

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday July 13, 2009/Asadha 22, 1931 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. No. 121. Shri Pradeep Majhi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI (Nabarangpur): Q. No. 121 ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): A statement is laid on the Table of the House... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. I will allow this during the 'Zero Hour'. Please let the Question Hour to continue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR (Patan): Cong. MLAs have been attacked in Gujarat. ... (Interruptions) MLAs of congress party are being assaulted.

... (Interruptions) An attack has been made on the MLAs of congress party. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please raise this issue during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Those who are in power. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please raise this issue during zero hour.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 121, Shri Pradeep Majhi.

Child Labour

*121. ⁺ SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the number of children engaged as child labour in the country is on the rise despite the efforts being made by the Government to eliminate child labour in any form;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the problem of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Data on nationwide number of Child Labour is provided under the National Census operation. As per the last Census of 2001, the number of working children in the age group of 5-14 years was 1.26 crore in the country out of which about 12 lakhs were working in hazardous occupations/processes. Any increase or decrease in the figures will be available after the next Census. However, the Government of India has taken various steps for addressing the issue of Child Labour. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 16 occupations and 65 Processes including as domestic labour and workers in dhabas. The law provides for action against the violators under the Act. State Governments are the appropriate Government for implementation of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 for the areas coming under their jurisdiction.

Government is also implementing the National Child Labour Project Scheme in 271 districts in the country for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from work are admitted into Special Schools where they are provided accelerated bridging education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition and health care facilities etc. Approximately 9800 Special Schools have been sanctioned with the enrollment of 5.00 lakh children and about 5.21 lakh children have been mainstreamed into the formal education system since inception of the NCLP Scheme in 1988. Adopting a holistic approach, the Government is also taking proactive measures for economic upliftment of their families through convergence with various developmental and poverty alleviation programmes/schemes of other Ministries. Awareness campaigns on the ills of child labour are run from time to time. The Government is also collaborating with International Organizations such as ILO to address the problem of child labour.

SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Q. No. 121.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Madam Speaker, the Government of India has constituted a Central Monitoring and Implementation Committee of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation), Act 1986. The Parliament has already passed the Right to Education Bill. Then why has the Government of India has not signed the Article 182 of the ILO?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker, the Government of India examined the pros and cons of the Resolution Nos. 182 and 183. We are at it and we are considering it. As soon as the opinion is formed, definitely, we would try to push it forward.

SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Madam Speaker, it is really a serious issue. As per the evaluation conducted by the Government of India, the NCLP scheme suffering due to insufficient funds for vocational training, lack of awareness generation, infrastructure and non-convergence at school end. If so, what steps the Government of India has taken for successful implementation of NCLP?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker, I do agree that there are insufficient funds for this programme. But this time, we are trying to approach once again the Planning Commission. In the meanwhile, we are getting more funds under various other schemes, such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. There are some income-

generating programmes also like the NREGA. There are schemes going on even in the urban areas. All these programmes would contribute to help the children to come to schools, to come to the mainstream.

As the hon. Member rightly pointed out though there is a shortage of funds in the NCLP scheme, yet there are other schemes going on where the Government of India has provided sufficient funds. I think, in the coming years, it is definitely going to help more and more children to come to schools.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATIL: Madam Speaker, today 4.5 crore children are in less than 5 years of age in our country. Today's India belongs to the youth, but, unfortunately nearly 1.3 crore children in this young India are working as child labourers. Even the steps taken by the Government have not been successful in eliminating this ill practice. Even today crores of children are working as child labourers in various sectors.

Madam speaker, whether on the lines of ISI certificate issued by the Government for good quality product, does the Government propose to issue certificate declaring that child labour has not been used in the manufacturing of products its factory. Will the Government issue such a certificate for all the products? If so what are the steps taken in this regard and if not the reason therefor?

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: As on today, the child labour population is, according to 2001 census, 1.26 crores. Out of that, the number of children working in the hazardous occupations is nearly 12 lakhs. So, the Government is trying to improve the conditions. Also, the Government is taking so many steps, particularly, we have started nearly 10,000 schools, and in that, a number of children are taking admission. Apart from that, some of the States have also shown interest like Andhra Pradesh and other States where the child labour population is decreasing. Definitely, I will examine the proposal which the hon. Member has said.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Madam speaker, the Hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that as per the census of 2001, the number of child labour in the age

group of 5.14 years is 1.2 crore out of which about 12 lakh children are working in hazardous industries. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the number of child labourers working in glass industries in Firozabad and the heat in centigrade's under which they have to work and how it is adversely affecting their health. How many child labourers have been rescued from this industry and efforts made for their rehabilitation? ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: please raise only one question.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: What kind of action has been taken against all those manufacturers who have employed such child labourers?

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: He has not asked a specific question on that. This is a general question. If he wants special information regarding how many children are working in Firozabad glass industries, I can give him the information.

MADAM SPEAKER: You can send him the details.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: This specific question is related to this. Glass Industry is a hazardous industry and a large number of child labourers are working in that. The Hon'ble Minister does not know about it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Your time is over. Shri Tufani Saroj.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Hon'ble Madam, Speaker even today people in villages send their children for labour due to poverty and to earn a living because they are poor and they have to feed themselves. In spite of enactment of all kinds of child labour laws people send their children for labour. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to any United Nations Convention has been signed to check child labour? If so, what are the details of the aforesaid convention?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: The question asked by the Hon'ble Member is not related to this. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: You let him reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: The Hon'ble Member has asked about the United Nations Resolution, which is not related to this question. But, I agree that a number of children do not go to school to get education because there is a lot of poverty, illiteracy and disparity. Therefore, the Union Government is trying to help the people through a number of schemes. ...(*Interruptions*) We are taking all possible steps to increase the income of people and through NREGA and other schemes. to bring children to schools. This will help to a great extent. The number of child labour is decreasing and not increasing and there has been a drop in the same.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Hon'ble speaker madam, handicraft is a major strength of our country.* handicraft is a major industry of the place Kharge Sahib belongs to knowing weaving, wood work, carpet making and learning music is also a kind of education. I have been the Minister of textile. A person learns handicraft in his childhood. Mahatmaj himself was a craftsman. This is a major strength of our country. You are comparing everything with child Labour. I would like to request that the Hon'ble Minister should call a meeting to have an extensive discussion on this. The craftsmen who were the backbone of our freedom struggle, could only have been educated in their childhood. If Pandit Ravi Shankar had not learnt music in his childhood, he would not have been such a great musician. Through you I would like to know as to whether in view of the present condition of the will you call a meeting and find a way so that these could become skilled craftsmen. Will you take any initiative on this or not?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We will call all the Hon'ble Members to discuss all the suggestions given by you. I am willing to consider justified suggestions. If anything helps the society then we will definitely think about that.

[*English*]

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister's answer tabled mentions the incentives to draw child labour back into the mainstream but it does not talk of any punitive measures. It speaks of the State Government's responsibilities but it has not mentioned anything about the Central Government's responsibilities. I would like to remind the hon. Minister that several years ago there used to be frequent mentions in the media about raids conducted to highlight areas where children were being forced into labour and to rescue them.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Act provides for the Central Government to have any such Cell which will regularly conduct raids to rescue children and if not will you consider introducing the same.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: It is the responsibility of the states and we implement it through the states only. The State Government also monitor it. If any specific complaint is received from anywhere, then the officials of the Government of India also visit the place and take stock of the situation. The Union Government also helps solve such problems.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question Number 122, Shri Chandrakant Khaire.

[Translation]

Foreign Universities

+
*122. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI S. SEMMALAI:

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

(a) the details of the foreign universities running in the country including Rajasthan in association with the domestic educational institutions;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study to evaluate the functioning of such universities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any legislative proposal for regulation of entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in the country is under consideration of the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which such legislation will come into force?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) In the absence of a Central law for regulating operations of foreign universities, no information is centrally maintained in regard to their association with domestic educational institutions. However, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has framed regulations limited to collaborations in technical education and six such collaborations have been registered by the AICTE under the said regulations.

(b) No such study has been conducted by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) The Government is contemplating a law to put in place a mechanism to facilitate the entry of reputed foreign universities accredited in their country of origin for further improving the quality of higher education and research in the country, while preventing the entry of foreign institutions/universities of dubious quality. Another legislative proposal is also under consideration for prohibiting and punishing those inducing students to take admission in institutions not recognised by the appropriate statutory authorities.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Madam Speaker I would like to know through you about foreign universities from the Hon. Minister Several students from India go abroad for education. If the same quality education, as provided in foreign universities, is provided through the same medium and under same rules in our country then our students will not have to go abroad for education. Six proposals for collaboration have been received through AICTE. What are the details of those six proposals for collaboration with Indian universities? Which universities and institutes have given proposals to AICTE in this regard and the names of states in which they are situated?

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam Speaker, the names of these institutions are Institute of Hotel Management in Maharashtra; Asia-Pacific Institute of Information Technology in Haryana; Sreenidhi Institute of Science and Technology in Andhra Pradesh; IIMT Hotel Management College in Meerut; Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology in Delhi; and Daly College Business School in Indore.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Madam speaker, my supplementary question is whether the Union Government is contemplating to set up any regulatory authority in regard to the proposed Bill providing rules and regulations for collaborations of foreign universities with Indian universities? The policy in this regard should be transparent so that the details of the fees, courses etc. are available to one and all. The proposals should be initiated through AICTE in regard to fees and control of funding. Whether such rules are likely to be framed by this ministry?

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am thankful for the hon. Member to have asked this Question. AICTE is a regulatory authority for approval of courses. It cannot grant approval of foreign institutions to come to India. In fact, there is no law in India for allowing foreign institutions to come to India. Hence, this Government is contemplating such a law because it is better to have a law to regulate than not to have a law and have unregulated entry.

The very Question that you were asking in terms of — how do we control their fees; how do we control the quality of education that is imparted to our children here; what kind of degrees are awarded; what are the twinning arrangements; are they full foreign degrees; and are they Indian degrees along with foreign degrees? All these issues will be dealt with through a specific law, which deals with the entry of foreign education providers to India. At this point in time we do not have an exact number, but from the statistics that we have gathered from various organizations, we are told that about 1,60,000 children go abroad to study, and the expense on the exchequer is \$7 billion annually.

Now, what we need to do in India is to encourage global-class institutions in India, so that the people do not have to go abroad and allow foreign education providers to come to India to regulate them, so that we win at both ends. We are contemplating bringing a law to that effect, and I hope and expect that this House will support us in doing so.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI: Madam Speaker, I do agree that we may not curtail the entry of foreign universities totally in the era of globalisation. However, a check and balance should be evolved. I am having a doubt in my mind, and the Minister has to clear it by answering it. Can we compel the foreign universities to follow our reservation policy?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, this is really an issue, which will be discussed at length in the House because please remember that it depends on what course you are coming for. Supposing, you are coming for a research setup in a joint venture process in nano-technology or in new eras of knowledge, which we are still investigating. Maybe, you have a different policy for that as we apply to our own institutions. If it is an ordinary B.A course, why not? These are the issues that are

going to be discussed in the House. It is only with consensus in the House and in the country that we will move forward. Remember this, we will not allow our children to be exploited by foreign education providers, but we will allow our children, opportunities through foreign education providers so that we will build our own systems in such a way that India has a population which is educated and which can take the country forward. That is our aim.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: This is regarding an Indian University itself which is being treated like a foreign university. The Dehradun Petroleum University has started a branch in Rajahmundry, my constituency because oil reserves are there in the Krishna-Godavari Basin. ONGC, Reliance and such others are functioning there. We thought it will be appropriate to have a Branch there. I myself negotiated with those people and we got a Branch started at Rajahmundry. It is functioning since last two years. Suddenly, one month back, it appeared in news that Madras High Court had given a judgment saying that no university can have a branch in other States except in the State where it was registered. What is the fate of the students now studying from the last two years in the college at Rajahmundry? They were advised to go to Dehradun to complete the remaining two years of their education. Will the Government come to the rescue of the students and their families?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: This is nothing to do with the present question. The question relates to foreign education providers, and the hon. Member has asked a question which has no reference to foreign education providers. But outside of this, if the hon. Member approaches me, we will look into the matter.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I, first, would like to congratulate the Minister. He has voiced a number of really dynamic steps and I hope he is allowed to carry them through. There are a number of educational areas where we are really backward. Take, for instance, the veterinary science. We are amongst the worst in the world. I would like to know whether the Government is contemplating bringing in foreign universities or foreign education providers in specialist areas, for instance, one would be veterinary science, but a number of other areas in which we have absolutely no ability at all.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I would like to respond to the hon. Member by saying that this is a market mechanism.

What happens is whether foreign education provider wants to come to India is to be decided by the foreign education provider; whether we want him or not is our decision. At the moment what is happening is that there are two kinds of foreign education providers who are coming to India without reference to any law and most of them are in hotel management and business management; why because there is an enormous market abroad, both in hotel management and business management, so the result is that students in India are looking for job opportunities outside in some of those areas. That is why, lots of Indian students are going to those courses. Now, we will have to see as to what kind of institutions are wanting to come to India. We cannot force a veterinary science institution to come to India, but if it does come, we welcome it.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam, the Hon. Minister proposes to allow the entry of foreign universities in the country, but, I would like to give a word of caution to the whole country in this regard. In case any student wants to study any foreign language or literature or computer therein, one should face no problem. People are making false propaganda against me in this regard. I am not against the said universities but anykind of conditions proposed to be imposed by them. Further in this house, I deny all the charges levelled against me in this connection.

