Toppo.

11.01 hrs.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Exploration of Gas in North East

\*481. SHRI JOSEPH TOPPO: Will the Mtnister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of surveys undertaken for exploration of oil and natural gas by different public sector and private companies in the North Eastern States;

(b) the details of exploration work completed by these companies;

(c) the details of crude oil extracted from North Eastern States during the last five years and current year; and

(d) the details of commercial production of crude oil carried out during the period?

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

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

#### Statement

(a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/Joint Venture companies are carrying out exploration work in the North Eastern States. The details of exploratory work carried out by ONGC, OIL and Private/JV companies in these states are as under:

	ONGC	OIL	Pvt/JV	Total
2D seismic (Ground Line Kilometre)	37,939	25,200	1,854	64,993
3D seismic (sq. km.)	4,731	6,567	234	11,532
Exploratory wells	825	236	9	1,070

(c) and (d) Crude oil production in the last six years from 2004-05 to 2009-10 in the North Eastern States was 27.981 million metric tonne (MMT). The year wise details are as under:

(figures in MMT)

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
4.784	4.577	4.508	4.461	4.777	4.873

[English]

SHRI JOSEPH TOPPO: In my area of Tezpur, we have 100 tea gardens. There are about fifty thousand most socially backward and illiterate tea garden and ex-tea garden workers in that area. I would like to know whether your Ministry has made some policy to establish Computer Training Centres for their children as you have done in coal field areas/



localities. You have, done so many good things like construction of bridges, roads, etc. in those areas. Can you do similar favour for this area also?

SHRI JITIN PRASAD A: As far as tea gardens in Assam are concerned, the Petroleum Ministry supply gas at APM rates which are very low and in fact, it is a loss to the petroleum companies.

As far as this question relating to CSR activity is concerned, a lot of money has been spent by Oil India and ONGC in the North-East and in Assam. A lot of proposals are there with regard to education, with regard to health and with regard to hospitals. If he is talking about computer centres, there have been computer centres which have been set up in Nazira and Guwahati in Assam. So whatever companies can do with regard to CSR activities, they are doing it in that area.

SHRI JOSEPH TOPPO: What is the percentage of State's share given from the revenue earned from explored-commercial crude oil? What is the total number of people displaced or shifted from their land during this exploration work in Assam? Had the affected people been given sufficient compensation or permanent jobs by the concerned companies?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: The policy of upstream companies is wherever there has been any sort of disruption to people, property and crops, adequate compensation from time to time in consultation with the State Governments is given. There is no such problem at the moment. In fact, the local sentiments in the North-East is that at times when there are rumours that ONGC is pulling out of that area, they do not want it. I want to put to rest that there is no programme of ONGC coming out of Assam. In fact, people do want our upstream companies to work in Assam because of the kind of CSR activities that they do and the kind of employment that they do generate in that area. So, I think it is for the benefit of that area and whatever problems that are being faced by any person will be handled separately and all issues will be sorted out.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the exploration of oil in Cochin from the Arabian sea is over. If so, what was the outcome of exploration?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, we have got this question relating to North-East and exploration in North-East but this is specifically regarding Cochin. I can send him the details. Of hand, I can tell him that there have been exploration and drilling activities but as far as commercial viability is concerned, at the moment that has not come to light.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: I have gone through the reply of the hon. Minister. He has simply brushed aside the pin-pointed question asked by the hon. Member. The hon. Minister has stated that by 3D - a process of seismic survey - nearly 86,000 kilometres have been surveyed. I want to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact as to how much seismic survey can he do on the river Brahmaputra. According to the Geological Survey of India, if seismic survey is carried out in the river Brahmaputra, there will be collateral damage as it is an earthquake prone zone. I would like to know as to how much care has been taken by the Ministry in this regard.

Secondly, regarding the social activities, the hon. Minister has mentioned about the social activities.

MADAM SPEAKER: You are allowed to ask only one question.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Madam, I may mention that there are no social activities that have been taken up by the companies under the control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The hon. Minister may kindly check this.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as far as the hon. Member's question regarding the Brahmaputra river and the basin is concerned, I would like to say that there had been an initiative by the Ministry and our upstream companies to do a seismic survey in that river basin but because of a lot of NGOs and environmental issues with regard to dolphins in the Brahmaputra river, we have put a stop to that. Various committees and with the involvement of the Ministry of Environment. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Is the Minister aware that there is a collateral damage. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: We are not going in for any

survey until environmental clearance is obtained. A Multi-disciplinary Advisory Committee has been formed and they are reviewing the hindrances that are involved. They are looking at various consultants and they want to come out with a solution whereby no damage to the environment, to the dolphins, to the marine life there happens at all. So, only after a decision by the Multi-disciplinary Advisory Committee comes out, then only we will go ahead with the Brahmaputra Seismic Survey and other exploration activities. Until then there will be no activity with regard to this Brahmaputra River.

Madam, as far as CSR activities are concerned, the ONGC has spent to the tune of about Rs. 20 crore in the previous year in the CSR activities. Also, a lot of other activities have been looked at. Setting up of a 100 bedded or 200 bedded hospital at Shivsagar at the cost of a few crores is being proposed.

*[Translation]*

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Madam Speaker, the issue of petrol and diesel has been discussed in the House as well as outside the House. The Government imports crude oil worth approximately Rs.80-90 thousand crore every year and tries to meet the requirements of the people. On the other hand, private companies like the Reliance and others are exporting crude oil explored from the Indian land.

I would like to know from the Government the names of the private companies which exported oil, along with the quantum of oil exported and the countries to which this export was made during the last five years. Besides, I would also like to know the norms adopted for identifying the areas for the exploration of oil? Have such wells been recently discovered in Uttar Pradesh to explore oil?

*[English]*

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, the question does not relate to the exploration in the North-East. Whatever, his queries are with regard to the public sector and private sector.

*[Translation]*

He can contact me personally. I will give him complete details.

In regard to the queries regarding Uttar Pradesh asked by him, seismic surveys have been conducted there. Wells have also been dug there, however, no oil or gas reserves have been discovered there so far.

*[English]*

#### **Sachar Committee Recommendations**

†  
\*482. SHRI P.K. BIJU:

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the progress on the action taken by the various Departments/States/UTs/agencies/authorities on the recommendations made by the Sachar Committee for ameliorating the conditions of the minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has laid down any time frame for implementation of the recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Statement**

(a) and (b) Implementation of the decisions taken by the Government on the follow up action on the recommendations of the Prime Minister's High Level Committee on Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India (Sachar Committee), which are implemented by the concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government, is reviewed on quarterly basis. The status of implementation of decisions is Annexure.

### Annexure

The Government took decisions on the recommendations of the Prime Minister's High Level Committee on Social, Economic and Educational status of the Muslim Community of India, pertaining to various Ministries/Departments. The decisions of the Government on the follow-up action on the major recommendations of the Sachar Committee and the Ministry/ Department wise status of implementation are as under:-

- (i) All public sector banks have been directed to open more branches in districts having a substantial minority population. In 2007-08, 523 branches were opened in such districts. In 2008-09, 537 new branches were opened. In 2009-10, 699 new branches have been opened (Department of Financial Services).
- (ii) RBI revised its Master Circular on 5th July, 2007 on priority sector lending for improving credit facilities to minority communities. Over Rs. 82000 crore were provided to minorities under priority sector lending during 2008-09 and over Rs. 1,08,000 crore were provided to minorities under priority sector lending during 2009-10 (Department of Financial Services).
- (iii) District Consultative Committees (DCCs) of lead banks have been directed to regularly monitor disposal and rejection of loan applications for minorities (Department of Financial Services).
- (iv) A multi-pronged strategy to address the educational backwardness of the Muslim community, as brought out by the Sachar Committee, has been adopted, as given below (Ministry of Human Resource Development):
  - a) The Madarsa Modernization Programme has been revised to make it more attractive by providing better salary to teachers, increased assistance for books, teaching aids and computers, and introduction of vocational subjects, etc. This is now known as Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madaras and has been launched with allocation of Rs. 325 crore during the Eleventh Five-Year Plan.
  - b) A new centrally sponsored scheme of financial assistance for Infrastructure Development of Privately Managed Elementary/Secondary / Senior Secondary schools set up for minorities has been launched with allocation of Rs. 125 crores for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan.
  - c) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has prepared text books for all classes in the light of the National Curriculum Framework-2005,
  - d) Thirty five universities have started centers for studying social exclusion and inclusive policy for minorities and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
  - e) Under the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme, criteria of educationally backward blocks has been revised with effect from 1st April 2008 to cover blocks with less than 30% rural female literacy and in urban areas with less than national average of female literacy (53.67%: Census 2001). Under the scheme, out of 2573 KGBVs, 453 have been sanctioned in blocks having a substantial Muslim population.
  - f) Universalization of access to quality education at secondary stage called Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been approved. The scheme envisages preference to minority concentration areas in opening of Government schools. State Governments have been advised to accord priority to setting up new/upgraded schools in minority concentration areas while appraising proposals under this scheme.

- g) Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) are envisaged in the revised schemes. At present, JSSs are imparting vocational training in 33 out of the 88 Muslim dominated districts in the country.
- h) Preference is given by University Grant Commission for provision of girls' hostels in universities and colleges in the areas where there is concentration of minorities especially Muslims.
- (v) An expert group, constituted to study and recommend the structure and functions of an Equal Opportunity Commission, submitted its report on 13th March, 2008. This has been processed as per approved modalities, along with the report of the expert group on diversity index (Ministry of Minority Affairs).
- (vi) A National Data Bank, to compile data on the various socio-economic and basic amenities parameters for socio-religious communities, has been set up in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (vii) An autonomous Assessment & Monitoring Authority (AMA), to analyse data collected for taking appropriate and corrective policy decisions, has been set up in the Planning Commission.
- (viii) A training module has been developed by the Indian Institute of Public Administration, for sensitization of government officials. The module has been sent to the Central/ State Training Institutes for implementation and it has been included in their training calendar. Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) has prepared a module for sensitization of organized civil services and it has been incorporated in their training programme (Department of Personnel and Training).
- (ix) Under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), as on 31.03.10 a total project cost of Rs.2533.16 crore have been sanctioned for 83 towns having substantial minority population (Ministry of Urban Development).
- (x) A Bill has been passed by the Parliament for providing social security to workers in the un-organized sector, which, inter-alia, includes home based workers (Ministry of Labour and Employment).
- (xi) A High Level Committee, set up to review the Delimitation Act, has considered the concerns expressed in the Sachar Committee report and submitted its report (Ministry of Home Affairs).
- (xii) Revised guidelines on Communal Harmony have been issued (Ministry of Home Affairs).
- (xiii) Dissemination of information regarding health and family welfare schemes is being undertaken in regional languages in minority concentration areas (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).
- (xiv) State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been advised by Department of Personnel & Training for posting of Muslim police personnel in thanas and Muslim health personnel and teachers in Muslim concentration areas.
- (xv) State governments have been advised by Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Urban Development to improve representation of minorities in local bodies.
- (xvi) The recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Waqfs have been received. These have been processed as per approved modalities (Ministry of Minority Affairs).
- (xvii) The Government has accorded in-principle approval for restructuring of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (Ministry of Minority Affairs).

- (xviii) An Inter-ministerial Task Force constituted to devise an appropriate strategy and action plan for developing 338 identified towns, having substantial minority population, rapidly in a holistic manner submitted its report on 8th November, 2007. The concerned Ministries/Departments have been advised to give priority in the implementation of their schemes in these 338 towns (Ministry of Minority Affairs).
- (xix) Three scholarship schemes for minority communities viz., Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-means scholarship schemes were launched and 6.89 lakh scholarships were awarded to students belonging to minority communities in 2008-09 and 21.51 lakh scholarships in 2009-10 (Ministry of Minority Affairs).
- (xx) The corpus of Maulana Azad Education Foundation, which stood at Rs. 100 crores, was doubled to Rs. 200 crores in December, 2006. The corpus was increased by Rs. 50 crores in 2007-08 and by Rs. 60 crore in 2008-09. It has been further increased by Rs. 115 crore during 2009-10 and now stands at Rs. 425.00 crore (Ministry of Minority Affairs).
- (xxi) A revised Coaching and Allied scheme was launched in 2006-07 and a cumulative total of more than 15000 students/candidates belonging to minority communities have benefited from this scheme (Ministry of Minority Affairs).
- (xxii) A Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) was launched in 90 identified minority concentration districts in 2008-09. Plans of 80 minority concentration districts in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Bihar, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttrakhand, Mizoram, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh have been approved and Rs. 1243.87 crore released upto 31st March, 2010 since launching of the scheme (Ministry of Minority Affairs).

[English]

SHRI P.K. BIJU: Madam, Justice Sachar Committee Report is an eye-opening report of the Government towards the social standards of Muslim minority in our country. Their educational, employment and social status is below the national average. In the educational sector the literacy rate of the Muslim minority is below the national average. Twenty-five percent of the population in the age group of 6 to 14 never attended school or have discontinued their studies. In the employment sector also the situation is the same. I am not blaming anyone but this is the responsibility of the ruling coalition in our country.

Only 3 per cent belong to Muslim minority community in IAS. 1.8 per cent in IFS and four per cent are there in IPS. The Indian Railways is the major employer in the public sector in our country. But the percentage of Muslim representation is only 4.5 per cent. Out of this, 98.7 per cent are posted at the lower levels. In universities, banks, police, health and transport sectors, the percentage is very low.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask your supplementary.

SHRI P.K. BIJU: Madam, I am coming to the question.

MADAM SPEAKER: Come fast!

SHRI P.K. BIJU: In my State Kerala, we are in a process of implementing the recommendations made by the Sachar Committee.

I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, as to whether the Government has taken any steps to introduce reservation for the Muslim minorities in Government employment and education sector. If yes, what are the details and if no, what are the reasons for it?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam, the thrust of the supplementary is a little beyond the main Question. The issue of reservation is a separate issue. There are discussions and debates going on in the country about it. At present, the reservations are restricted to the OBC category. Whichever minority community come under the OBC category in any State, those minorities are automatically covered. There are different models at present in process in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

As far as the recruitment percentages are concerned, you will be pleased to know that in 2006-07, starting with the recruitment in Central Services, the percentage was at 6.90 per cent. In 2007-08, it went up to 8.32 per cent and in 2008-09, 15,172 persons were recruited. The percentage of the total recruitment is 9.24 per cent.

SHRI P.K. BIJU: This shows that without implementing the reservation norms, we can change the present situation. Is there any special provision or programme to improve the employment situation in education sector and social backwardness of Muslim women? Is there any possibility to increase the scholarship amount to girl students in our country?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam, the hon. Member would be pleased to know that we have special scholarships, for pre-matric, post-matric and means-cum-merit students. We are giving almost Rs. 30 lakh as scholarship to minority students out of which more than 40 to 50 per cent every year are given to only girl students. We also have almost 15,000 scholarships given by the Maulana Azad Educational Foundation to particularly meritorious girl students. That is obviously and exclusively meant for girl students.

In addition to that, the Ministry for Human Resource Development now has extensive programmes both at the primary level and at the middle classes level where special effort is being made to improve infrastructure in minority institutions and madrasas to provide special educational assistance particularly in terms of teachers and also in terms of modern educational equipment like computers. Indeed, the entire profile, as it were of the minority students and that includes all the minorities not Muslims alone, is gradually improving.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister a question. I was elected to the 14th Lok Sabha from Malegaon, a Muslim dominated area. Manmad, Chandvad and Yavla etc. are Muslim dominated areas in Dindori constituency even today. However, school, roads, electricity and hospitals are not available in slum areas even today. We are prospering today

but the number of people below poverty line is still increasing. There has been no improvement in the scenario. Does minority comprise of only Muslims? Doesn't the minority comprise of Jains, Sikhs and Parsis?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam Speaker, I am surprised by what the hon. Member is saying. There is neither school, hospital nor road in his constituency. In the wake of Malegaon riot the ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please let the hon. Minister give a reply first.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Hon. Member may first listen to me and if he has any question, later on I will give its reply. However, we the Members are given Rs. two crore under MPLADS to remove the shortcomings in our respective constituencies ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister complete his reply first.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED: Madam Speaker ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister complete his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, kindly give the reply for the question that was asked.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister give reply to the question asked by the hon. Member. He is giving reply. Alright he is replying. That is why I have asked him to give reply of the question asked. Please let him finish first. Please sit down.

\*Not recorded.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSEED: Madam Speaker, let me clarify one thing ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let him complete. Please sit down. Why are you standing? Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty, please sit down. Let him give the reply. I have asked him to give reply to the question asked. He is giving a reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let him give a reply.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam Speaker, I am coming to the programmes run by the Ministry, however, besides the programmes of the Ministry we should at least pay this much attention to our constituencies that if there is any shortcoming then ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down, Mr. Minister, please give a reply in accordance with the question. Hon. Members, if you are not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister, you may give a notice, we will hold a discussion on the issue, since it is a very important issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam, I will give complete reply to the question ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please let him reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam, the hon. Member has even asked if this is the only minority community? The constitutional fact is that five communities have been notified by the Union Government under section 2 of the Minority Commission Act. This includes Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Parsis and Muslims. Several proposals have come up before the Union Government in regard to Jain Community, however the 11 judges bench of the Supreme Court of India in the T.M.A. Pai Case stated that the Union Government could not notify the minority community. Wherever any minority community has to be notified, it should be done on linguistic basis, so it is not to be notified by the Union government only but the proposal should come from the State Government. We

are bound with the decision of the 11 Judge bench. It was followed by another judgment of Bal Patne in which a person belonging to the Jain community requested the Supreme Court of India to notify even the Jain Community. The National Minority Commission has forwarded a proposal to the Union Government. The Bench also agreeing with the decision of the 11 Judge Bench stated that they two were tied with the decree and until the decision of the 11 Judge bench was reserved, the Union Government could not moot such a proposal. When further discussion takes place then it will become clear as to what is the procedure of the House in this regard and what the sense of the House is.

SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY: Madam, the most deprived of education are the minorities. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if there will be such an education system for the minorities on the lines of model schools where high level education could be made available. I would also like to ask if the Govt. is thinking or has decided to set up colleges and universities for the minorities.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam, as far as the education of the minorities is concerned, there is a provision in the constitution to protect the minority institutions and a Minority Educational Institution Commission has been set up to further strengthen it so that these institutions could get complete protection under all the provisions of any law or the constitution. Besides, there is Madarsa Modernization Scheme too under which all the facilities, which can be provided to the Madarsas to impart good and modern education, are being provided. There are separate provisions of the Ministry of Home Affairs to provide facilities/grants to the minority educational institutions. It is also done through it. We also provide funds to the NGOs running educational institutions through Maulana Azad Education Foundation for construction of school building, school furniture or for providing some more facilities.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the Sachar Committee and Ranganath Mishra Committee constituted by the Central Govt. Sachar Committee has made some recommendations, but the Govt. has not taken any action on the recommendations made by the Ranganath Mishra Committee so far. I demand that action should be taken.

Madam, Sachar Committee had recommended establishment of a National Data Bank and an Assessment Monitoring Authority for the Muslims. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the Ministry has done this and the status thereof after their establishment. Hon. Minister may please explain it.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Both of them have been established. The National Data Bank is running under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation while the autonomous monitoring body is being run under the Planning Commission. They have started their work. As you are aware that the Sachar Committee has special jurisdiction in 90 districts and we are spending Rs.2500 crores there for improving the social amenities there and discussions are going on for implementation of the schemes of various ministries. We have already approved the plans for the 80 districts out of the 90 districts. One of the states had some local problems due to which it has sought some more time to submit plans. Work is going on and I hope that full details will be before you within the next 1-2 years. But, the data collection and monitoring work is going on continuously.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam, he was suggesting recommendation of Rs. 2 crore for the hon. Members. All the hon. Members get work done using that money, so his suggestion is not needed. He should take back his suggestion.

Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to know from the Govt. about the backward classes of India, which include Muslims, Hindus and others too and are already getting the benefits under the Mandal Commission. Sachar Committee was constituted to look into the matters relating to the economic condition of the Muslims of the country including their education, health, upgradation of congested slum areas etc. As regards providing employment to them in the 90 districts of the country, I would like to say that Muslims live in other districts too where there are no arrangements for them. Whatever arrangements he has referred to also do not exist anywhere. Ranganath Mishra ji is a retired judge of the Supreme Court. He was the Chief Justice. He gave this recommendation.

[English]

There is inadequate representation of the Muslim community in Government jobs in India ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Lalu ji, please ask the question.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam, I am only asking question. When I was in the Cabinet then we had taken a decision. I am observing that the Government is not talking straight and wants to manipulate the reservation for backward classes which I do not mind. The Muslim brethren of the country should understand that the Govt. wants to create a rift between them and the backward classes ...*(Interruptions)* This will have to be faced by them and all of us too. Compartment should be made and whichever Government will be in power, that will make its own and I have no objection to it.

[English]

There is inadequate representation of Muslims in Government jobs.

[Translation]

There is no provision in the Constitution. The Govt, is going to bring amendments in the Women's reservation bill ...*(Interruptions)* If the Congress Party has courage then let it bring the amendments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You should give a notice, I will allow discussion on it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Is the Government willing or unwilling to provide Government jobs to the Muslim brothers in proportion to their population by making provisions in the Constitution? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam Speaker, I have got the suggestion from Lalu ji but not the question. I thank him for his suggestion ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: He should give a reply to my question. ...*(Interruptions)*



SHRI SALMANKHURSHEED: His question is not related to it ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam Speaker, my question has not been answered ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Lalu ji, I am saying that you should give a notice. A separate discussion can be held on it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister has not given a reply to my question ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: You should give a notice on this subject. I will allow a discussion on it separately.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam, the hon. Minister has not replied to my question, therefore, I am walking out of the House...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister has not replied to the hon. Member's question. I, too, therefore, walk out of the House ...(*Interruptions*)

11.30 hrs.

*Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Lalu Prasad and some other Hon'ble Members then left the House.*

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

### FDI in Food Processing Industries

†

\*483. SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA:

SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:

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

(a) whether the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow in food processing industry has doubled during the year 2009-10;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the comparative figures of the last three years:

(c) the likely impact of rise in FDI flow on the growth of food processing industry;

(d) whether there is a need to improve indigenous production methods by induction of State-of-the-art technology and upgradation of managerial practices; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Madam. During 2008-09 the FDI was Rs. 45530.4 lakhs (US \$ 102.64 million) and during current year from April 2009-Janurary 2010, Rs. 120809.4 lakhs (US \$ 255.68 million) was received as Foreign Direct Investment in Food Processing Industries. Comparative figures are given in the enclosed annexure.

(c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) complements and supplements domestic investment. FDI brings in, apart from capital, state-of-art technology and best managerial practices, thereby providing better access to the domestic industry to foreign technology and integration into the global market. The extant policy permits FDI under the automatic route in most sectors/ activities, including Food Processing Industries. However, proposals requiring prior Government approval are considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), an inter-Ministerial recommendatory body, which takes into account the policy and sectoral guidelines for FDI. The FIPB also examines whether the proposal would jeopardize an existing joint venture or technology transfer/ trade mark agreement if any, in the same field in India. There is no definitive indication about the adverse impact of FDI on the food processing units, rather these industries have been benefited with innovative technologies, products and quality of the food products. Foreign Direct Investment will bring new products, improved quality and new technology in the Food Processing Sector resulting in higher employment, reduction in wastage of agri products, safe and hygienic foods as well as export potential of processed food. No data is available centrally regarding effect of FDI on the domestic industry.

(d) and (e) In order to attract the level of investments required, the Ministry has urged all the state governments to take measures that would seek to address procedural bottlenecks in attracting private sector investment, create a conducive policy environment by having a separate food processing policy, better brand building, promote R&D for having high processable varieties, skill development and strengthening rural farm gate infrastructure. The Government has taken necessary measures for providing relief and achieving simplification in tax rates to ensure its faster development.

Ministry is providing financial assistance to various research institutions for improvement of quality and development of new products in the Food Processing Sector with an objective of making the food processing industry less dependent on Foreign Technology as far as possible. The Scheme for Technology Up-Gradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries is aimed at creation of new processing capacity and up-gradation of existing processing capabilities, modernization of Food Processing Sector to include Milk, Fruit & Vegetables, Meat, Poultry, fishery, cereal, consumer items, oil seeds, rice milling, flour milling, pulse milling etc.

Development of infrastructure has bearing on the investment climate in food processing sector. Thus, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has been implementing various schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries in the country. MFPI through its various schemes for financial assistance and other promotional measures facilitates creation of food related infrastructure including processing facilities aimed at reducing wastages, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life. Under the Scheme for Technology Up gradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, MFPI extends financial assistance to food processing industries in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh in general area or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakh in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, North Eastern States, A&N Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas. In addition, under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States, higher levels of assistance @ 50% up to maximum of Rs. 4.00 Crore for setting up and Rs. 1.00 Crore for Up gradation of fruit and

vegetables processing is available. A National Horticulture Mission (NHM) has been launched with an objective to boost the horticulture sector.

In the 11th Plan, the Ministry has approved 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 agricultural commodities including poultry, meat, dairy, fisheries etc. in a demand driven manner. Financial assistance up to 50% of project cost excluding land component in general areas and 75% in difficult areas, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 Crore is provided for setting up of Mega Food Parks.

To encourage setting up of cold chain facilities and backward linkages in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th Plan to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public/private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. The scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 Crore.

### Annexure

Financial year-wise FDI inflows from April 2004  
to January 2010

Sector: Food Processing Industries

(Amount in million)

Sl. No.	(Year (Apr-Mar))	FDI in Rs.	FDI in US\$
1	2004-05	1,761.42	38.51
2	2005-06	1,829.43	41.74
3	2006-07	4,408.60	98.24
4	2007-08	2,745.65	69.08
5	2008-09	4,553.04	102.64
6	2009-10 (Apr-Jan)	12,080.94	255.68
	Grand Total	27,379.09	605.90

SHRI RAJAI AH SIRICILLA: Madam, Increase in agricultural production is one side of the growth; and the value addition and processing play a vital role for the benefit of the farmers as well as the consumers and also to meet the requirements of the nation. If you look at the figures available with us, the fruit and vegetable processing is only two per cent, milk is 35 per cent, meat is 21 per cent, and poultry products are six per cent only. If we compare these figures with our neighbouring nations, China has got 40 per cent, Thailand has got 30 per cent, Brazil has got 70 per cent, Philippines has got 78 per cent, and Malaysia has got 80 per cent.

I would like to know whether the Government has prepared an action plan in the balance Eleventh Five Year Plan to promote development of infrastructure by way of giving special funds, especially in the Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh which attracts more FDI because the FDI flow has got direct bearing on the infrastructure.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam, I think, the hon. Member has rightly pointed out the low level of processing of the fruits, vegetables and other parts of agricultural produce. This is real because still our eating habit is to have fresh fruits and vegetables and we are not able to produce much processing level of agricultural produce.

At the same time, backward integration, the market and the farmer relationship is missing; supply chain is a missing part and that is why this processing level is not up to the mark. But we have a Vision Document of us on that line. We want to improve on that. In the last Government, when we started this, it was six per cent and now the total processing level has gone up to 10 per cent. We have succeeded to reduce almost Rs.8,000 crore worth of fruits and vegetables wastage. We are going in for backward integration infrastructure. We have created a scheme, like, Mega Food Park, and Integrated Cold Chain.

In Andhra Pradesh also, I must say that this food processing activity is in a very big way, particularly, in the Telangana region, which the hon. Member has mentioned. We will see to it that we could hold an investors' meet separately for this food processing activities in Telangana region so that the new investors can come there for reducing the wastage of fruits and vegetables.

SHRI RAJAI AH SIRICILLA: Madam, as the hon. Minister has readily agreed that the processing level is only up to 10 per cent, which is very low, the allocation during this budgetary year is only five Mega Food Parks throughout the country.

I would like to know whether there is any plan of action for increasing budgetary allocation for upgradation of food processing units further in convergence with the agricultural production. I would also like to know whether there is any mandatory linkage or bondage with production as well as the processing so that the producer will have a rest assured processing and that he can go for production.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: This needs a complete linkage with the farmer, to the processor or to the market. For that, our Government has suggested to the various States that we must amend the Agriculture Produce Market Act (APMC Act) so that the investor can go to the farmer and have a relationship.

We are having a scheme of upgradation and modernization of the food processing industry. For that, we are giving a lot of assistance in the various areas, at least 25 per cent in the plain area and 33 per cent in the hilly area. We are giving 50 per cent grant for the cold chain and the Mega Food Park. The Ministry is on the way to improve the processing level. With all hardness and hurdles - I can assure - today the growth level of the food processing industry in this recession also, is plus 14 per cent. Whereas the manufacturing sector has come down, the food processing industry has gone up to 14 per cent. It is a major achievement. I can assure, the future belongs to this sector and we will see to it, whatever we can add further, for improvement of the processing level.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the purpose of Mega Food Park is to minimize the wastage of agricultural produce, and increase both price and shelf life. My parliamentary constituency is Rawer in Maharashtra and banana is supplied from there to all over the country. Farmers of that area grow banana in 60 thousand hectares of land. I have written a letter each in the last two years. Through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister as to whether he will grant permission for setting up a Banana Mega Food Park in Rawer? In the 11th Finance allocation, he has granted 30 Mega Food Parks and sanctioned 10 out of them. Whether he has sanctioned these

10 parks on the basis of distribution policy or on need based policy? If the same were sanctioned on need based policy, then, will he grant approval to one Banana Mega Food Park in my Constituency Rawer?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam, we have granted 10 Mega Food Parks during the last year and one of them is in Maharashtra also and we have got a survey conducted by the INFS for the possibilities of success, backward linkage and backward integration of that Mega Food Park. Five Mega Food Parks have recently been announced by the Hon. Minister of Finance. Having 30 Mega Food Parks means that we will initially set up one Mega Food Park in every state and observe its progress and on that basis we will approach the Planning Commission. Which is why I would like to tell the Hon. Member that we can set up a Riping Centre in place of Mega Food Park in his constituency but since one Mega Food Park has already been sanctioned for Maharashtra by our Ministry we will not be able to give one more. That process is underway right now ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE: Where have you given it in Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please listen to him. Let him complete his reply.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: That has not been announced yet because it was determined by expression of interest and it can be finalized at any one place in Maharashtra out of the selected places. But in your case, you are particularly talking about setting up a Banana Mega Food Park, I would suggest that a Banana Riping Centre is much more important, and it is connected with coal linkage. If our Ministry receives any proposal regarding that then I will definitely consider it and you must know that this is not set up by the Government. The Government provides grant to the private investors and works in a hand holding.

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY: Madam Speaker, it is a paradox of our country that while framing policies for this vast country we take thing into consideration on a very large scale and Mega Food Park in one such example. But alongwith this, what is the policy for connecting the traditional industries with the market particularly those industries which have the contribution of female farmers in the food processing sector and to train them? One aspect of this which I would like to seek

reply to, is that whether the Government has framed any policy for providing grants for purchase of equipments for Micro processing and on farm processing so that a farmer can implement the same and install them in his farm in the capacity of a small entrepreneur?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam, we provide a grant of maximum Rs. 50 lakh and 25 per cent grant. The same is given to Micro industries, female Self Help groups as well as to any individual. We have a separate programme for modernization and training. If any NGO, any other organization or institute comes forward then we provide grant to them for a permanent training centre and for one week or 15 days part time training course also ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam Speaker, the question pertaining to Food processing is a very important question. It has got two aspects, first is that it is related to the farmer. Particularly with the agricultural production including fruits and vegetables for which we do not have any cold storage facility or food processing industry. The produce gets rotten due to absence of such facilities and the farmer has to bear that loss. Second aspect is that this is one such industry in which there are maximum opportunities for employment looking at both these aspects he has announced 30 Mega Food Parks in the Eleventh Plan. They want to set up one Food Park in each state and after assessing the success thereof consider furthering the project.

Madam, through you, I would like to ask the Government as to how much time it is going to take in setting up these 30 Mega Food Parks?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam, we have already sanctioned 10 and we shall definitely try to sanction the remaining 20 soon for which we have approached the Cabinet so that we get all the necessary help to implement them. This is our proposal for the Eleventh Five Year Plan so we would definitely like to process it during the Eleventh Five Year Plan itself. It takes two years to complete one Mega Food Park which is why we will complete the processing of the same during this five year plan itself. The work will be completed in two years and works like backward integration, farmer linkage etc. will go on parallel to it so that farmers can get some relief in clusterised farming and demand driven farming. It is our target to complete this in the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

[English]

**Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme**

†

\*484. SHRI S. ALAGIRI:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the ethanol blended petrol (EBP) programme is unable to make a dent due to the decline in sugar production, increase in the price and non-availability of molasses in sufficient quantity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the oil refining and marketing companies have shown little interest in the programme, as it would impact them financially;

(d) if so, the revenue loss likely to be incurred by the oil companies as a result of implementation of the programme; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure sustained supply of ethanol at reasonable prices so as to maintain the supply of ethanol blended petrol without affecting the financial health of the oil marketing companies?

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.

(a) and (b) Yes Madam. The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme has been adversely affected due to short fall in sugar production resulting in short supply of ethanol by the sugar industry. During the period 1st November, 2006 - 31st October, 2009 against the total requirement of 180 crore litres, ethanol supplied was 58.70 crore litres only.

(c) and (d) The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have procured the quantities offered by the sugar industry since November 2006. The OMCs have not suffered a revenue loss as a result of the implementation of the programme.

(e) The National Bio-fuel Policy notified in December 2009 states that the price of ethanol would be decided by the National Bio-fuel Coordination Committee. In the event of petrol price falling below the minimum purchase price for ethanol, the OMCs will be duly compensated by the

Government. The Government is in the process of determining the Minimum Purchase Price for ethanol. Once the price is determined, the OMCs will procure the entire quantity offered by the sugar industry at such a price.

SHRI S. ALAGIRI: Madam Speaker, the Oil Companies under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas did not take any action on the programme of five per cent Ethanol Blended Petrol. The Government instructed the Oil Companies by its notification - it was decided by the Cabinet Committee some years back - to implement this programme but this programme has not so far been implemented under the pressure of the oil lobby. Now, the Prime Minister has taken a strong decision on it. A Committee has also been formed to know the reason as to why this programme has not implemented by the Oil Companies so far.

Madam, from 2011 we have also to start the programme of 10 per cent Ethanol Blended Petrol.

Now, the Ministry is making excuse of the Taxation Policy of States and insufficient supply of ethanol. But 16 States and four Union Territories have agreed to implement this programme.

Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Petroleum as to what are the problems they have faced in not being able to implement this profitable, prestigious and foreign exchange savings programme?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, the hon. Member's query is very relevant. But as far as the ethanol blending programme is concerned, it was in 2006 that the Ministry of Petroleum itself initiated this programme without any Cabinet instruction. So, it was the Ministry's programme. Then onwards, we have seen that - sugarcane being a very cyclical crop, at least, in India, at times, there is a bumper sugarcane crop, high sugar production and at times, there is a big downturn in this sector. This policy was started in 2006-07, as per that policy, five per cent of ethanol became mandatory.

But as far as the supply of ethanol was concerned, they could not match up with the amount of five per cent which is required for blending in petrol. As a result of this, the programme was not so efficient as it was supposed to be. But the Ministry, the Government is very much concerned. The hon. Prime Minister himself holds meetings in this regard. The policy is being framed in such a way that the pricing is such where

these cyclical fluctuations in the sugarcane industry are taken care of, and this blending programme is a success.

SHRI S. ALAGIRI: Brazil is converting 16 per cent of their raw sugar directly into ethanol. At the same time, their production is also very high. They blend 20 per cent ethanol into petrol. In India we have got huge lands, more manpower and water than Brazil has. But why are we not able to blend, at least, five per cent ethanol?

Madam, yesterday, the hon. Minister of Environment gave an honest reply to the House regarding polythene. Today also, this House wants the same honest reply from the hon. Minister of Petroleum regarding this ethanol issue.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: I have already said IT; and I would repeat it. The Ministry of Petroleum wants this programme; it is committed to buy ethanol at the prescribed rate that is decided by the Cabinet and the Committee. Whatever quantities are available, the oil marketing companies would buy them. But let me inform the hon. Member as well as the House that this programme started from 2006 and till 2009, there was a 60 per cent deficiency of the amount of ethanol that was required. They could not give that much of ethanol. The production was not that much. So, we could not buy. The hon. Member is asking as to why it could not take off. That is the reason.

There are other State-specific issues as well. Certain States in this country do not want ethanol. They want ethanol to go, not for blending in petrol, but for alcohol industry, for other chemical industries; and as a result of which, some sugar producing States have not been party to this programme.

[Translation]

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Madam Speaker, the cultivators engaged in sugarcane farming are in great difficulty and sugar industry is also in crisis. On the other hand, as far as petrol is concerned, its prices also continue to rise. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister and the hon'ble Minister of State for putting in continuous efforts in this direction. Through you, I would like to know the time by which a decision will be taken in regard to providing ethanol-blended petrol. Murali Bhai does not own any sugar mill, but I would like to know whether there is any provision where under the Ministry can purchase the sugar mills.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, as far as the question of hon'ble Member is concerned, ethanol blending programme also holds importance because, they fight for the interests of sugarcane growers of the country, the price of sugarcane often fluctuate. Ethanol blending programme was introduced to bring about stability. The farmers, who do not get a suitable remunerative price for sugarcane, will be able to get garner respectable price by selling ethanol to oil marketing companies. Uncertainty in price looms large over them. By this way they will get price stability. The prices often fluctuate. This programme has also been brought to address environment issues. There is a shortage of petrol in the entire world, bio-fuel policy is in force. Our Government is also having a policy to blend more and more quantity of ethanol in petrol, so that more petrol can be conserved. All these efforts are being made. Some hurdles came in its way because we made a provision to fix the prices by floating the tenders. After fall in production of sugar and sugarcane, the people who had filed tenders were not able to fulfil the terms of tenders. After that the Government of India, the Ministry, Food Ministry and Renewable Energy Ministry etc. held the meetings and efforts were being made to fix the minimum support price in a time bound manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except the Minister's speech.

...*(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: A decision thereon is likely to be taken as soon as possible, so that this programme may be re-started. The group of Ministers has been constituted in this regard, which is contemplating on the issue. A decision will be taken on it at the earliest so that the hurdles, which have emerged due to cyclic fluctuation, may not emerge. The people and sugarcane growers will not face problem due to it. Therefore, the Group of Ministers has been constituted in this regard. Concerned Ministries are its Members. Other Ministries are also part of this group. Chemical Industry says that ethanol should not be used for blending with petrol: because they need it for themselves. Besides that, there are many industries. A plan is being formulated with the consent of all the Ministries, so that the plan may be stable, successful

\*Not recorded.

and may be carried forward. Efforts are being made so that it may not get halted due to cyclic fluctuation.

As far as sugar mills are concerned, the two sugar mills, located in Bihar are not running. They were not at all successful. Keeping in view, the interest of the people of the area and the sugarcane growers, the Ministry of Petroleum has purchased those two sugar mills in Bihar so that ethanol may be produced in it. I would like you to inform this to him.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Madam Speaker, you are aware that after the partition of Bihar, the condition of rest of Bihar is very critical. No industry or any other kind of business can be set up there. Only agro-based industry can be set up there. Most MoUs for production of ethanol were signed in Bihar. The Government of India, this Ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture have given the new ruling that production of sugar is also compulsory. It may be right, but the condition of Bihar is very worse and if somebody is interested in making investment there and somebody else stalls this investment, what kind of measures will the Ministry take in this regard and in what manner will it do so because maximum requests for production of ethanol have been received from there. But, as per the new policy, the production of sugar has also been made compulsory. If the Government of India provides relaxation in this regard, the agro-based industry of Bihar will get rejuvenated.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, there is no such policy, but I would like to apprise the hon'ble Member and the House that as far as the compulsory production of sugar is concerned, as he mentioned, if one ton sugarcane is taken for production of ethanol, 70 litre ethanol comes out of it. Molasses is the by-product produced during the production of sugar. 220 litre of ethanol is produced from one tonne of molasses. It is not necessary to stop the production of sugar. Ethanol is produced from the molasses as well, which is a by-product of sugarcane. 220 litre of ethanol is produced from 1 tonne of molasses.

[English]

#### **Multinational Accounting Firms**

†

\*485. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN:

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered body of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) probing the Satyam scam has revealed that some multinational accounting firms are circumventing laws while providing auditing services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ICAI has sought details from some Chartered Accountant firms about their arrangement with the international accounting firms;

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

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

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

#### **Statement**

(a) and (b) The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in terms of Section 17(2) of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 constituted a fact finding Committee called High Powered Committee to look into the entire gamut of financial reporting, accounting, auditing aspects with regard to Satyam fiasco and suggest changes wherever required for the purpose of making appropriate recommendations to Government, SEBI and other regulators. The fact finding process is on.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. ICAI has sought following details from around 150 firms of Chartered Accountants registered with it on the following:

- i. Agreement/contract with the multinational entity.
- ii. Terms and conditions for usage of name of multinational entity.
- iii. Arrangement for sharing of fees/profit with other Indian CA firms with similar/identical name and with the multinational entity.
- iv. Arrangement for sharing of human resources and infrastructure with other Indian CA firms with

- similar/identical name and with the multinational entity.
- v. Details of remittances made to and received from the multinational entity.
  - vi. Copy of Partnership deed of the CA firms registered with ICAI with similar/identical name, as in vogue in the last five years.
  - vii. Income-tax assessment orders for the last 3 years in respect of the CA firms registered with ICAI with similar/identical name. If assessment orders have not been received, then to submit computation of income and copies of returns.
  - viii. Copies of letterheads and visiting cards generally used.

At present, the aforementioned details are not available on the database of the ICAI, since these have not been called for in the past. These details have now been called for as the Committee has felt that the same would enable it to reach an appropriate conclusion.

(e) The ICAI is in the process of collecting information as mentioned in (c) & (d) above. Upon receipt of the report, the Government would initiate necessary action.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: The Indian accounting sector is the most developed one with the best standards of accounting practices and procedures. We have global competence as we have global potential. But unfortunately, multinational accounting firms have entered our country through back door. They have come as consultancy companies. They have not got audit certificates, but still they have infiltrated. Global Trust Bank, Enron and Satyam are the glaring examples where multinational accounting firms have led their fraud.

I would like to know from the Minister whether the Union Government has got full details about the operations of these multinational accounting firms; if so, whether any mechanism is in place to monitor the work of these consulting companies which are doing accounting work; and if so, the details thereof.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: As the hon. Member is aware, the monitoring and regulation of the profession of chartered accountancy is done by the Indian Institute of

Chartered Accountants. They have under the provisions of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1956, as amended in 2006, written to 150 firms for seeking details and documents relating to their affiliations and various associations under which firms of similar names work in India. They have received complete documents and responses from 76 firms; partial documents have been received from 10 firms and no documents have yet been received from 64 firms, 39 of whom have sought more time. They have been asked to give complete documents. Once these are analysed by the Institute, they will be forwarded in the form of a report to the Ministry and the Ministry will then be able to take a view.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN : I would like to know from the Minister whether the Union Government is aware that Indian accounting profession has been affected by these multinational accounting firms; if so, whether the Union Government will think in terms of ensuring reciprocal benefits on their entry to help our economy; and if so, what are the steps the Union Government would take in this regard?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: As I said, the accountancy profession is regulated and autonomously controlled by the Indian Institute of Chartered Accountants. There is obviously some concern and difficulty that we have faced over the past few years. We are expecting a report from the Institute very shortly in which these outstanding issues will be taken care of. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let us have order in the House.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: I might point out that the presence of some of the multinational firms is based only on the automatic clearance under the FDI route. They do not come as firms. They come specially as corporate entities. limited to management consultancy processes. But whether they are actually transgressing the right that they are given as far as their operations in India is concerned will become apparent when this report is submitted to the Ministry.

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: The very question is these multinational accounting firms have surrogatory accounting. Surrogatory practices prevail particularly in India. Very big multinational companies went bankrupt at the hands of these companies was evident. To cite an example, Satyam scam, Global Trust Bank, Enron and so on and so forth. On 14th July 2009...



MADAM SPEAKER: Would you ask the question because we have very little time? You must get an answer also.

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: I would draw the attention of the House to the White Paper which was released by the then hon. Minister of HRD Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. That was very exhaustive and comprehensive. What happened to that report? Secondly,

MADAM SPEAKER: Just one question, please.

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: I would like to know whether the Government of India will take comprehensive steps to see that these recommendations are accepted and the law is amended to halt them from interference.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam Speaker, I am not in a position to account for the report of the HRD Ministry. That will have to be a question directed at them. As far as the possible problems are concerned and how we can eliminate them, once the report is submitted to us, as I said, it will be considered and whatever steps need to be taken in conjunction with other Ministries, we will do so.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Smuggling of Fertilizers

\*486. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of fertilizers to the neighboring countries, particularly at Indo-Nepal border has been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) There are reports of smuggling of fertilizers from India to neighbouring countries. However, these have not

been confirmed by the State Governments. The State Governments have been advised by the Department of Fertilizers to keep a vigil and to check smuggling of fertilizers, if any, from India to other neighbouring countries through land and sea routes.

Similarly Union Home Ministry has also alerted Border guarding forces viz., Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Assam Rifles and Sashastra Seema Bal and Coast Guard to maintain strict vigilance on the borders to curb smuggling, if any, of fertilizers. Further Union Home Secretary has also addressed to Chief Secretaries of Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal to sensitize the authorities concerned to curb the smuggling, if any, of fertilizers into the neighboring countries.

### Integrated Oil Project in Venezuela

\*487. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Oil India Ltd., Repsol YPF of Spain and Petroleum National Bhd of Malaysia have decided to develop a multi-billion integrated oil project in Venezuela;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the venture would help mitigate India's energy deficiency?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The consortium of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL, 11.0%), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC, 3.5%), Oil India Limited (OIL, 3.5%), Repsol YPF (11.0%) and Petrolia Nasional Berhad ("PETRONAS", 11.0%), (collectively, the "Consortium"), was selected on 10th February 2010 by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for awarding a 40% ownership interest in a Mixed Company which will develop Project 1 located in the Orinoco Heavy Oil Belt in Venezuela. The Corporación Venezolana del Petróleo ("CVP"), a subsidiary of Petróleos de Venezuela S.A. ("PDVSA"), Venezuela's state oil company, will hold the remaining 60% equity interest.

(c) The upstream production facilities are expected to produce around 400,000 barrels per day of crude oil. OVL, IOC and OIL put together have 18% share in the project. This will add the country's production of crude oil Assets abroad by approximately 72000 barrels per day.

[Translation]

### Schemes for Handloom Sector

\*488. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

SHRI PAKAURI LAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented for the development of handloom sector/handloom weavers during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of proposals received from the State Governments under each scheme during the last three years and the amount allocated and released thereunder, State-wise;

(c) the amount utilized by each State Government under these schemes during the said period; and

(d) the number of weavers benefited and the number of handloom units modernized under these schemes till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) The Government of India has been implementing the following Five Schemes for the overall development of Handloom weavers, all over the country.

- Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme

This scheme provides need based inputs to "Clusters" of 300-500 Handloom or "Groups" of 10-100 weavers for making them self-sustainable by providing them financial assistance for margin money, working capital, new looms and accessories, skill upgradation, marketing opportunities and for construction of workshed,

- Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

This comprises of two separate schemes viz. the Health Insurance Scheme for providing Health Insurance to the Handloom weavers and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana for providing Life Insurance Cover in case of natural/accidental death, total/partial disability due to accident.

### Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme

This scheme provides marketing opportunities and infrastructure support through design development and marketing linkages to assist in the sale of the Handloom products both in domestic and international market.

- Mill Gate Price Scheme

This scheme makes available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the eligible handloom agencies to facilitate regular supply of basic raw material to the handloom weavers and to optimize their employment potential.

- Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

This scheme provides assistance for technological and skill upgradation of weavers for design and product development through 25 Weavers' Service Centres and 05 Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology all over the country to improve the productivity and earnings of the handloom weaver.

(b) to (d) Viable proposals which are in consonance with guidelines of the schemes, received from the State Governments and with the recommendation of State Level Project Implementation Committee, are considered for sanction and release of funds as follows:

(i) The funds are released directly to the State Governments under the Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme and Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme.

(ii) The funds are released directly to the respective implementing agencies (not to the State Governments) i.e. to Life Insurance Corporation of India under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana and to Service Provider (Insurance Company) selected through a transparent process under the Health Insurance Scheme of the Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme and to National Handloom Development Corporation under the Mill Gate Price Scheme.

Statement showing release of funds under different schemes, utilisation thereof, alongwith number of weavers benefited and handloom units modernised under Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, during last three years, State-wise, is as per the Statement enclosed.

**Statement****1. Name of the Scheme: Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS)**

*Statement showing State-wise details of the proposals received, released and utilization and the weavers benefited under the Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS)*

Sl.No.	State	2007 -08						
		No. of proposals received	Amount released (Rs. in crore)	Amount Utilised (Rs. in crore)	No. of weavers benefited	No. of Handlooms modernized/ upgraded	No. of proposals received	Amount released (Rs. in crore)
1	Andhra Pradesh	28	16.87	16.78	116706	5578	138	4.98
2	Bihar	9	0.88	0.76	4156	868	11	1.04
3	Chhattisgarh	6	0.92	0.92	5192	2148	9	0.59
4	Delhi	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0.00
5	Gujarat	6	1.28	0.67	25745	690	4	0.75
6	Haryana	1	0.05	0.00	630	0	0	0.00
7	Himachal Pradesh	2	0.24	0.24	3205	0	7	0.24
8	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	8	1.43
9	Jharkhand	10	1.56	1.56	5463	1850	34	1.85
10	Karnataka	14	1.90	0.98	16157	3042	24	2.73
11	Kerala	21	4.32	2.25	28760	3152	200	6.30
12	Madhya Pradesh	11	1.60	1.57	9386	887	10	2.13
13	Maharashtra	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0.00
14	Orissa	17	3.98	3.98	20793	2324	55	5.70
15	Punjab	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0.00
16	Rajasthan	2	0.26	0.26	798	547	6	0.54
17	Tamilnadu	29	28.05	28.05	129586	4701	89	41.30
18	Uttar Pradesh	21	2.36	2.36	12603	2039	91	4.28
19	Uttarakhand	5	0.90	0.90	3150	956	24	1.47
20	West Bengal	26	5.20	1.42	37085	3036	46	5.01
21	Arunachal Pradesh	8	1.17	1.17	9500	0	66	2.45
22	Assam	11	1.73	2.07	6023	1737	21	3.12
23	Manipur	19	3.37	2.52	9500	4370	16	2.86
24	Meghalaya	4	0.63	0.63	2375	400	4	0.55
25	Mizoram	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0.00
26	Nagaland	5	0.67	0.67	2250	700	13	2.43
27	Sikkim	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	15	0.37
28	Tripura	11	1.16	0.51	5025	885	22	1.28
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>266</b>	<b>79.10</b>	<b>70.57</b>	<b>454088</b>	<b>39910</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>93.40</b>

2008-09				2009-10			
Amount Utilised (Rs. in crore)	No. of weavers benefited	No. of Handlooms modernized/ upgraded	No. of proposals received	Amount released (Rs. in crore)	Amount Utilised (Rs. in crore)	No. of weavers benefited	No. of Handlooms modernized/ upgraded
0.00	6810	5951	64	11.11	7.86	95776	961
0.00	1742	720	0	0.00	0.00	0	0
0.00	1399	1217	2	0.00	0.00	0	0
0.00	0	0	1	0.16	0.00	375	115
0.00	1900	490	1	0.97	0.00	33519	0
0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0
0.00	110	115	35	1.39	0.00	1229	640
0.00	2780	1018	12	1.32	0.00	1530	450
1.85	4630	3038	62	1.63	0.00	1544	1411
0.94	81398	2464	1	0.74	0.74	34813	0
3.63	68462	2097	8	2.30	0.00	51228	0
1.93	25275	130	4	0.54	0.00	1292	526
0.00	0	0	2	0.16	0.00	550	0
5.70	74003	2188	41	5.25	2.51	62493	1831
0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0
0.00	321	712	1	0.15	0.00	1800	92
41.30	221187	6291	274	50.15	0.00	380534	4002
3.57	95618	4656	144	3.06	0.00	3637	4078
0.31	1626	856	1	0.15	0.00	1743	0
0.04	8071	6190	2	2.94	2.94	113004	0
1.75	2620	1664	11	1.43	0.00	1270	220
1.78	3180	1320	20	4.52	0.00	266600	1572
1.03	52356	4169	15	0.00	0.00	0	0
0.37	774	264	16	3.42	0.00	1980	1376
0.00	0	0	14	0.90	0.00	652	559
2.43	4450	2150	27	10.58	0.00	41754	4100
0.00	330	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0
0.20	2514	1088	5	0.85	0.00	1856	590
66.83	661556	48788	763	103.72	14.05	1099179	22523

2. Name of the Scheme: Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme

(Amount Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	2007-2008				2008-2009				2009-2010			
		Proposal received	Amount released	Amount utilized	Number of weavers covered	Proposal received	Amount released	Amount utilized	Number of weavers covered	Proposal received	Amount released	Amount utilized	Number of weavers covered
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
01.	Andhra Pradesh	39	0.95	0.95	39,700	59	1.87	1.87	41,300	132	2.10	2.10	72,350
02.	Bihar	04	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	-	-	-
03.	Chhattisgarh	03	0.42	0.42	22,050	10	0.17	0.17	17,950	36	0.37	0.37	51,500
04.	Delhi	09	0.49	0.49	06,000	16	0.37	0.37	-	12	0.62	0.62	02,250
05.	Gujarat	01	0.27	0.27	09,250	32	0.26	0.26	15,250	17	0.76	0.76	09,250
06.	Haryana	09	0.13	0.13	06,000	06	0.37	0.37	01,500	18	0.28	0.28	04,440
07.	Himachal Pradesh	10	0.17	0.17	07,500	13	0.26	0.26	09,750	67	0.51	0.51	23,050
08.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
09.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	0.04	0.04	-	07	0.02	0.02	04,500
10.	Karnataka	17	0.70	0.70	22,650	38	1.44	1.44	27,800	47	1.20	1.20	40,900
11.	Kerala	04	0.18	0.18	02,150	13	0.23	0.23	07,200	07	-	-	06,550
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10	0.86	0.86	17,400	15	0.12	0.12	07,500	32	0.68	0.68	25,450
13.	Maharashtra	10	1.09	1.09	28,700	23	1.89	1.89	36,000	45	1.37	1.37	42,650
14.	Orissa	23	1.15	1.15	26,400	28	1.07	1.07	29,400	38	0.74	0.74	28,650
15.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Rajasthan	05	0.64	0.64	11,500	07	0.44	0.44	13,750	14	0.73	0.73	16,750
17.	Tamil Nadu	24	0.62	0.62	27,900	30	1.54	34,550	1.54	68	0.80	0.80	45,800
18.	Uttar Pradesh	31	1.35	1.35	22,500	30	2.36	2.36	36,250	87	1.73	1.73	36,000
19.	Uttarakhand	04	0.15	0.15	11,500	17	0.46	0.46	17,400	23	0.45	0.45	21,050

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
20.	West Bengal	17	0.51	0.51	14,150	27	1.06	1.06	16,300	29	0.60	0.60	18,550
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	03	0.03	0.03	02,250	02	0.02	0.02	01,500	01	-	-	00,750
22.	Assam	36	1.43	1.43	52,050	89	2.10	2.10	65,700	132	4.11	4.11	1,30,300
23.	Manipur	02	0.10	0.10	02,650	12	0.35	0.35	11,350	10	0.47	0.47	12,350
24.	Meghalaya	04	0.17	0.17	04,150	07	0.06	0.06	05,250	10	0.89	0.89	05,150
25.	Mizoram	10	0.51	0.51	09,800	23	0.34	0.34	11,300	12	-	-	05,250
26.	Nagaland	23	0.87	0.87	29,200	97	2.06	2.06	71,000	95	3.73	3.73	1,14,750
27.	Sikkim	02	0.04	0.04	01,500	06	0.03	0.03	01,500	08	0.04	0.04	02,250
28.	Tripura	-	0.04	0.04	-	05	0.09	0.09	04,900	11	0.36	0.36	06,750

3. Name of the Scheme: Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

The funds under the Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme are released to the implementing agencies i.e under Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana to Life Insurance Corporation of India, and under Health Insurance Scheme to service provider (Insurance Company) selected through transparent process (not to the State Governments). Figures shown below are the enrolments made under both schemes respectively.

Name of State	Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana			Health Insurance Scheme		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 Upto Feb., 10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	83590	122968	72294	127594	121481	120027
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	12318	16590	855
Assam	16490	64664	48079	464635	445947	352124
Bihar	4100	2282	463	7783	31226	31948
Chhattisgarh	2407	2752	1415	-	3722	3815
Delhi	348	2175	858	289	-	-
Gujarat	2128	3563	1343	1341	3725	4086
Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haryana	-	-	-	-	25977	15404
Himachal Pradesh	610	9915	4191	-	10940	12679
Jammu and Kashmir	493	439	377	-	517	12000
Jharkhand	-	-	-	23000	24600	25677
Karnataka	46784	31061	32613	40437	44600	34776
Kerala	7314	9420	6955	5974	12779	10137
Madhya Pradesh	3509	4396	1325	21368	16601	8710
Maharashtra	719	654	76	-	1523	1688
Manipur	-	-	-	18866	44507	29991
Meghalaya	-	-	-	17000	33822	35250
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	187	110
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	32677	32820
Orissa	13857	29903	11110	45812	47872	50677
Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-
Punjab	-	-	2262	-	-	-
Rajasthan	4291	2400	679	2047	5765	4899
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	118	55
Tamil Nadu	205102	241239	239120	284646	289023	319023
Tripura	-	-	-	24003	39444	25250
Uttar Pradesh	14350	21560	9890	431921	371617	191714
Uttarakhand	863	1380	565	-	6161	3122
West Bengal	59529	25138	16643	245000	246913	285000
Total	466484	575909	450258	1774034	1878334	1611837

**4. Name of the Scheme: Mill Gate Price Scheme:**

*Under the Mill Gate Price Scheme, Funds are released to National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) directly for providing yarn at mill gate prices*

Year	Funds Released to NHDC (Rs. in Crore)
2007-08	23.50
2008-09	29.59
2009-10	30.60

**Manufacture of Polyester Clothes**

489. SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units engaged in the manufacture of polyester fabric;

(b) whether ethylene, a petroleum product, is imported for manufacturing polyester clothes;

(c) if so, the names of the companies which import the said products alongwith the quantum of import made by them during the last three years;

(d) whether the said petroleum products imported exclusively for manufacturing clothes were reported to have been issued for other purposes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) There are 180 composite mills, 183 weaving mills & about 18 lacs powerlooms through out the country, which are engaged in manufacture of all type of fabric, including polyester fabrics as per market requirement. Bhiwandi & Surat are the main clusters, where polyester fabrics are manufactured.

(b) The Polyester clothes/fibre are manufactured from Polyester Resins/Chips; which in turn are manufactured from Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) and Monoethylene Glycol

(MEG). Ethylene, which is an Open General License (OGL) item, is not imported specifically for manufacture of polyester clothes.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

**Allotment of Oil Fields under NELP**

\*490. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether the Government has allotted oil fields to various Government and non Governmental Organizations in eight phases under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) if so, the number of oil fields allotted to Government companies including Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC);

(c) the number of oilfields allotted to non-Governmental companies; and

(d) the number of oilfields under the Government companies where production has started so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam, in order to increase production of oil and gas in the country, so far 203 exploration blocks were awarded to various companies under first seven rounds of NELP. Out of these, 118 blocks were contracted to the National Oil Companies/Public Sector Undertaking/State Oil Companies, 57 blocks to Private Companies and 28 blocks to the Foreign Companies, as Operators. Under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), 70 blocks (24 deepwater blocks, 28 shallow water blocks, 18 onland blocks) were offered. 76 bids have been received for 36 blocks. Out of 36 blocks, 34 blocks are likely to be awarded.

(d) So far, commercial oil production has commenced from Ingoli Field in the NELP II block CB-ONN-2000/1 in Gujarat, operated by a State Govt. Company, M/s Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited. The current rate of oil production is about 700 barrels/day.



*[English]***Senior Advocates**

\*491. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of lawyers designated as Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court of India and the various High Courts across the country as on 1 April, 2010, court-wise;

(b) the criterion followed by the Supreme Court and the various High Courts for designating lawyers as Senior Advocates;

(c) whether the criterion is uniform or does it vary from court to court;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of lawyers who are wives, sons and daughters of sitting or retired High Court and Supreme Court Judges who are still on the bench or retired and currently designated as Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court or the High Courts;

(f) whether the Government has received representations for the amendments in the Advocates Act and other relevant statutes so as to abolish the category of Senior Advocates; and

(g) if so the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (g) As per section 16 of the Advocates Act, 1961, there shall be two classes of advocates namely, senior advocates and other advocates.

Under section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961, an advocate may, with his consent, be designated as senior advocate if the Supreme Court or a High Court is of opinion that by virtue of his ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law he is deserving of such distinction.

Under Order IV of the Supreme Court Rules, 1966, the Chief Justice and the Judges may, with the consent of the

advocate, designate an advocate as senior advocate if in their opinion by virtue of his ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law.

Similarly, under the Rules framed by the High Court under section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961, the Hon'ble Chief Justice and other Judges of the concerned High Court may, upon a written proposal made by a Senior Advocate with the consent of the Advocate concerned endorsed thereon, designate such an Advocate as Senior Advocate, if in their opinion, by virtue of the ability, experience and standing at the Bar or the special knowledge or experience in law.

Therefore, the information is being collected from the Supreme Court of India and all the High Courts and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Volatile Oil Prices in the Global Market**

\*492. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

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

(a) whether India participated at the 12th International Energy Forum meet held recently to review energy supplies to the developing nations;

(b) if so, the details of the deliberations at the meet and the follow up action taken thereon;

(c) whether the country is suffering on account of volatile oil prices in the global market;

(d) if so, the efforts made by the Government to build a consensus among suppliers and buyers of crude oil to maintain stability in the oil market; and

(e) the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Yes, Madam. Hon'ble Minister (Petroleum & Natural Gas) led the Indian delegation to the 12th biennial International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial meeting held in Cancun, Mexico from 29-31 March 2010.

(b) The Conference focused on the role of energy in fostering human development, reducing volatility and uncertainty in the global energy markets, reconciling sustainability and security of supply and demand, tackling energy poverty and on the ways for taking the global energy dialogue forward. India reiterated the need to reduce price volatility and uncertainty in the international oil market on efforts to bring stability and transparency in the market. India emphasized the need to put in place an appropriate regulatory mechanism to ensure that unhealthy speculative practices are restrained and absolute transparency is brought to the crude oil markets. India's concerns have been reflected in the Cancun Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Conference as well as in the concluding Statement made by host country, Mexico and co-host countries, Germany and Kuwait.

(c) The high volatility being witnessed in the oil market particularly during the last 5-6 years is a matter of concern to the country. The average price of international crude oil (Indian basket) increased from US\$ 39.21 per barrel in 2004-05 to US\$ 83.57 per barrel in 2008-09 and averaged US\$ 69.76 per barrel in 2009-10. Due to increase in the international oil prices, the country's crude oil import bill grown from Rs.40,030 crore in 1999-2000 to Rs.3,45,815 crore in 2008-09.

(d) and (e) India participated in two Special Ministerial Meetings held in Jeddah in June 2008 and later in London in December 2008. At the Jeddah Meeting, India proposed to the international community adoption of a Price Band Mechanism to shelter the world from volatility and unpredictability in oil prices. Furthermore, India suggested two measures at the London Meeting, first, putting in place a regulatory mechanism to restrain unhealthy speculative practices in crude oil market and, second, long term sale and purchase agreements between the suppliers and buyers for greater stability in the oil prices. There has been growing realization among both producers and consumers of crude oil that a stable energy market, with transparent regulations, is in common interests of all.

[Translation]

#### Supply of Euro-IV Fuel

\*493. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH alias LALAN SINGH:  
SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Oil marketing companies have commenced supply of Euro-IV fuel in the country in a bid to reduce the emission of harmful gases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the additional cost to be incurred on refining of the Euro-IV fuel has been assessed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the burden of the additional cost is proposed to be borne by the producer, consumer and the Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (e) As per the Auto Fuel Policy approved by the Cabinet on 3.10.2003, the quality of Petrol and Diesel was to be upgraded to Bharat Stage-IV (equivalent to Euro-IV specifications) in 13 Identified cities (Delhi/NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad including Secunderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Surat, Kanpur, Agra, Solapur and Lucknow) with effect from 1st April, 2010. In line with the schedule specified in the Auto Fuel Policy, BS-IV grade Petrol and Diesel have already been made available in 13 specified cities with effect from 1st April, 2010.

The BS-IV grade auto fuels are superior fuels, requiring major capital investments in technological upgradation in the refineries, besides, a higher recurring operational cost on account of, inter alia, higher use of Hydrogen and catalysts. Due to the additional investment in quality upgradation, the price differential of Rs. 0.50 per litre for Petrol and Rs.0.26 per litre for Diesel (at Delhi) has been passed on to consumer, with corresponding increases in other cities.

[English]

#### Research and Development in Iron and Steel Sector

\*494. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector companies in the iron and steel sector are engaged in research and development activities;

(b) if so, the major achievements made by those units in the process of utilization, productivity, quality improvement, cost reduction, waste utilization etc.;

(c) whether a new scheme for promotion of research and development in the iron and steel sector was approved during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the detail of R&D projects undertaken/proposed to be taken under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH):

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) There are two public sector iron and steel companies namely Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) which carry out

research & development in iron and steel sector. Major achievements in R&D in these companies in respect of process utilization, productivity, quality improvement, cost reduction, waste utilization etc are given at Statement-I.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Steel Industry for 11th Five Year Plan, a new scheme i.e. Scheme for Promotion of R&D in Iron and Steel Sector with an outlay of Rs. 118.00 crore has been approved. Further, the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has identified 3 broad research areas namely (i) Development of Innovative/path breaking technologies for production of iron and steel utilizing Indian iron ore fines and non coking coal (ii) Improvement of quality of steels produced through induction furnace route and (iii) Beneficiation of raw materials like iron ore, coal etc. and agglomeration (e.g. Pelletisation) to be pursued under this scheme.

(e) The details of R&D projects undertaken/proposed to be taken under this scheme are given at Statement-II.

#### Statement-I

##### Major achievement in R & D in Public Sector iron and steel companies

##### Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)

Name of the Projects & Objectives	Achievements
1	2
Iron Ore Beneficiation to utilize slimes.	Research and Development Centre for Iron & Steel (RDCIS) has developed a technology for beneficiation of Iron ore slimes which otherwise were being dumped as a waste material. Through this technology, waste material with 49-50 % Fe, is now being enriched to 62-65% Fe for use in sinter making.
On-line control of coking process in coke oven batteries to improve coke property and reduce energy consumption.	A world-class process control technology for on-line control of coking process, based on mathematical model developed in-house, has been implemented in Coke Oven Battery (COB) #1&3 of Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP), Durgapur and COB #3 of Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), Bhilai. 5% reduction of energy consumption has been achieved and coke strength has been improved by 0.5 points.
Development of "Curtain Flame Ignition System" for heating of sinter-mix in sinter plants.	RDCIS has developed "Curtain Flame Ignition System" for heating the sinter-mix. This technology has been introduced in

1

2

Development of round ingot technology for yield and quality improvement in wheels at DSP.

Sinter plants of SAIL resulting in reduction of specific gas consumption by 30-40% and the furnace start-up time reduced by 83%. In addition, 20% improvement in productivity has also been achieved.

Stabilisation of Process Technology for Commercial Production of Armour Steel for Proof of Tank and Antitank Ammunition.

Conventional (Fluted and tapered) ingot moulds were replaced by in-house designed cylindrical moulds for manufacture of coach and loco wheels in Wheel & Axle Plant, DSP, Durgapur. This has resulted in improvement in productivity and yield.

Development of Earthquake Resistant Thermo-Mechanically Treated (TMT) Rebars.

Five target grade armour steel plates (200 x 1200 x 1830 mm in size) have been produced for the first time in India at RSP, Rourkela. The plates met all the quality specifications and are ready for despatch to ordnance factory, Chanda.

Use of Waste Slag in Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) at Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP).

Earthquake Resistant (EQR) TMT reinforcement bars have been developed both at DSP, Durgapur and BSP, Bhilai. The EQR rebars are characterized by their high elongation and strength ratio which are essential in improving seismic resistance property of the steel.

Incorporation of sophisticated probes in blast furnace to improve productivity at Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL).

A scheme was envisaged to supply processed and sized BOF slag to converter bunker for use as an auxiliary flux in BOF at DSP, Durgapur. Extensive trials were conducted with varying amounts of slag addition, limiting to a maximum of 2.0 tonne per heat. The slag was charged into converter after hot metal charging. As a result, lime and dolomite consumption decreased by 4.4 and 1.5 kilogram per tonne of crude steel respectively.

Lining life improvement in steel ladles at RSP and BSP.

State-of-art under burden and vertical probes were introduced in BF #5, BSL, Bokaro for dynamic mapping of pressure and temperature profile inside the furnace. The data was used to precisely control the burden distribution which helped to improve furnace productivity from 1.73 to 1.85-1.88 tonne/cubic meter/day during stable operation of furnace. Along with productivity increase, the coke rate in the furnace could be reduced from 560 to 522 kilogram/tonne of hot metal.

Depending on the pattern and severity of wear at different locations, an in-house designed zonal lining concept using different qualities of Magnesite Carbon bricks was introduced at Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), Rourkela which helped to increase lining life from 47 to 107 heats. Modified shape of bricks along with optimized granulometry and carbon content in bricks helped to augment life from 40 to 80 heats at BSP, Bhilai.

**Rashtriva Ispat Niaam Ltd (RINL)**

Name of Project & objectives	Achievements
Optimization of coal blend in Pilot Coke oven.	Optimization of blend is being done with different source and type of coal and recommendation given for industrial application.
Studying the effect of Iron ore Micro fines on Sinter & Sintering Process to Maximize usage of micro fines.	In Laboratory Scale Sintering Process found to be supporting production of sinter with 50% of micro-fines in Iron ore. However, strength of Sinter found to be deteriorating with increase in micro-fines content.
Improving the yield and Metallurgical performance of continuous cast blooms by water Modeling.	Reduction in skull loss and Improvement in the yield of cast bloom.
Technical Analysis and Optimization of Continuous Casting at VSP using existing Plant facilities to improve yield.	Reason for Breakout including the most significant cause and the cost of Breakout was ascertained.
Improving the yield and Metallurgical performance of steel for improved quality by Water Modeling.	Comparison of Quality of Steel is being ascertained between old and new tundish design.
Briquetting of SMS Gas Cleaning Plant Sludge as a cost reduction measure as well as effective solid waste utilization.	Briquettes were made and successfully used in Converter as a replacement of sized iron ore.

**Statement-II***Details of R and D projects undertaken/proposed to be taken*

Sl. No.	Name of the proposal	Total Cost of the project (Rs. In lakh)	Share of Plan Fund (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4
<b>(A) Research proposals approved by Project Approval &amp; Monitoring Committee (PAMC)</b>			
1.	Improvement in sinter productivity through deep beneficiation and agglomeration technologies for rational utilization of low grade iron ores and fines: by National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur.	1255.80	1255.80
2.	Alternate Complementary Route of Iron/Steel making with reference to Indian Raw Material viz low grade iron ore and non coking coal: by National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur..	858.00	858.00
3	Production of Low Phosphorous Steel using DRI through Induction Furnace Route adopting innovative Fluxes and/or design (refractory) changes: by National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur.	237.00	237.00

1	2	3	4
4	Development of Futuristic Technology for Carbon free iron production using alternate reductants like Hydrogen with minimum or no CO <sub>2</sub> emission: by Institute of Mineral and Materials Technology, Bhubneshwar.	990.35	990.35
	Total (A)	3341.15	3341.15
<b>(B) Research Proposals proposed to be undertaken.</b>			
1.	Beneficiation of Iron ore Slimes from Barsua and other Mines in India: by Research & Development Centre for Iron & Steel, Ranchi.	5459.90	3661.20
2.	Development of appropriate pelletization technologies for Indian Hematite ore including high LOI & Blain concentrate: by Research & Development Centre for Iron & Steel, Ranchi.	4188.774	3477.774
3.	CO <sub>2</sub> abatement in iron and steel production by process optimization: by IIT, Kharagpur.	90.36	90.36
4.	Production of low ash (10% ash) coal ( coking and non coking ) from high ash Indian coals including beneficiation/desulphurization of high sulphur North Eastern Coal & recovery of ultrafine non-coking coal from washery tailing: by Institute of Mineral and Materials Technology, Bhubneshwar.	383.40	383.40
	Total(B)	10122.434	7612.734
	Grand Total (A+B)	13463.584	10953.884

**Incidents of Unruly Behaviour  
in Flights**

\*495. SHRI SANJAY BHOI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of in-flight misbehaviour/ unruly behaviour etc. reported in the recent past;

(b) whether the existing Aircraft Act, 1934 and the rules framed thereunder are unable to take care of such incidents during and in-flights;

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

(d) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has urged the Government to amend the relevant statutes in order to deal with such acts legally; and

(e) if so, the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (e) Rule 29 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 deals with the acts likely to imperil the safety of an aircraft. However the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has submitted a proposal to amend the Aircraft Rules, 1937 to incorporate necessary provisions in the Aircraft Rules, 1937 regarding assault and other acts of interference against a crew member and assault and other acts endangering safety or jeopardizing good order and discipline.