Madam, secondly, our country has no shortage of intellectuals. If any one is of this opinion, I reject it by citing an example in the field of health. I will do so in case of education also. Even in America, Indian doctors have conducted heart operations. Brilliant people do not get proper opportunity in India. Therefore, my submission is that they should get opportunities. We can set up better universities in India than foreign ones. We should seriously ponder over as to how can we provide good quality higher education in our country. I feel, entry of foreign education will make foreign languages and education compulsory in our country. It will create inequality. If we allow entry of these foreign universities in India, how the children of poor men and labours, living in our remote areas who have not even seen railway tracks, will be able to study therein? It will create inequality. Therefore, there is a world of caution from me and when such a situation arises my point would prove right as what I am saying now is going on record.

Madam, entry of foreign universities will pave the way for slavery. There is no shortage of educationists and intellectuals in our country. The culture of any country is not as rich as Indian culture.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam, Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether he proposes to convene a meeting of country's educationists for taking steps to set up world class universities in the country in place of granting permission to foreign universities to function in India. He can call me also as I too had been an educationist.

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: First of all, I am very thankful to the hon. Member for having cautioned me. I am aware of the fact that there are lots of learned people in this country and he is one of them. Of course, we do not have lot of learned institutions in this country. We are short of this. So, we have a surplus of learned people, but we are short of institutions of excellent calibre. In response to the specific question, it is our endeavour and that is the policy of the Government of India to open up the education sector. It is entirely in line with what the hon. Member has said.

[Translation]

I want global level good institutions to enter India. Our National Knowledge commission and also, Yashpal Committee have suggested for opening education sector to the private players so that world class institutions can come to India. We propose to set up 30 central universities and 14 other world class institutions. We would accomplish it within next five years. At the same time, we want to allow foreign universities also to bridge any kind of shortage. It is not that our institutions can meet the entire demand. But it will take time. Good universities. Harvard, Princeton and Yale are coming to India not for teaching English, but to start the courses which are not available in India now. And in such a scenario, we should allow them. There would not be anything as mandatory. I do not compel any student to go to Harvard. I will not safe this to anyone. They will not start language institutions. Who would like to teach German here?

The Europeans are also learning English. No one is learning German or French. The global situation is such

that people are willing to move anywhere in the world for jobs. English is an international language. We are not calling anyone to teach language to people. We will invite institutions which will help the country in its march towards progress.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, English is not an international language. English is the language of merely seven countries in the world. The House has been misled. I had gone to Geneva. I enquired about the whereabouts of my colleagues in English but the people there were unable to understand me. My colleagues were found after half an hour of searching and only then was I able to learn where they were staying. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayamji, Please sit down. Your question has been replied to.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I want to warn the House that this would take the country towards slavery. You are also a learned person. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, please sit down. Let Shri Karunakaranji put his question.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: How did he say that English is an international language. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Shri Mulayam Singh ji, I agree that you are more learned person. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh ji, please address the Chair.

[*Translation*]

Please calm down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam, English is the language of only a few countries, not of the entire world. Not even of Italy. ...(*Interruptions*) I am speaking seriously, I am not joking. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Karunakaran ji, please ask the question.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Madam, in the answer given by the hon. Minister, it is clear that some legislations are under consideration to make the quality of education better while allowing the foreign universities in our country.

In the answer given in this House, the hon. Minister also stated that in the educational institutions, they would have global standards; and that they are going to encourage it. Of course, it is a good decision. In this connection, the 14th Lok Sabha had passed a legislation on Central Universities; and 14 universities were sanctioned by the Government. One of it is sanctioned in Kerala.

I want to know, through you, from the hon. Minister, whether these universities have started functioning. We are thinking of foreign universities. But we have passed the legislation for other Universities here; may I know whether these universities have started functioning or not.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Some of these Universities are in the process of being built up. Of course, this question again, has nothing to do with 'Foreign Universities'. So, I would request the hon. Member to put a separate Question as to the status of all these Central Universities. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. No. 123, Shri B.Y. Raghavendra—Not present.

Shri Prabodh Panda.

MBT Arjun

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*123. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI B.Y. RAGHAVENDRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun inducted in Army has become fully operational;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to procure such item from foreign sources also; and

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

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

Statement

So far 47 MBT Arjun tanks have been issued to the Army. Army is now in the process of equipping the first

regiment of Arjun. Since the regiment was earlier equipped with T-55 tanks, the officers and crew have to be trained in the new tank which is known as conversion training. The tanks would become fully operational after the conversion training.

Orders for 124 Arjun tanks have so far been placed on the Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi, of which 47 tanks have been supplied.

Government had decided in 2007 to import 347 T-90 tanks from Russia of which 124 will be fully formed and the balance would be SKD/CKD kits to be assembled at Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi. There is no proposal to import more of such equipment at present.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Madam Speaker, I have gone through the statement made by the hon. Minister.

The Defence Ministry claims that the Main Battle Tank Arjun's mobility, firework and protection are comparable to the contemporary world tanks. So far as I know, in the meeting held on 26th March 1974, the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs approved the project for design and development of Main Battle Tank with an outlay of Rs. 15.50 crore, and the same was enhanced to Rs. 305.60 crore. After a long gap, the order was placed. Now, almost 10 years after placing an order for 124 tanks, the Army received so far, as per the hon. Minister's statement, only 47 MBT Arjun tanks. What were the reasons for such abnormal and unusual delay?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Madam, I would like to say at the outset that the good news is that the Arjun Tank is a reality and a complete regiment has been delivered to the Army.

Regarding the delays, although the project was sanctioned in 1974, the GSQRs, which are the operational parameters, were finalized only in 1985 subsequent to which the pre-production series of tanks were delivered to the Army. A lot of trials were conducted. Since we did not have the indigenous capability for a lot of the sub-systems, we had to import a lot of them. Integration also takes time. The trials also do take time. The Army is very stringent on these qualitative requirements.

But we have gone through all those; the good news is that the Army has a complete regiment of tanks at their disposal.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Madam, it is not understood as to what were the defects and what were the reasons for the delay.

But my second supplementary is this. May I know whether the Ministry is seeking any foreign technology in this sector. We know that 26 per cent FDI is allowed in the Ordnance Factories. May I know whether FDI is allowed in this sector or not, since it is such an important sector of defence?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: The Member is right about the 26 per cent of FDI. But as far as the tanks are concerned, since we have an indigenous programme, we are not considering getting into an FDI arrangement with anybody. But in the tanks that we import, we may enter into a 'transfer of technology' arrangement.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: It has been stated, in the statement that is laid on the Table of the House, that orders have been placed for 124 MBT Arjun. They have supplied only 47 MBTs. When will they supply all the 124 Tanks to the Army? It is good that at least we have an indigenous battle tank in this country.

At the same time, I would also like to know how far we are prepared to meet the requirement of the tanks needed in our Army to defend our country.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Madam, the remaining 77 tanks are likely to be delivered by March 2010. Since we have an indigenous programme that has been successful, we anticipate that more orders would be placed for these tanks. As of now, the conversion training is going on on this first regiment subsequent to which two regiments are likely to be inducted by the Army. We are also going to do comparative trials of the existing tanks and the Arjun Tanks in winter of this year. Subsequent to this, after the Army is convinced about its total capabilities, we anticipate more orders.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Madam, I am happy to hear the hon. Minister saying it is a good news that the first regiment of the tanks are in ready and are given to the Army. I am surprised to know that after 36 years of working on this project the Minister says that it is a good news that the regiment is equipped after 36 years of the launching of the project. The Minister has said that the equipment and the tanks are being indigenised. As far as I know, the important contents of the MBT Arjun electronics, particularly GMS

system, fire control computer and thermal imaging are not being indigenously developed. DRDO was working on this project since last 25 years but still I understand that most of the contents of the MBT Arjun are still being imported from America and Europe. I would like to know whether DRDO is fully equipped to replace or to substitute the import content of these important electronic systems.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Madam, the Member is absolutely right. There is a 45 per cent imported content as of now which we hope to reduce it to 30 per cent in the coming years. But the Member is also aware that in today's development of platforms, the wheel is always not reinvented and sometimes the best that are available for this class of tanks, are imported and integrated into the systems. I hope the Member will appreciate.

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 124, Shri Eknath Mahadeo Gaikwad.

Yashpal Committee Report

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*124. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Yashpal Committee has submitted its final report on higher education to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made in the Report;

(c) whether the Government has accepted the said recommendations; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the same?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The Committee to advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education constituted by the Government under Prof. Yashpal, has submitted its Report on 24th June, 2009.

(b) Recommendations of the Committee, *inter-alia*, are:

- (i) Creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), a Constitutional body to replace the existing regulatory bodies including the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC) and the academic functions of professional councils;
- (ii) Universities are to be made responsible regarding the academic content of all courses and programmes of study including professional courses;
- (iii) Curricular reform should be of priority of the NCHER which would create a curricular framework based on the principles of mobility within a full range of curricular areas and integration of skills with academic depth;
- (iv) It should be mandatory for all universities to have a rich undergraduate programme and undergraduate students must get opportunities to interact with the best faculty.
- (v) Undergraduate programs should be restructured to enable students to have opportunities to access all curricular areas with fair degree of mobility. Normally, no single discipline or specialized university should be created;
- (vi) The vocational education sector is at present outside the purview of universities and colleges, and alienation of this sector can be overcome by bringing it under the purview of universities and by providing necessary accreditation to the courses available in polytechnics, industrial training institutions, and so on. Additionally the barriers to entry into universities for students going through vocational training should be lowered to enable them to upgrade their knowledge base at any stage of their careers.
- (vii) The NCHER should also galvanize research in the university system through the creation of a National Research Foundation;
- (viii) New Governing structures should be evolved to enable the universities to preserve their autonomy in a transparent and accountable manner;

- (ix) Practice of according status of deemed university be stopped forthwith till the NCHER takes a considered view on it. It would be mandatory for all existing deemed universities to submit to the new accreditation norms to be framed on the lines proposed in the report within a period of three years, failing which the status of university should be withdrawn. However, unique educational initiatives which have over a period of time enriched higher education by their innovations, be given recognition and supported appropriately;
- (x) Modern higher education system requires extension facilities, sophisticated equipment and highly specialized knowledge and competent teachers. It would not be possible for every university to possess the best of these infrastructures. Hence, one of the primary tasks of the NCHER should be to create several Inter-University Centers (IUCs) in diverse fields to create the best of these possibilities and attract the participation of several institutions of higher learning to avail them.
- (xi) Institutions of excellence like the IITs and IIMs should be encouraged to diversify and expand their scope to work as full-fledged universities, while keeping intact their unique features, which shall act as pace-setting and model Governance systems for all universities;
- (xii) One of the first tasks of the NCHER should be to identify the best 1,500 colleges across India to upgrade them as universities, and create clusters of other potentially good colleges to evolve as universities.
- (xiii) Universities should establish live relationship with the real world outside and develop capacities to respond to the challenges faced by rural and urban economies and culture;
- (xiv) All levels of teacher education should be brought under the purview of higher education;
- (xv) A national testing scheme for admission to the universities on the pattern of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) should be evolved which would be open to all the aspirants of University education, to be held more than once a year. Students would be permitted to send their best test score to the university of their choice.
- (xvi) Quantum of Central financial support to State-funded universities should be enhanced substantially on an incentive pattern, keeping in view the needs for their growth;
- (xvii) Expansion of the Higher education system should be evaluated and assessed continuously to excel and to respond to the needs of different regions in India in order to ensure not only equity and access but also quality and opportunity of growth along academic vertical. The NCHER too should be subject to external review once in five years.
- (xviii) A National Education Tribunal should be established with powers to adjudicate on disputes among stake-holders within institutions and between institutions so as to reduce litigation in courts involving universities and higher education institutions;
- (xix) A Task Force should be set up to follow up on the implementation of the recommended Agenda for Action, within a definite time-frame.
- (c) and (d) The report is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Madam, the Yaspal committee has handed over its report to the Government. I would like to ask the Government, through you, about the benefits of the implementation of the recommendations made in the report for the students.

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, Speaker, basically the intent of the recommendations is to open up the education sector, allow the education sector to function without direct control of the Government, have academics-run educational institutions, allow cross-fertilisation of ideas, change of curricula, allow movement from one course to another, allow different kinds of degrees and have a very strong and strict accreditation system. In other words, anybody who wants to enter into the education sector must pass an entry test through an accrediting agency which is independent of Government. So, no institution will be allowed to pass muster without going through that test and allow a large number of institutions to come up, set up an Education Commission which deals with policy matters and gives direction to the Government as to how to move forward. These really are the benefits. What will happen in the process is, it will enlarge the education sector. It will

meet the problem of supply and demand. We would not have the kind of queues that we have outside colleges today and the phone calls that all of you get from students because they cannot get admission despite the fact that they have 97 per cent marks. I think that is a very sad situation and we need to move forward and we need to move forward quickly.

[Translation]

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Madam Speaker, the second question I would like to ask the Government, through you, as to whether it proposes to implement a uniform syllabus in schools across the country?

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: On the contrary, Madam Speaker, there should not be uniform syllabus. What we need is productivity within the university system. Allow universities to create their own courses so that there is competition between universities so that people can choose a particular university to follow the career that he or she wants to choose. Therefore, this is not the policy of the Government of India to have uniformity of the university system. We want oases of education to be created throughout the country and the vast population of India to actually be absorbed in that oasis.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Anandrao Adsul – Not present.

Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Madam, the Minister has said that the students will be allowed to choose their own career. But first and second recommendations are contrary. In one recommendation, they are writing that there will be a Governing Body of NCHER and then they are saying that all the Universities will be allowed to choose their academic contents. There is a vast difference between academic content and career. If you allow every university to make its own content, there will be a lot of disparity between different universities. How will a person who has passed from one university could make future in another university because the contents of these will be different?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam Speaker, on the contrary there may be a university which may be concentrating on bio-sciences. There may be a university which will be concentrating on humanities. So a young boy or a girl who wants to choose humanities, could go to that specialized university and those who are interested in

bio-sciences may want to go to another university. It is a career that he or she ultimately wants to choose and not a career within the university system.

DR. K.S. RAO: Madam, I have been telling since years that the present system of education is irrelevant to the Indian needs. So every time I am making a noise that the skilled development is one of the most important things that is required in this country because there is extensive shortage of skilled people in every walk of life be it any subject. I am happy to see what has been suggested that the barriers of entry to the universities for students going through vocational training should be lowered to enable them to upgrade their knowledge base at any stage of the career. I am happy about it. But then closing of AICTE where the technical institutions are taken care of or where importance is given to the technical education should not be closed. My only request to the hon. Minister is that the skills development and vocational education right from the level of eighth class and then anybody should be allowed while learning and then later while earning also to go into the university at any stage. I am happy about it. Is the Minister going to concentrate extensively on the skills upgradation and skills development in this country along with technical education?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I thank the hon. Member for having asked that question. Madam Speaker, I wish to place on record that skills development is also at the heart of education. A lot of children say from class tenth – this is something that we are contemplating and we will soon be debating it in the House – do not want to go and do doctorates. They do not want to do doctorate in physics or chemistry. A lot of them actually want a job after class 12th. So, actually the process of skill development should start from class tenth. If somebody wants to be an automobile engineer, he should be given a course in CBSE or the ICSE system and get a CBSE school degree in automobile engineering or for example in refrigeration or air-conditioning or for other skills.

[Translation]

Skill in handicrafts as was mentioned earlier in the morning. A CBSE degree should be awarded for such skills too. We want to award such degrees in class XIIth so that when these people want to study further they can go to polytechnics to earn a living.

[English]

Skill development is at the heart of our Education Policy and the fact that the AICTE may be subsumed

into a higher body does not mean that we will not be concentrating on technical education. We are going to bring in skill development into the University system as well because without skills, which are at the heart of a global market economy, no country can move forward.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Madam, the Yashpal Committee Report is really noteworthy. The hon. Minister has rightly said that we would be deliberating on this in this House in the near future. In this Report it has been mentioned "creation of an all encompassing National Commission for higher education and research has been mooted." We understand that this will be a constitutional body which will be responsible to the Parliament.

It has been mentioned in the Report and also has been mentioned in the Statement that the NCHER should be subject to external review once in five years. I would like to know from the Minister as to what is the review to be done by some external agency, notably of this country, which will be done in five years. Why in five years and why by an external body when this NCHER is a constitutional body and is responsible to Parliament?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, first of all this is a recommendation of the Yashpal Committee. This is not the policy of the Government. We have to cogitate on the recommendations and decide on our own as to what kind of authority we want to set up which could be an over-arching regulatory authority which would subsume the UGC, the AICTE, NCTE and the DEC. The National Knowledge Commission has given an alternative; the Yashpal Committee has given another alternative. So, we need to look into all these alternatives and the Government will come up with a solution. As and when we come up with a solution, then the issue will arise whether we want to accept the recommendations of an external audit and what kind of an external audit would that be and all those issues will be hopefully discussed in the House.

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 125, Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai Madam.

Diversion of Funds Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

*125. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding diversion of funds by States under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the defaulting States for such diversion of funds; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent diversion of funds in future under the said Scheme?

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 125 FOR 13.07.2009 ASKED BY SHRI AHIR VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM REGARDING DIVERSION OF FUNDS UNDER SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

(a) to (d) The Performance Audit report Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the period 2001-02 to 2004-05, submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in August 2006, indicates that an amount of Rs. 53 crores can be classified as expenditure not covered under the SSA guidelines.

In addition, reports from States have indicated instances of financial irregularities. Andhra Pradesh reported an embezzlement of Rs. 14.98 crores under DPEP/SSA accounts in 2006-07. An FIR was lodged and the State CID investigated the matter. The State Government suspended three accounts officials and transferred another three out of the State Project Office of SSA. In Haryana (2005-2007), 11 officials involved in financial irregularities have been proceeded against wherein services of two officials have been terminated. In Karnataka, action has been taken against 21 officials and an amount of Rs. 8.58 lakhs recovered from them. In West Bengal an amount of Rs. 517.80 lakh was fraudulently withdrawn by eight officials in one district, where the CID has arrested seven persons and proceedings are underway. In Gujarat (2007-08) action was taken against two officials involved in financial irregularities and Rs. 15.98 lakhs recovered. Nine officials have been suspended in Rajasthan on complaints of misuse of SSA funds and other irregularities. In Himachal Pradesh FIR was lodged on a complaint of misuse of SSA funds and an amount of Rs. 3.02 lakhs has been recovered.

The Government of India has directed the States/UTs to recoup the inadmissible expenditure to the State SSA programmes. The States/UTs have also been strictly instructed to avoid recurrence of such instances in future. The Financial and Procurement Manual for SSA lays down detailed procedures on accounting, fund flow arrangements, financial reporting, internal controls, external audit and procurement procedures; etc. Concurrent financial reviews are undertaken by a professional body of auditors, and field monitoring is undertaken by Social Science Institutions.

[Translation]

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Madam Speaker, I want to say that we are in the middle of the 11th Five Year Plan. Now, the time has come to review the progress made in the field of education under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan so that the access to and quality of education can be ascertained. I would like to know from the Government whether it has considered to take some action in this regard? Whether it is hopeful to meet the target set for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan under the 11th Five Year Plan.

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, in fact, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is under constant review by several bodies, both State and Central and we believe that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has served the purpose for which it was set up. We want to take it forward. We now want a Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan to move forward.

[Translation]

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is all right but the problem is that the drop-out rate increases when the children reach upper KG and eighth class. This drop-out rate increases further when they reach tenth class. Today, the situation in India is that only 12 students out of 100 in 12th class go for graduation. Only 12 students out of 100 do graduation and the remaining 88 do not study further. In the US, 70 students out of 100 study further and in sub-Saharan Africa 6 students out of 100 study further. We will have to increase this number and promote Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. India cannot become a great country until we increase the critical mass of Human Capital further.

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Madam Speaker, hon. Minister has said in his reply that only two employees have been caught in Gujarat in 2007-08 for financial irregularities. There is a minority school in my area which was not provided funds for three years. School authorities got tired of complaining but their complaint was not acknowledged. Only when I interfered in the matter they gave a hearing to the complaint one and a half month ago. Will the hon. Minister stress upon the State Governments to examine the number of cases of financial irregularity taking place there? Hon. Minister has said that Rs. 15,98,000 have been recovered from just those two teachers. I think, there are many such cases in Gujarat. The Government should carry out complete investigation of the said case and find out as to where this money is heading to and not reaching the intended beneficiaries?

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam Speaker, as far as the specific question on Gujarat is concerned, the entire amount has been recouped.

[Translation]

We have recovered the full amount of Rs. twenty two crore that was diverted in Gujarat.

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Sir, the hon. Minister has in his reply given information about the embezzlement of Rs. 14.98 lakh under the district primary education programme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2006-07. Some of the information is available through FIR. I, through you, would particularly like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards Uttar Pradesh. I hail from Bhadohi district in Uttar Pradesh where some provisions have been made for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the name of child labour as well as through these facilities. But, as per my knowledge, many cases of embezzlement have taken place, particularly in Bhadohi district. That is why, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of scams that have occurred in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh including Bhadohi district in the last financial year?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, I have no information in this regard but we will pay full attention towards Uttar Pradesh if the hon. Member provides me the information.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to take some stern action against the officials from the states who have been exposed in these scams so that such scams do not recur?

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: We have launched investigations against all those officials. Several investigations are at several stages. Therefore, as and when the charge sheets are filed, they will be prosecuted.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister has accepted in his reply that Rs. 53 crore have not been spent during the years 2002 and 2005-06. Besides, irregularities were detected in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. FIRs were lodged against several person and the money was recovered. In addition to these states, there are many other states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa and others which are backward. Whether any report of similar irregularities has also been received from these states? If so, the action taken thereon?

[English]

Statement

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: There are lakhs and lakhs of schools in this country. Therefore, it is not possible to conduct audit for each and every school. So, what does the C&AG does is to have a sample audit. The report of that sample audit then comes to the Central Government. On the basis of that sample audit, we take action. But there is no machinery with the Government of India to start auditing every school in India. This is a monumental task.

But if hon. Members have any specific information with regard to any particular school in a particular district, I will be obliged if they give that information to me so that we can take action.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I did not mention the name of any particular school. I just wanted to know about the entire region.

SHRI KAPIL SIBBAL: If you have any information in this regard, then, you may give it to me.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

Now, Question No. 126, Shri Asaduddin Owaisi.

One Rank One Pension for Defence Personnel

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*126. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has agreed to one rank one pension and separate Pay Commission for the armed forces in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee appointed by the Government for this purpose under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary has submitted its report to the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary to look into the issue of One Rank One Pension and other related matters. After considering all aspects of the issue, the Committee made several recommendations to substantially improve pensionary benefits of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) and Commissioned Officers which have been accepted by the Government. As regards a separate Pay Commission, it has been agreed to set up a separate Pay Commission for Armed Forces in future.

The Committee has recommended the following benefits to substantially improve the pension for the PBORs and Commissioned Officers:—

- (i) Inclusion of Classification Allowance for PBOR from 1.1.2006.
- (ii) Removal of linkage of full pension with 33 years from 1.1.2006.
- (iii) Revision of Lt. General pension after carving out a separate pay scale for them.
- (iv) Bringing parity between pension of pre and post and 10.10.1997 PBOR pensioners and.
- (v) Further improving PBOR pensions based on award of GOM, 2006.

Total financial implication on account of above benefits is Rs. 2144 Crores.

Moreover, the recommendations of the Committee with regard to the broadbanding of percentage of disability/war injury pension for pre 1.1.1996 disability/war injury pensioners and removal of the cap on war injury element of pension in the case of disabled pensioners belonging to Category E have also been accepted by the Government.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Madam, I would like to thank the Government for accepting the Committee's proposal.

The Reply given by the Government mentions about the revision of Lt. Generals' pension after carving out a separate pay scale for them. What would be the pay scale because post 1st January, 2006, a Lt. General used to get Rs. 30,190? This is my first Supplementary.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Madam, the starting pay for the Lt. General is Rs. 67,000/- to Rs. 79,000/- which has been created.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Madam, in reply to the question that has been put forward, the Government has agreed to set up a separate Pay Commission for the Armed Forces in future. Can the hon. Minister say that at what point of time would this separate Pay Commission be formed?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Madam, a directive towards this effect for forming a separate Pay Commission for the Armed Forces has been sent out from the Prime Minister's Office and as and when the necessity for the Central Pay Commission comes about, the separate Pay Commission for the Armed Forces also will be set up.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Madam, I would like to ask the hon. Minister one question.

Would it be correct to summarize the position on One Rank One Pension as follows: that there is full parity between pre and post 1.1.1986 Defence retirees? There is full parity between pre and post 10.10.97 persons below Officer Rank retirees and there is a modified parity between persons below officer rank retiring before 1.1.2006 and after 1.1.2006. Would that be correct summarization of the position on One Rank One Pension?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Madam, in the answer itself we have clarified the position. We have clarified about five categories.

The main thing is that regarding three categories, there is immediately direct benefit. PBORs are the largest number in the Armed Forces – 12 lakh people in the Armed Forces are PBORs. Now, after this decision by the Government, the PBORs pension will increase substantially – minimum Rs. 800 and maximum Rs. 1,400 at the PBORs level. Some of the Commissioned category Officers also will be benefited.

Madam, there was a difference in the Lt. Generals' pension. A Committee was also formed regarding the Lt. Generals' pension. They will be also getting a substantial increase in the pension.

As far as other things are concerned, still we have our own practical difficulties and because of that the Committee was not able to recommend complete agreement regarding the One Rank One Pension. But this decision is now almost nearer to the goal of One Rank One Pension.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, thank you very much. Madam, the announcement of the one-rank one pension scheme by the Government has created more confusion than the relief provided by it. That is why, if the three situations articulated by Manishji were true then the hon. Minister should have said that this was the correct summary. He has said that the Government is bringing parity in the pre and post 1997 pension. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister if a same pension would be given to two officers having same length of service but one retiring in 2004 and the other in 2007?