[Translation]

**MSP of Cotton**

\*496. DR. BHOLA SINGH:

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the parameters adopted by the Government for fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton (Kapas);

(b) the MSP announced by the Government for different varieties of cotton during crop seasons 2008-09 and 2009-10;

(c) the criteria followed by the Cotton Corporation of India for procurement of cotton from the farmers;

(d) whether reports of distress sale of cotton including suicides by farmers in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra have been reported;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government for providing remunerative price of cotton to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN):(a) The Government of India has been fixing the MSP for two basic varieties of cotton viz. F-414 / H-777 / J-34 (medium staple) and H-4 variety (long staple), every year based on recommendation of Commission on Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP). While considering MSP CACP takes into account the cost of cultivation per hectare, cost of production per quintal in various regions of the country, changes in input prices, demand and supply situation etc., plus a reasonable profit margin to the cotton farmers. Based on the support prices for these two basic classes of seed cotton and taking into account the quality differential, normal price differential and other relevant factors, Textile Commissioner fixes support price for other classes of seed cotton (kapas) of Fair Average Quality (FAQ).

(b) The details of two basic staple groups i.e. medium staple and long staple, range of staple length, micronnaire and MSPs fixed for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given as follows:

	Staple length in mm	Micronnaire value	MSP fixed for 2008-09 (in Rs. per quintal)	MSP fixed for 2009-10 (in Rs. per quintal)
Medium staple	24.5 - 25.5	4.3 - 5.1	Rs. 2500	Rs. 2500
Long staple	29.5 - 30.5	3.5 - 4.3	Rs. 3000	Rs. 3000

The prices fixed by Textile Commissioner for different classes of seed cotton (Kapas) for cotton season 2008-09 (Oct.-Sept) and 2009-10 are at Statement-I and II respectively.

(c) When the prevailing kapas price touches MSP level, the Cotton Corporation of India enters the market to buy the entire quantity of kapas offered to it by the cotton farmers at Minimum Support Price announced by the Government of India. These purchases are made strictly from the cotton farmers in the premises of nominated Agriculture Produce

Marketing Committee (APMC). The payment is made to the cotton farmers by way of Account Payee cheque only.

(d) and (e) No Madam. Question does not arise.

(f) To ensure remunerative prices to the cotton farmers, Government during the cotton season 2008-09 had increased MSP for Long Staple (LS) and Medium Staple (MS) varieties of cotton (Kapas) at Rs.3000 per qtl. and Rs.2500 per qtl. respectively leading to a hike of 48% and 39% respectively over the previous years. The MSP for cotton season 2009-10 was kept at the same level.

**Statement-I**

Minimum Support Prices fixed by the Government of India during Cotton Season 2008-09 (Oct.-Sept.) is as under:

Name of the indicative varieties used by the Trade	Fibre quality Parameters		Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 2008-09
	Basic Staple length (2.5% Span Length) in mm	Micronaire value	
<b>Short Staple (20 mm &amp; below)</b>			
1 Assam Comilla	-	7.0-8.0	2000
2 Bengal Desi	-	6.8 -7.2	2000
Medium Staple (20.5 mm - 24.5 mm)			
3 V797/G.Cot.13/G.Cot.21	21.5-23.5	4.2-6.0	2300
4 Jayadhar	22.0 -23.0	4.8-5.8	2250
5 AK/Y-1 (Mah&MP)/ MCU-7(TN)/SVPR-2(TN)/ PCO-2(AP & Kar)/K-11(TN)	23.5-24.5	3.0-5.5	2350
<b>Medium Long Staple (25.0 mm -27.0 mm)</b>			
6 F-414/H-777/J-34 (Raj)	24.5-25.5	4.3-5.1	2500
7 F-414/H-777/J-34 Hybrid (Raj. /LRA-5166/KC-2 (T.N.)	26.0 - 26.5	3.4-4.9	2600
8 F-414/H-777/J-34 Hybrid(Haryana)	26.0-27.0	3.8-4.8	2700
Long Staple (27.5 mm - 32.0mm)			
9 F-414/H-777/J-34 Hybrid (Punjab)	27.5-28.5	4.0-4.8	2800
10 H-4/H-6/MECH/RCH-2	27.5-28.5	3.5-4.7	2850
11 Sanker-6/10	27.5-29.0	3.6-4.8	2850
12 Bunny / Brahma	29.5-30.5	3.5-4.3	3000
Extra Long Staple (32.5 mm & above)			3.5-4.3
13 MCU-5/Surbhi	32.5-33.5	3.2-4.3	3200
14 DCH-32	34.0-36.0	3.0-3.5	3400
15 Suvin	37.0-39.0	3.2-3.6	4200

- (1) If the micronaire value is in the range of 3.8 to 4.2 for Medium Staple Length group (24.5 mm- 25.5 mm) and Medium Long Staple (25.0 mm - 27.0 mm), categorized in the above table, a premium of Rs. 30/- per quintal will be given, over and above the MSP. If the micronaire happens to be less than 3.8 or more than 5.1, the MSP will be lower by Rs.15/- per quintal for every 0.2 micronaire value.
- (2) If the micronaire values are outside the range in respect of the varieties mentioned for Long Staple (27.5 mm - 32.0 mm) and Extra Long Staple (32.5 mm and above), categorized in the above table, then lower MSP of Rs. 25/- per quintal will be given for every 0.2 micronaire value.
- (3) The base line moisture content of kapas shall be 8%. The farmer selling cotton having moisture above 8% will get less price proportionately. while it will be a proportionate incentive. if the moisture content of the produce is less than 8%. The incentive/disincentive will be made on the basis of rate per quintal of kapas.



**Statement-II**

*Minimum Support Prices fixed by the Government of India during Cotton Season 2009-10 (Oct-Sept.) is as under:*

Name of the indicative varieties used by the Trade	Fibre quality Parameters		Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 2009-10
	Basic Staple length (2.5% Span Length) in mm	Micronaire value	
Short Staple (20 mm & below)			
1 Assam Comilla		7.0-8.0	2000
2 Bengal Desi		6.8-7.2	2000
Medium Staple (20.5 mm - 24.5 mm)			
3 V-797/G.Cot.13/G.Cot.21	21.5-23.5	4.2-6.0	2300
4 Jayadhar	21.5-22.5	4.8-5.8	2250
5 AK/Y-1 (Mah&MP) MCU-7(TN)/SVPR-2(TN)/ PCO-2 (AP/KAR)/K-11(TN)	23.5-24.5	3.4-5.5	2350
Medium Long Staple (25.0 mm -27.0 mm)			
6 F-414/H-777/J-34 Raj	24.5-25.5	4.3-5.1	2500
7 LRA-5166/KC-2(TN)	26.0-26.5	3.4-4.9	2600
8 F414/H-777/J-34 Hybrid (Raj. & Haryana)	26.5-27.0	3.8-4.8	2750
Long Staple (27.5 mm -32.0 mm)			
9 F-414/H-777/J-34 Hybrid (Punjab)	27.5-28.5	4.0-4.8	2800
10 H-4/H-6/MECH/RCH-2	27.5-28.5	3.5-4.7	2850
11 Sanker-6/10	27.5-29.0	3.6-4.8	2850
12 Bunny/ Brahma	29.5-30.5	3.5-4.3	3000
Extra Long Staple (32.5 mm & above)			
13 MCU-5/Surbhi	32.5-33.5	3.2-4.3	3200
14 DCH-32	34.0-36.0	3.0-3.5	3400
15 Suvin	37.0-39.0	3.2-3.6	4200

- (i) If the micronaire value is in the range of 3.8 to 4.2 for Staple Length (mm) of 24.5 - 25.5 mentioned at Sr. No. 6 of above table, a premium of Rs. 30/- per quintal will be given over and above the MSP. If the micronaire happens to be less than 3.8 or more than 5.1, the MSP will be lower by Rs.15/- per quintal for every 0.2 micronaire.
- (ii) If the micronaire values are outside the range in the column (IV) for staple lengths at Sr. No. 9 to 15 of the above table, a lower MSP of Rs. 25/- per quintal will be given for every 0.2 micronaire value.
- (iii) The minimum acceptable micronaire value shall be 2.8 for Extra Long Staple Cotton mentioned at Sr. No. 13 to 15 of above table. Minimum acceptable micronaire value shall be 3.0 for other varieties of cotton at Sr. No. 1 to 12 of the above table.
- (iv) The names of varieties mentioned in Column No. (VI) of the aforesaid table are only indicative related to the respective length group.
- (v) The base line moisture content of kapas shall be 8%. The farmer selling cotton having moisture above 8% but upto 12% will get less price proportionately, while it will be a proportionate incentive, if the moisture content of the produce is less than 8%. For the purpose of undertaking price support operation by the designated Procurement Agencies, moisture content of more than 12% is not permitted. The incentive/disincentive will be made on the basis of rate per quintal of kapas on prorata basis.
- (vi) The procurement agencies should ensure that micronaire and other fibre quality parameters are scientifically assessed by providing the required infrastructure/facilities at the purchase centres.

[English]

**Production Cost of Petrol**

\*497. SHRI C. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production cost of petrol has been assessed by the Government;

(b) if so, the average production cost of petrol during the last three years;

(c) the average percentage of tax component in the price of petrol during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ease the burden on consumers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The refining of crude oil is a process industry where crude oil, which constitutes around 90% of the total cost, is processed through numerous processing units such as Crude Distillation Unit (CDU), Vacuum Distillation Unit (VDU), Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCC), Hydro-cracker, Coker unit, Lube Unit etc. Each of these units produces intermediate products streams, which require extensive reprocessing and blending. The blending of intermediate products streams from various process units for making finished petroleum products results in difficulty in allocating the total joint costs to individual refined products with reasonable accuracy. Therefore, individual product-wise costs are not identified separately.

(c) The rates of Excise Duty, Customs Duty and Sales Tax/VAT (at Delhi) on Petrol are given below:

	01.03.2007	01.03.2008	05.06.2008	27.02.2010
Excise Duty	6% plus Rs.13/ltr	Rs.14.35/ltr	Rs.13.35/ltr	Rs.14.35/ltr
Customs Duty	7.5%	7.5%	2.5%	7.5%
Sales Tax/VAT	20%	20%	20%	20%

(d) To ease the burden on the consumer, the retail selling price of Petrol is not being maintained in line with the international oil prices. As per international oil prices applicable for the 2nd fortnight of April, 2010, retail price of Petrol in Delhi should be Rs.54.61 per litre whereas it is Rs.47.93 per litre.

**Harnessing Non-conventional/ Energy by Railways**

\*498. HRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have developed solar energy modules for use on manned level crossings in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are promoting the use of new and renewable sources of energy and have developed wind mills to harness wind energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the generating capacity of the wind mills?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) No Madam, Indian Railways has not developed any specific solar module for manned level crossings. However, solar based lighting systems are being provided on manned level crossings based on specification approved by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Indian Railways has completed electrification of more than 2000 manned level crossings with solar based lighting system so far.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Indian Railways has initiated various measures to promote use of new and renewable resources of energy including harnessing of solar and wind energy. Indian Railways has installed 10.5 Mega Watt (MW) capacity wind mill consisting of 7 units, each of 1.5 MW capacity, at Kasturirangapuram and Urumangalam Village, Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu on 30th March 2009 at the

cost of Rs. 66.05 crore to meet the electricity requirement of Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Perambur. This plant has generated 23.78 million kilo watt hours of electricity in the year 2009-10. In addition, solar based water heating system of different capacity have been installed at many training institutes, running rooms, rest houses and railway quarters.

### Litigation on Property Rights

\*499. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

DR. NILESH NARAYAN RANE:

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

- (a) whether the litigation on property rights cases in the country is on the rise;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any proposal for minimizing the property right related litigations in the country;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (d) the further action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) Information on the trend of litigation on property rights cases in the country is not maintained centrally. The Ministry of Urban Development has also informed that land, that is to say rights in or over land, land tenures including the relation of land lord and tenants and the collection of rents; transfer and alienation of agricultural land, land improvement and agricultural loans; colonization, is a matter dealt with by the State Governments and is listed as item No 18 in List II, State List of seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

Being a State related subject, taking appropriate steps and formulating proposals on land related property right

issues are within the domain of the State Government(s). However, the issues relating to land is administered by the Central Government as far as Delhi is concerned as per the provisions of Article 239AA of the Constitution.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), however, provides for reforms related to Introduction of Property Title Certification System in Urban Local Bodies and computerized process of registration of land and property which are to be implemented during the Mission period 2005-12.

[Translation]

### Manmade Fibre and Filament Yarn

\*500. SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE:

SHRI RAMESH BAIS:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production of textiles including manmade fibre, filament yarn and spun yarn is decreasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the year-wise details of the percentage decrease registered during each of the last three years; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to promote textile industry and augment its production capacity?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) The production of textile items including manmade fibre, manmade filament yarn and spun yarn for the last 3 years is given below. During 2008-09, there was decrease in production of textile items due to slowdown in the economy. However, in 2009-10 (Apr-Feb) production of textile items saw an increasing trend:

### Production of Textile Items

Items	Unit	2007-08	% change	2008-09 (Prov)	% change	(April- Feb)		% change
						(Prov)	2009-10 2008-09	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Raw Cotton (cotton year)	Mn.Kg.	5219	9.6	4930	-5.5	4964*	**	#

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Man made fibre	Mn.Kg.	1244	9.2	1066	-14.3	1161	962	21
Spun yarn	Mn.Kg.	4003	5.0	3914	-2.2	3827	3583	7
Man made filament yarn	Mn.Kg.	1509	10.1	1418	-6.0	1393	1288	8
Fabrics (including Khadi, wool & silk)	Mn. Sq.mtr	56025	4.9	54966	-1.9	54847	50171	9

\* As per Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) assessment dated 08.04.2010.

\*\* Monthly production data is not calculated month wise by CAB but estimated for the Cotton Year (October - September) as a whole.

# Percentage is not available due to non-availability of monthly figures.

(c) The Government have taken various steps to promote growth and development of the textile sectors. Some of the notable steps taken by the Government are Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks, Schemes being implemented for the development of the powerloom sector, such as Group Workshed Scheme, Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Cluster Development, 20% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy/ Margin Money Subsidy under TUFS. In addition, the Government not only provided stimulus packages from time to time during 2008 and 2009 but also provided various incentives under Interim Budget 2009-10 and the Foreign Trade Policy announced on 26.02.2009.

[English]

#### Vacant Posts of Judges

5485. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of total posts of District Judges lying vacant at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted by the Government for filling up these vacancies;

(c) whether it is a fact that 25 percent quota being filled by exam is also vacant;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to fill vacant posts of District Judges of exam quota?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) The filling up of vacant posts of judges/magistrates in the District and Subordinate Courts is the concern of the respective High Courts and the State Governments. As such, the information on the number of posts of District Judges lying vacant is not maintained in the Department of Justice. The matter of filling up of vacancies in the subordinate courts was discussed at the Joint Conference of the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts held on August 16, 2009 and it was decided that the Chief Justices of the High Courts will take requisite steps to fill up the vacancies in the Subordinate Courts anticipating the occurrence thereof so as to minimize any chance of delay in filling up the said vacancies.

#### Regulator for PSUs

5486. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes an effective project implementation regulator to monitor timely execution of projects of Public Sector Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) The Infrastructure and Project

Monitoring Division (IPMS) in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation monitors projects, costing Rs. 20 crores and above, under implementation by the Central Public Sector Enterprises.

(b) and (c) The details of mega and major projects under implementation and belonging to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are given in Chapter 10 (page 111 to 119) of Public Enterprises Survey (2008-09), which is a public document and was laid in the Parliament on 25th February, 2010.

[Translation]

**Selection of Members in various  
Advisory Committees**

5487. SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV:

SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into the irregularities committees in the selection of members to various advisory committees in the Ministry of Textiles;

(b) if so, the outcome of the said inquiry and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the measures initiated by the Government to streamline the selection procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No complaint of irregularities in the selection of members to various advisory committees in the Ministry of Textiles has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Assistance to Handicraft Exporters**

5488. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the assistance provided to the small and medium size exporters of handicrafts, carpets and garments by the Government during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide duty exemption to the exporters engaged in the said sectors in future as well;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the volume and value of goods exported by the said exporters during the last three years, year-wise and countrywise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The major schemes wherein assistance is provided directly to exporters during the last three years include; setting up of Facility Centers under Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana; Product Development for Exports under Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme; participation in International events abroad through the Marketing Support and Services Scheme of Handicrafts, 5% duty Credit Scrip on exports of Handmade Carpets and other floor coverings; 2% Interest Subvention on pre-shipment and Post shipment Export Credit and Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) under the Scheme of Ministry of Commerce.

(b) At present, there is no such proposal to provide duty exemption to exporters engaged in the said sectors.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The data on volume of exports of Handicrafts, Carpets and Garments by the said exporters is not maintained. However, composite data on value of exports of these sectors as reported by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts and Carpet Export Promotion Council is enclosed at Statement.

**Statement**

*Countrywise Exports of Handicrafts for the  
Year 2007-08 to 2009-10*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Country	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Australia	210.78	108.01	117.30
2.	Canada	430.85	234.25	248.13

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
3.	France	673.91	361.54	386.60	2	Australia	62.56	68.81	
4.	Germany	1366.14	744.48	782.57	3	Austria	19.11	23.70	
5.	Italy	476.13	270.23	294.58	4	Belgium	58.02	11.56	
6.	Japan	386.04	187.33	201.65	5	Brazil	17.70	4.69	
7.	Netherlands	446.28	231.77	248.70	6	Canada	59.33	40.27	
8.	UAE	866.85	478.40	517.99	7	Denmark	28.36	18.82	
9.	Switzerland	205.77	111.79	121.26	8	Finland	16.27	14.67	
10.	USA	4507.51	2255.75	2489.19	9	France	56.78	48.84	
11.	UK	1506.52	863.11	928.06	10	Germany	646.71	613.24	
12.	LAC	238.03	132.53	144.56	11	Italy	105.94	25.50	
13.	Other countries	2697.22	2203.93	2238.35	12	Japan	59.83	48.75	
	Total	14012.05	8183.12	8718.94	13	Netherlands	44.02	19.09	
<i>Country-wise exports for Hand-knotted carpets from 2007-08 to 2008-09</i>					14	Norway	8.94	6.41	
(Rupees in crores)					15	Sweden	46.41	18.28	
Sl. No.	Country	2007-08	2008-09 (Prov.)	2009-10 (Prov.)	16	Switzerland	9.13	26.86	
1	2	3	4	5	17	Spain	82.07	24.38	
1	Argentina	7.20	10.52	Country-wise not available	18	U.S.A.	1,668.86	1,359.29	
					19	U.K.	183.07	112.18	
					20	Others	344.42	212.87	
						Total	3,524.73	2,708.73	2,505.33

*India Export Statistics**UDG: Clothing, Ch.61 & 62**Annual Series: 2004 - 2008, Year To Date: 11/2008 and 11/2009**Millions United States Dollars*

Partner Country	Calendar Year					Year-to-Date		
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	11/2008	11/2009	% Change
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
World	6348	8078	8948	9219	10685	9708	9709	0.01
United States	1769	2678	2937	2815	2836	2576	2376	-7.77
United Kingdom	597	906	919	1107	1239	1152	1124	-2.41

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Germany	418	615	671	766	1006	911	924	1.39
United Arab Emirates	597	439	513	626	906	830	899	8.25
France	471	583	683	669	754	672	681	1.26
Spain	180	334	331	334	465	413	501	21.23
Italy	262	358	438	423	448	394	371	-5.77
Netherlands	213	259	343	338	431	387	356	-8.19
Canada	250	264	291	253	264	235	231	-2
Belgium	92	121	162	176	238	210	181	-14.01
Denmark	103	162	191	198	234	211	221	4.48
Saudi Arabia	170	193	196	209	233	217	245	12.97
Japan	82	107	128	101	126	116	125	7.79
Sweden	45	63	78	76	106	96	102	6.48
Ireland	41	63	47	56	78	70	54	-23.13
Mexico	49	50	62	67	74	64	54	-15.81
south Africa	65	59	51	61	71	66	75	13.2
Turkey	7	19	29	39	63	58	48	-18.21
Switzerland	83	54	57	51	59	54	79	46.73
Australia	41	49	40	38	57	52	61	16.17
Malaysia	53	35	35	38	51	48	58	21.51
Singapore	40	44	51	53	50	46	62	35.54
Kuwait	57	44	47	41	46	42	48	14.65
Tanzania	3	3	15	23	44	41	31	-24.52
Russia	131	23	57	67	43	40	24	-39.47
Poland	15	18	27	29	41	36	35	-2.01
Finland	22	57	33	34	40	38	31	-17.39
Brazil	10	21	26	15	33	31	37	18.51
Norway	22	26	24	19	30	27	33	22.75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Portugal	10	17	22	25	29	27	27	1.42
Hong Kong	12	20	19	25	29	25	27	7.32
Greece	15	24	23	25	28	27	22	-18.97
Sri Lanka	29	32	31	28	27	25	19	-23.33
Kazakhstan	13	8	9	16	24	23	24	4.98
Togo	2	7	7	10	24	22	19	-17.41
Panama	14	14	20	18	23	19	20	5.68
Israel	22	19	19	16	21	20	19	-2.44
Afghanistan	44	16	21	15	19	18	31	74.49
Yemen	8	8	8	11	19	18	22	21.82
Egypt	6	5	12	22	18	17	7	-57.79
Mauritius	10	10	13	23	16	15	12	-18.39
Oman	9	7	6	9	16	15	11	-28.67
Bangladesh	15	20	6	5	15	12	10	-13.56
Austria	8	12	13	14	14	13	17	30.24
Bahrain	8	7	10	10	14	13	11	-17.08
Czech Republic	5	5	5	5	13	12	10	-18.38
Korea, South	3	5	8	9	12	11	12	7.89
Argentina	4	8	9	8	12	11	13	14.67
Ukraine	15	14	11	9	12	11	9	-13.68
Kyrgyzstan	47	22	29	23	11	10	15	48.45
Romania	2	1	3	5	11	10	5	-52.7
China	3	2	3	4	10	8	13	52.36
Iran	3	7	4	4	9	9	6	-37.93
Qatar	5	5	6	6	9	9	8	-3.05
Sudan	3	2	3	6	9	9	17	98.88
Netherlands Antilles	2	7	5	6	9	8	13	72.94



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chile	12	11	11	9	8	8	13	68.96
Keya	7	6	3	5	7	7	14	109.91
New Zealand	5	6	7	6	7	7	8	18.8
Thailand	2	3	3	6	6	6	8	33.56
Nigeria	6	3	9	8	6	5	12	116.15
Azerbaijan	8	5	4	5	6	4	7	49.72
Fiji	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	-24.01
Unidentified Country	8	1	1	2	5	5	13	160.42
Trinidad & Tobago	2	3	5	4	5	4	3	-28.69
Algeria	2	2	2	3	5	5	2	-49.82
Benin	1	2	1	5	4	4	4	-8.78
Philippines	3	1	2	3	4	4	2	-56.69
Uruguay	0	1	3	3	4	4	4	-7.77
Venezuela	3	4	5	4	4	3	4	35
Hungary	10	7	7	4	4	3	3	-9.25
Turkmenistan	4	2	6	8	4	4	3	-13.14
Slovakia	1	1	2	4	3	3	2	-42.09
Libya	1	1	2	2	3	3	6	72.5
Nepal	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	2
Peru	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	6.26
Slovenia	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	-37.8
Taiwan	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	-36.12
Ghana	1	0	1	1	3	2	4	85.96
Angola	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	-82.19
Belize	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	-79.94
Croatia	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	63.73
Georgia	0	1	3	3	2	2	2	-12.71

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Morocco	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	88.34
Maldives	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	-33.84
Myanmar	1	0	0	1	2	2	2	2.65
Cyprus	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	-17.92
Reunion	0	2	1	1	2	2	1	-26.33
Jordan	4	2	4	2	2	2	2	27.26
Jamaica	2	2	3	1	2	2	3	58.53
Senegal	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	27.26
Uganda	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	4.47
Bulgaria	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	-28.58
Lebanon	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	47
Djibouti	0	0	1	1	2	1	3	95.03
Pakistan	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	9.26
Indonesia	7	12	4	2	1	1	2	63.04
Mozambique	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	212.62
Suriname	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	30.04
Puerto Rico (U.S.)	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	94.81
Colombia	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	151.02
Serbia and Montenegro	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-6.52
Madagascar	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2.97
Congo	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	305.2
Liberia	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	-63.07
Swaziland	0	0	1	1	1	1	25	3691.34
Barbados	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	10.65
Tajikistan	3	3	2	1	1	0	1	118.15
Belarus	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2.26
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	-70.01









1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Tonga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Yugoslavia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Pacific Is. (Trust Terr.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Anguilla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Norfolk Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Northern Mariana Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Montserrat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Pitcairn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Antarctica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Greenland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a

[English]

#### **Train Services for Raxaul-Birganj Railway Line**

5489.SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to start rail services on Raxaul-Birganj railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have invited expression of interest for commercial development of vacant land at Raxaul station;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Rail Services on Raxaul-Birganj railway line already exist since 2004.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) and (e) Applications for Expressions of Interest for development of Railway Land measuring an area of 5.58 acre at Raxaul station have been invited.

#### **Pensionary Benefits to the Employees of Co-operative Stores**

5490.SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are extending pensionary benefits to those regularized in Railways by taking into account the service rendered in Railway Employees Co-operative Stores;

(b) if so, the number of employees benefited by taking such measures so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

As per extant provisions, the previous service rendered in Railway Co-operative Stores is not countable for pensionary benefits in the event of absorption of employees in Indian Railways.

[Translation]

**Rail Connectivity between Jaisalmer  
and Kandla Port**

\*5491. SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey to connect Jaisalmer with Kandla port by broad gauge railway line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A survey for Jaisalmer-Kandla new Broad Gauge line (562.5 km) was completed in 2005-06. The cost of the new line was assessed as Rs. 991.39 crore with Rate of Return of (-) 0.95%. The project was not taken up.

[English]

**Stake in Dahej, Paradip Projects**

5492. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

SHRI P. BALRAM:

SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA:

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

(a) whether India has offered Kuwait stakes in Dahej, Paradip projects recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the future action plan in this regard for the benefit of India in the long run?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The Petrochemical Project being implemented at

Dahej through a SPV, ONGC Petro-additions Limited (OPaL) promoted by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC), Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd and GAIL (India) Ltd., is on the lookout for credible partners in the SPV who could add strategic value to the project. During the Joint Council Meeting in Kuwait on 29th - 30th December, 2009, the Petrochemical Investment Company (PIC), a Kuwaiti Government firm in the field of Petrochemicals has shown interest for possible investment in Dahej Petrochemical project.

There is no proposal to offer a stake to Kuwait in the Paradip project.

**ROBs in Kerala**

5493. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted the various proposals for construction of ROBs at State highways to the Railways; and

(b) if so, the details of each of such proposals and the present status of these proposals?

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

(b) Does not arise.

**Shortage of staff in BHEL**

5494. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd. (BHEL) is presently under strain due to shortage of staff strength and also facing lot of difficulties to cope with its expansion plan;

(b) if so, the details and the existing staff strength thereof, category-wise;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration to recruit more staff in the coming years to clear the backlog of vacancies;



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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is presently not under any strain on account of shortage of regular manpower. The Company has been ramping up its manpower to cater to its business requirements in a timely and commensurate manner and is not facing difficulties in its expansion plan on this account. 11,950 people have been inducted during the last three years i.e., 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

The category-wise regular manpower strength in BHEL as on 31.03.2010 is as follows:

Executives	:	11,649
Supervisors	:	8,933
Workers/Others	:	25,599
Total	:	46,181

(c) and (d) There is no backlog of vacancies in recruitment in BHEL. The Company recruits staff in different categories from time to time, depending on its business requirements.

- (e) Does not arise.

#### **Prices of life Saving Medicines**

5495. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether taxes and tariff are contributing significantly towards raising the prices of life saving medicines; and  
 (b) if so, the details of the reduction made in taxes, tariff etc. to keep the life saving medicines within the reach of poor patients during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) It is a fact that the taxes and tariff affect the prices of medicines. In the recent past, the Government has reduced

the rate of excise duty twice on Drugs & Pharmaceuticals from 16% to 8% vide notification no. 4/2008 - CE dated 01.03.2008 and subsequently from 8% to 4% vide notification no. 58/2008 - CE dated 07.12.2008. The reduction in the excise duty has resulted in reduction in the prices of scheduled drugs and formulations, the prices of which are fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). Whenever the rates of excise duty, custom duty etc. are revised, the NPPA issues a notification quantifying the impact on the prices of scheduled drugs and formulations fixed by it. In case of medicines out of price control, i.e. non scheduled drugs/formulations the NPPA also issues advisories to drug companies to pass on the benefits to the consumers whenever there is reduction in excise duty etc.

#### **Supply of Iron ore by NMDC**

5496. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of supply of iron ore to small and medium scale industries by the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) during the last three years;

(b) whether the supply of iron ore being made by NMDC to the said industries has been discontinued;

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

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the smooth supply of iron ore to small and medium scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The supply of iron ore by NMDC is not based on gradation of small and medium scale industries or otherwise. NMDC has been offering iron ore from Bailadila to various Chhattisgarh based Sponge/Pig Iron units based on recommendations of State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB), Government of Chhattisgarh. As per State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB), Chhattisgarh, generally units up to 50 tonnes per day (50 TPD) capacity are classified as "small" (investment below Rs.5 crores) and units up to 100 tonnes per day (100 TPD) capacity are classified as "medium" (investment below Rs.10 crores).

Based on this criteria, out of approximately 85 units to whom NMDC is supplying iron ore in the State of Chhattisgarh as recommended by SIPB, Chhattisgarh; only 31 units are covered under "small & medium scale". The details of iron ore supplied by NMDC to these industries during past 3 years are as follows:

(Quantity in Lakh Tonne)

Type of enterprise/ industry	Nos.	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Small Scale	10	0.31	0.22	0.03
Medium Scale	21	1.83	2.07	1.96
Total (Small + Medium)	31	2.14	2.29	1.99

(b) No, Madam.

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

(d) Government does not control supply of iron ore to individual steel industries. The supply of iron ore to individual units is dependent upon their individual tie up with iron ore producers.

#### **Underground Oil Storage**

5497. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working out a plan to offer space in the upcoming underground oil storage facilities to global crude suppliers with the aim of spreading investment risks of building and maintaining a buffer stock of crude oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the capacity of the present buffer stock of crude oil would also be increased; and

(d) if so, to what extent and the likely investment etc. to be involved therein?

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

(a) No, Madam.

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

(c) and (d) The Government decided in September, 2005 to set up a Strategic Crude Oil Reserve of 5 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) capacity at 3 locations viz., Vizag (1.0 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT) and Padur (2.5 MMT) through the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), a 100% subsidiary of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB). The capacity at Vizag is proposed to be enhanced from 1 MMT to 1.3 MMT. This strategic storage of crude oil would be in addition to the existing storages of crude oil and petroleum products available with the oil companies.

The project involves a capital cost of approximately Rs.2400 crore (at September 2005 prices) and Crude Oil cost of approximately Rs.9000 crore, besides operation and maintenance cost, estimated to be about Rs.90 crore per annum.

#### **Conversion of Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd.**

5498. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee formed by the Government in March, 2008 had recommended conversion of Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited (FSNL), Bhilai into a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government for implementing the same; and

(c) if not, the time by which action is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) The Government has not accepted the recommendations of the Committee, taking into account the satisfactory working of FSNL in existing structure.

#### **Cloth Consumption**

5499. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total cloth consumption in the country annually during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the factors that determine the increase/decrease in cloth consumption; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote the textile industry, particularly the handloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Statistical data on cloth consumption in the country is not compiled.

(c) Government has introduced through the Union Budget 2010-11 and the Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14, relief and concessional measures including tax concessions, rebates on prevailing duties, exemption from certain taxes concerning exports, enhancements of credit limits, extension of duty entitlement scheme etc., to enhance exports of textiles and clothing. Government is implementing the following schemes for enhancing production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and to enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers through skill upgradation and for providing infrastructural and marketing support in the 11th Plan period:

- (i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme.
- (ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme.
- (iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.
- (iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme.
- (v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme.

#### **National Rail Museum**

5500. SHRI P. VISWANATHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to upgrade the National Rail Museum in the wake of forthcoming Commonwealth Games;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the facilities likely to be added in the museum for children; and

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

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 make them more interactive. Other than Improvements to existing facilities, it is also planned to add facilities of Audio Guide, Working and Interactive Models, Wheel Interaction Model, and to organise regular workshop for school children.

(c) Facilities mentioned above are targeted to be completed before Common Wealth Games 2010.

#### **Consumption of Petroleum Products**

5501. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) has made any contribution in curbing consumption of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof, qualitatively and quantitatively; and

(c) the annual expenditure incurred by PCRA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) undertakes various activities for propagating awareness among the people for conservation of petroleum products in various sectors of economy viz., Transport, Domestic, Industry and Agriculture. Some of the major activities undertaken by PCRA are Nationwide Mass Awareness Campaign launched in 2008-09 and repeated in 2009-10, Driver Training Programme, Energy Audit, Model Depot Project etc.

As per findings of the Impact Assessment Survey, PCRA has estimated that the Mass Awareness Campaign could lead to a saving in the range of 1.4% to 14.3% varying from region to region and from sector to sector if the media campaign is sustained.

(c) The annual expenditure incurred by PCRA, during the last four years is as under:

Year	Expenditure in Rs. (Crores)
2006-07	21.02
2007-08	20.89
2008-09	57.36
2009-10 (provisional)	65.97

[Translation]

#### **Agreement between POSCO and SAIL**

5502.SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading South Korean steel manufacturing company POSCO has signed an agreement with Steel Authority of India Ltd. to set up a steel factory in Bokaro, Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the investment likely to be made for the purpose;

(c) the likely shares of the both companies in the said joint venture project;

(d) whether the SAIL is likely to buy the material from the said factory to prepare steel for vehicles; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (e) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is examining possibilities of entering into joint venture initiatives with international steel producers. With this aim, SAIL and POSCO entered into a MoU on 27.8.2009 which provided for joint initiatives for possible establishment of a FINEX technology based steel plant at Bokaro, Jharkhand or any other location. A proposal from POSCO to this effect is at present under consideration with SAIL. A final decision on these would depend upon the techno-commercial feasibility of the projects and the benefits to SAIL.

#### **Oil Refinery in Jharkhand**

5503.SHRI ARJUN MUNDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an oil refinery in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Consequent on de-licensing of refinery sector since June, 1998, a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public Sector Enterprise depending on its techno-commercial viability. Presently, there is no intimation regarding setting up of a refinery in Jharkhand.

#### **Licence to Fertilizer Agencies**

5504.SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines and the criteria laid down for getting licence for fertilizer agencies in the country;

(b) whether any limit has been fixed in regard to the number of fertilizer agencies in any district;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) the level at which the procedure of issuing the said licence is dealt with along with the time period within which the licence is given after applying for the same;

(e) the details of licence holder shopkeepers to whom licences were issued by the Government in this regard in Washim, Yavatmal, Akola, Jalgaon, Dhule, Amravati districts in Maharashtra during the last three years.

(f) whether the Government proposes to discontinue the licencing system for fertilizer agencies; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Allotment of fertilizer agency/dealership is a commercial decision taken by the manufacturers/importers of fertilizers to market their product. The Department of Fertilizers has no role to play in allotment of fertilizer agencies. After allotment of agency/dealership by fertilizer company, the concerned person/society gets a certificate of registration (licence) from the registering authority appointed by the concerned State Government, where the agent or dealer so appointed by the fertilizer company intends to sell or offer for sale or carrying on the business of selling of fertilizers under Clause 7, 8 and 9 of Chapter IV of the Fertilizer (Control) Order 1985. The mandate of obtaining certificate of registration by any dealer/agent carrying on business in fertilizer under Fertilizer Control Order is to ensure that such dealers do not indulge in any malpractices like sale of spurious fertilizers, black marketing, adulteration, hoarding etc. There is no limit regarding the number of fertilizer agencies in any district fixed under Fertilizer (Control) Order.

(e) to (g) Total number of fertilizer sale points (dealers) in Maharashtra is 36,024. of which 4247 are in Cooperative Sector and 31,321 in Private Sector. Number of fertilizer sale points in the districts of Dhule, Jalagaon, Akola, Wasin, Amrawati and Yavatmal is 688, 2152, 567, 410, 1030 and 823 respectively as per the information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra.

[English]

**Electrification of Bhiwani and  
Rohtak Rail Line**

5505. SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for doubling and electrification of railway line between Bhiwani junction and Rohtak;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work for the doubling and electrification of this railway line is likely to commence and completed?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

**Insurance Claims by Railway**

5506. SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the insurance company and the amount of premium paid by the Railways annually to it during the last three years;

(b) the number of insurance claims made by the Railways during the said period;

(c) the amount of the said claims paid by the insurance company; and

(d) the amount of claims pending with insurance company as on date alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) the Details of the insurance company and the amount of premium paid by the Railways annually during the last three years are as under:

Year	Name of the Insurance Company	Amount of premium paid
2007-08	ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd.	Rs. 34.72 Crores
2008-09	Nil	
and		
2009-10	No insurance cover has been taken after 20.9.08. However, payment of compensation to the victims of train accidents or untoward incidents does not get affected whether insurance cover is there or not. The Insurance cover bought from general Insurers is an internal mechanism to get the reimbursement of the compensation paid by the Railways.	

(b) The number of insurance claims made by the Railways so far for train accidents/ untoward incidents for the said period is as under:

2007-08	-	121
2008-09 & 2009-10	-	NIL

(c) The amount of the said claims paid by the insurance company so far is as under:

2007-08	-	Rs. 4.09 Crores
2008-09 & 2009-10	-	NIL

(d) The amount of claims pending as on date alongwith the reasons therefor is as under:

Year	amount of claims pending	Reasons therefor
2007-08	Rs. 0.40 Crores	Balance payment is under process
2008-09 & 2009-10	NIL	NIL

[English]

#### **Shortage of Petrol/ Diesel**

5507. SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of petrol and diesel in Lakshadweep;

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

(c) whether the current system of supply of these essential commodity is not functioning satisfactorily;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to supply petrol and diesel on regular basis through cargo vessels from the mainland or to create adequate storage facility in the area; 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) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has reported that presently there is no shortage of petrol and diesel in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

(c) IOCL has further reported that current system of supply of petrol and diesel in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep is working as per requirement of UT administration and no reports on dissatisfaction have been received by them.

(d) and (e) On the request of Union Territory of Lakshadweep, the construction work for setting up of POL depot at Kavaratti and Minicoy Islands were being executed by IOCL on a deposit basis. During the course of execution of work, UT Administration had advised IOCL to include petrol/Aviation Turbine Fuel storage and Retail Dispensing Station for Petrol and Diesel.

The construction work of POL depot has been stopped since September 2006 due to its being challenged in the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala by some local residents.

#### **Prices of Crude and Refinery Products**

5508. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

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

(a) whether there is uncertainty about the prices of crude and refinery products despite the country's refining capacity had expanded considerably during the last five years;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether higher percentage of residue in Barmer crude required a higher capacity of conversion units;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to increase the refining capacity of Barmer Refinery; and

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

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

(a) and (b) There is no direct linkage between the prices of crude and refinery products with the expansion in the country's refining capacity. While expansion of domestic refining capacity is influenced by the growth of domestic demand for petroleum products and/or exports, the prices of crude oil and petroleum products are impacted by a number of factors including supply, demand and other factors prevailing in the international oil markets.

At present, more than 75% of the domestic requirement of petroleum products is met by import of crude oil. Pricing of petroleum products is based on the Import Parity/Trade Parity pricing mechanism, which in turn is linked to the oil prices in the international markets. International oil prices have a direct impact on the costs and domestic prices of petroleum products.

(c) and (d) Mangala crude of Barmer contains high Atmospheric Residue of 75-80% by mass and Vacuum Residue of 38-40% by mass, This will require higher capacity of conversion units like Fluidized Catalytic Cracker, Hydrocracker and Delayed Coker Units in the refinery.

(e) and (f) There is no refinery in Barmer Rajasthan.

### Modernisation of Oil Refinerles

5509. SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN:

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

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

(a) the details of public sector oil refineries and privately owned oil refineries in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total refining capacity of each of these refineries and the cost of refining of crude oil in these refineries;

(c) whether the Government proposes to modernise these refineries; 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 information is enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) and (d) The Public Sector Oil Companies have been undertaking refinery upgradation projects for capacity expansion and to optimize the production of value added products based on economics, product demand, etc. Details of refinery modernization/upgradation projects being undertaken by Public Sector Undertaking refineries is at Statement-II.

### Statement-I

#### Details of Refineries, Refining Capacity and Refining Cost

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Location of the Refinery	Refining Capacity as on	Refining cost (including depreciation)		
			1.4.2010 (MTPA)*	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Public Sector</b>						
1.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	Guwahati, Assam	1.00	1902	1638	2234
2.	IOCL	Barauni, Bihar	6.00	801	848	885
3.	IOCL	Koyali, Gujarat	13.70	398	505	718

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	IOCL	Haldia, West Bengal	7.50	757	841	1020
5.	IOCL	Mathura, Uttar Pradesh	8.00	535	661	693
6.	IOCL	Digboi, Assam	0.65	4263	4598	5920
7.	IOCL	Panipat, Haryana	12.00	561	503	679
8.	IOCL	Bongaigaon, Assam	2.35	-	-	1992
9.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited	Mumbai, Maharashtra	5.50	551	595	685
10.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	8.30	362	406	440
11.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	Mumbai, Maharashtra	12.00	579	555	703
12.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	Kochi, Kerala	9.50	617	555	1196
13.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited	Manali, Tamil Nadu	9.50	663.38	666.28	807.39
14.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited	Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu	1.00			
15.	Numaligarh Refinery Ltd	Numaligarh, Assam	3.00	861.35	763.96	1262.13
16.	Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited@	Mangalore, Karnataka	11.82	176	248	227
17.	Tatipaka Refinery (ONGC)	Tatipaka, Andhra Pradesh	0.066	11215	13681	9327
Total (A)			111.86			
<b>Private Sector</b>						
18.	Reliance Industries Ltd.(DTA)	Jamnagar, Gujarat	33.00	871	897	958
19.	Reliance Petroleum Ltd.(SEZ)	Jamnagar, Gujarat	29.00	Commenced operation on 25.12.2008		
20.	Essar Oil Limited	Vadinar, Gujarat	10.50	On trial run upto 30th April, 2008		1838 (11 months)*
Total (B)			72.50			
Grand Total (A+B)			184.386			

\* Million Metric Tonne Per Annum

@Refining cost (excluding depreciation)



**Statement-II****Modernisation & Upgradation Project in Public Sector Refineries**

Name of the Project	Objective
1	2
<b>I) Indian Oil Corporation Limited</b>	
Residue Upgradation and MS/HSD quality improvement project at Gujarat Refinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To produce BS- III / IV quality MS &amp; HSD</li> <li>• To improve distillate Yield from 68% to 75%</li> <li>• To process increased quantity of High Sulphur Crude from 26% to 58%.</li> </ul>
Improvement in Diesel Quality & Distillate Yield (Hydrocracker) Project along with refinery expansion from 6 to 7.5 MMTPA at Haldia Refinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To produce BS- III / IV quality HSD</li> <li>• To improve distillate Yield from 64% to 67.3%</li> <li>• Capacity expansion from 6 to 7.5 MMTPA</li> </ul>
Panipat Refinery Additional Expansion Project from 12 MMTPA to 15 MMTPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cost Capacity expansion from 12 to 15 MMTPA</li> <li>• To produce BS- III / IV quality HSD</li> </ul>
MS Quality Upgradation Project at Barauni Refinery	To produce BS- III quality MS
MS Quality Upgradation Project at Guwahati Refinery	To produce BS- III quality MS
MS Quality Upgradation Project at Digboi Refinery	To produce BS- III quality MS
Diesel Hydro Treatment (DHDT) Project, Bongaigaon Refinery	To produce BS- HI quality HSD
MS Quality Improvement at Bongaigaon Refinery	To produce BS- III quality MS
<b>II) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)</b>	
<b>(a) Mumbai Refinery</b>	
Hydrocracker Revamp and new CCR	To upgrade Naphtha to Euro-III/Euro-IV MS and revamping of Hydrocracker Unit to increase capacity from 1.75 to 2.0 MMTPA to enable upgrading 0.2 MMTPA high sulphur diesel streams to Euro-IV HSD.
<b>(b) Kochi Refinery</b>	
Capacity expansion cum Modernization project	To produce auto fuels conforming to Euro-III norms and refinery modernization.
<b>III) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)</b>	
<b>(a) Mumbai Refinery</b>	
LOBS Project	To upgrade LOBS qualities from existing level of Group-I to Group-II/Group-III
New FCC Project	Setting up the 1.45 MMTPA capacity new FCC
Diesel Hydro Treater Project	To upgrade/produce the Euro-III/IV HSD

1

2

**(b) Visakh Refinery**

Diesel Hydro Treater Project To upgrade/produce the Euro-III/IV HSD

**IV) Mangalore Refineries & Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), Mangalore**

Capacity upgradation project To increase the refining capacity from 9.69 MTPA to 15 MTPA

**V) Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL), Manali**

Auto Fuel Quality Upgradation Project To produce MS/HSD Meeting Euro-IV Specifications.

Resid Upgradation Project To improve the distillate yield of the refinery

Capacity Expansion To increase the refining capacity of Refinery at Manali from 9.5 to 11.1 MTPA

Revamp of NHT/CRU To improve the Research Octane number of MS.

**VI) Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), Numaligarh**

Diesel Quality Upgradation Project To produce Euro-III/Euro-IV HSD.

**DTH Services in Trains**

5510. SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to introduce Direct To Home (DTH) services in the trains as is being done by some of the private airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultations have been held with any group/service providers for this purpose; and

(d) 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) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**DMIC**

5511. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA:

SHRI PREMCHAND GUDDU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan being implemented by the Railways to connect Delhi-Mumbai dedicated freight corridor with Delhi- Mumbai Industrial Corridor influence region of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of Indore-Dahod and Dhar-Chhota Udepur railway line projects;

(d) the time by which these are likely to be completed; and

(e) whether in view to dedicated freight corridor and Delhi- Mumbai industrial corridor the Railways propose to complete the said projects on priority basis by providing additional budgetary allocation for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Department of Industrial Policy Promotion (DIPP) is the nodal agency dealing with Delhi-Mumbai industrial Corridor (DMIC). DMIC Development Corporation Ltd. (DMICDC) is preparing development plans for each investment region including Madhya Pradesh. Regarding rail connectivity, Ministry of Railways will examine the proposals when received from DMICDC/DIPP.

(c) to (e) Dahod- Indore (200.97 Kilometers) New Line: Part detailed estimate for Dahod-Katwara and Sagor-Indore section (49.72 Kilometers) has been sanctioned. Final Location Survey has been taken up. Earthwork and bridge work have also been taken up where land is available. Chhota Udepur-Dhar (157 Kilometers) New Line: Part detailed estimate for Chhota Udepur-Alirajpur (40 Kilometers) has been sanctioned. Final Location Survey has been taken up. Earthwork and minor bridges has been taken up in Chhota Udepur-Alirajpur section.

These projects will be progressed and be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources. Efforts are being made to generate additional funds for expediting completion of ongoing projects.

[English]

#### **Stoppage of Rajdhani Express**

5512. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request/representation regarding stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Alleppey station (Kerala) has been received by the Railways; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b) Rajdhani Express trains are long distance fast moving trains primarily meant for passengers between India's capital and state capitals. The representations regarding stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Alleppey station (Kerala) have been received and examined but stoppage has not been found feasible at present.

#### **Joint Ventures with Oil Companies in Gulf Countries**

5513. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the public

sector oil undertakings to set up joint ventures with various oil companies in the Gulf countries in the coming two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas identified for the above purpose?

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

(a) No, Madam.

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

#### **Setting up of Fertilizer Unit**

5514. SHRI MUKESH BHAI RAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has any plan to set up a fertilizer unit in Banaskantha district, Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Uniform Civil Code**

5515. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI SURESH ANGADI:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to enforce Uniform Civil Code for national uniformity and harmony in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Pending in a Uniform Civil

Code necessarily involves changes in the Personal Laws including those of the minority communities. It has been the consistent policy of the Central Government not to interfere in the Personal Laws of the minority communities unless the necessary initiatives for such changes come from a sizeable cross-section of communities themselves. At present, there is no specific proposal to bring Uniform Civil Code in the country.

#### **Submission of Incomplete Accounts**

5516. SHRI IJYARAJ SINGH:

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the information regarding the companies available in Company Registrar Offices are incomplete, wrong and not updated;

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

(c) whether the Government has held or is holding any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry;

(e) whether several companies have not given their annual report, audit report, balance sheet and the details of profit and loss within stipulated time;

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

(g) whether the Government has estimated the extent of loss in revenue on account of non-receiving of the above document; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) 3,70,196 companies are yet to file their Balance Sheet for the year 2008-2009, which may be due to non-completion of accounts and various other reasons.

(g) and (h) Loss of fee has not been estimated as documents are filed with fee and after due date with additional fee.

*[English]*

#### **Law for Scams**

5517. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing laws relating to scams involving crores of public exchequer money like siphoning of crores of rupees meant for development of various projects of State of Jharkhand and fake appointments detected in Municipal Corporation of Delhi as reported in the electronic as well as print media is sufficient to deal with such cases; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to enact a new more stringent law to deal with such scams and to set up Special Courts throughout the country in order to get speedy trial of cases involving misuse/siphoning of huge amount of public exchequer?

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

*[Translation]*

#### **Consumer Redressal Cell**

5518. SHRI DHANANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Consumer Redressal Cell in each State to solve the problems of people related to cooking gas and petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the manner in which this cell would be helpful in redressal of such complaints;

(c) the number of complaints, related to cooking gas and petrol pumps received by the Government during the last three years; and

(d) the manner in which those complaints were redressed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have well established grievance redressal mechanism to solve the problems of people related to cooking gas and petrol pump. OMCs have designated officials of the State office as well as Divisional office/ Area office for hearing the grievances of the customers. Every retail outlet and LPG distributor has a complaint/ suggestion book, the availability of which is prominently displayed at the retail outlet/ LPG distributorship. The name, address and contact numbers of the concerned field officer and the contact details of Divisional office/ Area office are displayed at the retail outlets/ LPG distributorship for the information of customers. The complaints received therein are attended to as per policy.

Further in order to have a more convenient, easy and effective way for the customer to register their complaint and follow it up, OMCs have started the service of using Unique Toll Free telephone numbers for public grievances redressal system. The Toll Free Number system has been put in place by OMCs from 2nd October, 2008 and nationwide advertisement in leading print media has been published. The same is also displayed in respective corporate website. The Toll Free Number is also being displayed in all retail outlets and distributors. Customers can also register their complaints through the website of the OMCs.

The complaints are forwarded to the concerned officer of Divisional office/Area office for redressal.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints from the consumers against their LPG distributors and Retail Outlets (RO) dealers, these are investigated. If the complaint is established, action

is taken against the LPG distributors and RO dealers in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

(c) and (d) OMCs have reported that they have received 53,262 complaints against their LPG distributors in the country between October 2008 and March 2010 through their Consumer Redressal Cell, out of which action was taken against 2,227 LPG distributors. Similarly, 10,731 complaints were received against their RO dealers through Consumer Redressal Cell, out of which action was taken against 127 RO dealers.

[English]

#### Pending Cases in Allahabad High Court

5519. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

PROF. RAMSHANKAR:

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

(a) the number of cases filed, disposed of and lying pending in Allahabad High Court during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any policy or strategy of the Government to reduce pending cases in the Allahabad High Court;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to dispose of pending cases through appointment of Adhoc Judges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The number of cases filed, disposed of and lying pending in Allahabad High Court during the last three years are as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Case Type	Opening balance	Institution	Disposal	Pendency at the end
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	2007	Civil	600272	150934	141311	609895
		Criminal	214898	96898	102007	209789

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	2008	Civil	609895	146607	95928	660574
		Criminal	209789	105306	63811	251284
3.	2009	Civil	660574	130771	123316	668029
		Criminal	251284	109644	78093	282835

(b) and (c) Disposal of cases is within the domain of Judiciary. However, the following steps have been taken to facilitate speedy disposal of cases in courts:

- (1) Increasing the strength of Judges in the High Courts.
- (2) Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, conciliation and arbitration have been encouraged.
- (3) Grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals.
- (4) Modernization of judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts including upgradation of Information and Communication Technology facilities in High Courts.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal before the Government to appoint Adhoc Judges in High Courts.

#### **Tripartite Committee on Jute**

5520. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI:

SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the recommendations made in the Tripartite Committee on Jute to enable a smooth run in the troubled industry relate to Textiles Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Madam. The majority of recommendations concern the State Government of West Bengal and Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. The Ministry's comments on the recommendation are enclosed as Statement.

#### **Statement**

Recommendations	Comments
1	2
Recommendation of Sub Committee No. 1, concerning study of implementation of laws relating to wages and social security in Jute Industry including existing collective agreements.	Recommendation relates to M/o Labour and State Government
Sub Committee No. 2, whose terms of reference was to study demand for skills and improvement in skill levels of workers in jute mills for enhanced productivity.	The Ministry of the recommendations of the Sub Committee-2 relates to State Governments and the Ministry of Labour & Employment. However, the Ministry of Textiles is taking care of issues like Training of Workers and Supervisors, Machinery

1

2

**Recommendations:**

- (i) New entrants should also be considered for training alongwith fresh workers.
- (ii) Identified Trainers should not only be deputed to institute like Central Training Institute for Instructor; (CTI) at Chennai but, also to Advanced Training Institute viz., Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kanpur and Ludhiana and other suitable places.
- (iii) Services and facilities of other suitable agencies may also be availed for development of training material and teaching aids etc.
- (iv) To meet the expenses in connection with training of jute mill workers and creation of training facilities the help of schemes under modular employable skill or other agencies may also be explored.
- (v) The workmen deputed for training should be compensated for the loss of wages.
- (vi) Twenty modules of training developed and vetted by the experts from various Jute Mills should be adopted.

Sub Committee 3, whose terms of reference was to analyse wage structure in the context of costing of various items of expenditure and profitability of jute mills.

**Recommendations:**

- (i) After considering all the submission the Committee is of the view that for rise in the labour cost component adequate compensation is allowed in the pricing formula of the government. However, the short comings mentioned by Indian Jute Mills Association under Payment of Bonus Act, can be sorted out by the Ministry of Textiles in consultation with IJMA to ensure that workers are paid all statutory dues including increased DA as per rise in the CPI number followed by the Jute Industry.

Development, Productivity Improvement and Total Quality Management Facilitation, etc., under the Jute Technology Mission (JTM). Ministry had released Rs.3.30 crore till December 2009 for training of workers, and approximately 7,500 workers had been trained. The Ministry is already implementing the Programmes and Schemes which subsumes what has been recommend by the Expert Tripartite Committee. The establishment of ITIs and strengthening of existing ITIs is in the purview of Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The cost of Gratuity, as fixed cost at Rs. 242/- m.t. (upto December 2008), for B-twill bags are computed as per the present Tariff Commission Report 2001. After the implementation of the tripartite agreement dated December 18, 2008, where it was agreed that all workmen shall be paid a sum of Rs. 500 per month (for 208 hours) with effect from the day the mills re-opens as ad-hoc payment against outstanding dues. The impact of Rs. 500 as ad-hoc has been given effect in the pricing of B-Twill jute bags. As a result the cost of B-Twill bag has increased by Rs. 825 per tonne w.e.f. January 2009. An interim increase of Gratuity by Rs. 98 per ton and Rs. 481 per tonne on account of Payment of Bonus to the workers has also been given effect w.e.f. January 2009. The above increase was given effect as per the decision taken in meeting with Tariff Commission, and Indian Jute Mills Association.

1

2

The bonus paid to the workers was given effect from January 2009. As no information regarding payment of Bonus by the mills to the workers was available to Jute Commissioner Office, no effect was given in pricing of B-Twill before January 2009. Therefore, as per the Tariff Commission Report 12% post tax return on actual net worth is provided in the formula. Therefore, IJMA's contention that the pricing formula allows only 1% return on capital is not correct.

The calculation of price of B-Twill bags is through a dynamic formula, which takes into account the escalation of prices of almost all the inputs. The prices of B-Twill jute bags are revised every month, based on the prevailing input prices, wage structure, etc. A comparison of Government declared prices and the prevailing market prices reveals that Government is already paying comparable, or even better, market prices to the Jute Industry. No further action is called for on the part of Ministry of Textiles.

#### Amendment in IPC

5521.DR. KRUPARANI KILLI:

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended adding a provision in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) to make acid attacks punishable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the IPC would be amended?

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

[Translation]

#### Opening of LPG Agencies

5522.SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG distribution agencies of which the distributors were changed or removed in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and current financial year alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaints against the distributor of gas agency of Aagar in Ujjain;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that they have terminated 16 LPG distributors in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and current financial year for various reasons such as shortage of cylinders, shortage of equipments, with LPG distributor, resignation of distributor, withdrawal of indemnity by project management, decision of the two judge committee appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to examine political patronage in allotment of dealers/distributors and violation of Marketing Discipline Guidelines etc.



(b) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that consequent to the termination of M/s. Agar Indane LPG distributor at Agar on 31.12.2008, ad-hoc arrangement has been made with M/s. Hind Indane at Ghatiya, District Ujjain to cater to the customers of the terminated distributor.

IOC has reported that they have not received any complaints against the working of the ad-hoc arrangement and this is likely to continue till appointment of a new distributor at Agar.

[English]

### Prices of Oil and Gas

5523. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the rise in prices of oil and gas in international market, the Government also raises the same in internal market resulting in increase in rise in prices but the Government earns profit from the increase;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is fact that more increase in price of oil and gas in international market, the more profit in Government coffers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State Governments and the common people suffered for this practice; and

(f) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) No, Madam,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Revenue earned by Government increases in the event of higher international oil prices only in respect of those products where duties are advalorem in nature, such as Customs Duty, Sales Tax/VAT etc. The details of rates of Customs Duty on crude oil and petroleum products and Sales Tax/VAT are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The Central Government on its part, has written to the Chief Ministers of all the State Governments and the Finance Minister of West Bengal, (as the Chairman of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers) in June 2009, requesting them to rationalize the Sales Tax/VAT on Petrol and Diesel so as to reduce the incidence of tax on the oil prices to protect the interest of the consuming public.

(f) The Government has progressively reduced the Customs Duty on crude oil and petroleum products to rationalize taxes and duties and keep the consumer prices of these sensitive petroleum products within reasonable limits. Customs Duty on crude oil which was 10% in August 2004 was reduced to Nil in June 2008. Similarly, for Petrol and Diesel, Custom Duty was reduced to 2.5% in June 2008. The Excise Duty on Petrol and Diesel has been made specific. Recently, Customs Duty on Crude Oil has been restored from Nil to 5% and increased on Petrol and Diesel from 2.5% to 7.5% with effect from 27.2.2010.

Under the burden sharing mechanism for compensating the OMCs' under-recoveries, Government has issued Oil Bonds of Rs. 71,292 crore and PSU upstream oil companies have contributed Rs.32,000 by way of discounts on crude oil/products to the OMCs during the year 2008-09. During the year 2009-10, Government has released budgetary support of Rs. 12,000 crore as the share of the Government towards meeting the under-recoveries for the year 2009-10. The PSU Upstream Oil Companies have also contributed Rs.8,364 crore to the OMCs by way of discount on crude oil/products during the first three quarters of 2009-10.

### Statement

#### Changes in Customs Duty rates

(Percentage)

Product	19.8.2004	1.3.2005	14.06.2006	05.06.2008	27.02.2010
1	2	3	4	5	6
Crude	10	5	5	Nil	5

1	2	3	4	5	6
Petrol	15	10	7.50	2.50	7.5
Diesel	15	10	7.50	2.50	7.5
Kerosene (PDS)	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
LPG	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

*The current rates of Sales Tax/VAT in various States/UTs*

(Percentage)

States/UTs	Petrol	Diesel	Kerosene	LPG
1	2	3	4	5
Assam	27.50	16.50	5.00	4.00
Andhra Pradesh	33.00	22.25	4.00	4.00
Bihar	24.50	18.36	12.50	1.00
Chattisgarh	25.00	25.00	4.00	0.00
Chandigarh	20.03	12.54	4.00	0.00
Delhi	20.00	20.00	5.00	0.00
Gujrat	25.46	24.63	0.00	0.00
Goa	22.00	20.00	4.00	4.00
Himachal Pradesh	25.00	14.00	0.00	4.00
Haryana	20.00	8.80	5.00	0.00
Jharkhand	20.00	18.00	4.00	4.00
Jammu & Kashmir	27.47	15.09	4.00	4.00
Kerala	29.30	24.94	4.04	4.00
Karnataka	25.00	18.00	4.00	1.00
Maharashtra - Mumbai, Thane & Navi Mumbai	28.52	26.00	4.00	0.00
Maharashtra - Other than Mumbai, Thane & Navi Mumbai	27.50	23.00	4.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	28.75	23.00	5.00	4.00
Orissa	18.00	18.00	4.00	4.00
Punjab	33.62	9.68		4.00

1	2	3	4	5
Rajasthan	29.31	19.63	4.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	30.00	21.43	4.00	4.00
West Bengal	27.52	19.27	4.00	4.00
Uttar Pradesh	26.55	17.23	4.04	0.00
Uttaranchal	25.00	21.00	12.50	0.00

Note: Include Cess, Additional tax & VAT Concession

Does not include Entry Tax, Irrecoverable Taxes, VAT on dealer commission and VAT on entry tax if any.

[Translation]

### Employment to SC/ST in Oil Companies in Rajasthan

5524. SHRI ARJUN RAMMEGHWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil PSUs provide employment opportunities to the people in Rajasthan; and

(b) if, so the number of persons belonging to SC/ST who have been provided employment in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. About 510 persons belonging to SC/ST category have been provided employment in the State of Rajasthan by the various Oil PSUs.

[English]

### Supply of Natural Gas from KG Basin

5525. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Letter of Intent (LoI) was issued by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) in 2004 for supply of 12mmcsd of natural gas from KG Basin at USD 2.34/ mmbtu for 17 years for its expansion projects at Kawas II and Gandhar II Power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to intervene and ask the RIL to supply gas to the Government owned company as per the agreed terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. NTPC issued the letter of intent (LOI) to RIL on 16.06.2004.

(c) Since the matter is sub judice, the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) had decided to wait for the verdict of Hon'ble Bombay High Court. Further, EGOM decided that the allocations should be made to projects in the pipeline as and when they are ready to commence production.

[Translation]

### Undertrial Prisoners

5526. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 1 crore 74 lakh undertrials in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a human rights violation for having inmates in jails more than their capacity;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the slow-moving judicial system is one of the reasons for the same; and

(e) if so, the measures propose to be taken for its improvement?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) As per the data compiled by

the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) as on 31.12.2007, there were 3,76,396 prisoners in various jails of the country against the total authorized capacity of 2,77,304 prisoners. The overcrowding in the prisons was 35.7%.

Against the total prison population of 3,76,396, the number of total undertrials prisoners were 2,50,727 which constitutes 66.6% of the total population.

Section 2.1(d) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 defines "human rights" means the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the international Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

Fast Track Courts were set up to expedite disposal of long pending Sessions cases and the cases of undertrials prisoners. These courts are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts. As per the latest information received from the High Courts/State Governments, 29.08 lakh cases have been disposed off by these courts, out of 35.85 lakh transferred to these courts since inception.

*[English]*

#### **Agreement between NTPC and RIL**

5527. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Industries Ltd. had violated the provisions of Production Sharing Contract (PSC) by unilaterally assigning itself the power of an owner and entering into an agreement with National Thermal Power Corporation for supply of gas for its plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being proposed by the Government on RIL for violation of PSC?

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

(a) In the year 2002, NTPC invited bids under International Competitive Bidding (ICB) route for procurement of gas @ 132 Trillion British Thermal Units (Tbtu) per annum for a

period of seventeen (17) years. National and international companies participated in the bidding. After the qualification process, the Request For Proposal (RFP) was issued in April, 2003. M/s Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) was the lowest bidder and was issued a Letter of Intent (LOI) by NTPC. However, RIL did not sign the Gas Sales and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) with NTPC for supply of gas.

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

*[Translation]*

#### **Grants under IHDS**

5528. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the request of Government of Madhya Pradesh for releasing the outstanding instalments of grants under Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS) is pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the steps initiated by the Government for early release of the said grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Madam. The proposal received from Government of Madhya Pradesh under Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme have been considered favourably, and a sum of Rs.15.15 lakh has already been released.

*[English]*

#### **Consultative/ Advisory Committees**

5529. SHRI A. SAMPATH:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways constitute Consultative/ Advisory Committees for facilitating interaction between Railway Administration and users to improve efficacy of providing service;

(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) Yes, Madam.

(b) With a view to securing better representation of railway users and affording more frequent opportunities for consultation between Railway Administration and users on matters relating to the service provided by Railways and means of improving the efficiency of such service, Railway Users' Consultative Committees are constituted at various levels, namely:

- (i) A National Railway Users' Consultative Council at the Centre.
- (ii) Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee at the headquarters of each railway and Konkan Railway,
- (iii) Railway Users' Consultative Committees at the Divisional levels,
- (iv) Suburban Railway Users' Consultative Committee on each of the Central, Western, Southern, Eastern & South Eastern railways, and
- (v) Station Consultative Committees at every Zonal and Divisional Headquarters and also at selected stations serving important Industrial and Commercial centers.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Yatri Niwas at Nagapattinam**

5530. SHRI T. R. BAALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct Yatri Niwas at Nagapattinam considering the large number of pilgrims visiting Nagore and Velankanni in Tamil Nadu every year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Rail Connectivity to Nandigram**

5531. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Nandigram railway line projects announced in the last railway budget; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Final Location Survey of Deshpran-Nandigram new railway line project has been completed. Work on the project has commenced on 30.01.2010 and is in progress as per schedule.

*[Translation]*

#### **Allotment of Oil Blocks under NELP**

5532. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO:

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

(a) whether a good number of oil blocks were allotted to the public sector oil companies under phase VIII of New Exploration and Licensing Policy;

(b) if so, the number of applications received and oil blocks selected in the said phase;

(c) whether the application were not received for all the blocks identified by the Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of new conditions laid down for the applicants for said phase as compared to the last phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Out of 70 blocks offered under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), 36 blocks

attracted 76 bids. Out of 36 blocks, 34 blocks are likely to be awarded.

Although bids have not been received for all the blocks in this round, the response can not be considered as poor in view of the global melt-down and also in comparison to the responses received by several other countries during recent bidding rounds. Under NELP policy, exploration blocks are

offered through international competitive bidding process. The companies bid for exploration blocks based on their commercial prudence.

(e) The details of changes in terms and conditions and Bid Evaluation Criteria (BEC) in NELP-VIII vis-a-vis NELP-VII are enclosed as Statement.

### **Statement**

#### *Changes in BEC and other Terms and Conditions for NELP-VIII with respect to NELP VII*

Sl. No.	NELP-VII	NELP-VIII
1	2	3
1.	<p><b>Block Types:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onland Type S blocks with size less than 200 Sq Km</li> <li>• Type A &amp; Type B among onland, shallow water and Deepwater blocks.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Block Types:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onland Type S blocks with size less than 200 Sq Km</li> <li>• There are no Type A &amp; Type B blocks</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Type S blocks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Capability not a qualifying criterion</li> <li>• Evaluation based on Work Programme and Fiscal Package Distribution of points</li> <li>• Work programme: 40</li> <li>• Fiscal package: 60</li> </ul>	<p><b>Type S blocks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Capability not a qualifying criterion</li> <li>• Evaluation based on Work Programme and Fiscal Package Distribution of points</li> <li>• Work programme: 50 points</li> <li>• Fiscal package: 50 points</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Type A blocks:</b></p> <p><b>Onland and Shallow water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Capability pre-qualifying criterion</li> <li>• Evaluation based on Work Programme and Fiscal Package</li> </ul> <p><b>Distribution of points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work programme: 40 points</li> <li>• Fiscal package: 60 points</li> </ul> <p><b>Type B blocks: Onland and Shallow water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Capability pre-qualifying criterion</li> </ul>	<p><b>Onland and Shallow water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Capability pre-qualifying criterion</li> <li>• Evaluation based on Work Programme and Fiscal Package Distribution of points</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work programme: 50 points</li> <li>• Fiscal package: 50 points</li> </ul>



1	2	3
		8. Drilling of deepwater wells beyond 400 m bathymetry during last 5 years (0.5pts per well) 2
6.	<b>Exploration Phases:</b> Onland and Shallow water: Phase-I: 4 years Phase-II: 3 years  Deep water and onland Frontier blocks Phase-I: 5 years Phase-II: 3 years	<b>Exploration Phases:</b> Only one phase of 7 years for all blocks
7	<b>Duration for Work Programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory work Programme and Bid work programme to be completed in Phase I</li> <li>• Phase II to have at least one exploratory well</li> </ul>	<b>Duration for Work Programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory work Programme and Bid work programme to be completed in first 4 years</li> <li>• Extension of one year granted beyond initial 4 years for every one well committed in case of Onland and shallow water blocks</li> <li>• Extension of three years granted beyond initial 4 years for every one well committed in case of Deep water blocks</li> </ul>
8	<b>Relinquishment</b> 40 % of the block to be relinquished after Phase I	<b>Relinquishment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No compulsory relinquishment after 4 years</li> <li>• Operator has option to relinquish after completion of minimum work programme</li> </ul>
9	<b>Work Programme</b> evaluation carried out for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3D Seismic surveys</li> <li>• Exploratory wells</li> <li>• Other surveys</li> </ul> Other surveys include various types of surveys including 2D seismic	<b>Work Programme</b> evaluation carried out for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3D Seismic surveys</li> <li>• Exploratory wells</li> <li>• 2D Seismic surveys</li> </ul> Only 2D seismic considered in other surveys
10	No maximum well depth defined block wise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Block wise maximum well depths will be indicated beyond which the points will not be given during evaluation. However, operator may offer greater depths from exploration point of view.</li> </ul>



1	2	3
11	Additional marks for second, third and further wells	No additional marks for second, third wells and beyond
12	Marks for water depths in case of deep water wells	No marks for water depths in case of deep water wells
13	Fiscal Package Weightages on tranches: (Low/Medium/High)  <b>For Onland and shallow</b>  Type-A (15/30/15)=60 Type-B (12/26/12) =50 Type-S (15/30/15) =60  <b>For Deepwater</b>  Type-A (14/27/14) -55 Type-B (11/23/11) =45	Fiscal Package Weightages on tranches (Low/Medium/High)  <b>For all blocks(12/26/12) =50</b>
14	Bank Guarantee (BG) given by operators @35% on the value of annual work programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bank Guarantee on total minimum work programme @ 7.5% for the total period</li> <li>• On the basis of pre-determined rates</li> </ul>
15	Cost of unfinished work programme for penalty estimated case to case basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upfront stipulated figures of LD (Liquidated Damages) for not completing the minimum work programme</li> </ul> <p><b>LD for wells</b></p> <p>Onland: US\$ 1,000,000 per well</p> <p>Shallow water: US\$ 3,000,000 per well</p> <p>Deep water: US\$ 6,000,000 per well</p> <p>LD for Seismic surveys</p> <p>Onland 3D: US\$ 5,000 per Sq Km</p> <p>Onland 2D: US\$ 2,500 per LKM</p> <p>Offshore 3D: US\$ 1,500 per Sq Km</p> <p>Offshore 2D: US\$ 1,000 per LKM</p>

**Reservation Counter at Siwan Railway Station**

5533. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers have to face difficulties

due to shortage of reservation counters at Siwan Railway Station; 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) Siwan reservation office deals with on an average 544 requisitions per day. At present three reservation counters in first shift and two reservation counters in second shift are functioning at Computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) Centre, Siwan, which are considered adequate to deal with the present level of demand at this station.

[English]

### Goa Airport

5534. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether upgradation/modernisation of international airport in Mopa, Goa has been undertaken;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the current status of work;
- (c) whether land acquisition process is over for the purpose;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which the work is likely to be completed at the said airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Madam. The proposal is for construction of a Greenfield airport.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Land acquisition proceedings for about 2000 acres has been undertaken by the State Government of Goa. Notification under Section 6 of Land Acquisition Act has been issued by the concerned authority.

(e) Work of the said airport is to be undertaken after the land acquisition proceeding is over.

### RUB at Kankanady (Karnataka)

5535. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for construction of Road underbridge at LC No.146B, KM6/4-5 at Kankanadi Railway Station Karnataka is under the consideration of the Railways; and

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure for the work and the time by which the work will be begin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. The proposal for the construction of Road Under Bridge (RUB) in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No. 146B at Km.6/4-5 at Kankanady has been sanctioned in the year 2009-10.

(b) The estimated cost for the above work is Rs.3.58 crores wherein Railway's share is Rs.1.79 crores and balance is to be borne by the State Government. The work of General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) has been taken up in consultation with State Government (Mangalore City Corporation). After finalization of GAD, the work will start.

### Amendment in Hindu Succession Act

5536. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Will the Minister LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to amend the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, further to give equal rights to women in case of self acquired property where she is denied her rights by including her through a will;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) On the basis of 174th Report of the Law Commission of India the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 was amended vide the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 to give equal rights to daughters alongwith sons in the Hindu Mitakshara coparcenary property. As regard the self acquired property of a person dying intestate, under sections 8 and 15 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, equal rights are given to both sons and daughters as class I heirs. However, where such persons leave a will, the provisions of section 57 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 is applicable. No proposal to further amend the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 is under consideration.

[Translation]

**Research and Analysis Cell in SFIO**

5537. DR. SANJAY SINGH:

SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up market research and analysis cell in serious fraud investigation office with a view to improve corporate sector regulation system;

(b) if so, the number of cases of serious frauds detected by this cell till date; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon so far?

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

(b) No case of fraud has been detected by this Unit so far.

(c) Does not arise.

**Increase in Prices of Fertilizers**

5538. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN:

SHRI VARUN GANDHI:

DR. K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether the prices of fertilizers are increasing exorbitantly in the country including Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the international prices of potassium (K) and phosphorous (P) fertilizers and feedstock/raw materials are highly volatile which might lead to more volatility and perhaps an increase in farm gate prices of these fertilizers;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to specify a price band for P and K fertilizers so that prices do not go beyond the reach of farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (e) The Government has introduced Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy in respect of Phosphatic & Potassic fertilizers with effect from 1.4.2010. As per this policy, the Government shall pay subsidy to the manufacturers/importers on DAP, MOP, NPK complexes (12 grades), MAP, TSP, Ammonium Sulphate (AS) and SSP based on the nutrients contained therein. Though the MRP is being fixed by companies, the Government has fixed the Subsidy under Nutrient Based Subsidy policy in such a manner that the MRP with effect from 1.4.2010 fixed by companies is near to the earlier level of MRP. A marginal increase of Rs. 30 per bag only has taken place. In case of MOP, no increase has taken place and in case of SSP there is reduction of Rs. 70 per bag. though prices of fertilizers and fertilizers inputs are found to be volatile in the past, price of Potash for 2010-2011 is annually fixed and accordingly Nutrient Based Subsidy has been announced. After announcement of Nutrient Based Subsidy, price of DAP has not shown increase. In fact, it is either stable or showing declining trend in price. There may not be any apprehension regarding steep rise in farm gate prices during the year 2010-11 as the fertilizer companies have already contracted annual requirements of imports of finished goods/raw materials at the current level of prices prevailing in the international market.

[English]

**Losses Suffered by ONGC**

5539. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is losing crores of rupees per year due to sale of natural gas at subsidised price to fertilizer units and power plants;

(b) if so, the fact and details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is aware due to sale of natural gas at low price ONGC is not able to meet its operation costs;

(d) if so, the steps the Government proposes to ensure that the financial health of the ONGC is not affected due to sale of gas at subsidised price;

(e) whether the gas pricing system in public and private sector would be made at par; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (f) The price of gas under the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) was last revised on an ad hoc basis in 2005. ONGC has reported an under-recovery of Rs. 4745 crore during 2008-09 on its gas business. This has led to lack of investment for Exploration and Production activities. To take a considered decision on the issue views of the concerned Ministries, Departments and Planning Commission have been sought. The issue would be decided after taking all the views into consideration.

[Translation]

#### Gas Reserves found by Reliance Company

5540. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

Block	Basin/Area	Gas Discovery	Oil/Gas Discovery
NEC-OSN-97/2	North East Coast	8	-
SR-OS-94/1	Saurashtra Offshore	1	-
GS-OSN-2000/1	Gujarat Saurashtra Offshore	1	-
CY-DWN-2001/2	Cauvery Deepwater	-	1
CB-ONN-2003/1	Gujarat		2
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>

(a) whether the Reliance Company has found Gas reserves for the third time in the Krishna Godavari Basin in the Bay of Bengal;

(b) if so, the time by which the said gas is likely to be supplied into the market;

(c) whether the company has found gas reserves anywhere else also; and

(d) the names of other places where gas and oil reserves are being explored in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has made 28 hydrocarbon discoveries in KG Basin during the period (2002-2010), out of which 24 are gas discoveries and 4 are oil/gas discoveries. Commercial production of gas has commenced from D1 & D3 gas discoveries in KG-DWN-98/3 block w.e.f. 01.04.2009. Further, associated gas is also being produced from the MA oil field in this block. The remaining discoveries are under evaluation/appraisal to assess the commerciality. Development of these discoveries and subsequent gas production will depend upon extent of their commercial viability and approval of Field Development Plans.

(c) Yes, Madam. Apart from KG Basin, RIL has so far made another 13 hydrocarbon discoveries in other areas. Out of these, 10 are gas discoveries and 3 are oil/gas discoveries. The details are as under:

(d) The exploration activities for oil and gas are currently ongoing in East Coast and West Coast Offshore shallow and Deepwater Areas and on-shore in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamilnadu and Himachal Pradesh.

#### Purchase of Rolling Stock

5541. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have fixed a target for the

purchase of EMU, DEMU and MEMU and other suburban rolling stock during the 11th Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether these targets have been achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) It has been planned to acquire 2800 EMU and 2200 MEMU & DEMU coaches during 11th Five year plan from the production units and purchase from other agencies.

Type	Five Year Plan		Actual acquisition		
	Target	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	
EMU	2800	193	535	602	
MEMU & DEMU	2200	66	102	128	

[English]

#### Requirement of Coal

5542. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of coal for the steel plants in the public sector, plant-wise and the extent to which the demand is met through availability of indigenously coal;

(b) the quantity of coal imported by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) during the last three years;

(c) the comparison in rates of imported coal and the coal produced in the country;

(d) whether the demand for coal for expanding the capacity of steel is likely to increase considerably;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the efforts being made by the Government to meet the demand?

consumption of different categories of coal in SAIL and RINL/VSP for the year 2009-10 is as under:

Unit: Lakh Tonnes

#### A. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

Plant-wise	2009-10		
	Coking Coal	PCI Coal**	Boiler Coal
(i) Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)	50.55	2.00	6.39
(ii) Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP)	19.28	0.46	9.01
(iii) Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)	21.71	--	15.27
(iv) Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)	35.03	0.86	17.94
(v) IISCO Steel Plant (ISP)	8.67	--	1.96
B. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited/Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (RINL/VSP)	36.76*	--	16.09

\* includes Medium coking coal

\*\*PCI - Pulverised Coal Injection.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The plant-wise provisional

Out of the total coal consumption of 18.91 million tonnes (MT) by SAIL in 2009-10, 8.56 MT was met through availability of indigenously produced coal and balance 10.35 MT was met through imports. In RINL, out of 5.28 MT of coal consumed in 2009-10, 1.81 MT was met through availability of indigenous produced coal and balance 3.47 MT through imports.

(b) The quantity of coal imported by SAIL during the last three years during April to March on receipt basis is as under:

Year	Quantity (in million tonnes)
2007-08	9.68
2008-09	10.72
2009-10	10.85

(c) Since the quality of imported coal is different from indigenous coal, prices are not strictly comparable.

(d) and (e) SAIL is implementing expansion plans at its steel plants to increase hot metal capacity to over 26 million tonne in phases from the present production of around 15 million tonne. This would lead to increase in coking coal and boiler coal requirements to the tune of 23 million tonne and 11 million tonne respectively against present level of around 14 million tonne and 7 million tonne respectively. In the case of RINL, the increase in coking coal and boiler coal by the year 2014-15 would be to the tune of 5.97 million tonne and 2.02 million tonne respectively from 3.67 million tonne and 1.61 million tonne respectively.

(f) In order to enhance indigenous coking coal availability, SAIL is developing two new coking coal blocks at Tasra and Sitanala. SAIL together with Tata Steel has also formed "S&T Mining Co. Pvt. Ltd" a joint venture company for acquisition and development of coal assets. SAIL is also attempting for allocation of additional coking coal and thermal coal blocks through Govt. dispensation route for captive mining. SAIL alongwith CIL, NTPC, RINL & NMDC has also formed International Coal Ventures Ltd a special purpose vehicle for acquisition of coal assets abroad.

[Translation]

### Late Running of Lichchavi Express

5543. SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that Lichchavi Express running from Delhi to Sitamarhi (Bihar) is frequently reaching its destination late;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure timely running of this train;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce a new train from Gorakhpur to New Delhi via Varanasi to facilitate the commuters; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Railways are seized of the problem of frequent late running of Lichchavi Express & have taken the following steps to ensure timely running:

(i) Punctuality drives are being launched from time to time.

(ii) To ensure punctual running effective monitoring is done at Divisional and Head Quarter level.

(iii) Frequent foot plate drives are launched.

(iv) Escorting by Railway Protection Force/ Government Railway Police to check cases of alarm chain pulling.

(v) To induct a scratch rake from Northern Railway, to the extent it is operationally feasible.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) This is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[English]

### Introduction of New Steel Cylinders

5544. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the plan to introduce new steel cylinders has materialized;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the difference in the cost of the new cylinder and the cylinder used at present; and
- (d) the benefits of introducing such a new type of cylinder?

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

(a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no such proposal for introduction of any new type of steel cylinder.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Rail Overbridges in Tamil Nadu**

5545.DR. P. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal for construction of Railway Overbridges in various places of Tamil Nadu especially in Tiruvallur;

(b) if so, the details of each such proposal; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

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

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) The above proposals have been included in the Railway's Works Programme 2010-11.

#### **Statement**

The details of the proposals are as under:

1. Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No. 18 at Tirunelveli yard at Km.27/500-600.
2. ROB in lieu of LC No.22 at Km.31/3-4 in between Nidamangalam and Koradacherry stations in Tanjavur-Tiruvarur section.
3. ROB in lieu of LC No. 16 at Km. 38/28-29 near Puttur in between Sevvapaet and Puttur stations in Chennai-Arakkonam section.
4. ROB in lieu of LC No.124 at Km. 394/10-11 in between Erode-Totiyapalayam stations in Erode-Coimbatore section.
5. ROB in lieu of LC No.2 at Km. 2/2-3 in between Villupuram-Venkatasapuram stations in Villupuram-Katpadi section.
6. ROB in lieu of LC No.2 at location 1034-1035 in between Pattabiram-Pattabiram West stations in Chennai-Pattabiram siding.
7. ROB in lieu of LC No.4 at Km. 3/3-5 in between Irugur-Pilamedu stations in Irugur-Coimbatore section.
8. ROB in lieu of LC No.7 at Km. 8/1-3 in between Irugur-Pilamedu stations in Irugur-Coimbatore section.
9. ROB in lieu of LC No.10 at Km. 11/33-35 in between Pilamedu-Coimbatore North station in Irugur-Coimbatore section.
10. ROB in lieu of LC No.131 at Km. 438/3-5 in between Uthukuli and Tiruppur stations in Erode-Coimbatore section.
11. ROB in lieu of LC No.309 at Km. 431/900-432/0 in Dindigul yard in Tiruchchirappalli-Dindigul section.
12. ROB in lieu of LC No.38 at Km. 60/100-200 in Salem-Bangalore Sec.
13. ROB in lieu of LC No.41 at Km. 65/600-700 between Shivadi Dharmapuri station in Salem-Bangalore Sec.
14. ROB in lieu of LC No.43 at Km. 67/700-800 between Dharmapuri-Palakkodu station in Salem-Bangalore Sec.
15. ROB in lieu of LC No.46 at Km. 71/600-700 between Dharmapuri-Palakkodu station in Salem-Bangalore Sec.
16. ROB in lieu of LC No.57 at Km. 85/00-100 between Dharmapuri-Palakkodu station in Salem-Bangalore Sec.

**Under Utilization of Funds**

5546. DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ:

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA:

SHRI P. BALRAM:

SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated by the Union Government under various welfare schemes for minorities are being under-utilized by many State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated by the Union Government and utilized by the States under various welfare schemes to the States during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the corrective measures initiated or proposed to be initiated by the Government for effective utilization of funds 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) No, Madam. The utilization certificate becomes due from the State Government one year after the closure of financial year in which the funds were released. Further release of funds to the State Governments is subject to submission of utilization certificates by the State Governments. State Governments have been advised to ensure expeditious utilization of funds released within given time frame. Regular review meetings are held with the State Governments in this regard at various levels. The scheme-wise and State-wise details regarding allocation of funds during the last three years and the current financial year under four schemes namely, Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme and Multi-Sectoral Development Programme are given in the enclosed Statement-I to IV.

**Statement-I***State-wise and year-wise details of Pre Matric Scholarships sanctioned and amount released*

Sl. No.	State	2008-09		2009-10	
		Scholarships sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Rs.in crore)	Scholarships sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Rs.in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	25923	5.37	86248	13.90
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0	0.00
3	Assam	0	0.00	87376	16.83
4	Bihar	43582	10.71	35668	9.22
5	Chhattisgarh	1600	0.24	4765	1.07
6	Goa	151	0.02	594	0.04
7	Gujarat	0	0.00	0	0.00
8	Haryana	3727	0.51	14867	1.58



1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Himachal Pradesh	540	0.18	1095	0.09
10	Jammu & Kashmir	4842	1.02	53421	7.44
11	Jharkhand	12003	2.71	18510	2.10
12	Karnataka	21018	1.89	86829	13.93
13	Kerala	46347	3.50	161590	12.24
14	Madhya Pradesh	13719	2.44	18278	2.18
15	Maharashtra	58052	4.51	201490	15.78
16	Manipur	1960	0.46	10780	3.10
17	Meghalaya	5479	0.71	10518	1.26
18	Mizoram	2661	0.44	9428	1.58
19	Nagaland	0	0.00	0	0.00
20	Orissa	3542	0.28	17049	1.34
21	Punjab	49996	3.79	123907	15.10
22	Rajasthan	18775	1.83	60318	4.72
23	Sikkim	0	0.00	604	0.09
24	Tamil Nadu	24135	2.33	84150	7.82
25	Tripura	821	0.07	1069	0.08
26	Uttar Pradesh	97785	12.98	371189	48.63
27	Uttarakhand	0	0.00	449	0.07
28	West Bengal	68235	5.36	240548	19.72
29	Andaman & Nicobar	220	0.04	96	0.01
30	Chandigarh	398	0.04	1518	0.17
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	21	0.01	40	0.02
32	Daman & Diu	30	0.01	110	0.02
33	Delhi	6918	0.71	26313	2.77
34	Lakshdweep	0	0.00	0	0.00
35	Puducherry	177	0.05	259	0.01
Total		512657	62.21	1729076	202.94

Note: The scheme has been under implementation since 2008-09.  
Allocation for the year 2010-11 is yet to be made.

**Statement-II***State-wise and year-wise details of Post Matric Scholarships sanctioned and amount released*

Sl. No.	State	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		Scholarships sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Rs.in crore)	Scholarships sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Rs.in crore)	Scholarships sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Rs.in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0.00	9248	6.23	26692	19.96
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
3	Assam	0	0.00	8479	4.87	9908	8.32
4	Bihar	0	0.00	18192	10.86	13245	3.80
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0.00	563	0.24	822	0.60
6	Goa	0	0.00	269	0.13	0	0.00
7	Gujarat	0	0.00	5763	1.97	7766	2.88
8	Haryana	256	0.14	1934	0.93	1897	0.68
9	Himachal Pradesh	63	0.04	158	0.08	349	0.17
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0.00	1867	0.98	5992	3.67
11	Jharkhand	0	0.00	4473	2.86	7221	3.67
12	Karnataka	5721	2.91	7232	0.46	27598	8.82
13	Kerala	4321	0.84	13018	2.43	52861	11.21
14	Madhya Pradesh	1615	0.62	4319	1.85	3107	1.10
15	Maharashtra	5170	2.23	11551	4.03	15333	8.17
16	Manipur	0	0.00	1055	0.75	3422	2.85
17	Meghalaya	9	0.02	56	0.03	65	0.04
18	Mizoram	682	0.42	1226	0.87	3184	2.54
19	Nagaland	0	0.00	27	0.02	23	0.02
20	Orissa	125	0.06	837	0.35	1288	0.46
21	Punjab	1585	0.56	2647	1.26	17737	10.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22	Rajasthan	1905	0.64	4341	2.14	8144	4.00
23	Sikkim	0	0.00	0	0.00	245	0.10
24	Tamil Nadu	2858	0.96	8004	2.42	26342	11.04
25	Tripura	71	0.01	203	0.05	165	0.07
26	Uttar Pradesh	0	0.00	31995	16.46	77406	24.78
27	Uttarakhand	0	0.00	264	0.10	145	0.06
28	West Bengal	0	0.00	31289	7.72	75660	18.43
29	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0.00	49	0.03	24	0.01
30	Chandigarh	0	0.00	120	0.05	159	0.05
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	456	0.17	17	0.01	25	0.01
32	Daman & Diu	0	0.00	4	0.02	20	0.02
33	Delhi	0	0.00	951	0.39	922	0.43
34	Lakshdweep	31	0.01	0	0.00	0	0.00
35	Puducherry	0	0.00	122	0.04	98	0.03
Total		24868	9.63	170273	70.63	387865	149.79

Note: Allocation for the year 2010-11 is yet to be made.

### **Statement-III**

#### *Merit-cum-means based Scholarships Scheme*

Sl.No.	States	No. of scholarships sanctioned						Amount in Rupees	
		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
		Scholarship Awarded	Total Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Scholarship Awarded	Total Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Scholarship Awarded	Total Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Scholarship Awarded	Total Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	889	222.92	1411	361.25	1319	235.53		
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00		
3	Assam	504	133.17	1372	368.28	1910	586.20		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	Bihar	1595	372.82	2500	470.91	2718	867.77		
5	Chhatisgarh	11	7.65	78	21.21	121	32.47		
6	Goa	29	7.57	52	13.00	68	18.57		
7	Gujarat	195	37.23	598	106.72	705	142.58	35	8.82
8	Haryana	132	29.97	367	87.09	300	74.40		
9	Himachal Pradesh	11	2.58	19	4.75	35	8.84		
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1012	146.46	1284	324.28	1278	273.07		
11	Jharkhand	399	102.25	620	151.79	709	195.56		
12	Karnataka	879	246.45	1383	364.14	1756	460.38	7	2.11
13	Kerala	1786	396.86	2239	540.32	3504	944.60		
14	Madhya Pradesh	393	103.87	490	120.79	984	244.29		
15	Maharashtra	1126	288.39	2005	481.34	3028	766.91		
16	Manipur	83	31.12	158	54.16	98	22.94		
17	Meghalaya	3	6.79	51	8.08	85	31.95		
18	Mizoram	88	40.20	179	66.72	122	33.08		
19	Nagaland	0	0.00	0	0.00	143	56.50		
20	Orissa	84	23.20	191	49.80	241	62.74		
21	Punjab	528	152.39	592	163.50	1884	536.87		
22	Rajasthan	550	134.68	882	215.07	956	239.53		
23	Sikkim	0	0.00	0	0.00	20	9.86		
24	Tamil Nadu	1311	351.28	1659	439.68	2209	579.69		
25	Tripura	2	0.60	23	6.85	54	15.90		
26	Uttar Pradesh	3539	694.07	4268	1082.26	4808	1447.00		
27	Uttarakhand	24	5.91	65	21.84	109	29.85		
28	West Bengal	1897	503.65	3336	872.61	6379	1740.38		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Union Territories</b>									
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		0.00	5	3.85	8	2.51		
30	Chandigarh	6	1.57	36	5.03	28	8.64		
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli					0	0.00 0.00		
32	Daman & Diu		0.00		0.00	0	0.00		
33	Delhi	178	46.11	322	65.44	387	78.55		
34	Lakshadweep						0.00		
35	Puducherry	4	0.91	10	2.65	16	3.96		
<b>Total</b>		<b>17258</b>	<b>4090.63</b>	<b>26195</b>	<b>6473.40</b>	<b>35982</b>	<b>9751.14</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>10.93</b>

**Statement-IV***Utilization of Funds**Details of funds allocated and utilised under Multi sectoral Development Programme (MsDP)*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Tentative allocation	Amount released in 2008-09	Amount released in 2009-10	Amount released in 2010-11	Total amount released	Expenditure reported by the State Govt. against 2008-09 releases	Expenditure reported by the State Govt. against 2009-10 releases	Total expenditure reported by the State Government
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Uttar Pradesh	1015.70	124.42	294.36	0.00	418.78	111.74	26.25	137.99
2	West Bengal	686.10	43.28	235.39	0.00	278.67	32.65	2.58	35.23
3	Assam	703.50	42.27	151.92	3.15	197.34	29.63	24.58	54.21
4	Bihar	523.20	16.75	105.04	0.00	121.79	NR	16.91	16.91
5	Manipur	139.10	30.12	60.04	0.00	90.16	38.04	NR	38.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6	Haryana	49.20	14.01	4.61	0.00	18.62	5.71	NR	5.71
7	Jharkhand	181.40	0.00	44.30	0.21	44.51	NR	9.91	9.91
8	Uttrakhand	59.50	0.00	8.12	0.00	8.12	NR	1.79	1.79
9	Maharashtra	60.00	0.00	22.27	0.21	22.48	NR	NR	0.00
10	Karnataka	39.90	0.00	5.80	0.00	5.80	NR	NR	0.00
11	Andaman & Nicobar Island	15.00	0.00	1.09	0.00	1.09	NR	NR	0.00
12	Orissa	31.30	0.00	10.41	9.92	20.33	NR	8.77	8.77
13	Meghalaya	30.50	0.00	10.87	0.00	10.87	NR	NR	0.00
14	Kerala	15.00	0.00	0.77	0.00	0.77	NR	NR	0.00
15	Mizoram	45.90	0.00	4.03	0.00	4.03	NR	NR	0.00
16	Jammu & Kashmir	15.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	6.00	NR	NR	0.00
17	Delhi	22.10	0.00	1.55	0.00	1.55	NR	NR	0.00
18	Madhya Pradesh	15.00	0.00	6.46	0.00	6.46	NR	NR	0.00
19	Sikkim*	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	0.00
20	Arunachal Pradesh**	118.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	0.00
Total		3780.40	270.85	973.03	13.49	1257.37	217.77	90.79	308.56

NR: Not Reported by the State Govt.

\* District plan approved, fund yet to be released.

\*\* District plan not yet submitted by the State Government.

#### Investment Plan by HPCL

5547. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State controlled Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has proposed a Rs.25,000 crore investment plan to relocate the 6.5 million tonnes per annum refinery in Mumbai to Ratnagiri in coastal Maharashtra by setting up

grass root refinery that would be three times size of existing refinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total cost on the project and the number of jobs to be created with the setting up of the new refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):  
(a) to (c) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

has reported that a proposal to set up a 15-20 MMTPA capacity green field refinery, with state of art technology, in the State of Maharashtra, is at the conceptual stage.

### **Import of Fertilizers**

5548. SHRI S. SEMMALAI:

SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to import urea during the current year despite the fact that fertilizer units of the country have maximum stock of urea;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the detail of available stock and the quantity of fertilizers proposed to be imported alongwith the amount likely to be incurred for the purpose;

(d) whether the Government proposes to lay down a viable strategy with regard to import of fertilizers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (e) Urea is the only fertilizer under statutory price control and it is imported for direct agriculture use on Government account through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) i.e. MMTC, STC and IPL to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous availability. Government is also importing approximately 19 LMTs urea through IFFCO & KRIBHCO from Oman India Fertiliser Company (OMIFCO) under Long Term Urea Off Take Agreement (UOTA) between GOI & OMIFCO. The quantum & timing of import of urea is decided to ensure adequate availability of urea to meet the demand as assessed by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation by duly taking into account the month to month consumption as well as indigenous production of urea in the current year i.e. 2010-11. Import of other fertilizers is free under Open General Licence (OGL) and the importers are importing these fertilizers after taking into consideration the demand & availability scenario as per their commercial considerations. During

the year 2010-11, 68.35 lakh MT of DAP, 61.07 lakh MT of MOP and 10.23 lakh MT of NPK fertilizers has already been contracted. The opening stock of major fertilizers in the country as on 1st April 2010 was 2.21 lakh MT of Urea, 1.97 lakh MT of DAP, 0.97 lakh MT of MOP and 1.24 lakh MT of complex fertilizers. The proposed Budget Estimates (Gross Expenditure) for import of urea during the year 2010-11 is Rs.8360 crore. The proposed BE for payment of concession/subsidy on imported decontrol P&K fertilizers is Rs. 15500 crore.

### **Electronic Display Boards**

5549. SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the fact that the New Delhi Railway Station does not have sufficient electronic display boards and even some boards are giving incorrect information thereby causing great difficulties to the passengers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways for proper maintenance of these electronic boards with exact information and installing sufficient number of such boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Different types of electronic display boards like LED Boards, Split Flap Boards, Plasma Display, Two Line Direction Boards, Single Line Train Information Boards, Coach Guidance Boards are provided at New Delhi Railway station. The installation of new boards and their maintenance is a continuous process and is done in accordance with the requirement. Certain incidences of information not being fed correctly in these boards have come to notice and the staff concerned have been properly counselled.

*[Translation]*

### **Sixth Stage of House Lease Scheme for BSP**

5550. KUMARI SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the implementation of sixth stage of the House Lease Scheme for the Bhilai Steel Plant is likely to be started;

(b) whether the previous norms are likely to be followed in this stage also or new norms have been formulated; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) There is no proposal at present to start house leasing scheme for Bhilai Steel Plant.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Subsidy on Fertilizers**

5551. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidy given on fertilizers during 2010-11 is likely to touch Rs. 60000 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of any chemical fertilizer is not likely to decrease during the current year as a result thereof;

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

(e) whether the farmers are not likely to get any financial concession/relief despite the increase in subsidy on fertilizers; and

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

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

(a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 52840.73 crore (gross) is the Budget Estimate for subsidy on the fertilizers during 2010-11, the detail of which is as follows:

(i) Imported Urea	-	Rs. 8360 crore
(ii) Indigenous Urea	-	Rs. 15980.73 crore
(iii) Indigenous Decontrolled Fertilizers	-	Rs. 13000.00 crore
(iv) Imported Decontrolled Fertilizers	-	Rs. 15500.00 crore

(c) and (d) Government has introduced Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy with effect from 1.4.2010. Though the MRP is being fixed by Companies under this policy, the Government has fixed the subsidy under Nutrient Based Subsidy in such a manner that the MRP with effect from 1.4.2010 fixed by companies is near to the earlier level of MRP. A marginal increase of Rs. 30 per bag only has taken place. In case of MOP, no increase has taken place and in case of SSP, there is reduction of Rs. 70 per bag.

(e) and (f) Farmers are getting fertilizers at MRP which is the difference between the total cost and subsidy given by the Government. The MRP payable by the farmer is approximately only 40% of the cost. As such, approximately 60% of the cost of fertilizers is borne by Government, which is benefiting the farmers.

*[English]*

#### **Development of Railway Stations in Jharkhand**

5552. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of model railway stations in Jharkhand State as on date;

(b) the details of railway stations identified for the development as model railway stations in the State during the last three years alongwith the funds allocated/released and spent thereon so far;

(c) the number out of them have been developed as model station so far; and

(d) the time by which the remaining stations are likely to be developed/modernised and the details of the new railway lines likely to be laid in the State in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Sixteen (16) stations were identified in the State of Jharkhand for development as Model stations, which include Baidyanathdham, Barharwa, Barka Kana Jn., Bokaro Steel



City, Chakradharpur, Daltonganj, Dhanbad Jn., Garhwa Road Jn., Hatia, Jasidih, Koderma, Madhupur, Parashnath, Ranchi Jn., Sahibganj, and Tatanagar. All these stations have since been developed as Model stations. The expenditure for development of Model stations is incurred out of the allocation under Plan Head - "Passenger Amenities".

Jharkhand State is covered by Eastern, East Central and South Eastern Railways. Expenditure incurred under Plan Head - "Passenger Amenities" during last three years on these Railways is Rs. 101.21 crore, Rs. 115.04 crore and Rs. 122.06 crores (Provisional) during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively.

As regards New Lines, works have been taken up for the following lines which fail fully/partly in Jharkhand:

- i) Deogarh - Dumka
- ii) Deogarh - Sultanganj
- iii) Gaya - Chatra
- iv) Giridih - Koderma
- v) Koderma - Ranchi
- vi) Koderma - Tilaiya
- vii) Mandarhill - Rampurhat

The new lines will be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

[Translation]

#### **Passenger Amenities**

5553. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of passenger amenities and basic facilities at Jharkhand and other railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of railway stations where construction of passenger sheds has been included under the modernisation and expansion scheme of the Railways in the country including Jharkhand during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the division-wise and zone-wise details of the expenditure incurred by the Railways during the aforesaid period and the names of stations benefited from the said scheme;

(d) whether the Railways propose to expand passenger amenities at the small railway stations on the lines of the major railway stations of the country as well; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Augmentation of passenger amenities at railway stations including provision/expansion of platform shelters is a continuous process and works relating to these are taken up depending upon category of stations, number of passengers handled and relative priorities. Accordingly, 274 stations on all Zonal Railways including 16 stations in the State of Jharkhand have been identified for extension of platform shelters during the last three years.

Expenditure on works relating to provision/extension of platform shelters is incurred under Plan Head - "Passenger Amenities". Zone-wise details of the expenditure incurred by the Railways under this Plan Head during last three years, i.e. 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 and the names of stations where works of provision/extension of platform shelters have been completed are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) No, Madam.

The stations are categorized on the basis of annual passenger earnings of the station, and passenger amenities are provided according to the category of the station and norms fixed therefor.

**Statement**

*Zone-wise expenditure incurred on provision of passenger amenities under Plan Head - "Passenger Amenities" for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is as under:*

Railway	Expenditure (In crore of Rs)		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (Approx)
Central Railway	51.09	70.01	77.42
Eastern Railway	60.08	70.24	59.96
Northern Railway	69.33	94.01	83.90
North Eastern Railway	26.55	21.07	18.73
Northeast Frontier Railway	47.80	34.45	29.07
Southern Railway	76.10	90.82	76.52
South Central Railway	116.78	171.15	141.92
South Eastern Railway	13.60	21.51	33.08
Western Railway	43.40	75.63	78.87
East Central Railway	27.53	23.29	29.02
East Coast Railway	19.42	29.24	25.78
North Central Railway	18.34	26.60	36.23
North Western Railway	13.18	21.90	19.20
Southeast Central Railway	15.72	12.15	13.43
South Western Railway	40.62	43.10	35.14
West Central Railway	16.92	20.28	23.20
Metro Railways	1.99	2.12	1.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>668.49</b>	<b>827.58</b>	<b>783.07</b>

Names of the stations where work of expansion of platform shelter has been completed are - Angadipuram,

Angul, Bandikui, Barharwa, Barkakana Jn., Bhadrachalam Road, Bhaga, Bhandak, Birur Jn., Chandur, Chitradurga, Chittoor, Chopan, Dahod, Davangere, Dharma-puri, Garhwa Road Jn., Harihar, Hatkangale, Hirnoda, Jawai Bandh, Jayasinghpur, Jiaganj, Kadur, Kedgaon, Koraput, Kumbakonam, Kundgol, Kuppam, Lingampalli, Lohardaga, Londa, Meghnagar, Nagaruntari, Nanguneri, Parasnath, Pugalur, Pulgaon, Purulia, Ranibennur, Rotegoan, Sabarmati, Sanath Nagar, Sankaridurg, Srirangam, Tadipatri, Talcher, Than, Thiruverumbur, Tiptur, Whitefield and Yalvigi.

**Deputing of Drivers**

5554.SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether goods train drivers are routinely deputed for driving Express Trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the drivers are deputed without proper examination;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Mail/Express trains are not routinely ran by goods train drivers. The need for this may arise only in exceptional situation. Should such a contingency arise, only then a suitable goods driver is deployed.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**ROB on Hindon Mahua Road**

5555.SHRI KHILADI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of railway over-bridge on Hindon Mahua road railway crossing in Hindon (Rajasthan) is under consideration of the Railways;

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

(c) whether the tendering process of this railway project has been delayed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to complete this project on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Level Crossing (LC) No. 201 at Km.1136/10-12, in Hindon (Rajasthan), on Hindon Mahua Road qualifies for construction of Road Over Bridge on cost sharing basis. Railways have approached the State Govt. for approval, necessary undertakings of cost sharing and consent of closure of level crossing, which are still awaited.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Aircraft on Lease**

5556. SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India proposes to lease out some of its Boeing-777 in place of flying them itself;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not operating the said planes on its own by Air India;

(d) the names of companies which have offered to take these aircrafts on lease and the rates offered by them; and

(e) the expenditure being incurred by Air India on maintenance of the said aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Air India is considering the option of leasing out six Boeing 777 aircraft.

(d) The terms offered would only be known after the processing of tender.

(e) The estimated cost of maintenance of B777-200LR and B777-300ER aircraft is Rs. 8.61 crores and Rs. 12.66 crores per aircraft per annum respectively.

[English]

#### **Operation of Flights**

5557. SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scheduled flights operated from Delhi to Punjab and vice versa;

(b) whether there are any plans to increase the numbers of flights from Delhi to Punjab and vice versa in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of major cities directly connected by air with Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The details of scheduled air services from Delhi to Punjab and vice versa are as follows:

#### **NACIL (I)**

Delhi-Amritsar-Delhi Daily

Delhi-Chandigarh-Delhi Daily Alliance Air

Delhi-Amritsar-Delhi Daily

Delhi-Kullu-Pathankot-Delhi

Jet Airways 03 flights/week

Delhi-Amritsar-Delhi Twice Daily Delhi-Chandigarh-

Delhi Twice Daily

Kingfisher Airlines Delhi-Chandigarh-Delhi Daily

Delhi-Amritsar-Delhi Twice Daily

Delhi-Chandigarh-Jammu-Srinagar Daily

and VV

#### **Go Air**

Delhi-Chandigarh-Mumbai Daily

(b) and (c) The 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 including North-East region. The airlines provide air services to specific places depending Upon the traffic demand and commercial viability while complying with Route Dispersal Guidelines.

(d) At present, Delhi and Mumbai are directly connected with the State of Punjab.

#### **Investment by ONGC in Gas Field in Iran**

5558. SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) proposes to invest 10 billion dollar in two gas fields and one LNG project in Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) through its wholly owned subsidiary ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) is pursuing two gas field projects namely South Pars Phase-12 (SP-12) and Farzad-B field Farsi Block having an estimated investment of around USD 5 Billion. OVL and Ashok Leyland Project Services Limited (ALPS) have agreed to proceed with 40% stake in SP-12 gas field subject to long term allocation of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and completion of due diligence of SP-12, which is underway. An Exploration Service Contract (ESC) for Farsi block has been signed by the Indian Consortium of OVL-40%, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC-40%) and Oil India Limited (OIL-20%) with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC). OVL has submitted the draft Master Development Plan (MDP) for the development of Farzad-B Gas Field to Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC). ONGC in association with Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) and ALPS is examining the viability of investment in Iranian Gas Liquefaction Facilities for sourcing long-term LNG for the country.

Only a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been signed on 01st December, 2009 between Iranian Companies, Naftiran Intertrade Company (NICO) and Petropars Limited (PPL), and the Indian companies OVL and ALPS in the presence of NIOC.

*[Translation]*

#### **Advanced Loco Pilot Training Centre**

5559. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways proposes to open a new Advanced Loco Pilot Training Centre in Hardoi and Seetapur districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Stoppage of Trains at Bahraich Railway Station**

5560. SHRI KAMAL KISHOR 'COMMANDO': Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of representations have been received for providing stoppage of all important trains passing through Bahraich Railway Station (Uttar Pradesh);

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) All the trains passing through Bahraich railway station have a scheduled stoppage there.

[Translation]

### **Increase in Number of Platforms**

5561. SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and the number of platforms at Kathgodam, Haldwani and Ramnagar railway stations under Izzatnagar Division of North Eastern Railway;

(b) whether there is a proposal to increase the number of platforms at these stations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to construct more platforms at these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of existing platforms at Kathgodam, Haldwani and Ramnagar railway stations are as under:

Kathgodam: One high level and one rail level platform  
Haldwani: Two high level platforms

Ramnagar: One medium level and one rail level platform.

(b) to (d) Work for provision of an additional high level island platform at Kathgodam railway station has been taken up. For Ramnagar and Haldwani railway stations, existing platforms are adequate for the present number of trains handled at these stations.

### **Electoral Reforms**

5562. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating some electoral reforms in view of the decreasing poll percentage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make voting compulsory under the electoral reforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The proposals for electoral reforms before the Government are not in terms of any decrease in poll percentage.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

### **Procurement of Ethanol**

5563. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks on pricing are going on between public sector oil companies and sugar mills regarding procurement of ethanol;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the names of the mills contracted for supplying ethanol, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) the quantum of ethanol in million litres proposed to be provided by the said mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The Government decided on 12.11.2009 (i) to enforce mandatory blending of 5% ethanol with MS for time being. (ii) All issues relating to supply of ethanol be resolved by Inter-ministerial Committee consisting of Secretaries in Department of Food & Public Distribution, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have accordingly been directed to implement the decision of the Government.

The main issue coming in the way of implementation of above decisions relates to sufficient availability of ethanol and its pricing. In pursuance of the above directions,

the OMCs have held a series of meetings with the sugar industry representatives. However, issues of availability and pricing have as yet not been resolved.

(c) and (d) OMCs had invited public tenders in Jun'09/ July '09 for 16 States and 3 UTs including Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, 11 bidders qualified in technical bid out of the 23 bidders who participated. Against the quantity tendered by OMCs i.e. 10.65 crore litres, the bidders offered a quantity of 5.91 crore litres only. Detailed information regarding names of the mills contracted for supplying ethanol is available with Director (Marketing), Oil Marketing Companies i.e. IOCL, BPCL & HPCL.

#### **Subsidy to Fertilizer Dealers**

5564. SHRI RAJU SHETTI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the procedure and the basis on which subsidy is likely to be provided to the dealers of fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): The subsidy is not provided to dealers of fertilizers in the country. Fertilizer subsidy is transferred to the farmers in the form of subsidized Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) which are much below the normative delivered cost of these fertilizers. In case of urea, the difference between normative delivered cost and the notified MRPs is released as subsidy to manufacturers of urea on receipt of the same in the district.

Government has implemented policy of Nutrient Base Subsidy (NBS) with effect from April 1, 2010 for P&K fertilizers. As per NBS policy, fertilizer subsidy per Metric Tonne is fixed on the basis of nutrients contained in the subsidized P&K fertilizers. The fertilizer companies are free to decide MRP based on market forces of demand and supply. For the year 2010-11, Nutrient Based Subsidy is decided in such a manner that farm gate prices remain near to prices prevailing before introduction of NBS.

[English]

#### **Increase in Frequency of Train No. 2957-2958**

5565. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Railway Budget speech of 2009-10 it has been announced that frequency of train No. 2957-2958 Ahmedabad-New Delhi Rajdhani Express will be increased from six days in a week to daily;

(b) if so, whether the frequency of this train has not yet been increased;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the frequency of the said train is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Frequency of 2957/2958 Ahmedabad-New Delhi Rajdhani Express has been increased from six days in a week to daily w.e.f 30.08.2009.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Passenger Facilities at Ahmedabad Airport**

5566. DR. KIRIT PREMJI BHAI SOLANKI: Will the Minister CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate passenger facilities are not available at Ahmedabad airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the facilities upto international standard at the said airport?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Upgradation of airports is a continuous process depending upon traffic demand, commercial viability, commitment of airlines operators etc. However, various upgradation works like enhancement of apron capacity from 12 to 31 aircraft parking, construction of 4 passenger boarding bridges have been completed at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad to handle B-747-700 type of aircraft. In addition, construction

of new terminal building to cater to 1600 passengers at this airport has been taken up for completion by June 2010.

#### **Facilities to Officials**

5567.DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to give its former Ministers, Secretaries and their family members life-long upgrades to first class air ticket on Air India;

(b) if so, the reasons for such laigesse at a time when Air India is ailing and showing losses;

(c) the other facilities Government has decided to give to their former Ministers and Secretaries; and

(d) the estimated loss Air India would incur on these upgrades/facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Such facilities are not going to increase any burden on Air India or other agencies as they will be extended only if vacant seats are available.

(c) The other facilities extended are airport entry pass, VIP car parking label and facilitation at airports.

(d) Upgradation of facility is only subject to availability of seats, hence Air India on this account would not incur any loss.

#### **New rail line from Church Gate to CST Station, Mumbai**

5568.SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to lay a railway line from Church Gate (Western Railway, Mumbai) to CST station (Central Railway, Mumbai);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A survey for connectivity between Mumbai CST and Church Gate has been proposed in the Budget 2010-11.

(c) The work is not yet sanctioned.

[Translation]

#### **Modernisation of Courts**

5569.SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for modernisation and infrastructural expansion of various courts such as lower courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the said funds are adequate;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government proposes to hike the said amount in current Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) The responsibility of modernization and expansion of infrastructure of the various lower courts and High Courts lies with the respective State Governments. To augment the resources of the State Governments and Union Territories, the Central Government provides assistance to the States/UTs under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under implementation since 1993-94. Under this scheme, assistance is provided to facilitate the State Governments' efforts for construction of court buildings (including construction requirement for High Court buildings) and residential accommodation of Judges. Allocations are not made court-wise.

The outlay for the current Five Year Plan for the above mentioned scheme is Rs.701.08 crore, which is less than

the projected requirement of the State Governments / Union Territories for the same period for construction of court buildings and residential accommodation for Judges. The budget provisions under the scheme in the last three years and the amounts disbursed to the States / UTs (by re-appropriation where necessary) on submission of satisfactory utilization certificates by them for grants disbursed earlier, is indicated in the Table below.

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget provision	Disbursement
2007-08	65.00	103.80
2008-09	133.00	132.47
2009-10	125.50	175.70

The budget provision for the year 2010-11 for the scheme is Rs. 110.00 crore.

In addition to the above, the Central Government is providing assistance to the States for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas since 2009-10.

For modernization and infrastructure development of the Supreme Court of India the allocations through budgetary grants during the last three years is as below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Funds allocated
2006-07	0.30
2007-08	1.70
2008-09	3.00

For computerisation of District and Subordinate Courts in the country and for upgradation of the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, the Central Government is implementing a scheme through the National Informatics Centre at a cost of Rs.441.8 crore. Allocations under the scheme are not made court-wise. Against an outlay of Rs.740.60 crore for the scheme in the Eleventh Five Year

Plan, the budget provisions for the scheme in each of the last three years was as below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget provision
2007-08	170.50
2008-09	125.00
2009-10	120.00

The Budget provision for 2010-11 is Rs. 120.00 crore.

There is, at present, no proposal to enhance the Plan outlays for the above mentioned schemes in the current Five Year Plan.

*[English]*

#### Joint Venture by SAIL

5570.SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has any plans to enter into a joint venture with any other steel producer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether SAIL also plans to develop the Chiriy mines on a joint venture basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) is examining possibilities of entering into joint venture initiatives with international steel producers. A proposal from POSCO for possible establishment of a FINEX technology based steel plant at Bokaro, Jharkhand or at any other location and a Cold-rolled Non-oriented (CRNO) unit in Maharashtra is at present under consideration with SAIL. A final decision on these would depend upon the establishment of techno-



commercial feasibility of the projects and the benefits to SAIL.

(c) and (d) SAIL has decided to develop the Chiria Iron Ore Mine by themselves to meet the requirement of iron ore for its steel plants.

#### **Upgradation of Sabarmati Railway Station**

5571. SHRI BALKRISHNA KHANDERAO SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for development of Sabarmati railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the fund allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the said railway station is likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Development/augmentation of passenger amenities at railway stations is an on-going process and the same is undertaken depending upon volume of passenger traffic handled and other relative priorities. Accordingly, developmental works at Sabarmati railway station have been completed in 2009-10 at a cost of Rs. 1.55 crore. These works include improvement to circulating area, waiting rooms, toilets, booking office and surface on platform no. 1; provision of Coach Guidance System, Train Display Board and modern furniture for waiting room and retiring room.

#### **Fire in Container Depot**

5572. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out in railway container depot in Tughlaqabad area recently;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary investigations have been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the responsibility fixed by the Railways in this regard and the steps taken to check recurrence of such incidents?

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

(b) and (c) A committee of Senior Officers of CONCOR is enquiring into the incident. Enquiry report is awaited.

(d) Necessary action will be taken on receipt of the enquiry report.

*[Translation]*

#### **Menace of Touts**

5573. SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Railways has been drawn towards the difficulties being faced by the passengers due to operation of touts at the New Delhi, Delhi, Kanpur and Patna Railway Stations;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have carried out any surprise inspection in this regard; and

(c) if so, the number of culprits identified in such inspection and stringent measures adopted to curb the activities of touts in future?

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

(b) Yes, Madam. Surprise checks/drives are carried out at various stations from time to time including at New Delhi, Delhi, Kanpur and Patna stations.

(c) During the year 2009-10, the number of touts apprehended at New Delhi, Delhi, Kanpur and Patna were 14, 25, 1 and 12 respectively. To curb the menace of touts, regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and the Vigilance Departments at the reservation offices, major stations and in trains. The surveillance is stepped up during the peak rush/festival periods. Touts so apprehended are taken up under the

provisions of law. Campaigns are also launched through media to educate the public to desist from purchasing tickets from unauthorized persons. In addition, the facility of e-ticketing has been introduced for easier booking of reserved tickets.

### Supply of PNG

5574. SHRI KADIR RANA:

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI:

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

(a) the names of areas where Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for cooking purpose is being supplied in the National Capital Region;

(b) the time by which a scheme is likely to be formulated to supply PNG in Ghaziabad, Noida and Muzaffarnagar;

(c) whether the Government is considering to supply PNG to other districts of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana also;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Presently, PNG is being supplied in Delhi, Noida, Greater Noida, Faridabad and Gurgaon in the National Capital Region. Further, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) plans to roll out a plan for five years for CGD Network Development in 333 cities as mentioned in Statement - I which includes Ghaziabad and Muzaffarnagar. The cities of UP and Haryana where PNG is envisaged are mentioned in Statement-II.

### Statement-I

Sl. No.	City Enroute
1	2
1.	Kakinada
2.	Yanam
3.	Rajahmundry

1	2
4.	Khammam
5.	Tirupata
6.	Eluru
7.	Suriapet
8.	Guntur
9.	Nalgonda
10.	Vijaywada
11.	Hyderabad
12.	Secunderabad
13.	Sangareddy
14.	Zahirabad
15.	Chittoor
16.	Vishakapatnam
17.	Vizianagaram
18.	Bhimunipatnam
19.	Srikakulam
20.	Paralakhemundi
21.	Khichipuram
22.	Mallavaram
23.	Warangal
24.	Karimnagar
25.	Nizamabad
26.	Adilabad
27.	Ramagundam
28.	Kottaguddem
29.	Duliajan
30.	Dibrugarh

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1	2	1	2
31.	Shivsagar	58	Navasari
32.	Moran	59	Billimora
33.	Jorhat	60	Gandevi
34.	Silchar	61	Khambat
35.	Nawada	62	Ballabh Vidhyanagar
36.	Gaya	63	Halol-Kalol
37.	Sasaram	64.	Kheda
38.	Patna	65	Ahmedabad
39.	Ara	66	Gandhinagar
40.	Buxar	67	Mehsana
41.	Jehanabad	68	Sabharkanta
42.	Arrah	69	Surendranagar
43.	Ballia	70	Rajkot
44.	Chandigarh	71	Jamnagar
45.	Raipur	72	Bhuj
46.	Durg	73	Kandala
47.	Bhillai	74	Bhavnagar
48.	Silvassa	75	Banaskantha
49.	Daman	76	Yamuna
50.	Delhi	77	Jagadhari
51	Goa	78	Faridabad
52	Hazira	79	Gurgaon
53	Surat	80	Rewari
54	Ankleshwar	81	Rohtak
55	Bharuch	82	Hissar
56	Vadodara	83	Jind
57	Valsad	84	Sonepat

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1	2	1	2
85	Panipat	112	Ramanagaram
86	Karnal	113	Kunigal
87	Yamunagar	114	Sri Rangapatnam
88	Ambala	115	Mandya
89	Jammu	116	Hassan
90	Katra	117	Saklshpur
91	Chota Nagpur	118	Chikmangalur
92	Dhanbad	119	Madikeri
93	Giridih	120	Mangalore
94	Kodarma	121	Suratkal
95	Deoghar	122	Udupi
96	Hazaribag	123	Tumkur
97	Bokaro	124	Koppal
98	Homnabad	125	Hampi
99	Bidar	126	Chitraduge
100	Mangalore	127	Davangere
101	Madikeri	128	Gadag
102	Chamrajanagar	129	Bellary
103	Kollegal	130	Shimoga
104	Mysore	131	Hubli - Dharwad
105	Ramanagaram	132	Charwadmarga
106	Bengaluru	133	Kasaragod
107	Kolar	134	Kannur
108	Kolar Gold fields	135	Kalpetta
109	Mulbagal	136	Khozikhode
110	Bangarpet	137	Mallapuram
111	Kanakpura	138	Palakad (Palghat)

1	2	1	2
139	Thrissur	166	Gwalior
140	Ernalyulam	167	Vijaypur
141	Kochi	168	Guna
142	Kottayam	169	Raghogarh
143	Alapuzha	170	Shivpuri
144	Kollam	171	Datia
145	Thiruvananthapuram	172	Solapur
146	Kasarakod	173	Osmanabad
147	Betul	174	Karmala
148	Chinndwara	175	Shaund
149	Indore	176	Latur
150	Dewas	177	Ahmadnagar
151	Ratlam	178	Shirdi
152	Mandsaur	179	Nashik
153	Hoshangabad	180	Pune
154	Bhopal	181	Lonavala
155	Sehore	182	Khopoli
156	Raisen	183	Matheran
157	Vidisha	184	Wadgaon
158	Shahdol	185	Panvel
159	Jhabua	186	Kalian
160	Dhar	187	Thane
161	Dahud	188	Shahpur
162	Ratlam	189	Murbad
163	Shahjapur	190	Tarapur
164	Ujjain	191	Umargaon
165	Indore	192	Kolhapur

1	2	1	2
193	Ratnagiri	220	Ludhiana
194	Satara	221	Jalandhar
195	Alibag	222	Amritsar
196	Mumbai	223	Bhatinda
197	Chandrapur	224	Pathankot
198	Gadchiroli	225	Hoshiarpur
199	Yavatmal	226	Udhampur
200	Wardha	227	Dabwali
201	Nagpur	228	Kota
202	Amravati	229	Bhiwadi
203	Rourkela	230	Banswari
204	Chattrapur	231	Dungarpur
205	Khordha	232	Udaipur
206	Bhubaneshwar	233	Chittorgarh
207	Jajapur	234	Bhilwara
208	Bhadrak	235	Jaipur
209	Ananapur	236	Jodhpur
210	Kamakhyanager	237	Jhunjhunu
211	Baleshwar	238	Bikaner
212	Baripada	239	Sriganganagar
213	Puducherry	240	Ajmer
214	Mahe	241	Badmer
215	Rajpura	242	Jaisalmar
216	Nangal	243	Chennai
217	Patiala	244	Kanchipuram
218	Mandi Govindgarh	245	Tiruvannamalai
219	Sangrur	246	Kallakurichichi

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1	2	1	2
247	Dharmapuri	274	Auraiya
248	Cudalore	275	Dibiyapur
249	Salem	276	Phaphund
250	Perambalur	277	Babarpur
251	Namakkal	278	Mainpuri
252	Karur	279	Etawah
253	Erode	280	Jagdishpur
254	Tiruchchirapalli	281	Shaharanpur
255	Thaikavvur	282	NOIDA
256	Karakal	283	Greater NOIDA
257	Dindigul	284	Ghaziabad
258	Padukkottai	285	Hapur
259	Madurai	286	Garhmukteshwar
260	Virudunagar	287	Moradabad
261	Aruppukottai	288	Agra
262	Kovilpatti	289	Mathura
263	Tirublveti	290	Badayun
264	Tuticorin	291	Shahjahanpur
265	Periyar	292	Barielly
266	Coimbatore	293	Unnao
267	Udhagammandalam	294	Kanpur
268	Tiruttani	295	Aligarh
269	Hosur	296	Hathras
270	Krishnagiri	297	Firozabad
271	Agartala	298	Khurja
272	Jhansi	299	Bulandshahar
273	Lucknow	300	Dadri
		301	Meerut

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1	2
302	Modinagar
303	Muzzafarnagar
304	Allahabad
305	Ghazipur
306	Mirzapur
307	Bhadohi
308	Mau
309	Jaunpur
310	Sultanpur
311	Azamgarh
312	Akbarpur
313	Faizabad
314	Shahjahanpur
315	Roorkee
316	Haridwar
317	Kashipur
318	Ramnagar
319	Rampur
320	Rudrapur
321	Haldwani
322	Kathgodam
323	Kharagpur
324	Medinpur
325	Medinapur
326	Tamluk
327	Kaora
328	Alipur

1	2
329	Kolkata
330	Haldia
331	Bankura
332	Asansol
333	Durgapur

**Statement-II**

Sl.No.	City
1	2

**Uttar Pradesh**

1.	Jhansi
2.	Lucknow
3.	Auraiya
4.	Dibiyapur
5.	Phaphund
6.	Babarpur
7.	Mainpuri
8.	Etawah
9.	Jagdishpur
10.	Shaharanpur
11.	NOIDA
12.	Greater NOIDA
13.	Ghaziabad
14.	Hapur
15.	Garhmukteshwar
16.	Moradabad
17.	Agra
18.	Mathura
19.	Badayun



1	2
20.	Shahjahanpur
21.	Barielly
22.	Unnao
23.	Kanpur
24.	Aligarh
25.	Hathras
26.	Firozabad
27.	Khurja
28.	Bulandshahar
29.	Dadri
30.	Meerut
31.	Modinagar
32.	Muzzafarnagar
33.	Allahbad
34.	Ghazipur
35.	Mirzapur
36.	Bhadohi
37.	Mau
38.	Jaunpur
39.	Sultanpur
40.	Azamgarh
41.	Akbarpur
42.	Faizabad
43.	Shahjahanpur
<b>Haryana</b>	
1.	Yamuna
2.	Jagadhari

1	2
3.	Faridabad
4.	Gurgaon
5.	Rewari
6.	Rohtak
7.	Hissar
8.	Jind
9.	Sonepat
10.	Panipat
11.	Karnal
12.	Yamunagar
13.	Ambala

[English]

#### Production of Car

5575.SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the car production in the country has remained at all time high;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years alongwith the sales made both in domestic and international market during the above period;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to further boost the production and sale of cars in the coming years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. As informed by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the production of Passenger Cars during the last three years are as under:

Category	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Cars	14,26,212	15,16,967	19,26,484
% Growth	15.20	6.36	27.00

The details of domestic sales and exports of Passenger Car during the period is as under:

Description	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Domestic Sales	12,03,733	12,20,475	15,26,787
% Growth	11.81	1.39	25.10
Exports	2,11,112	3,31,535	4,41,710
% Growth	9.54	57.04	33.23

(c) to (e) In order to boost the production and sale of cars in the country, earlier the Government of India gave three stimulus packages to Indian Industry in wake of economic downturn which included reduction of excise duty, increasing liquidity and credit flow in the market, procurement of buses through JN RUM scheme, enhanced depreciations for commercial vehicles etc. These measures along with introduction of schemes and new models by Industry helped boost production & sales of cars. The GOI, in the budget of 2010-11, has only partially rolled back excise duty cuts by 2%. This coupled with economic growth and continued availability of credit will help sustain the growth.

#### **Setting up of Kerosene Depots**

5576. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken on the proposal for setting up of kerosene depots at block level in the States; 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) A pilot project under the name of Jan Kerosene Pariyojana (JKP) was launched by the Government of India from 2nd October 2005 for strengthening the Public Distribution System (PDS) for kerosene.

One of the salient features of the scheme was that the Public Sector Oil Companies (OMCs) will establish at least one kerosene dealership in each of the country's development blocks. The scheme has been discontinued in December, 2009 in view of several references received from the State Governments to discontinue the scheme.

OMCs have reported that at present there is no proposal for setting up of new kerosene dealership at every block level is under consideration with them.

[Translation]

#### **Alang Ship Breaking Yard**

5577. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made by the Government to make ship breaking industry of Alang as eco-friendly with the Japanese cooperation;

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

(c) the time by which Alang is likely to be converted into modern recycling yard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) has informed that consultants M/s. Japan Development Institute (JDI) with the financial assistance from the Government of Japan has commissioned a pre-feasibility study for improvement of beaching methods at Alang. Their report is awaited.

(c) GMB has reported that the Alang Ship Recycling Yard has now a dedicated Safety Training and Welfare Institute; state of art Hazardous Waste Management Facility; tie up with Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)/ Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for management of Radioactive wastes; individual asbestos waste management in many plots and also common mobile asbestos removal facility and hospital facilities. It has also been informed that many ship recyclers have started using mechanical gadgets for undertaking ship recycling. The GMB has also initiated a Study "Green Alang Initiative" to suggest more safe and environmentally sound managed ship recycling, through the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai. The Study is likely to take two years' time to complete.

[English]

#### **Need for more Airports**

5578. SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to develop more airports in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether most of the airports in the country are underutilized;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the actual passenger and cargo traffic handled by each airport during each of the last three years; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for optimum utilization of these airports?

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

(b) Keeping in view the enormous growth in air traffic, which has put pressure on airport infrastructure, Government had pronounced a policy for greenfield airports in April, 2008 to encourage infusion of greater investment in airport sector.

In addition, a Feasibility Study has been carried out by M/s. RITES for operationalization of non-operational airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI). According to the recommendations of M/s. RITES, 13 such airports have potential for development. In addition, AAI has also signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with concerned State Governments to develop airports/ airstrips of State Governments for schedule operations.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Airport wise passenger and cargo traffic at airports during the last three years i.e., (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09) is as Statement.

(f) The Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has recommended the following norms for capacity creation at small and big airport:

(i) Small airports (< 5.0 Million passengers per annum)- 10th year from Planning year; and

(ii) Big airports (> 5.0 Million passengers per annum)- 7th year from Planning year.

From the above, it can be inferred that capacity is created upto 10 years in respect of small airports and upto 7 years for big airports.

In confirmation with these IMG norms, none of the airports are underutilized.

**Statement**

*Passenger (In Numbers)*

Sl. No.	Airport	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09		
		Intl	Dom	Total	Intl	Dom	Total	Intl	Dom	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Mumbai	7346556	14902373	22248929	7983829	17880924	25864753	8118910	15316813	23435723
2	Delhi	6653366	13790078	20443444	7342075	16629587	23971662	7769313	15074102	22843415
3	Chennai	2895930	6078196	8974126	3410253	7249501	10659754	3663908	6179282	9843190
4	Bangalore	1273452	6863965	8137417	1548432	8590788	10139220	1641705	7120458	8762163
5	Kolkata	805191	5197072	6002263	1007502	6451730	7459232	1002169	5987750	6989919
6	Hyderabad	1207558	4536129	5743687	1443260	5541788	6985048	1568377	4648663	6217040
7	Cochin (CIAL)	1428632	1134604	2563236	1770339	1573785	3344124	2009549	1348705	3358254
8	Ahmedabad	426439	2092026	2518465	701738	2461909	3163647	684330	2141609	2825939
9	Goa	403357	1808474	2211831	434402	2143846	2578248	389703	1831355	2221058
10	Trivandrum	1186160	595042	1781202	1398759	703145	2101904	1473827	481055	1954882
11	Pune	46024	1527938	1573962	32035	1647374	1679409	27522	1743540	1771062
12	Calicut	900345	233277	1133622	1097281	235466	1332747	1516107	162988	1679095
13	Guwahati	4234	1073869	1078103	3437	1344048	1347485	7282	1366258	1373540
14	Jaipur	195711	595386	791097	204282	1135109	1339391	221706	982634	1204340
15	Coimbatore	14730	852239	866969	52288	1010517	1062805	89535	921282	1010817
16	Lucknow	130002	482555	612557	156307	545458	701766	167553	649735	817288
17	Nagpur	79375	583208	662583	976568	767541	865209	93556	704883	798439

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
18	Srinagar	17519	690384	707903	16327	763382	779709	16252	716837	733089
19	Mangalore	32972	449696	482668	158737	554930	713667	206640	486163	692803
20	Bhubaneswar	23	351313	351336	2	702199	702201	0	671861	671861
21	Indore	0	358496	358496	0	548711	548711	0	599009	599009
22	Visakhapatnam	35	320302	320337	9	502194	502203	17	598752	598769
23	Amritsar	488310	108018	596328	552687	125081	677768	438825	133773	572598
24	Portblair	16	504064	504080	0	775464	775464	0	479526	479526
25	Trichy	160578	54366	214944	303943	90214	394157	377726	88171	465896
26	Vadodara	0	404260	404260	0	501744	501744	0	444573	444573
27	Bagdogra	0	259058	259058	0	327748	327748	0	438851	438851
28	Jammu	0	473764	473764	0	546679	546679	0	401954	401954
29	Raipur	0	246038	246038	0	414856	414856	0	401655	401655
30	Varanasi	32563	317449	350012	47749	401114	448863	45072	355703	400775
31	Agartala	0	324674	324674	0	406776	406776	0	371854	371854
32	Chandigarh	0	154705	154705	0	229608	229608	0	364179	364179
33	Madurai	0	265421	265421	0	366493	366493	0	352881	352881
34	Patna	0	311171	311171	0	387303	387303	0	344446	344446
35	Imphal	0	214689	214689	0	320808	320808	0	321083	321083
36	Udaipur	213	236502	236715	118	290662	290780	117	259555	259672
37	Ranchi	0	145575	145575	0	244018	244018	0	247349	247349
38	Bhopal	0	169131	169131	0	218359	218359	0	229716	229716

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
39	Leh	0	140609	140609	0	176400	176400	0	198790	198790
40	Aurangabad	0	170632	170632	0	197820	197820	4298	189798	194096
41	Tirupati	0	152967	152967	0	166333	169333	0	155046	155046
42	Juhu	0	137439	137439	0	138311	138311	0	146896	146896
43	Silchar	0	116590	116590	0	147298	147298	0	143434	143434
44	Rajkot	0	160711	160711	0	154310	154310	0	128466	128466
45	Dibrugarh	0	127485	127485	0	114760	114760	0	123818	123818
46	Gaya	45608	0	45608	53257	538	53795	47541	109	47650
	Other	3128	913069	916187	1434	1337968	1339402	2462	1239371	1241833
	Total	25778027	70624999	96403026	29818150	87067597	116885747	31584001	77294731	108878732

*Freight (In Tonnes)*

Sl. No.	Airport	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09		
		Intl	Dom	Total	Intl	Dom	Total	Intl	Dom	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Mumbai	328022	152159	480181	373770	159724	533494	378610	151328	529938
2	Delhi	273463	116027	389490	301959	130904	432863	297931	128332	426263
3	Chennai	195195	43130	238325	227704	42904	270608	219562	52806	272368
4	Bangalore	99392	64374	163766	108160	69987	178147	99690	58310	158000
5	Kolkata	36379	47144	83523	41004	49905	90909	40743	49127	89870
6	Hyderabad	21715	22952	44667	24059	27119	51178	30230	26981	57211
7	Cochin (CIAL)	15569	5820	21389	18987	6177	25164	25220	5935	31155

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	Ahmedabad	4240	16149	20389	6708	16868	23576	10294	12739	23033
9	Goa	964	3934	4898	775	4194	4969	688	3289	3977
10	Trivandrum	30465	1442	31907	30693	1412	32105	30169	1415	31584
11	Pune	7	13036	13043	2	9983	9985	0	11653	11653
12	Calicut	10691	770	11461	8792	602	9394	12556	363	12919
13	Guwahati	50	3648	3698	6	2056	2062	2	1642	1644
14	Jaipur	728	1940	2668	395	2539	2934	340	2142	2482
15	Coimbatore	1612	3645	5257	1176	3617	4793	917	4616	5533
16	Lucknow	158	1743	1901	133	1653	1786	49	1873	1922
17	Nagpur	1	3357	3358	4	4058	4062	217	3678	3895
18	Srinagar	0	2145	2145	0	1918	1918	0	1501	1501
19	Mangalore	0	288	288	0	396	396	0	311	311
20	Bhubaneswar	0	1018	1018	0	1258	1258	0	1287	1287
21	Indore	0	3657	3657	0	4903	4903	0	4952	4952
22	Visakhapatnam	0	541	541	0	535	535	0	766	766
23	Amritsar	1744	98	1842	1252	111	1363	1798	376	2174
24	Portblair	0	1658	1658	0	1962	1962	0	2139	2139
25	Trichy	868	11	879	1153	13	1166	904	20	924
26	Vadodara	0	3422	3422	0	3377	3377	0	2198	2198
27	Bagdogra	0	623	623	0	568	568	0	636	636
28	Jammu	0	1319	1319	0	1167	1167	0	1094	1094

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
29	Raipur	0	1060	1060	0	1600	1600	0	1444	1444
30	Varanasi	0	384	384	13	352	365	3	315	318
31	Agartala	0	2828	2828	0	4737	4737	0	5979	5979
32	Chandigarh	0	463	463	0	395	395	0	413	413
33	Madurai	0	554	554	0	655	655	0	572	572
34	Patna	0	1473	1473	0	1768	1768	0	1957	1957
35	Imphal	0	1615	1615	0	2776	2776	0	3864	3864
36	Udaipur	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	Ranchi	0	278	278	0	336	336	0	449	449
38	Bhopal	0	390	390	0	744	744	0	1028	1028
39	Leh	0	885	885	0	902	902	0	842	842
40	Aurangabad	0	994	994	0	1058	1058	0	963	963
41	Tirupati	0	5	5	0	21	21	0	27	27
42	Juhu	0	315	315	0	365	365	0	412	412
43	Silchar	0	275	275	0	338	338	0	319	319
44	Rajkot	0	872	872	0	812	812	0	666	666
45	Dibrugarh	0	368	368	0	283	283	0	299	299
46	Gaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	827	827	0	1181	1181	0	1004	1004
Total		1021263	529643	1550906	1146745	568233	1714978	1149923	552062	1701985



[Translation]

**Agra Cantt. Railway Station**

5579.PROF. RAMSHANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the large number of foreign tourists visiting Agra, the cleanliness of Agra Cantt. railway station is below desired standard;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereon and the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the measures initiated by the Railways to check the nuisance created by beggars at the said railway station?

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

(b) With a view to maintaining and improving the standard of cleanliness at Agra Cantt. railway station, contracts for mechanized cleaning, conservancy, garbage disposal and rag picking have been awarded. Regular inspections as well as surprise checks are conducted for monitoring the level of cleanliness and remedial measures are taken wherever deficiencies are noticed.

(c) Begging in trains and Railway premises is an offence under the provisions of section 144 of the Railways Act, 1989. Regular drives are being conducted in the Railway premises at Agra Cantt. Railway Station and offenders prosecuted as per the law.

[English]

**Redevelopment of Railway Station**

5580.SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have identified some railway stations for redevelopment;

(b) if so, the names of such stations particularly in Tamil Nadu State alongwith the estimated cost for the redevelopment work;

(c) whether there is any private participation involved in these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said development works are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) Development of railway stations is a continuous process and is undertaken depending upon volume of passenger traffic handled and other relative priorities.

In the State of Tamil Nadu, fifteen (15) railway stations namely Avadi, Chennai Beach, Chennai Chetpet, Chennai Park, Chrompet, Korrukupet, Manavur, Perumbur Carriage Workshop, Senji Panabakkam, St. Thomas Mount, Tambaram, Tiruchchirappalli Jn, Tiruninravur, Tiruvalangadu and Tiruvallur railway stations were identified during 2009-10 for development as Adarsh stations. Thiruvarur station has been identified for development as Adarsh station during 2010-11. Work at all the 15 stations identified during 2009-10 have since been completed.

Works of development of railway stations are taken up under Plan Head - "Passenger Amenities". Under this Plan Head, an expenditure of Rs. 80.61 cr. approx. has been incurred during 2009-10 on Southern Railway.

In addition, Chennai Central has been identified for development into World Class Station through Public Private Partnership by leveraging the real estate potential of the land around and the air space above the station. Action for appointment of consultant for preparation of Master Plan and Feasibility Report has been taken. Bidding process for World Class Stations in PPP mode is initiated after master plan and feasibility report is prepared and in-principle approval of the local agencies is obtained, which takes about one and half a year. Work at site shall commence after award of concession and financial closure is achieved by the concessionaire.

**ROB in Maharashtra**

5581. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for construction of a bridge on Nivsar Railway Station in Distt. Ratnagiri (Maharashtra) has been received by the Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

**Savings Generated from D6 Field**

5582. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

SHRI P. BALRAM:

SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA:

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

(a) whether natural gas extracted from Reliance Industries D6 Field has generated savings worth thousands crores of rupees for power and fertilizer companies;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government's fertilizer subsidy bill is estimated to be lower by Rs. 3100 crore; 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) Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has allocated 32.68 mmcmd on firm basis and 12.0 mmcmd on fallback basis from KG D6 gas to the power sector. Further, EGoM has allocated 15.708 mmcmd on firm basis to fertilizers sector. Due to these allocations the sector wise benefits are as below:

**Fertilizers:**

Production of about 76 lakh tones of urea per annum and Government saving by about Rs. 3,500 crore per annum.

**Power:**

Generation of additional about 8,500 MW of power.

**Skidding Off of Aircraft on Runway**

5583. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation of the incident of skidding off of M/s. Kingfisher Airlines ATR-72 aircraft VT-KAC at Mumbai Airport on November 10, 2009 has so far been completed;

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

(c) the details of action so far taken on the basis of investigation report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Madam. The incident is under investigation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Surplus Funds of PSUs**

5584. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the reserve and surplus funds of all Central Public Sector Units (CPSUs) during the last three years;

(b) the amount of investment made during the same period, year-wise;

(c) the average debt equity ratio of the CPSUs as on date;

(d) whether the CPSUs are approaching debt market instead of capital market for bringing down the equity component in line with the major private sector companies; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) The aggregate reserves and surplus of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) stood at Rs. 4,16,602 crore, Rs. 4,85,540 crore and Rs. 5,35,840 crore for the financial years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively as per the Public Enterprises (PE) Survey 2008-09 (Volume I), which is a public document and was laid in the Parliament on 25th February, 2010.

(b) As per the PE Survey (2008-09), the aggregate investment in CPSEs stood at Rs. 4,20,771 crore, Rs. 4,55,367 crore and Rs. 5,28,951 crore for the financial years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

(c) Aggregate debt equity ratio of all CPSEs during 2008-09 stood at 1:1.75 as per the PE Survey 2008-09.

(d) and (e) The different CPSEs fund their projects as per the policy decisions of their respective Board of Directors.

#### **New Civil Aviation Policy**

5585.SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Civil Aviation Policy is expected to be put on fast track;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether a regulatory authority on the lines of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) would also be considered by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Most of the issues which are inter-alia as under set forth in the proposed National Civil Aviation Policy have already been implemented:

- (i) Revised FDI Policy for airports has been put in place vide which 100% FDI, through automatic route, has been permitted in Greenfield airports.
- (ii) FDI requirements for air transport side of civil aviation have been revised and separate limits have been prescribed in respect of different sectors such as cargo, airlines, non-scheduled operators, MRO etc.
- (iii) Greenfield Airport Policy has been announced, which lays down policy guidelines for establishment of new airports.
- (iv) Easier procedure for establishment of private airports for "private use" has been announced.
- (v) Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) has been established on 12.05.2009.
- (vi) Private domestic airlines have been permitted to fly on overseas routes subject to specified guidelines. Further, bilateral arrangements with other countries have been gradually liberalized. These initiatives have enabled considerably better international connectivity.
- (vii) Air India and Indian Airlines have been merged to create a strong and efficient national carrier.
- (viii) A new Flying Training Institute has been established at Gondia, Maharashtra. Further, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi has been restructured. These measures would help in putting in place better training infrastructure for technical manpower in the aviation sector. In view of the above, the major component of the proposed National Civil Aviation Policy have already been put on the fast track.