[English]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Madam, not only three, five positions were clarified in the answer itself.

12.00 hrs.

We have answered the question very clearly about the five categories. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It is creating confusion. That is why, I am asking. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: There is no confusion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not give a reply. The time in setting over.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Opening of Post Offices

*127. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether post offices have been opened in all the villages of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of post offices likely to be opened during the current financial year, State-wise;

(c) whether all the post offices have been equipped with the facility of e-mail, internet and computer in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which all the post offices are likely to be equipped with the above facilities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. The Post Offices are opened in rural areas only after satisfying the norms of population *viz.* 3000 for normal areas, 500 for individual villages in Hilly/Tribal areas and 1000 for a group of villages in Hilly/Tribal areas, with a distance of 3 Kms. from nearest post office and financial norms laid down by the Department. All the villages in the country do not satisfy these parameters, therefore Post Offices have not been opened in all the villages of the country.

(b) The number of Post Offices available in villages State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I. As regards number of Post Offices to be opened during the current year, it is submitted that besides above norms, opening of Post Offices is further dependant upon the availability of manpower and funds under Plan schemes. Targets have not been finalized in view of non-availability of manpower.

(c) All Post Offices in the country have not been provided with e-mail, internet and computers. Out of 25,538 Departmental Post Offices, only 9684 Post Offices have been provided with computers so far (as on 31.3.2009). To expedite the process of computerization, the Department has launched 'Project Arrow' that *inter-alia* covers total computerization of 50 Post Offices in Phase-I, 450 Post Offices in Phase-II and 500 Post Offices in Phase-III (Proposed). Total computerization includes eMO, iMO, e-post, e-payment and other e-based services. Computerisation of Branch Post Offices has not been undertaken yet.

(d) Circle-wise breakup of Post Offices supplied with computers is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) Provision of computers and networking of Post Offices is an ongoing programme and is being in a phased manner.

Statement I

Circle-wise number of villages (inhabited) with Post Offices as on 31.3.2008

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	Total Number of villages (Inhabited)	No. of villages with PO
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27159	15245
2.	Assam	26247	3708
3.	Bihar	38475	8625
4.	Chhattisgarh	20068	2839
5.	Delhi	165	81
6.	Gujarat	18066	8121
	Daman	18	13
	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	70	38
	Diu	5	4
7.	Haryana	6764	2329
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17495	2658
9.	Jammu and Kashmi	6182	1475
10.	Jharkhand	28857	2927
11.	Karnataka	28857	8621
12.	Kerala	1453	1453
	Lakshdweep	10	10
	Mahe (Puducherry)	0	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	53568	7401
14.	Maharashtra	41284	11917
	Goa	351	215
15.	North East		
	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	261

1	2	3	4
	Manipur	2391	643
	Meghalaya	5878	458
	Mizoram	699	405
	Nagaland	1237	299
	Tripura	856	659
16.	Orissa	46989	7583
17.	Punjab	12278	3409
	Chandigarh	23	9
18.	Rajasthan	37889	9644
19.	Tamil Nadu	16742	10424
	Puducherry	292	59
20.	Uttarakhand	15761	2496
21.	Uttar Pradesh	100693	16023
22.	West Bengal	37910	7639
	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	504	89
	Sikkim	447	197
	Total	599332	137977

Statement II

Circle-wise break-up of number of Post Offices provided with computers & peripherals as on 31.3.2009

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	No. of Post Offices
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	531
2.	Assam	624
3.	Bihar	295
4.	Chhattisgarh	99

1	2	3
5.	Delhi	288
6.	Gujarat	590
7.	Haryana	229
8.	Himachal Pradesh	128
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	116
10.	Jharkhand	135
11.	Karnataka	565
12.	Kerala	667
13.	Madhya Pradesh	353
14.	Maharashtra	1040
15.	North East	295
16.	Orissa	301
17.	Punjab	269
18.	Rajasthan	306
19.	Tamil nadu	1009
20.	Uttar Pradesh	921
21.	Uttrakhand	145
22.	West Bengal	778
	Total	9684

[*Translation*]**Problems Faced by Tea Industry**

*128. SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH:
SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY:

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

(a) whether there is a gradual decline in the productivity of tea growing areas in the country causing shortage of tea and rise in tea prices;

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

(c) the details regarding quantity of tea exported/imported in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether a number of tea gardens have been closed in the country especially in West Bengal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government for reopening of tea estates including setting up of corpus funds to improve the production of tea?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, there is a general stagnation in the productivity of tea in major tea producing countries including India during the past few years.

(c) The details of tea exported/imported in the country during last three years and the current year are as follows—

Year	Quantity Export of tea from India (Million. Kgs)	Quantity Import of tea into India (Million. Kgs.)
2006-07	218.15	20.80
2007-08	185.32	16.75
2008-09 (E)	183.99	22.03
2009-10 (E) [April to May]	21.14	3.31

(E) Estimated & subject to revision.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. Owing to economic crisis faced by the tea industry during the period between 1999 to 2006, financially weak gardens were closed down. The Government of India announced a rehabilitation package on 29th June, 2007, providing for financial relief to the extent of Rs. 38.65 crore to 33 closed tea gardens, which were closed as on 1st April 2007. With the recovery of tea prices many gardens

have reopened. As on 09.07.2009, only 16 tea estates are lying closed of which 11 are in West Bengal and remaining 5 in Kerala.

The Government of India has approved setting up of a Special Purpose Tea Fund under the aegis of Tea Board, for funding replantation and rejuvenation activities for improving the productivity and consequential production of tea plantations. The replantation and rejuvenation has been done in 7217 ha and 2981 ha respectively upto 31.3.2009 during the 11th Five Year Plan.

Industrial Development in Backward States

*129. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the Government has identified the industrially backward States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for the development of such backward States; and

(d) if so, the details of the special steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) (a) to (d) The Government had earlier conducted studies to identify industrially backward districts. But no study has been conducted so far for identifying industrially backward States. The details of the Industrial Investment proposals State-wise are given in the enclosed Statement-I. In a deregulated industrial environment, investment decisions are taken by entrepreneurs. The State Governments promote industrial development and investment. The Central Government through various policy initiatives has been improving the overall investment climate. The Government of India is implementing package of incentives for the special category States as detailed in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I*Industrial Investment Proposals (Statewise)
August 1991-May 2009*

Name of the State/Uts	Iem+LDI+DIL		Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (Iems)						Letters of Intent (Lois)+Direct Industrial Licences(dils)					
	Total Investment (Rs. Crore)	%age	Number Filed	%age Proposed	Investment (Rs. Cr)	%age Proposed	Emp. (Nos)	%age Proposed	Numbers granted	%age	Proposed Investment (Rs. Cr)	%age	Proposed Emp. (Nos)	%age
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Orissa	680847	12.97	1382	1.78	675403	13.19	587778	3.52	37	0.83	5444	4.18	11882	1.25
Chhattisgarh	674416	12.85	2331	3.00	673851	13.16	611301	3.66	31	0.70	565	0.43	3816	0.40
Gujarat	625205	11.91	9142	11.75	601801	11.75	1631511	9.77	467	10.53	23404	17.98	75855	7.99
Maharashtra	523135	9.96	14043	18.05	504353	9.85	2584397	15.48	599	13.51	18782	14.43	139590	14.69
Andhra Pradesh	444887	8.47	5652	7.26	429776	8.39	1092839	6.55	532	12.00	15111	11.61	97260	10.24
Karnataka	385998	7.35	3244	4.17	375436	7.33	730252	4.37	284	6.41	10562	8.11	76914	8.10
Jharkhand	371181	7.07	930	1.20	370707	7.24	357151	2.14	18	0.41	474	0.36	2368	0.25
Madhya Pradesh	318137	6.06	3065	3.94	314863	6.15	780257	4.67	147	3.32	3274	2.51	31682	3.34
West Bengal	287827	5.48	4429	5.69	283672	5.54	882651	5.29	101	2.28	4155	3.19	20706	2.18
Tamil Nadu	209944	4.00	6658	8.56	196034	3.83	2028619	12.15	865	19.51	13910	10.68	151111	15.91
Uttar Pradesh	196486	3.74	6551	8.42	186568	3.64	1755116	10.51	372	8.39	9918	7.62	102114	10.75
Punjab	99100	1.89	2936	3.77	90747	1.77	864410	3.89	266	6.00	8353	6.42	86078	9.06
Rajasthan	94444	1.80	3238	4.18	92789	1.81	607789	3.64	101	2.28	1655	1.27	15680	1.65
Haryana	79337	1.51	3956	5.08	74956	1.46	623002	3.73	2.42	5.46	4381	3.36	64333	6.77
Uttarakhand	47789	0.91	1719	2.21	47251	0.92	302043	1.81	33	0.74	538	0.41	8547	0.90
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	37491	0.71	2119	2.72	37173	0.73	241839	1.45	37	0.83	318	0.24	3994	0.42
Bihar	30004	0.57	304	0.39	28542	0.56	60015	0.36	33	0.74	1462	1.12	13674	1.44
Himachal Pradesh	24067	0.46	879	1.13	23579	0.46	161249	0.97	35	0.79	488	0.37	6232	0.66
Assam	20819	0.40	526	0.68	18384	0.36	74145	0.44	13	0.29	2435	1.87	4606	0.48
Nagaland	16325	0.31	15	0.02	18325	0.32	302337	1.81	1	0.02	0	0.00	0	0.00
Kerala	13629	0.26	612	0.79	10763	0.21	103425	0.62	76	1.71	2866	2.20	14918	1.57

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

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

Statement II

Details of the package of Incentives for Special Category States

1. The following incentives are being offered to the State of Jammu and Kashmir since 14.6.2002 and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand since 7.1.2003.

- Capital Investment Subsidy @15% of investment of plant and machinery subject to a ceiling of Rs. 30 lakh;
- Interest Subsidy @3% on working capital loan for Jammu and Kashmir only;

– Comprehensive Insurance subsidy of 100% on capital investment for Jammu and Kashmir only;

– 100% excise duty exemption with a sunset clause for Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand upto 31.3.2010; and

– 100% Income Tax exemption for first five years and thereafter @30% for Companies and @25% for other than companies for next five years.

2. The incentive package scheme for the North Eastern States which was being implemented since 1997 has been re-introduced as the North

East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP) 2007 w.e.f. 1.4.2007. The new scheme covers, besides the States of North East *i.e.* Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, the State of Sikkim also and extended benefits to the service sector, bio-technology sector and power generation sector upto 10MW. The norms for substantial expansion were relaxed and capital investment subsidy was enhanced from 15% to 30% without any ceiling. The new scheme offers the following special incentives:

- Capital Investment Subsidy @30% of the value of plant and machinery, without any upper ceiling;
 - Interest subsidy @3% on working capital loan;
 - Comprehensive Insurance subsidy of 100% on capital investment;
 - 100% excise duty exemption; and
 - 100% Income Tax exemption.
3. The above incentive packages are admissible for a period of ten years.
 4. The Government is also providing Transport Subsidy to industrial units in the above mentioned States.

[English]

Increase in Drop Out Rate in School

*130. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:

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

(a) whether there is an increase in the drop out rate at primary and secondary school levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the years, gender-wise, class-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the rate of school drop outs of girls in rural areas is more than that of the urban areas in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such drop outs?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Gender-

wise, stage-wise and State-wise drop out rates for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in the enclosed Statements-I, II & III respectively. Annual class-wise enrolment figures are not collected for urban and rural areas separately, and therefore drop out rates for these areas cannot be calculated separately. Details as given in the Annexure reveal that there is a general downward trend in drop out rates during the above period across each stage (primary, upper primary and secondary) of education.

(d) A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universal elementary education. This includes, *inter alia*, improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants, teacher grants, regular training and academic support of teachers. In addition, interventions under SSA aim at harnessing community support, providing flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, inclusion of children with special needs, and special provision to promote education of girls through Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyals (KGBV) and National Programme for Education of Girls for Elementary Level (NPEGEL). The Mid-day-Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce dropout rates.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMASA) has been launched to universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality. The scheme envisages enhancing enrolment at secondary stage by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation by improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, and through removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers. The programme has special focus on girls and envisages several girl-specific measures including focus on increasing number of women teachers in schools and provision of separate toilet for girls.

The Girls Hostel scheme envisages setting up of one 100-bedded girls' hostel in each educationally backward block to cater to girls of secondary and through removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers. The programme has special focus on girls and envisages several girl-specific measures including focus on increasing number of women teachers in schools and provision of separate toilet for girls.

The Girls' Hostel scheme envisages setting up of one 100-bedded girls' hostel in each educationally block to cater to girls of secondary schools.