(c) to (e) Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) has been established on 12.05.2009 with the prime objective to create a level playing field and healthy competition amongst all major airports operators. It regulates tariffs of aeronautical services, operation of efficient, economic and viable airports and protect reasonable interests of users.

[Translation]

**Gauge Conversion Between Ahmedabad and Khedabrahm**

5586. SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of gauge conversion work between Ahmedabad and Khedabrahm; and

(b) 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) and (b) On Ahmedabad-Khedabrahma, gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar has already been taken up as a part of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur gauge conversion project. Preliminary activities like preparation of plan, Final Location Survey, etc. has been taken up. Work will progress and be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. Further, a survey for gauge conversion of Himmatnagar-Khedabrahma with extension upto Abu Road has been taken up and is likely to be completed by December, 2010.

[English]

**Production of Oil**

5587. SHRI P.K. BIJU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of oil fields in the country at present;

(b) the total quantity of oil produced from these oil fields monthly;

(c) the total quantity of crude oil required in the country; and

(d) the various steps taken by the Government to boost oil exploration in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) A total number of 81 PEL blocks awarded

under Nomination basis and 213 oil fields/blocks awarded in NELP/Pre-NELP regime are presently operational in the country.

(b) The total quantity of crude oil production for the year 2009-10 is 33.71 Million Metric Tonne.

(c) During the year 2009-10, the total quantity of crude oil processed by refineries was 186 million metric tonnes.

(d) Several measures have been taken to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities to meet our maximum requirement from indigenous sources, which include the following:

- (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).
- (ii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.
- (iii) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/ Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.
- (iv) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.
- (v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.
- (vi) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol etc. Extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) by evolving suitable production technology.

[Translation]

**Reservation Quota**

5588. SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any quota of berths has been reserved in Rajdhani, Superfast and Express trains passing via Sagar, Bina and Khurai railway stations falling under the West-Central Railways;

(b) if so, the number of berths reserved for each category at each of the said stations;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the existing norms/rules regarding fixation of quota for a particular station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Following reservation quota has been earmarked at Sagar and Bina in two Superfast and five Mail/Express trains:

Name of the location	Number of berths earmarked in			
	FC	2AC	3AC	SL
Sagar	2	19	19	216
Bina	0	10	17	80

No Rajdhani Express train passes through Sagar and Khurai. No Rajdhani Express train has been given stoppage at Bina.

In other trains, access has been given to Sagar and Bina to the previous remote location quota or Pooled Quota on first come first served basis.

As regard Khurai, Passenger Reservation System (PRS) cum Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) facility has been provided and passengers have been given access to previous remote location quota.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Distribution of reservation quota in any train is done by zonal Railway concerned, keeping in view the demand pattern, importance of the location, time of passing of train, journey period involved etc. The reservation quota defined are reviewed from time to time and adjustments made, wherever required.

[English]

### Strike by BPCL Workers

5589. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN:

SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI:

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

(a) whether the load workers at Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) bottling plant in Tamil Nadu are on strike demanding wage revision;

(b) if so, the main demands of the load workers;

(c) the areas which are supplied LPG cylinders from this plant and whether the supply has been affected adversely due to this strike;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to normalize the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) The load workers, who were on strike, were engaged by Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Transporters. The dispute is between the Transporters represented by the loading/unloading contractor and the loading/unloading workers. There is no dispute with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). The strike has marginal affect and the plant operations are normal. The loading/unloading contractor has brought in other workers to ensure normal operations. The marginal shortfall in supplies is being made good by effecting supplies from other LPG Bottling Plants of BPCL.

### Railway Line in Maharashtra

5590. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work of Thane, Kalyan via Malsejghat to Ahmednagar railway line is pending for approval;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the survey work is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) An updating survey for new line from Kalyan to Ahmednagar has been taken up.

(c) Target date of completion of survey is 31.08.2010.

#### **6th Asia Gas Partnership Summit**

5591.SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA:

SHRI P. BALRAM:

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has attended the 6th Asia Gas Partnership Summit recently;

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

(c) whether any MoUs have been signed in this regard; 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) Representatives from the Government participated in the 6th Asian Gas Partnership Summit (AGPS) held in New Delhi on March 22-23, 2010. Issues relating to sourcing, transportation and distribution of gas and other important issues concerning the sector were discussed during the Summit.

(c) No, Madam.

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

*[Translation]*

#### **New Textile Policy**

5592.SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is in the process of formulating new National Textile Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof inter alia indicating the main areas of focus in the said policy and also regarding increasing the market share of Indian Textiles in the world market?

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

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Energy Consumption by Railways**

5593.SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken steps towards reduction in energy consumption through weight reduction of bogies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of technological advancement aimed at cutting down energy consumption and emissions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A light weight design of stainless steel coach has been acquired by Indian Railways through a transfer of technology from M/s. Linke Hoffman Bush (LHB). Besides having a higher passenger capacity, it is also lighter in weight as compared to conventional design coaches. This initiative has led to an efficient and optimized energy consumption for haulage of coaches/trains. Indian Railways have indigenously manufactured about 900 such coaches so far.

(c) Other initiatives undertaken to cut down energy consumption and emission are:

(i) Use of energy efficient kits on diesel locomotives.

(ii) Manufacture of High Horse Power Diesel Locomotives which result in efficient

locomotion, by virtue of their higher horsepower, tractive effort and longer reach in between maintenance intervals.

- (iii) Trials with Bio-diesel for Diesel Locomotives and CNG mixed with high speed diesel in Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs).
- (iv) Adoption of state of art high efficiency Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor (IGBT) convertor technology on Electric Locomotives and Electrical Multiple Units (EMUs) that exploits regeneration to recover energy during braking. This also reduces carbon emission as drawal of electricity is reduced.
- (v) Adoption of energy efficient light fittings and employing Clean Development Mechanism to distribute CFLs free of cost to Railway employees residing in Railway colonies, in replacement of incandescent lamps.
- (vi) Generation of electricity through wind mills in wind rich areas. A pilot project of 10.5 MW capacity has been successfully executed in Tamil Nadu for supply of wind generated electricity to Integral Coach Factory (ICF) at Chennai.
- (vii) Thrust on use of solar power & solar water heaters particularly in running rooms & hospitals.
- (viii) Use of stainless steel in wagon construction to reduce wagon weight.

#### Distribution of Natural Gas

5594. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an MoU was signed in May 2005, between Reliance Industries Ltd., and Reliance Natural Resources Ltd. to distribute Natural Gas between themselves from the exploration block of D6 KG Basin;

(b) if so, when the matter came to the notice of the Government; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to nullify the privately negotiated settlement between Reliance Industries Ltd. and Reliance Natural Resources Ltd. to distribute Natural Gas amongst themselves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. An MoU dated 18.6.2005 exists between CMD, RIL and CMD, RNRL regarding certain family arrangements. The full text of the MoU is not in the possession of this Ministry. However, the judgment dated 15.6.2009 of the Hon'ble Division bench of Bombay High Court has referred to the MoU. The implications of this order have the potential of apportionment of gas between RIL & RNRL in the ratio of 60:40 after meeting the requirement of NTPC and RNRL. MOU also states that this will be the case not only for the gas from KG-D6 but from all other fields being operated and to be operated by RIL. Such an arrangement, if not challenged, may encourage the other operators to indulge in similar kind of understanding and thereby bringing to naught the Government's policies duly framed under PSC. A Special Leave Petition was filed by Government in the Supreme Court against the RNRL & RIL to protect interest of the Government and public at large. The hearings in this case have concluded and decision is reserved by the Court.

[Translation]

#### Law Violated by Foreign Companies

5595. SHRI IJYARAJ SINGH:

RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many foreign companies have violated Indian Company Law;

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

(c) number of complaints received in this respect during the last three years;

(d) the number of cases investigated so far and the number of cases in which any action has been taken against any foreign company; and

(e) the nature of the action taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) to (e) Foreign companies are companies incorporated outside India which establish their place of business in India after obtaining permission from Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Thereafter, they have to file registration particulars regarding such place of business with the Registrar of Companies, Delhi within 30 days from such permission. Only few provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 are applicable to the place of business of such foreign companies. No such violation requiring investigation has been brought to the notice of this Ministry. However, while doing their business in India, foreign companies have to comply with the guidelines of RBI and other applicable laws such as the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, etc., and failure to make the compliance of relevant guidelines/laws is actionable.

[English]

### **Breaking of Foreign Ships**

5596. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state;

(a) whether the foreign ships are allowed on the sea in Gujarat and other States for breaking which is a cause of concern;

(b) if so, the details of foreign ships that had entered Indian ports for breaking during the last three years; and

(c) the details of action plan of the Government to address this serious issue which has become a cause of concern for coastal population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The details of foreign ships that had entered Indian ports for breaking during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of Ships
2007-08	140
2008-09	267
2009-10	398

(c) As per the orders dated 17.02.2006 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Central Technical Committee (CTC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was set up to regulate various activities of ship breaking industries. The CTC gave its recommendations touching all aspects of ship breaking. The recommendations are operative, by virtue of the Supreme Court Order dated 6-9-2007. Pursuant to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a series of measures have been taken for attenuating the hazards of ship breaking and for improving the working conditions at ship-breaking yards. Consequently, detailed protocols and procedures have been put in place for scrutinizing ships arriving for breaking and for handling and disposing of hazardous materials and wastes. The provisions of existing rules take adequate care of the hazards of ship breaking including the need for safeguarding national security etc. Further, as and when any shortcomings are noticed, remedial steps are taken.

### **Separate Departments for Food Processing**

5597. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether separate departments relating to food processing are proposed to be set up in States so that such labour intensive and pro-farmer activities are made more effective; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The formulation of separate department relating to food



processing is the subject matter of the State Governments. The State Food Processing Ministers' Conference was organized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 06.10.2009 to give a push for uniform policy for the growth of Food Processing Industries. Taking into consideration out come of the conference, this Ministry has urged all the State Governments/Union territories to consider setting up separate department of food processing for catering to specific needs of the respective States/Union territories.

### Functioning of CCI

5598. SHRI S. ALAGIRI:

SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the expenditure incurred by Delhi office of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) during each of the last three years and the current year, head-wise;

(b) whether any instance of wasteful expenditure has been reported to the Government regarding this office; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The details of expenditure incurred by Delhi Office of the Cotton Corporation of India during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 and the current year, head-wise is as under:

### *Expenditure statement of Last three years and Current Year of Delhi Office*

(In Rs.)

Sl. No.	Particulars	2009-10 Provisional (Un-audited)	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	<b>Establishment Exp.</b>				
	Salary and Allowance	4836000	3611589	3205899	2631915
	Bonus/PLI/performance Incentive	-	160010	147235	103756
	Staff Welfare Exp.	141000	101580	108959	111179
	Arrear of VII charter of Demand	-	385067	-	
	<b>Total (A)</b>	<b>4977000</b>	<b>4258246</b>	<b>3462093</b>	<b>2846850</b>
2.	<b>Administration Exp.</b>				
	Rent Office	225000	224020	176319	176319
	Travelling Exp.	-	636451	535320	531188
	Legal and Professional	44000	7500	-	-
	Repair and Maint Others	150000	100976	118302	177427
	Advertisement	-	129000	62080	21000

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Loss on Sale of Assets	-	-7900	-	13457
	Electricity Water Charges	45000	52966	55773	51254
	Misc Exp.	5309000	4941530	3976933	3324768
	Bank Charges	5000	5058	7587	18571
	Selling, Distribution Expenses	2660000	3972801	1237245	1271139
	Depreciation	360000	339310	317288	291466
	Total (B)	8798000	10401712	6486851	5876589
	Total (A+B)	13775000	14659958	9948944	8723439

(b) No Madam.

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

[Translation]

#### **Muskil Aasaan Project**

5599.SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Muskil Aasaan Project;

(b) if so, salient features thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for publicity of the said scheme;

(d) whether the Government proposes to extend it to rural areas also; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

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

(b) Pilot project has been launched in Kolkata and Delhi where the mobile ticketing van is stationed at pre-decided locations for issuing reserved and unreserved tickets, to facilitate public not to travel to Railway Reservation Centre for buying tickets.

(c) Wide publicity has been given through daily newspapers in which the dates, timings and locales where the mobile ticketing van will be stationed are informed to the public.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. This will be done after a detailed study of alternate type of communication suited for rural areas since the GPRS (General Packet Radio Service) used for mobile connectivity is not always available in adequate signal strength with many rural areas.

[English]

#### **Grant of Ore Lease to Companies**

5600.SHRI MATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Ministry has sought powers to grant ore lease to companies in a bid to fast track upcoming steel projects;

(b) whether the proposal may likely to assure long term raw material supplies and attract foreign investment;

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

(d) whether the Government has agreed to the proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (e) As per the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, while the mining leases are granted by the concerned State Government, prior approval of the Central Government is required to be taken by the concerned State Government for allocation of mineral concessions in respect of minerals specified in the First Schedule to the MMDR Act. Ministry of Mines, Government of India exercises the power of grant of prior approval on behalf of the Central Government and Ministry of Steel has no say in the matter. Ministry of Steel had sought the powers of the Central Government in this regard in respect of iron ore, manganese ore and chrome ore, which are important raw materials for the steel industry.

It has, however been decided that the current system is sufficient to facilitate higher investment in the steel sector through more effective coordination between the Ministries of the Central Government and the concerned State Governments.

#### **Introduction of New Air Routes**

5601. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new routes National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) has introduced in its summer schedule for the year 2010 in domestic and international sectors;

(b) the details of existing routes that have been wound up by NACIL during the past one year;

(c) the details of those routes that have been wound up by NACIL in the past one year and are now being operated by private airlines;

(d) the criterion adopted to decide a new destination for the commencement of operations by NACIL;

(e) the details of the objective factors that were treated as inputs by NACIL while finalising and rejecting the destinations considered for commencing fresh operations in the summer schedule of 2010; and

(f) the details of projected revenue of both the selected and rejected destinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) NACIL's subsidiary, Alliance Air, has introduced following new routes viz. Delhi-Coimbatore, Delhi-Kozhikode, Delhi-Mangalore, Delhi-Amritsar, Delhi-Dehradun and Kozhikode-Mangalore.

(b) NACIL has wound up the following city pairs during the past one year:-International (10 Nos.) - Trichy-Sharjah, Chennai-Sharjah, Delhi-Sharjah, Calicut-Muscat, Cochin-Muscat, Calicut-Kuwait, Calicut-Doha, Calicut-Bahrain and Mumbai-Nairobi.

Domestic (3 Nos.) - Mumbai-Vadodara, Trichi-Trivandrum and Trichy-Chennai. The routes wound up by NACIL's Subsidiaries viz. Air India Express and Alliance Air are:

Air India Express - Mumbai/Nagpur/Ahmedabad/Dubai, Chennai/Hyderabad/Dubai and Srinagar-Dubai.

Alliance Air - Delhi-Jaipur, Delhi-Udaipur, Delhi-Ahmedabad, Kolkata-Hyderabad, Kolkata-Jaipur, Guwahati-Jorhat and Jaipur-Udaipur.

(c) No Private Airlines have started operations on those routes that have been wound up by NACIL in the past one year.

(d) to (f) The broad parameters adopted by NACIL while deciding a new destination/new routes are: the Market requirements, technical feasibility and approximations of revenue and cost of operations.

#### **Duronto Service**

5602. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to increase the frequency of Chennai Central and Nizamuddin Duronto Express to bi-weekly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The increase in frequency will be done shortly.

#### **Training to Employees of Steel Sector**

5603. SHRI SANJAY BHOI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any arrangement exist in the steel PSUs for imparting training to their employees with a view to boosting their abilities to work in the steel sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of employees benefited through these trainings during the last three years;

(d) whether the employees are also motivated to undertake higher studies and research work in the steel sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the overall benefit accrued to the steel sector due to such R&D and training programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

*[Translation]*

#### **Shortage of Air Traffic Controllers**

5604. DR. BHOLA SINGH:

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs) working at the airports in the country at present;

(b) whether there is shortage of ATCs against the sanctioned/estimated strength;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of ATC posts lying vacant and the period of pendency;

(e) the reasons for not filling up these vacant posts;

(f) the steps taken by the NACIL to fully strengthen the ATC wing at the Airports; and

(g) the impact of shortage of ATCs on the growing operation of air traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) 1592.

(b) to (e) As on date, 515 Air Traffic Controllers' (ATCO) posts are vacant as against 2107 sanctioned posts. This comprises 1 post of GM, 47 posts of Jt. GM/DGM, 213 posts of Managers, 3 posts of Assistant Manager and 251 posts of Junior Executives. These posts became available over the years due to creation/retirement/resignation, etc. There has been some delays in the recruitment process due to administrative difficulties. The promotion vacancies are lying vacant due to non-availability of eligible candidates in the feeder grades.

(f) Not applicable.

(g) (i) Constraints in providing extended ATC watch hours at airports where limited personnel are available.

(ii) Leave requirements are not accommodated adequately.

*[English]*

#### **Upgradation of Mangalore Airport**

5605. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the Mangalore Airport into International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Kannur airport is also likely to be upgraded to an International Airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Mangalore airport has already been declared as a custom airport w.e.f. 3rd May, 2006 for limited International operations.

(c) and (d) Government of India have accorded 'in - principle' approval for setting of a Greenfield airport at Kannur in Kerala for international operations.

#### Ongoing Projects

#### Railway Projects in Punjab

5606.SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of ongoing/pending railway projects, survey for laying new railway lines and road over bridges/ under bridges in Punjab alongwith the target fixed for their completion; and

(b) the amount allocated/spent thereon so far, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The details of ongoing/pending rail projects: new line surveys; road over bridge/road under bridge in Punjab are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of project	Latest anticipated cost	Amount spent in 31.03.10	Status and Target date of completion
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chandigarh-Ludhiana (112 km) new line	721	645	Chandigarh-Morinda (45 km), Ludhiana - Sanehwal (17 km) sections completed. The remaining portion is targeted to be completed by December, 2011
2.	Chandigarh-Baddi (33.23 km) new line	328.14	0.59	The work is not progressed due to land availability problems.
3.	Abohar-Fazilka (43 km) new line	209.58	186	Work targeted to be completed by May, 2010.
4.	Taran Tarn-Goindwal (21.5 km) new line	101.34	46	Civil works are in progress and the work is 78% completed. Target for completion during 2010-11.
5.	Doubling for Jalandhar-Patnankot-Jammu Tawi (203 km)	759.30	746.68	The work is about 81% completed and is targeted to be completed in 2010-11.

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Doubling for Jakhal-Mansa (45 km)	109.13	25	Detailed estimate has been sanctioned. The work is 30% completed and targeted to be completed by June, 2011.
7.	Doubling for Mansa-Bhatinda (53 km.)	103.83	0.21	Detailed estimate has been processed. Target has not been fixed.

**Surveys**

Sl.No.	Particulars	Status
1.	New rail line between Ellenabad-Sirsa (49 km.)	Survey completed.
2.	New rail line between Rama Mandi-Maur Mandi (32.38 km)	Survey completed. Proposal processed for clearance.

There are 32 Nos. of ROB/RUBs, in progress in the State of Punjab. All works are at different stage of planning and execution. Where General Arrangements Drawings, Alignment and land issues have been finalized by State Government, the work has been taken on priority.

**Stalls to Cooperative Societies**

5607. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Railways to allot stalls to cooperative societies for selling agri-based products at various railway stations across the country;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted by the Railways in this regard; and

(c) the time by when the final 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) Milk stall/ parlour/ booth licences are awarded to apex dairy cooperative societies approved by the Government at the

State/ Central/ Union Territory who are members of National Cooperative Dairy Federation (NCDFI) and/or developed under the aegis of Operation Flood.

**Audit by CAG**

5608. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(c) whether the Audit by CAG had raised objections regarding overstatement of profits and expenditure by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) during the previous year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the ONGC has brought about any improvements in the same after that; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had not raised any observation regarding overstatement of profits and overstatement of expenditure by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) during the previous year. ONGC has received 'NIL' comments from

CAG during last three years i.e. 2008-09, 2007-08 and 2006-07.

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

[English]

#### **Production Cost of Natural Gas**

5609.SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by the Government to estimate the cost of production of natural gas in the State of Gujarat, particularly the Dahej and Vadodara Basin including the cost of exploration;

(h) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRAŞADA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. No such studies have been conducted to estimate the cost of production of natural gas in the State of Gujarat.

However, under the Production Sharing Contract regime, cost of exploration and production are reported in Annual Accounts of the blocks submitted to Government of India.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has estimated an amount of Rs. 3,563/- per MSCM as the cost of production of natural gas from the State of Gujarat, for the year 2008-09.

#### **Pass Percentage of Minority Students**

5610.SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on Central Government's sponsored scholarships given to the Minorities especially Muslims categories students at the 10th, 12th Standards of school education and higher education level including engineering and medical education during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the total number of beneficiaries belonging to Minority communities who have passed the 10th and 12th standards of school education and the total number of beneficiaries who have completed their engineering and medical education during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the pass percentage of students belonging to these categories in the aforementioned level of education 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) The amount released by the Government under Pre-matric Scholarship scheme (for classes I to X ), Post-matric Scholarship scheme ( for classes XI to M.Phil./PhD) and Merit-cum-means based Scholarship scheme (for technical and professional degree courses including engineering and medical degree courses) for students belonging to all the minority communities (including Muslims) and number of scholarships given to Muslim students during the last three years and the current financial year are as under:

Year	Amount released (Rs. In crore) to all minority communities	Number of scholarships given to Muslim students
1	2	3
<b>Pre-matric</b>		
<b>Scholarship</b>		
		Scheme started from 2008-09
2007-08		
2008-09	62.21	383143
2009-10	201.94	1266080
2010-11	Nil	Nil

1	2	3
<b>Post-matric</b>		
<b>Scholarship</b>		
2007-08	9.63	18068
2008-09	70.63	148937
2009-10	148.74	316623
2010-11	Nil	Nil
<b>Merit-cum-means based Scholarship</b>		
2007-08	40.90	13487
2008-09	60.73	21349
2009-10	97.51	28282
2010-11	0.11	40

(b) and (c) The information is not maintained by the Ministry.

[Translation]

#### Indore Based NTC Mills

5611.SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made full payment of arrears of salaries to the workers employed in Indore based NTC mills by selling the assets of the said mills; and

(b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) NTC has no arrears of salaries outstanding to the Workers of Indore based NTC mills.

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

[English]

#### Opening of Petroleum/ Gas Outlets

5612.SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) petroleum and gas outlets in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open such outlets in Latur area of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) There are 940 Retail Outlets (ROs) and 404 Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Distributorships of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) in the State of Maharashtra. District-wise details of ROs and LPG Distributorships in the State of Maharashtra are available with Director (Marketing), HPCL.

(b) and (c) In Latur District, advertisements have been released for 7 RO Locations and 1 RO has been commissioned. Letter of Intent (LOI) has been issued for 1 RO location and the process of issuance of LOI is under progress for 4 RO locations. Further, there is a proposal to advertise 6 RO locations. 2 new LPG Distributorships have also been set up recently in the District.



*[Translation]***Credit Card to Weavers**

5613. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI:

SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom weavers who have been issued credit cards so far State-wise;

(b) the credit limit fixed for the cards issued to weavers;

(c) the details of amount spent under this scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which the remaining weavers are likely to be issued credit cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As far as Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms is concerned, credit card have not been issued to the handloom weavers.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[English]***FPI in Jharkhand**

5614. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) total number of food processing industries functioning in Jharkhand as on date, location-wise;

(b) the financial assistance provided to them during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government for the co-ordination with the State Government for the development and modernization of food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Food Processing Industries are set up both in organized and unorganized sectors and as such data on the number of food processing units and location in the country including that of Jharkhand is not centrally maintained by the Ministry. However, as per competitiveness report on "Enhancing Competitiveness of Indian Manufacturing Industry, March 2009" published by National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council, Government of India, the total number of registered food processing units in the Jharkhand is 108.

(b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/Modernization of food processing industries which covers food processing units in various sector such as fruits & vegetables products, consumer industries, grain milling industries, meat & poultry industries, fish processing industries, wine and beer manufacturing industries etc. The details of financial assistance extended to the food processing units in the State of Jharkhand during the last three years and the current year is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10 (As on 31 03.2010)	
No. of unit Approved	Amount released	No. of unit Approved	Amount released	No. of unit Approved	Amount released	No. of unit Approved	Amount released
4	52.110	2	9.09	0	0	3	44.09

(c) The Government has taken various steps for the coordination with the State Government for the development and modernization of food processing industries such as organization of State Food Processing Ministers Conference held on 06.10.2009, interaction with State Nodal Agencies to discuss issues to strengthen food processing industries in the States and conduct inspections of units financially assisted by the Ministry.

#### **Growth in Aviation Sector**

5615. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per a report of Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) in association with SITA, the Indian aviation sector by 2020 will be carrying some 260 million passengers around the world every year;

(b) if so, whether the Government has prepared any roadmap or propose to prepare any action plan in this regard to sustain such a growth;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) As per CAPA-SITA White Paper on Information Technology in Indian aviation, it has been estimated that by 2020, domestic traffic will reach 160-180 million passengers per annum and international traffic will exceed 80 million. To sustain such growth, the Govt. is taking following initiatives:

(i) The infrastructure at the airports and Air Traffic Control and Navigation is being constantly upgraded to meet the future demand of the airlines.

(ii) To create a world class airport infrastructure upgradation/modernization of a number of metro and non-metro airports have been undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) as well as through Joint Venture Companies.

(iii) AAI has undertaken upgradation & moderni-

zation of 35 non-metro airports in the country in a time bound manner. In addition, 13 more airports have also been taken up for up-gradation.

(iv) AAI has also undertaken the modernization and expansion of the international airports at Chennai at a cost of Rs. 1808 crores and at Kolkata at a cost of Rs. 1942.51 crores.

(v) DGCA from time to time reviews and amends its regulations as per international standards and aviation requirements of the country.

(vi) DGCA itself has been strengthened to meet international safety obligations.

(vii) City side development of specific airports has been undertaken under Public Private Participation model.

(viii) A new policy for green field airports which envisages that the Greenfield airports to be set up by AAI would be preferably constructed through public private partnership (PPP) and such airports would be financed substantially through PPP concessions.

(ix) An Independent regulatory Authority, namely, AERA has been established 12.5.2009 with the prime objective to create a level playing field and healthy competition amongst all major airports (Government-owned, PPP- based, private), regulation of tariffs of aeronautical services, protection of reasonable interest of users, operation of efficient, economic and viable airports.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Functioning of IRCTC**

5616. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various works awarded by the

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) under the policy of outsourcing during each of the last three years and the steps taken to bring about transparency in this matter;

(b) the details of financial performance of IRCTC under internet-ticketing and railway tourism during the said period;

(c) whether the Railways have made arrangements for use of modern technology for making IRCTC more effective in its operations; 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.

#### **Drilling Activities in Coal Bed Methane**

5617. SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has not taken concentrated step to start the drilling activities in the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Block awarded in 2004; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Under CBM-II Round held during 2004, ONGC was awarded 5 CBM blocks. Out of these, ONGC has relinquished 3 blocks, namely ST-CBM-2003/II, WD-CBM-2003/II and BS(3)-CBM-2003/II, on the ground of poor prospectivity, after completing the Minimum Work Programme (MWP) of drilling coreholes/test wells under Exploration Phase-I. Out of the remaining two blocks, ONGC has so far drilled 8 coreholes and 2 test wells in SK-CBM-2003/II block against the MWP of 10 coreholes and 3 test wells in Phase-I. In the other block, NK (W)-CBM-2003/II, ONGC has however, drilled 8 coreholes as against the MWP of drilling 8 coreholes and 2 test wells in Phase-I.

The Contractor has requested for the approval of the Government to exit from this block, without completing the MWP of Phase-I, on the ground of poor prospectivity of the block.

#### **Terror Attack in Jammu and Kashmir**

5618. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a terror attack on 9 rail tracks in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) recently;

(b) if so, the details of loss of life and property in this regard; and

(c) the precautionary steps taken by the Railways to curb such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. On 01.04.2010, at about 21.26 hrs, an explosion took place on Railway track at KM. No. 43/9 near Railway Bridge No. 74 between Awantipora and Kakapora Railway stations in Kashmir Valley. Due to the explosion, 02 feet rail track including track fittings worth Rs. 30,000/- was damaged. No casualty or injury to any passenger/Railway employee has been reported. Government Railway Police/Awantipora has registered a case vide crime no. 01/2010 under section 3/4 Explosives Act, 153 of the Railways Act and 3 of Prevention of Sabotage Act against unknown persons.

(c) 'Policing' being a State subject, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains is the statutory responsibility of the State Police through the Government Railway Police (GRP).

The following precautionary steps are being taken to curb such incidents:

1. GRP staff have been deployed for track patrolling.
2. Regular coordination meetings are being held

with State Police, GRP and Intelligence Agencies to share intelligence.

3. All passenger trains running in Kashmir Valley are being escorted by RPF and RPSF personnel from originating station to destination station.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is any provision for providing compensation to the local people affected from the oil exploration work?

[Translation]

#### **Reservation Service at Dahod Railway Station**

5619. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to insufficient number of reservation counters at Dahod Railway Station in Gujarat under Western railways, the passengers are facing lot of difficulties; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Railways to improve the reservation service at the said station and to make the employees passengers friendly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Dahod reservation office deals with an average 121 requisitions per day per shift. At present, one counter in two shifts is functional at Computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) Centre, Dahod, which is considered adequate to deal with the present level of demand at this station.

(b) The staff issuing reserved tickets from the reservation counter have been given customer care training to take care of needs of users in passenger friendly manner.

#### **Allocation of NELP Blocks**

5620. SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to give 50 percent share to the respective States in the profits earned through the allocation of blocks under New Exportation Licensing Policy (NELP) in the States producing gas and petroleum;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The recommendation of the 12th Finance Commission to share the Profit Petroleum in the ratio of 50:50 by the Government of India with the States has been accepted with the condition that this should be within the overall ceiling of transfers recommended by the Commission (38% of gross revenues). Once the total transfers cross 38% of gross revenue of the Center, sharing of the non-tax revenue of profit petroleum would not accrue in that year. Further, this should not be considered by the states as establishing a general principle of sharing of the Centre's non-tax revenues.

(d) The farmers whose lands are acquired by the Oil Companies are paid compensation as per the rates decided by the State Governments.

#### **Promotion of Judges**

5621. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of violation of rules regarding seniority in promotion of judges have been brought to light;

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

(c) the details of the basis on which the promotions given to Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President of India under Article 124 of the Constitution of India. The appointment of Judges is made as per the procedure laid down in the

'Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of the Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court', which has been drawn up pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record and Anr. Vs. Union of India read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998.

2. The proposal for appointment of a Judge of the Supreme Court is initiated by the Chief Justice of India who forms his opinion in consultation with a collegium of the four senior-most puisne Judge of the Supreme Court. The collegium considers the comparative merit, ability, inter-se-seniority as Judges in the High Courts and combined seniority on all India basis of the Chief Justices and Judges of the High Courts who fall in the zone of consideration and recommends the person(s) considered the most suitable in all respect, for appointment as Judges of the Supreme Court.

3. Judges of the High Courts are appointed by the President under Article 217(1) of the Constitution.

4. The appointment of Judges of the High Courts is done keeping in view the educational qualifications, nature and extent of practice, length of practice, the field of specialization and professional income for the last three years of the persons being considered. Besides this, the competence of the person, his judicial potential, temperament and integrity are also considered. All this information, as also other background information of the recommendees are made available to the Chief Justice of India for consideration by the Supreme Court collegium consisting of the Chief Justice of India and two seniormost Judges of the Supreme Court of India. The collegium considers all the available information about the recommendees and forms an opinion regarding their suitability or otherwise for appointment as Judges of the High Court.

[English]

#### **Security of Flights**

5622. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether none of the Indian aircraft that take off and land in visibility below 150 metres till now are equipped with vital assistive aid for pilots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up a working group to examine the entire gamut of flight operations in low visibility;

(d) if so, the details of the report of the working group; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for foolproof security for flight operation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. All of the Indian aircraft that take off and land in visibility below 150 metres are equipped with proper instrumentation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. A working group has been set up to examine the flight operations in low visibility and the report is awaited.

(e) Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has issued circulars to conduct Secondary Ladder Point Checks of the passenger before boarding the flight. 100% frisking and checking of passenger and hand baggage/registered baggage is done with the help of X-Ray Baggage Inspection System (X-BIS), Hand Held Metal Detector (HHMD) and Door Frame/Walk through Metal Detector (DFMD) during high alert and even in normal period. Bomb Detection Dog Squad (BDDS) team of BCAS carries out additional random checks and detailed anti sabotage checks of flight randomly as well as at the airports. As a in-flight security measures, maximum number of Indian Air Carrier are covered with deployment of Sky Marshals on random basis in order to prevent any unlawful interference on board an aircraft.

[Translation]

#### **Awarding of Research Contracts**

5623. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the research contracts awarded to advisors, non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), educational and research organisations separately under the Ministry during each of the last three years;

(b) the criteria adopted for awarding these contracts;

(c) whether these research contracts have been put on the website of the Ministry;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(a) During the last three years five (5) projects have been sponsored under the Science & Technology (S and T) Scheme of the Department of Fertilizers. These have been

undertaken by IITs, IICTs and other renowned research institutions in India, (details are enclosed as Statement)

(b) The proposals received from Research institutions are appraised and recommended by Screening Committee. The recommendations are then put up to the Project Approval Committee (PAC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Fertilizers), for final approval of the proposal. Technical experts are represented in both the committees.

(c) The same is available on the website of the Department of Fertilizers ([www.fert.nic.in](http://www.fert.nic.in)). The scheme of S and T of the Department of Fertilizers is given wide publicity in Newspapers and also through direct invitation to the renowned Research Institutions of the Country.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Statement**

##### *Details of S&T Schemes of the Department of Fertilizers for last three years*

Sl.No.	Name of the institute	Title of the project	Year
1.	BITS, Pilani (Goa Campus)	Application of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to diammonium Phosphate (DAP) Plant	2007-08
2.	FCI Aravali	Promoting Mineral Gypsum as fertilizers	2007-08
3.	Project Development of India (PDIL)	Technical audit of Fertilizer Plants	2007-08
4.	Project Development of India (PDIL)	Use of Spent High temperature Shift Conversion Catalyst as Raw material for preparation of fresh H.T. Shift Catalyst"	2008-09
5.	Rashtriya Chemical Fertilizers (RCF) Mumbai	"Pilot Plant for production of hundred percent water soluble Mono-Ammonium Phosphate".	2009-10

[English]

#### **Discontinuation of Flight**

5624.DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ahmedabad-London direct flight has been discontinued since long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to resume the operation of the said flight; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. As part of its route rationalisation plan to contain losses, Air India was constrained to withdraw the non-stop Ahmedabad-London services while maintaining the link with a stop at Mumbai.

(c) and (d) Not for the time being.

### **Container Traffic**

5625. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided that some organizations other than CONCOR will be considered for the movement of container traffic; and

(b) if so, the policy framework prepared by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Railways have permitted organizations other than CONCOR for movement of container trains only.

(b) The rules for permission to move container trains on Indian Railways were notified vide the Gazette of India No.458 dated 26.9.2006. Any person, individual or a joint venture or a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 with specified field experience and financial capabilities, is eligible to obtain the permission to move container trains. For licence purpose, Indian Railway network has been grouped in four categories. For movement of containers, the operators shall arrange rolling stock and containers. Train operation including locomotive, crew and track will be provided by Railways.

### **Criminal Activities in Mumbai Local Trains**

5626. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been rise in alcoholism and criminal activities in the Mumbai local trains;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported during the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There is a marginal increase in the incidents of criminal activities in which 2047 cases were reported in 2009 in comparison to 1929 cases of 2008, whereas there is decrease in the incidents of alcoholism in which 16 cases were reported in 2009 in comparison to 19 cases of 2008.

(c) "Policing on Railways" is a State subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State concerned.

However, Railway is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways by deploying Railway Protection Force staff to escort important trains in addition to trains escorted by Government Railway Police (GRP).

In addition, the following steps have been taken:

1. Close co-ordination with GRP and Local Police is maintained.
2. Persons found consuming alcohol or involved in criminal activities are prosecuted as per law.
3. Plain cloth staff are also deputed to keep surveillance on criminals.
4. CCTVs have been installed at important and sensitive stations.

[Translation]

### **Expert Committee for Preventing Rail Accidents**

5627. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken/proposes to take steps for constituting any Expert Committee for suggesting measures to prevent increasing number of rail accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) All out efforts are made by all concerned to prevent Rail accidents. The number of rail accidents is indicating a steadily decreasing trend as can be seen from figures below:

2006-07	-	195
2007-08	-	194
2008-09	-	177
2009-10	-	162

The Railways presently do not have a proposal to set up an Expert Committee for preventing Rail accidents.

[English]

#### Allocation of Funds to NIPER

5628.SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary estimates and allocation made to each unit of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) during the last three years;

(b) the funds utilized by each unit of NIPER for sponsoring the projects; and

(c) the objective set and achieved by various foreign tours of the officers of the Department of Pharmaceutical vis-a-vis the expenses spent thereon during the said period?

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

(a) Funds were sanctioned and released to National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) during the last three years, as follows:

(Rs. in crore)				
Sl.No.	Name of NIPER	2007-08 (Actual)	2008-09 (Actual)	2009-10 (Actual)
	NIPER, Mohali	36.40	73.66	45.57
1.	Hyderabad	03.50	20.48	3.50
2.	Ahmedabad	02.00	02.50	3.00
3.	Hajipur	02.00	02.75	2.50
4.	Kolkata	02.00	01.48	3.00
5.	Guwahati *	-	01.20	1.50
6.	Rae Bareli *	-	02.80	2.50
Total		45.90	104.87	61.57

\* Started functioning in 2008-09.

In addition, in 2009-10, funds were released to new NIPERs for undertaking core construction activities, as follows:

(Rs. in crore)		
1.	Hyderabad	1.05
2.	Ahmedabad	1.30
3.	Hajipur	4.65
4.	Guwahati	9.00
Total		16.00

(b) NIPERs did not sponsor any project.

\*Reply to Part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 5628 in the Debate dated 29.04.2010 was subsequently corrected through a Correcting Statement made in the House on 25.11.2010. Accordingly, the figures under the column '2008-09 (Actual)' of the table has been revised as follows:-

"In the Table of part (a) of the Answer, the figure mentioned against NIPER, Mohali under column 2008-09 (Actual) may be read as 54.64 crore instead of 73.66 crore. Similarly, the figure against the Total under the same column may be read as 85.85 crore instead of 104.87 crore".



(c) The officers of the Department visited abroad to attend various Conference/Seminars. This helped in imparting information/knowledge gained through these tours to the domestic Pharmaceuticals Industry so as to enable them to cope with the competition posed by Multi-national corporations.

#### **Generation of Private Funds**

5629. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways proposed to generate private funds in the Eleventh Five Year plan;

(b) if so, the target set by the Railways to generate private funds during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) the success achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) While formulating 11th Five Year Plan with an outlay Rs. 2,33,289 Crores, a target of Rs. 79654 Crores was fixed for mobilisation through Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR). This includes resources to be raised through Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) and other private participation initiatives.

(c) It has been provisionally estimated that for the first three years of the 11th Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 22,448 Crores has been mobilised through EBR.

#### **Information Regarding Terror Attack**

5630. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL

KHATGAONKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any intelligence alert that terrorists were planning to attack some major luxury trains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether due to 26/11 incident and this fresh intelligence feedback, the bookings of luxury trains such as Deccan Odyssey and the Maharaja Express have decreased;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to increase the security on board and take other security related steps to boost the security of passengers and trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Indian Railways do receive periodic alerts on possible attacks on trains including luxury trains.

(c) and (d) A total of 10 scheduled trips of Deccan Odyssey were cancelled upto April 2009 after the 26/11/2008 attack. However, 02 scheduled trips were also cancelled prior to the attack due to economic slow down. Therefore, these cancellations were due to the combined impact of economic slow down and 26/11 terror attack. During 2009-10, no cancellations took place and operation was smooth. The Maharaja Express has been launched recently in March 2010.

(e) 'Policing on Railways' is a State subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State concerned. However, Railway is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by deploying Railway Protection Force staff to escort important trains in addition to trains escorted by Government Railway Police (GRP).

In addition, following steps are being taken by the Railways in coordination with Government Railway Police (GRP), Civil Police and IRCTC to improve the security of luxury trains:

1. Close liaison with local police, GRP, State and Central Intelligence agencies is maintained.
2. Trains are being escorted.
3. Anti-sabotage checks of the rakes are being conducted with the help of sniffer dogs wherever available in coordination with GRP/Police
4. Security Guards are provided to protect the rakes at stations during halt.
5. Random frisking of passengers is done and luggage is checked manually as well as by x-ray scanners wherever installed.

[Translation]

#### Opening of CNG/LPG Filling Stations

5631. SHRI KADIR RANA:

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to open the CNG/LPG filling stations in Bundelkhand and Muzaffarnagar areas of Uttar Pradesh during the next three years; 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) Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has roll out a plan for five year of CGD Network Development in 333 cities. Muzaffarnagar is one of the city considered in the roll out plan. PNGRB has invited bids for Jhansi geographical area, which is a part of Bundelkhand.

Further, subject to obtaining various approvals and meeting the Statutory norms, 4 and 3 new Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) are proposed to be set up during the next three years by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), in Bundelkhand area and Muzaffarnagar area respectively.

[English]

#### Textile Park

5632. SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVDANJI GADHVI:

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policy of the Government for setting up textile parks in the country alongwith the criteria for selection of location for setting up such parks and the present proposal pending with the Government for setting up such parks in the country;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any plan for setting up textile parks in the Jharkhand State especially in Godda district, Vidarbha, Marathwada, parts of Orissa, Banaskantha district of Gujarat and other backward regions of the country;

(c) if so, the details of such plan and the time by which such parks are likely to be set up;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the funds allocated, released and expenditure incurred for setting up such parks during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) was approved in July 2005 to facilitate setting up of textiles parks with world class infrastructure facilities. The project proposals, which are in conformity with the guidelines of the SITP and are potentially viable, are approved by the Project Approval Committee. Forty (40) textiles park projects have been sanctioned under the SITP in accordance with the approved target.

(b) No such plan as the target is already achieved.

(c) and (d) In view of the reply to (b) above does not arise.

(e) Under the SITP, a cumulative expenditure of Rs.911.54 has been incurred against allocation of Rs.985 Crore in the last three years.

[Translation]

#### Royalty on Extraction of Minerals

5633.KUMARI SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the mining area in square kilometers made available for extraction of minerals since the constitution of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) in the country, State-wise and mineral-wise;

(b) the percentage of royalty out of the total

production provided to the States by NMDC, during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the NMDC is considering to increase the quota of minerals to States in view of increasing demand of minerals after the setting up of new plants in the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The mining area in square kilometres made available for extraction of minerals since the constitution of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) in the country, State - wise and mineral wise is as under:

State	Mineral	Deposit	Area (sq.km)
Chhattisgarh	Iron ore	Bailadila-14	3.22368
		Bailadila -11 C	5.06742
		(Non Mineralized Zone)	
		Bailadila - 5	5.40050
		Bailadila-10	3.0934
		Bailadila - 10 (Float Ore)	1.4280
		Bailadila Deposit 11 (Dep-11A, Dep-11B, Dep-11C part)	8.74924
Karnataka	Iron ore	Donimalai	6.08
		Kumaraswamy	6.4750
Madhya Pradesh	Diamond	Panna-main mine	1.13332
		Panna- supplementary mine	1.62631
Uttar Pradesh	Silica sand	Lalapur	0.3358
Himachal Pradesh	Limestone	Arki	2.3268
Rajasthan	Limestone	Chawandia	3.35
Jammu & Kashmir	Magnesite	Panthal	4.853
Jharkhand	Iron ore	Kiriburu	39.5
		Meghahatuburu	57.45 (Handed over both the deposits to M/s SAIL, another Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Steel, as captive mines in 1978 as per directions of Government of India.)

(b) The State-wise royalty amount paid/ provided by NMDC during the last three years is furnished as under:

State	Amount of Royalty paid		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (Prov.)
Chhattisgarh	41.41	52.19	299.36
Karnataka	12.01	9.83	58.86
Madhya Pradesh	0.37	0.00	0.79
Uttar Pradesh	0.01	0.03	0.01
Total royalty paid/ provided	53.80	62.05	359.02

The rate of Royalty on iron ore for the financial year 2007-08, 2008-09 and for the period 1st April, 2009 till 12th August, 2009 was as under:

**Iron Ore Lump:**

+65% Fe content	: Rs.27 per metric tonne
62 to 65% Fe content	: Rs.16 per metric tonne
Less than 62% Fe content	: Rs.11 per metric tonne

**Iron Ore Fines:**

+65% Fe content	: Rs. 19 per metric tonne
62 to 65% Fe content	: Rs. 11 per metric tonne
Less than 62% Fe content	: Rs. 8 per metric tonne

Rate of Royalty in case of Diamond during this period was 10% on sale price.

From 13th August, 2009 onwards the royalty on iron ore is charged @ 10% and royalty on diamond is charged @ 11.5% of sale price on ad-valorem basis as per Gazette Notification No. 452 dated 13th August, 2009.

(c) and (d) NMDC is planning to set up a 3 million tonne per annum capacity steel plant in Nagarnar, Chhattisgarh, a pellet plant of 2 million tonne per annum

capacity in Chhattisgarh and a pellet plant of 1.2 million tonne per annum capacity in Donimalai, Karnataka and also plans to increase its production of iron ore. Accordingly, the supplies of iron ore to the concerned States will also go up.

[English]

**Duty on Indian Steel**

5634.SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union (EU) threatens to slap duty on Indian steel recently;

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

(c) the reaction of the steel industry and the Government thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) In October 2009, the European Union (EU) initiated Anti Dumping (AD) and Anti-subsidy (AS) proceedings against exports of Stainless Steel Fasteners and parts thereof. Thereafter, in March 2010, the EU once again intimated the initiation of Anti Subsidy proceedings against exports of certain Stainless Steel bars. The ostensible reason for such countervailing investigation according to the EU is because the exports from India are being allegedly subsidized through schemes like the Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) scheme.

(c) The affected industries have opposed these investigations and have stated that Indian exports are not subsidized and even the DEPB scheme only neutralizes taxes and also has value caps to ensure that there is no subsidy element. The Government also accept this view. In fact, in April, 2010, India has been informed that European Commission (EC) has decided to terminate both the AD and AS proceedings against exports of Stainless Steel fasteners and parts thereof, indicating that there is no merit in the argument of the steel industry.

[Translation]

### Unigaugue Projects

5635. SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise action plan formulated by the Railways for unigaugue project;
- (b) whether the Railways are contemplating levying passenger cess for mobilizing financial resources for these projects;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Since 1992, gauge conversion of 16,917 Km has been done. As on 01.04.2010, there are about 9,500 Km of Meter/Narrow Gauge lines, out of which works are in progress for about 5,500 Km. Further, gauge conversion of 450 Km of Narrow Gauge lines has been proposed in the Railway Budget 2010-11.

Indian Railways Vision 2020 entails conversion of all Meter Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines to Broad Gauge except heritage lines. This would, however, depend upon availability of resources.

- (b) No, Madam.
- (c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

### Distribution of Fertilizers

5636. SHRI P.K. BIJU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present system for the distribution of fertilizers to various States in the country;
- (b) whether the private sector is participating in this regard; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Before the commencement of every crop season, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) finalizes month-wise requirement of fertilizers for the entire crop season during the Zonal Conferences attended by officers of State Agriculture Department and officers from Department of Fertilizer (DOF). The month-wise requirement of fertilizers so assessed by DAC is communicated to DOF. DOF conducts a meeting with the producers and importers of fertilizers and obtains month-wise production and import targets for the entire crop season.

Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement distribution control of the Government of India. All other fertilizers like DAP, MOP and NPK etc. are de-controlled since August, 1992. Availability of fertilizers is monitored by Department of Fertilizers at State level. The distribution of fertilizer within the States rests with the State Government.

In order to ensure availability of fertilizer vis-a-vis requirement through out the country, Department of Fertilizer has taken various policy initiatives, some of which are:

- (i) Each state in consultation with the fertilizer suppliers is required to prepare a monthly supply plan district wise within overall availability at State level for ensuring availability of fertilizers in all parts of the State. The monthly supply plan includes both indigenous production (Public sector, private sector and Co-operative sector) and imports of fertilizer plan as filed by the suppliers;
- (ii) The supply of fertilizers by manufacturers/suppliers is being monitored through a web-based Fertilizer Monitoring System which is able to track production, imports, dispatch, arrival and sales up to the district level;
- (iii) The State governments have been advised (i)

that the State Institutional agencies will coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies (ii) to review the railway rake points in their states and take up the issues with the Railways for improvements, if any, required to ensure availability of fertilizers in every nook and corner of the State.

- (iv) The Government has introduced a Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy in respect of Phosphatic & Potassic fertilizers w.e.f. 1.4.2010, which has replaced the outgoing Concession Scheme for P & K fertilizers. Under the NBS, State Governments have to play more proactive role to co-ordinate with the manufacturers/importers to tie up supplies of fertilizers as per the requirement of states.
- (v) Under the NBS, 20% of the decontrolled fertilizers produced/imported in India will now be in the movement control under the Essential Commodities Act 1955(ECA). Department of Fertilizers will regulate the movement of these fertilizers to bridge the supplies in under-served areas. The State governments should accordingly put in place administrative and monitoring mechanism to take advantage of the same. The supply plan would continue to be monitored as at present.
- (vi) Manufacturers of customized fertilizers and mixture fertilizers are now eligible to source subsidized fertilizers from the manufacturers/importers after their receipt in the districts as inputs for manufacturing customized fertilizers and mixture fertilizer for agricultural purpose under NBS. There would be no separate subsidy on sale of customized fertilizers and mixture fertilizers. To encourage soil and crop based usage of such fertilizers, the State governments need to facilitate the same.

### Operation of Private Airlines

5637. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Spice Jet and Indigo airlines are willing to fly to SAARC and ASEAN countries;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has made stricter norms for issuing licenses for overseas operations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has conducted any check of the airlines preparedness to fly abroad; and
- (f) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (f) As per the existing guidelines for international operations, Indian Air Transport Undertakings having continuous operations of at least five years in the domestic sector and have a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft are permitted to operate on international routes.

As per these guidelines M/s Spicejet has been granted an in-principle approval date effective after 23rd May, 2010 for undertaking international operations. No specific routes have yet been allocated to M/s Spice Jet IndiGo will become eligible for international operations on 4th August, 2011.

### Employment to Security Persons

5638. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 150 security persons are working in the oil wells in Nagapattinam and Thiruvavur of Tamil Nadu for more than 20 years and they have not yet been given permanent employees' status in these oil wells;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to permanent them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) As on date 163 Term Based Security Personnel are working at Caurvery Asset in different locations at Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur, Thanjavur and Ramnad in Tamil Nadu and in Base Office Karaikal in Puducherry. The Term based Security Personnel raised an Industrial Dispute for regularization of their services before Labour Authorities in the year 1990. Conciliation proceedings ended in failure and the dispute was referred by the Central Government to the Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal (CGIT), Chennai for adjudication. In the year 2000, the CGIT, Chennai passed an award under Industrial Dispute (I.D.) No.66/1991 to regularize the services of these personnel, on completion of their 480 days of service. Being aggrieved, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) challenged the award of the CGIT before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, under Writ Petition No. 1846/2000 and interim injunction was ordered against the operation of the award. Thereafter in 2001, the Hon'ble High Court of Madras was pleased to make the interim injunction as Absolute. The matter is still sub-judice and pending before the Hon'ble High court of Madras for final hearing.

*[Translation]*

#### **Installed Capacity of Steel Plants**

5639.SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the installed capacity of the steel plants in the country, plant-wise;

(b) whether the said plants have achieved their installed capacity during the last three years and the current year;

(c) if so, the year-wise details thereof;

(d) the strategy to increase the production of the steel plants and the efforts being made by the Government for the purpose; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remove the problems being faced by the steel plants in storing and distribution of finished goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The present plant-wise steel production capacity of Main, Major and other Producers' Plants is given in Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Plant-wise utilization figures of crude steel production by the Main, Major and other Producers' Plants and Induction Furnace Units for the last three years is given in Statement-II.

(d) Steel is a de-regulated sector. In a de-regulated, liberalized economy, decisions related to production are taken essentially by the steel producing units depending upon various factors such as commercial merits, market trends, demand and supply etc. The Government in such a market economy has the role of a facilitator only - it provides the overall policy environment to promote growth of industry.

Both the public sector steel producers namely Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) are operating their plants at nearly 100% of their installed capacities.

(e) Storage and distribution of finished steel products are commercial activities of the companies producing or trading in steel. The Government has no direct role to play in it. The Government has been encouraging the steel producers to enlarge their distribution network through retail outlets to ensure that steel is easily available to the distantly located buyers/potential buyers.

**Statement-I***Crude Steel Capacity ('000 tonnes)*

Plant/Group	2009-10*
<b>SAIL Plants</b>	
a. Bhilai Steel Plant	3925
b. Durgapur Steel Plant	1802
c. Rourkela Steel Plant	1900
d. Bokaro Steel Plant	4360
e. IISCO Steel Plant	500
f. Alloy Steel Plant	234
g. Vis. Iron & Steel	118
<b>Total SAIL</b>	<b>12839</b>
RINL (VSP)	2910
Tata Steel	6800
JSW Steel	6600
Ispat Industries	36.00
Essar Steel	4600
Jindal Steel & Power	2400
Other Producers (Est.)	33014
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>72763</b>

Source: Joint Plant Committee;

\*provisional

**Statement-II***Crude Steel Capacity Utilisation*

Plant/Group	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10*
1	2	3	4
<b>SAIL Plants</b>			
a. Bhilai Steel Plant	129	132	129
b. Durgapur Steel Plant	106	105	108

1	2	3	4
c. Rourkela Steel Plant	110	110	111
d. Bokaro Steel Plant	95	82	82
e. IISCO Steel Plant	92	83	79
f. Alloy Steel Plant	67	72	87
g. Vis. Iron & Steel	134	81	87
<b>Total SAIL</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>105</b>
RINL (VSP)	108	102	110
Tata Steel	100	113	97
JSW Steel	75	77	78
Ispat Industries	79	61	73
Essar Steel	77	73	75
Jindal Steel & Power	51	61	81
Other EAF/MBF-EOF	77	95	85
Induction Furnace Units	81	81	97
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>89</b>

Source: Joint Plant Committee; \* = provisional

*[English]***Railway Crossings**

5640. SHRI S. ALAGIRI:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accidents frequently occur at unmanned level crossings resulting in loss of life and property;

(b) if so, the details of such minor accidents during the last three years alongwith the compensation granted to the victims and loss to the railway property;

(c) whether there is any time-bound proposal for



converting all unmanned level crossings into manned level crossings; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No Madam. As per the average figure of accidents at the unmanned level crossings, it is revealed that 0.4% of the total number of unmanned level crossings are involved in the accidents per year.

(b) In case of level crossing accidents, exgratia payment may be made. The amount paid in the last three years are as under:

2007-08	-	21.57 lakh
2008-09	-	10.01 lakh
2009-10	-	20.53 lakh

(c) and (d) As per policy, manning of the unmanned level crossings qualifying the criteria for manning are being done progressively. Necessary sanction and funds are made available for such works. During the last five years 1340 unmanned level crossing gates have been manned. And 3000 unmanned gates have been targeted for manning on Indian Railways during 2010-11. Within next five years, all unmanned level crossings have been planned for manning.

#### **Judicial Reforms**

5641. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL:

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

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

(a) whether the 13th Finance Commission has recommended to step up budgetary outlay for implementing the proposed measures to improve the judicial system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete action plan has been prepared by the Government to utilise the proposed budget for judicial reforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) The Thirteenth Finance Commission has not recommended any stepping up of the budgetary outlay of the Central Government to improve the judicial system. The 13th Finance Commission has recommended for providing Rs. 5000 crore to the States over the period 2010-15 for certain specified activities for securing improvement in administration of justice. Grants have been recommended by the Commission for setting up of morning / evening courts/special magistrate courts/ shift courts, Alternative Dispute Resolution centers and training of mediators and conciliators, holding of Lok Adalats and provision of legal aid, capacity building of judicial officers and public prosecutors, strengthening of State Judicial Academies, appointment of Court managers to assist the Judges in improving court management and for restoration and conservation of heritage court buildings. Government has accepted these recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission.

These funds will be made available to the States for the five year period 2010-15 and it is for the State Governments to prepare action plans for utilizing the grants provided to them.

#### **Local Train in Mumbai**

5642. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to increase the frequency of local train to CST, Thane and Andheri from Panvel suburban station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Introduction of Matribhoomi trains between Thane-Vashi and Panvel-Nerul-Thane and additional 101 suburban services over the Mumbai area have been announced in the Railway Budget 2010-2011.

**Opening of Medical Colleges/Educational Institutions by PSUs**

5643. SHRI SANJAY BHOI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the policy laid down for setting up of medical colleges/educational institutions by the Public Sector Units (PSUs) in different parts of the country;

(b) the number of such institutions functioning in the country which have been set up under the aegis of Steel PSUs;

(c) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. has received any request from the State Government of Jharkhand to open a medical college in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the sources for mobilising the funds for the purpose; and

(f) the time by which the said college is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

*[Translation]*

**Rural LPG Distributorship Scheme**

5644. DR. BHOLA SINGH:

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has started the rural LPG distributorship scheme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the places where this scheme has been started, State-wise and area-wise; and

(d) the details of the basis for allocation of LPG distributorship and the norms thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY) scheme which primarily aims at providing LPG to the rural house holds, including BPL families has been launched on 16.10.2009. Salient features of the scheme are:

(i) The LPG agencies under the RGGLVY will be of small size requiring lesser finance/infrastructure.

(ii) The distributor himself will manage the agency with the help of his/her family member and one or two employees.

(iii) Age limit for the distributor to be between 21 and 45 years.

(iv) Distributor under the scheme will have to be a permanent resident of the village(s) covered by particular location.

(v) All agencies under this scheme to be in the joint name of husband and wife. In case of applicants who are single the 'spouse' will automatically become a partner after the marriage

(vi) Reservation for SC/ST categories has also been provided for.

(vii) The selection of the distributor would be by draw of lots from amongst all candidates who have secured more than 80% marks on the criteria of financial capability and education qualifications.

Advertisements inviting applications for distributors under the scheme have been released in 13 States, as per details given below:

Name of States	Number of locations
Andhra Pradesh	331
Bihar	251
Chhattisgarh	39
Jharkhand	80
Karnataka	48
Madhya Pradesh	97
Maharashtra	253
Odisha	101
Puducherry	1
Rajasthan	192
Tamil Nadu	130
Uttar Pradesh	331
West Bengal	175

The setting up of LPG distributors under this scheme will now be a continuous process till all parts of the country deficient in LPG were covered by LPG network.

[English]

#### Financial Help of BHEL

5645. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to finance the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) for expansion of its activities, especially in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the likely time by which it is likely to be done; and

(d) the present activities of BHEL in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) No, Madam. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is a Navratna Company which finances its expansion programmes out of its own internal resources.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The major activities of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) in the State of Karnataka at present include the following:

- Manufacturing Units at Bangalore viz., Electronics Division; Electro-porcelains Division; and Electronics Systems Division;
- Ceramic Technological Institute at Bangalore;
- Various offices in Bangalore of Industrial Systems Group, Quality, Spares & Services Business, Project Management, Ceramics Business Unit, Regional Operations Division;
- Joint Venture company with Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. named "Raichur Power Corporation Ltd."; and
- Works related to various orders at Bellary, Raichur, Kaiga etc.

#### Paradeep Oil Refinery in Orissa

5646. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

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

(a) the present status of completion of Paradip oil refinery in Orissa;

(b) the time by which the refinery is likely to be completed;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up downstream industries at Paradip including the petroleum, chemicals and petrochemicals in the region; 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 Board of Directors of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) have accorded final investment approval to the 15 MMTA Paradip Refinery project on 28.2.2009 at an estimated cost of Rs.29,777 crore. Implementation of the project is in full swing and as on 31.03.2010, overall 15.91% physical progress has been achieved. Approx. Rs.3,212 crore expenditure has been incurred against a commitment of approx. Rs. 13,306 crore.

The project is scheduled to be commissioned as under:

- Atmospheric & Vacuum Distillation Units (First Units): March, 2012.
- Alkylation Unit (Last Unit): July, 2012.
- Integrated stabilized operation: November, 2012.

(c) and (d) The petrochemical projects linked to the refinery have now been kept under hold. Activities for setting up of petrochemical complex in integration at Paradip are envisaged to be initiated at an appropriate time subject to market conditions and progress on the implementation of the refinery project.

*[Translation]*

#### **Pollution Controlling Equipments**

5647. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether no pollution controlling equipments have been installed in most polluting units such as Unit Blast Furnace, Coal Handling Plant and Coke Sorting Plant of Bokaro Steel Plant; so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the pollution controlling equipments are likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) One hundred and

Forty (140) pollution controlling equipments are installed in Bokaro Steel Plant, out of which ten are installed in Blast Furnace area and seventeen are in Coke Oven & Bye Product Plant area where coal handling and coke sorting plants are installed.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Food Processing Policy**

5648. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for Food Processing Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether fishery resources and products and its related industry are also associated with the above policy;

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tackle the production cost and other facilities in the industry related to fisheries; and

(e) the details of the food processing units functioning in various States as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The need for having an appropriate integrated food processing policy at the national and state levels was highlighted during the 1st Conference of the State Ministers of Food Processing Industries held on 06.10.2009. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have already formulated such food processing policies. An integrated policy would cover, among others, fishery sector also.

(d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas

under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/Modernization of food processing industries which covers food processing units in various sector such as fruits & vegetables products, consumer industries, grain milling industries, meat & poultry industries, fish processing industries, wine and beer manufacturing industries etc.

(e) Food Processing Industries are set up both in organized and unorganized sectors and as such data on the number of food processing units in the country is not centrally maintained by the Ministry. However, as per competitiveness report on Enhancing Competitiveness of Indian Manufacturing Competitiveness Council, Government of India, the total number of registered food processing units functioning in various states, state-wise are as under:

SL. No.	Name of the State	Number of registered Food Processing Units
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6,402
2.	Tamil Nadu	3,736
3.	Maharashtra	2,238
4.	Uttar Pradesh	1,719
5.	Punjab	1,628
6.	Karnataka	1,390
7.	Gujarat	1,307
8.	West Bengal	1,147
9.	Kerala	1,059
10.	Assam	897
11.	Haryana	564
12.	Chhattisgarh	561
13.	Orissa	535
14.	Madhya Pradesh	517

1	2	3
15.	Rajasthan	506
16.	Uttaranchal	274
17.	Bihar	191
18.	Jharkhand	108
19.	Delhi	103
20.	Himachal Pradesh	97
21.	Jammu & Kashmir	93
22.	Goa	80
23.	Puducherry	55
24.	Tripura	50
25.	Daman & Diu	28
26.	Chandigarh	27
27.	Nagaland	16
28.	Meghalaya	13
29.	Manipur	12
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	10
31.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4
Total		25,367

[Translation]

#### Harnaut Rail Coach Factory

5649.SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the compensation paid and the employment has been provided to the families of the farmers whose land acquired for Harnaut Rail Coach Factory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of work undertaken of Harnaut Rail Coach Factory;

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose and spent so far in the current financial year; and

(e) the steps being taken by Railways to expedite and work of factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 112.802 acres of land have been acquired by the Railways from the District Land Acquisition Officer of the Bihar State Government after deposition of Rs.21.24 crores for Harnaut Rail Coach Repair workshop and colony. No employment has been given by the Railways to the farmers.

(c) The construction work of Harnaut Rail Coach workshop is in progress.

(d) Rs.70.39 crores for the workshop and Rs. 17.42 crores for the colony have been allocated in the current financial year i.e. 2010-11. In the year 2009-10, Rs.67.87 cr. were spent on the Project.

(e) The progress of construction of workshop is closely monitored regularly and adequate funds are being provided.

#### **Photograph of Voters in Voter List**

5650.SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission proposes to print the photographs of voters in the voters list to check bogus voting;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

[English]

#### **Rail Vikas Nigam Limited**

5651.SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated any plan for augmenting capacity in specific saturated routes to meet the growing requirements;

(b) if so, the details of the routes selected therefor;

(c) the details of the such routes which are being augmented by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) independently; and

(d) the source of funds for capacity augmentation are being mobilised by the RVNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Railways are planning to augment capacity on specific saturated routes. A major portion of the passenger and freight traffic is carried on the Golden Quadrilateral and the Diagonals connecting Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai and Delhi-Guwahati route, which along with the feeder routes form the High Density Network. A Blue print has been prepared for augmenting capacity on these routes which is under implementation by Indian Railways. Further, railways are also constructing two Dedicated Freight Corridors, one between Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and Tughlakabad & the other between Ludhiana and Dankuni which shall on completion give significant capacity additions on the Delhi-Mumbai & Delhi-Howrah routes respectively.

(c) The details of the routes being augmented by RVNL are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) For the capacity augmentation works being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd., funds are being provided by Ministry of Railways and through borrowing from the market.

**Statement**

(Rs. in Crore)				
Sl.No.	Rly	Project	Length (in Kms)	Latest Anticipated Cost
1	2	3	4	5
1	ER	Gurap-Shaktigarh 3rd line	26.00	53.65
2	SCR	Balapalle-Pullampet - Ph-I of Gooty-Renigunta doubling	31.50	74.77
3	ECOR	Bhubaneswar- Kottavalasa Railway Electrification	457.00	388.30
4	CR	Diva Kalyan doubling- 5th & 6th lines	11.00	70.00
5	CR	Pakni-Solapur doubling	16.28	38.52
6	ECOR	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep Railway Electrification	540.00	438.40
7	SR	Attipattu-Korukkupettai 3rd line doubling	18.00	115.00
8	CR	Pakni-Mohol doubling	17.00	42.73
9	SER	Tikiapara-Santragachi 4th line doubling	5.60	46.79
10	NR	New Delhi-Tilak Bridge 5th & 6th line doubling	4.00	59.99
11	SR	Pattabiram-Tiruvallur 4th line (15.06 km) & Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 3rd line (26.83 km) doubling	41.89	174.00
12	SCR	Raichur-Guntakal doubling	81.10	221.93
13	ECOR	Khurda Road-Barang 3rd line doubling	35.00	211.91
14	ECOR	Cuttack-Barang doubling	12.00	170.07
15	NCR	Aligarh-Ghaziabad 3rd line doubling	106.15	399.40
16	ECOR	Rajatgarh-Barang doubling	20.00	243.30
17	SECR	Bilaspur-Urkura 3rd doubling	110.00	310.00
18	ECOR	Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep (2nd Bridges on Mahanadi & Birupa ) doubling	3.00	122.00
19	SCR	Renigunta-Guntakal Railway Electrification	308.00	184.00
20	SCR	Gooty-Renigunta - Patch doubling	151.00	455.00
21	NCR	Palwal-Bhuteshwar 3rd line doubling	81.00	340.00

1	2	3	4	5
22	WCR	Bhopal-Bina: 3rd Line doubling	143.92	607.22
23	SER	Panskura-Kharagpur: 3rd Line doubling	44.7	252.54
24	SCR	Daund-Gulbarga doubling (224.9 km) & Pune-Guntakal Railway Electrification (641.37 km)		1437.79
25	SER	Panskura - Haldia PH-I (Panskura-Rajgoda) doubling	16.00	35.02
26	SWR	Arasikere-Hassan-Mangalore gauge conversion	236.00	561.00
27	NR	Delhi-Rewari gauge conversion	83.00	150.88
28	CR	Panvel-Jasai-Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) DL	28.50	99.82
29	ECR	Barauni-Tilrath Bypass doubling	14.00	15.37
30	ECoR	Daitari-Banspani new line with MM of Jakhpura-Haridaspur 3rd line	155.00	1300.00
31	WR	Gandhidham-Palanpur gauge conversion	301.00	452.00
32	SR	Cuddalore-Salem via Vriddhachalam gauge conversion	191.00	546.30
33	SCR	Hospet-Guntakal doubling	115.00	350.29
34	NWR	Bhildi-Samdari gauge conversion	223.00	490.00
35	SR	Thanjavur-Villupuram gauge conversion	192.00	665.00
36	NWR	Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari gauge conversion	294.77	770.00
37	ECoR	Haridaspur-Paradeep new line	82.00	594.34
38	WR	Bharuch-Samni-Dahej gauge conversion	62.36	325
39	SCR	Obulavaripalle-Krishnapatnam new line	113.00	786.81
40	WR	Surat-Hazira new line (Unsanctioned)	36.36	200.00

### Railway Projects in Mumbai

5652. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new railway projects sanctioned for Mumbai Metro Region during the last three years alongwith the amount sanctioned for the same; and

(b) the time by which the projects are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. Is currently executing Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP). MUTP Phase-II has been sanctioned in 2008-09 for upgradation/ augmentation of suburban rail infrastructure of Central and Western Railways at the cost of Rs.5300 crore. Sub-projects under MUTP Phase-II are as under:



(Rs. In Crore)

Sl.No.	Project	Sanctioned cost
1	5th & 6th lines Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai (CSTM)-Kurla	659.00
2	5th & 6th lines Thane-Diva	133.00
3	Extension of Harbour line from Andheri to Goregaon	103.00
4	6th line Mumbai Central to Borivali	522.00
5	DC to AC conversion (executed by Central Railway)	68.00
6	DC to AC conversion (executed by MRVC)	225.00
7	Passenger yard remodeling at Vadala Road, Mankhurd, Bandra & Andheri	128.00
8	EMU maintenance facilities, Central Railway	108.91
9	EMU maintenance facilities, Western Railway	96.09
10	Stabling lines Central Railway	74.91
11	Stabling lines Western Railway	66.09
12	EMU procurement/manufacture	2930.00
13	Technical Assistance	62.00
14	Resettlement and Rehabilitation	124.00
Total		5300.00

MUTP Phase-II Project is targeted for completion by the year 2014-2015.

[Translation]

#### Shortage of Public Prosecutors

5653. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge shortage of public prosecutors in different High Courts and lower courts in the country and particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Public Prosecutors are being appointed by the State Governments as well as the Central Government. As such there is no centrally maintained list of Public Prosecutors. However in so far as this Ministry is concerned, there are one Public Prosecutor, three Special Public Prosecutors and 13 Additional Public Prosecutors appointed for Bombay High Court. Apart from that Assistant Solicitors Generals before various High Courts have also been designated as Special Public Prosecutors for handling CBI matters.

[English]

#### Separate Automobile Hubs

5654. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for setting up separate automobile hubs for the transport of vehicles in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. As announced in the Railway Budget 2010-11, to facilitate bulk movement of automobile traffic by rail, it has been decided to set up automobile and ancillary hubs at 10 potential locations in India under the Public Private Partnership mode. These hubs will facilitate bulk movement by rail by providing facilities for storage and other ancillary activities ensuring secondary distribution by road to the hinterland. Out of the 10 automobile hubs proposed to be developed under the Public Private Partnership mode, the first such hub has already been operationalised at Shalimar near Kolkata as a pilot project.

**Airport Tariff on Aeronautical Revenues**

5655.SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

SHRI P. BALRAM:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private airport developers have suggested to determine base airport tariff on the basis of aeronautical revenues only;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) has framed new regulations in regard to tariff;

(e) if so, whether the views of all stake holders have been received by AERA in regard to single till and double till tariffs; and

(f) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Different private operators have proposed varying approaches for determining aeronautical tariff.

(c) to (f) The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) have received suggestions from various stakeholders and sought the guidance/advice of Government of India (GoI) in the matter. The matter is under examination of AERA. Based on inputs received from various stakeholders including advice/guidance of GoI/AERA is likely to finalise its economic regulations.

*[Translation]***Modasa-Kapadvanj-Nadiad Rail Line**

5656.SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to extend the Modasa-Kapadvanj-Nadiad rail line upto samlaji in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be finalized?

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

(b) and (c) The work of Modasa-Shamlaji (22.53 km) new line has been taken up as a part of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur gauge conversion project. Final Location Survey has been taken up which is likely to be completed by 31.07.2010.