Statement I*Drop out Rates in Primary Stages Classes (I-V)*

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31.77	32.14	31.95	24.64	24.87	24.75	23.66	24.38	24.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45.86	48.01	46.85	37.10	39.13	38.02	30.90	29.75	30.38
3.	Assam	51.58	48.34	50.07	49.71	45.56	47.78	45.66	42.79	44.27
4.	Bihar	53.37	48.62	51.59	47.37	45.25	46.55	49.65	54.10	51.63
5.	Chhattisgarh*	-	-	-	35.24	35.13	35.18	23.07	27.57	25.27
6.	Goa	0.00	6.26	2.43	-4.46	5.52	0.37	-13.42	3.08	-5.48
7.	Gujarat	35.72	34.27	35.09	39.62	17.82	31.58	21.71	30.10	25.66
8.	Haryana	5.04	4.54	4.81	7.27	3.14	5.40	11.54	6.62	9.31
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5.78	9.82	7.74	10.03	11.40	10.69	6.06	7.50	6.75
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	40.92	31.80	36.92	16.34	5.31	11.58	13.70	11.01	12.48
11.	Jharkhand*	-	-	-	48.55	52.22	50.18	40.51	43.44	41.86
12.	Karnataka	16.25	15.49	15.88	16.65	14.25	15.50	12.09	11.64	11.87
13.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11.12	9.13	10.21	1.70	-1.39	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Maharashtra	6.60	6.81	6.70	2.32	8.22	5.14	-0.39	5.80	2.55
16.	Manipur	29.71	32.74	31.18	29.84	32.36	31.06	44.37	47.07	45.69
17.	Meghalaya	51.77	48.15	49.97	42.81	41.95	42.38	44.78	43.37	44.08
18.	Mizoram	50.84	48.71	49.84	33.91	28.96	31.58	50.29	48.87	49.62
19.	Nagaland	41.79	43.66	42.69	37.38	39.53	38.43	20.11	20.27	20.19
20.	Orissa	42.60	35.17	39.34	46.06	34.53	41.20	26.91	28.81	27.82
21.	Punjab	27.42	19.91	23.96	25.71	21.33	23.66	14.21	4.92	9.90
22.	Rajasthan	58.92	52.90	56.59	57.20	45.94	52.84	36.40	45.02	40.65
23.	Sikkim	52.01	46.80	49.44	22.66	12.71	17.84	29.08	19.37	24.31
24.	Tamil Nadu	1.94	-0.14	0.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.64	7.36	8.02
25.	Tripura	43.76	42.58	43.20	28.94	28.56	28.76	18.23	18.07	18.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
26.	Uttar Pradesh	21.80	-3.78	12.06	20.15	-7.42	9.76	30.15	32.17	31.09
27.	Uttarakhand*	-	-	-	23.44	31.40	27.42	19.71	17.47	18.63
28.	West Bengal	43.23	44.10	43.65	37.67	39.73	38.67	30.90	29.36	30.15
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4.03	3.36	3.72	11.27	11.83	11.54	5.80	6.97	6.37
30.	Chandigarh	1.46	3.91	2.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.25	22.71	22.46
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	21.37	36.10	28.23	19.81	29.76	24.44	27.45	41.27	34.28
32.	Daman and Diu	1.51	0.06	0.84	0.58	4.75	2.56	4.20	6.02	5.05
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	9.48	5.10	-5.66	3.97	-1.04
34.	Lakshadweep	0.77	14.51	7.62	8.39	11.95	10.08	-1.43	1.21	-0.24
35.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	India	31.81	25.42	29.00	28.71	21.77	25.67	24.41	26.56	25.43

*As they are newly formed States separate data for 2004-05 is not available but the data shown against the respective parent States include the data of the newly created States.

Statement II

Drop out Rates in Primary Stages (Classes-I-VIII)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57.72	61.08	59.36	57.81	60.40	59.07	55.68	57.85	56.74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.23	61.90	62.63	54.05	54.19	54.11	53.94	54.16	54.04
3.	Assam	72.41	74.60	73.38	72.60	74.60	73.48	72.69	74.68	73.56
4.	Bihar	73.57	76.44	74.69	72.30	75.00	73.37	76.03	76.23	76.11
5.	Chhattisgarh*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Goa	4.28	9.69	6.90	1.99	8.08	4.95	-6.17	2.42	-1.98
7.	Gujarat	43.63	50.00	46.34	42.57	51.45	46.41	45.17	54.59	49.29
8.	Haryana	19.86	29.61	24.51	7.80	13.79	10.63	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13.48	18.36	15.89	8.70	13.02	10.82	3.22	5.88	4.50
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	39.72	37.02	38.57	44.13	28.45	38.14	44.12	39.98	41.18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11.	Jharkhand*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Karnataka	49.81	50.21	49.99	44.34	45.37	44.83	38.75	38.83	38.79
13.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	43.09	45.07	43.95	42.22	42.45	42.32	48.71	48.06	48.42
15.	Maharashtra	26.46	31.74	28.99	24.42	22.49	23.50	22.92	20.84	21.93
16.	Manipur	34.47	30.91	32.80	36.34	35.56	35.97	40.60	41.87	41.22
17.	Meghalaya	65.99	62.43	64.21	65.96	62.06	64.02	62.54	58.26	60.41
18.	Mizoram	68.99	64.34	66.84	66.20	63.40	64.86	63.71	61.26	62.56
19.	Nagaland	41.09	43.93	42.49	37.45	38.77	38.10	38.03	39.18	38.60
20.	Orissa	65.56	56.64	61.95	64.83	59.49	62.63	65.04	59.09	62.59
21.	Punjab	32.64	34.82	33.67	31.42	34.71	32.98	29.30	30.54	29.87
22.	Rajasthan	60.85	71.33	65.34	55.72	64.64	59.47	58.53	67.29	62.30
23.	Sikkim	72.48	70.02	71.22	65.95	60.30	63.17	68.12	63.54	65.85
24.	Tamil Nadu	24.62	23.24	23.96	20.84	23.45	22.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tripura	62.05	66.42	64.15	56.83	54.82	55.88	52.21	48.69	50.55
26.	Uttar Pradesh	43.71	39.18	41.94	42.99	38.53	41.25	45.35	42.35	44.18
27.	Uttarakhand*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28.	West Bengal	63.70	63.55	63.63	61.16	63.88	62.45	63.01	59.54	61.37
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8.98	12.03	10.44	10.55	14.46	12.44	8.18	9.84	8.98
30.	Chandigarh	17.03	9.14	13.40	41.34	40.12	40.79	38.06	35.54	36.87
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	44.81	60.55	51.95	30.94	51.10	40.24	34.26	55.35	43.98
32.	Daman and Diu	12.91	21.29	17.09	3.15	11.87	7.34	11.80	13.90	12.77
33.	Delhi	27.71	28.53	28.12	12.54	20.22	16.34	20.67	26.39	23.49
34.	Lakshadweep	2.91	31.24	16.41	5.89	9.42	7.57	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	India	50.49	51.28	50.84	48.67	48.98	48.80	46.58	45.33	46.03

*As they are newly formed States separate data is not available but the data shown against the respective parent States also include the data of the newly created States.

Statement-III*Drop out Rates in Primary Stages Classes (I-X)*

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	62.30	65.24	63.69	62.24	65.20	63.67	62.40	64.81	63.57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	69.59	72.30	70.79	69.01	71.78	70.25	66.97	66.84	66.91
3.	Assam	75.18	74.69	74.96	76.97	76.26	76.66	78.18	77.14	77.72
4.	Bihar	81.46	85.64	83.06	81.40	85.64	83.07	83.95	86.99	85.14
5.	Chhattisgarh*	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Goa	42.66	38.52	40.65	44.36	41.22	42.84	42.71	36.85	39.86
7.	Gujarat	58.01	61.05	59.29	58.57	62.59	60.27	56.70	58.54	57.48
8.	Haryana	28.01	37.72	32.48	41.21	43.77	42.37	42.50	44.26	43.34
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.37	31.04	28.17
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	54.63	52.53	53.75	65.61	61.31	63.88	62.08	61.45	61.81
11.	Jharkhand*	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	59.71	58.99	59.38	61.58	60.04	60.86	54.83	53.24	54.09
13.	Kerala	10.64	3.52	7.15	7.44	2.42	4.98	3.22	-0.69	1.30
14.	Madhya Pradesh	60.48	70.31	64.70	61.33	69.91	65.01	67.36	74.58	70.51
15.	Maharashtra	52.11	56.40	54.16	49.08	53.85	51.36	45.32	49.96	47.54
16.	Manipur	46.04	39.58	43.02	44.42	39.09	41.91	46.70	40.49	43.80
17.	Meghalaya	79.64	78.65	79.15	78.66	77.53	78.09	76.38	75.32	75.85
18.	Mizoram	69.52	64.11	66.95	75.64	71.59	73.73	75.10	70.90	73.16
19.	Nagaland	66.98	67.63	67.29	65.99	64.99	65.51	66.86	68.02	67.43
20.	Orissa	66.40	61.46	64.42	67.87	60.85	65.03	69.31	61.95	66.33
21.	Punjab	43.68	44.49	44.06	45.82	46.25	46.02	43.88	49.40	46.48
22.	Rajasthan	69.33	80.72	73.87	71.36	81.80	75.73	69.36	79.29	73.61
23.	Sikkim	83.34	81.15	82.30	83.79	81.37	82.63	84.75	85.17	84.97
24.	Tamil Nadu	57.27	52.71	55.19	43.60	41.20	42.45	43.58	39.67	41.72
25.	Tripura	73.58	73.11	73.36	74.50	75.31	74.89	73.75	75.45	74.57

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
26.	Uttar Pradesh	40.49	48.99	43.77	39.66	48.34	43.02	42.18	52.36	46.15
27.	Uttarakhand*	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	75.92	80.34	78.03	72.82	77.68	75.12	70.98	73.55	72.15
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	38.55	35.30	36.97	34.19	32.19	33.24	26.32	26.11	26.22
30.	Chandigarh	17.69	15.63	16.73	17.23	16.94	17.09	57.11	51.16	54.37
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	64.23	70.60	67.06	53.24	66.80	59.39	66.72	74.99	70.47
32.	Daman and Diu	41.62	45.36	43.43	33.03	36.86	34.87	42.42	44.27	43.33
33.	Delhi	45.04	48.84	46.92	46.37	46.15	46.26	31.39	39.30	35.31
34.	Lakshadweep	19.16	18.57	18.88	23.99	18.10	21.17	32.70	41.21	36.75
35.	Puducherry	18.24	15.47	16.89	17.52	9.55	13.69	13.13	5.87	9.68
	India	60.41	63.88	61.92	60.10	63.56	61.62	58.62	61.47	59.87

*As they are newly formed States separate data is not available but the data shown against the respective parent States also include the data of the newly created States.

[Translation]

Telecom Services

*131. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone and mobile services provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are unsatisfactory as compared to those rendered by private companies;

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

(c) whether the reasons for the unsatisfactory services have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) No, Sir, The telephone and mobile services provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are mostly

meeting with various Quality of Service (QoS) parameters stipulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The QoS provided by BSNL and MTNL is comparable to those rendered by private companies.

[English]

Slump in Industrial Growth

*132. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

(a) whether the industrial growth has slowed down during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost the industrial growth during the Eleventh Five Year Plan alongwith the proposed resource allocation;

(d) whether the frozen financial markets abroad adversely affected big Indian companies and the domestic credit squeeze dealt major blow to small enterprises in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The industrial growth measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in the last three years:

Index of Industrial Production

(Growth in Percent)

Year	Overall
2006-07	11.6
2007-08	8.5
2008-09	2.6

(c) The Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages to maintain the dynamism shown by the industrial sector particularly manufacturing during 10th Five Year Plan and to impart additional impetus to generate 10% growth in the industrial sector and an even higher growth in manufacturing. The objective is to generate additional job opportunities to absorb surplus labour in the rural workforce as well as to generate employment for the new entrants. The outlay for the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the industrial sector is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) As the external sources of credit to the Indian companies with overseas operations were affected, the demand for domestic bank credit increased. Government/RBI responded by taking appropriate steps to ease liquidity and facilitate credit flows to the productive sectors in the economy. To enhance the liquidity in the system and for reducing the cost of credit to business and industry, RBI reduced repo, reverse repo and Cash Reserve Ratios.

Keeping in view the impact of global recession on MSMEs, several measures have been taken to support the MSMEs which, *inter alia*, include: (i) extending the loan limit under Credit Guarantee Scheme from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore with a guarantee cover of 50 per cent; (ii) increasing the guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme from 80 per cent to 85 per cent for credit facility up to Rs. 50 lakh; (iii) an advisory to Central Public Sector Enterprises to ensure prompt payment of bills of MSMEs; (iv) interest subvention of 2 per cent in pre and post-shipment export credit to small and medium

enterprises (SME) sector; (v) refinance limit of Rs. 7000 crore to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for incremental on-lending to the micro and small enterprises (MSE) sector; (vi) grant of need based ad-hoc working capital demand loans up to 20 per cent of the existing fund-based limits; and (vii) reduction in interest rates for borrowing by micro enterprises by 1 per cent and in respect of SMEs by 0.5 per cent.

In the Union Budget 2009-10 an additional refinance facility of Rs. 4000 crore has been provided to SIDBI to lend to MSEs by refinancing 50 percent of the incremental lending to MSEs during the current financial year. Further, the allocation for Market Development Assistance scheme which provides support to exporters in developing markets has been enhanced by 148 percent to Rs. 124 crore.

Statement

The Eleventh Plan Outlay

Sl.No.	Ministry/Department	Outlay (at Current Price)
1.	Steel	45607.08
2.	Fertilizer	20627.00
3.	Chemicals and Petrochemicals	2256.36
4.	Industrial Policy and Promotion	4183.00
5.	Heavy Industry	11301.67
6.	Public Enterprises	54.00
7.	Textiles	14000.00
8.	Consumer Affairs	1083.00
9.	Company Affairs (Corporate Affairs)	211.00
10.	MSME	11,500.00
11.	Food Processing	4031.00

[*Translation*]

Ragging in Colleges/Universities

*133. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

(a) whether cases of ragging are reported in large numbers from various educational institutions in the country in the recent past;

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

(c) whether the Government has implemented the suggestions made by the Raghavan Committee on ragging;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the University Grants Commission has decided recently to issue a comprehensive notification outlining stringent action, impose penalty against ragging and set up anti-ragging cells in all the educational institutions and set up a 24 hours helpline for making complaints relating to ragging; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Though a large number of cases of ragging have not been reported in the various educational institutional in the country, even stray cases of ragging are a matter of serious concern to the Government as well all the stakeholders.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission has notified on 17th June, 2009, its regulation under the title "Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions" 2009. These regulations are comprehensive and provide for a number of punitive and prohibitive measures, including stopping of grants by UGC and also withdrawal of affiliation/recognition or other privileges conferred, if any higher education institution fails to comply with any of the provisions of regulations or fails to curb ragging effectively. The regulations also require higher educational institutions to take effective steps in order to sensitize students on the dehumanizing effects of ragging and generate awareness among all stakeholders regarding the penal laws applicable to incidents of ragging. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also notified its anti-ragging regulation on 01.07.2009. Other Statutory Councils responsible for maintenance of standards of professional education are also in the

process of finalizing respective regulations for the curbing of the menace of ragging. A toll free anti-ragging regulation on 01.07.2009. Other Statutory Councils responsible for maintenance of standards of professional education are also in the process of anti-ragging "Helpline" has already been launched on 20th June, 2009 with Call Centre facilities in English, Hindi and several regional languages to begin with, for helping victims of ragging besides facilitating effective action in respect of such incidents. This is being further strengthened by creating a web-enabled portal for monitoring appropriate data bases and online interactive facilities.

[English]

Delay in Launch of GSM Project

*134. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the launch of Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) Project of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reason therefore; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by BSNL for speedy execution of the project?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) services are being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) since October 2002. The expansion of network capacity is a continuous process depending upon market conditions. At present GSM equipment is being procured under BSNL's GSM Phase-V Project. For additional capacity requirement after 2009, BSNL has invited tenders under GSM Phase-VI Project, which are under consideration.

[Translation]

Fake Educational Institutions

*135. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether complaints have been received about the increasing number of fake universities and educational institutions operating in the country;

(b) if so, the number of fake universities and educational institutions identified by the Government so far;

(c) the details of action taken against such institutions; and

(d) the measures taken to check further expansion of such institutions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission (UGC) is entrusted with the responsibilities of maintenance of standards and coordination of higher education system. The UGC has so far identified 22 fake 'universities'/educational institutions allegedly functioning in contravention of the UGC Act.

(c) and (d) The UGC has taken legal action in various courts against 7 of these fake 'universities'/institutions and has issued show-cause notices in other cases. State Governments have also initiated action against 5 of these fake 'universities'/institutions. Names of such universities/institutions have also been included in the list of the fake 'universities'/institutions maintained by the UGC and placed on its official website for information to students and the general public. Wide publicity is given by the UGC every year through print/electronic media, cautioning students not to take admission in such fake institutions.

Chief Ministers of States/UTs have been requested to instruct the District level administration to take punitive action under the Indian Penal Code against those operating fake 'universities'/institutions. States have also been requested to instruct Registrars of Societies in each State to consult the UGC whenever an application is made for registration of societies under the title 'University', 'Vishwaavidyalaya' and 'Vishwavidyapeeth' or any other regional synonym with the objective of conferring degrees or other equivalent qualifications. A public 'appeal' was issued on 17th June, 2008 by this Ministry that students must satisfy themselves that institutions and courses offered by them are recognized under the relevant laws and are of quality and repute

and that in case of any doubt, necessary clarification may be obtained from the relevant statutory bodies, such as the UGC, AICTE. Statutory bodies have also been directed to launch effective campaign against such institutions which are fake and to take appropriate penal action under law. An 'appeal' has also been made to the media to refuse to publish misleading advertisements by such institutions even if it meant loss of advertising revenue.

A legislative proposal to prohibit certain unfair practices including misleading advertisements by institutions for attracting or inducing students for taking admission therein where such institution is not recognized under law, is also under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Resumption of Doha Round of Talks

*136. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR:
SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

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

(a) the details of measures taken by the Government to resolve the contentious issues between India and the developed countries including US on tariffs, farm subsidies and market access in the Doha round of trade talks and the outcome thereof;

(b) whether in a recent meeting of Cairns Group held in June, 2009 in Bali, India sought resumption of Doha round of talks to conclude Doha process through constructive engagement;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;

(d) the reaction of other developing countries on the US stand on the levels upto which developing countries could increase tariffs on farm products; and

(e) the response from the US Administration on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) The Doha Round of trade talks at the World Trade Organisation is still in progress.

In the agriculture negotiations, India has been working closely with other developing countries to ensure substantial and effective reductions in farm subsidies and tariffs for enhanced market access, while enabling developing countries to protect and promote the interests of their low income and resource poor farmers.

(b) and (c) On the occasion of the 33rd Meeting of the Cairns Group in Bali in June 2009, to which India was invited as a special guest, India's commitment to a successful conclusion of the Doha Round was reaffirmed. However, it was reiterated that the development dimension of the Round had to be honoured and that further discussions must take place on the basis of the outcome of negotiations so far, as contained in texts brought out in December 2008 by the Chairs of the WTO Negotiating Groups on agricultural and industrial goods. India's views were well received by other participants.

(d) and (e) Under the Doha Round, bound tariffs on farm products will only be reduced or maintained at the present bound level. However developing countries will have flexibilities as to the extent of reduction in tariffs.

[Translation]

Unemployed Women

*137. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

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

(a) Whether the number of unemployed women has increased in the country during the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the situation and create more employment opportunities for women in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) to (c) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per the results of these surveys, women unemployment in the country on usual status basis estimated at 1.87 million in 1993-94 went up to 2.14 million in 1999-00 and further increased to 3.97 million in 2004-05, showing an annual growth rate of 2.27 percent during 1993-94 to 1999-00 and 13.16 percent during the period 1999-00 to 2004-05. State-wise details of unemployment rates of females for periods 1993-94, 1999-00 and 2004-05 are given in the enclosed Statement. In order to address the problem of unemployment and creation of more employment opportunities for women in the country, Government of India has been implementing various employment generation programmes both for men and women. Some of the important ones are Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and Support to Training and Employment Programme for women (STEP). Under NREGS, 215.6 crores person-days of employment were created during 2008-09 and 48% of the total person-days of employment created went in favour of women. One of the monitorable targets for the Eleventh Plan is to ensure that at least 33 percent of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of all government schemes are women and girl children.

Statement

Statewise Unemployment Rates During 1993-94, 1999-00 and 2004-05 On usual Status basis

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	1993-94		1999-2000		2004-05	
		Rural Female	Urban Female	Rural Female	Urban Female	Rural Female	Urban Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.1	3.5	0.5	3.7	0.4	3.8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.2	7.3	0.1	10.0	0.6	2.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	7.7	25.6	6.6	18.9	3.1	9.1
4.	Bihar	0.6	9.2	0.5	8.1	0.2	4.1
5.	Chhattisgarh		Included in Madhya Pradesh			0.3	2.4
6.	Delhi	-	6.2	21.0	3.9	0.0	6.4
7.	Goa	12.9	15.4	15.9	33.3	15.7	11.8
8.	Gujarat	0.3	4.4	0.1	2.0	0.2	2.9
9.	Haryana	0.4	3.3	0.1	2.8	1.0	7.5
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.1	0.3	0.5	7.9	2.0	10.1
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.4	9.2	1.1	8.9	1.3	10.9
12.	Jharkhand		Included in Bihar			0.1	2.3
13.	Karnataka	0.4	5.6	0.3	4.4	0.8	5.7
14.	Kerala	9.7	18.7	13.0	20.2	20.1	33.4
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.1	3.9	0.2	1.4	0.1	1.6
16.	Maharashtra	0.3	4.7	0.7	6.6	0.3	4.1
17.	Manipur	0.7	3.2	1.5	6.2	0.7	6.3
18.	Meghalaya	-	3.1	0.3	6.8	0.5	3.5
19.	Mizoram	0.4	0.5	0.3	2.4	0.1	2.6
20.	Nagaland	-	6.4	2.0	8.7	1.4	7.2
21.	Orissa	0.8	6.0	1.1	5.3	8.3	26.6
22.	Punjab	1.2	5.3	0.9	2.1	4.9	14.0
23.	Rajasthan	0.1	0.6	0.1	2.1	0.1	2.9
24.	Sikkim	1.6	6.2	1.9	10.0	1.5	4.3
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.6	6.8	1.0	5.1	1.1	4.8
26.	Tripura	5.8	17.4	4.4	8.5	32.0	56.8
27.	Uttarakhand		Included in Uttar Pradesh			0.4	10.2
28.	Uttar Pradesh	0.3	1.1	0.3	3.3	0.3	2.5
29.	West Bengal	1.7	14.2	2.8	9.5	3.3	8.4
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.7	9.6	6.8	17.3	12.3	17.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31.	Chandigarh	2.8	22.2	0.0	10.9	4.8	7.5
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.7	-	0.0	0.0	3.6	9.1
33.	Daman and Diu	-	13.6	0.0	8.0	0.0	3.3
34.	Lakshadweep	42.8	33.3	42.9	17.9	57.1	51.5
35.	Puducherry	-	9.9	2.6	6.4	3.2	19.5
	All India	0.8	6.2	1.0	5.7	1.8	6.9

*[English]***Setting up of World Class Universities**

*138. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:

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

(a) whether the Government has finalized the proposal to establish world class universities in the identified States;

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

(c) whether land is provided free of cost for setting up of such universities by the States concerned;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government is considering a proposal to set up 14 Universities aiming for world class standards at the following locations:-

Sl.No.	Location	State
1	2	3
1.	Amritsar	Punjab
2.	Greater Noida	Uttar Pradesh
3.	Jaipur	Rajasthan

1	2	3
4.	Gandhinagar	Gujarat
5.	Patna	Bihar
6.	Guwahati	Assam
7.	Kolkata	West Bengal
8.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Kochi	Kerala
10.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
11.	Mysore	Karnataka
12.	Pune	Maharashtra
13.	Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
14.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa

(c) to (e) The Government has approached State Governments to provide land free of cost for the setting up of above proposed universities in the above mentioned locations. These Universities are proposed to be established over the remaining period of XIth Plan, and the XIIth Plan.

Pendency of EPF Claims

*139. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending for settlement of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) all over the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) the reasons for pendency of such large number of cases;

(d) whether the Government has taken any special/effective steps for speedy disposal of the said cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the said cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) The position of pending claims with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for the last three years is as under:

As on	Number of pending claims
31.03.2007 (2006-07)	208298
31.03.2008 (2007-08)	427882
31.03.2009* (2008-09)	651151

*Provisional

The Region-wise details of pending claims for the year 2006-07 to 2008-09 are given in the enclosed Statement. As per provisions of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, claims received, complete in all respects are settled within 30 days. Settlement of claims is a continuous process. As there is a continuous inflow of fresh claims, certain claims are pending at any given point of time. The increasing trend in pending claims is due to larger number of cases being processed on account of increased job attribution, increasing membership and growing number of pension cases.

(c) The main reasons for delay in settlement of claims are as under:

(i) Submission of incomplete forms by the claimants.

(ii) Increased inflow of claims for 'Final Settlement'.