*[English]***Procurement of Rail Tracks**

5657.SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of track laid and replaced across the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of the companies which supplied the rail tracks during the said period; and

(c) the criteria fixed for selection of companies for such procurement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Details of track laid and replaced on Indian Railways, during the last three years are as under

Year	New Lines/Gauge Conversion/Doublings (in KM)	Track Renewals (KM CTR Units)
2009-10	2224	3840
2008-09	1283	3841
2007-08	2131	4002

(b) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), a Public

Sector Undertaking of Government of India, had supplied rails to Indian Railways during last three years.

(c) As of present, Indian Railways is having Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with M/s Steel Authority of India Limited only for purchase of its entire requirement of rails.

#### **Jute Sacking Material**

5658.SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the level of reservation recommended by the Government under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether it has been reported that jute industry is not producing adequate jute sacking material as provided for in JPM Act;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to impress upon the jute industry to meet the demand of jute sacks and supply as per the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The level of reservation recommended by the Government under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 during the last three jute-years (July-June) and the current year is as under:

Jute-Year (July-June)	Sugar	Food grains
2006-07	100%	100%
2007-08	100%	100%
2008-09	100%	100%
2009-10	100%	100%

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. In the recent past, the jute industry has not been able to produce adequate quantity of the jute sacking material to meet the requirement of

food grain procurement agencies. The main reasons for shortfall are:

(i) The demand for jute sacking material by Government food grain procurement agencies has increased by 20-25% during the last two years.

(ii) The jute mills strike in West Bengal from 01.12.2008 to 18.12.2008 in 2008-09 and again from 14.12.2009 to 13.02.2010 in 2009-10, severely affected the production of jute sacking material.

(d) Government has been taking pro-active steps to help the jute industry to meet its supply commitments by facilitating the resolution of jute mills strike, by institutionalizing a dialogue process with the industry to resolve issues of concern to jute industry and by implementing schemes to modernize the work processes and machinery in the jute industry.

#### **Use of Transponders**

5659.SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are now planning to get a transponder on a satellite;

(b) whether the use of a transponder and thus improved communications may help the Railways to monitor train movement more scientifically and also useful from the safety point of view; and

(c) if so, the extent to which transponder has helped in Railways in checking the accidents and also improve its safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Railways have one quarter of a transponder (9 Mhz.) on hire from Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for exchange of information from remote locations for commercial & operational purpose.

(b) Improved communication facilities as a result of hired satellite transponder helps railways in its operations including monitoring of train movement. It also enables communication from accident site.

(c) Communication through satellite presently has no direct role in checking of accidents.

#### **Expenditure on CSR**

5660.DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 2 percent of distributable profits of steel PSUs is spent for various schemes/projects under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of schemes being implemented under the aegis of CSR activities by the Steel PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. All profitable steel PSUs have earmarked at least 2% of their distributable surplus for CSR activities since 2007-08. The details of budget and expenditure on CSR for the year 2008-09 and April-December 2009 are given at Statement-I. Summary of schemes implemented under the aegis of CSR activities are at Statement-II enclosed.

#### **Statement-I**

*Budget and expenditure on CSR as furnished in Annual Report 2009-10*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of PSU	2008-09		April-December 2009*	
	Budgeted	Expenditure	Budgeted	Expenditure
SAIL	11400.00	8303.00	8000.00	4043.00
RINL	3882.00	2283.00	1275.00	877.00
NMDC	12440.00	9884.00	8000.00	4703.00
MOIL	734.00	542.00	1100.00	46.47
KIOCL	216.00	212.00	150.00	173.11
MSTC	248.00	242.00	131.00	21.00
FSNL	10.00	10.00	2.00	1.60
MECON	35.92	40.26	140.00	45.50
BRL**	20.00	25.00	-	-
SIIL	5.00	1.07	0	0
HSCCL	20.00	6.35	10.00	NIL
BGC	0	497.93	300.00	32.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>29010.92</b>	<b>22900.61</b>	<b>19108.00</b>	<b>9943.00</b>

\* Provisional.

\*\* BRL was merged with SAIL during 2009.

**Statement-II***Summary of schemes implemented under the aegis of CSR activities.*

1. Organisation of Medical Health Camps.
2. Contribution towards flood relief and other natural calamities.
3. Adoption of villages around the peripheral areas to develop them as model villages, which would include promotion and sustenance of medical and health services, education, sports, livelihood promotion through agriculture, self help groups, provision of roads and connectivity, sanitation and community centres.
4. Setting up schools for under-privileged children and improving educational facilities.
5. Construction and repair of approach roads and other related infrastructure.
6. Promotion of sports, art and cultural activities.
7. Promotion of programmes for creating sustainable incomes like animal husbandry, chullah making, goatry, piggery, fishery and other related skill development activities.
8. Promotion of activities oriented towards empowerment of women and welfare of weaker sections of the society.
9. Assistance to National, State and reputed local organization involved in the field of arts, culture, health care, tourism, sports and other allied areas.
10. Provision of scholarship, uniforms, textbooks to deserving SC/ST students, adoption of tribal children and providing them free education, construction/renovation of school buildings.
11. Improving access to drinking water and provision of drinking water.
12. Afforestation Programmes.
13. Programme for aiding disabled/Handicapped persons.

*[Translation]***Shifting of Steel Projects**

5661.DR. BHOLA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposed steel projects of Jharkhand and Orissa are considering to shift to other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of steel projects in the country which could not commence production in time due to various reasons, State-wise;

(d) the schemes being formulated by the Government to overcome the problems being faced by the said steel projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the respective State Governments and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

(d) and (e) Steel sector in the country is deregulated and Government does not exercise any control over production, sale and price of steel products. The role of Government is that of a facilitator for an overall and healthy growth of steel sector in the country. In order to monitor and coordinate various issues, including State related issues concerning major steel investments in the country, an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted in the Ministry of Steel, under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel). The group is represented by other Ministries/ Department of the Central Government such as Industrial Policy & Promotion, Railways, Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Mines, Environment & Forests, as well as the Chief Secretaries of the concerned State Governments.

The main terms of reference (ToR) of the IMG are to review and coordinate measures for early completion of the major steel capacities and to address various problems concerning: for infrastructure, raw material, environmental clearance and land, water resources and rehabilitation.

*[English]***Export of Iron Ore by NMDC**

5662. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 90 percent of iron ore from National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) owned mines has been exported during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) No, Madam.

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

*[Translation]***Manufacturing of Diclofenac**

5663. SHRI KUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 25 major companies manufacture Diclofenac in the country; and

(b) if so, the names of the companies manufacturing the said drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has intimated that as per the information received from Bulk Drug Manufacturing Association and production details filed by the companies, there are 17 companies manufacturing Diclofenac as listed below:

1. Arti Drugs Ltd.
2. Alta Labs Ltd.
3. Amoli Organics Pvt. Ltd.
4. Sheksaria Chemicals Ltd.
5. Watson Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

6. Benzo Chem Industries Ltd.
7. Benzo Chem Life Sciences Ltd.
8. Century Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
9. Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd.
10. JB Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
11. Kairav Chemicals Ltd.
12. Mahima Exports Pvt. Ltd.
13. Nukem Organics Pvt. Ltd.
14. Osho Pharma Pvt. Ltd.
15. Srikem Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.
16. Unique Pharmaceuticals Laboratories
17. Nandesari Rasayanees Ltd.

*[English]***Opening of Chemical Education, Research and Development Institute**

5664. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to open Chemicals (Education, Research and Development) Institutes in various States of the country;

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

(c) the annual target set to open such institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**New Software for Rail Reservation**

5665. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways are planning to adopt new software for rail reservation system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. It has been decided to adopt a new software for rail reservation system based on Relational Database.

A committee is preparing a report on the proposed system and also assessing the cost involved.

#### **Cold Chains in Odisha**

5666.SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Government of Odisha for setting up of cold chains in the State;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the number of food parks sanctioned for Orissa till date; and

(d) the details of employment generated and revenues earned therefrom by the State so far?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) No, Madam, MFPI has not received any proposal from the State Government of Odisha for setting up of cold chain during 11th Plan. To encourage setting up of cold chain facilities in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th Plan to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public/private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. The scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 crore. Ministry has already accorded approval

to 10 cold chain projects during 2008-09 in States i.e. Maharashtra, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Haryana. MFPI's scheme is project specific, not State specific.

(c) and (d) MFPI has sanctioned one food park located at Khurda near Bhubaneshwar of an estimated project cost of Rs. 990.73 lakh, which is implemented by Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation. 11 no. of food processing units are operating in the park and about 1500 direct employments have been generated on account of setting up of the said food park.

#### **Annual Returns**

5667.SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN:

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the documents which are required to be filed by all registered companies with the Government annually as per the Companies Act;

(b) whether a number of companies registered with the Government have not filed the annual returns and other documents and therein violating the Companies Act;

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

(d) the penalties imposed on each of such companies default during the above period, year-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) Balance sheets and Annual Returns are required to be filed with the Registrar of Companies by all the companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956.

(b) and (c) Annual Returns and Balance Sheets for the year 2009-10 are not yet due for filing. However, the

details of companies which have not filed balance sheets and annual returns for the last three years, as per records available, is as under:

Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total number of companies required to file balance sheets and annual returns	5,66,995	6,18,674	6,77,095
No. of companies which have not filed balance sheets	2,63,382	3,03,230	3,70,19.
No. of companies which have not filed annual returns	2,64,575	3,07,236	3,71,110

(d) The penalties imposed by the Courts for non-filing of these documents by companies during the last three years are as under:

Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	94.66	88.17	63.84

#### **Export of Textiles**

5668. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of India's Textiles & Clothing (T&C) have been adversely affected due to the global economic slow down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken initiatives to grab a share of the growing textile markets in Latin America to sustain and enhance the T and C exports;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to hold a Mega Textile and Clothing Exhibition at Buenos Aires (Argentina) in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the new market would boost the exports of T and C?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The exports of India's Textiles & Clothing (T&C) have been adversely affected over the previous two financial years due to global economic slowdown as well as unfavorable exchange rate variations. Exports of T&C was USD 22146 million in 2007-08, but declined to USD 20939 million in 2008-09. During 2009-10 (upto December, 2009) India exported T & C items worth USD 15044.89 million as against USD 15970.50 million in the corresponding period of financial year 2008-09.

(c) to (f) The Government has been making every effort to ensure that India's T&C exports are increased in the global market. These initiatives include exploiting potential markets where the share of India's T&C exports could be enhanced. The LAC countries viz. Brazil and Argentina have been identified among such focused countries because of their immense potential.

#### **Save Energy Campaign**

5669. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken an initiative to join the Save Energy Campaign and tackle Global warming by distributing 26 lakh compact fluorescent lamps to 6.5 lakh quarters across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the norms adopted for the same?

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

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railways has awarded a contract through Competitive Bidding for supply of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) free of cost to railway employees residing in railway colonies. The cost of CFLs will be



recovered by the firm through Carbon Credits to be earned from the project. Railway will also earn 3% of Carbon Credits that accrue from the project. No fund was required to be allocated by Ministry of Railways for this project.

Under this project each Railway household will get up to a maximum of 4 Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) in exchange for 4 incandescent lamps (ICL). A 60 watt ICL will be replaced by 14 watt CFL and 100 watt ICL by 20 watt CFL.

#### Accidents in BSP

5670. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents took place during the last three years at Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) the details of human loss and capital damage caused thereby, incident-wise;

(c) whether any Enquiry Committee was set up to enquire the accidents;

(d) if so, whether the said committee has submitted its recommendations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The number of accidents that took place during the last three years at Bokaro Steel Plant is as given below:

2007	2008	2009
20	25	23

(b) The details of loss of human lives in the above accidents which were inter-alia due to fall from height, impact of being caught between objects/machinery, rail-road fatalities, burns and gas poisoning are as given below:

Year	Fatal
2007	4
2008	4
2009	10

There has been no damage to capital due to the above accidents.

(c) Yes, all fatal accidents are investigated by Plant level enquiry committees to identify the causes of such accidents and suggest recommendatory measures to prevent such incidents in future.

(d) and (e) Based on the recommendations; measures taken by Bokaro Steel Plant to prevent accidents are as under:

#### (1) Working at Height-

- Strict Adherence to Standards Safety Procedures.
- Mandatory use of 'Full Body Harness' in place of 'Safety Belts'.
- Medical fitness and height pass.
- Enforcement of Safety induction training.

#### (2) Hit/Caught/Press between objects

- Campaign for maintaining machine guards.
- Checking limit switches of cranes.
- Use of appropriate & tested handling equipment.
- Campaign against wearing loose garments.
- Strict adherence to safety procedures while loading/unloading.

#### (3) Rail/Road

- Joint inspection of Locos, Roads & Rail Crossings.

- Inspection of Trucks & Trailers and Illumination level.
- Campaign and training on rail and road safety.
- Rationalization of heavy vehicle movement.
- Provision of blinkers & alarms at all Crossings.
- Introduction of fluorescent jackets to loco crew.

**(4) Protection against molten metal/hot substances**

- Use of fire retardant dress while handling liquid metal.
- Adherence to Standards Safety Procedures for handling of liquid metal.

**(5) Gas Poisoning**

- Periodic checking of gas pipelines and associated equipment.
- Provision and usage of breathing apparatus in gas prone areas.
- Provision of automatic gas leak detection and alarm system in hazardous areas.
- Conducting periodic mock drills as per emergency plan.
- Spreading awareness on gas safety.

**National Gas Master Development Plan**

5671.DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has been shortlisted as one of the 15 companies having qualified for the \$30 billion national gas master development plan and its implementation in Nigeria;

(b) if so, the quantity of crude oil India is importing from Nigeria at present; and

(c) the likely impact of such development in securing crude oil and other petroleum products from African countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Madam. GAIL (India) Ltd. has been shortlisted as a part of a consortium to bid for developing gas facilities in Nigeria.

(b) The quantity of crude oil India is importing from Nigeria during the current year is given below:

Qty (Million Metric Tonne)	
Year	Crude oil imported
April 09-Janauary 10 (Prov.)	10.711

(c) As such the proposal is at a very preliminary stage. However, if the consortium in which GAIL (India) Ltd. is participating is successful, it may lead to an increase in commercial relationship.

**Maintenance of Railway Quarters**

5672.SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expenditure incurred by the Railways on civic amenities in the Railway's employees colonies at Palanpur, Deesa, Bhildi, Amirgadh, Chhapi during the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Railways for the maintenance of the Railway Quarters of above colonies alongwith the funds allotted for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Expenditure of approximately Rs. 127 Lakh has been incurred on maintenance of civic amenities in the railway colonies at Palanpur, Disa, Bhildi, Sri Amirgadh and Chhapi during the last three years. Maintenance of the colonies is carried out through annual zonal contracts, special works as well as by departmental sources.

**Mathura-Allahabad Express**

5673. PROF. RAMSHANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Railways to provide stoppage of Mathura-Allahabad Express train at Raja-Ki-Mandi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal regarding changing the scheduled time of arrival of the said train at Allahabad is under consideration of the Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any proposal to increase the number of coaches keeping in view the growing number of passengers is also under consideration; 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) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Increase in number of coaches according to growing traffic is always considered keeping in view the operational feasibility and availability of coaches. 2403/2404 Allahabad-Mathura Express has been augmented with one Sleeper class coach from 25-12-09.

**Bhartiya Railway Mall Godam Shramik Sangh**

5674. SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the policy regarding issue of ID cards, badges to workers working in Railway parcel and goods depots;

(b) whether the Railways have received a representation from the 'Bhartiya Railway Mall Godam Shramik Sangh' in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Railways on the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Identity Cards are being issued by the Railway Administration to railway employees engaged to work in parcel and goods depots. In case of full vehicle load traffic, the work of loading and unloading is done by the consignor/consignee by engaging their own labours. Since, they are hired on case-to-case basis by the consignor/consignee, Railways do not have any details of these workers. As such, it is not possible for railways to issue them Identity Cards. However, in case of leased parcel traffic, labourers of the leaseholders are permitted to enter in the platform area on production of Photo Identity cards issued by the leaseholders alongwith Platform Permit issued by the Railway Administration.

(b) to (d) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Labour had also examined the demand of Goods shed workers and had decided that since they are engaged by private contractors, Railways are not accountable for their service conditions and other measures which are given as general welfare. Hence, railways are not liable to meet their various demands like medical facilities, concession in railway fares, identity cards etc. However, it has been decided, that, in addition to provision of drinking water, toilet and resting facilities which are normally provided by railways in goods sheds, raised taps for bathing purposes will also be provided by zonal railways on case to case basis depending on local requirements as a gesture of general welfare.

[Translation]

**Permanent Lok Adalats**

5675. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the States/Union Territories have not set up permanent Lok Adalat so far;

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

(c) the main hurdles being faced by the State Governments in establishing the permanent Adalats; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage/impress upon the such State Governments for setting up these Adalats of their States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The following State Authorities have established Permanent Lok Adalats for Public Utility Services on the steps taken by NALSA:

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Chhattisgarh
5. Goa
6. Haryana
7. Himachal Pradesh
8. Jharkhand
9. Karnataka
10. Kerala
11. Madhya Pradesh
12. Meghalaya
13. Mizoram
14. Odisha
15. Punjab
16. Rajasthan
17. Sikkim
18. Tripura
19. Uttrakhand
20. U.T. of Chandigarh.

The State Governments of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have approved the proposals of the State Authorities for establishing Permanent Lok Adalats for Public Utility Services.

(c) and (d) The main hurdle in establishing Permanent Lok Adalats for Public Utility Services is providing of infrastructure and staff by the State Governments. In Delhi, due to objection by lawyers, the Permanent Lok Adalats could not be established. In Jammu & Kashmir, the J & K Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 does not contain the provision for Permanent Lok Adalats as the State of Jammu & Kashmir has a separate law. NALSA had convened a meeting of the Hon'ble Executive Chairpersons, Member Secretaries of State Legal Services Authorities, Law Secretaries and Finance Secretaries of State Governments on 11th & 12th July, 2009 to impress upon the State Authorities and State Governments for establishing Permanent Lok Adalats for Public Utility Services. It was resolved in that meeting that all States shall establish Permanent Lok Adalats in all Districts.

12.01 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now Papers to be laid.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2325/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 15 of the Notaries Act, 1952:

- (i) The Notaries (Second Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 700(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2009.
- (ii) The Notaries (Third Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 843(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2326/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2327/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Madam Speaker, 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 National Aviation Company of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Aviation Company of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2328/15/10]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the

Airports Authority of India and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2329/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited and the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2330/15/10]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited and the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2331/15/10]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited and the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2332/15/10]

- (4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited and the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2333/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the IRCON International Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2334/15/10]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the RITES Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2335/15/10]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2336/15/10]

- (4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Container Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2337/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Jute Industries' Research Association, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Jute Industries' Research Association, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2338/15/10]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Exports Promotion

Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Exports Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2339/15/10]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, Noida, for the year 2008-2009, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, Noida, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2340/15/10]

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadhoi, for the year 2008-2009, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadhoi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2341/15/10]

- (9) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Textile Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2342/15/10]

- (10) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the British India Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2343/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2344/15/10]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 618(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 19th March, 2010, authorizing the officers, not below the rank of Sales Officer, of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies, mentioned therein, to exercise power, with immediate effect, conferred under sub-clause (1) of Clause 13 of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000, issued under clause 13 of the said Order.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2345/15/10]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 38(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 18th January, 2010, containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 769(E) dated 20th October, 2009, issued under Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2346/15/10]

- (4) A copy of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Codes of Practices for Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plan (ERDMP) Regulations, 2010, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 39(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th January, 2010, under Section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2347/15/10]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board, New Delhi, for the period October, 2007 to March, 2009, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board, New Delhi, for the period October, 2007 to March, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2348/15/10]

- (6) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2349/15/10]

- (7) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2350/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2351/15/10]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2352/15/10]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the M/s Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2353/15/10]

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Instrumentation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2354/15/10]

(v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Richardson and Cruddas (1972) Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2355/15/10]

(vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry,

Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2356/15/10]

(vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bridge and Roof Company (India) Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2357/15/10]

(2) 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 Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 2008-2009, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2358/15/10]

12.03 hrs.

#### MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I have to report following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

(i) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Friday, the 12th March, 2010 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on Public Accounts:-



"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Lok Sabha for term beginning on the 1st May, 2010 and ending on the 30th April, 2011, and do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, seven Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha, have been duly elected to the said Committee:

1. Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz
2. Shri Ashwani Kumar
3. Shri Kalraj Mishra
4. Shri Prasanta Chatterjee
5. Shri N. Balaganga
6. Shri N. K. Singh
7. Shri Tiruchi Siva

3. I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Friday, the 12th March, 2010 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on Public Undertakings:

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the Lok Sabha for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2010 and ending on the 30th April, 2011, and do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, seven members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

4. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha, have been duly elected to the said Committee:

1. Ms. Mabel Rebello
2. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy
3. Shri Prakash Javadekar
4. Shri Naresh Gujral
5. Shri Tapan Kumar Sen
6. Shri Bharat Kumar Raut
7. Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya

5. I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Friday, the 12th March, 2010 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:

"That this House resolves that the Rajya Sabha do join the Committee of both the Houses on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2010 and ending on the 30th April, 2011, and do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, ten Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

6. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha, have been duly elected to the said Committee:

1. Shri Mukut Mithi
2. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
3. Ms. Sushila Tiriya
4. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
5. Miss Anusuiya Uikey

6. Shri Veer Singh
7. Shri Veer Singh Pal Yadav
8. Shri Thomas Sangma
9. Shri D. Raja
10. Shri Lahming Liana

- (6) Sixteenth Report on 'Disaster Management and Land Management in Indian Railways' relating to the Ministry of Railways.
- (7) Seventeenth Report on 'Conservation and Protection of Tigers in Tiger Reserves' relating to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- (8) Eighteenth Report on 'Procurement of Stores and Inventory Control' relating to the Department of Space.
- (9) Nineteenth Report on 'Freight and Wagon Management on Indian Railways' relating to the Ministry of Railways.
- (10) Twentieth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fifty-fifth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Development of Land by Delhi Development Authority' relating to the Ministry of Urban Development.

- (11) Twenty-first Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighty-third Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Cleanliness and Sanitation on Indian Railways' relating to the Ministry of Railways.

12.04½ hrs.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

##### 93rd and 94th Reports

[English]

SHRI SHIVARAMA GOUDA (Koppal): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce:

- (1) 93rd Report on Demands for Grants (2010-11) of the Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce and Industry); and
- (2) 94th Report on Demands for Grants (2010-11) of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (Ministry of Commerce and Industry).

12.04 hrs.

#### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

##### 11th to 21st Reports

[English]

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE (Beed): Madam Speaker, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee-(2009-10):

- (1) Eleventh Report on 'Non-compliance by Ministries/ Departments in timely submission of Action Taken Notes on Non-selected Audit Paragraphs' relating to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure).
- (2) Twelfth Report on 'Functioning of A.D.G.E.S. Radar, Procurement of Special Clothing and Mountaineering Equipment and Delay in Execution/Renewal of lease' relating to the Ministry of Defence.
- (3) Thirteenth Report on 'Revenue loss due to delay in levy of Toll Fees' relating to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- (4) Fourteenth Report on 'Administration of Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund' relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications).
- (5) Fifteenth Report on 'Loss of Revenue due to Short Levy of Tax, Incorrect Classification of Excisable Goods and Non-fulfilment of Export Obligation' relating to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

12.05 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN  
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**222nd Report**

SHRI P.K. BIJU (Alathur): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the Two Hundred Twenty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Demands for Grants 2010-11 (Demand No. 58) of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

12.05½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC  
GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE**

**38th and 39th Reports**

*[English]*

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (Ludhiana): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice:

- (1) 38th Report on Demands for Grants (2010-11) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- (2) 39th Report on Demands for Grants (2010-11) of the Ministry of Law and Justice.

12.06 hrs.

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

- (i) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 3rd Report of Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2009-10) pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2359/15/10.

KHURSHEED): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the statement on the status of the implementation of recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants for the year 2009-10 of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, in pursuance of the direction 73A of the Directions by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha under Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

2. The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) presented its Third Report on the Demands for Grants for the year 2009-2010, relating to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, to the Lok Sabha on 17th December, 2009. The recommendations were considered and the action taken by the Government on the recommendations were submitted to the Committee on 9th April, 2010.
3. The Report contained 18 recommendations. The present status of implementation of all these 18 recommendations is indicated in the Annexure which is laid on the Table of the House.

12.06½ hrs.

**ELECTION TO COMMITTEE**

**Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical  
Sciences and Technology**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Madam, on behalf of Shri Prithviraj Chavan, I beg to move the following:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (j) of section 5 read with sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 6 of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, Act, 1980, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Sree Chitra

Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (j) of section 5 read with sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 6 of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, Act, 1980, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder."

*The motion was adopted*

12.07 hrs.

#### SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

**Re: Riots of 1984 in which a large number  
of Sikhs were killed.**

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, we take 'Zero Hour'.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL (Bhatinda): Madam Speaker, with a heavy heart, I rise today once again to remind this House of one of the darkest days in the history of this country where 26 years ago, a genocide took place and was carried on for three full days. The same Ruling Party, with six years today in office, was the party in power at that time 26 years ago. Members of a certain community were targeted, hunted, butchered, massacred and killed mercilessly for having committed no crime, for not having committed a murder and for not having looted. They were not asked and they were not saved and nobody came to their rescue. And the very perpetrators, the people who were supposed to protect

the people, watched, while the law-makers of the country turned a blind eye and took no steps to stop the genocide of 7,000 innocent Sikhs, which took place in the capital of our country and throughout the nation.

Madam, the entire country had witnessed it for three days. I would like to ask if there is any Member in this House who does not know who was behind this genocide, who will put his heart on his conscience and swear on the heads of his children that he does not know which Ruling Party was responsible for this. I would like to ask if there is one Member in this House who says that even a single person has been brought to book, who had encouraged and abetted this genocide.

Madam, today leave aside what I say, I would just like to put in front of you the recorded statements of some of the well-known and most respected members of this country and of our community. I first speak about Shri I.K. Gujral, the former Prime Minister of India. I will just read out a few excerpts.

"On 1st November 1984, I contacted the President of India. He advised me to visit the affected areas and also contact the Government. I considered it very odd as President of the country is telling me to do this.

During my talk with the Home Minister, I could notice that he did not know many details about what was happening in the country.

I noticed houses were burning, trucks were burning. I received a call from General Aurora and I was informed.

General Aurora is a war hero in front of whom 91,000 Pakistani troops had surrendered. It further reads:

"Along with Patwant Singh and Air Chief Marshal Arjan Singh and others, had met the President of India and returned disappointed by his response.

We had decided to go and meet the Home Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao and I had seen various incidents of burning properties on my way to the Home Minister's house and return, I could see there was no attempt to either get hold of the people or to extinguish the

fire. I was stopped on the way twice by a crowd carrying lathis, shouting slogans. Some of them came near my car, opened the door and inquired if there was any Sikh inside. "

Madam, there are many other incidents how he met the Lt. Governor and took whatever steps he could think of. It further says:

"On 5th November, Shri Chandra Shekhar and myself visited the refugee camps in Trans-Yamuna, There were 7,000 to 8,000 men, women and children in the police station. I asked the SHO how it was that so many incidents had taken place in his locality and why no one was arrested. He told me that he had arrested 10 persons, but they took them away. At that stage Shri Chandra Shekhar had asked him as to who had taken them away, but the SHO was silent. From what I had seen and from what I heard from the people in the refugee camp, it appeared to me that the riots were organised. The ex-Prime Minister of this country is giving this statement! The riots were organised, particularly, because so many people have taken part in the riots. They were spread all over the town. The persons in the refugee camps named certain people. I went to the house of Shri Musafir who was attacked by the mob and he said that local goondas attacked his house. He was a Congressman, yet his house was attacked. I was told by Shri Jagmohan Singh Kochar, Member of the Corporation that he had fired in the air to thwart the mob, but he also told me that in the mob he could identify four persons who belonged to the Congress Party and were his colleagues in this crime who perpetrated this crime."

Madam. I will speak about General Aurora – the war hero.

"We could make out that a highly volatile situation was developing and if it is not controlled by timely action, then it could flare up beyond all proportions. A delegation comprising of myself, Arjun Singh and Gruchar Bachan Singh called upon the President who on appeal the President said that I have no powers to intervene. We were all amazed to hear this

remark coming out from the mouth of no other than the President of the country who was even otherwise morally and constitutionally bound to protect the lives and properties of innocent citizens, of India. Our queries from the President were whether Army had been called in to restore law and order. He said that I am not in contact with the Home Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and requested me to speak to the Home Minister. I telephoned the Home Minister from the Rashtrapati Bhawan, but was told that he is not available. Sardar Patwant Singh, I. K. Gujral and myself went to the house of the Home Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao without appointment. We reached at 3 pm and we were surprised to see that there was no meeting in progress. Absolute calm was prevailing in his house. The situation looked very normal and did not reflect that half the city was in flames and murders were taking place in widespread areas. Our request to the Home Minister came out no meeting was going on and when I asked him whether Army was being called the Home Minister replied that it would be here in the evening. When I asked him how it is being deployed, he said the Area Commander will decide. We noticed that the approach of the Home Minister was very casual and he did not seem to be concerned at all about the Sikhs being butchered in large scale and bloodshed. This is the Home Minister who is not bothered. The arrangements including setting up of a Joint Control Room are normally completed before the Army is deployed. We noticed that although the GOC of Delhi area was in town, but the Home Minister made no effort to contact him. The Home Minister was grossly negligent in his attitude and I along with my wife had to leave my house and spent the night at I.K. Gujral's house."

This is the war hero of our country!

Shri Shanti Bhushan, a renowned lawyer —

"They went to the affected areas and said that no action was being taken. We then decided to form a group of lawyers and go to the affected areas. The group of lawyers consisted of Shri Ram Jethmalani,

Shri Fali Nariman, Shri Soli Sorabjee, Shrimati Rani Jethmalani, Shri Prashant Bhushan and many others. We visited Shakarpur and many other places and they saw that there were many dead bodies of Sikhs who had been killed and some bodies were still burning. They saw police officials with their name plates and their clothes, but got the impression that they were doing nothing to stop the killings. When we were watching the TV broadcast, we heard slogans "khooon ka badla khooon se lenge". Madam, on the TV of this country these are the slogans being shouted. I am not saying this. Thereafter, I noticed that the then Prime Minister was present at the place and was bound to have heard these slogans."

I also remember that the then Prime Minister said in a public speech after a few days of the violence that: "when a big tree falls, the earth shatters." Madam, the Prime Minister of a country says this! The Home Minister is not bothered! What do you think is going to happen to those 7,000 innocent Sikhs who are butchered?

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Member, it is a very sad incident, which you are talking about.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: It is very sensitive and very sad. But please come to the point as to what exactly you want from the Central Government today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: I first want to let the Members of this House realize what all had happened. Please give me a few more minutes to mention what the renowned people have said. There are plenty of us who had forgotten it and who would like to forget it also.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Please listen to this. Until our conscience wakes up, no action is going to take place. It is high time that the conscience of the people of this country and the leaders of this nation is awakened.

Madam, Madhu Kishwar, a journalist and a human rights' activist said, "I personally witnessed some carnage and successfully tried to stop the mob." ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Have courage to listen ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Know the truth ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You also sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Am I saying anything wrong or any lie or am I saying anything on my behalf, these are the recorded statements of famous persons, not my statements. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

These are the recorded statements. These statements are not from me, but they were made by well-known and respected people of this country, this nation. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

this is the fact. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: You cannot forget this fact. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Harsimrat Kaur ji come right to the point. what you want from the Central Government and what it should do.

...(Interruptions)

*[English]*

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Madam, at least, let me put in front of the House what took place at that time. There was one incident concerning one Gurjeet Kaur ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

Am I speaking anything wrong.

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: She is coming to the point.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Madam, since I am not being given an opportunity to speak. I demand ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

Have I spoken anything wrong. Since this is not related to their children they will not let me speak. Am I speaking anything wrong? Have I said anything wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Gulshanji, you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Ajnala ji, you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: What you want from the Central Government you tell that only thing.

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Joint Commissions, barring one, were constituted during the Congress regime ... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MADAM SPEAKER: She must conclude. She prolonged it too much. Let her conclude now. Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude. There are other people to speak in 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: You have already spoken.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down. Harsimratji now please conclude.

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\*Not recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]**[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

MADAM SPEAKER: You please keep quiet only then you will listen him. First you please sit down. Harsimratji, now please conclude.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: I have given her so much time, now she should conclude.

Please conclude. Please tell us what you want from the Central Government.

*...(Interruptions)**...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now you must conclude.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Madam, as far as words are concerned, we have got them from the Prime Minister of this country also who has said that it shall be our honest attempt to wipe away tears from every suffering eye. If cases needed to be re-opened or re-examined, the Government will take all possible steps. This has already been said by the Prime Minister of the country. What further assurance? *...(Interruptions)**...(Interruptions)*SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: The Director of CBI overruled the recommendations. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Hon. Minister wants to say something. Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please wind up.

*[Translation]**...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You now please sit down. When you sit down only then the Minister will speak.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Even now, instead of getting re-investigated, the cases are being closed. There is a case against Shri Sajjan Kumar, FIR No.67 of 87 which was registered in 1987 has not been filed in the FIR records. For 18 years, FIR has not been filed. *...(Interruptions)* I would like an answer. Why has it not been done? *...(Interruptions)**[English]*SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: I may be allowed to complete first. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: I have given you so much time and I have been telling you to say what you want from the Central Government. Just one minute, let the Minister say.

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: All right. Hon. Minister is responding. Please sit down and take your seat.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, what happened in 1984 was not only tragic but was a most shameful act. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. TARUN MONDAL (Joynagar): I would like to associate myself with the views and sentiments expressed by Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

*[Translation]*SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: I would like to say what the Prime Minister of the country has said. We have received these words for long enough now. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you standing? Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*



*[English]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, what happened in 1984 was not only the most tragic incident after 1947 but one of the most shameful acts. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down. Let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)**[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Prime Minister has apologized several times. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, this is not fair. She has taken 25 minutes and she is not letting me say even a few words. She converted this into a full scale accusation, Madam, and she is not letting me say a word.

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down. Let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)**[English]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: She did not let me say what I wanted to say, Madam. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down. Now let him speak.

*[English]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, I was submitting that the anti-Sikh riots of 1984 were not only the most tragic incident in the country after 1947 but one of the most shameful ones. Madam, the mayhem that was perpetrated was because the man turned monster. Every

right thinking person in the country really felt sad at that. This is a matter on which there is no difference of opinion in any party. People share the same view cutting across the party lines. With uttermost humility I would like to remind the hon. Member, she was not here then, that the Prime Minister then said, "This madness must stop". This is what was said by him. This matter has been discussed a number of times here. The hon. Prime Minister, in a debate sometime back when he ordered re-inquiry into the matter, apologized in this House itself. I happened to participate in the discussion then. It was a discussion at that time aimed not to whip up passions in the country. Today, I am sorry to say Madam, we have to really have a sort of self restraint. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

*[English]*

Please listen to the hon. Minister.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, my concern only is ...*(Interruptions)* Madam, my concern only is ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please listen.

*[Translation]*

Please sit down. They have listened to you. Now you listen.

*[English]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, my concern only is, I am repeating that word again and I want all the Members to hear that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what the Minister is saying.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, my concern today is that when we refer to the black deeds of the past,

\*Not recorded.

we must in fact ensure that no word uttered by us leads to sort of a schism in the society again. It was in fact the darkest period of our time. But we have overcome that with the passage of time. Today if we try to bake the political cake on the funeral pyre of the victims, the country is heading for a bad day. ...*(Interruptions)* Madam, what followed those dark days was ten years of terrorism in the country. Terrorism stalked the country. Punjab suffered during that period. ...*(Interruptions)* And these people did not have the courage to come out. If Mrs. Harsimrat wants me to tell her what was being said by the Chief Minister of the State at that time, that was a personal conversation. I am aware of that. ...*(Interruptions)* Who were the people ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister is saying.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Finally I want to make a point and assure this House and the country that this Government would never misuse any official machinery ...*(Interruptions)* That was precisely the reason why the Prime Minister ordered that cases be reopened against some people. ...*(Interruptions)* That is not fair on the part of any hon. Member...*(Interruptions)* Judiciary is independent in this country. Everybody knows about it. If there is an order by a court, there are remedies available, Madam. What the Prime Minister did was, he directed that cases be reopened. That demonstrates amply and loudly the intention and the bona fide of this Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, my request is, let us not whip up passions in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.31 hrs.

#### STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS - *Contd.*

##### (ii) **Involvement of official in the High Commission of India in Islamabad**

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Statement by Minister, Shrimati Preneet Kaur.

\*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): Madam Speaker, I rise to inform this august House that as a result of our counter intelligence efforts we had reason to believe that an official in the High Commission of India in Islamabad had been passing information to the Pakistan Intelligence Agencies. The position occupied by the official did not involve access to highly classified material. The official is now cooperating with us in our inquiries. At this stage, for national security reasons, it is not possible to divulge more detail about the information that may have been compromised or to comment on this case as our investigations are continuing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T.2360/15/10]

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Don't level charges. No allegations, please. No charges.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Rest of the matters of Urgent Public Importance will be taken up at the end of the day.

Hon. Members, there shall be no lunch-break today.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.33 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 \*

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Just a minute, I have an announcement to make.

Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Hon. Members are requested to send slips immediately, as per practice.

\*Treated as laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

**(i) Need to provide special financial package to the Government of Manipur to implement the recommendations of Sixth Central Pay Commission**

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): The Manipur State Government employees have been on strike for the last more than three months demanding implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations in toto. So far, the State Government employees enjoy the same pay structure at par with their counterparts in the Central Government. The Government of Manipur does not have enough resources and revenues to meet these demands. Thus, in spite of the sincere attempt by the State Government to give its employees the full benefits of the sixth pay commission recommendations, it appears to be helpless.

Now, even if the government applies the principle of no work no pay to the striking employees, the employees are in no mood to withdraw the agitation. Hence a tricky situation arises. Another scenario is that IAS/IPS officers and many other Central Government employees in the state including a large number of Military & Para-military forces have already got the full benefits of the Sixth Pay Commission recommendation w.e.f. January, 2006.

I do feel that the demands of the State Government employees are justified.

At this critical juncture, it is my earnest request and appeal to the Union Government to help the State Government to mitigate the situation by granting a special package of grant-in-aid for the implementation of the sixth pay commission recommendations in toto.

**(ii) Need to drop the proposal to give cash instead of foodgrains to BPL families and continue with the present system of distribution of foodgrains to BPL families through Public Distribution System**

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (North East Delhi):

The Central Government provides ration at low price to the citizens living below poverty line under Public Distribution System through State governments. Through this central scheme the poor get foodgrains to eat. But now a proposal to provide cash instead of foodgrains is under consideration of the Government which is not logical. If this proposal is implemented, then a fixed amount of cash will be provided to the poor in place of foodgrains.

It is an open secret that if the head of a poor family gets cash in place of foodgrains then it is likely that he will use this amount for his personal needs and not to nurture his family members. In such circumstances, there will be misuse of Central aid and a family which was dependent on the foodgrains provided by the Centre for a living will be deprived of this facility.

Therefore, it is my request to the Central Government to reject this proposal immediately and if it is somehow necessary to consider this proposal then a final decision on the said scheme should be taken after consulting public representatives and other social organizations in this regard.

**(iii) Need to undertake expansion and modernization of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Railway Station in Mumbai, Maharashtra**

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD (Mumbai South Central): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the government towards the historical Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) railway station situated in the financial capital of the country, Mumbai. Madam, the proposal for expansion and modernization of this terminus has been under consideration of the Ministry of Railways for a long time. Development of about 20 acres land near the C.S.T. station was proposed to be undertaken for construction of a new terminal on BOT basis. Maharashtra government has repeatedly brought up this proposal but it is still under consideration of the Ministry of Railways.

Hence, Madam, I request the government to implement the proposal regarding expansion and modernization of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus at the earliest keeping in view the inconvenience being faced by the passengers and its historical importance.

**(iv) Need to include Jodhpur City under the Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission Scheme**

*[English]*

SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI (Jodhpur): Jodhpur is the second largest city of Rajasthan. It has a population of about 30 lakhs (Ten Lakhs Urban, 20 lakhs Rural Population) as per the 2001 Census. It comes under the category "B" city. The Government of India has launched Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission for fast track, planned development of select cities with focus on efficiency in urban infrastructure. Jodhpur city is over 500 years old and has historical and religious importance besides being an important place of tourism. It meets all the criteria to be qualified for inclusion in the Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. I would urge upon the Union Urban Development Minister to kindly include Jodhpur as the 66th city under the above-mentioned scheme at the earliest.

**(v) Need to provide infrastructural facilities of international standards at Jaipur and Ajmer railway stations in Rajasthan**

*[(Translation)]*

SHRI MAHESH JOSHI (Jaipur): Hon. Railway Minister had announced in his budget speech for 2009-2010 that 50 railway stations in the country would be developed as world class railway stations equipped with amenities at par with international standards. Jaipur and Ajmer railway stations were also included amongst those 50 stations but, no step has been taken to equip these railway stations with world class amenities even though the term of the previous budget session has got over.

I urge the Hon. Minister to fulfil the promise made in his budget speech for 2009-2010 at the earliest and take steps to upgrade the Jaipur station, Aimer station and other railway stations into world class stations without delay.

**(vi) Need to provide financial assistance to the fruit and paddy growers who lost their crops due**

**to heavy hailstorm in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh**

*[English]*

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY (Anantapur):

The recent unexpected and unprecedented hailstorm in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh has resulted in very heavy damages to crops in this drought-prone district. The sudden hailstorm in the last week with high velocity gale has seriously affected the crop of mango, banana, oranges and sapota in the district. Due to shortage of water, the farmers in this district tend towards growing of fruits which need less water. The banana and orange crop was almost ready for harvesting when the nature has turned its fury on them. Before the farmers could recover from this, unexpectedly there was very heavy gale at very high velocity last week because of which banana crop and also mango trees have been uprooted. In succession, within a period of a fortnight, there have been three incidents of heavy hailstorm and gale in Anantapur district alone and the banana crop in more than 3,000 acres in the district has been completely destroyed. This has resulted in a loss of more than Rs. Fifteen crore to the farmers in Anantapur district.

The investment by the farmers in these banana, mango and orange crops is heavy and the compensation being offered by the State Government is much less and does not meet even a small percentage of the investment made. The Central Government should consider giving insurance coverage to these crops. There should be a national policy for providing insurance coverage in cases of such natural calamities for horticulture products. The Government may also consider including the work of clearing the debris caused by such natural fury under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA so that there could be some solace to the farmers.

The Government should provide immediate financial assistance to the farmers who have lost their banana, orange, sapota and paddy crops in this unexpected hailstorm in the district.

**(vii) Need to utilize the services of Navy for training youths in swimming and rescue operations in case of incidents of drowning in various parts of the country**

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): Kerala is a land of rivers, lakes, and land situated between backwaters and sea. Apart from this, in the hilly districts such as Idukki there are water bodies of different dams. Every year hundreds of lives are lost due to drowning. In most of the cases the victims are students. Boat tragedies such as one that took place in Thekkady are not uncommon. One of the reasons for high death toll is due to the fact that people don't know swimming. Now, Naval forces arrive on the scene of tragedies only to get back the dead bodies. I request that Navy may be pressed into service for training the youths in swimming and rescue operation. Two methods can be adopted by Navy in this regard. One is by establishing N.C.C. naval wing in all schools and colleges. The second is by rendering help to regional swimming clubs of youths. I request the Government to consider this matter seriously and save the precious lives.

**(viii) Need to ensure adequate supply of wheat in Lakshadweep**

SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED (Lakshadweep): I represent the Lakshadweep Parliamentary constituency which is socially & economically backward. It is also geographically isolated from the mainland. In my constituency there is lack of wheat supply in all the islands. Wheat is not grown there. It is transported from the mainland. Totally 250 mt of wheat will be sufficient for consumption of the islanders. Hence, I request the Union Government to ensure the supply of 250 MT of wheat to the poor scheduled tribe islanders.

**(ix) Need to add more categories of works under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme and increase the annual allocation of funds under this scheme**

[Translation]

SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO (Dhule): Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an important issue.

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Fund Scheme is an important scheme. But, as per the guidelines for the distribution of funds under the said scheme, certain development works cannot be undertaken with these funds. I would like inclusion of such undermentioned development works in the guidelines:

1. Permission for procurement of books for libraries under the MPLADS funds.
2. Permission to provide ambulances to government institutions under the MPLADS funds.
3. Madam, it has been made mandatory for local autonomous institutions to contribute a share of funds for a number of central and state projects. Often such institutions do not have the means to contribute their share of funds and hence are unable to avail the benefits of such projects. Therefore, permission to grant such amounts under the MPLADS fund is needed.
4. Demands for various development works in the constituencies are increasingly being made. Also, the cost of development works is increasing day-by-day due to rising inflation. In view of the said facts, the provision for Local Area Development Fund may be raised to five crore rupees at least.

**(x) Need to implement GPF-cum-Pension Scheme for the employees of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya who joined services before 01.01.2004**

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (Shimla): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, G.P.F. cum Pension Scheme under CCS. Pension Rules, 1972 has not been made applicable for officers and staff who joined service before 01.01.2004 although this scheme is applicable for all other employees. This has led to resentment among officers and staff working in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas across the country and the Government of India has been apprised of this matter frequently over the years. The resentment has also been expressed through agitations. However, the problem has

not been satisfactorily resolved till now. Hence, through you, I request the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Human Resources Development Minister to take immediate action to make the G.P.F. cum Pension Scheme applicable for all the serving employees in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya who joined service before 01.01.2004 so that their problem is resolved and they are able to give their best to the nation.

**(xi) Need to provide special status to Northern Karnataka Region consisting of Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar and Koppal districts to remove backwardness and regional imbalances**

*[English]*

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA (Bangalore North): There are 175 Taluks in the State of Karnataka out of which 144 Taluks are backward. Most of these Taluks, numbering about 59, are in Northern Karnataka. Gulbarga is one of the most backward districts in Karnataka. Crops failure is rampant in Northern Karnataka. Water is scarce. Farmers are burdened with debt. In this background, the State Government of Karnataka constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa to make recommendations to remove the regional imbalances in Karnataka especially in Northern Karnataka. The Committee found that Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar and Koppal forming part of Northern Karnataka region, were the most backward and made several recommendations to remove backwardness and regional imbalance. The State is doing its best to address the problems of backwardness and regional imbalances, but the resources of the State alone cannot solve this gigantic problem and needs the assistance from the Central Government. There has been long pending demand of the State of Karnataka for amending article 371 of the Constitution and providing special status to Northern Karnataka region namely, Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar and Koppal. Hence, I urge upon the Central Government to take necessary steps to provide special status to Northern Karnataka region by amending Article 371 of the Constitution as has been done in cases of several states like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland.

**(xii) Need to extend Rewanchal Express running between Rewa and Bhopal upto Indore**

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): There is no direct rail link between Indore and Rewa, while in view of the geographical, social and industrial importance of both the towns, it is very important. The Rewanchal Express which presently runs between Rewa to Bhopal can be extended upto Indore which will not only establish direct rail link from Rewa to Indore but will also give benefit to the residents of Sagar and Damoh area. There will be no need to add any additional passenger coach while extending the said train to Indore.

I request the Hon. Minister that the said passenger train be immediately extended upto Indore.

**(xiii) Need to provide medical facilities to all the Central Government pensioners under Central Government Health Scheme**

*[English]*

DR. RATNA DE (Hooghly): The Central Government Pensioners get Rs. 100/-p.m. along with their monthly pension as medical assistance, which is too less to defray medical expenses like consultation charge, medicine and allied expenses. In these hard days, the cost of medicine has gone up beyond the reach of common people. Now a days, most of the pensioners suffer from hypertension, blood sugar, heart and kidney ailments. The cost of medicine to combat these diseases, is extremely high and it becomes impossible on the part of the pensioners to bear the cost of high priced drugs and due to this treatment is abandoned in almost all cases in the mid way of spell of treatment inviting high risk to life. It is a fact that the Government Hospitals do not supply medicines to any out patients and in case of any complication or emergency they are compelled to get admitted in private hospitals at the cost of their own savings. The medical assistance of pensioners may please be ensured by providing them Central Governmental Health Scheme facility against normal premium and by opening the dispensaries of CGHS at district headquarters.

**(xiv) Need to engage 'Central Silk Board' in procurement of raw silk and its supply to weavers at a reasonable price**

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): There has been a phenomenal increase in the procurement price of yarn Zari and raw Silk pushing handloom and silk weavers virtually on the brink of poverty. Steep rise in the price of raw materials has thrown their lives out of gear. On an average, our country produces just 15,00 tonnes of raw silk against the demand of 30000 tonnes approximately. This shortage was met through imports mostly from China. Taking advantage of the shortage, few silk exporters procured the raw silk from China and sold at higher price. So Government should intervene to ensure that the market mechanism is not influenced by the private traders, besides directing the Central Silk Board to procure the raw material and supply the same to the weavers directly.

**(xv) Need to redefine the parameters for determination of poverty level with a view to have an equitable allocation of funds for the poverty alleviation programmes**

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kottayam): For long, India has been evolving poverty alleviation policies and programmes using questionable parameters for determining poverty levels in the country, thereby implementing the programmes and projects targeted for families living Below Poverty Line (BPL). Mostly our Public Distribution System (PDS) and delivery of social welfare measures revolve around concept of poverty levels. The dividing line between the privileged and the under-privileged has become blurred beyond recognition as pointed out in the latest United Nations Social Development Index.

The incidence of poverty is common to all strata of society irrespective of the income levels, as has been proved by the recent global recession. Globally, there are diverse and varied benchmarks to determine the levels of poverty, wherein arises the contradictions. According to the World Bank benchmark, those with daily incomes of below one dollar are identified as the poor. However, while there has been a decline in the poverty level globally, over the past two and half decades, the incidence of

hunger among the vulnerable has only increased, as per a study conducted by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN-FAO). The report also reveals that mere economic development need not translate into poverty alleviation.

Though the government's efforts in the area of poverty alleviation are laudable, the targeting of the beneficiaries has been faulty, says the findings of the UN report. Since the UN and the World Bank have been funding India's poverty alleviation programmes in a major way, we should consider mid-course corrections of our assessments on poverty levels, hitherto based on wrong assumptions.

I would, therefore, urge the Government to redefine the concept of determining the poverty levels across all strata of society for equitable and meaningful allocation of funds for the poverty alleviation programmes.

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12.34 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 2010 - *Contd.*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House will now take up item no. 20.

Shri Kalyan Banerjee.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (Sreerampur): Madam, in support of the Finance Bill, 2010, first, I wish to point out the new economic order of the UPA Government. In view of the provisions of the Finance Bill, 2010, and the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission Report, which shows that there are two economic orders - old and the new. I want to give a comparative figure of both these economic orders. Firstly, the average cumulative burden of all indirect taxes was 22 per cent.

Now, by the reason of the new economic order, which has been inducted by the Finance Bill, the average cumulative burden of all indirect taxes has come to 10-12 per cent. Secondly, in the old economic order, the companies deal with tax laws and officials of up to 28

States; in the new economic order, there is one tax law and system across India. Thirdly, by reason of the old economic order, dozens of different taxes and several products taxed at different rates in different States. In the new economic order, there are only two tax rates - one, for the Centre and another for all the States applicable uniformly. Fourth point is the individual income above Rs. 5 lakh a year was taxed at 33 per cent. In the new economic order, individual income above Rs.25 lakh is taxed at 30 per cent. Fifth, tax saving investments of up to Rs.1 lakh every year was allowed; in the new economic order, tax saving investment of up to Rs.3 lakh is allowed every year. Sixth, every one crore man hours and Rs.3,35,000 crore lost in tax compliances. In the new economic order, substantial reduction in time and money spent on tax compliances and dispute resolution. Seventh, as a market, India has fragmented and therefore, was weak. In the new economic order, a strong common market with free movement of products and services is there. Eighth is India is one of the fast growing economies, but one of the toughest places to do business, but in the new economic order, India is one of the largest global economies and is easier to do business with and in.

Under the new financial order, in view of the provisions drafted under section 2 of the Finance Bill, 2010, what has been done is this - the new tax rate which was mostly discussed since yesterday and which needs to be discussed - no. tax need to be paid up to Rs.1.6 lakh. This is the important part of the current IT structure. There is criticism on this - whether the tax of 10 per cent charged up to Rs. 3 lakh should be there or deserves to be there or not.

I was looking into the figures after the Pay Commission's suggestions and recommendations, which have already been made applicable to all the public sector undertakings. Earlier, whatever one mazdoor was getting, at the ground level as far as the new entrant is concerned, it was about Rs. 13,000. If he had put in 10 years of service, then, he would get about Rs.20,000. In view of the new Pay Commission's recommendation, this is the figure, which has been extended to all. The question for consideration is whether the mazdoor is aam admi or not.

If he is, then in view of the Pay Commission's recommendations, if he gets Rs.20,000-Rs.22,000 per month, it comes to Rs. 3 lakh a year. If the benefits of tax concessions have been extended, it will be to the minimum level of persons. The question is who is aam admi. Whether the middle class person, a clerk of a public sector undertaking, a clerk of a Railway Department, a clerk of a Central Government, a clerk of even the Parliament Secretariat itself would be treated as aam admi or not. If he gets a salary of Rs.20,000-Rs.25,000 per month in today's pay structure, he gets the benefit of taxes.

If we go by the calculation, we will see that 73 per cent employees have got tax benefits on today's pay structure, which has been extended up to Rs.5 lakh. This was the core discussion since yesterday. The main thrust or the argument was on that. So, if one saves and if he gets up to Rs.3 lakh, no additional taxes are being levied.

In the case of income up to Rs.4 lakh the tax benefit given is Rs. 10,300; in the case of income up to Rs.5 lakh the tax benefit given is Rs.20,600 and in the case of income up to Rs.6 lakh the tax benefit given is Rs.30,900. It was discussed yesterday as to whether retrospective effect is to be given to the various provisions of the Finance Bill. That was the criticism which was discussed yesterday. With great respect I would like to say that whenever a retrospective effect is given it does not become an Act or it does not have any prejudicial effect. When a valuable right or a vested right is taken away by reason of any Act, the retrospective effect becomes bad. It is not shown anywhere here that vested right of anybody has been taken away and, therefore, the mere expression of 'retrospective effect' does not make the Act bad.

I would seriously dispute the railway service tax that has been imposed. I have raised it earlier also and I would repeat it today, kindly withdraw the service taxes which have been imposed on the railways. The hon. Railway Minister did not increase a single paise either in the case of passenger fare or freight fare. Rather the hon. Railway Minister has given concession in the freight fare. A benefit of Rs.100 is being given on the carriage of essential commodities. If this service tax is imposed it will



[Shri Kalyan Banerjee]

have an indirect effect on the fare which was not at all intended by the Railway Minister. This will result in a heavy burden on the Railways. In the Railway Budget, the Railway Minister has given her intention not to increase the fare but if this service tax is imposed on the Railways it will lead to a tremendous liability for the Railways and it has to carry on with that liability. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider this aspect of the matter where the service tax has been imposed. Earlier also we had said that the service tax is not required to be imposed on the individual services. It had continued last year. I would repeat and say that if it is not taken into consideration the Railways will have to bear a huge liability and it will have to carry on that liability without any avenue of income.

This has been discussed yesterday also that in the current year the fiscal deficit as a percentage of the GDP has narrowed down to 6.9 per cent. This includes oil and the fertiliser bonds. Down from 7-8 per cent in 2008 to 2009, the projection for the coming year is 5.5 per cent. Economists experiencing fiscal nightmare for the past year over the Government's galloping deficit, the gap between income and expenditure, were happy to see that the Finance Minister returned to the path of prudence. At the same time, I wish to point out that when the GDP has gone down I do not find the benefits, which are required to be given to the most affected Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, given to them. The Government should be more practical in this regard.

Today we see the Maoist and the Naxalite activities are going on in areas where really no development has taken place since Independence. In such areas a number of public sector undertakings are having their mining operations. These areas have steel factories and other big heavy industries. They also have the forest reserves. In such areas naxal activities are going on. It is because the Government or the big enterprises and the big industrialists have not, in return, extended the benefits extracted by them from the operations carried out in these areas. Madam, do you know who live in these areas?

Who lives there? The persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes live there. If we get a population chart, we would find that 80 to 85 per cent Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons live in and around that area. Unfortunately, for decades together CSR benefits have not been extended there. Had they been extended, we would have seen some other picture in our country today. We would not have seen maoist and naxalite activities in those areas. Therefore, I would make a request that specific provisions should be made by amending the Finance Bill for giving benefits to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of those areas, especially, hilly areas, areas where mining operations are going on and forest areas. The other day I said and at the cost of repetition I would say that again that you should bring a new law in this august House for giving rights of forest to the persons who live in forests.

In the present Finance Bill certain benefits have been extended but I would say that these benefits should also be extended to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would just give a chart of remarkable allocations made in the Budget and through Forest Act. There is one per cent loan interest subsidy for houses costing up to Rs.20 lakh; farm loan repayment is by six months - still by 30 June, 2010; Defence allocation is at Rs. 1,47,300 crore in 2010-11; Rs. 1,73,552 crore has been provided for infrastructure development; outlay for social restructure is pegged at Rs. 1,37,674 crore; social sector outlay is 37 per cent of the total Plan allocation; and allocation for women and child development is hiked by 80 per cent. But with great respect I would submit that no such allocation has been made in case of minorities. We have got the figures for the last four years. The UPA-I had appointed Sachar Committee and we have got its report. We also have the report of Ranganath Mishra Committee. It is very clear that really no development has taken place in the case of minorities. It has been pointed out by both the reports—Sachar Committee and Ranganath Mishra Committee. I would submit that discussions should be held in this regard in future by fixing some time. At the same time, when these things have been pointed out certain benefits should have been extended to minorities. I am not saying it simply for the sake of minority. In our

Hindus also we have Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But the persons belonging to minority live much below poverty line. We have to identify them and have to extend benefits to those areas. I have seen in some areas where a large number of persons belonging to minority communities live that normally 60 to 70 per cent people of that area live much below poverty line. I have seen this in my area of Asansol when I was M.L.A. where about 90 per cent people live below poverty line. Therefore, these benefits have to be extended to them.

I have already mentioned the benefits which have been given. The allocation for health and family welfare is Rs.22300 crore and Rs.66100 crore have been allocated for rural development. There is a proposal to set up Coal Development Regulatory Authority. Then allocation to power sector is more than double at Rs.50130 crore. These are some of the remarkable allocations that have been made.

Madam, I would like to refer to another very important aspect and that is about the loan agreement of farmers. The interest rate has been decreased from 7 per cent to 5 per cent within a period of just eight months. It was decreased from 7.2 per cent to 6 per cent in 2009 and now in the year 2010 it has been decreased to 5 per cent. The procurement price, on the other hand, has been increased from Rs. 650 per quintal to Rs. 1100 per quintal which has been straightway going to the farmers themselves.

Madam, another aspect to which I would like to make a reference is to the idea of building a corpus, being done for the first time, namely, the National Clean Energy Fund by way of imposing cess on coal produced in India as well as on imported coal at the rate of Rs. 50 per tonne which gets appreciated. This, we think, is an obligation that the Government has to discharge for keeping the environment clean. In the State of West Bengal 25 per cent cess is collected from coal production. What is the law on cess? The law on cess says that whenever it is collected it has to be spent in the area itself. But unfortunately it is not being done in our State. There are large areas under coal mining in the district of Burdwan in West Bengal,

particularly in the Asansol belt. 25 per cent cess is collected but it has not been spent. Now, the point is that it has to be seen that the purpose for which the cess is being collected is spent accordingly for that purpose. If a cess is collected for a definite purpose, then it has to be monitored to see that it is spent for that purpose only. In the words of Shri Yashwant Sinha I would like to say that it has to be seen whether the cess collected is spent for the purpose for which it has been collected or is being spent for extraneous purposes.

I have already mentioned about the education loan. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister about reconsidering his proposal for imposition of taxes on petroleum products. VAT is collected by all the States, including our State. In our State the VAT collected on petroleum products is the highest. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly reconsider reduction of taxes on the petroleum products.

With these words, I support the Finance Bill, 2010 and would also like to remind again that there is nothing to be worried about the expression 'retrospective' as it does not intend to bring anything new and I have already mentioned about that earlier.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigadh): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me time to speak on the Finance Bill. Before speaking on the Finance Bill, I would like to tell that my colleague and a long time friend Sanjay Nirupam Ji is not present in the House now, however, when he was speaking yesterday, he was not allowed to speak, he was interrupted mid-way and his speech remained incomplete. Being an old colleague, I want to express my sympathy for him. Nishikant Dube Ji, speaking on the behalf of the opposition, gave certain good suggestions in his speech. The Hon. Finance Minister was listening to him in full attention.

Madam Speaker, without mentioning the figures, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Finance Minister towards the shortcomings in our taxation system. The population of our country is more than hundred crore and

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

out of that only 3.84 crore people are tax payers. Irrespective of the Government in power, there is a need to ponder over this matter in all seriousness. Out of the 3.84 crore tax payers, about 70 per cent are workers, employees against the income of whom direct deduction is carried out. Hardly 25-30 % tax payers pay taxes on their income. This illustrates the fact that people in our country have more interest in tax evasion than in paying taxes and in doing so they feel more satisfied. What is the reason behind this mentality? Why the citizens of this country want to evade taxes? There is a need to study this mentality.

Madam Speaker, the common man wants to pay taxes as per our taxation system, however, after once declaring oneself as a tax payer bringing oneself under the tax ambit, one has to face a lot of difficulties from the department and just to save oneself from those problems, people tend to evade taxes instead of paying it. As such, the foremost requirement is to improve upon the shortcomings in our taxation system.

A news item was reported by the newspapers last week. The CBI carried out a raid on a senior officer of the Income Tax in Maharashtra and arrested him. Rs. 2.5 crore was seized from that officer. I would not like to mention the name of that officer but from the news item which we have come across through the newspapers, it appears that they tried to blackmail the tax-payer. He was conveyed that a hefty sum of Rs. 25 crore was due on him to the Government and if he did not want to pay that sum of Rs. 25 crore, he would have to strike a deal. That deal was fixed for a certain amount of fund. The Rs. 25 crore tax that was threatened to be levied, was as per the income tax procedure that was adopted by that officer.

**13.00 hrs.**

It is high time that the shortcomings in our procedures be pondered over taking recourse of which the general tax-payer is pestered and just to save himself from that hassle, he/she does not want to pay taxes. It will be a matter of concern for the country, particularly for the Hon.

Finance Minister, if the number of tax payers decline while the condition of our economy, the Government at present is not good and we are getting into a debt trap. As such, my first suggestion is that there is a need to improve upon the shortcomings of our system and streamline it. The system should be so streamlined that the tax payer be willing to pay taxes and automatically come forward to do so.

**13.01 hrs.**

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Finance Minister that this is the second incident in one week in which raid has been carried out on another officer and Rs. 1 crore has been recovered from him also. The way these things are taking place, the Finance Ministry needs to pay serious attention thereon. The employees have no option as tax is deducted directly from their salary and as such, they pay their taxes honestly. However, the businessmen, small or big, small industrialists or big industrialists, all try to evade taxes. In his reply, the Hon. Finance Minister may divulge before the House that how many people have evaded taxes during the past few years, the number of small and big businessmen out of them, the number of total tax payers in the country and the number of people among them belonging to the small, medium and major sectors. Unfortunately, major industries also appear to evade taxes. If action is being taken against them, the Hon. Finance Minister may give information in this regard to the House. How many people are there who want to save themselves from paying taxes? There is a need to overhaul the complete taxation system, be it excise or custom.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in response to the budget presented this time, almost all the Hon'ble Members have drawn attention of the House to the issue of price rise. Speaking on this finance bill. I would also like to draw the attention of the Government and particularly the Finance Minister towards price rise and say that today the common man is facing the brunt of rising prices. The very common man which the Government often talks about and claims that the policies are formulated and implemented keeping

him in view, the same common man is suffering because of price rise but it does not seem in the budget anywhere if the Government has taken any initiative or made any effort in this regard. Prices are rising day-by-day. The prices of all the items including foodgrains, fruits and vegetables are rising continuously. It is not visible in the whole budget as to what steps have been taken by the Government to check inflation. Today, the common man is the victim of price rise and consequently, he is compelled to take to the streets. Our friends like Sh. Mulayamji and Shri Laluji etc. had announced to give a call for Bharat bandh on this issue. Today, the simple reason for the common man's compulsion to resort to sarak and rail roko andolan or riots is that his life has become miserable by price rise and the Government is not paying any heed to his problems. Therefore, he is compelled to take to streets.

I would like to say that our Finance Minister is our Senior Leader and Committed to our party as well as its ideology and also a down to the earth person. He understands and knows all these things. For the last several years, he is leading his party and therefore, he is experienced enough to understand the common man's and poor man's situation. But it is regrettable that the Hon'ble Finance Minister seems to be doing nothing for the welfare of the poor people despite knowing all this. We would like the Finance Minister to certainly announce welfare measures for the common man.

When the Finance Minister imposed one rupee tax on petrol and diesel, their prices shot up the same night. Of course you imposed only one rupee tax but the prices of petrol went up by Rupees four per litre. The rise in prices of Petrol and diesel naturally leads to increase in the transportation and freight charges. Thus, it directly affects the common man and leads to price rise. You only increased one rupee but in retail it turned out to be an increase of four rupees. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should reconsider it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been the member of this House since the 11th Lok Sabha. I have seen several Finance Ministers be it NDA Government or the UPA Government. I have experienced that once the Finance

Minister makes up his mind and decides, then he does not budge even an inch. May be, it is a necessity or compulsion for the Finance Minister. But I would request Pranabda to reconsider the same. We are aware of the fact that you have to run the Government and the Finance Ministry. You have fixed your priorities but it is not necessary that your priorities are the same as that of the country. If the Country's priority is a bit different and you are required to change your priorities for the poor then you should do it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am only giving a suggestion. I admit that the Government has its own priorities and the Finance Minister must be having his own but if in the interest of the common man, for providing relief to the poor and to check the price rise, priorities are to be changed then it should be done. Thus, whatever may be there in your mind but these priorities need to be changed in the interest of the nation as well as the common man. We admit that you have definitely made up your mind but just as you want to put forth your viewpoint, you should not ignore the interest of the common man.

I have written a letter to you in respect of different proposals regarding taxes in this Finance Bill. I have written a letter to the Finance Minister regarding the workers, women and particularly the senior citizens of the country. We want you to raise the present exemption limit of rupees one lakh sixty thousand to Rs. two lakh in view of the current trend of price rise and the suffering of the common man. This is the common man's need of the day. For women tax payer you fix the exemption limit at Rs. two lakh and forty thousand. You know that the women are the past master in resorting to maximum savings. If some financial crises takes place in a house and the head of the family says that he is no more left with any penny, then the woman in the house helps him out with all the savings she has. There is a need to promote this mentality of saving on the part of the women. I have asked you to put this limit at Rupees two lakh and forty thousand but the Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Shatrughan Sinha is talking about raising it to rupees three lakhs and I would request the Finance Minister to consider this suggestion.

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

Today, the condition of senior citizens is the worst in the country. Prior to me the Hon'ble Member of Parliament Nishikant Dubeyji, has said that we are getting influenced by the western culture. When the Senior Citizens need assistance and utmost care at the fag end of their life, they are being left alone. They are going to old-age homes or getting separated from their families and their livelihood solely depends on their income. Therefore, you should provide rupees three lakh exemption limit to the senior citizens and earn their blessings.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank you for giving me extra time to speak. I haven't put forth much data here but our taxation system needs complete overhauling. The people of this country should feel that they are its citizens and being so, they should pay their taxes. Therefore, tax reforms should definitely be carried out and a simple taxation system should be adopted. Thank you for giving me the time to speak.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion is being held on the Finance Bill today. We have passed the Appropriation Bill the day before yesterday. I think that the Hon'ble Finance Minister, on whom the responsibility of developing the whole country lies, has resolved to make the Finance Bill an instrument for the development of the country by formulating schemes thereunder. The common man of this country, be he a farmer, youth, weaver or an employee, is fed up with rising inflation. I think that there is need to make some more efforts in this direction. The hon. Finance Minister has tried to present a balanced budget by increasing various taxes; however, there is a need to do more for the common man in this budget. Discussion is being held in the House since yesterday, I had been listening to Shri Dubey Ji and to some other learned friends who are not present in the House today. The hon. Minister has given tax exemptions to those getting a salary of upto Rs 5 lakh in the country, but no relief has been given to those who come in the salary bracket of upto Rs 3 lakh. They feel disappointed. I have faith in the learned Finance Minister of the country

that in view of the demand being made since yesterday, he would give exemption in taxes to those people also who earn Rs. 3 lakh per annum.

Through his budgetary provisions, he has made an effort to check price-rise in the country. However, in view of the manner in which prices of diesel and petrol have been raised all of a sudden besides increasing the custom and excise duties thereof, there is an apprehension that inflation is not likely to be reined in the times to come, rather it may go up. The issue of Agriculture is discussed in the House time and again. It is the backbone of the economy of our country. There is need to strengthen it. There has been price-rise in the country on account of the shortage of foodgrains today. I think that the funds allocated by him for the agriculture sector are quite meagre. There is need to raise it. Besides, there is also a need for land reclamation, and for more fertilizers. In the backdrop of the Govt's decision to bring down the fertilizer subsidy by Rs. 3000, the farmer of this country, who depends on fertilizer, water and electricity, will face difficulty. I would like to urge the Hon'ble Minister to take back his decision to bring down the subsidy in the interest of giving relief to the farmers of this country and ensure their betterment. The Hon'ble Minister does not need any introduction. He has rich experience. The farmers are looking upto him. I believe that he would definitely take back his decision to bring down the subsidy.

I would like to submit that there is social inequality in the country even after 60 years of independence. I am sorry to say that the rich is becoming richer and the poor poorer in the country. The Government constituted a number of commissions to ascertain the number of the poor. Shri Arjun Sen Gupta submitted his report which stated that around 80 per cent people in the country are poor. However, despite that the Central Government did not pay as much attention to or did not do as much as it should have for the poor. I want to submit to the Hon'ble Finance Minister that the poor of the country is looking towards him. The number of the people covered under the below poverty line list is for less despite the fact that actual number thereof is known to the Government. This is the fact particularly in respect of Uttar Pradesh which is

the biggest and the most backward state. I think that there is a need to make the BPL list more inclusive all over the country, and the Government needs to pay special attention particularly, in respect of Uttar Pradesh from where a number of important leaders of the country come. It is true that everybody knows about Hon'ble Pranabda that he is rich in experience. The whole country acknowledges his administrative capability, experience and parliamentary knowledge. However, the country is looking up to him with much expectations. I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that Uttar Pradesh is the biggest and the most backward state of the country and the people of the State have given sacrifices for the independence of this country. This state has given half a dozen Prime Ministers to this country. He needs to pay special attention to that state also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that more than Rs 7000 crore has been provided for the power sector in the budget. However, no effort has been made in it to connect Uttar Pradesh with the Northern Grid which can ensure it uninterrupted power supply. I want that Uttar Pradesh be linked with the Northern Grid to ensure uninterrupted power supply to it so that this state can emerge on the industrial map of the country.

Sir, they have made an effort to promote tourism in the country in a very good manner be it in Leh or Ajmer. They have made a provision in the budget for the development and betterment of airports from Port Blair to Pondicherry. I want to convey that I have made several efforts to get an airport constructed at Jewar in Noida which is located a little distance from here. I called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister for this purpose and I would like to urge him that he may kindly give his permission for the construction of an international airport at Jewar. International Airports cater to a large number of visiting tourists and I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to get an international airport constructed at Jewar in view of the conditions likely to arise in the times to come due to the rising population of the country. However, there is a need to make provision for this purpose in the budget.

Sir, I congratulate you for launching the Indira Awas Yojana in the rural areas and for augmenting allocation therefor. However, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Finance Minister some facts regarding Uttar Pradesh, the state I belong to. Uttar Pradesh has done a lot for the backward people of the state. Uttar Pradesh has made proper arrangements for the education of the poor, the girl children and for such poor children whose parents cannot afford to give even two square meals to their children after a hard day's toil. What to talk of education. As such, I would like to bring to his attention that an amount of approximately Rs. 22200 crore of Uttar Pradesh is outstanding against the Centre since the year 1998 which is meant to be disbursed for the scholarship and reimbursement to the students of class 9th to 12th who belong to the backward classes. That amount has not been received by Uttar Pradesh so far. Besides, the Uttar Pradesh Government has submitted 62 proposals of approximately Rs.1544 crore under the central road fund.