(d) and (e) Computerization project in Employees' Provident Fund organization is being implemented in collaboration with National Informatics Centre and after completion of the same, the time taken in settlement of claims will come down substantially. All the pending cases for provident Fund claims mentioned above have already been disposed off by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

Statement

Region-wise details of pending claims in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for the year 2006-07 to 2008-09

Region	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4
Delhi (North)	5214	2377	5973
Delhi (South)	12063	41274	66895
Haryana	6094	40593	53487
Himachal Pradesh	1083	462	5332
Chandigarh	5677	3089	2900
Ludhiana	1425	2643	7834
Uttar Pradesh	1595	2630	3608
Uttarakhand	2043	1930	3291
North Zone	35194	94998	149320
Bihar	4666	4121	547
Jalpaiguri	2658	24234	16180
Kolkata	3322	11572	12204
Jharkhand	1848	1837	2468
Orissa	2222	6557	3553
North East Region	1022	2042	1647
East Zone	15738	50363	36599
Bangalore	31501	61518	150847
Mangalore	485	1347	1059
Guntur	3574	2689	4063
Hyderabad	5952	31039	24326
Kerala	429	1933	2206
Chennai	23418	30308	40608
Coimbatore	11348	8581	22080
Madurai	2220	7386	5590

1	2	3	4
South Zone	78927	144801	250779
Chhattisgarh	1302	1161	159
Goa	70	587	1109
Ahmedabad	0	0	4870
Vadodara	6326	11462	6557
Mumbai-I (Bandra)	42733	68709	83294
Mumbai-II (Thane)	16311	42845	101387
Nagpur	2	1	386
Pune	9169	10921	16309
Madhya Pradesh	2480	919	382
Rajasthan	46	1115	0
West Zone	78439	137720	214453
Total	208298	427882	651151

Opening of Central Universities

*140. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up some new Central Universities in the various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of places identified for the purpose, State and location-wise;

(c) the number of proposals received from the State Governments for setting up of these Universities in their States, State-wise alongwith the status thereof;

(d) whether the State Governments have proposed to provide adequate land for the said Universities;

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

(f) whether the Government proposes to involve some private organizations in the task;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which such proposed Universities are likely to be become functional?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (h) For increasing access and improving the quality of higher education in the country, 15 Central Universities have already been established by the Central University Act, 2009 of which 12 are new Universities and 3 are State Universities which have been converted to Central Universities with the establishment of these Universities, every State, except Goa which subsequently did not want its State University to be converted into a Central University, has now at least one Central University. According to the relevant provisions of the Act, the headquarters of these Universities shall be at such places as may be notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette. The process of identifying suitable locations for these Universities is underway in consultation with the respective State Governments, and so far locations in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Orissa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been identified. The concerned State Governments are expected to provide land, free of cost, for setting up of these Universities.

Provision of Central funding has already been made in XIth Plan approved by the National Development Council and these Universities would accordingly be fully funded by the Central Government, through the University Grants Commission.

Creation of Employment Opportunities

1043. SHRI RAJAIHA SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labour manpower in the country has increased over the years;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to create employment opportunities in the various sectors for such labour manpower, including SC/ST persons in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Last such survey was conducted during

2004-05. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of survey on employment and unemployment, labour force on usual status basis has increased from 406.06 million in 1999-2000 to 469.94 million in 2004-05 registering an average growth rate of 2.97 per cent per annum. Statement indicating State-wise labour force participation rates for the period 1993-94, 1999-2000 and 2004-05 is annexed.

(c) Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at creating 58 million job opportunities. The focus is also on productive

employment at a faster pace than before, an target agriculture growth at 4% per annum in order to raise the incomes of masses of the rural population to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes, some of the important ones are Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Statement

State-wise Labour Force Participation Rates (%) during 1999-2000 and 2004-05

	1999-2000		2004-05	
	Rural Person	Urban Person	Rural Person	Urban Person
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	54.6	36.2	54.8	40.6
Arunachal Pradesh	37.1	27.5	46.2	32.3
Assam	36.4	36.8	40.1	36.2
Bihar	34.4	28.7	32.0	29.0
Chhattisgarh*	—	—	51.2	37.7
Delhi	32.4	34.3	31.7	35.1
Goa	39.5	37.9	38.5	39.8
Gujarat	50.1	35.2	51.6	38.7
Haryana	34.9	32.3	43.4	35.3
Himachal Pradesh	50.9	34.4	54.0	47.4
Jammu and Kashmir	44.7	29.6	42.2	34.8
Jharkhand*	—	—	43.3	33.3
Karnataka	49.1	37.8	54.6	39.7
Kerala	42.2	41.5	44.8	44.0
Madhya Pradesh	46.4	33.1	46.1	35.7
Maharashtra	49.0	36.7	52.7	39.9
Manipur	38.7	35.3	44.5	35.8
Meghalaya	48.8	31.0	52.7	38.7

1	2	3	4	5
Mizoram	50.3	37.4	52.3	39.0
Nagaland	49.4	33.5	53.7	38.5
Orissa	43.2	33.9	47.6	38.6
Punjab	41.7	36.3	45.8	38.5
Rajasthan	44.8	33.2	46.3	35.9
Sikkim	39.1	40.7	45.3	38.3
Tamil Nadu	52.3	41.0	53.4	43.4
Tripura	30.7	31.3	37.3	41.4
Uttaranchal*	—	—	48.0	35.1
Uttar Pradesh	34.8	31.7	37.3	34.2
West Bengal	35.9	37.8	38.9	41.0
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	38.4	45.4	47.1	41.6
Chandigarh	63.9	36.9	39.9	35.8
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	47.5	40.9	53.3	46.6
Daman and Diu	50.9	38.7	40.3	42.8
Lakshadweep	35.6	34.3	40.8	36.3
Puducherry	44.3	36.8	49.5	37.3
All India	42.3	35.4	44.6	38.2

*These were carved later as separate states.

[Translation]

Misuse of Funds by NGOs

1044. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) are misusing the grants provided by the Government;

(b) if so, the names of the NGOs found involved in such irregularities and misuse of funds etc. during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following 4 Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have been found misusing the grants provided to them.

- (i) Ayush foundation, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- (ii) Gram Chetna Seva Samiti, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- (iii) Kishan Mahila Gramodyog Sansthan, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh.
- (iv) Om Hari Bahudeshiya Sikshan Sanstha, Bhandara, Maharashtra.

(c) The above Organizations have been blacklisted, further grants stopped/concerned State Government have been requested to take action for recovery of grants-in-aid to the extent of misutilisation.

[English]

Facilities to Construction Labourers

1045. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive plan to provide basic facilities such as health and education to the family members of the construction labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which such plan is likely to be prepared and implemented;

(c) whether the Government is considering to provide scholarship to the wards of the construction labourers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to make arrangement for mobile school for family members of the construction labourers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and utilized during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

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

(a) to (d) The Government have enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996 with a view to regularize the wages, working conditions, safety and health, welfare measures etc. exclusively for the building and other construction workers. The responsibility for implementation of the Act lies with the respective State Government. Under the Act, every State Government has to frame State Rules, constitute Advisory Committee and a State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board. The major source of fund to the Welfare Board will be collecting of Cess @ 1% of the cost of construction incurred by the employer. The State Welfare Board may provide immediate assistance to the beneficiary in case of accident, make payment of pension to the beneficiaries who have completed the age of 60 years, sanction loans and advances for construction of a houses, pay such amount in connection with premia for Group Insurance Scheme, give financial assistance for the education of children of the beneficiaries, meet such medical expenses for treatment of major ailments of the beneficiary, make

payment of maternity benefit to the female beneficiaries etc. Some States have already framed schemes and are implementing them. A few others are in the process of formulating such schemes. Though the States have been time and again urged to expedite this process, no time frame has been fixed for this purpose as this responsibility rests with the States under the Act.

(e) and (f) No proposal for providing mobile school for family members of the construction labourers is under consideration of the Government.

Involvement of Corporate Sector in Education Sector

1046. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to involve the Corporate Sector for mobilization of resources for Education Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any corporate social responsibility is fixed on the Corporate Sector to contribute for the development of education in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) There is a mismatch between demand and supply in the education sector. The present National Policy is against commercialization of education. However, the Government favours the active support and involvement of the not-for-profit private participation for funding and management of educational institutions subject to reasonable surplus earned being ploughed back into the development of institutions. The 11th Plan document as approved by the National Development Council, also mentions the need to explore private sector initiatives and various forms of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the education sector.

Allocation of Funds for Cantonments

1047. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for allocation of funds to the cantonments under plan and non-plan expenditure; and

(b) the allocations made under plan and non-plan 'head' to Pune, Delhi and Meerut cantonments, separately during each of the last three years?

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

(a) and (b) Funds are allocated to Cantonment Boards in India under non-plan expenditure. These are in the form of (i) Grants-in-Aid and (ii) Service Charges. The allocation to Cantonment Boards under these Heads is as per the demands of the Cantonment Boards and the availability of the funds. The funds allocated to the Pune, Delhi and Meerut Cantonment Boards during the last three years are as under:

Name of Cantonment Board	Funds allocated (Rupees in Lakh)		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Pune	344.00	338.77	338.77
Delhi	1540.32	16445.88	7258.24
Meerut	627.76	620.35	620.35

Augmentation of Towers Capacity

1048. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:
SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:
SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the capacity of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Mobile Towers in the country including West Bengal to improve the quality of services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether there is a long waiting list for connections pending with the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) including Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) connections; and

(e) if so, the manner in which the Government proposes to clear this waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. BSNL has planned to add 19.21 lakh lines WLL capacity including 49500 in West Bengal and 2 crore GSM mobile capacity including 9.06 lakh lines in West Bengal during the year 2009-10.

MTNL has planned to add 200 GSM towers in Delhi and 291 GSM and 10 WLL towers in Mumbai during 2009-10. Further MTNL has proposed to increase the capacities of existing GSM towers by 215 BTSs in Delhi and 150 BTSs in Mumbai during current financial year 2009-10. MTNL will also add 720 number Node 'B's each in Delhi and Mumbai for 3G network at the existing 2G BTS site.

(d) and (e) At present there is no waiting list of mobile connection in BSNL. SIM are available on demand. However, the waiting list as on 31.3.2009 in respect of WLL and Fixed line are 54,958 and 2,23,238 respectively. BSNL has planned to clear the waiting list of WLL and Fixed line, (as on 31.3.2009) by 31.3.2010.

Setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres

1049. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has proposed to set up more DDRCs in the country including Karnataka during 2009-10;

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

(d) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the programme during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) There are 199 approved DDRCs in the country, out of which 173 are operational. State-wise list of number of DDRCs made operational is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The proposal for opening additional DDRCs is under consideration.

(d) The total amount released to DDRCs, under various schemes, during the last three years and 2009-10 (up to 8.07.09) is Rs. 675.57 lakhs.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	No. of DDRCs functioning
1	2	3
1.	Bihar	14
2.	Chhattisgarh	6
3.	Jharkhand	5
4.	Orissa	8
5.	West Bengal	5
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
7.	Assam	8
8.	Manipur	3
9.	Meghalaya	3
10.	Mizoram	3
11.	Nagaland	1
12.	Sikkim	1
13.	Tripura	3
14.	Haryana	5
15.	Himachal Pradesh	3
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	4
17.	Madhya Pradesh	22
18.	Punjab	7
19.	Uttar Pradesh	13
20.	Uttarakhand	5
21.	Andhra Pradesh	3
22.	Karnataka	7
23.	Kerala	3
24.	Tamil Nadu	7
25.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1

1	2	3
26.	Daman and Diu	1
27.	Puducherry	2
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
29.	Goa	1
30.	Gujarat	9
31.	Maharashtra	7
32.	Rajasthan	9
Total		173

[*Translation*]

Unemployed Professionals

1050. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the number of unemployed engineers and other professional degree/diploma holders have increased during the recent past in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government is considering to chalk out any proposal to provide job to unemployed engineers and other professional degree/diploma holders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The number of unemployed engineering degree and diploma holders for the years 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007 is as under:

Year	Engineering	
	Degree	Diploma
2003	82	131
2005	112	107
2006	48	45
2007	193	132

(in thousand)

(c) and (d) In order to provide jobs to educated unemployed, the 11th Plan aims at increasing private organised sector employment ambitiously, by at least 10 million. along with the bulic sector, organised sector jobs would then expand by over 15 million, a growth rate of about 9% per annum.

National Secondary Education Campaign

1051. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme to start a National Secondary Education Campaign;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A centrally sponsored scheme called Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been launched by the Government in March 2009 to universalise access to secondary education and to improve its quality. The scheme envisages enhancing enrollment at secondary stage by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, and removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers.

Inclusion of Tarkhan Community in SC List

1052. DR. RAJAN SUSHANT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to accord Scheduled Castes (SC) status to Tarkhan community residing in Himachal Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The proposal of Government of Himachal Pradesh to include Tarkhan community in

the list of Scheduled Castes was processed in accordance with the approved modalities. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes did not agree to the proposal of the State Government. Hence, the same was rejected.

[English]

Use of Mobile Phones

1053. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any directions to mobile phone operators to check the use of mobile phones without international Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI); and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Directions were issued to all Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/Unified Access Service (UAS) Licensees to make provision of Equipment Identification Register (EIR) in their network so that calls without IMEI or that with all zeroes are not processed and rejected after 30th June 2009.

Further, Government has prohibited the import of "Mobile Handsets" (Classified under Exim Code 8517) without International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) No. or with all Zeroes IMEI with immediate effect vide Notification no 112 (RE-2008)/2004-2009, dated 16th June 2009 issued by Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Children in Hazardous Occupation

1054. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey as per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court for identification of children working in hazardous occupation;

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

(c) the steps taken for rescue and rehabilitation of such children?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State-wise details are given in the enclosed
Statement.

(c) Government is implementing the National Child
Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 271 districts of 21
States of the country. Under the scheme, children
withdrawn from work are admitted into the special schools
where they are provided with bridging education,
vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care etc.