However, I am sorry to say that only 23 proposals of Rs.602 crore have been sanctioned and a mere Rs. 2 crore have been released. Proposals of the tune of Rs 232 crore under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the year 2009-10 are lying pending with the Union Government. I think that this fund should be released. Similarly, proposals to the tune of Rs 1157 crore for the development of backward areas are lying pending with the Union Government. Just now, an Hon'ble Member was saying that the Hon'ble Finance Minister is a very experienced person who is aware of every aspect of the common man as well as the eminent persons both within and outside the Parliament. The Hon'ble Finance Minister may appear to be aggressive while speaking, but he is a very kind person from his heart and wants that the works undertaken must be accomplished. He has made a separate provision in the budget for an egalitarian society across the country and wants to see uniform development of the backward states of the country, be it Purvanchal of Uttar Pradesh or the Bundelkhand area. That is why, the whole country has faith in him. Proposals to the tune of Rs 1482 crore have been pending under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the year 2009-10. Works have been undertaken under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Viduyutikaran Yojana in

[Shri Dara Singh Chauhan]

small hamlets of Raibareilly and Sultanpur districts of Uttar Pradesh. I think that there are such hamlets in several districts of Uttar Pradesh where. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of you may take your seats. Whatever you say will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Vijay Bahadur Ji, why have you stood up, an hon. member of your party is speaking. Jagdambika Pal Ji, please sit down, you may raise your point when you get an opportunity.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hamlets of two important districts in my state have been covered under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana. Similarly, proposals to cover 1 lakh 37 thousand hamlets have been submitted to the Union Government. I hope that the Hon'ble Finance Minister would pay attention towards it. We have fulfilled the norms under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and have covered villages having a population of 1 thousand. Now proposals to link the hamlets having a population of 5 hundred are pending with the Union Government. I believe that the Hon'ble Finance Minister would condescend to sanction them.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have got details of such schemes which are pending. Karhar Irrigation scheme, Virat Sagar Dam Project, Badhai irrigation project, restructuring of the capacity of Hardoi channel system, augmenting capacity of the Gandak Canal system, Sarayu Canal system, reviving the capacity of the Sharda canal system, extending Jasrainav canal scheme—are several such schemes which have been referred to the Union Government by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. I would like to submit to the learned Finance Minister that as he intends to take this country ahead vis-a-vis the world and the backward states into the mainstream of the country, I am confident that keeping in view the backwardness of Uttar Pradesh he would strive to bring

\*Not recorded.

Purvanchal and Bundelkhand and all such areas into the mainstream of the country.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on the important issue of the Finance Bill. I thank all my earlier speakers and honourable members for their belief that the present Congress-UPA Government would come up to their expectations in fulfilling the wishes of the people, through this budget. An important point, I would like to make is that, if my memory serves me right, it is perhaps for the first time that our hon. Minister of Finance presented the Budget thrice in a year. Perhaps, I may not have my facts right. He presented the interim Budget in February, 2009, followed by a regular Budget in July, 2009, and another regular Budget in February 2010. In this way the Minister of Finance presented the Budget thrice. It was not so easy. It was not easy in view of the global recession, falling employment, declining exports, negative growth in Index of industrial Production and 23 per cent deficient monsoon. Sustaining the GDP in such adverse conditions was not easy in view of the negative growth in GDP, registered, as our colleagues said, in US and Europe and all the world. My understanding is that out of 185 countries, only two managed decent growth. One of them is India, with 6.7 growth in GDP. For this, I would certainly like to thank the Congress-UPA government. The Minister of Finance gave three stimulus packages to overcome recession. Out of which one was to the tune of Rs.1.86 lakh crore. It was because of this stimulus the country managed to beat the global economic downturn.

Sir, I would like to state that the Minister of Finance has simplified the tax structure in the Finance Bill. Whether the new direct tax code or CST regarding indirect taxation, as proposed in the Finance Bill, or goods and services tax, the reforms introduced by the Minister of Finance are commendable. Several Members had expressed concern over different tax laws regarding customs and Central Excise, and that of IBNU which make life difficult for the common man. I also commend the Minister for not adding to the tax burden in this Budget. I would certainly like to congratulate the Congress-UPA Government for not increasing taxes and for carrying out tax reforms, thereby

releasing more funds. Several of our colleagues discussed the sectoral allocation of funds. I do not want to go into the details. I only want to give data regarding important sectors: health, education, rural development, women and child welfare, water supply, SC, ST, OBC - all depend on government funds. During the BJP-NDA rule only 45 per cent growth was effected. During the five years of Congress-UPA rule - 2004 to 2009 we increased the social sector budget by 106 per cent which is a record. It was across all the sectors - whether health, education, rural development or women and child development. Whereas the health budget increased by 45 per cent during 1998 to 2004, it was 106 per cent during 2004-2009. During NDA rule education budget increased by 41 per cent. During UPA rule, increase was 182 per cent. The NDA government hiked the rural development budget by 114 per cent. We hiked it by 323 per cent. During BJP rule, women and child development budget was increased by 70 per cent. We increased it by 182 per cent. The budget for water supply was increased by them, by 52 per cent. We increased it by 158 per cent. *...(Interruptions)*. I listened to your speeches patiently yesterday. For this reason I am giving these figures. We introduced tax reforms and released more funds. I also understand finance Bill. The NDA enhanced the SC, ST and OBC budget by only seven per cent. We increased it by 187 per cent. *...(Interruptions)*. You asked me to confine myself on finance Bill. I will do that. I am not speaking on the Budget. You and several of our respected colleagues spoke on the Budget. I will not even mention the Budget because you certainly are aware of it. The Finance Bill contains direct as well as indirect taxes. I am talking about direct taxes. You demand direct taxes and tax reforms. Geeteji and several members mentioned a short fall of Rs. 160,000 and to make it two lakh, three lakh, four lakh. The BJP in all its manifestoes promised tax reforms and also to enhance income tax exemption limit, if voted to power. When you came to power in 1998, the tax exemption limit was only Rs.40,000. The country knows this. During their tenure of 1999 to 2004, the limit was raised to Rs.50,000 from Rs.40,000 - an exemption hike of only Rs. 10,000. You betrayed even your middle class voters. The employees and teachers living in cities believed the

exemption would be increased to Rs.300,000 since it was a regular feature of your manifesto. During your reign from 1998 to 2004 you increased the exemption by only Rs. 10,000. When we came to power in 2004 tax exemption limit was Rs.50,000.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in presence of Shri Chidambaram the then Minister of Finance, through you, I would like to say that we hiked the limit from Rs.50,000 to Rs.1.5 lakh. Contradict me if I am wrong. We increased the exemption from Rs.50,000 to Rs.1.5 lakh. Now it has been raised to Rs.1.6 lakh. You talk of direct taxes. We raised the exemption from Rs.50,000 to Rs. 1.6 lakh. What is the present per capita income. *...(Interruptions)*

Yesterday, I did not interrupt you. We have given five times more exemption on per capita income. At present the per capita income refers to 37-38 thousand families and we have increased the tax exemption limit to Rs.1.6 lakh. Mark my words. *...(Interruptions)*. I spoke on direct taxes and it is a fact the tax exemption limit was only Rs.40,000 in 1998, and in six years you increased it by only Rs. 10,000. It is undoubtedly a betrayal of the people. In five years, we increased it from Rs.50,000 to Rs.1.5 lakh. Rs. 10,000 last year and today its Rs.1.6 lakh. *...(Interruptions)*. You talk of tax reforms. Today, the UPA-II has carried out tax reforms, which has benefited 60 per cent of the tax payers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 60 per cent of the tax payers have been benefited. Your contention is that tax reforms has been in favour of the rich. I have been hearing this since yesterday. You have a son. So do I as any babu or a chaprasi may have. They obtain MBA or engineering degrees from such colleges which have mushroomed in all districts. Their entry level salary is Rs.30-40,000, private sector. The yearly salary comes to rupees five lakh. Is the tax exemption of rupees five lakh not benefiting the middle class and the poor? How can you say only the rich have benefited? I would say it is a major tax reform. Till yesterday, the tax on income slab of Rs.3.50 lakh to Rs.5.00 lakh was 20 per cent. Above Rs. five lakh it was 30 per cent. Now there is no tax on income upto Rs.1.6 lakh. Its only 10 per cent on income of Rs. 1.6-5 lakh, 20 per cent on Rs.5-8



[Shri Jagdambika Pal]

lakh and 30 per cent on income above Rs. eight lakh. We did not stop here. We did not increase any taxes. After successfully overcoming the tough economic conditions, the Minister of Finance will bring about more reforms in future.

Sir, I will come to the issue of raising the prices of petroleum products. But, the issue today is how to simplify all the direct taxes, through new direct tax code. We have introduced the new Saral income tax form. It is easier to fill. Talks are being held to simplify it further, which would also reduce disputes. The taxpayer finds the current income tax laws complicated, causing immense problems and difficulties.

Sir, today we talked of goods and services tax. Talks are being held with all the states to replace customs, excise, sales tax, service tax, central service tax - all these, with goods and services tax (GST). It is not as if it is being done only under the leadership of Asim Dasgupta. The Committee, under the Chairmanship of Asim Dasgupta is holding consultations with all the states regarding the new structure of state sales tax, central excise or service tax of the Union. Sometimes we have to pay service tax, and at other times some other tax. The aim is to replace all these taxes with a simplified one. You should thank the congress and the UPA that the present complicated tax structure would be replaced by a simplified new direct tax code (DTC) and the new GST, which would subsume various facets of direct taxes such as income tax, and the indirect taxes, which includes service tax. After all this, you say the government has done nothing. It is absolutely wrong. We are restructuring the income tax laws only to prevent the harassment of tax payers. It will not only boost the economy but also being relief to lakhs of employees, teachers and the middle class. Any member in your family earning more than rupees five lakhs annually, would now save Rs.52,000. He can use it to buy any article, T.V., or fridge. Those earning below rupees five lakh, would also save Rs.20,000. Income has gone up. This would add to the disposal income of the people. You should at least try to go through the tax structure. Bring out the benefits of the tax structure. It is not a political issue.

Sir, our colleagues sitting on the other side are harping on the issue of price rise of petroleum products. You have set a precedent. The Budget speech is never boycotted. It was resorted to. ...*(Interruptions)* prices of petroleum products were hiked. This was criticized. I feel pained. At least, a responsible party, which had ruled the country and hopes to make come back, should along with the ruling party conduct itself responsibly. This is its character. Party with difference. I want to say that it is not party with difference, it is party with differences. There has always been a conflict within his party and this condition is because of that only. I will tell him the truth if he wants to listen. I would like to say that what he said was that they had reduced the taxes, central excise etc. at the time when oil was selling at 140 dollar per barrel in the international market and this was done so that the common man was not affected from the petroleum product prices and people were certainly benefited from that. Today when the situation has become normal they have given 8 percent rebate and today they have increased the same only by two per cent. Despite this the budget was boycotted. I would like to say that from 2004 to 2008. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I have just started. Please allow me to speak on behalf of my party. I will conclude within two three minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not know how much time has gone. There is a watch here.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I would like to say that it has been said on the basis of Petroleum products that inflation will increase. Hon'ble Minister of Finance has said that it will effect by only 0.4 percent, it will not effect by one percent even and today we see that the prices for sugar and pulses are decreasing. ...*(Interruptions)*. Please listen. I will tell you about petroleum product prices, would you listen? I am talking about farmers. The rise in petroleum product prices between 2004 to 2009 was 41 percent and during 1999 to 2004 and while the BJP was in Government the rise in petroleum prices was 48 percent. The prices of diesel rose by 112 percent between the year 1999 to 2004 and at that time we had increased the prices

of diesel by only 63 percent. They had increased kerosene oil price by 258 percent and we increased it by only 2 per cent. I can this with full responsibility. Tell me if I am wrong. LPG prices were increased by them by 78 percent and we did it by only 16 percent. This is a case of the kettle calling the pot black. During their tenure they have increased petroleum product prices 33 times and still they say that we have increased the prices of petroleum.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I will take two minutes and talk about indirect taxes as well. Till now I was talking about direct taxes only. Today we have increased the Central excise duty by merely 2 percent only. If we do not keep reforming the tax structure then how are we going to meet their demands like funds for Bihar, contingency, funds from the contingency fund for floods etc. There are issues like drought and floods for which we do not have any provision and we do not force also, we have given one thousand crore rupees for that and this Congress-UPA Government has given that money. We do not have our Government in Bihar and still we have given Rs. 1,000 crore to Bihar. It is Congress-UPA Government only which is providing funds without applying any taxes and we are bringing reforms in our tax structure and giving funds. We had given a package of Rs. 8 thousand crore for Bundelkhand which had regional imbalances and people were committing suicides. Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh do not have our Government but we gave the package because we thought of providing relief to people who are reeling under heavy loans and are committing suicides. Today in the times of recession. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, now you conclude.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I am concluding in two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You spoke for two minutes then, now again you will speak for two minutes, how many times you will step up by two minutes. Every time you are saying two minutes?

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will

be obliged. I want to say a very important thing that during the time of recession their industries. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever the rest of the people spoke was not important, or what?

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I will take only two minutes. I would have completed my topic in this much of time. Please believe that while there was global recession in the entire world and to not let the industries get effected, we reduced the Central Excise duty from 14 percent to 8 percent. No one has that much of courage. We always talk about bringing tax reforms but no one has that much courage. If anyone can bring any reforms in the taxes then only Congress, UPA Government can do it, hon'ble Dr. Manmohan Singhji can do it, hon'ble Minister of Finance and hon'ble Soniaji can do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I am concluding. It has only been one minute. After the global situation improved and our economy also improved alongwith that of the world, how much progress did we make? Progress of merely 2 percent. What did you say? ...*(Interruptions)* It has been said in economics that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: An ideal tax collector is one who can extract tax like a bee. The bee sits on the flower and extracts the honey without hurting the flower. Today our economy is becoming strong and we are becoming successful in reducing the exchequer loss, today the exchequer loss has reduced from 6.5 percent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I am concluding my speech very soon. There are some who paint beautiful pictures on the annals of history and there are some who are hell bent

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upon destroying them. We have written a story in this country with our hard work, one tears. ...*(Interruptions)*. I am surprised that they are in opposition, but the public has. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You had asked only for two minutes, but you have already taken ten minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: The public has given us mandate. I just want to say one thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bhoopendra Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now, except the speech of Bhoopendra Singh Ji.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you have something left to convey, give it in writing.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to submit here my suggesions with regard to the Finance Bill, 2010. I thank you for giving me permission to speak.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, through the Finance Bill, the Govt. introduces various proposals for taxation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we all are discussing over the provisions in regard to taxation by the Government through the Finance Bill. I would like to submit to the Government that despite various taxation, amendments in taxes, the financial condition of the country is going into a deficit. The major reason behind

\*Not recorded.

this is that despite taxation, the process of tax collection is such that the tax which should have been mobilised, does not accrue to the Government. The system is such that the affluent people are getting the benefit. As such, the rich in the country are become richer and the poor poorer. The Government is simply carrying out one function and that is to levy taxes. The burden thereof falls directly on the common man of the country. He has himself accepted that the growth rate of agriculture has declined. I would like to contend that in a country where 70 to 80 per cent people depend on agriculture and the economy of the country is based on agriculture, the Finance Minister is conceding that the growth rate in agriculture has declined. I would like to ask that in a country where agricultural growth rate has declined, how agriculture will grow in that country. The economic advisory council of the Prime Minister had suggested that agriculture and power sector be given top most priority this time. Agriculture and power-both the sectors are passing through an extremely transitional phase. There is a need of maximum research and innovation in agriculture. At present, the Government spends just 0.7 per cent of the agricultural gross domestic product on research. I would like to submit that while your council is stating that we should spend maximum on agriculture and power sectors to have maximum arrangement for the same, through the taxation being imposed by the Government as per the Finance Bill, nothing is going to be spent by it on the agriculture and power sectors. As such, I oppose this Finance Bill.

Bundelkhand area is one of the most backward areas of the country. The Government has taken notice of this fact after 62 years. 24 districts come under Bundelkhand. The Government has announced a package of Rs 1200 crore in the budget. I want to say that after distributing Rs 1200 crore among the 24 districts, Rs 50 crore comes for one district. That also is to be given in three years which means that one district will get Rs 15 to 20 crore for development in one year. In the Bundelkhand area, where only 3 per cent land is irrigated, the Government wants to carry out development by giving just Rs 20 crore in a year. That fund is also not being given separately. The Government wants to misguide the people through this budget. The funds of all our existing schemes, be it of

NREGA or PRGSY, have been adjusted in the name of the Bundelkhand package. Not a single paisa has been given separately in the name of the package.

Hon'ble Minister is exempting the corporate sector by Rs. 5 lakh crore. I demand that if the Government wants to bring the farmers forward, if it wants to check price rise in the country, it will have to provide facilities to the farmers, and only then these things will be possible. The interest rate for the bank loan of the farmer is 7 per cent as of now. The Bharatiya Janata Party Government of Madhya Pradesh is the only one which is providing loan to the farmers at an interest rate of 3 per cent. Can this not be done by the Union Government? At present, the farmers are constantly getting into a debt trap. There is not a single farmer in the country who is free from debt. But the Government is not ready to extend any help to the farmers for their loans, by giving subsidy to them. The Government raised the rates of diesel and petrol. The outcome is before us. There has been further rise in prices and the worst affected are the farmers. It is the farmers who use diesel and petrol the most.

14.00 hrs.

Today he is accepting that there is a shortage of pulses in the country and we are importing pulses. I would like to tell him that if there is a shortage of pulses in the country then we should further improve in the field of agriculture and pulses. For this no arrangement has been made by way of tax system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell hon'ble Minister that for the last three years, IPL is being mentioned in the country. What was his Department doing, what was the Income Tax Department doing when a scam worth crores of rupees was being done? If Lalit Modi had not mentioned this issue then it would not have come to the knowledge of the Government. Similarly a scam worth crores of rupees is taking place under the name of IPL. Overall the Government has totally failed to check the tax evasions. As Hon'ble Geete ji was saying just now, raids are being conducted on Income Tax officials. Somewhere they are seizing Rs 2.5 crore and at some places Rs 1.5 crore. Raids are taking place

continuously. By way of taxation corruption is being promoted in the country. Therefore, I demand that taxation process should be made simple which can help people and tax evasions can also be avoided. In this manner we can overcome the economic crisis one country is facing at present.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Minister has stated that in the year 2009, indirect tax collection was 18.1 percent. Loss of 13.2 percent in Central Excise Duty and 6.5 percent in Service tax have been accepted by himself. Why were these losses incurred and what was the reason behind it? I would want that whenever he gives a reply, he should present all these things before us. They have imposed Service tax even on immovable property. What right do they have on it? If someone possesses immovable property and wants to utilise that then what role does the Government have to play? They are imposing Service Tax on that as well. If today a farmer sells his land, then it is his ancestral property. This land has belonged to him for the last four generations and they are imposing income tax on that. Are they not doing injustice to the Farmers? If a farmer is selling his land and he wants to start another work with that money then would they impose income tax on them? The Government must consider this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell Hon'ble Minister that today there are separate VAT rates in separate states. The price of diesel and petrol are different in different states. This is also effecting our structure. Therefore, through this Finance Bill I would like to tell and request Hon'ble Minister that tax system should be simplified. They have increased the tax slabs. If a person is having an income above Rs 8 lakh then he is being given a rebate of Rs 50,000 in income tax and a person having an income of Rs 1,60,000 is being given a rebate of Rs 10,000 only, which means they are trying to extract money from the smallest or poor class people and are providing rebate to the people of corporate world and people belonging to industrial families. This Government is doing nothing other than this. This Government is only protecting the interests of the industrial families by providing subsidies and benefits to them. I have no regret in saying that if we have a look at the Government then we will see

[Shri Bhoopendra Singh]

that a number of people from industrial families are representing in the Government. As a result of this, today the country's economy is getting very badly effected. Injustice is being done to farmers and their interests are being over looked.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, this is why, I oppose this Finance Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a list of more than 20 speakers who wish to speak on the Finance Bill. Those who want to lay their written speeches on the Table, they can lay it on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Sir, the newly elected Members to this House ask as to what is a Finance Bill and what is to be said on this Bill. I tell them that whatever Hon'ble Minister of Finance announces broadly in the Budget is then given a legal form and for this a Bill is drafted which is passed later on. In this Bill one can speak about where the money collected from tax through the public should be spent or not spent.

The Minister of Finance has mentioned about Kautilya when the world was not aware of the word economy, a person called Kautilya and his 'Arthshastra' came in and the world learnt economics from us. Later on economists like Marshel, Adam Smith came but still economics was a gift of our ancestors. Pal Saheb, you please remain seated. ...*(Interruptions)* He is our supporter but sometimes he is out of gear and talks like sanjay Nirupam Ji. ...*(Interruptions)* The principle of Black bee is right in that it extracts honey from the flower without spoiling the flower. The similar is the principle with Tax. How do rains take place? Where there is water and sea, moisture gets created and this takes the form of cloud and this cloud rains later on. If it happens that moisture elevates from the sea and the entire rain takes place over the sea, then it would be very wrong. It is similar in case of this Government also. Question number one is that, Hon'ble Minister of Finance

prepares the budget and taxation etc and he had claimed that he will bring Direct Tax Code. They have claimed that they will simplify the tax system and some other tall claims have also been made. Which are the organisations other than CII, ASSOCHAM, FICCI with whom they are holding talks? They are only talking to the organisations being run by the rich people and big industrialist in this country. They did not talk to the small businessmen who are dealing in business of Rs 10-20 thousand, they did not talk to the Confederation of All India Traders Union, with the small entrupreners in small blocks, towns etc. North Bihar Chamber of Commerce, Muzaffarpur had contacted me. They said that they are not being heard. Are they not a part of the business and only FICCI, ASSOCHAM or CII are parts of all this? Does the Government care for the rich people only and not for the common man? When did they talk to any of the farmers organisations, village people or poor persons? What are their problems? ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, perhaps that organization may not have been invited. But, each year the Minister of Finance invites representatives from different sectors before the presentation of the Budget. Seven such meetings were held. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I have only forwarded the complaint made to me.

Sir, it was Rs. 2,500 in 1968 for cash transaction. In 1988 it was Rs. 10,000 which increased in 1997-1998 to Rs. 20,000. Has inflation not gone up during 1997-2010? Is the government not aware of the need to amend section 40 of the Income Tax Act? The minister of parliamentary affairs claims that everyone is consulted. If this is so, then, why no amendment? It was Rs. 2,500 in 1968. In 1988 it was Rs. 10,000 which rose to Rs. 20,000 in 1997-98. Has inflation not increased in 2010, after 12-13 years? We have banks every where. One has to deposit the amount. In one day Rs. 20,000 would be deposited. One will deposit the amount even if one has to go ten miles. After depositing today, one would again deposit Rs. 20,000 later. It's as simple as that. You will get all the information

if you talk to the poor and to those belonging to the middle and lower middle class.

Shri Jagdambika Pal Saheb said the government has effected comprehensive reforms. I have one question for him. Let's see if any one can give a reply. On an yearly income of Rs. 4 lakh, savings would be about Rs. 2,000. For Rs. 5 lakh yearly income, the savings is Rs. 12,000. On Rs. 8 lakh its Rs. 45,000, and Rs.57,000 on an yearly income of Rs. 10 lakh. But, on an yearly income of Rs.2 lakh, what's the savings? Have you get any answer? In other words the higher the income, the higher is the savings. For those with less income there is no savings. And yet the government says that it is with the poor and the middle class. The Minister of Finance should explain why no savings have been provided to those with rupee 2 lakh yearly income? This expemplifies the extent of tax reforms introduced by the Government. I would rather term it as distortion, not reform. You are deviating from the basic principles.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, paucity of time prevents me from raising other issues. I would only like to make a point wise presentation. The Government claims that the economy has bounced back. GDP is fast improving. This fact was also emphasized by Shri Sanjay Nirupam Ji. I would like to narrate an anecdote in this regard. There was a king. His subjects lived in utter misery. When eminent citizen and intellectuals tried to apprise the king of the situation, he was unmoved. The king had a barber. The king had gifted him a cow, which yielded good quantity of milk twice a day. Thus, the barber could afford milk preparation Kheer like Kheer etc. daily. The king enquired about the condition of the subjects from the barber since he thought that the latter visited the households of a number of people daily, in the course of his trade. The barber replied that everything was fine. There was no problem. The subjects were satisfied and hailed the king. On the contrary the knowledgeable people, including the economists who could feel the pulse of the society informed the king that the subjects lead a miserable life. But the king paid no heed. He had faith in the barber, as he was poor and since he visited a lot of people, he was in touch with the reality. One day, a clever person suggested to the

king to keep the barber's cow in his palace as it gave a lot of milk. Thus, the barber's cow was tethered in the palace. Next day, the king as usual, asked the barber the condition of his subjects. This time he replied that people had nothing to eat. I can draw a parallel of the situation as prevailing here. Those coming from affluent families are untouched by price rise. The government claim that it is pro-poor and pro-farmers.

According to an American magazine, out of the 100 richest people globally, 43 are Indians. The number of rich has gone down in America, whereas it has gone up India. The data on percentage of poor people in the country varies as some say that it is 80% other say 37% and yet other say it is 50%. The reports of various commissions mention that poverty is rising. This is being the situation, how can the government claim that all is well with the economy, considering that 43 out of 100 richest people are in India and still the poverty is spreading its tentacles? The suicides by farmers clearly brings out the true picture of the poor and the farmers in the villages. What more proof is needed? Where is the money of the millionaires invested? How does the government run the economy? Where is the black money, invested in various ways. All the black money is being made white. Its proof is IPL. This has been going on for three years now. Kapil Dev had started the ICL. He was told that he could not be organize it. IPL has established a monopoly, resulting in immense loot and irregularities during the past three years. What are the Finance Ministry, the Government and the Enforcement Directorate doing? I want a reply to this. After the fight over share of ownership, it was mentioned by the Minister of Finance that it was being looked into. The Minister of Home takes the moral responsibility. Why not the Minister of Finance? What did the government do in three years? What did the Enforcement Directorate, Income Tax Department and the Ministry of Sports do? Why was it allowed to monopolize it?

Sir, my seventh question is that considering the amount of money being wasted can it be allowed? Why don't you put a limit on expenditure? What is the loan? Sir, they can not do it.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

In Mahabharat, there is an episode where Draupadi laughs in response to Bhisma Pitamah's sermon who was lying on a bed of arrows. Bhisma Pitamah gently asks her the reason. She replied, what was the use of this knowledge, now as he did not stop her being derobed, in full view of the assembly. Bhisma Pitamah said that at that time he was indebted to Duryodhan for feeding him, which clouded his knowledge. But, now, the loss of pure blood, enabled him to sermonize. A learned and mighty person like Bhisma Pitamah, having eaten Duryodhan's food could not speak against him nor could prevent perpetration of injustice. Similarly, a government nourished by the funds capitalists, could not think of being pro-poor. If Bhisma Pitamah could not see reason, what can we expect from the Government of the day *...(Interruptions)*. I want to know why do you not impose a ceiling on expenditure? A house for Rs. 300 crore was built. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, let my question be answered. I will sit. Is there any person in the country who has the guts to answer my question?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister will answer your query while replying to the debate.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The hon. Minister of Finance said that people were bearing the brunt of price rise. People were on the streets. The entire opposition boycotted the House. Now diesel tax has been increased. The entire opposition undertook spontaneous protest. Then, the successful Bharat bandh was staged. People come out on the streets, but the government was unmoved. It is working for the benefit of the capitalists. The poor are dying. How can we expect any improvement? This does not augur well for the government. I am warning the government that the people are groaning under the mounting price rise. Why does the government shift its stand on price rise. Like an arrested criminal, who changes his statement every now and then, the government makes

different excuses such as, rise in income, shortage of foodgrains and increase in purchasing capacity. People are being befooled. They refer to economic growth rate. Can anyone explain why the number of millionaires has gone up? Capitalists are thriving, but the farmers' misery has multiplied. They bring laws, increase tax and introduce Finance Bill. But why is there no law to limit prices? Why this helplessness? If you do not put a limit on price rise, we will resort to 'chakka jam'. My seventh question is; why don't you legislate to put a cap on price rise?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have been speaking for long. Conclude now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Price of foodgrains should rise. The price of factory produced goods should not be our 1.5 times its production cost. Manufactured goods should have uniform cost.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The speech of the hon. Member will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your speech is not going on record. Please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mangani Lal ji you may being your speech.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Prasad ji, please sit down. Your speech is not being recorded.

*...(Interruptions)\**

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, kindly give me another minute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude in one minute.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Projects worth Rs. 5000 crores from all the states are pending under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Road projects worth Rs. 5000 crores are pending for sanction.

\*Not recorded.

The Budget is for Rs.12,000 crore. Road construction has come to a standstill. Hon. Members, on reaching their constituency, find that road construction has stopped under the PMGSY. I do not know whether the Minister of Finance is aware of that but fact remains that for want of funds, road construction has ceased. Budget has been slashed. Previous year's budget was Rs. 17,000 crore. This year, its Rs. 12,000 crore. Why this reduction? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The condition in Bihar is very miserable. How can poverty be removed, in the absence of actual poverty figures?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you have been speaking for twenty minutes. If all spoke like you, the discussion can not be completed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The issue relates to crores of poor people. I am concluding. The Arjun Sen Gupta Report is an insult to the poor. Who constituted this commission? Was it we or the Prime Minister? Who insulted the poor? The Prime Minister should be asked to resign. He had constituted the Commission. We had no role. The person constituting the commission is responsible. The leader is responsible. In spite of my caution the exercise ended in futility. This was inevitable. What can I do. I can only off suggestions ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member's speech will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

\*\*SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (Erode): On behalf of MDMK, I am expressing my views on the Finance Bill.

The customs duty on petrol and diesel has been steeply increased from 2.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent. In addition to it, excise duty of Re. 1 per litre has also been

levied. Like adding insult to injury, import on crude oil has been increased by 5 per cent. This has resulted in the increase of prices of petrol and diesel. In Chennai, petrol per litre that did cost R.s. 48.58 has increased by Rs. 3.01 and is now selling at Rs. 51.59 per litre. Similarly, diesel price increased by Rs. 2.80 per litre has led to a price increase from Rs. 34.28 to Rs. 37.78 per litre of diesel.

Cement factories have also been levied with excise and customs duties on raw materials and also petrol and diesel that are utilized by them. This has led to an increase of Rs. 10 per bag of 50 kg. of cement.

Duty on crude oil has affected fertilizer factories and hence, the price of chemical fertilizers has also increased.

Coal that is used for power generation meets with increased tax. This would eventually lead to increase in cost of power thereby affecting the consumer as they have to shell out more for electricity. Petrol and diesel price increase will lead to transportation charges going up. I would like to point out that unfettered price increase seriously affects the poor and middle class sections of the society affecting their livelihood.

In 2007-08, it was projected that agricultural production would increase by 4 per cent. Rs. 25,000 crore was set apart in the 11th Five Year Plan for agriculture. The National Development Council resolved in 2007 that rice production must touch one crore tonne by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan. It was decided to grow paddy in a big way in 136 districts of 14 States. But we could not meet the target and we have produced only 44.25 lakh tones of rice.

All the States have furnished data pertaining to the production of foodgrains. According to that, paddy was cultivated in 47.55 lakh hectares last year. This year, it has come down to 44.25 lakh hectares, thereby suggesting that paddy cultivation has come down in 3.30 lakh hectares.

Agricultural production which was projected to be 2.8 per cent has come down to 2.2 per cent. This is because of the wrong policy adopted by the Government. The Government has increased the cost of agricultural inputs to an unbearable level. The relief that agriculturists used to get in obtaining chemical fertilizers is no more there

\*Not recorded.

\*\* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil and also laid on the Table.



[Shri A. Ganeshamurthi]

now. Though opposed, the Government has increased the prices of chemical fertilizers. Fertiliser subsidy has also come down. So, agriculturists are not able to go in for adequate quantity of chemical fertilizers for their crop. The reduction in fertilizers has resulted in reduced production.

Organic farming has drawn the attention of the farming community now. But unfortunately, the Government is not taking steps to encourage the agriculturists who would like to go in for natural manure for cultivation without using fertilizers and insecticides.

In the similar pattern of providing subsidy to chemical fertilizers, subsidy may be extended to agricultural inputs used in organic farming. But unfortunately the Government has failed in extending support to organic farming.

Even now the Government can reconsider shedding its indifference and go all out to encourage the farmers to go in for organic farming because this would ensure the availability of healthy, non-toxic food to the common people.

I would like to point out that organic farming has received wide welcome from the farmers all over the country. In Tamil Nadu, great support has been extended by the farmers in the Districts of Erode, Coimbatore and Tiruppur. In the same pattern as declaring Special Economic Zones, the areas where organic farming is taken up in full swing, the Government must come forward to identify and declare that the Districts of Erode, Coimbatore and Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu as Special Organic Farming Area extending all possible help to the agriculturists in those areas.

The wrong policies adopted by the Union Government have led to reduction in food production. This has greatly affected the poorer and the middle class sections of the society. Hence I urge upon the Government to rescind the tax levied on petrol, diesel and chemical fertilizers as they accentuate further the already soaring prices. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

\*SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (Kandhamal): The Hon'ble Finance Minister has referred in his speech giving importance to Tax reforms. The reforms should benefit the common people. There is no harm if wealthy people pay more to the state exchequer. But the common people should not be affected by tax reforms.

Similarly the interest of the senior citizens should be safe guarded. A person having income upto Rs.5.00 lakhs get a tax benefit of Rs.20,000/- whereas a person who earns Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 16,000/- will get minimum benefit. The higher income group in this country are very less in comparison to middle income group. So the middle income group are the most sufferers.

India is a land of Agriculturist. The country's economy depends on agriculture growth. So it is the foremost duty of the Government to give more importance to agriculture sector. The total allocation for 2010-11 on agriculture is 20,865 crores which is only 2% of the total budget allocation. Nearly 80% of the people in India depend on agriculture. So this low percent of budget allocation is a mockery to the agriculturists of the country. The budget allocated in the 11th Five Year Plan set a target to accelerate agricultural growth to 4% per annum. Over all agricultural investment during the 11th Plan was projected as 16 per cent of agricultural G.D.P., with public investment contributes 4 to 5 per cent. But growth in agriculture in 2007-2008 was 5% declining to 1.1% in 2008-09. The revised estimate for 2009-10 are lower than the budget estimate for that year for National Food Security Mission 22% shortfall horticulture Mission 27% shortfall. Similarly productivity of rice, sugarcane and cotton shown a decline during the last 3 years. The most important fact I raise before the house that cultivable land in the country decreased from 185.09 million hectares in 1980-81 to 182.57 million hectares in the year 2005-06. During the same period land for non-agricultural use has increased by about 5.28 million hectares. Therefore the Govt. should take all possible steps to increase the production of agricultural produce as demand for agricultural produce increase in every year.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

In Orissa Kandhamal district is one of the most underdeveloped District. The food security in Kandhamal district is lowest in Asia as reported in WHO survey report. The infant mortality in Kandhamal district is 115 in 1000 in comparison to National average of 54. This district experienced communal violence in last two years as a result of which the economical condition of the people has been shattered. This district is predominated by Scheduled Tribe people having population of 53 percent. Being surrounded by hills and jungles agricultural land is less than 35 percent having lease irrigation facilities. The intake capacity of the people are very low. It was urged upon the Govt. of India to extend the K.B.K. Scheme to Kandhamal district but the Govt. of India have turned down this demand. When Govt. of India is giving special package to Bihar and Bundelkhand in the current year not extending special package to Kandhamal district is very inhuman and is considered to be disparity with cruelty.

I urge upon the Govt. to kindly declare a special package for Kandhamal district or extend the K.B.K. scheme to Kandhamal district of Orissa.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL (Jhanjharpur): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion is being held on finance bill and the budget presented by the Hon'ble Minister of Finance this time has a mention of two great men, two thinkers—one is the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and another one is Kautilya. He has mentioned Mahatma Gandhi as the one who laid down the truth that India lives in villages in the same manner as the whole universe exists at its own. One thing I remember that once in Sabarmati during freedom movement a famous foreign journalist Mr. Louis Fischer asked Bapu Ji what kind of Swaraj would be there about which he was talking when India gets independence, Mahatma Gandhi replied that when this country gets independence there would be seven lakh republics in our Swaraj. Louis Fischer was astonished to hear it because there were more than six hundred princely states and these were to be integrated and after independence India was to be integrated. Mahatma Gandhi is not talking about an integrated India,

nor an integrated Republic and nor the Republic of India. He says that there would be seven lakh republics. After that Louis Fischer asked what kind of these seven lakh republics would be. Then he said that there were total seven lakh villages in India. There were seven lakh villages in British India that included Pakistan and Bangladesh. Mahatma Gandhi had dreamt of village republic and he said that if there would be seven lakh village republics, there would not be any poor in that republic "Daihik, daivik bhautik tapa, Ramraj Kahoo nahin vyapa," which is the concept of Ramraj; on the basis of this very concept there will be our village republic in which there will be market place. ...*(Interruptions)*. There will be market places for the produces of the farmers where their prices will be determined. Farmers will not be looted. Remunerative prices of agriculture produces will be determined by the farmers' associations. Prices will be determined in the market place; reading room and theatres will be there, villages will be self-reliant and the elected representatives will be in their management. This is the concept of the village republic. But the Minister of Finance was speaking over the finance bill yesterday; why are the prices of foodgrains rising; why there is the food inflation? Who will reply to these questions?

Sir, the experts have stated about the income tax and they have just discussed here that there is lesser amendment in Income Tax Act, 1961 this year in comparison to that in the last ten years. But, there is a forward trading future trading whose turn-over is recorded to the tune of at least six – seven lakh crores of rupees in foreign countries. There is hoarding in this trade.

Here black marketing takes place. When the agriculture produce of the farmers reaches the market, its prices go up. There is no provision in the finance bill to check it. Mahatma Gandhi has been mentioned here. His name has been used in self defence. His name is being used in self defence since independence till date. Who prepares the budget? Policies of Government of India are not framed in villages. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has rightly said that policies are decided in the meetings of FICCI, ASSOCHAM, or CII. As per these policies, the Government has announced that it will implement the minimum

[Shri Mangani Lal Mandal]

alternative rate by increasing it from 15 to 18 per cent; and to what will it be added? You rightly said that it would be related to the assets because taxes are imposed on assets, but not on expenditure, so unless the taxes are imposed on expenditure, there will be vulgar displays of wealth in the country. Big industrialists of this country will go on constructing houses worth 8-8 thousand crores of rupees and gifting it to their own wives and the Government will remain just a mute spectator. No tax will be imposed thereon. The money generated by production should be invested in production itself, but it is invested in unproductive heads and the Government remains just a mute spectator, no tax is imposed thereon. So, the taxes should be imposed on expenditure also. Expenditure tax should be imposed. Big capitalists of this country have opposed it, there is corporate sector dominating our economy. It goes on talking about growth rate alone; we talk of poverty alleviation. Today the growth rate is increasing, even if we take it to 10 percent or 20 percent, the gap between poor and rich has been increasing in the same way as the growth rate is increasing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, imposition of VAT has been stated in finance bill. It will not alleviate poverty. The programme which is being introduced in social sector is not a programme for poverty alleviation. This is just a relief package - do not speak, be silent. Whatsoever relief is provided does not reach to the beneficiaries. That is why FICCI, ASSOCHAM and CII have opposed it and asked the Government to reconsider VAT. One more thing has been stated that cut of 200 per cent in comparison to earlier 150 per cent has been announced in respect of those companies which are engaged in carrying out research and development work. This thing has been opposed. I do not know whether the Government will agree to it or not or what it will do in this regard. One thing is being discussed here that there is a big publicity being reported in respect of direct tax and indirect tax by saying that the tax rebate has been given to low income groups, so what is this tax rebate? I will put the experts' views before you? There is a provision of estimated budget and revised budget each year in the budget. In budget

estimate the Government surmises as to how much resources it will mobilize, how much money it will invest in the market, how much it will take from World Bank or Asian Development bank and how much share it will sell. But what is the situation in Revised and Estimated budget. There is such a situation under which you have booked money against the schemes. Budget would be revised even if these Schemes are not implemented on time, and amount remains unspent and budget would be revised in case the Government fails to mobilize the resources against which budget provisions have been made. The Budget presented by you is of fairly huge amount, only Annual Plan is of Rs. 3 lakh 75 thousand crore and in addition to it, there is non-plan expenditure. There was under recovery of Rs. two lakh nine thousand nine hundred seventy three crore for which pressure was exerted on CBEC to mobilise twenty thousand crore rupees, at least in the month of March. I would like to know from the Government that you have brought Finance Bill and give concessions in a number of clauses, while taxes have been increased under a number of clauses, why the increased tax targets for each year are not met from corporate sector, from indirect taxes? The situation is such that you do not meet your tax target for each year, particularly for indirect taxes and the resources are not mobilized and you have to revise your budget every year.

Sir, the Government is making claim that people with lower income have been provided big relief. The Government is fooling the people. How much benefit has been given to person with income of more than Rs. five lakhs? You have exempted income of up to Rs. One lakh sixty thousand from tax, how much benefit has been provided to persons with income of more than Rs. five lakhs, you have kept entire country under illusion. Earlier persons having income of Rs. five lakh had to pay Rs thirty five thousand and twenty as annual income tax. Now they will have to pay Rs twenty two thousand six hundred sixty and they will have tax saving of Rs twelve thousand three hundred and sixty. You have provided benefit to people having more income. You have stated that annual income of upto Rs One lakh sixty thousand is not taxed and people having annual income of more than Rs One lakh sixty thousand come under the tax net. You have

provided tax saving of Rs twelve thousand three hundred and sixty to the persons having annual income of Rs five lakh. You have misled the country. Earlier Persons having annual income of Rs eight lakh had to pay Rs five lakh seventeen thousand four hundred and twenty as tax, now they will have to pay Rs sixty two thousand one hundred as tax i.e. they will have tax saving of Rs forty five thousand three hundred and twenty. This benefit has been given to persons having income of Rs eight lakh and here we are talking about poor people, we are talking about Mahatma Gandhi, we are talking about the common man, we are talking about village republic. You are saying that people having annual income of Rs one lakh sixty thousand have been exempted from income tax, but person having annual income of Rs eight lakh who had earlier to pay one lakh seventeen thousand as tax, now he will have to pay Rs sixty two thousand only as tax. People having annual income of Rs ten lakhs are proposed to be taxed at the rate of thirty per cent, this is an eyewash. You are claiming that they have been taxed at the rate of thirty per cent, but actually they have been benefited with tax savings. Earlier, these persons used to Pay Rs. one lakh seventy nine thousand two hundred twenty as tax, but now when these people have been taxed at the rate of thirty percent, actually they stand to gain through tax savings, you have misled the country, you talk about the poor and work for the rich. You talk about common man, but you work for particular persons of corporate sector. You talk about the village, you work for the monopolist and the rich. Due to this approach, persons having income of Rs ten lakhs will have tax savings of Rs 57,680 now. Earlier these people had to pay Rs 1,79,000 as tax, but now they will have to pay Rs 1,21,000 as tax. You have given relief to people having annual income of Rs 10 lakh. You will have to explain whether you have provided benefit to people having annual income of Rs 1,61,000 or to people having annual income of Rs ten lakhs? This Government works for whom? This is the Government for rich people. Like wise a person having annual income of more than Rs 11 lakhs had to pay Rs 2,10,120 as tax, earlier, but after the provisions made in the Finance Bill. the claim that you have made in your budget speech, now he will have to pay only Rs 1,52,440 as tax. He will have tax savings of

Rs 57,680. This money will benefit the rich and not the poor.

Sir, poverty is increasing in the country incessantly. The Government has not set any target in its budget. The Planning Commission has not set any target for eliminating poverty from the country. Gap between the rich and the poor is increasing. A person having income of less than a dollar per day is considered to be poor as per the World Bank criterion. At present the World Bank has increased this amount to 1.25 dollar. Though the number of people earning in dollars has increased in the country, but the number of persons earning upto one dollar daily has outnumbered them. There is income generation in the country, but the income of the poor is not increasing. Income of the rich, the capitalists and people belonging to corporate sector is increasing in this country. So, this is an anti-poor and pro-rich budget. This budget would aggravate the problem of poverty in this country. So I oppose this Finance Bill and conclude my speech.

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR (Ballia): Sir, thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

Sir, the Minister of Finance is not present at the moment. I am a member of this house for the last two and a half year. I have heard his speech three times. Before that I had heard speech made by Hon'ble Chidambaramji too. I believe that if we achieve ten percent growth rate of GDP, all the problems of this country would be solved. Hon'ble Minister of Finance has also stressed this point in his speech that we are going to achieve double digit growth rate. I believe this, but whenever I visit villages I come to know that farmers do not believe this at all. Under the existing financial system farmers are getting poorer, their problems are increasing, the Government is not paying attention towards their problems, the Government is concerned about promoting the corporate sector. It was just mentioned that 43 persons have become billionaires, multi-billionaires. the Government is concerned about them, but the Government is not doing anything for farmers, labourers and youths. It was just being mentioned that we have to speak about direct taxes and indirect taxes. It doesn't matter at all in the constituency which I represent.

[Shri Neeraj Shekhar]

Direct and Indirect taxes have no meaning there, there we have to consider what the farmers and labourers earn on daily basis. They are surviving on twenty rupees per day. We want you to think about them. I fail to understand what is our priority, what is the priority of the Government.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to say that footpaths in Delhi are razed and rebuilt every year. I was reading in the newspaper that thousand crore rupees have been allocated for constructing footpath in Delhi and this is what our priority is. Even today people in this country are dying for want of water, people are dying due to starvation. Last year there were two starvation deaths in my constituency and we are constructing footpaths. Footpath built two years ago is being rebuilt again. In big cities you find fountains in full swing wherever you go. We have money to build fountains, but the farmers are not getting drinking water. Leave villages alone, even the cities are not getting drinking water. The Government is not bothered about it. We are organizing Commonwealth Games. I do not know how many medals we will be able to win in the Commonwealth Games, but the budget for the same is being increased every year. How much of farmers land is being provided with irrigation facility or being made fertile. Nobody is bothered about irrigation facilities. Hon'ble Minister of Finance is seeking help from Lord Indra for more rains. Even after so many years, we are still at the mercy of the God. I am talking about the whole House, we are not doing anything. We continue to leave everything to God. Liberalisation has been in force for the last twenty years and the present condition of farmers is such that they are committing suicide which was unheard of earlier. I had never heard before 1991 that 2 lakh farmers committed suicide. This fact is not being pondered over as to why the farmer is today compelled to commit suicide. The only thing kept in view is that how the rich which constitute five per cent of our population could be made richer to enable them to gift their wives big planes and invest in the IPL. I have been emphasising for the last several days that the BPL list should be revised, but that issue is not being taken up. The BPL list has not been rectified after the year 2002, but this fact is being ignored. The Hon'ble Finance Minister is

not giving any thought to the way how funds from abroad have been infused into the IPL. Just now Jagdambika Pal ji contended that we walked out during the budget speech, he is not present here at the moment, but the moot point is why we walked out. We hoped that the Hon'ble Finance Minister would pay attention towards bringing down the price rise. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister that if he intended to check prices, why did he increase the price of diesel instead of reducing it. I would like to ask him that had it been the election year, he may speak the truth, would he have ventured into raising price of diesel. He would have certainly brought it down. The politics of vote should not be applied everywhere. We walked out because the same thing happens every time. If we do not raise the issue of the farmers and the labourers why they are being affected, then what shall we do, raise the issue of industrialists when they will be affected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of taxation is being discussed upon. An exemption of upto Rs. 1 lakh 60 thousand has been given which should be raised to Rs 3 lakhs to bring all the people under the ambit of exemption. I am not a prominent economist, nor do I know how many people pay taxes in this country. As such, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister about the number of people paying taxes in this country. If tax exemption was given upto Rs 3 lakh, it would not have made any difference to the Government, but the people at the lowest level of income would have benefited. If the Government wants to mobilize taxes from the people belonging to the corporate sector, it should increase taxes for them and ensure collection. The people who are earning more, getting more profit should have more participation in the development of the country. Why the poor and the middle class people are expected to give sacrifices? If every time the farmers and the labourers are made to give sacrifices, then are the rich people only to enjoy? I am here for the last two and a half years. I observe that discussions are not held on price-rise and on the issue of the farmers and the labourers. It is said that action is being taken, if so, why the farmers are losing their lives? The loans of the farmers are waived in the 5th year when their votes are required. The same thing happens every time. Last time also, the

loans of the farmers had been waived in the fifth year. Nothing will be done for the four years except holding discussions on the farmers frequently. The farmer will not be given any benefit. In the fifth year, they will waive their loans in order to take their votes. We misguide the farmers. Bills of electricity will be charged from the farmers for four years without fail and in the fifth year, their bills are waived.

Sir, fat loans of big industrialists taken from the banks are waived. So far as I know, loans of the industrialists amounting to lakhs of crores of rupees have been waived by the Government. They were never pressurised by the Government to repay their loans. However, in the case of a loan of Rs 5 or 10 thousand taken by the farmer, some bank official visits his home every day threatening that his pair of bullocks, tractor and other belongings will be confiscated and attached and deducted. R.C. will be deducted whereas the rich people continue to enjoy. The farmer is even sent to jail. Big industrialists have taken billions of rupees as loan; however, the Government does not exert any pressure on them for repayment. I want that the Government ensure repayment of loans by them and that amount be used for uplifting the BPL people and for irrigation. The Government sends the poor farmer having taken a meagre loan of Rs. 500 to jail; however, no action is taken against those who have taken lakhs of crores of rupees as loan and are not repaying the same to the Government.

Sir, at the time of drought, some farmers are given cheques of Rs 1 and other of Rs 10. If the expenditure on giving the cheques is taken into account, it will be found that more money than the amount provided in the cheque is spent on giving the cheques. Cheques of Rs.1 and Rs.10 is given for drought. The farmers and the labourers living in the villages of the country are as good a citizen of this country as the industrialist of this country living in towns. Everybody is equal. The constitution has given equal rights to all. It is not that the person living in comfort in town has more rights and the person living in village has no rights. Everybody has been given equal rights by the constitution of India.

Sir, the problem of drinking water has been assuming very serious proportions but the Government is not paying

any attention towards it. Children are dying by drinking water contaminated with arsenic. Our country is the most malnourished one. Out of the total malnourished children of the world, 49 per cent belong to our country. However, it is not being pondered over. What is being paid attention to is how money is to be invested in the IPL. We are more curious about what the Ministers are doing and where are they investing their money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not take much time. Just after putting forth a couple of points, I would conclude my speech. I am talking about water for irrigation. The problem of water is becoming serious day by day. I would like to request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to pay attention to it. The problem of drinking water is a major problem. We are not being able to provide water to the farmers for irrigation. There is no electricity in my state.

We talk about education. The Hon'ble Finance Minister says that he has given so much amount for education. Education cannot be imparted only by constructing buildings, it requires teachers to do the job. We need teachers. The hon. Minister of Education states that there is a shortage of 20 lakh teachers. Let teachers be recruited first. Construction of school building alone will not serve the purpose. Teachers are required to teach the students. Through you, I would like to request the Hon'ble Finance Minister and as he is not present here, I would request the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance to first of all ponder over the condition of the farmers and the labourers. Let the 80-90 per cent people living in villages and towns and in the slum clusters of the towns also be taken into account, and not only the industrialists.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe that through you, the points raised by me will be conveyed to the Hon'ble Finance Minister and he would bring about some improvement in his budget.

\*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat):  
Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you must be aware that every citizen of the country pays tax. A person may be the poorest of the poor or he may be the richest among the

[Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar]

rich- but he has to pay tax. So what is the problem? What is the difficulty? the difficulty is that when a poor man who goes to the market to purchase a commodity, he feels the pinch more than a rich man who goes to the same market to get the same commodity. Both of them have to pay the same amount of tax but the burden is heavier on the former than on the latter. The wealthy person has lots of money so he does not care while paying but that is not the case with his poor counterpart. This has to be understood by the Government. So my opinion is that, the policy makers of the country while framing the tax structure should take a decision that the have nots would not be taxed. If this becomes possible then a number of problems can be solved. With these words, I take the floor on behalf of my party RSP to oppose the Finance Bill, 2010.

What is the actual picture of the income tax regime in our country? Apparently it seems that the people who earn more than Rs. 8 lac per annum, pay more tax. But if we analyse a bit, it will be clear that those who earn more, save more and those who get less salaries, pay more taxes, save little. If we make a comparative study, this can be seen. This should not have happened - the reverse would have been better. A person earning more than Rs. 8 lac, save about Rs. 50,000 and a person earning Rs. 5 lac annually cannot save even Rs. 20,000. So you can well imagine the way in which the interests of the well-to-do are being taken care of and those of the poor are being ignored, thus I feel that Hon. Finance Minister should ponder over this anomaly as there is a huge gap between the treatment meted out to the poor and the rich.

Secondly, in the name of inflation, the limit of tax relief has been pushed further. Earlier on an earning of Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000 from lotteries, taxes were imposed but now there is no tax upto Rs. 10,000 prize money. Those who used to participate in horse racing used to get a relief upto Rs. 2500 but now it is Rs. 5000. The contractors dealing in single transaction were given relief upto Rs. 20,000 earlier which has now been raised to Rs. 10,000. If you calculate the yearly aggregate tax, the person who got Rs. 50,000 as tax relief can now get the relief of Rs.

75,000. In this manner the amount is increasing gradually as a result of which the poor men are suffering and the wealthy people are flourishing. In case of insurance sector, we find that those who pay the premium get nothing in return, whereas the threshold limit for the agents has been increased from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000. Similar is the case with the brokers Their relief has been hiked from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 5000. For earnings upto Rs. 1,80,000 no tax is to be paid now whereas the previous figure was Rs. 1,20,000. The businessmen who used to earn upto Rs. 40,00,000 were dot expected to submit the audit reports. Now even if they earn Rs. 60 lacs, they will not have to submit audit reports, big hoteliers, cold storage owners, warehouse owners or the flourishing companies who lay the pipelines have given hundred percent tax relief- can you imagine? They are setting up multi-storied star hotels or huge factories but not paying the Government. They earn a fortune for themselves and that too almost free of cost. The unlisted companies have been allowed to convert into LLBs - those companies can transform but cannot transfer their assets. So, the Government will not earn revenue from this arrangement.

Under Section 15(2), the public utility did not include trade and commerce. Now the most dangerous twist is that these have been tagged up with public utility clause. So, utter commercialization has taken place with 100% tax relief upto Rs. 10 lacs.

Special Economic Zones have been proposed by which in large stretch of areas, industries and service sectors would flourish abundantly. The tax holiday which will be enjoyed by the SEZs is to the tune of around Rs. 1.5 lakh crores.

This is also entirely tax free and the Government is not going to earn a single penny from this sector.

The various house building projects which are going on in full swing are being patronized by the Central Government. The stipulated time by which the projects were to be completed was four years. It has now been extended by another one year on the plea of international economic downturn. No revenue is generated by the Government from this realty sector also.

15.00 hrs.

In as far as fuel is concerned, I have read in the newspaper that the Government earns Rs. 20 by selling just one litre of petrol. Cannot the Government reduce the price by reducing the cess on petrol? Let the prices in the world market be more- that should not affect our pricing structure. When we decide our own policies, we could easily bring down the profit from Rs. 20 to Rs. 10 or less to give some respite to the people of this country. If the Government could do that, inflation would not have been so steep; the prices would not have shot through the roof; the ordinary men would have lived in a little better manner. However, nothing was done. We have therefore asked for a rollback. Prices of crude oil must be reduced. Today, the corporate sector, rich business houses, big industrialists are enjoying all the benefit but the poor people are in a miserable condition. If the Government of the country does not become sympathetic to its people, then what will happen to them?

Thus Sir, we cannot support this Finance Bill and we urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to help the citizens of this vast nation who have not respite in sight.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

\*SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): The issue of black money has been plaguing the Indian economy since Independence. While successive Finance Ministers have sought to deal with the issue in their own way, the fact of the matter is that the issue has now snowballed into a problem of mammoth proportions. What is galling is that a good portion of this money is taken out through the Hawala channel away from India. In the process this Laundering of wealth from India is one of the biggest loots witnessed by mankind.

The estimates of British Loot of India between 1857 and 1947 has been made out to be one trillion dollar as per several experts. Similarly, several experts have now

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

estimated that the India wealth parked outside India in Tax havens to exceed USD 1.4 trillions. What is even more depressing in that this ill-gotten wealth of ours has been stashed away abroad into secret bank accounts located in some of the world's best known tax havens. And to that extent the Indian economy has been striped of its wealth.

In March 2005, the Tax Justice Network (TJN) published a research finding demonstrating that USD 11.5 trillion of personal wealth was held offshore by rich individuals across the globe. The findings estimated that a large proportion of this wealth was managed from some 70 tax havens.

Further, augmenting these studies of TJN, Raymond Baker - in his widely celebrated book titled Capitalism's Achilles Heel: Dirty Money and How to Renew the Free Market System - estimates that at least USD 5 trillion have been shifted out of poorer countries to the West since the mid-1970s. It is further estimated by experts that one per cent of the world's population hold more than 57 per cent of total global wealth, routing it invariably through these tax havens. How much of this is from India is anybody's guess.

What is to be noted here is that most of the wealth of Indians parked in these tax havens is illegitimate money acquired through corrupt means. Naturally the secrecy associated with the bank accounts in such places is central to the issue, not their low tax rates as the term 'tax havens' suggests. Remember Bofors and how India could not trace the ultimate beneficiary of those transactions because of the secrecy associated with these bank accounts? Similarly, the loot through spectrum is equally untraceable as on date.

Professor R. Vidyathan of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, is one of the most respected and well-known authorities on this subject. Writing his columns on this subject in a Chennai-based daily he pointed out that "Zurich is the only European town where Hindi slogans are written on the side of the tram-cars. Of course, it is supposedly linked to Bollywood, but the other India traffic to Zurich is to be seen to be believed." The reasons for such heavy Indian traffic to Zurich are obvious.



[Shri Bishnu Pada Ray]

Recently, a bank employee in Lichtenstein, a tax haven, provided details of some account holders to German revenue authorities. The Affidavit of the Government filed at the Hon'ble Supreme Court clearly mentions that we have received some information about Indian money parked in Lichtenstein. But till date we have not been able to either get the money or the details of the persons who have stashed their ill-gotten wealth there. Will the Hon'ble FM tell this august house the details of the steps taken on this matter? I also understand from the said affidavit filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court that our government has given assurance to the German authorities that the names of such persons shall be kept secret. I am appalled at this very idea. I am sure that the Hon'ble FM is not party to this perfidy.

How can Indian defaulters list not be shown to the Indian Parliament when the list is freely available with the Germans. If this is not contempt of the Parliament - what is it? Unless, of course, the list contains the names of persons who need to be protected - including the looters of Bofors and Spectrum there is no need for the Government to hide behind such technicalities and take recourse to such subterfuge.

Be that as it may, I would also take this opportunity of requesting the hon'ble FM to place on the table of this house the request of the Germans to keep this information confidential.

Nigeria, (General Sani Abacha), Peru (Alberto Fujimori) and the Philippines (Ferdinand Marcos) are three well known cases wherein these countries have been successful in getting back the money stashed into such tax havens by their leaders.

And such efforts are being increasingly duplicated by different regimes in various parts of the world to recover such national wealth stashed abroad. The point to be noted is that the secrecy of such banks is no longer impregnable. Global experiences show that the determined will of a sovereign nation is sufficient to break it.

Contrast this with the efforts in India:

1. President in her joint address to Parliament [22-02-2010] in February has stated that her Government will initiate action to get back money stashed abroad.
2. Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh said in the Lok Sabha (05-03-2010) that India will take every possible measure to ensure the return of ill-gotten money stashed away in tax havens abroad.
3. The Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee taking a tough stand on various tax havens and low tax jurisdictions across the globe, said at a seminar on transfer pricing on [16-02-2010] such Tax havens not only act as a factor in the erosion of the country's revenue but are also a cause of concern from a national security point of view.

While there are all well intended ideas of the Government, they are, without any action empty rhetoric. According to him, the Budget documents contain a statement on the tax revenues raised, but not realized, by the Government of India. This provides us with the details of the unrealized dues on various taxes, viz. income tax, Excise duty, Customs duty and service tax.

These are further categorised under amounts under disputes, that is, where the assessee has gone into an appeal and those not under any dispute. According to Budget 2010-11, the tax revenues raised but not realized aggregates to Rs. 117,065 crore. This is where things get a little murkier.

This House may recall that the ministry of finance, in an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court in the case of Ram Jethmalani versus Union of India (on black money in tax havens; May 2009) says that the tax demand on one Hassan Ali of Pune is Rs.71,849.59 crore.

But disclosing the list of defaulters in the Rajya Sabha on August 4, 2009, minister of state for finance SS Palanimanickam said in a written reply that Khan topped the list of tax defaulters with outstanding arrears of more than Rs.50,000 crore.

However, as per budget 2010-11, the income tax due from individuals (both disputed and undisputed) is a much

low sum of Rs.49,176 crore. (Annexure 10: Tax revenue raised but not realized under Rule 6 of the FRBM Rules 2004). But does this includes Hassan Ali. Fundamental Mathematics tells me that this is impossible.

Obviously, someone in the finance ministry has missed out on Khan and his associate. Interestingly, the Hon'ble FM seems to categorically assert (interview in *The Week*, March 14, 2010) that the government has recovered its tax dues from Khan! This is impossible as the Revenue figures in the Budget documents does not support this view of the Hon'ble FM.

It is interesting to note that Hassan Ali Khan is out on a bail on a fake passport case that was filed against him. Accordingly to media reports of February 10, 2010, the Bombay High Court had dismissed the Maharashtra state government appeal to cancel this bail. The court also observed that the state itself was not interested in canceling the bail granted to Hassan Ali Khan.

In this connection Justice D G Karnik said, "The state government is not interested in serving notice [to the accused and other parties] even after six months of filing an appeal." Justice Karnik also added that if the government was not keen on pursuing its own appeal, then the court had no reason to waste time on it.

All this indicates Khan's ability to move the right levers of power at the state level. It is also interesting to note his influence at the central level.

If Khan's tax dues are taken along with those of his associate, Tapuriah, this amount could be a staggering Rs. 100,000 crore (Rs.1 trillion). Yet, the entire tax dues of the government of India as per the Budget documents (both disputed and non-disputed) for all taxes as per the statement of tax revenues raised but not realized aggregates to only Rs. 117,065 crore. Obviously, someone in the Finance Ministry is helping Khan right under the nose of the FM.

There is yet another dimension to this issue: the amendment to the Income Tax Act relating to the provisions of Settlement Commission. Under the existing provisions

of Section 245A(b) of the Income Tax Act, the term 'case', in relation to which an application to the Settlement Commission can be made, excludes assessment proceedings arising from a search initiated under the Act.

Budget 2010-11 proposes to include proceedings for assessment resulting from search within the definition of a 'case' which can be admitted by the Settlement Commission.

A major beneficiary of this amendment would be Hassan Ali Khan who was hitherto excluded by law from approaching the Settlement Commission but now - thanks to this amendment - can do so.

How? The answer lies in para 124 of the Budget wherein the finance Minister states: "Last year, amendments to the statute enabled the government to enter into tax treaties with specified territories besides sovereign states. We have commenced bilateral discussions to enhance the exchange of bank-related and other information to effectively track tax evasion and identify undisclosed assets of resident Indians lying abroad."

It is in this connection that the government seeks to pursue cases of wealth secreted abroad in proven cases of tax evasion. This is what is effectively stated in Para 124 of the Budget Speech.

Now that the finance minister has confirmed to *The Week* that the government has collected taxes from Hassan Ali, there is no case for the government to pursue this matter any further in other countries.

In case he has not yet paid the taxes (in case the finance minister is mistaken about this), the escape chutes (by amending the Income Tax Act pertaining to the Settlement Commission) are open for Khan.

What makes the Khan case interesting is that money was laundered from India using the hawala route. Experts say that a stud farm owner could not have been an originator of such a large income, indicating that it was not his money that was laundered.

At best he could well have been a conduit for several

[Shri Bishnu Pada Ray]

other Indians who could have used the Khan (read hawala) route to transfer their ill-gotten wealth abroad.

It would be interesting to find out just who did Khan launder money for. But with the proceedings in the Settlement Commission carried out in camera, that is virtually impossible. In a scenario where Khan's case could be effectively settled through the Settlement Commission, it must be noted that in the books of the government of India he could no longer be a tax defaulter. To that extent there is no locus standi for the government to pursue his case any further with any other country, much less in the case of tax havens.

And that in my opinion would help save the reputation of several prominent Indians who might have laundered their ill-gotten money through Khan. By corollary, thus, this Budget ends up protecting the common man of India instead of the common man of India.

Let us understand the issue - the issue is not Hassan Ali or Rs.70,000 crores or 1000,000 crores. The real issue is who are the persons who used Khan for looting the wealth of this country in such massive levels? The only way of the entire mess on this issue of Tax Havens, Money Laundering and other related issues, is that the Government must constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee to deal with the issue. I assure you on behalf of my party, the BJP that we shall leave no stone unturned in supporting the Government on this issue, should the Government deem it fit to constitute a JPC.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I rise to recollect the words of Mahatma Gandhi ji: "The measure of a country's greatness should be based on how well it cares for its most vulnerable populations."

15.06 hrs.

(DR. M. THAMBIDURAI *in the Chair*)

When we talk of vulnerable populations, we speak about SCs/STs, women, minorities, backward classes, and backward regions. That is exactly what this UPA

Government has done through successive Budgets year after year under the guidance of the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia ji, and under the able leadership of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh ji, through our most experienced Finance Minister Pranab da. We have been looking at both allocations as well as taxes and trying to address how well this Government can function for the upliftment of the most vulnerable classes. That is the reason why, when we look at the allocations that have been made during last year of NDA Government, that is in 2004, which was the best year, in every sector we have surpassed them many times.

If we look at rural development, during last year of NDA regime, the allocation made was hardly Rs. 19,000 crore. But this year alone, UPA Government has allotted more than Rs. 89,000 crore which includes allocation for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. For Human Resource Development, during the last year of NDA Government, the allocation was Rs. 9000 crore, and this year we have allotted Rs. 42,000 crore. For health, during last year of NDA Government, it was Rs. 6000 crore, and this year it is Rs. 22,000 crore during UPA Government. NDA boasts of the surface transport and the road transport systems and the highways that have been built. But, for that, during their 'best year', they allotted Rs. 7000 crore; and this year UPA allotted Rs. 25,000 crore. If we take any sector, the allocations are substantially more. It is not only that, the one year allocations of UPA Government this year equal to the five years' allocations of every sector of NDA Government between 1999 and 2004.

When we talk about SCs/STs, in the last five years, the allocation made by the UPA Government was Rs. 45,000 crore for SCs; and this year alone the budget allocated was Rs. 20,000 crore for welfare of SCs. For STs, in the last year of their regime, they allotted Rs. 28,000 crore, and this year alone the allocation is Rs. 12,000 crore. For SCs and STs together in this Budget, we have got more than Rs. 32,000 crore, which is much more than the entire allocation made during NDA period for five years. That is the reason why the taxpayers are very happy, they think, whatever money paid by them, whatever

money collected by the Government, that is going for useful purposes. They have a sense of satisfaction. That is the reason why the tax revenues have gone up in the last five years. During the last year of NDA Government, Rs. 2,5 lakh crore was the overall tax collection. In UPA Government, this year, the entire tax collection has gone up to Rs. 7.5 lakh crore. It is not only that; we have been focusing on the direct taxes to ensure that the direct taxes are increased substantially compared to the indirect taxes. That is an important thing in any economy that the economy should strive to see that the direct taxes go up substantially.

A lot of our friends from the Opposition have been saying that this Government has been consulting only CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and all the bigwigs. Can you just look at the tax collections? The tax collection last year from the corporate sector was Rs. 3 lakh crore and from individuals it was Rs. 1,20,000 crore; and from service taxes it was Rs. 68,000 crore.

Also if you look at the slab system, the Finance Minister has tried to simplify the entire tax system. He has increased the slab limit which is good for everyone. During the entire five-year period of the NDA Government, they never increased the basic exemption limit of Rs.50,000; anything above Rs.50,000 was taxed. But the UPA Government, through its successive Budgets, increased the basic limit up to Rs. 1,60,000, which is completely exempted and it is for everyone generally. Not only that, when we speak about the vulnerable sections, this Government also made sure that we need to have some sort of priority and disparity between women and men. That is the reason why, the women entrepreneurs and women taxpayers would have an exemption limit up to Rs. 1,90,000.

This was never even thought about by the then NDA Government. But still they say that the UPA Government is not understanding about the basic needs of the common man, the vulnerable sections and the downtrodden. Did they ever think about uplifting of women? Did they ever think about gender-based budgeting, which had been introduced in the very first year of the UPA Government in 2004-05? That is what the UPA Government is doing

for women. In every Budget and in every Department we are trying to ensure that a substantial portion of the amount is allocated for women. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: What about Swiss bank account money? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: I will come to that also.

During the NDA regime, they tried to glorify sati; they wanted women to commit sati; and they wanted to build temples around that and glorify sati. That is what their achievement is. But we are not trying to do that. We are trying to see how women entrepreneurs and women taxpayers get some sort of relief.

Similarly, for SCs and STs, we have been allocating substantial amounts in the Budget for SCs and STs. When it comes to SCs and STs, I would like to request the hon. Finance to have some priority for them also in taxation. Like you have given it for women and senior citizens, even SC/ST taxpayers should also get some sort of relief in taxation, that is, higher exemption limit of Rs.2,25,000, which is now for senior citizens.

During the NDA regime, the exemption limit in the case of senior citizens was Rs.20,000 more than the normal citizen. But the UPA Government made sure that senior citizens get the tax exemption limit of Rs.2,25,000. Not only that, if a differently-abled person is dependent on somebody, he gets another Rs. 1,00,000 exemption to take care of him. So, we are trying to ensure that all the vulnerable sections of the society are taken care of well through our various Budgets.

I would also like to propose to the hon. Finance Minister some suggestions on taxes also because I know that unless we increase the taxes we cannot take care of our social needs, and we cannot bring about social equality and inclusive growth.

I know that a lot of people have concerns and people talk about IPL forgetting about BPL and APL. On the one hand they say that sports organizations are independent bodies and the Government cannot interfere in their activities. But on the other hand they say: "Why can the

[Shri L. Rajagopal]

Government not also look after IPL?" Yes, everyone wants to jump on to the bandwagon of IPL because it drew the attention of a large public. So, everyone wants to talk about IPL only and forgetting about BPL and APL. But we are not here for that. We made sure that the BPL families are given NREGA cards. More than 11,50,00,000 cardholders are there in this country, and this accounts for more than 5,40,00,000 families. They have been getting a minimum of Rs.100 per day. Earlier they were not even getting Rs.20 or Rs.30 per day. We thought that we will have to bridge the disparity.

If you look at the GDP, you will find that the IT sector is contributing 30 per cent of the GDP; agriculture, which employs more than 50 per cent of the population, is only contributing 20 per cent of the GDP. So, we are trying to ensure as to how we can bring about equality.

So, when it comes to taxation, I would like say that there is no point in giving tax exemptions and tax concessions for industry-specific. No one sets up an industry because he gets income-tax benefit.

The income tax benefit should be region-specific. The Government should tell them: "IT industry should not be located in Delhi; if you locate it here, you would not get any income tax benefit. But if you locate it in the North-East or some backward regions or in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, yes you will get some tax concessions." So, any tax incentive should be industry-specific and region-specific.

Not only that, we have to do something for the SC and ST people also. We have the reservations for SC and ST people in the Government sectors. But the Government jobs are coming down. It is the private sector, which employs more people nowadays. So, we would have to bring about the affirmative rights and ensure that tax concessions are given to industries, which employ the weaker sections and the vulnerable sections of the society. So, it is to be linked to that.

We also see a lot of wealth going into the capital market. A lot of people are concerned also that we have

more and more of millionaires and billionaires there. So, we have to bring about a new tax, Inherent Tax, which is there in most all the developing nations. The Inherent Tax has to be introduced in this country in some form or the other because man and woman is the product of inheritance and environment. So, we have also to contribute. After all, what all goes to the Government is again spent on infrastructure, development, for the upliftment and bringing about equality in various cross sections.

Sir, there are a lot of other things to say. But due to paucity of time, I am concluding my speech. In the end I would like to commend the hon. Finance Minister. The way he has given a lot of incentives for agro-based industries, storage, agriculture, eco-friendly environmental improvements, etc. are all welcome measures. ;

Finally, I would like to conclude by recollecting the dream of Mahatmaji. He had a dream. He left us a dream, that is: "To ensure that the past and the lost glory of India is regained." This Government is exactly trying to do that through various methods in a most efficient manner. Efficiency does not necessarily mean that we do extraordinary things; it is equally judged by doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way like NREGA to address social problems.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhubani):  
Sir, Shri Harin Pathak Ji, who has won seven consecutive elections from a single Lok Sabha Constituency, has presented his views on the Finance Bill on behalf of my party. Our young colleague Shri Nishikant Dube Ji put forth his views on various points of the Finance Bill and taking ahead that discussion and raising the voice of the villages, the poor and the backward people, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, who resigned from the Indian Administrative Service to become the Lok Sabha Member, presented his points and our colleague Shri Bhoopendra Singh Ji also put forth his view-points. I would like to submit that our country has got an able, learned and experienced Finance Minister who has been described as the Bhisma Pitamaha of our parliamentary democracy and this Lok Sabha by Shri Nishikant Dube ji. In fact,

Bhishma Pitamaha was learned, a man of character and a religious sant. He was the great man of the country in his time; however, it was his misfortune that his king Dhritrashtra was blind. As such, the king was not able to realize the points made by Bhishma Pitamaha. It was futile to put forth any good suggestion before the king who was blind physically as well as in terms of his infatuation for his son, his royalty and in every other way. Similarly, Shri Pranab Mukherjee is a good, learned Finance Minister, but he needs to ascertain the blind king who is his master. So far as we are concerned, we very well know who he is.

I would like to draw attention towards what the discussion on the Finance Bill means. The Finance Bill is meant for financial management and financial management is one which brings equality in the society, removes disparity and poverty, ushers in prosperity, national unity and integrity and takes the country to the number one position in the world. We analyse this Finance Bill on this yardstick. The Members of the opposition as well as those of the ruling party talk about socialism and equality in their speeches.

I would like to tell them about what the best scholarly economist of modern socialism Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had said in this House about socialism. During the debate in the Lok Sabha on 16th March 1965, he had said:

"Let us understand the meaning of socialism. Like any other theory, socialism is for the bulk of the masses as well as the individual unit. One is physical, the other is formless. One is theory, another is programme. If we descend one step, that rung is of equality. One step down from that equality presents economic, social, official, religious equality. One step down that order brings a complete possible equality. Another step further down that order gives the maximum and the minimum limits in this regard." I would like to highlight one point in this regard that Dr. Lohia talked about religious equality as well. As of now, if any one else talks about religious equality, many of our Lohia-wadis label them as communal. However, Lohia Ji, who had propounded the socialist

philosophy and is considered as the biggest thinker in this field, had covered religious equality among other equalities. We would like to judge this Government on this yardstick.

I am a farmer and so I always remain inquisitive about what the farmers are getting and what they are not getting. The most exploited class is of farmers which is stricken most by calamities, ill-fate, misfortune and is the most insulted, victimized and ridiculed one. Such a thing is going on with this class because on one hand the capitalists, people in power and the bureaucrats of this country are jointly exploiting it and on the other hand, this class is being shepherded by the caste leaders as this class is steeped in the quagmire of the caste system of India. As such, the farmers are suffering today. The day the farmer of India leaves aside the quagmire of casteism and party-politics and stands in the main stream of nationalism, no one can put the fate and future of the farmer on hold. There will be a farmers' revolution on that day with the voice being raised to leave the power to be taken up by this oppressed class.

I want to tell you about the plight of the farmers. The percentage of farmers in this country in the year 1951 was 71.9 which came down to 54.4 in 2001. Where this 17.5 per cent farmers have disappeared; they have become labourers. The farm labourers' percentage which was 28.1 in the year 1951, increased to 45.6 in 2001 which means that there has been an increase of 17.5 per cent. 17.5 per cent farmers in independent India have been forced to become farm labourers. They have been reduced to become farm labourers as they have lost their lands. The farmer today goes to work in Delhi and in other cities and through his hard labour high-rise buildings are constructed. The affluent people visit those places holding in their hands their near and dear ones, but there are only tears in the eyes of the farmers. The farmer has only tears to shed and the shadow of these buildings to sleep in. 10 to 15 lakh such people sleep on the footpaths of Delhi even today. They are the ones who have been reduced to become labourers from farmers irrespective of which caste they belong to. The high caste people would not indulge in manual labour in villages, but in Delhi, the

[Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav]

Brahmins, Rajputs, Bhumihars indulge in rickshaw pulling etc. and spend nights on road sides. They cover themselves with tattered sacks in the nights of the winter. The puppies also sleep along side them. This is the city-Delhi where the children of mankind spend nights along with the puppies under the same piece of sack. On the other hand, there is another Delhi which is called New Delhi. The first one is Hindustan and the later one is India which is quite different from the former. It is the duty of the Government to pay more attention towards it and make it the yardstick to judge itself.

The population of the country is constantly increasing. While in the year 2005, the density of population per km was 345, it will increase to 440 by the year 2025. With the increase of population, there will be need for more food, cloths and housing. On the contrary, the agricultural land is decreasing. There was 13.11 crore hectare agricultural land in the year 1984, but in the year 2008, only 11.60 crore hectare agricultural land remained which means that it decreased by 1.51 crore hectare. Where that land went? It shows that the farmers have been displaced, their lands have been acquired for big malls, the builders got big gains, SEZs were set up, commissions were paid and while the capitalists gained, the farmers were uprooted. The policy being adopted is to call the people from America, England, Japan, Germany, Italy, France to beautify India and to uproot the poor of this country. We, farmers, cannot afford to give lunches and dinners to the bureaucrats of this country, who are of feudal character, or take them for a treat in a five-star hotel which the investor from America, England can afford and so they will only be deciding the fate and governance of India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the per capita availability of foodgrains was 394.9 grams in the year 1951 which increased to 310.1 grams in the year 1991, but decreased to 439.3 grams by the year 2007. The foodgrains, the cloths available to the farmers have been decreasing and they say that prosperity is increasing in the country. Prosperity is increasing for those who are involved in the IPL, those who are gifting planes to their wives on their birthday, those in the corporate sector who take Rs 28-30

crores in a year as salary and allowances, while on the other hand, there is the labour working under the NREGA who ekes out a living on an average of Rs 5 per day. Can the law of the Government prevent this travesty that a NREGA labourer gets Rs 5 per day while another one in the country gets 28-30 crores to splurge on himself? It cannot be prevented as at the time of elections, funding is carried out by the affluent people. The contestants give notes in the elections to procure the vote of the poor and in the aftermath of the elections, those who come in power enjoy themselves and the poor people, who follow the caste system, will continue to be exploited. Hon. Mangani Lal Mandal was saying about insinuations in the speech.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, while the labourers working under the NREGA in this country eke out a living on Rs 4.60 per day, security is of course needed as well. However, in terms of providing security to the Prime Minister, Rs 52.7 lakh is spent per day, while a NREGA labourer gets Rs 4.60 per day. Do you want to make such an India? Please listen to my humble submission. The quarter of the Prime Minister is constructed in a 15 acre compound and such an area comprises the whole village of our dalit, backward class and farmers. Can the poor country afford to have such a Prime Minister? Let the Prime Minister be of the poor in the country and let him talk about them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: NDA Prime Minister Vajpayee-ji was staying there.

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Let them bear the truth, donot be distraught. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): His remarks about the Prime Minister cannot go on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will go through the record and see later on.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Kindly go through the record and remove it from the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will see.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Vajpayeeji was staying there only. Our Prime Minister stays there, but what about your Prime Minister?

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: I am concluding my speech in a minute. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Already I have told that I will go through the record. Kindly take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: An amount of Rs. 10 lakh, 54 thousand, 390 crore is outstanding on the small, medium and big industrialists of this country.

This has been admitted by the Government in the House in reply to the unstarred Question No. 2893, dated 24th July, 2009. While Rs 10 lakh, 54 thousand, 390 crore is outstanding on industrialists, the Government is waiving the loan of farmers to the tune of Rs 86 thousand crore, 70 thousand crore. This is as good as giving alms.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: The Government supposes us to be beggars. The country is being run by the people who are hand in glove with the industrialists, capitalists, foreign companies and those who are involved in conniving with the foreign companies, involved in the IPL and in investing their money in Swiss Banks. I would rather say that the direction of the Congress party and the country could have changed, had Pranab Babu been made the Prime Minister. It would have brought benefit to the country. But, they would not make him the Prime Minister, as they need a bureaucrat.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: With these words, honouring Pranab Babu, I appreciate his intentions. However, I conclude my speech while opposing the Finance Bill that has been introduced.

\*SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal): Discussion on economic activities is always good. I observe that the budget presented by the Hon. Finance Minister shows a commitment for the development of the common man, rural areas and the agricultural, industrial, educational, health and various other sectors of the country. I hope that this budget would lead to the development of the villages as well as the farmers in these villages. It will trigger growth of the per capita income as well as of the gross domestic product.

Several initiatives have been taken in this budget to face a number of adverse challenges.

The total expenditure envisaged in the budget 2010-11 is of Rs 11,08,749 crore which is 8.6 per cent more than the budget of the previous year of 2009-10.

The planned allocation has also been to the tune of 15 per cent more than that of the last year which is a welcome step.

The Union Government has given legal guarantee to the individual rights by providing the right to information and right to work as a constitutional right. This is a good indication for the future.

Under the Act for the right to free and compulsory education to the children, a planned allocation of Rs 31,036 crore has been made available for all the children during the year 2010-11.

I heartily congratulate hon. Shrimati Soniya Gandhi Ji, hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji and hon. Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee Ji for the proposal to double the allocation for 'Mission Clean Ganga 2020' for the year 2010-11 to Rs 500 crore.

\*Speech was laid on the Table.



[Shri Satpal Maharaj]

There is a proposal to carry out an annual health survey 2010-11 to chalk out a district health outline in regard to all the districts. The people of the country should get maximum benefit of the health programmes particularly the Rashtriya Swasthya Missoin.

The decision to initially allocate Rs.1000 crore for providing social security to the workers of unorganized sector alongwith establishing a National Social security fund is welcome. The allocations made and proposals for women development, literacy and child development are going to prove beneficial in future.

Allocation of Rs 100 crore for launching Women Farmer Empowerment Project and National Rural Livelihood Mission is a commendable step being taken for women empowerment.

Hon'ble Minister of Finance has made a provision of Rs 16.752 crore of loan amount in the budget 2010-2011 in order to help to ensure modernisation and expansion of railways. This is a good effort made for development of both the country and railways.

Along with this, I would also like to thank UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Young Member of Parliament Shri Rahul Gandhi and Hon'ble Minister of Finance Shri Pranab Mukherjee Ji who has provided the country with such a well thought and futuristic budget of 2010-2011 and this budget is going to prove a milestone for the country in future.

I represent Garhwal region where natural resources are found in abundance but due to non availability of adequate transport facilities this area is still very much trailing behind. There is a huge possibility of tourism in the entire state which can be rightly utilized with availability of proper transport and telecommunication facilities.

I would like to draw the attention of the House towards some other important proposals which are going to give a new direction to the Country's development. S.S.B. trained guerillas should be adjusted. Ministerial staff and

state police have been on strike for a very long period in Uttarakhand as a result of which the law and order situation is deteriorating. The Union Government should pay attention towards this because Uttarakhand shares its border with China and Nepal. There is an acute problem of drinking water in hilly areas of Uttarakhand. The Government must pay attention to this also in the budget and formulate such a project through which this problem can be resolved. The Government should plant such trees in Uttarakhand which conserve water.

The Government of Uttarakhand is not making payment to contractors for the construction works going on in Uttarakhand as a result of which the construction and development works have completely stopped over there.

Like other hilly states the State Assembly session should be held at two places in Uttarakhand also. The Union Government should provide financial assistance for construction of State Assembly at Gairsan so that this hilly state may also be developed quickly.

Out of the funds provided for constructing roads in hilly states under the Prime Minister Gramin Sadak Yojana 47 percent funds go under some particular head of the forest department and only 53 percent is utilized for carrying out construction work and by the time clearance from the Forest Department is received the cost gets escalated. Whereas in states in plains entire 100 percent is utilised as a result of which they develop fast. The Union Government must pay attention towards this also.

If the Government of Uttarakhand has demanded from the Union Government an economic package for various public welfare schemes for the development of the state, then the Union Government must give that package to the state so that the living standard of the people of that place can be improved.

The recommendations made by the Committee formed under the chairmanship of Shri R. S. Natarajan for salary structure and other service rules for Gramin Dak Sevaks must be implemented immediately. The Postal Department employees who are retiring now must also receive the

CGHS benefits similar to that received by other officials who got retired in the past.

The State Governments must be instructed to again introduce the special BTC training for spread of education.

Orders must be issued for permanent appointment of eligible teachers teaching on part time basis in various Universities for years. Similarly more than 130 teachers are teaching in Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Central University for the last 20 years must also be included in this.

With this I conclude my speech and extend my support to this well thought Budget and would once again like to thank UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi Ji, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji, Minister of Finance Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee Ji and Member of Parliament Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji for presenting such good budget while keeping in mind the feelings of general public.

SHRI S. D. SHARIQ (Baramulla): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the Budget has been presented before us. I do not have much knowledge about finance but by having a quick look at this budget, I am convinced that under these conditions a better Budget than this could not have been prepared. ...*(Interruptions)* We have good economy and there can be nothing better than this. I am surprised to hear that heavy expenditures are being incurred on our Prime Minister. What kind of people they are and what are they thinking. Is the Prime Minister of this Country supposed to travel by auto rickshaw? Can there be a Prime Minister more simple? We have always seen him in white Kurta Payjama and waist coat. Will they not be proud of this that the Prime Minister of this country is such a simple man.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI S. D. SHARIQ: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, this kind of cheap slogan raising will not bring them back to power. They will have to accept this reality. They must not talk so cheap. ...*(Interruptions)*. I know that this is exploitation of

poor people. This slogan raising is for elections. They do not talk from the heart, instead they talk with their tongues only.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI S. D. SHARIQ: I would like to tell Hon'ble Minister of Finance that Kashmiri Pandits Community have left Kashmir because of militancy. I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Finance that our brethren Pandits have moved out of Kashmir to Jammu because of militancy. ...*(Interruptions)*. They were ousted by Jagmohan Saheb. Jagmohan had to kill people there, so they saved Hindus. It was Jagmohan's policy. Mufti Sayeed and Jagmohan together made a policy to kill the Muslims over there and ask Hindus to run away. You can ask them and I can prove this.

I would like to impress upon Hon'ble Minister of Finance and I have stated earlier also that the people of our Pandit Community have gone to Jammu and they are from my Parliamentary Constituency. We Members of Parliament can not provide them any help from the development fund because right now they are not residing in that area.

But they are voters of that Constituency only. Hon'ble Minister had stated that he will think over it and find a way out. Those people are in problem and it will be good if we can do something for them. Besides this, the relief being given to them is very meagre. I would request him to increase that relief to certain extent so that they can also live their life with a little peace and happiness. I have nothing more to say than this.

[English]

\*SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): I congratulate the Finance Minister to express the view on the Finance Bill, 2010 before the House.

The Budget signals continuity of reforms and is very

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi]

good in the medium to long term. This Budget has a lot of positives. The Government has focused on the disadvantaged sections of society while allowing private entrepreneurial spirits to flourish. The focus on fiscal discipline is a much-needed one and roadmap is very clear. There is a focus on infrastructure by way of an increase in refinancing for infrastructure projects by IIFGL, doubling of allocation for the power sector, higher allocation for roads, and thrust on public-private partnerships. The allocation to infrastructure and effectiveness in implementation of the programmes on the ground will definitely decide India's growth trajectory above 7 per cent. Increased spending on social sector and rural infrastructure suggests thrust on inclusive development. What one can ask for more? Under Bharat Nirman Rs. 48,000 crore for the six fold action plan for rural infrastructure. The bulk of the increase is going to rural electrification, housing and roads. The umbrella scheme has a clutch of six different programmes under it. The main areas covered under it are roads, houses, drinking water, irrigation, telephony and electricity in rural areas. The budget for the first phase was Rs. 1,74,000 crore. But in the second phase, the road component alone is expected to cost Rs. 1,32,000 crore.

The Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana which targets to connect villages weight a population of 1,000, has got an allocation of Rs. 9995 crore as against last year's revised allocation of Rs. 9475 crore. But, today it also meets its expenses through loans from the Asian Development Bank and World Bank and NABARD. The Government has set a target to reach 1,67,000 habitations at a cost of Rs. 1,32,000 crore by 2012.

The Bharat Nirman component on housing, called Indira Awas Yojana which was to build 6 million dwellings in the four years ending 2009, now has a target of 12 million houses in the coming four years. The funds for the scheme have gone up from Rs. 7,918 crore last year to Rs. 8,996 crore this year.

Another salient feature of the budget is funds for rural electrification have gone up this year with fund transfers

to Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Viduytikaran Yojana from Rs. 3,100 crore to Rs. 5,000 crore.

Total expenditure is budgeted to increase 8.5 per cent in 2010-11 over the revised estimates of 2009-10. In comparison total revenues are budgeted to grow at around 20 per cent in 2010-11, compared with the revised estimates of 2009-10. The increase in the main schemes is NREG 2.6 per cent, Indira Awas Yojana 13.6 per cent, PMGSY 5.8 per cent, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme 12.5 per cent, ICDS 6.3 per cent, National Rural Health Mission 15.0 per cent, MDM 28.3 per cent, RGGY 10.0 per cent, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan 14.5 per cent, JNNRUM 83.5 per cent. Though under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Rs. 15,000 crore has been budgeted for the year 2010-11, still in many States we have problems of shortage of teachers, if qualified teachers are available they are not being appointed on a regular basis, school buildings, toilets and drinking water facilities either in dilapidated condition or not existing. After this massive budgetary support, whether any improvement in the school infrastructure and appointment of teachers has taken place, the hon. Finance Minister may enlighten the House.

Around 11 Ministries account for about 45 per cent of the total expenditure of the Union Government. Funds allocated to these Ministries are projected to rise 9.9 per cent in 2010-11 compared with 17 per cent in 2009-10. The total allocation for defence in 2010-11 is budgeted at Rs. 175,772 crore, an increase of 7.3 per cent. The hon. Finance Minister can enlighten the House whether the allocation for the 2009-10 i.e. Rs. 163,844 has been spent fully.

The total funds allocated to 10 major schemes of the UPA Government rose by 13 per cent in 2010-11, compared with 6.3 per cent in 2009-10. Funds allocated to Mahatma Gandhi NREGA are budgeted at Rs. 40,100 crore in 2010-11, a 2.6 per cent increase.

Support to the agriculture sector has been provided through a more holistic four pronged strategy which includes increasing output, reduction in waste, credit

support to farmers and incentives to the food processing sector. Thanks to the Government that the basic tax structure has not been modified.

The target of 5.5 per cent fiscal deficit looks achievable with PSU divestment to the tune of Rs. 40,000 crore and Rs. 30,000 crore from the 3G spectrum auction. The size of expenditure is galloping which is a matter of concern. I would have liked the Finance Minister to take some clear steps to reduce the size of expenditure. The increase in excise duty on crude oil and petroleum product is a cause for concern which could trigger inflation.

For the IT industry, investment in infrastructure and e-Governance could generate potential opportunities. IT employees will get higher take-home salary.

The benefits to individual tax-payers will ensure that a slight increase in excise will not impact demand and thus growth will not get impacted. The FM's move to aggressively rationalize income tax slabs will put more money in the hands of middle class and provide a major boost to domestic consumption. With deficit in check, interest rates should not go up. We can look forward to higher growth.

The proposal to allow more private banks will contribute to financial inclusion.

We should also look at what the Government achieved with the money given out last year. A cursory look at any ministry website indicates that no one is really reporting the outcomes.

With these few words, I support the Finance Bill, 2010 wholeheartedly; and do hope that the budgetary allocations for each scheme and department would be spent judiciously for building a strong India.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (Khammam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. After having a look at the Budget prepared by Hon'ble Minister of Finance I would like to say that in this budget speech itself Hon'ble Minister of

Finance had said that they will take the agricultural growth upto 4 percent. But if we see the actual figures then the last year agricultural growth which was 1.6 percent has declined to 0.2 percent in this year. Which means it has gone into minus. If you look at beyond the year 2002-2003 we will see that in the year 2003-2004 this was 10 percent. In 2005-2006 the agricultural growth was 5.2 percent. In the year 2006-07, it came down to 3.7 per cent and in 2007-08 it was 4.7 percent. Last year the agricultural growth was 1.6 percent and this year it has declined to -0.2 percent. This means that the Agricultural growth has dropped by 10 percent after they came to power. As a result of this the entire agricultural sector has got finished and today the problem of food security has arisen. Food production in the country has gone down by 7.5 percent.

Sir, if we look at the drought situation then we can see that there has been an increase in drought also after this Government came into power. In the year 2003-04, the total liabilities were worth Rs. 17,36,678 crore. But today if we look at this budget then the total liabilities are of Rs. 39,45,598 crore. In this manner liabilities have increased. On the other hand they are earning good revenue. But we have not been able to create any assets and neither could we improve the agricultural sector. I believe that this Government must seriously think about all these things. The decline in agricultural sector growth by 10 percent is a very serious issue. I believe that in order to make the Agricultural sector grow further the Government must increase subsidy and bring down the interest rate for farmers. In the absence of all such things the farmers today do not have faith in the Government. Today a number of farmers have left their villages and have come to cities and are working as labourers. A number of our villages are getting deserted. There is no drinking water in the villages. Due to all these reasons today agriculture sector has gone really down and poverty has increased a lot in the country.

Sir, Due to inflation and decline in agriculture sector poverty has increased very much in the country. Today throughout the world you will find maximum number of poor and starved people in our country. Nearly 212 million people which is 30 percent of our country's population, do not even have food for two times in a day.

[Shri Nama Nageswara Rao]

The government should pay attention to it, including the issue of our agricultural production which is going down.

Sir, among the G-20 nations, we have the highest inflation. Inflation as well as unemployment is on the rise.

Due to both these factors about 13.6 million people have gone below the poverty line. This is due to the wrong policies of the government which should be looked into. The rich-poor gap is widening. This budget favours the rich, not the poor. The poor toils from morning to evening, and when he goes to the market, he has to pay service tax on all purchase. In my constituency, the poor engaged in loading and unloading of trucks, have to pay service tax. Even the labourer has to pay service tax. It is a heavy burden on them. The government should reconsider this. It is a very serious issue. The goods on which service tax has been levied is used by the poor. It should be done away with. The Government should look into it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the government says it has introduced NREGA. However, they are not even able to cover 60 per cent. Coverage is not total. Out of the 60 per cent poor, even 10 per cent are not being benefited. The middlemen are benefiting. It is mired in corruption. I want to give a suggestion, mooted by Shri Chandrababu Naidu, to transfer the full amount into the bank accounts of the poor. This should be done, so that he can use it. This will end corruption. The government should seriously consider this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I come to infrastructure. It is very important. It should be given more priority, in villages. Duty on petrol and diesel has been hiked. This will increase the cost of transportation. It is causing an impact on all infrastructural fronts. The impact has been across the board, whether the hike is one rupee or two rupees. Therefore, I demand the hike should be reduced. The government should give it a consideration. Today, money laundering is rampant in India. During session, the Madhuri Gupta episode hit the headlines. It is a serious matter involving an Indian diplomat. Then we had the Sunanda

episode followed by IPL. Money laundering case has come to light. The telecom issue, involving Raja, is a very big scam. It is a case of money laundering. The government says it will bring back the money stashed in Switzerland. The government should know that the amount involved in money laundering is more than deposited abroad. The government should put an end to it. Otherwise, the money laundered, will continue to be used.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make two-three suggestions. Our country has rains for four months, and for twenty days there are heavy rains. The government should conserve all this water. We should conserve rain water. For this the government should consider national water waste and river linking. Similarly, the government should consider national power waste, national bridge regarding power tariff. Suicides by farmers continue. No matter how much we debate it in the House, farmers continue to kill themselves in each state. The government should seriously try to stop this. Why do such suicides take place? Why cognizance has not been taken? The Government should get up and take notice. The farmers should be given loans at four per cent. We should have food security. The loan advanced, should be 40 per cent from the Institutions. The 60 per cent of the loans to farmers is sourced privately. Their high interest rates make the farmers despondent. This is happening in spite of our hon. Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister. The government should seriously consider to prevent money laundering so that the money can be used for the country's development. With this, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak.

[English]

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER (Ponnani): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak. I wholeheartedly support this Finance Bill, 2010. Anybody can see the signals of efficient financial management in this country now under the dynamic leadership of Shri Pranab Mukherjee. I will be failing on my part if I do not say a word of appreciation for this great work that he is doing.

We all know that there are some scientific yardsticks for measuring the efficiency of financial management.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, will you be silent please? The hon. Member is speaking. I do not want another Parliament Session there. So, please cooperate.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: If you just read the C&AG report and the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance, you will very well understand that there are certain very important things done there. The C&AG report on Direct Taxes collection says that in 2006-07, our Direct Taxes collection was Rs. 2,30,181 crore whereas in 2008-09, it was Rs. 3,33,818 crore. That shows a 27.3 per cent increase. That shows the effective financial management.

Similarly, 85 per cent of the tax collection is by way of voluntary compliance. We are really moving towards the international practice of greater reliance on self-assessment in tax administration. That also is a commendable thing on the part of the Minister. Similarly, there was deficiency in completion of scrutiny of assessment cases - 54 per cent was the pendency rate, now it has come to 44 per cent. Similarly, in case of internal audit, always there were a lot of hurdles or backlog in that. There also, 84 per cent of the target has already been achieved.

All these things show that there is a scientific, effective financial management in this country. I do not understand why they are indulging in mudslinging against this Government. The Government has done a great thing and we have to appreciate it.

Sir, six legislative amendments, as suggested by the C&AG, have been done to correct the anomalies in this field. The project 'tax information system' has already been started and that is now in existence. These are the main reasons why I am saying that there is a scientific and effective financial management in this country.

We have to think about the shortfalls also. There are plus and minus points. Coming to the Standing Committee's Report, during the course of scrutiny of the Demand for Grant of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance for 2010-11, they have pointed out certain shortcomings.

Firstly, it is the over-estimate of the requirement of funds in Budget as well as in the Revised Estimates. These kinds of things are continuing for since long back. Similarly, there is a question of recurrence of under-utilisation of funds. Funds allotted to various schemes are not properly utilised in time. Even towards the end of the financial year, there is hurry burry on these kinds of things. So, effective expenditure is not taking place as is expected.

Similarly, large Budget Estimate is there. It has no reality in that also. There should be a sense of reality. Similarly, there is the question of sharp upward and downward revision of Budget Estimates. That also seems to be an unscientific thing. Similarly, there is a over expenditure of funds. We can see that also. Ours is a hard earned money. When we are giving that money for various projects, it will have to be spent honestly, timely in a truthful manner. Unfortunately, that is not there in many cases. I hope that the hon. Minister, who is having a mission and determination in all these kinds of things, will take effective steps in solving these problems also.

Similar is the case with regard to Centrally Sponsored Schemes. My friends were saying about that. We are proud to have Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Now there are 138 Centrally Sponsored Schemes. In 2009, Rs.1,37,137 crore was spent for this kind of thing, which is 13 per cent of the Government expenditure. They include, NREGA, NRHM, SSI, PMGSY. Rural Housing and National Programme on Nutrition, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme, ICDS, Swarna Jayanti Gram Swaraj Yojana and all these things. In this case, I would like to say that two matters will have to be examined in this. One is, whether the benefit of the scheme is reaching the hands of the real beneficiaries. Secondly, are we fully satisfied with the timely implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme? I would like to say that monitoring mechanism on Centrally Sponsored Scheme is very very poor. Beautiful documentation is there: report is there. Up to an extent, I can tell you that there is some kind of a bogus reporting. Accountability is also very poor in this. I am suggesting that when we are releasing the funds to the States, this should be linked with the performance. In a federal system, these kinds of schemes can be implemented through the

[Shri Mohammed E.T. Basheer]

State Governments only. State Governments are not responding in time. We find lesser utilisation of funds and non-operationalization of the schemes. I am even suggesting that for rural development schemes, there are District Level Monitoring Committees headed by the MP of that local area. In all the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, I am suggesting that the District Level Monitoring Committee headed by the MP should be there so that some effective supervision can be there.

Sir, I would like to say one more thing about expenditure on establishment. There must be a proportionate justification in this regard. Under some schemes, posts are created unnecessarily; Departments and posts are created as an over burden but the projects are not taken up seriously. There must be a proportionate thing in that regard. I am suggesting about the priority also. When we nationalised the banks, we had a great ambition in our socio-economic field. It has made tremendous impact. But in the villages we can see that there are no banks. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are another 13 Members and the Minister has to reply. There is no time. What can I do?

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: I am concluding. Hon. Finance Minister is very liberal. I would like to say about the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund from where we are giving assistance to cancer patients and heart patients. But there is a very poor allocation in that fund.

I humbly make this request to the hon. Finance Minister. He is a great man. He has a vision. He may be kind enough to give adequate allotment to this Fund so that cancer patients are benefited. I would request him to take serious note of this request. With these words, I once again support this Bill.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We support this request.

\*DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): I like to express my views particularly in the Finance Bill which is highly discussed today relating to the finance

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

may strengthening the transparency and the public accountability and the financial sector legislative reforms commission to be set up to rewrite and clean up the financial sector laws to bring them in the line with requirements of the sectors. Planning Commission to prepare an integrated action plan and the extremism affected districts of my state which is below poverty line. Orissa is highly neglected and also the state of natural calamity, drought and floods every year repeated and created havoc in the country. Presently our Government headed by hon. Chief Minister, Navin Patnaik did know the art of how to manage the previous bankruptcy. Prior to his assignments as Chief Minister, the state was running heavy loss, economical hazards and the poverty stricken state was leading miserable condition and the Chief Minister presently cleared the money which was loaned by the previous government is already deposited to the financial exchequer and he has changed the economic condition of the State. I do not understand still Central Government is not cooperating for the financial growth of the State. The step-motherly attitude should have been changed to promote the country as a whole. Carrying on of the track: Commerce or Business or rendering of service in the relation for the other objects of public utility should be encouraged of financing to the state. The real governance relating to finance can be materialized through the budgetary condition of the Central Government should be provided immediately to promote the state Orissa out of the below poverty line. Until and less the financial conditions of the State is not strengthened the mao movements or the so-called naxals may be taking upper hands in the name of exploitations in the rural areas. If sufficient allocation must be granted by the Centre to wipe out the monetary hazards, the problem of the extremist movement can be rooted out so easily. Allot some more money, more grants and sufficient financial allocation is the only solution to root out the Maoists from poor, rural, pro-literate out of economic disaster.

The Finance Minister who has been mentioning that a draft food security bill be placed in the public domain. There are also proposals for establishing a strong supply chain for perishable farm product. Also there will be a consorted attempt to convert primary produce into value

added products. Incentives have also been provided for relevant farm mechanization and for establishing cold storages and other facilities for preservation of perishable commodities. These steps should have to improve the profitability of horticulture, animal husbandry and agriculture. Orissa is a state of agriculture from the primitive days to modern one; the scientific approach towards tilling the land and water facilities is not being provided to the poor farmers. Necessary financial grants to be allotted for the State Orissa for the survival of poor farmers those are leading the life depriving of getting the water facilities every year meeting the drought and same thing I can draw the attention of the Central Government that all the road also to be well communicated from Centre to State and State to down trodden areas which are highly neglected. While the road map is indicated in the Budget, the achievement of the goals of above States will be possible is very small amongst provided in the Budget only if State governances can introduce and deliver as one approach with reference to the implementation of different projects for e.g. substantial outlays are available on the several organizing programme like KBK and other districts which are below poverty line. If such are approached involving appropriate changes both in attitude and action is not adopted the small money allotted for the above mentioned purposes will not yield anticipated results. Another issue regarding opening of the retail trade and small holders farming are the largest self-employment enterprises in our country also creating jobs with greater challenging facing us now. Therefore, the opening up of retail trade to large company with national or multi-nationals needs to be taken up on the basis of employment impact analysis. The present maoist problem can be rooted out if the rural youths, jobless, unemployed, foodless sitting idle in the village, joining hands with extremists creating political hazards. Unfortunately, the irrigation which is the most important input for agriculture does not find special mention in the present budget speech although provision has been made in the Bharat Nirman, the false commitment and propagation. Finally, it is a high time that the sentiments expressed by the Finance Minister in the relation to post harvest technology particularly grain green storage are converted into section without delay. Every existing stocks

of wheat, rice are not stored properly. It will be sad if during a period of hardship as a result of food inflation, we should allow wastage of precious grain. The Finance Minister recipe for agricultural renewal thus involves convergence and is totally negligence to a state may create political hazards that to boost agricultural sector is a dream and not reality.

Agricultural oriented industry should be installed in the state Orissa to promote it a number one state in the country who believes farming and agriculture we need more agriculturally oriented university to be granted by the Centre.

More financial grant I demand for my constituency i.e. for Bhubaneswar. Immediate financial grant is highly solicited relating to some flyover on the national highway of the Central Government those are from Khandagiri; Fire Station crossing; CRP Chowk; Vanivihar; Rasulgarh etc. I demand more flyover in the city for smooth running of traffic. Another road to be connected immediately from Khurda via Nandankanan to Cuttack the heavy trucks should not be allowed on the roads for the safety of city people.

Immediate drinking water facilities to city Bhubaneswar to be facilitated from Naraj Mahanadi to Bhubaneswar to solve the acute water problem.

Lastly it is high time immediate money grants to be allotted to facilitate to avoid the traffic congestion, a planned metro to be initiated from the Centre as it did for Chandigarh, the Bhubaneswar also established as a State head capital in the same time the metro line from Khurda-Bhubaneswar to Cuttack may coordinate two biggest cities of the State with Bhubaneswar to Cuttack and Khurda is the ex-capital of the State having high heritage of the nation culturally acclaimed would be well communicated. The work should be started on war footing. I honestly request to draw the attention of the Minister for the allocation of immediate funds to materialize the proposed projects. It is high time the sentiments expressed by the Finance Minister in relation to post-harvest technology and particularly grain storage were converted into action without delay.



[Shri Prasanna Kumar Patasani]

Describing the Union Budget for 2010 as extremely disappointing for Orissa. All the MPs from our State accusing the Centre for all but glossing over its promise to accord special category status to the State.

DR. G. VIVEKANAND (Peddapally): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Finance Bill for the second time in a row and I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for presenting this Finance Bill which is in line with the Budget he presented on 26th February, 2010.

Yesterday one of the hon. Members said that there was nothing much for the aam aadmi in this Bill. Under the leadership of the UPA Chairperson hon. Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji, our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and our hon. Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjeeji, the UPA Government has already taken up the flagship programmes of NREGA with Rs.41,000 crore; the Bharat Nirman with Rs.48,000 crore; and have also ensured that at least 37 per cent of the total plan allocation is spent on the social sector; and an additional 25 per cent of the total plan is spent on the rural infrastructure to help that the aam aadmi is well taken care of. By lowering the income tax brackets the Finance Minister has already done a good service to the middle class of our great country.

We have seen that the recession all over the world has affected the GDP growth rates. In most of the countries the GDP growth rates were only one or two per cent. But with the stimulus the hon. Finance Minister had given last year India grew at 7.2 per cent which is one of the highest GDP growth rates in the world. To create more employment for the aam aadmi and also to ensure that the GDP grows at over nine per cent, it is important that we involve more funding in the infrastructure segment. Investments can come either by disinvestments or by Foreign Direct Investments. But our hon. Finance Minister has given an additional tax incentive of Rs.20,000 for investment in infrastructure bonds. This will help small income groups also to become a part of the infrastructure development of the country.

The micro, small and medium enterprises contribute

nearly 45 per cent of the manufacturing output and 40 per cent of our exports. Hence, the amendment to Section 44AB enhancing monetary limit from Rs.40 lakh to Rs.50 lakh for compulsory tax audit not only recognizes the healthy growth in the economy in the last few years, but also is needed to provide relief to the small businesses in the form of reduced compliances.

Enhancement of weighted deduction from 150 per cent to 200 per cent under Section 35D is a welcome move to encourage research. An amendment to this Section involves a change in definition from 'scientific research' to 'research' which is making the encouragement to research more broad based. I have a suggestion in regard to the Income Tax relief. We are a country with significant mineral resources and mining is an important activity. The economic growth is also measured specifically with mining as an important element. A lot of workers in this segment have a hazard allowance of Rs.800 per month. This amount has been fixed several years back. Inflation has gone up but this amount has not been increased. I come from Singareni Collieries mining area where a lot of coalminers are there. I specifically request that this exemption be increased to Rs.2000 per month considering that no revision has taken place for several years earlier.

Hon. Finance Minister has announced that the Direct Tax Code is in the process of finalization. One of the important modifications in the Direct Tax Code is in respect of the retirement benefits of Provident Fund, Public Provident Fund, Superannuation, Gratuity, etc.

**16.00 hrs.**

The proposal released are not very clear in respect of the transition to Exempt-Exempt-Tax regime. It appears that credit to Provident Fund Account as on April, 2011 is exempt and it is not clear about superannuation and Public Provident Fund. It is import that being a welfare measure, this issue needs to be looked into during the process of finalisation.

Yesterday, one of our colleagues has said that too many services have been brought into the Services Tax net. However, our Finance Minister has already announced

that the General Sales Tax will be implemented shortly. Whenever all the services come into this, there would be a smooth flow towards implementing the General Sales Tax. Considering the Cenvat chain is already extended to all levels and to all industries, levy of service tax on additional services will not increase the cost of goods and services.

The Cenvat on capital goods is extended from 50 per cent 100 per cent in the first year for the small scale sector. This will alleviate the hardship of the small scale sector which is generally starved for working capital.

As we all are aware, agricultural production and agri-based industries should be encouraged. We have a target to have agricultural output of over 200 MT this year and the hon. UPA Chairperson, the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister have already implemented a scheme providing nearly 55 per cent of the drip irrigation which is taking place in the rural areas. Our hon. Chief Minister, Shri K. Rosasaiah is also giving a subsidy of 45 per cent on the drip irrigation programme. In case, excise duty exemption is given for the drip irrigation, definitely, farmers suicides would come down.

Our colleague was saying just now that there are several suicides taking place in the farming community. Actually, it was during the Telugu Desam Government that several farmers suicides took place. However, after the Congress Government came, we gave the free power scheme and with the drip irrigation, farmers are no more committing suicides in Andhra Pradesh.

Telangana Region in Andhra Pradesh has been given a step motherly treatment by successive State Governments. Because of no jobs in Telangana region, a lot of people are going to Dubai doing menial jobs. As you are aware, global recession has affected them; most of them are coming back to their home town. But, there are no jobs available. Many of them are committing suicides. They are unable to get any jobs and are under severe mental stress. It is also seen that Telangana area contributes over 50 per cent of revenue in Andhra Pradesh and there is a need that much more needs to be done through the hon. Finance Minister by giving a package as

was given to the Bundelkhand area. I would also request that 100 per cent income-tax relief is given for units being set up in Telangana area, except the Hyderabad city, so that the people of Telangana have an opportunity to be part of the growth process. With these few lines, I support the Bill proposed by the Finance Minister.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to express my views on the Finance Bill. In his speech, the Minister of Finance said the 'aam aadmi' was the focus of the budget. But, while saying this, he perhaps, forgot, that in reality, the condition in the country was not well. India is a country of villages, where the 'aam aadmi' lives, lacking, even today, basic amenities. Even after 62 years of Independence villages lack pure drinking water. Lacking basic amenities, villages are witnessing huge exodus. Earlier, even the landless lived generation after generation in the villages, living in harmony with others. Such people made their contribution, specially in farming. But, due to-poverty, such people are gradually moving to cities, having employment and other facilities. This has affected the rural economy, the mainstay of our economy.

But, the budget paints a rosy picture, which shows poverty is declining, with rising incomes for the poor, increasing rural facilities and growth rate also increasing.

The reality is the opposite. What could be more unfortunate than the fact that we do not have correct figures of those living below the poverty line? Central and States' figures differ. Similar is the case of survey agencies.

The fact is that more than 60 percent of the population is below the poverty line. And this is rising. In such a scenario how can the government claim that the growth rate and per capita income is on the rise? The poor are becoming poorer and the rich, getting richer. On one hand we have people living on Rs.20 per day, and on the other we had a case where a person gifted an airplane to his wife. On one side we see people begging for a meal and, on the other people have 56 items meal, which cannot be finished.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

Efforts have not been made in the budget to remove these inequalities. On the contrary, false promises of Bharat Nirman have been made after presenting a deficit budget while keeping the common man in dark about the large amount of foreign loan. The Government is verbose in its promises, the development is sluggish and 62 years have gone by. but we have not been able to remove hunger.

Rs 70 lakh crore of the country is deposited in foreign banks. A promise to bring that money back had been made, but that also has been forgotten. If the country has to be taken on the path of development, agriculture will have to be strengthened. To strengthen agriculture, there is a need to provide irrigation, power, cheap fertilizer, cheap seeds and security to the farmers today. The provision in the budget is too meagre to be helpful to serve the purpose.

For instance, there are a number of inter-state irrigation schemes in my state, but they are lying incomplete due to lack of budgetary provisions. The average area of irrigated land has not moved beyond 30 per cent even after 62 years of independence. When Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee Ji was the Prime Minister, he had launched a prime minister fast track scheme to get the incomplete irrigation projects completed. I suggest that that scheme should be made more effective and budgetary provision for that should be enhanced.

I had made a demand to cover the various irrigation projects of the state in the national project to extend financial assistance to them through which the Ravi tat canal of Riva itself proposed to irrigate 1.98 lakh hectare land of Jabalpur, Katani and Satna. This project is lying incomplete due to lack of fund. However, that has not been sanctioned till date.

I have given just an example. Thousands of schemes of several states of the country need the financial support of the Union Government, but there is no provision for that in the budget. Even if there is a provision, it is too meagre.

GATT agreement was signed during the Government

of Narasimha Rao Ji and in its aftermath farmers are being provided with foreign seeds. Now the farmer has become dependent. The Government of the country is not even providing good quality seeds to the farmers.

The farmer is not getting power supply. The support price of the produce of the farmer is too less than its cost price, but the prices of the food grains are rising. Something somewhere is wrong and it should be checked immediately.

Separate feeder for power be set up for the farmers across the country and they be provided cheaper power. Godowns be constructed in every development block headquarter of the country for stocking every type of agricultural produce.

Hon'ble Finance Minister! If these things are not kept into account, the people of this country will face hunger. There is a need of introspection by the country. Let the country not be ruined in a rat race and in a race to dwarf others.

We are lagging behind in every field as compared to the world. Globalisation did not benefit us, on the contrary, our country has become the biggest market of the world today. Our money is filling the coffers of other countries. Our self-reliance in every field is gradually getting over.

The country needs industries; however, besides, there is a need to increase the productivity of agriculture as well. The outstanding loans to the tune of Rs 10 lakh 54 thousand crore on the industrial households are being waived, while the loans of the farmers which is less than 10 per cent of the said amount are not being completely waived. Why? If the justification for waiving the loans of the industries is that the industries have to be revived for production, then, why the loans of the farmers are not being waived? Will the farmer not increase his productivity? The farmer has always been in a loss making vocation. That is why, he is debt ridden. That is the reason behind suicides also. We must remember that if the farmer avoids carrying out agricultural activity, the country will starve. Incidentally, 2 crore farmers have already decided not to carry out cultivation. The pressure of population on

agriculture is too much, as such, the farmer is becoming landless. He is becoming labourer and is migrating from his land.

At last, I would only say that the future of the country will be safe, it will become self-reliant and prosperous only if the whole country is treated as our own and we proceed taking all the areas together.

DR. SANJIV GANESH NAIK (Thane): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak in the House on this Bill once again. I would like to thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his successful endeavour in regard to fulfilling his promise to provide all that to the people of the country that he had made during the last financial year. As such, I thank him today in the House in the presence of all of you. I observe that our country has been standing strong during the past 2-3 years in the face of the worldwide slowdown. There is slowdown across the world. Our country, too, has gone through this slowdown. However, I would again thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for making every effort to take our country in the proper economic direction.

I congratulate him for his contribution in this regard. A higher provision of around Rs 1,37,674.00 crore has been made in the Finance Bill of this year. I want to thank for the 8.6 per cent rise in the achievement vis-a-vis the previous year. He has made every effort to distribute the available fund among all the classes. I would like to submit that the area from which I come is an urban one. I observe that Members from every state raise issues about their areas in the House. The Thane area I come from is adjoining to Navi Mumbai, Meerabhayandar and Mumbai. All the Members may agree that people from all the states of the country come to Mumbai and they not only visit the city, but also settle down over there. It is the endeavour of the Government of Maharashtra to provide them maximum facilities to make them capable to lead a decent life. I thank the Central Government for the major support given in this regard. They have raised around 75 per cent allocation during this year under this head. It has been raised to Rs 5400 crore from Rs 3060 crore of the previous year. I thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for paying attention in this regard.

Similar is the case of the Rajiv Awas Yojana. Only Rs 150 crore had been provided for this Yojana during the previous year. This has been raised to Rs. 1270 crore this year. I thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for this. I think that the towns are becoming bigger and the small villages are emerging as towns. I thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for taking care of those who live in towns and taking into account all these things in the Finance Bill of this year.

Similarly, there is another problem today. The satellite townships that are coming up around our cities face the biggest problem of water, though, this is a country wide problem. For example, drinking water and water for irrigation in our villages is becoming scarce. There is no state or the state government that is not facing this problem.

I have been observing that only IPL was being discussed everywhere for the last 2-3 days. It is good that some people raised the issue of the BPL also. I would thank all the hon. Members as it is hightime that the BPL issue is discussed. This is a problem all the states face. I think that the hon. Finance Minister will pay some attention to it. Last year, he had talked about the programme of the government under the JNNURM between the year 2005 to 2009. The hon. Prime Minister had mentioned about the C.D.P. submitted by the states in this regard last year. However, no increase has been made in this regard this year as compared to the last year. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to pay some attention in this regard as the new members are getting the projects of their respective areas referred to the Central government through the corporations and municipalities of their areas. I am a member of the standing committee of the Urban Development Ministry. Their contention is that unless and until the hon. Finance Minister extends his support in this regard in future, they cannot cooperate with them. I would like to say that be it the Rajiv Gandhi Aawas Yojana, Scheme For Road Construction, dealing with the problem of water or the small townships; where the government has made provisions under the JNNURM, in its efforts to introduce 100 per cent sewerage projects; there is a need to increase the allocation of Rs. 700 crore made during the last year to at least Rs. 1000 crore. This is my humble request. There is a need to properly construct

[Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh Naik]

these towns, be they in any state. ...*(Interruptions)*. Tufaniji, you are making demand for the villages, but we will have to make demand for the towns as well. All the members will agree with my point, as there are towns in your states also. The problem of those towns is also rising in the course of time. Similarly, there is a big problem in regard to power supply in towns in all the states. Our hon. Prime Minister has made a mention in this regard this year and a big allocation has been earmarked for non-conventional energy in the budget of the current year. I think that the hon. Finance Minister would pay some attention in this regard. I understand that if some attention is paid towards solar power about which I raised a point, it will provide relief to the towns of all the states. There is a need to make some better provision in this regard. I hope that the hon. Finance Minister will pay some attention towards it. I think that all the hon. Members have raised one point or the other; however, the problem of power and water is going to be the biggest ones in our country in the time to come. There is a likelihood that this problem is going to aggravate during the coming 20-25-50 years and young members like me have come to this House, I think that it is hightime we took steps in this regard. I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister and hope that he will definitely ponder over this matter.

[English]

\*SHRI C. SIVASAMI (Tiruppur): I thank you very much for allowing me to express my views regarding Finance Bill of Government of India. Finance is very essential to run the nation on the stronger path. So, Finance department is the most vital department among any other department in the Government. In order to overcome the current expenditure and also to introduce the welfare schemes with regard to the development of the country, it is necessary to concentrate more on earning and spending money.

It is a bitter fact that the most part of the total revenue is spent on the Government's administrative expenses whereas the marginal balance amount was spent for the

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

development schemes. So, while handling the money, we should be totally aware of avoiding the unnecessary additional expenses and also the income loss to the Government. But the generous fact is that as we look at the current scenarios in the country, due to faulty administration, the Government is suffering a huge loss of thousands of crore of rupees income which Government desire to earn. For example, 2G spectrum is one among them which give loss of thousands of crore rupees on bidding. In addition, transferring the official Vineet Agarwal, who is probing the scam with regard to the controversial 2G Spectrum allocation, not only strengthen the doubts of the people but also brings the unfaithful image over the Government. So, a proper investigation should be carried out regarding this, at the same time in order to carry the probe in a justified manner, hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT A. Raja should come forward to step down immediately.

Also, the bribing controversy in the IPL, arresting the MCI President, Ketan Desai, recovering 2000 crore rupees and huge amount of gold from him is not only the challenging factor to the Government but also displays the bribing rule in the Government. VIPs' of our country who deposited the black money in the Swiss Bank is a big hurdle for the development of our nation. While watching these incidents keenly, it just brings doubts in the minds of the people that whether the revenue which our treasury should gain is received or not? So, the Government should consider to conduct a probe on such scams and should take immediate action and it also should take necessary steps to improve the revenue of the Government.

Export is one of the important causes for the development of the economy in the country. But, exporting the raw material to the foreign countries and celebrating the closing ceremony to the indigenous industries is the increasing factor. So, exporting the finished goods is decreasing day by day which results in huge revenue loss for the Government. So, serious measures should be taken to solve this problem.

Cheaper power tariff, uninterrupted power supply and special benefits are given to encourage the foreigners to

start industries in our country, whereas the indigenous industries are struggling hard with huge power tariff and frequent power cuts. This policy not only affects the production but also cause a huge loss on revenue to the Government. So, in order to protect the revenue loss to the Government and to control the additional expenses incurred by the officials, I urge upon the Union Government to constitute a Committee including MPs, officials and experts to monitor the situation. I hereby conclude myself on thanking you very much for giving this wonderful opportunity and I finally request the Union Government that it should not only safeguard the wealthy people, it should also take positive steps to improve the status of the people who live below the poverty line, only then our country, India, will become a Super Power.

\*SHRI P. KUMAR (Tiruchirappalli): Union Government allot huge allocation of funds for the centrally sponsored schemes which are to be implemented by the States. I have come to understand that there are two steering committee, one headed by the Chief Minister of the State and the other at the Central Level, would monitor the implementations programmes. Here, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that a housing scheme has been executed, implemented at Coimbatore Municipality in Tamil Nadu the activities are barred. But, despite this fact the state authorities proceeded with the construction and the result is at the nearing completion state the building collapsed. I request that this kind of irresponsible attitude of the authorities, not only to be condemned but should be punished. Therefore, I plead the Government of India to periodically monitor the schemes through its designated officer of concern Ministries.

At this juncture I appeal to the Government to include Trichirappalli and Salem in the list of cities which are selected for the implementation of JNNURM. Sir, we have come to know that a condition is stipulated that a beneficiary under basic services to the urban poor and IHSDP shall have to bear the 12% beneficiary contribution for houses and 10% beneficiary contribution has to be borne by the SC-ST, BC-OBC.

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Then, coming to the agricultural sector, the Government should take note of it that the area of cultivable agricultural lands are coming down resulting in food shortage. The agricultural production have been reduced drastically. One side the Government is making laws to provide food security to all sections of our population and on the other side the cultivable lands area are coming down. There are two main reasons for this. One is conversion of agricultural lands as housing plots and the other is the agricultural lands are being used for the industrialization purposes. One side the production of food grains are coming down and on the other there is no sufficient godowns for the storage of the agricultural produces. The government should come forward to enact a suitable law in this House to ban the conversion of agricultural land for industrial and housing purposes. Then only we can save the cultivable agricultural lands which provides food grains for the poor.

In my Parliamentary Constituency, the district of Tiruchirappalli and Pudukottai, agriculturists are producing more quantity of Bananas, Jasmin and Cashewnuts. But due to marketing problems, they are unable to get proper price for their produces resulting a huge loss for them. For this, I suggest that agricultural based industries like establishment of Central Banana Export Centre, Perfume manufacturing industries to extract from Jasmin and cashewnuts export unit to enable the agriculturists to get remunerative prices for their produces. Suitable plan may be approved at an early date.

There is a long pending demand of more than one lakh pensioners of BSNL for the merger of 50% DA as Dearness Relief on IDA to BSNL pensioners with effect from 01.01.2007 on part with BSNL working employees. They have served in BSNL for more than 35 to 40 years. The Government should come forward to consider their genuine demand at the earliest.

Then coming to the road sector, I request the Government to lay service lane at NH 67 from Thuvakkudi to Trichi Old Palpannai as these area comes under city limit with heavy vehicular traffic. Further, one of the land mark industry BHEL comes under this limit. 200 approach

[Shri P. Kumar]

roads connecting various neighbouring towns and villages are connected with these NH. Therefore, there is a need to lay service lane in this NH.

There is a long pending demand from the people of Tamil Nadu for conversion of State Highway No. 28 from Thanjavur to Sayalkudi via Pattukottai and Aranthangi into National Highway.

The State Highway No. 25 connecting Tiruchirapalli with Namakkal has large vehicular traffic. Since this line is thrashed with number of small and medium enterprises, it is requested for long time to convert the State Highway No. 25 into National Highway. I request the Government to make budgetary provisions for the road projects in the present Budget itself.

Trichirapalli is situated on the banks of river Cauvery and centre of Tamil Nadu State with 35 lakh population. It is connecting the State through 8 state highways and four national highways. The neighbouring districts of Tiruchirapalli are Karur, Perambalur, Pudukottai, Dindigul and Ariyalur. The Rock Fort Temple, Srirangam Temple and Samayapuram Mariamman Temple are some of the famous pilgrim centres and the floating population is in increase. It is a place of highly prone for natural calamities frequently. Annal Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital is present in my constituency and there is no expansion of building and staff strength since 1997. Hence, as a Member of Parliament of Tiruchirapalli, I am submitting the proposal on the Floor of Parliament for allocation of necessary funds for the upgradation of Annal Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital, Tiruchirapalli as a Super Specialty Hospital on par with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

I repeatedly requested the Government through letters and Special Mentions to upgrade the present customs airport at Trichirapalli should be upgraded as an International Airport. The necessary financial allocations should be made in the present Budget itself. New flight services should be introduced from Trichi to Delhi via Chennai and Tiruchi to Mumbai via Bangalore. Frequency of flights from Trichi to Chennai may be increased.

The allocation of funds to the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Fund may be increased from Rs. 2 crore to 5 crore to provide more basic amenities and to development their constituencies. With this word, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

DR. BALIRAM (Lalganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill.

16.12 hrs.

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*)

The hon. Minister has stated that this is the common man's budget and has been formulated in the interest of the common man and the poor. However, so far as I have gone through this budget, it appears that the focus of budget formulation is on giving benefit to the rich people. Attention has not been paid to the poor and the farmers as much as it should have been in the budget.  
...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, as such, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Finance Minister that he needs to rectify the economic policy he has formulated. Some improvement is required to be made so as to mitigate the poverty, starvation of the poor. In his address, H.E. the President of India had stated that the government would bring the black money deposited in foreign banks back into the country. This led to euphoria across the country. We people also felt very happy that black money will come into the country, it will be used for the development of the poor and to address their poverty and hunger. We assumed that the BPL people would benefit from that. As is being discussed here and as several of our hon. Members have stated that all the black money deposited in the Swiss Banks have been brought here and the big industrialists have benefited therefrom through the IPL. As such, I would like to ask the government that when it accepted that black money of this country has been deposited abroad, then how come this black money disappear from the Swiss Banks? If that money was brought to the country, then where has it

gone? I would like to know it. Today, the pace at which price rise is being witnessed in the country, it is breaking the backbone of the common man. How a person not having any landed property or any means of livelihood will arrange for two square meals or clothes for his children. No provision has been made in this budget for such poor people. I understand his concern. He said that the government would arrange for the livelihood of the poor people through the NREGA. Madam Chairman, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Finance Minister that the poor people are not getting the benefit of the NREGA scheme, the intention with which the government had formulated it. The government has fixed an amount of work stipulating that a person will have to dig out three cubic meter soil to get Rs. 100 as has daily wage. Practically, a person cannot take out three cubic meter soil in a day.

He is getting a daily wage of less than Rs 50. How will he manage to give two square meals to his children in just Rs 50. That's why we would appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Minister and urge him to raise daily wages of the workers from Rs 100 to Rs 200 to enable them to give two square meals to their children, in case he wants to give benefit to such poor people.

At last, I would like to say that the hike in the prices of diesel and petrol has certainly led to an over-all price-rise. This is breaking the back of the poor. There is the Government of the Bahujan Samaj Party in Uttar Pradesh. When the Union Government raised the prices of diesel and petrol, Bahen Kumari Mayawati Ji decided to take the additional burden of Rs 2000 crore so that the people do not have to take the additional burden and they could get some relief. There are various developmental projects in Uttar Pradesh which are lying pending. I would appeal to allocate funds to these project as soon as possible so that development could be brought about in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. BALIRAM: Similarly, the shortage of sugar across

the country today is putting a burden on the people. The price of sugar has risen from Rs 15-16 a kg to Rs 30-35 a kg. This is the case when production of sugar has been more in the country vis-a-vis the last year and the sugar produced last year is still in surplus stock ...*(Interruptions)* When sugar was in surplus at that time and this year the production has been more as compared to the last year, then, why the price of sugar is rising. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to submit that black marketing of sugar has been going on. Several people have been apprehended in the raids carried out across Uttar Pradesh and sent to jail. Stocks of sugar have also been seized in the raids and black-marketing has also been checked. ...*(Interruptions)* Such an arrangement should be put in place that the poor people are not made to suffer and price-rise is checked.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request all the hon. Members not to take more than 5 minutes.

*[English]*

DR. TARUN MONDAL (Joynagar): Madam, I consider that the passing of the Finance Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Government for 2010-11 is not simply a theoretical exercise but some practical guide and framework of the financial policies and activities of the Government.

Our veteran Leader of the House and most respected hon. Finance Minister while introducing the Bill has drawn a rosy picture and promised a bright future in the economic front of the country. He has stated an achievement of 7.2 per Cent growth which is expected to touch 9 per cent in the next fiscal year. He has painted a fiscal deficit in reducing percentage in the coming years which is 5.5 per cent at present, to 4.8 per cent of GDP in 2011-12 and 4.1 per cent in 2012-13.

Madam, I wonder whether the fruits of such a growth and reducing levels of fiscal deficit will reach the 250 million Indians who are starving; millions and millions of jobless unemployed citizens of India and millions of women



[Dr. Tarun Mondal]

including minors who are thrown to flesh trade day in and day out.

I would most humbly like to ask the hon. Finance Minister whether this positive turnaround in the economy, as he has stated, is capable of changing India's position of 94th out of 119 countries in the global hunger index. I would like to know if this would be able to change the figure of India which is housing 33 per cent of world's poor. I would like to know whether this Finance Bill and the taxation proposals have got any relation to address the needs of crores of citizens deprived of basic education and minimum health care? I am unable to understand what meaningful purpose the words, like Repo, Reverse Repo, CRR, monetary measures of RBI, fiscal stimulus to the corporate-sector, serves to the 80 crores plus poor people of this country.

While passing the Finance Bill and the taxation proposals we cannot ignore the recently held 'Hartal' countrywide called by the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) and some other parties for reducing the priceline of essential commodities and introduction of all out State trading of essential commodities and sale through PDS in fixed and fair prices. If one considers the hartal even a partial success, then it surely blackens the claim of the Government of its economic success.

Sir, inflation, our hon. Finance Minister indicated, concerns him and the consumers but at the same time he placed it as an essential companion of economic growth. The hon. Finance Minister has given some 'miserly concession', in Direct Taxes to the tax payers of upper bracket. The tax payers in the lower and middle brackets received very little benefits. I would like to strongly suggest the revision in the slabs - up to three lakhs there should be no payment of tax, for income up to Rs. 5 lakhs, it should be 10 per cent; for income up to Rs. 8 lakhs, it should be 20 per cent and for income above 12 lakhs, it should be 30 per cent and for income upto 12 lakhs it should be 40 per cent. But the burden of indirect taxes which affects the entire population of the country, from prince to pauper, has been increased heavily. The rise in

petrol and diesel prices which has been effected by increasing the Customs and Excise duty and the decision of de-regulation of prices of petro products, in line with the Parikh Committee recommendations, indirectly has raised the prices of every essential item of livelihood and derailed the Government's control measures on prices of essential commodities and inflation. Moreover, failure to collect taxes from the corporate houses and companies to the tune of Rs. 13,000 crore in the last fiscal is a failure of the Government and proves further the soft attitude of this Government towards the corporate sector. Revenue collection in this sector should be reinforced without delay and with diligence.

Goods and service taxes (GST) are going to bring in more service sectors under the taxation net and thereby putting more burden on the already over-burdened people. Health, education, electricity, power supply, communication all comes under the service sector now a days in the present globalised, privatised and liberalised economy. I do not find any humane reason for giving tax holidays to the industrial sector, especially for the SEZs and for some States. It is a peculiar fact that those who enjoy such holidays for years in terms of free or subsidised rates in electricity, land, Excise, Customs and other Duties are sheer profit makers and never see the interest of the workers, employees or of the local people. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to put a stop to such things. The under-developed areas should get special packages instead, including the areas of Sunderbans and the Jangalmahal of West Bengal. The Union Government must search and research to find out where lies the lacunae in the federal system that even the flagship programmes find scant success in the state. It is not a place-of blaming the States but a place to ponder over as to what measures can improve the so called human face of democracy. If one blames even the bureaucracy for corruption and inefficiency, the question comes whether bureaucracy runs polity or polity runs the former?

Madam, therefore, I cannot support this pro-capitalist, pro-corporate Finance Bill.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, we are discussing the Finance Bill, 2010-11. The Finance Bill

mainly deals with the tax structure of direct and indirect taxes and also tax proposals of the Finance Minister and their implications. When the Budget was presented in the House on the 26th February, 2010, our Finance Minister said that the Budget is not merely an account or statement of assets and liabilities but it is something more. There should be a vision.

Sir, I fully agree with the Finance Minister and we have to analyse the Finance Bill with regard to whether this vision is in favour of the poor or in favour of the rich. To make it clear, I can say that in the last Budget, when there was global recession, the Finance Minister said that we need special stimulus package and Rs. 80,000 crore has been given as exemption to the corporate sector. When the Finance Minister presented the Budget, he said that our economy is at the recovery stage. So, I really thought that the Government is going to stop that stimulus package. It is not like that. It is continuing. It is not only that. The Finance Minister said that we are going to lose Rs.26,000 crore as exemption again as income tax. We thought that the Finance Minister would end his speech there. But he again continued and on the other side, he reversed the excise duty from 8 per cent to 10 per cent to non-petroleum products and from 5 per cent to 7.5 per cent to petroleum products. It means that there is Rs.42,000 crore as indirect tax. So, how can you say that the vision is for the aam admi or for the poor people? As a result, the Finance Bill itself reflects that it is not for the poor people. I do not say that just because there is fiscal deficit, the Budget is bad or there is a surplus, the Budget is good. We have to analyse the tax structure, how it is earned and for what it is spent. Here, the indirect tax really is increasing. As a democratic system, the Government follows a rigorous tax system to see that there is a decrease in the direct tax and increase in the indirect tax.

The Planning Commission has made it clear that the Centre collected about Rs. 70,000 crore from the taxes and levies on petroleum products in 2008-09. So, they are getting more taxes through indirect taxes. It is the real reason as to why the prices are rising. The Government says that it is a common phenomena as far as other countries are concerned. When we see the consumer

price inflation for February, 2010 in the case of G-2 countries, India is in the first place with 14.86. It is 10.1 in Turkey, 9.1 in Argentina, 7.2 in Russia, 5.7 in South Africa, 4.8 in Brazil, 4.8 in Mexico, 4.6 in Saudi Arabia, 3.8 in Indonesia, 3.1 in United Kingdom, 2.7 in Republic of Korea, 2.7 in China, 2.1 in Australia, 2.1 in United States, 1.6 in Canada, 1.3 in France, 1.1 in Germany, 1.1 in Italy, -1.1 in Japan. Then how can you say that it is a common phenomenon?

So, something is wrong in the policy which the Government is following. That is what we have been asking about. As far as petroleum products are concerned, in the international market, in the present situation, the cost of one barrel of petrol is really Rs. 24 per litre.

But the Indian consumers are paying Rs. 48 and more. It is because of the customs and excise duty. Around 50 or 51 per cent of the petrol and diesel price is really the tax. If the Government does not take it seriously, how can we reduce the price? In this House we have discussed many issues. But we have dealt with the issue of price rise very seriously. I think it is important because petrol and diesel price hike is one of the reasons for the general price increase. So, we demand that the Government should withdraw the price increase of petrol and diesel. That is one of the things the Government has to do if it is sincere about reducing the price rise.

The other issue is the mobilisation of revenue by the Government. One of the major issues is disinvestment. In 1999-2000, the mobilisation was Rs. 1,724 crore from the disinvestment. But in 2009-10, it was Rs. 25,000 crore; and now it is Rs. 40,000 crore. That means it has been doubled. It means we are selling the share of the public sector undertakings. It means really the selling of public assets. It is done in the name of people's participation. We know who the people are. Does a common man go and purchase the shares? It is done by the big people. This is one of the ways you have adopted to get more revenue from the PSUs.

The Finance Minister has taken another step. That is rationalisation of tax slab. Of course, it is a good step. As another hon. Member has already stated, for income up

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

to Rs. 15,000 or Rs. 25,000 there is no change. That is good. But at the same time, for Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 or Rs. 3,00,000, the slab is not higher, but it is lower. As a result of this rationalisation of the tax slab, the affluent sections, who can pay tax, have been given the concession.

The Finance Ministers' meeting was held. They have taken a decision that Centre-State relations have to be reviewed. The States have to face a lot of issues. Centrally-sponsored schemes have to be undertaken by the States. The States have also to take up other issues. So, with regard to tax sharing, their demand is that it should be 50:50. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Finance Ministry has taken a decision to collect the details of depositors from the nationalised banks, commercial banks and cooperative banks. It is good. For nationalised banks and commercial banks, the limit is Rs. 10 lakh, whereas for cooperative banks it is Rs. 1 lakh. In Kerala, cooperative movement is a massive one. There should be uniformity with regard to this.

Kerala is the first State to introduce the paper lottery. About 2,50,000 people are dependent on this. It is also a non-tax revenue. It was introduced in 1968. But in 1998, the Central Government has come up with an Act. Under that Act, the on-line lottery has been introduced. It is really a gambling.

As a result of this, there are a number of social issues. 36 persons committed suicide in Kerala alone because people are under the assumption that they may get more and more prizes. People are in a queue. In a day, there are 25 rows of lotteries. Within 10 minutes, there is one row. No one will get the prize. So, it is really a gambling. Therefore, I would request the Government to ban the on-line lottery or give power to the State Government.

Madam, because of the anti-people policy, I do say that the credibility of the UPA Government is diminishing. I do not go to the IPL scam. I do not say about telephone tapping. I do not say about the scam raised by the other

Opposition parties. It is not the creation of the Opposition. It is not the creation of the Left Parties. It is not the creation of any of the opposition parties. Mr. Minister, you are really digging the burial ground on your own. So, you have to go in for a thorough introspection of the Government policy with regard to this.

With these words, I oppose the Finance Bill.

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): This bill is set to be passed, however, it is my submission that the pension to MPs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: One minute, you be seated. Do not always interrupt.

*[English]*

Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, there are still six hon. Members to speak. At 5.15 p.m., the hon. Finance Minister is going to reply. So, those hon. Members who want to lay their speeches can lay their speeches on the Table of the House.

Now, I call Shri Badruddin Ajmal to speak. You have only five minutes and not more than that.

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (Dhubri): Madam, I would thank you very much for providing me the opportunity to highlight my views on the Finance Bill, 2010.

I rise to support the Finance Bill, 2010. I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for giving the nation a growth-oriented Budget. However, I also feel that a lot more could have been done for the Aam Aadmi.

*[Translation]*

Madam, I want to tell the BJP and other members of opposition that 'hum iljam unko dete the, kasur apana nikal aaya'. We should introspect before levelling allegation on anyone. 'sach baat maan lijiye chehre pe dhool hai,

\*Not recorded.

iljam ainae pe lagana phijul hai'. Brothers, let's see our faces, the mirror is quite clean. My brothers in the opposition have to remain in opposition as they do not have any agenda. The issue of the Babri Masjid does not exist. ...*(Interruptions)* I think that my brothers in the opposition get to remember the poor and the farmers only when they remain in the opposition. Poverty has existed during their regime also and in the states ruled by them. Why did they not remove poverty from there? How many common people have been given benefit by them over there? Before the present budget introduced by the Hon. Finance Minister, the earlier budgets of the present opposition emptied the coffers ...*(Interruptions)* Now, I would like to talk about two-four things. Everybody talks about the poor, but the poor should be remembered after coming to power also. Every MP has got an MPLAD fund. Let everyone tell how much one has spent from his personal funds on the poor in one's life. Charity begins at home. I would like to request my Finance Minister to use his awareness in this regard. Ours is a country of a billion people and the people have misunderstanding in this regard. If awareness programme is carried out more and more people will automatically get ready to pay taxes. People will be ready to pay taxes themselves and this will become a major source for us ...*(Interruptions)* Let me have the opportunity to speak, you will be given the same by Madam Speaker. Your turn will come soon. I believe that in terms of funds, there are big robbers sitting in the states as well as at the center. I am sorry to say this; however, be they in any position, endeavour should be made to apprehend them. Let the funds reach the poor. All the programmes of the Government will be successful. Ours is a country of the BPL people, leave aside the IPL people. Attention should be paid towards the BPL people and those involved in irregularities in the IPL should not be condoned. ...*(Interruptions)* I will talk about that also.

Madam, there has been price-rise on account of petrol and diesel. Everybody is sorry about it. Hon. Madam and the hon. Minister are sitting here and the hon. Prime Minister will also pay attention towards it.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You conclude your speech in one minute.

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Madam, I have been elected from Dhubri, Assam. The whole area is submerged in flood. Lease of land is asked for providing loan over there. The Government of Assam has given quite a few number of land leases during the last 50 years. People do not get loans.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You conclude your speech.

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: There were very good suggestions in the Prime Minister's 15 point programme for the minorities. It is my submission that efforts should be made to get them implemented. The Hon. Finance Minister may allot separate budget for this purpose.

Madam, if you permit, I would like to read out the last page.

*[English]*

The following may be given the topmost priority and sanctioned at the earliest:

- Declaration of flood and erosion as a national disaster
- Construction of Dhubri-Fulbari bridge over River Brahmaputra
- Establishment of Special Campus of Aligarh Muslim University in Dhubri
- Establishment of Medical College, Engineering College, Agricultural College and Fishery College in the Muslim majority districts of Assam.

*[Translation]*

All these are inter-related issues. No work can be carried out without funds. I thank my brothers in the BJP that they listened to me with much affection.

\*SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN (Sabarkantha): Discussion on the Finance Bill got underway in the Lok Sabha since yesterday. During the discussion, my friend Shri Sanjay Nirupam Ji alleged in his speech that the foodgrains sent by the Union Government to the State

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Mahendrasinh P. Chauhan]

Governments for distribution to the poor are not properly utilized by the State Government and he mentioned Gujarat in particular in this regard. I talked to the Secretary, Civil Supplies in this regard who told me that 96 per cent foodgrains sent by the Union Government for the BPL and the Antyodaya beneficiaries during the year 2009-10 have been utilized and that they require more foodgrains and have made a request for the same to the Union Government. As such, I refute the allegation of Nirupam Ji.

I do not have to say much on the Finance Bill as it is only a game of figures, the game which has been played every year since independence and the Government has been patting its back itself. No benefit is going to accrue to the poor by this.

I do not say that the country has not witnessed development since independence; however, there has not been overall or balanced development. The poor have become poorer and the rich richer. India stands divided into two distinct parts. Two countries like America and Africa have come into being in our country.

The present ruling party, ruled this country since independence for most of the time. They talk about the poor and the common man who are the creation of themselves only. This creation has become an asset for them which catapults them to power. This is the rule of the economics that no one want to lose one's assets.

All these things are the result of our wrongs policies. For the uplift of the poor, all will have to work together accepting our responsibility and accountability and rising above the party politics.

In our country, more than 70 per cent people are living on an income of Rs 20 per day. Sanjay Nirupam Ji was not accepting that point, but the truth is that out of the said population, 20 crore people are living on an income of Rs 9 per day and 30 crore people on Rs 12 per day. No one can deny this fact. This is the reality. We will have to find a way out by accepting this reality.

Achieving a GDP growth rate of 7.2 per cent has been frequently talked about in the Parliament. The Government

tries to gloss over the reality and indulges in self praise. However, the truth is that 72 per cent population of our country resides in villages and most of the people eke out their livelihood through agriculture and animal husbandry while our agricultural growth rate is below 2 per cent. The small industries have been closed down due to the wrong policies of the Government and the people who became unemployed have moved towards cities which has posed a problem for these cities.

A visit to the home of Kalawati will not serve the purpose. There are many more Kalawatis, Leelawatis, Mayawatis who are looking up to us with hope. We will have to jointly seek a solution to this grave problem of the country. Accepting our responsibility as public representatives we will have to do something rising above the party politics.

"Bhukha janono jatharagin je di jagaro  
Khanderobi fani fani hath na ladashe"

\*SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): The UPA Government has formulated the budget for this year with a provision of more than Rs 11 lakh crore; however, this has failed to mitigate the difficulties of the common man as it does not provide any relief to them. We all say that India is predominantly an agricultural country. Mahatma Gandhi used to say that India resides in villages, then why our farmers are being ignored? A growth rate of 4 per cent in the agricultural sector has been envisioned, but achieving the target is a far cry. The farmers are committing suicide due to their miserable condition. The area I belong to is called the suicide prone area of farmers. As per the figures released by a farmers' organisation, 129 farmers have committed suicide over there in the first quarter of the year i.e. January to March. Even today there are 70 per cent people depending on agriculture, but the budgetary provision is not made as per that ratio and whatever provision is made is only an eyewash. Dams are constructed for irrigation; however, through the dams constructed for irrigation, industries are now-a-days being provided water on a priority basis. The farmers' interests are being sacrificed to promote industries and the funds

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

being shown under the head of agricultural growth are benefiting the industries. The farmer does not get anything in reality, earlier also the banks benefited through the loan waiver scheme, the farmer is all the more oppressed through the policies of the Government.' The farmer can be made prosperous only if cheaper seeds, insecticides, irrigation facilities, power is made available along with remunerative prices for their produce as per their cost prices. Research should be carried out to ascertain the measures meant to make cultivation low- cost and remunerative. I demand the Government to ponder over the same and take initiative in this regard.

Prices are constantly rising in the country. Everybody says that whenever the Congress comes to power, it brings price-rise with it. The common man is struggling today to eke out a living. The prices of edible items have skyrocketed. Now the lower middle class is also badly hurt by price-rise. Nutritious items like pulses and fruits have disappeared from the dish of the poor and the middle class. Why is the Government shutting its eyes towards the increasing malnutrition? The Government will have to take notice of this horrible situation. The Arjun Sengupta committee stated that 70 per cent people in the country have a spending capacity of only Rs 20 per day. In such a condition of spiralling price, how will these families take out a living? The Government will have to respond to it and will have to take steps as well to check the price-rise.

The second important question is in regard to the supply of pure drinking water. We observe that water is life, but even today people are forced to quench their thirst with water contaminated with arsenic, fluoride in 2 lakh 17 thousand villages across the country. This is leading to them being infected with fatal water-borne diseases. Not only this, they are falling prey to untimely deaths. What is their fault? The Government will have to take notice of it as there is a need to launch a special programme to facilitate the supply of pure drinking water after purifying and making it free from arsenic, fluoride and other poisonous and chemical elements having adverse affect on health that remain present in ground water. We cannot escape from our responsibility by saying that drinking water is the state subject. There is a need to increase

budgetary provision for making available required technique and funds to enable the states to tackle this issue.

We have constantly proved a failure in making available health facilities and in universalizing these. Thousands of posts of doctors and specialists are lying vacant in the rural, remote and tribal areas of the country. No doctor or nurse wants to serve in such areas. Under such circumstances, shall we leave the people of those areas to die in the absence of health facilities? We should ponder over the ways and means to make available the services of doctors, nurses and good hospitals over there. We cannot absolve ourselves from our responsibility simply by allocating Rs 22300 crore for health. We will have to pay more attention towards the successful implementation of the schemes in this regard in addition to further augmenting the allocation for this purpose. Earlier, I had made a demand to set up medical colleges in the rural and tribal areas to make available health services to the people in these areas. I expect the Government to take necessary action in this regard after taking cognizance of this matter. One of the important points in regard to the health sector is that the private companies have got a monopoly in the field of drugs. Common medicines have also become dearer due to rising trend of profiteering. The Government has closed down its drug manufacturing plants due to which the prices of life saving drugs are also rising. The Government decided to set up pharmacies of controlled prices to put a check thereon; however, it did not prove to be much beneficial. The Government should come forward in the field of drug manufacturing and revive its closed and sick units as well as set up new units to counter the monopoly of the private sector companies and ensure that the people get medicines at affordable prices. The constituency from which I have been elected is a tribal and mineral rich constituency and then, industries are also being set up over there. At the same time, pollution has also increased there. Space agencies like NASA has also included it in the list of the most polluted areas of the world. Patients with heart diseases and cancer can be found in large numbers over there. The common man remains incapable to get these diseases treated. When we refer such cases to the Prime Minister's office, it

[Shri Hansraj G. Ahir]

imposes quota restrictions in this regard. In my area, the prevalence of diseases is more. As such, there should be provision to extend financial assistance to the maximum people abolishing any quota fixed in this regard.

When this Government had assumed power for the first time, it had promised to provide employment to one crore people per year. However, this is a matter of serious thinking as to where and how this employment can be provided. Even now, the Government is making tall promises about providing employment. Crores of unemployed people have been registered in the employment exchanges of the Government but there is lack of jobs. In this scenario, the unemployed is quite helpless. I demand the Government to provide unemployment allowance to the unemployed for their sustenance if it is not able to provide them with proper jobs.

The Government has allocated an additional amount of Rs 1200 crore in its budget for the development of Bundelkhand. The farmers of the Bundelkhand region are facing the scourge of drought. Suicides were committed over there earlier also. Such cases of suicides can rise due to drought. I demand that Rs 1500 crore be made available under budgetary provisions to provide financial assistance to the farmers in view of their pathetic condition. The area I belong to is a naxalite affected area. Developmental works have been hampered due to the naxalite terror over there. Means of irrigation are not available to the farmers. Despite there being perennial rivers, the farmers lack irrigation facility. As the union Government recovers the present net cost for environmental clearance in terms of the irrigation projects, the State Government is ignoring the development projects over there. This has led to blocking the development of the tribal area. The Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is another stumbling block for the people conserving the forests in forest areas. Development projects are not being sanctioned under the garb of this Act. The people can be brought into the mainstream only if development takes

place in my area. The naxalite problem can be addressed only if roads, irrigation facilities, dams and employment opportunities are made available in this area. I demand the Government to ponder over this issue, and formulate a separate action plan. The Government hopes to mobilize Rs 45 thousand crore through disinvestment and Rs 35 thousand crore through allocation of spectrum. I demand the Government to spend this fund on the development of the backward and the tribal areas. The Government should not use this fund to meet the fiscal deficit.

There is shortage of power in the country. Power is the means of development today. We are failing to achieve the target of augmenting power generation. We are not being able to achieve the target. The neglect shown by the State Governments in terms of power generation has come to the fore. The demand of power has increased. We will have to give priority to power generation in proportion to its present and future demand. Thousands of villages in the country are still deprived of power. There is need to pay special attention towards power generation as we need to provide electricity to each and every village.

The Government has made a provision of Rs 31036 crore for school education, but this is not sufficient. Recently, the Government introduced the right to education law and this amount is quite meagre to make available facilities in schools in keeping with that law. I demand that allocation under this head be further raised to implement the resolve to impart quality education to the children in schools. We need Aanganwadis to fulfil our objective to address malnutrition among the pregnant and nursing mothers as well as children upto six years in order to make them healthy and, thus, build a strong India. Besides, I demand that the Aanganwadis workers be given the status of Government employees instead of providing them honorarium to ensure their economic and social protection. Coal is an important fuel for power generation. There are complaints in regard to heavy irregularities in its allotment and auction. The Government should enquire into these complaints and change the policy of allotting the coal blocks to the power industry, state electricity boards on a priority basis.

[English]

\*SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): I am expressing my views on the Finance Bill. Hon'ble Finance Minister has presented an excellent Budget aiming to benefit the common man.

Today, the whole world is going under economic recession but India did not experience much hardness. This was possible due to the policy of the Government and efforts taken by the Prime Minister with support from allies. The economy is fast bouncing back. Our economy has done well almost in all fields.

I take this opportunity to give some suggestions.

The Tax structure should be simplified so as to enable even a simple person to understand the intricacies.

The Direct Tax Code should be implemented only after consultation with stakeholders. There are some provisions in the code which affect the interest of salaried class and those provisions may be removed from the code.

Tamil Nadu is the largest producer of matches and fireworks in the country. The excise duty on matches has been increased, thereby the industry has been affected to a large extent. Lakhs of workers including women and children are employed in the match industry.

Therefore, it is request that excise duty on matches should be reduced considerably in order to save the industry.

Food Processing is an important industry which has the potential not only to earn considerable revenue but also adequate employment opportunities. Necessary tax concessions should be given for cold storage facilities and also for setting up of food processing industry.

I take this opportunity to highlight the need to set up a food park at Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu to explore the availability of fruits/flowers.

A Flower Park may also be set up there to harness the availability of rose.

Hosur is an important commercial centre in Tamil Nadu. It is situated near to Bangalore. Thousands of big and small industries are located there. It is also called an Electronic City. Lakhs of workers are employed here. An Information Technology Park is coming up here thanks to efforts of our dynamic leader Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister Stalin. Many big private industries are also being located here. But, Hosur requires an airport. Therefore, adequate funds may be allotted for airport here and also tax concessions for any one interested in joining the Government for a first venture.

I welcome the decision to extend benefits to our film industry. But the duty increased on certain items of daily use may be restored to the earlier position.

The excise duty on some important life saving medical equipment should be done away with.

Our economy is in strong hands. Our UPA Government is doing well and I am sure that it will grow and achieve double digit growth very soon.

[Translation]

\*SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Wardha): The Hon. Finance Minister has presented the Budget for the year 2010-11 in keeping with the present situation. The budget has provided for what was required today. Promoting growth is required in our country today. After going through a phase of slowdown, the budget of this year has been formulated with much care and as many concrete steps have been taken in it as were required to be taken.

### **The Importance of Agriculture**

The most important thing in this budget is that much attention has been paid to agriculture in it. A provision of Rs 400 crore has been made to expand the vistas of green revolution. Besides, a proposal to earmark 60,000 villages for producing pulses and oilseeds has also been made. There is a provision to extend the subsidy directly to the farmers; however, apprehension of misappropriation cannot be ruled out in this regard. Five mega food parks are also proposed to be set up for food processing.



[Shri Datta Meghe]

The Hon. Finance Minister has also announced that 2 per cent exemption in the interest rate would be given to the farmers who repay their loans on time. All these are welcome steps. However, a matter worth paying attention is the cases of suicides going on even now in my Vidarbha area. I feel that there is a need to take further effective steps to save the farmers from committing suicide.

#### **Subsidy on Fertilizers**

The new policy on subsidy announced by the Government is going to be effective from 1st April, 2010. I understand that this new system would pave the way to extend subsidy directly to the farmers. My submission is that there is a need to give incentive for the production of organic manures as well.

#### **Relief to the Salaried People**

In this budget, the minimum exemption limit for income tax has been kept as before while the maximum limit for those earning upto Rs 8 lakh has been kept at 30 per cent which was earlier for those earning upto Rs 5 lakh. These tax brackets will come into effect from 1st April. Though, the basic exemption limit has not been increased in the budget, the income tax payee will be able to save more in the wake of the extension of the tax slab. The form for filing return has also been made simple and now it will be of 2 pages. As such, the tax payee will have convenience in filing his return.

#### **More Fund Allocation for the Development of Infrastructure**

Improvement is discernable in regard to the roads in our country. The Government has fixed a target for road construction at the rate of 20 Kms. per day. The Government has proposed to enhance the budget allocation for road construction by more than 13 per cent from Rs 17520 crore to Rs 19894 crore. This will expedite the construction of roads in the country.

#### **Need to Increase Power Generation**

There is a need to rapidly increase the power

generation in our country. To augment power generation, the Government has increased the expenditure under this head from Rs 2230 to Rs 5130 crore. This is a welcome step of the Government.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my Wardha and Vidarbha area on this occasion. The condition of power supply is such over there that no power supply is available for hours together. The farmers are made to face all the more difficulties. Due to inadequate power supply, agriculture is badly affected. Therefore, it is my submission that the Government should first of all, pay attention towards increasing power generation.

#### **Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor**

I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial corridor being set up with the cooperation of Japan. An industrial corridor is being set up under it from Delhi to Mumbai. When I was a member Of the Rajya Sabha, I had made a demand that Vidarbha and Nagpur be covered under this corridor. You know that the Vidarbha area is a very backward one. If the Vidarbha area alongwith Nagpur be covered under it, this area will witness development and this backward area of Maharashtra will also achieve development.

#### **Need to pay attention towards villages in Health Sector**

The Government has made an effort to encourage doctors to work in the villages. However, there is still lack of health services in the villages. For this purpose, the doctors working in the villages should be given more salary and facilities.

#### **Discussion on the Functioning of the Rural Development Ministry:**

More than 70 per cent population of our country resides in villages. As such, the Ministry of Rural Development has a special importance.

#### **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme:**

I understand that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is such a scheme which is nonpareil

in the history of the world. Our Government has done a major work by implementing this scheme on a nation-wide basis. It will not only check migration from the villages but will also provide work to the people of the villages on a large scale. However, there are many shortcomings in its implementation. The Government intends to provide 100-day employment to the job-card holders. However, the Hon. Minister has stated in the reply of a question that 100-day employment has not been given to the people in any state. This is a matter of grave concern. It is my demand that not only 100 days of employment should be given to the job-card holders, but this period should be extended from 100 days to at least 150 days.

#### **Shortage of Drinking Water:**

In our country, people in the remote and tribal areas do not get pure drinking water. Therefore, the foremost priority of the Government should be to make arrangement for drinking water.

#### **Lack of Roads in Villages:**

During my visits to my constituency, I have observed that there is lack of roads in the tribal areas. As such, a scheme is required to construct a network of roads in villages.

#### **Lack of Health Services in Villages:**

People in villages lose their lives due to lack of hospitals and dispensaries in the villages.

#### **Backwardness of the Vidarbha Area in the State of Maharashtra:**

I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the backwardness of the Vidarbha area in Maharashtra. Development of the Vidarbha area for the past few decades has been only nominal. In many areas in our country, there has been phenomenal development since independence. The scenario of development in Maharashtra is such that while some areas have witnessed good development, areas like Vidarbha have been gradually lagging behind. It would not be wrong, if I say that injustice has been done with Vidarbha. Farmers

of the Vidarbha area have been committing suicide on a regular basis and such cases of suicide have been increasing. The farm labourers, farmers and the tribals are not getting work in Vidarbha. A large number of youth are facing unemployment. If you compare the Vidarbha area with the western part of Maharashtra, you will find that Vidarbha is lagging far behind the other areas of Maharashtra.

Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi Ji had constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Shri P. A. Sangma Ji to look into the problems of the Vidarbha area. That committee had also supported the carving out of Vidarbha into a separate state.

Small states like Uttarakhand, Chattisgarh and Jharkhnad have been carved out in our country and now Telengana state is being set up. In smaller states, there is convenience in having proper administrative, political and social arrangements thereby making it easy to solve the problems of the people.

I demand for a separate state of Vidarbha on the lines of the proposal being considered by the Government to make a separate Telengana state. Barring a single party, all other parties are in support of carving out a separate state of Vidarbha.

\*SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (Shimla): Sir, I would like to give some suggestion on the finance bill, 2010. The budget presented this time has created apprehensions among the people throughout the country. Particularly the poor people are completely reeling under the price rise. The whole country is raising its voice against the government after the presentation of this budget. While at some places Bharat bandh is taking place and at other places demonstrations are being held. There has been steep rise in prices since the formation of UPA Government. The taxes imposed by the Government are going to hit the poor and middle class people in an indirect way. The taxes levied on the petrol, diesel and petroleum products which have resulted in price rise in the country have made his living very tough. In the coming days, he will neither be able to have even a meal a day nor he will be able

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Virender Kashyap]

to provide education to his children. In my opinion, therefore, the Finance Minister particularly need to look into this aspect of taking some concrete action so as to check the price rise.

I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister towards the 'special economic package' extended to the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand upto the year 2013 by the NDA Government. In other words, a tax holiday for 10 years for setting up industries was extended which resulted in the investment of billions of rupees besides creation of jobs for lakhs of unemployed people in those states. This tax holiday was curtailed and restricted only up to the year 2010 and now the hope of any further extension to it has been over on 31s March, 2010 because the Union Government has not extended it beyond 2010. Therefore, I would like to request the Finance Minister to extend this package at least upto 2013 if not more, so that the industries are set up and growth takes place in those economically backward hilly states and the economic situation improves there as well as the unemployed get jobs.

[English]

\*DR. KIRIT PREMJI BHAI SOLANKI (Ahmedabad West): While introducing this Bill, hon'ble Finance Minister has made remarks regarding decline in food inflation in coming months and our economy to grow by 8.5%. Food inflation has slightly improved from over 20% in December, 2009 to 17.7% in March, 2010. It is downfall but practically very much negligible reduction.

The real fact is "exuberant high prices" of all essential commodities. The life of common has become very difficult. There is record price rise in all food grains, rice, wheat, dal, milk like all 'essential commodities'.

I am proud that my party, B.J.P., has launched historical rally on the burning issue of price rise and successfully drawn the attention of the entire country. My party has projected "price rise" issue, which is directly affecting the common man, on whose name this Government has

secured the mandate but unfortunately the common man is betrayed. The UPA Government has cheated the "common man".

I equate the introduction of Finance Bill - 2010 and promise to curb the record inflation with mammoth and historic rally of BJP against the price rise.

Price rise is due to malgovernance, the UPA Government, protecting the black marketeers and encouraging forward trading in food grains.

In this Bill, no concrete provisions are made to control the price rise successfully. Instead in this Bill; (i) custom duty on crude petroleum is increased from Nil to 5%, (ii) custom duty of petrol and diesel is increased from 2.5% to 7.5% (iii) custom duty on some other specified petroleum products being increased from 5% to 10%. It is a very huge increase which will lead to inflation and price rise in future.

For co-operative societies, the income tax rates are kept unchanged. I think it is adversely affecting the co-operative movement. Since, I am representing Ahmedabad West constituency from the State of Gujarat where co-operative movement is leading in our country. I suggest hon. Finance Minister to withdraw the income tax from co-operative societies.

In this Finance Bill - 2010, benefits are passed to income tax payers e.g. salaried persons, officers, businessmen, corporate sector, capital market etc. but no concrete provisions are made to S.C./ST., Dalits, Other Backward Castes and poor people. There should be provision of adequate budgetary funds for these people. In every Union Budget, very negligible fund is allotted to these people. If we take example of Scheduled Castes, their population is nearly 20% but in every Budget around 4 to 5% budgetary allocation are done to them. It is a gross injustice to these communities. I request the hon. Finance Minister, to keep provision of adequate funds for these communities. The fund should be allotted at least more than 15% to S.C. and it should be included in this Finance Bill-2010.

The growth and development is not for elite rich people, it should not be termed as development of cities etc. but the real development means upliftment of poor people, villages and deprived one.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN SINGH AMLABE (Rajgarh): Madam, the Hon. Finance Minister has presented the Finance Bill, 2010-11 in the House for discussion. I would like to thank you for providing me the opportunity to participate in the same. The budget presented by our finance minister is commendable as it reflects an unprecedented balance of the sensitive and visionary approach of the respectable Sonia Gandhiji and the deep concern of the Hon. Prime Minister to bring all the classes into mainstream so that they may march forward. The financial health of the Indian economy reeling under the global recession is better than other countries today. The credit for the same also goes to the better and efficient management on the part of Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Finance Minister. I would like to welcome the provision of using the technology for increasing the agricultural production made by the Hon. Minister in this Finance bill in support of already well-defined action-plan for the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector is the focal point of our resolution for increasing the rural income and food security. The provisions made by the Hon. Minister for their growth are commendable. The provision of loan availability for farmers till last year was Rs. 3 lakhs 25 thousand crores. The increase of Rs. 50,000 crores made by raising it to Rs. 3,75,000 crores shows the constant honest intention of the Government in favour of the farmers. The Government has extended the period of loan waiver and relief scheme to the farmers from 31 December, 2010 to 30 June, 2012. The small farmers throughout the country who are the victims of drought, floods and other disasters are getting its unprecedented benefits. This loan waiver scheme has created a history. The loan waiver relief of Rs. 72 thousand crores has been directly extended to the farmers eligible for the same throughout the country and they are being provided the agricultural loans again on priority basis. What else can be the better measure than this one.

Finally, I would like to thank the Hon. Finance Minister who provided one percent relief in the last year's budget in the interest for those farmers who deposit the short term crop loans on time. I had personally requested the Hon. Mr. Mukherjee to increase this relief and our magnanimous Finance Minister has increased the same to 2 percent. The farmers throughout the country are grateful to him for this gesture and I, once again, thank him and support the Finance Bill, 2010-2011.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhlishahr): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the time to speak. The budget presented by the Hon. Finance Minister in the House is being discussed for the last two days. After listening and watching to the discussion, it appears that the budget has been prepared to provide benefit to the corporate sector completely. The assessment of tax in this budget seems to be giving no relief to the lower class and the middle class. A person having an annual income of more than one lakh sixty thousand rupees has been covered under the tax net and he is required to pay ten percent tax. That means a person earning thirteen thousand and five hundred rupees per month will have to pay tax. If his income is Rs. 15000 per month, then he will be required to pay Rs. 18000 tax in a year. I would like to request the Hon. Finance Minister to increase the tax limit of one lakh sixty thousand rupees to two lakh twenty five thousand rupees at least. The ten percent surcharge levied on the corporate sector in the past has been reduced by two and a half percent in the budget with the view to benefiting the corporate sector which has resulted in a total loss of Rs. 5000 crores to the Government. In the budget, the Government does not seem to be serious on the issue of prosperity and progress of villages, farmers and the poor.

Sir, Shri Dara Singh Chauhan the Member of Parliament elected from Uttar Pradesh to this House was highly praising the Government but on 14th April, these people mobilized the crowd around the district headquarter gainst the price rise in Uttar Pradesh using the whole Government machinery. There was a protest against the Government regarding price rise and here it is being spoken in the House that this Government is propoor and

[Shri Tufani Saroj]

the budget prepared is also pro-poor, this is double speak, while one thing is being demonstrated on streets, what is being spoken in the House is totally different. The people are watching this dual politics very clearly. Don't mislead them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell the Finance Minister that the Funds allocated for water harvesting is less, it should be increased. The reason is that the drought can be tackled through water harvesting only. If we don't have the adequate funds, we cannot tackle the drought situation. The ponds are being dug under the NREGA but this exercise will be of no use if there is no rain. Our poorvanchal region is under the grip of drought for the last three years and there has been no rainfall. I would like to tell the Government to construct large tanks through water corporation with the NREGA funds. Maximum number of people can be provided drinking water if arrangement of water tanks is made by the Jal Nigam at the Nyaya Panchayat level in a planned way.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Members of Parliament are today facing the ire of their constituents. People approach the Members of Parliament for their recommendations in regard to the patients suffering from kidney diseases and cancer. The Members of Parliament are supposed to recommend two patients and if recommendation for more than two patients is made, they get the reply that their quota has been over and that any further recommendation by them cannot be granted. I would like to request the Hon. Finance Minister that the present assistance of Rs 1 lakh may be brought down to 50-70-80 thousand rupees, but if the assistance cannot be altogether provided for each and every recommendation, let an announcement be made in the House that funds will not be given on the recommendation of the Members of Parliament. At present, when a poor father urges the MP for the treatment of his son and he is informed that the quota has already become full, what sort of feelings he gets through?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, please sit down. Your time is over.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Let this quota be discontinued

has been done with the admission quota in the Kendriya Vidyalayas. At least, the public may get to know that it is not within the power of an MP. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your speech is not going on record.

*...(Interruptions)\**

[English]

\*\*DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): I am expressing my views on the Finance Bill, 2010 and I wholeheartedly support the Bill. As we are all aware that this Bill is to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2010-2011.

The rates of Income Tax as proposed by the hon. Finance Minister for the assessment year commencing on the 1st day of April, 2010 are exceptionally good and has been found very genuinely continuous. We know continuity is the mantra of good governance. With continuity only life continues in full vigour and sense. I do congratulate him.

The proposals for Direct Taxes including Income Tax and Wealth Tax; whereas the proposals for Indirect Taxes including Customs, Customs Tariff, Excise, Central Excise Tariff, Service Tax, Central Sales Tax, Clean Energy Tax and any other taxes.

The rates of Income Tax for individuals - man, women and senior citizens are very clearly demarcated. This remains a part of our UPA agenda to address our sincere concern and respect for women and senior citizens.

The hon. FM has successfully formulated the financial proposals of the Central Government to help translating the various welfare schemes and measures for the Aam Admi as envisaged by our UPA leadership under the guidance of UPA hon'ble Chairperson and Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Time is short, I shall now concentrate to a very specific proposal for my State, Manipur. The employees of the State Government has been on cease-work strike for more

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\*Not recorded.

\*\*Speech was laid on the Table.

than three months demanding the implementation of the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission in toto. The Government also is trying very hard to resolve the issue. It is a fact that Manipur is a resource-starved State and income from revenue resource is also very less. The Government of Manipur has proposed to implement the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission with effect from the 1st April, 2010. However, the employees are demanding the full payment of their arrears of pay with effect from 1st January, 2006. This is the present stalemate.

The fact of the matter is my State Manipur has, at present, a large number of Central Government employees. Over and above this, a good number of IAS/IPA officers are also working in the State. Because of the continuous application of the infamous Armed Forces Special Power Act, 1958 in the State for more than 30 years, there are very large number of Central army and Para military forces present in the State. All these Central Government employees working in the State have been given the benefits of the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations with effect from 1st January, 2006.

Now, the real problem arises. The State Government employees had been getting salaries and allowances at par with the Central Government employees for the last more than two decades. At the same time, coming to the practical side of the problem, day in and day out, all the employees, both Central Government employees as well as State Government employees are purchasing their essential consumer goods etc. from the same market places. These State Government employees do have real and genuine difficulties and inconveniences in these market places as against their counterpart, the Central Government employees. In this context, I do feel that the demands of the State Government employees appear to be justified.

Even if the Government applies the principle of no work - no pay (*dies non*) to the striking employees, and the arrest of some of their leaders, the employees are in no mood to withdraw the agitation. Hence, a tricky situation arises.

At this critical juncture, in order to mitigate the situation arising out of the ongoing cease work strike by the employees of the State Government of Manipur, I do sincerely and respectfully urge upon the Union Government through the hon'ble Finance Minister to help the State Government and consider the sanction of a special package of Grant-in-aid to the Government of Manipur to enable the State Government to fully implement the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations in toto including the payment of arrears of pay.

There a huge chasm (gap) between the rich states and the poor states. Before it is too late and before the situation becomes explosive, let us try to address this critical issue, i.e. to bridge the gap. We should not allow the poorer States to remain as paradises. Loans and financial assistance are not the solutions. These are only ad hoc measures. We need to have a permanent solution. Let the weaker States become stronger and self reliant.

With these few words, I once again support the Finance Bill, 2010.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH (Hamirpur): Madam Chairman, I want to make a micro submission as there is paucity of time. Our Hon. Finance Minister has stated in the last of the para 188 that this budget is of the common man and farmers. This has become a new fashion of Delhi. As such, I would like to know the definition of the common man. I would not like to go deeper into it and would rather not take more than three minutes.

Madam, I would like to submit that in the paragraph 44 of page 77, it has been identified that there are three points in the agricultural sector. One thing he said is that a green revolution would be brought about. It has been stated in paragraph 44 that Rs 400 crore has been allocated for the districts in the states of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand for green revolution. It means that each district will get 30, 20 crores. This is just a peanut and like a drop in the ocean. This will not bring green revolution. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Why such interruptions are going on? This is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: Madam, secondly, Rs 300 crore has been allocated for water management in half of India. Even if a small dam is to be constructed for water management, Rs 500 crore will be needed to meet the expenditure. As such, this allocation is just a cosmetic dressing which will not serve any purpose. I would like to submit that the three must be balanced. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister for the perpendicular industrial growth being witnessed and we do not have any complaint about that. However, the industrial sector only will not serve the purpose, we cannot eat Maruti parts or the tractor parts, along with the industrial sector the agricultural sector must be balanced. ...*(Interruptions)* All have come to know that Pal Sahab is a very good orator, Madam, I request that he be adjusted sometime in future discussions ...*(Interruptions)* I want that industrial sector should be equated with the agricultural sector as the GDP cannot meet our hunger.

Madam, the second thing I would like to talk about is in regard to the economic disparities. For example, I represent Khajuraho in Bundelkhand which is at the border of Madhya Pradesh. Bundelkhand is the most backward region of Uttar Pradesh. The most backward area deserves special attention as, if someone has five children, tonic should be given to the weakest one. All these demands are put up before the Government for consideration, leaving aside any politics these demands should be looked into to serve the people. Giving some personal instances, I would like to submit that I used to practice as a lawyer in Allahabad. There is a road from Allahabad to Chitrakoot. Lord Ram had stayed in Chitrakoot for 14 years. Madam, the national highway no. 76 which goes to Chitrakoot is in such a dilapidated condition that it has not remained motorable. I am going to put up placards in my constituency that we are not at fault for the pit potholes in the national highway. When there is so much road tax on the highway, let there be a new road constructed over there. Let there be some balance. The initial expenditure envisaged for

the Common Wealth Games went up from Rs 2000 crore to Rs 16 thousand crore. The whole fanfare got over in fifteen days. 95 medals out of 100 were taken by other countries, while one or two medals fell in the India's bag because of some chance hit. People say that Delhi would be adorned like a bride, but the mother India would fall like a fragile old lady. I want that the bride and the old mother both may remain alive.

[English]

I understand the difference between the Finance Bill and the Budget.

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Conclude your speech in one second.

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: Madam, at last, I would like to submit that attention may be paid towards the schemes of my Uttar Pradesh. We are such friends as prove their worthiness at the time of need and it is said that 'A friend in need is a friend indeed'. Please keep this in view.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): Madam, hon'ble Minister of Finance from UPA Government-2 has presented Finance Bill before the Parliament and the entire public is waiting and watching that what this Parliament is going to give particularly to suppressed class of society. The country and we had great expectations when Shri Pranab ji became the Minister of Finance. We still have expectations because it is the beginning. UPA Government-2 had prepared hundred days programme to undertake several works. But nothing has been done though so many days have passed away after hundred days and nothing is visible yet. If your financial management is good then actual change should be visible to the public, poor people, unemployed people of the country and the benefit of this change should reach up to common man of the country.

Madam, even after implementation of NREGA, a labourer is toiling hard to eke out living and upbringing his children. He has not gained the status of middle class

even after NREGA. It is severe injustice to the people who are forced to dig soil or cut stone to survive. Most of the educated youths of the country are unemployed whether they are having technical or non-technical qualification like M.A. and B.A. This horrible condition prevails let it be present, past or future government. It is due to this horrible condition that people are compelled to follow naxalism. People have rejected the Bapu's ideology of non-violence. Their aim is to capture the power with the help of gun. So, when the public has elected this Government it should also do something for them. We constitute several laws but when that law affects stronger people, it is withdrawn. We forget basic questions and engage the country in several useless talks. Although, large amount was pumped for Bharat Nirman by the UPA Government-I under NREGA, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, hospitals or Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana but no progress has been made. Why is it not progressing? How will you implement it? What kind of cooperation do you want from all of us? Whether we belong to ruling party or opposition party? We are ready to cooperate with you.

Madam, our country is facing unbearable inflation. Such a big bandh was organized by us. You have shown concern time and again but situation has not improved. Where is the problem? There is threat of global warning also. Its maximum impact is being felt on Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. There is no water. There is no drinking water. The level of ground water is receding rapidly. There will be water crisis in the coming days. All ponds-lakes and rivers have dried up. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Lajuji, please conclude. You have taken more than five minutes.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam, we are here since 1977. Therefore, I expect that you will listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: That is why I am asking you to conclude.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam, I am concluding.

Madam, my previous orators Shri Nishikant Dubey,

Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and various other hon'ble Members have narrated the condition of the country. Egalitarian society and Late shri Rajeev Gandhi ji had stated that the touts do not let the money we send reach up to common man not even one fourth of it. Madam, even in your time the situation is same till date. How will you implement it and from where the funds will come as the many has been deposited in Swiss Bank or has been spent in IPL or somewhere else. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Lajuji, please conclude now.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam Chairman, when I speak everybody starts interrupting. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nobody has interrupted you now, please conclude.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Where the funds will come from right to property is a fundamental right. Money will not flow downward until we give money to poors and fix ceiling for rich people. Government had stated that it will bring back the money deposited in Swiss Banks. Where is that money? You will have to tell the country that what CBI has done, how much black money have you brought back and what efforts have you made for it? It is alright and necessary to impose tax because without it, it will be difficult to run the Government and programmes but it should be imposed on the influential families who posses the entire money of the country. That is why all these scams occur. It goes on and they contest the election also. Pranab Babu, Government should fund for all political parties. Government should allow every party to field its candidate according to its strength. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Lajuji, please conclude now. .

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Our country should be made free from these people. Farmers, workers, youths and poor people are suffering and game is going on. Games should be organized but how much money is being spent on these games? Games should be organized but our country cannot become America so we should not copy it blindly. ...*(Interruptions)* Gandhiji had said that. ...*(Interruptions)*



MADAM CHAIRMAN: Lajuji, please conclude now.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Bapuji advocated for simple living and high thinking, and that will make our country strong. You will have to do this. We want to know from the Government that how much money have it brought back from Swiss Bank? When this inflation is going to be controlled, what arrangements have you made to control inflation? You are issuing red and yellow cards to help the poors but they are not getting any ration. Before election every Government promise that poor persons will get the rice at the rate of rupees two per kg. and wheat at rupees 3 per kg. We believe that it is corruption because you buy vote by making such promises ...*(Interruptions)*. It is corruption ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Lajuji please conclude now.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Pranab Babu we expect from you.....you don't worry, this Bill will be passed, there is no hindrance in passing it. You tell us the reality. Today you are in power. we have great expectations from you. If you will not work you have to go. ...*(Interruptions)*. We do not save, we oust them but we will not oust them your conditions. You may remember that it is our party that helped you to come into power. CBI was hell bend to nail Lalu. BJP field case on Lalu Prasad and Shrimati Rabri Devi. Had Advani ji not been arrested you would not have directed CBI to go behind me. Congress had not directed the CBI to do so but it was your instruction. If I had wished I could have done a deal with Advaniji but I never wanted to and I will never make any compromise with communal parties rather I am dead against them. How can we stand with persons when we ousted from the power? ...*(Interruptions)*. You trapped us... U.N. Viswas, Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi. You instructed for raids on our house. You instructed for raids on the house of Shrimati Rabri Devi. This raid was not done on the instructions of Congress. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Lajuji please speak on the Bill only.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I am saying it with responsibility that you instructed for this raid. ...*(Interruptions)* In this bill there is proposal to increase pension of IAS and IPS. Standing Committee has recommended that pension of MPs should be increased. Our salaries should also be proportionately increased according to Sixth Pay Commission. We do not have unlimited property. We have limited source of income. Salaries of M.Ps should also be increased. It should be 80 thousand rupees and then pension should be 1 lakh rupees as it is apprehended that all these persons will retire due to Women's Reservation Bill. So you should make some arrangement for them.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Jaswant Singh ji please speak.

*[English]*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Madam Chairman, I am unfortunately the last speaker. The last time I had intervened in such a discussion, it was under different circumstances. I sense the mood of the House. I cannot negotiate the time allocation to me with you. Naturally I cannot. I would be very grateful if you inform me as to how much time I have got to intervene.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have got ten minutes.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I sense the mood of the House. Most of the things that have to be said have been said. The hon. Members do not really want to listen to me. They would much rather listen to the hon. Finance Minister.

Thank you very much for calling me. I would withdraw from the debate.

\*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni): I support the Finance Bill, 2010. This Bill has been introduced with view to return to the path of fiscal consolidation without affecting the growth momentum of the economy by raising additional resources from demerit goods such as tobacco and precious metals etc. and by restoring the rates of duty on crude petroleum and refined petroleum products. The bill provide incentives for growth in thrust sectors with backward and forward linkages such as agricultural and

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

food processing, infrastructure and new energy sources, which are essential for a balanced growth. The Bill has been widely appreciated by all the sections of society and has been termed as excellent one by the experts in various fields.

Agriculture employs more than 50 per cent of the country's population. Only a successful agriculture sector can absorb the unskilled, unorganized population. Therefore, relief measures provided to the agricultural sector in this bill will definitely improve the living standard of our farmers by giving new bank loans to the farmers. No doubt the inflation rate of food items is high owing to some factors which have been gifted by the nature. The measures proposed to be taken by the Government for improving economic conditions of the farmers are praise worthy. I am of the view that if it is ensured that the benefits of the 20 per cent inflation in food articles actually reach the farmers, substantial poverty for 70 per cent of the very poor can be eliminated. I am sure that proposed relief measures will definitely help the farmers community in the country.

Global warming of the earth is world wide phenomena across the world. Recently, we had experienced a severe drought situation in the country because of erratic behaviour of the monsoon attributed to the warming of earth. A uniform concessional rate of duty 4% on the environment friendly and energy savings goods with a view to encourage the use of environmental friendly vehicles, product and renewable energy sources is a welcome move on behalf of our U.P.A. Government.

Infrastructure development and availability of adequate power supply are the key factors for achieving economic growth. We cannot achieve the economic growth of our rural population without a proper infrastructure availability and adequate power supply. Our U.P.A. Government has taken various measures for the development of the infrastructure and power sectors across the country. The concessional rate of basic customs duty on infrastructural items for urban transport and full exemption from basic customs duty with Nil CVD on the items imported for the hydro electric power projects will definitely bring a speedy growth in these sectors.

Over 80 per cent of the health expenditure in India is in the private sector. While in most developed societies more than 80 per cent of health expenditure is borne by the exchequer. Our public sector share is around two per cent of GDP. Therefore proposed reduction of duty in the import of various medical equipments will give relief to the common people. However, I would urged the government to concentrate on Public funded Health care system rather than depending on the private sectors, keeping in view of the high cost of medical facilities which is out of reach of most of the our common people. Besides, this it has been reported that in developed societies across the world more than 80 per cent of the health expenditure is borne by exchequer except in the United States where the health care system is solely depend on Insurance Companies and service provider. U.K. and other OECD countries have better health indicators than the U.S. although they spend less on it. Cuba with a per capita income that is less than a fifth of that of the U.S. has a publicly funded system that yields better health outcomes than the U.S.

I request our UPA Government to provide each MP constituency one Ambulance (Tempo traveler) standby in all places to help the real poor and downtrodden by giving a life to them up to the hospital on call on free of charge.

Proposed exemption from basic customs duty and additional duty of customs on various gadgets of electronics which are used by the entertainment industry is a right approach. It will boost the growth of entertainment industry in the country and also will help in generating employment opportunities.

Small Sector Industries plays a important part in our economy. This sector is a life line of lakhs of skilled, semi skilled and un-skilled workers through the country. The proposed rationalization and simplification measures for the S.S.I, will certainly give boost to its growth.

Much hue and cry has been raised in respect of restoration of duty on petrol, diesel, and petroleum products etc. Increase in the prices of the petroleum products has a negligible impact on inflation. Other factors like drought, monopolistic prices and trade barriers are also responsible for higher rate of inflation. Oil subsidies in Indian in the

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

form of uner recoveries by oil marketing companies have been as high as 2% of the GDP, which is at a alarming stage since we are only spending only 1% of our GDP on health sector. Studies of the World Bank have shown that in India 92% of the LPG subsidy in rural areas goes to the richest 40% of people, while the poorest one fifth get no LPG at all. The richest one fifth of rural folk corner 27% of the kerosene subsidy, while the poorest one fifth get just 14%. Europe and Japan levy heavy taxes because oil is non renewable, imported, polluting and carbon emitting. Cheap oil encourages traffic congestion. Hence oil eminently deserves heavy taxation to discourage consumption and yield revenue for welfare spending. We should there deregulate oil price. Inflation should be checked up with a firm commitments and joint efforts of the State Government and Central Government. It is unfair to blame Central Government for the higher rate of inflations, particularly of the food grains.

Various measures proposed to be taken by the Central Government for achieving 10% economic growth are balanced one. These are proposed to be taken for achieving inclusive growth of our country and an attempt has been made to redress the grievances of each sector of the society. With these words, I conclude by supporting this Bill.

\*SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (Tirunelveli): Sir, thank you very much, I welcome this Finance Bill which is moved by our Hon'ble Finance Minister in this August House.

Balanced development of an economy is possible only when there is equity in taxation and productivity in public expenditure.

The rural development is given more importance by our Finance Minister. At the rural relief programmes M.G.NREGA is prominent which is giving adequate employment opportunity for the rural masses. Each family is getting 100 days employment guarantee and also Rs.100 as wage that each one is earning.

Sir, we are a developing economy not like a western

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

country. The scenario in western economy is "poverty amidst of plenty". But in our country we are facing "poverty amidst of scarcity".

So, when we are giving employment opportunity to the rural labourers, they must be productive also. Our agriculture production is gradually declining. So, the NREGA scheme works must be identified so that it must augment the production of agricultural commodities. These works may be utilized for improving the water bodies. The Government lands which are unutilized and under utilized can be used for cultivation. The NREGA workers can be diverted for this cultivation. By the way we can improve the production of food materials and vegetables and fruits.

Sir, Tamil Nadu is the major producer of safety matches in the country. The traditional match manufacturing areas of Virudhunagar, Tiruchuli, Sivakasi, Sankarankilli, Kovilpatti, Srivilliputhur and Sulchur of the southern districts are accounting for 90% of the match manufacturing markets manufactured in minor and small scale levels. More than 5 lakh people especially women are depending upon this match industries for their employment opportunity.

Sir, now a days the entry of fully mechanised match manufacturing industries are affecting the cottage and semi-mechanised industries which are having more potential for employment.

I bring to the kind notice of our Hon'ble Finance Minister that the excise duty which is levied 10% equally for both mechanised and semi-mechanised match Manufacturing industries. If the excise duty is not reduced for semi-mechanised from 10% to 4%, the industry will be brought into hardship to run. Moreover, the semi-mechanized industries are labour intensive one. It gives more employment opportunity for the rural poor women.

So kindly consider and make necessary modification by removing the entire tax or it may be reduced to the extent of 4% duty for semi-mechanized industry of safety match manufacturing.

[Translation]

\*SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, I want to put forth my views to support the Finance Bill and to give some suggestions. Madam, Finance Minister has talked about "Sarvajna Hitaya" for the common man. He has quoted Gandhiji and Kautilya. Gandhiji had a vision for Ramarajya. The idea of all round development of the country and a ruler in the country liked by all as propounded by Kautilya was put forth, but the existing tax system doesn't conform to it. The poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer and the middle class is coming under the hold of the tax. Industrialists earning more are in advantageous position under the existing tax regime. Finance Minister should impose tax as per the principle of bees and extract nectar without hurting the flower, but the existing tax system is different. Middle class is a harassed lot today. It is aggrieved from the existing tax system. Prices of diesel, petrol have increased and it is not coming under control. Prices are increasing. People are suffering. Common man is in distress. Daily needs are not getting fulfilled. Inflation is not coming under control. IPL is getting echoed in the entire House, but no one is voicing the concerns of the BPL. The number of the poor has not been ascertained in the country yet. Different committees have presented their views. It should be ascertained. They should get BPL cards. I call for immediate action in this regard.

Rising inflation should be brought under control. Provisions made for the development of agriculture are not sufficient. It should be increased. Agriculture is backbone of the country, it is the first step of development. There should be increase in the budget to develop it.

Foreign exchange also contributes in the development of the country. There is carpet industry in my constituency Bhadohi. Carpet industry is affected from recession at present. Special provision is required to boost it.

Rising prices need to be checked. We should check increasing unemployment. More packages are required to be provided for the development of agriculture. Prices of diesel, petrol are required to be brought down. Taxes

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

imposed on the middle class are required to be lowered keeping in view the interest of common man, only then it can become the budget for the common man, otherwise it will remain the budget for privileged ones.

\*SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI (Jalaun): At present inflation has increased to a great extent in the country. It has become very difficult for the common man to survive. They are not getting their daily need commodities. They are unable to get basic things like food, clothes, houses, medicines, education etc. Their basic needs are not being fulfilled. Several incidents of death due to starvation have also come to light in the country. Several people are homeless and they are compelled to live in open. They are bearing natural wrath like heat, rain and cold wave. They do not have any money for purchasing medicines and are dying due to serious diseases. Several villages do not have electricity and the villages which have electricity do not get power supply. Several villages do not have roads. They are not even getting potable water. All the villages of Uttar Pradesh have such problems and Bundelkhand has more serious problem than this. The adjoining areas of Bundelkhand like Kanpur village, Ittawa, Orraiya, Ghatampur, Fatehpur are also very backward like Bundelkhand. I would like to demand from the Government and the Minister of Finance to allocate exclusively grant for the development of Bundelkhand and its adjoining areas like Kanpur village, Ittawa, Orraiya, Ghatampur and Fatehpur so that these areas can be developed. Subsidy on fertilizers, seeds, diesel and daily use items and tad rebate should be given to the farmers of this area.

I would like to demand all the facilities for the development of entire Bundelkhand and its adjoining areas upto 60 kilometer, 2 thousand hand pumps should be installed in each district of Bundelkhand, Bhognipur and adjoining areas to give relief to the persons living there and deep tube wells should also be installed there according to necessity to improve the condition of farmers. Roads should be constructed and electricity be provided in all the villages. As there is sufficient water in Yamuna and Betwa rivers so a new leeper canal originating from these rivers should be constructed. The second phase of

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Ghanshyam Anuragi]

Amroth leeper canal should be started immediately. Through you, I would like to say that free education, medicine, drinking water, food and housing facility etc. may be provided free of cost to the people residing at these places as this region is a agricultural based region and has been constantly facing drought situation for the last four-five years. I also request the Government to waive off loans of my entire parliamentary constituency and Bundelkhand division taken during the last three years as the farmers and the labourers have become ruined. Therefore I request the Government to provide medicine and even free education to the people of this region. People do not have money even for the marriage of their daughters. Here people are facing lot of difficulties. Hence the amount of grant being provided to the farmers for the wedding of their daughters may be increased so that they could be benefited.

I demand that all important issues which I have raised may be considered by the Government at the earliest for the welfare of the people of this region. Besides, funds may be provided for the development of my entire region as per the requirement.

17.14 hrs

(DR. GIRIJA VYAS *in the Chair*)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam Chairman, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude to all the hon. Members and my colleagues who have participated in the discussions since yesterday. More than 30 Members have participated in the discussions on the Finance Bill. Naturally, as usual, it has overlapped with the discussions on the general propositions on the budgetary proposals and also with the Clauses and the Schedule of the Finance Bill.

Budget is an annual exercise, a constitutional requirement under Article 102. But it is not a ritualistic exercise because it is formulated in the context of the economic philosophy of ruling Party and also in the context

since the beginning of our planned economic development - of the Five-year Plan though, nowadays, the five-year period of the Government and the five-year tenure of the Five-Year Plan do not synchronise because of the periodical elections to Lok Sabha.

17.16 hrs.

(MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

When the Budget is presented, it is presented by the Finance Minister. But during these eight weeks the entire House is involved in one way or other in analysing the Budget proposals, dissecting it and reviewing it from various angles. First in the General Discussion, the Members participate; but much more important is that after the Vote on Account, for almost four weeks, sometimes more than that, both the Houses divide themselves into Parliamentary Standing Committees and examine the Demands of all the Ministries and Departments. Therefore, they have the involvement during these eight weeks with the budgetary exercise.

I express my gratitude to all of them who have made contributions either by directly participating in the General Discussion on the Budget or in the discussion on the Finance Bill or while participating in the discussions on the Demands for Grants of the Ministries which were placed before the House and were discussed and they also serve who stand and wave; those Members of Parliament who made valuable contributions in the Standing Committees while analysing the Demands for Grants of various Ministries and Departments. I appreciate their contribution.

Madam Speaker, I mentioned it earlier that while formulating the Budget, I had to keep in mind the situation prevailing within the country and the situation prevailing outside the country. I also had to keep in mind the past history of the economic development over the years with which sometimes as Member of the Parliament and sometimes as Member of the Government I had the privilege of being associated with. Therefore, I could not - I frankly admit my own shortcoming - allow myself to indulge in financial profligacy. This may be treated as my shortcoming. But most humbly I will accept that.

Therefore, to save the economy, I had to provide two stimulus packages in the Interim Budget of last year and thereafter in the General Budget to continue and when I had to withdraw partly the fiscal stimulus because always one scenario haunted me which many of the old Members, particularly the former Leader of the Opposition, Shri Advaniji and others will remember, that this country had to face the ignominy of pledging its gold to a foreign bank just to borrow a few hundred million dollars of foreign exchange to buy certain essentials.

That fear, that apprehension may be misplaced. I do not blame anybody. I was not in the Government because my party was not in the Government at that point of time, but I do not blame anybody. The situation of the country was such that the economic credibility of the country was at stake. People are talking of GDP what we should do with the GDP and whether we will eat GDP. I am coming to that aspect what GDP means to me, but when I think of a picture that a Finance Minister of the country is waiting to meet another Finance Minister of a rich country just to have some support from that country, surely Madam Speaker, as a Finance Minister, I do not want to place myself in that position. Therefore, I would like to take the fiscal correction which is needed. I do believe that the economy can bear the borrowing capacity, fiscal deficit to an extent, not beyond that. If somebody tries to understand that, he will understand and try to appreciate the measures which we have taken.

More often than not, paragraph 188 of my Budget Speech has been quoted wherein I have said "This Budget belongs to aam admi and it has been said that it has been ridiculed. Most respectfully, I ask the hon. Members whether the nine crore Kisan Card holders are not the aam admi ...*(Interruptions)* If they do not get it, there is a definite deficiency in the system, but you cannot say that the nine crore Kisan Card holders and the NREGA beneficiaries are not part of aam admi. They do not live in five-star hotels; they live in rural India. Every money spent in the rural India, whether it is for the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana, whether it is for the NREGA, whether it is for the rural infrastructure, whether it is for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and whether it is for the Mid-Day Meal, it is for

aam admi. If there is deficiency in the delivery mechanism, surely we shall have to address it. The Union Government, the State Governments and the local bodies, who are responsible for delivering the goods and services to the people, shall have to sit together and address these issues, but simply by raising an accusing finger, it will not help us. We may try to score a debating point, but that is not going to solve the problem.

Economic issues are to be addressed with proper economic perspective so that we can find out a solution to the problem. Therefore, if we increase the limit of the agricultural credit, it is to address that. What is the demand of all the kisans? Major political parties say that you bring down the interest rate to the level of four per cent. Are we not trying to achieve that? If we bring it down from seven per cent to six per cent, and six per cent to five per cent, is it not for the aam admi? Is it for the amir? Therefore, you have every right to criticize. You do criticize. As Opposition, you do dissect, oppose and expose, but do not forget the truth and do not distort the facts. Therefore, this is the aspect that we shall have to keep in mind.

I am not going to reply to the general debate of the Budget as I have done that on 12th March itself. One of the last speakers was talking about it. If you would have simply listened to my reply on 12th March to the general debate, then I replied exactly that point as to why I have given Rs. 400 crore for extending green revolution to the Eastern India. After all, being in Parliament for so many years, though my understanding is not as deep as that of the hon. Member who spoke on economy, but this much little I understand that Rs. 400 crore for five States are not adequate. But did I not tell that whenever we introduce a new scheme, we make modest provisions and whenever the scheme takes off we expand it substantially. I gave the example of Rajiv Awas Yojana. The scheme was that if the State Governments agree to provide land to the slum dwellers, then we will provide assistance and a token provision of Rs. 100 crore was made last year. This year when the scheme has taken off, I have provided Rs. 1,200 crore and next year it may be much more. Therefore, Rs. 400 crore may appear peanuts today, but if you read the paragraphs 45 and 46 fully, then you will find that this will

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be part of the existing scheme, namely, Krishi Vikas Yojana. The State Governments have their plan and all these are to be integrated. When I talk of Rs. 69 lakh crore of GDP of this country, I include everything including the State Government's expenditure and revenue. All these aspects are taken into account. Therefore, keeping that in view, I do feel that we have to try to address the problems of these issues.

Certain other important issues have come before us. I did not have any intention of discussing those issues because we have discussed them several times and not once or twice. It is not merely discussion. I wanted to concentrate on the Finance Bill, which is having 86 clauses, 8 chapters and 12 schedules, but a couple of points I would like to make there. Yes, you have observed bandh to launch your protest, but consecutive bandh can reduce the inflation by 1.1 per cent. Any amount of rhetorical discussions here — half a dozen times we have discussed — we can try to find out certain points. Hence, we have called the Chief Ministers (CMs) Conference. We have met twice and we have identified that when we cannot reduce the price and when we cannot bring down the inflation, then at least we can protect the weaker sections of the society and more vulnerable sections of the society by providing subsidized food grains to them through the effective Public Distribution System (PDS) where the cooperation of these institutions either the State Government and also the Government below, namely, the local self-Government is needed. This is exactly what we have done.

We have constituted a group with a couple of CMs to tell us exactly how to improve the PDS. We can tell it from the house-top to universalise the PDS. Would you be able to implement it - if we undertake the universalisation of the PDS - when the country does not have the capacity to fulfil the targeted PDS? Do we have the capacity? What has happened? I am not quoting any particular State. Designated public distribution dealers surrendered their licences and permits and they refused to accept it because of the state of affairs there. Police had to resort to firing. Therefore, on the price front, we have taken several steps.

To tackle the supply constraints, we have put all the essential items under OGL with zero duty. We have banned future trading in essential items. We have made the arrangements for distributing pulses at the subsidized rate of Rs. 10 per kilogram, and edible oil at a subsidy of Rs. 15 per kilogram so that these commodities are made available to the vulnerable sections of the society.

Today it is not the system that only one party is ruling both at the Centre and in the States. All the major political parties represented here are heading the States. What we require is that we should work together so that we can address this problem, if not that of the entire society. I am ready to have any suggestion suggesting that I should do this so that the prices will come down tomorrow.

Much has been talked about the petroleum prices. I am not going to make any comparison as to how many times and in what percentages the prices of petrol and diesel were increased. When we bought at the international price, when the Indian basket crude was varying from US \$ 12 to US \$ 36, how many times did we increase the price? By what percentage did we increase the price? When I am buying today crude at an average of US \$ 73 per barrel, what is the level of the price increase that we have done? I could have taken the very easy course that instead of doing it through the duty route, I could have done it through the administered price mechanism, but I did not do so because to me it would have been not correct. It is because what I am collecting today is not merely for me; it is also for the State Governments. Thirty-two per cent of these Rs. 26,000 crore will be distributed, as per the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission, to all the States. Thereafter, when I had the meeting with the State Chief Ministers, none of them raised any objection because they understand. What is the level of VAT and what is the level of Sales Tax in the States? It varies from 28 per cent to 38 per cent. They understand and they know where the shoe pinches. Therefore, these aspects are to be kept in view.

Next year, the under-recoveries of the Oil Marketing Companies are going to be Rs. 85,000 crore. Where, under what carpet, will I keep it? My total revenue is Rs.

7,00,000 crore; interest payment is Rs. 3,25,000 crore; food, fertilizer and fuel subsidy is Rs. 1,25,000 crore; Defence expenditure, Rs. 1,50,000 crore, and if you want me to add or absorb additional Rs. 85,000 crore, what will be left for the development? Please tell me because after all you are the masters; you are to approve every proposal. Under what carpet can we keep it? Yes, you can tell me that I should bring out some non-existing resources. We are trying. Lalu Ji was asking as to what steps we have taken. Out of 78 countries with which we have Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements, I have written to 65 countries. But they are equally sovereign countries as we are. They have their own laws. They have their own Parliaments. The changes which we would like to do, it does not depend on us; it depends on them also. We have been able to complete the negotiations with three countries, with Switzerland, with Bahamas and the Bermudas. We have accepted the OECD clause 20 (c). Earlier, in our double taxation avoidance agreement, this clause was not there. And with that, we have been able to convince them that we are entering into agreements and we are having that. We are trying to solve that problem. But it is not quite sure that we will be able to get much benefit because all these countries, they have created deliberately the tax havens, tax jurisdictions in order to develop their banking industry. Now with the financial melt down, little bit set up is there. That is why, OECD is moving, trying to bring those jurisdictions, not sovereign countries like Isle of Man, Virginia Islands and like that. They are trying to bring them within the discipline. They are trying; we are also trying. But we have not been able to do, like any other country, but efforts are being made and we are trying to do that.

Certain other aspects, Madam Speaker, I would also like to deal with. I have spoken of the subsidies, the limitations. I would have loved it. Who would like to have the criticism of enhancing the price of the essential commodities? Who does not know that it will have its impact? But as Finance Minister, should I not see that a situation may come? Can I control the international crude prices? Can I tell today that I will go back to the days of cart? Can I overnight improve the situation when 80 per cent of our crude requirements are from the imported

sources? In the early eighties we used to produce 33 million tonnes. Now we have gone about 36 to 38 million tonnes. But our requirement has increased manifold. Therefore, these aspects are to be kept in view. We are discussing and debating in the Parliament of the country, the federal Parliament. And all these measures are adopted with the approval of the Parliament.

This is the normal, usual practice that during the interregnum period of presentation of Budget and passage of the Finance Bill, we receive very many suggestions from various organisations, institutions, industries and trade. They make representations to the Finance Minister sometimes they ask for the new concessions, sometimes they ask for the modification of the existing concessions. But it is not possible for any Finance Minister including me, to comply with all the demands or requests that come because we will have to keep in mind that I cannot go beyond FRBM. Therefore, keeping that in view, I have decided to give certain concessions which I will like to place before the hon. Members. First, I would like to deal with the relief package for the coffee cultivators. I have received representations from the coffee growers. The coffee growers in the country have been facing long-standing financial problems ever since the coffee prices fell to very low level. During the period 2000-2004, relief packages in the form of Special Coffee Term Loan 2002 and Special Coffee Relief Package 2005 were sanctioned to revive the coffee sector, besides other initiatives like Prime Minister's Relief Package for debt-stressed farmers and debt waiver and debt relief scheme of 2008. However, a large number of affected growers did not get the required relief.

Therefore, the Government has now decided to approve a fresh Coffee Debt Relief Package specifically for the small growers. As per this, for pre-2002 loans, 50 per cent of the total liability shall be waived subject to a maximum benefit of Rs.5 lakh per farmer to be borne by the Government of India. An additional 25 per cent shall be waived by banks and balance shall be rescheduled. The Package also envisages 20 per cent waiver of liability under Crop Loans with 10 per cent each being borne by the Government of India and banks respectively, subject



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to a maximum benefit of Rs.1 lakh. For post-2002 term loan, 10 per cent of the total liability shall be waived subject to a maximum benefit of Rs. 1 lakh. The Package shall also provide relief to medium and large farmers who shall be permitted to reschedule the loans. The total financial implication for the Government of India is Rs.241.33 crore while benefit to coffee growers will be around Rs.362.82 crore.

Now I come to certain concessions in the direct tax area. While introducing the Finance Bill 2010, in respect of the direct taxes emphasis has been on relief to individual taxpayers, encouraging research and development in the country, providing some relief measures in view of the recessionary impact and rationalisation of procedure, and steps to mitigate the compliance cost. Based on the discussions and representations received after the introduction of the Finance Bill, certain further reliefs and concessions on direct taxes are proposed.

Availability of modern hospitals is a priority area for the country and private sector participation is desirable in order to provide better healthcare facilities to citizens. Currently, hospitals of more than 100 bed capacity constructed in any area other than the 'excluded area' are eligible for claiming hundred per cent deduction under section 80-IB (11C) of the Income Tax Act. Considering the pressing need for more hospitals all over the country, it is proposed to include the business of a new hospital anywhere in India, with at least 100 beds for patients, as a 'specific business' for availing the benefit of investment-linked deduction.

Another priority of the Government is to make India slum-free. Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has issued draft *Guidelines for Slum-Free City Planning*. Rajiv Awas Yojana for slum-dwellers and the urban poor envisages a slum-free India by encouraging States and Union Territories to tackle the problem of the slums in a definitive manner. For this purpose it is proposed to also include the business of developing and building of housing projects under a scheme for slum redevelopment or rehabilitation framed by the Central Government or a

State Government as a specified business for availing the benefit of the investment linked deduction.

In consequence of the decision to allow the tax neutrality for conversion of a company in a limited liability partnership, some hon. Members also have commented on it, it is proposed to also exempt from taxation the transfer of shares by the shareholders of the company in respect of such a conversion.

Now, I come to service tax. Madam Speaker, ever since I proposed imposition of service tax on international and domestic air passengers in the Budget this year, I have received a number of representations expressing concern that this levy would adversely affect the civil aviation sector and would make air travel prohibitive. I would like to clarify that it would not be so. It would not be linked with the percentage of the fare. The effective rates of levy, when they come into effect, would be a maximum of Rs.100 per travel for domestic journey in any class and a maximum of Rs.500 per travel for international journey by economy class. Further, domestic air travel to and from the North-Eastern sector would be exempt even from this moderate tax.

The construction sector has requested for a review of the changes in the service tax law proposed in this year's Budget. Several suggestions have been made by the trade associations. Considering all the inputs, I propose to provide tax relief to this sector by enhancing their rate of abatement from 67 per cent to 75 per cent of the gross value where such value includes the value of the land constructed upon. Certain procedural bottlenecks relating to the completion certificate prescribed in the law would also be simplified.

With a view to give thrust to the low cost housing schemes for the urban poor, I propose to exempt service tax on constructions under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and under Rajiv Awas Yojana.

The above changes relating to the construction sector would be effective from a notified date after enactment of the Finance Bill, 2010. I have received suggestions that

the present service tax exemption available to the vocational training institutes affiliated to the National Council for Vocational Training and offering courses in designated trades should also be extended to "Modular Employment Skill Development Courses" provided by the training institutes registered under 'Skill Development Initiative Scheme' of the Ministry of Labour. As this initiative intends to generate employment to the rural and urban poor, school dropouts and semi-skilled labourers, I propose to accept this suggestion and exempt such courses with immediate effect. The notification to this respect is being issued today.

Madam Speaker, I shall now take up specific issues in indirect taxes. Hon. Members would recall that I had proposed an increase in excise duty on almost all tobacco products including cigars and cheroots. I have received a large number of representations on behalf of the manufacturers of 'hand-rolled cheroots' - an industry located primarily in the cottage and household sector. Considering the nature of this labour-intensive industry, I now propose to reduce the excise duty on hand-rolled cheroots priced up to Rs.3 per stick to 10 per cent ad valorem. Similarly, the additional excise duty on this product shall now be 1.6 per cent ad valorem. Full exemption from excise duty has been provided to betel nut product commonly known as 'supari'. This exemption is now being extended to scented supari. Central excise duty on corrugated boxes and cartons - these suggestions have come from many of you - was reduced from 8 per cent to four per cent when they are manufactured starting from kraft paper. I propose to extend the exemption to cover units that manufacture such cartons from corrugated paper or paperboard also.

Paper and paperboard manufactured from non-conventional raw material such as waste paper attract a concessional excise duty of 4 per cent subject to certain conditions. Waste paper is chargeable to an excise duty of CVD of 10 per cent. Domestic industry has represented that this creates an inversion leading to the accumulation of Cenvat credit. I propose to reduce the excise duty on waste paper to four per cent to rectify this anomaly.

As the hon. Members are aware, the excise exemption for small scale units is not available to goods that bear the brand name of another person. A relaxation of this condition is available in respect of specified packing materials which are normally not sold under the brand name that they bear. In order to resolve disputes about the coverage of this relaxation, I propose to extend it to all types of packing material.

Automobile components have been subjected to excise duty on the basis of their retail sale price. In order to resolve disputes about the coverage of this provision, it was amended so as to make it applicable to parts, components and assemblies of vehicles of Chapter 87 of the Excise Tariff. Since these components are also used for earthmoving machinery like loaders, excavators, etc., I now propose to apply this provision to the parts, components and assemblies of such machinery as well.

Tunnel boring machines are critical for hydroelectric power projects. Since these are not produced domestically, full exemption from customs duty was provided in this Budget. It has been represented that owing to their huge size, these machines are incapable of import in a single consignment. Considering this practical difficulty, the exemption is being extended to parts and components of tunnel boring machines. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Manipuri): Madam Speaker, atleast the Dairy sector should be exempted. How will it do if tax is imposed on daily products.

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

*[English]*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: No. There is no tax on that.

Hon. Members would recall that the customs duty regime on medical equipment - this is important because I am exempting life saving drugs - was rationalized in this Budget by prescribing a uniform basis duty of five per cent and CVD of four per cent. In doing so, listed exemptions

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

were dispensed with. I have received a number of representations in respect of Ostomy appliances in whose case, a concession has been removed. Considering that these are mainly used by cancer patients, I propose to provide this concession to such appliances.

Basic customs duty on 11 specified drugs including two anti-cancer and one for the treatment of AIDS is being reduced to five per cent. These drugs are also being exempted from CVD by way of excise duty exemption. Optical disc drives are ITA-bound and thus permissible for import without payment of duty. I propose to fully exempt specified parts or components required for the manufacture of ODD from basic customs duty.

Cigarette filter rods are manufactured from acetate rayon tow. While full CVD of 10 per cent and special CVD of four per cent is applicable to tow, the excise duty on filter rods is ten per cent, creating an inversion in duty. I propose to fully exempt acetate rayon tow from special CVD of four per cent.

Flax fibre and yarn are not produced in India in significant quantities. I propose to fully exempt them from basic customs duty in order to encourage domestic value addition.

As this House is aware, an export duty at the statutory rate of Rs.2500 per metric tonne was imposed on raw cotton with effect from 9th April, 2010, in order to contain the spiraling prices by disincentivizing exports. The Government has been keenly watching the quantum of exports as well as the price situation. In order to meet any future exigency, the statutory rate for this item is being enhanced to Rs. 10,000 per metric tonne while maintaining the effect rate at the current level. For this purpose, an official amendment to the Finance Bill, 2010 is being proposed.

Madam, these are the concessions which I am proposing and these have been formulated in the amendments which have been circulated to the House. In the course of discussion it will come.

In respect of Lalu ji's demand with regard to Members' salary, allowances and pension, there is an institutional arrangement. The Committee of the Members Salaries, Allowances and Pensions makes its recommendation. I understand that they have met. Perhaps the hon. Member of the other House, Shri Ahluwalia is the Chairman. The Secretary, Expenditure was called for. After getting the recommendations we will consider to what extent we can accommodate. It is not possible for me, nor it is competent or within my power to decide. It is for the Members of the Parliament, through the Committee, to decide.

Thank you Madam, Speaker.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Madam Speaker, the hon'ble Minister of Finance has replied very enthusiastically during discussion on the Finance Bill. He was looking very enthusiastic. However, hon'ble Finance Minister sir, I am sorry to say that the people of the country instead of becoming enthusiastic have become disappointed after hearing your reply. The farmers were expecting that the Government would certainly reduce the prices of manure. The common people were expecting that the Government would provide some relief to them by reducing the prices of petrol and diesel. However, you have assumed silence on both the subjects and the list of categories which stand to get relief under the Bill as read out by you relates to privileged classes and not the common man.

Madam Speaker, therefore through you, I would like to tell the Finance Minister that we cannot participate in its voice vote also. We walk out from the House to express solidarity with the disappointment and frustration of the common man.

17.58 hrs.

*Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and some other hon.*

*Members then left the House.*

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House shall not take up the motion for consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2010-2011, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MADAM SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

*"That clauses 2 to 9 stand part of the Bill."*

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 9 were added to the Bill.*

#### **Clause 10 Amendment of Section 35 AD**

Amendments made:

Page 5, line 46 *Omit 'and'.* (1)

Page, *after* line 46, *insert*—

'(ab) on or after the 1st day of April, 2010, where the specified business is in the nature of building and operating a new hospital with at least one hundred beds of patients;

'(ac) on or after the 1st day of April, 2010, where the specified business is in the nature of developing and building a housing project under a scheme for slum redevelopment or rehabilitation framed by the Central Government or a State Government, as the case may be, and which is notified by the Board in this behalf in accordance with guidelines as may be prescribed; and"; (2)

Page 5, line 48,—

*for "and clause (aa)"*

*substitute", clause (aa), clause (ab) and clause (ac)".(3)*

Page 5, *after* line 52, *insert*—

'(v) building and operating, anywhere in India, a new hospital with at least one hundred beds for patients;

(vi) developing and building a housing project under a scheme for slum redevelopment or rehabilitation framed by the Central Government or a State Government, as the case may be, and notified by the Board in this behalf in accordance with the guidelines as may be prescribed; (4)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 10, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 10, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 11 to 17 were added to the Bill.*

#### **Clause 18 Amendment of Section 47**

Amendment made:

Page 6, line 47, —

*after "to a limited liability partnership"*

*insert "or any transfer of a share or shares held in the company by a shareholder". (5)*

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

**18.00 hrs.**

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the time of the House is extended till this Bill is passed.

The question is:

"That clause 18, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 18, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

#### **Clause 19 Amendment of Section 47 A**

Amendment made:

Page 17, *for* lines 24 and 25, *substitute* —

"asset or share or shares not charged under section 45 by virtue of conditions laid down in the said proviso shall be deemed to be the profits and gains

chargeable to tax of the successor limited liability partnership or the shareholder of the predecessor company, as the case may be, for". (6)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19, as amended, was added to the Bill.

#### Clause 20 Amendment of Section 49

Amendment made:

Page 7, after line 30, insert —

'(aa) after sub-section (2AA), the following sub-section shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2011, namely:—

"(2AAA) Where the capital asset being rights of a partner referred to in section 42 of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 became the property of the assessee on conversion as referred to 6 of 2009. in clause (xiiib) of section 47, the cost of acquisition of the asset shall be deemed to be the cost of acquisition to him of the share or shares in the company immediately before its conversion.";(7)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee:)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 20, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 20, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 21 to 59 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 60 Amendment of notification issued under*

#### Sub-Section(I) of Section 25 of the Customs Act.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Madam, I beg to move:

Page 13, after line 30, insert—

"Provided that any such notification issued by the Central Government shall be approved by both the Houses of Parliament by a Resolution to that effect".(12)

MADAM SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 12 moved by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)\**

18.03 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and some other hon. Members left the House*

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 60 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 60 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 61 and 62 were added to the Bill.*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Madam, in December 2009 the export duty on iron ore lump was enhanced from five per cent to ten per cent and on fine from nil to five per cent. Keeping in view the trend in the quantum of export and domestic and international prices the duty on iron ore lumps is being increased further to 15 per cent.  
*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record except the speech of the Finance Minister.

*...(Interruptions)\**

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: In response to the representation from the domestic producers of stainless

\*Not recorded.

steel, I propose to reduce the basic customs duty on stainless steel melting scrap from five per cent to 2.5 per cent.

Therefore, I move that Rule 80 (i) be suspended and I may be permitted to move this amendment.

*Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (i)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No.8 to the Finance Bill, 2010 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 8 to the Finance Bill, 2010 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

*The motion was adopted.*

#### **New Clause 62A Amendment of the second Schedule**

Amendment made:

Page 14, after line 7, insert —

'62A. In the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, against heading No. 16, in column (3), for the entry "Rs. 2500 per tonne", the entry "Rs. 10,000 per tonne" shall be substituted.'. (8)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That New clause 62A be added to the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*New Clause 62A was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 63 to 74 were added to the Bill.*

#### **Clause 75 Amendment of Act 32 of 1994**

Amendment made:

Page 17, after line 49, insert—

'(3A) for clause (77c), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

'(77c) "passenger" means any person boarding an aircraft in India for performing domestic journey or international journey.' (9)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 75, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 75, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 76 to 86 were added to the Bill.*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta — Not present.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia — Not present.

The question is:

"That the First Schedule to the Seventh Schedule stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The First Schedule to the Seventh Schedule were added to the Bill.*

#### **The Eighth Schedule**

Amendment made:

Page 39, line 9, in column (3),

after "on inputs"

insert "or input services". (10)

(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Eighth Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Eighth Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*The Ninth Schedule to the Twelfth Schedule were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

MADAM SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.*

**18.09 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, April 30, 2010/Vaisakha 10, 1932 (Saka).*

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