Statement

Sl.No.	Status up to Month/Year	Name of State/UT	No. of child labour identified in hazardous occupations
1	2	3	4
1.	Dec. 08	Andaman and Nicobar I.U.T.	0
2.	Jun. 07	Andhra Pradesh	7769
3.		Arunachal Pradesh	35
4.	Dec. 08	Assam	0
5.	Jun. 07	Bihar	5088
6.	Dec. 08	Chandigarh U.T.	0
7.	Dec. 07	Chhattisgarh	992
8.	Jun. 07	Dadra and Nagar H. UT.	0
9.	Jun. 07	Daman and Diu U.T.	0
10.	2007. 08	Delhi U.T.	359
11.	Jun. 06	Goa	35
12.	Jun. 07	Gujarat	1018
13.	Dec. 08	Haryana	9112
14.	Dec. 08	Himachal Pradesh	83
15.	Jun. 07	Jammu and Kashmir	16
16.	Dec. 07	Jharkhand	2924
17.	Jun. 08	Karnataka	11190
18.	Dec. 08	Kerala	0
19.	Dec. 07	Lakshadweep U.T.	0
20.	Dec. 08	Madhya Pradesh	8826
21.	Jun. 07	Maharashtra	2681

1	2	3	4
22.	Jun. 06	Manipur	0
23.	Dec. 08	Meghalaya	0
24.	Jun. 07	Mizoram	0
25.	Jun. 07	Nagaland	9435
26.	Dec. 2008	Orissa	23761
27.	Dec. 08	Puducherry U.T.	10
28.	Jun. 07	Punjab	1467
29.	Dec. 08	Rajasthan	3026
30.	Dec. 08	Sikkim	0
31.	Dec. 08	Tamil Nadu	9007
32.	Jun. 07	Tripura	11
33.	Jun. 07	Uttar Pradesh	32697
34.	Dec. 08	Uttarakhand	607
35.	Jun. 07	West Bengal	254
Total			130403

[Translation]

**Medical Facilities for Employees of
Ordnance Factory**

1055. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are adequate arrangements for treatment of the employees of ordnance factory at Khamaria in Jabalpur, who get injured during the course of testing and explosions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of treatment provided to such injured employees in the hospital at Khamaria, year-wise?

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

(b) A 100-bedded hospital with a qualified surgeon, a fully functional operation theatre and a surgical ward with required staff are provided for treatment of the

employees. While minor cases are treated at the factory Hospital, major cases are transferred to CGHS recognized Hospitals/Medical College Hospital at Jabalpur for specialized treatment, when required.

(c) Details of treatment given to injured employees during the last three years are given below:

(i) During 2006-2007, 33 minor injury cases and 14 major cases were treated;

(ii) During 2007-2008, 35 minor injury cases and 15 major cases were treated; and

(iii) During 2008-2009, 38 Minor injury cases and 08 Major cases were treated.

[English]

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

1056. SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to examine the feasibility of giving State-level flexibility in the norms of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan" has in built mechanism for flexibility in the norms within the overall framework of the scheme.

[*Translation*]

Functioning of Old Age Homes

1057. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing funds to the States for the functioning of Old Age Homes;

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

(c) the details of amount sanctioned by the Government for functioning of such homes during the last three years and current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) No, Sir. However, the Government has been providing financial assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for Maintenance of Old Age Homes under the Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) on the basis of the recommendation of the concerned State Government.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details of funds released to NGOs are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of funds released to NGOs under the Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons from 2006-07 till date

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1144.71
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0

1	2	3
4.	Assam	206.68
5.	Bihar	5.52
6.	Chandigarh	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	7.15
8.	Daman and Diu	0
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
10.	Delhi	65.53
11.	Goa	0
12.	Gujarat	1.38
13.	Haryana	90.98
14.	Himachal Pradesh	5.82
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.3
16.	Jharkhand	0
17.	Karnataka	523.14
18.	Kerala	7.22
19.	Lakshadweep	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	19.78
21.	Maharashtra	112.38
22.	Manipur	295.14
23.	Meghalaya	0
24.	Mizoram	3.87
25.	Nagaland	1.38
26.	Orissa	773.84
27.	Puducherry	9.62
28.	Punjab	40.6
29.	Rajasthan	28.01
30.	Sikkim	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	537.98

1	2	3
32.	Tripura	36.36
33.	Uttar Pradesh	190.24
34.	Uttarakhand	15.14
35.	West Bengal	510.5
Total		4638.58

[English]

Deep Sea Fishing Projects of MPEDA

1058. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) proposes to start a separate deep-sea fisheries corporation and acquire boats and fish in Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether MPEDA proposes to set up a separate fisheries divisions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the mandate of MPEDA with regard to increasing marine exports and the extent to which it has fulfilled its mandate?

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

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) The mandate of MPEDA are:- developing, regulating and undertaking measures for the conservation and management off-shore of deep sea fisheries, registering fishing vessels, processing plants of storage premises, conveyances used for the transport of marine products, fixing of standards and specifications for export of marine products, rendering of financial and other assistance to owners of fishing vessels, processing plants or storage premises and convenes used for the transport and acting as an agency for such relief and subsidy scheme as entrusted to the authority by the Government, carrying out inspection, including the marketing outside India, registering exporters, collecting statistics, training in various aspects of marine products.

Marine product exports have grown substantially from a mere Rs. 2.46 crore in the early fifties to Rs. 8607.94 crore equivalents to US\$ 1908.63 million in 2008-09.

[Translation]

Setting up of Industries in Rural and Backward Areas

1059. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote industries especially in rural and backward regions of the country in public and private sectors;

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

(c) the details of the proposals received by the Union Government from State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) After the announcement of new Industrial Policy in 1991, decisions for investment have been left to the commercial perception of the entrepreneurs. The Government acts only as facilitator. The State Governments are primarily responsible for industrial development in their States. The Union Government supplements their efforts through various schemes launched by it with a view to promoting industrialization in industrially backward areas of the country under which financial support for improving the quality of industrial infrastructure is extended by the Union Government.

FDI Target

1060. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

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

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target for Foreign Direct Investment (FOI) in the country;

(b) whether the said target is being achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, sector-wise, if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to attract more such FDI in infrastructure sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has a potential of enhancing economic activity and employment in the country by complementing and supplementing domestic investment. The Government has continuously promoted FDI by liberal and investor-friendly policy regime, focussed investment promotion and investor facilitation. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI equity inflows in the country have increased from US\$ 5.5 billion in 2005-06 to US\$ 27.31 billion in the year 2008-09. The FDI equity inflows in 2007-08 were US\$ 24.58 billion and increased to US\$ 27.31 billion in 2008-09, despite the economic slowdown, showing a percentage growth of 11% over the previous financial year. No target has been fixed for the current financial year.

A statement giving the sector-wise Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows during the last three years, including infrastructure sector, is enclosed.

(d) Government has put in place a liberal and investor-friendly policy on FDI under which FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route in most sectors/ activities, including infrastructure and Research and Development (R&D). The UNCTAD World Investment Reports (WIR) 2007 & 2008, in their analysis of the global trends and sustained growth of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows, have reported India as the second most attractive location for FDI for 2007-2009. India has retained the second place in A.T. Kearney's 2007 Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index, a position it has held since 2005. Government has also

announced a slew of measures to accelerate the demand in the economy which would enable India to continue as an attractive investment destination. Under the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions of investors are based on the macro-economic policy framework, investment climate in the state, investment policies of the transnational corporations and other commercial considerations.

The Government of India continues to make efforts to increase economic cooperation with the developing as well as developed countries through different fora such as Joint Commissions/Joint Committees, other bilateral channels like interaction with the delegations visiting the country and organizing visits abroad for discussions on issues of mutual interest and business/investment meets between Indian and foreign entrepreneurs to stimulate foreign investment into India. The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion also participates in discussions covering industrial cooperation organized by other Ministries and Departments of Government of India and the Joint Business Council meetings.

The Government of India also undertakes investment promotion activities through organisation of Destination India and Invest India events in various countries with FOI potential to create awareness about the investment climate and opportunities in India, as well as to provide support to potential investors. The Government of India, in partnership with various State Government and Business Associations, is making concerted efforts to make regulations conducive for business. In addition, the Government has initiated to implement e-Biz Project, a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Project, to provide online registration, filing payment services to investors and business houses.

Statement

Statement on Financial Year-wise Sector FDI Equity inflows from April 2006 to March 2009

(Amount in million)

Sl.No.	Sector	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		Cumulative Total	
		Apr-Mar		Apr-Mar		Apr-Mar			
		FDI in Rs	FDI in US\$	FDI in Rs	FDI in US\$	FDI in Rs	FDI in US\$	FDI in Rs	FDI in US\$
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Metallurgical Industries	7,866.48	172.85	46,859.75	1,17.89	41,567.11	960.85	96,293.34	2,310.59
2.	Mining	295.33	6.62	17,616.63	444.26	1,613.93	34.22	19,525.89	485.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Power	7,132.19	157.47	38,774.62	968.00	43,818.41	984.80	89,725.22	2,110.27
4.	Non-Conventional Energy	95.76	2.11	1,718.91	43.15	4,044.07	85.27	5,858.73	130.53
5.	Coal Production	57.71	1.30	554.40	14.08	10.70	0.22	622.81	15.60
6.	Petroleum and Natural Gas	4,015.10	89.37	57,290.54	1,426.78	19,312.19	412.27	80,617.83	1,928.42
7.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	152.45	3.31	60.85	1.51	0.00	0.00	213.30	4.82
8.	Prime Mover (Other than Electrical Generators)	0.00	0.00	11.60	0.28	164.21	3.38	175.81	3.67
9.	Electrical Equipments	3,533.97	76.85	26,500.92	639.67	17,980.00	386.85	48,014.89	1,103.37
10.	Computer Software and Hardware	117,853.23	2,614.43	56,233.00	1,409.64	73,285.39	1,676.54	247,376.63	5,700.61
11.	Electronics	1,853.25	41.45	4,328.60	108.65	3,417.98	76.50	9,599.82	226.59
12.	Telecommunication	21,550.77	477.74	51,026.09	1,261.46	117,268.74	2,558.39	189,4845.60	4,297.59
13.	Information and Broadcasting (Including Print Media)	1,989.36	43.56	12,903.38	321.46	34,923.70	762.32	49,816.45	1,127.34
14.	Automobile Industry	12,543.55	275.73	26,969.57	674.76	52,116.52	1,151.74	91,629.64	2,102.23
15.	Air Transport (Including Air Freight)	2,811.11	62.29	4,083.24	99.08	1,692.18	35.15	8,586.52	196.52
16.	Sea Transport	3,260.09	72.52	5,245.13	128.36	2,313.53	50.21	10,818.74	251.10
17.	Ports	0.10	0.00	36,665.70	918.18	20,198.67	493.15	56,864.47	1,411.34
18.	Railway Related Components	1,183.91	25.82	491.76	12.36	774.09	18.01	2,449.76	56.19
19.	Industrial Machinery	872.94	19.27	4,796.16	119.00	3,827.69	82.77	9,496.79	221.04
20.	Machine Tools	1,702.60	37.34	2,256.69	56.87	2,6064.52	45.66	6,023.80	139.87
21.	Agricultural Machinery	1,145.23	25.19	265.44	6.72	224.31	5.57	1,634.98	37.47
22.	Earth-Moving Machinery	45.79	0.99	2,611.36	66.09	108.00	2.27	2,765.16	69.36
23.	Miscellaneous Mechanical and Engineering Industries	2,933.96	64.32	8,582.84	210.76	6,349.08	142.24	17,865.88	417.32
24.	Commercial, office and Household Equipments	1,994.76	44.88	390.75	9.83	534.85	12.58	2,920.37	67.30
25.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	59.450	13.43	522.44	13.17	3,520.30	75.42	4,637.24	402.02
26.	Industrial Instruments	0.00	0.00	88.14	2.23	836.49	17.48	924.64	19.71
27.	Scientific Instruments	3.40	0.07	0.13	0.00	35.60	0.83	39.13	0.91
28.	Mathematical, s Urvehing and Drawing Instruments	0.00	0.00	50.20	1.26	0.00	0.00	50.20	1.26
29.	Fertilizers	228.23	5.01	79.21	1.95	1,608.60	38.53	1,916.04	45.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
30.	Chemicals (other than Fertilizers)	9,294.33	205.43	9,175.56	228.45	34,271.40	749.20	52,741.29	1,183.07
31.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	129.95	2.81	2,087.80	52.84	44.44	1.05	2,262.19	56.71
32.	Dye-stuffs	0.00	0.00	222.38	5.51	56.19	1.17	278.58	6.68
33.	Drugs and pharamaceuticals	9,696.74	214.84	13,264.28	334.09	8,101.16	181.61	31,062.17	730.54
34.	Textiles (Including Dyed, printed	5,606.84	125.26	7,476.11	185.98	7,561.47	157.44	20,644.43	468.67
35.	Paper and pulp (including paper products)	230.78	5.08	1,237.35	31.24	11,815.93	272.51	13,284.06	308.83
36.	Sugar	739.52	16.54	410.93	10.07	226.80	5.01	1,377.25	31.62
37.	Fermentation industries	1,226.55	27.58	10,759.17	270.05	6,284.23	144.70	18,269.95	442.33
38.	Food processing industries	4,408.60	98.24	2,745.65	69.08	4,553.04	102.64	11,707.29	269.96
39.	Vegetable oils and vanaspati	720.10	16.22	61.16	1.53	1,961.22	42.88	2,742.48	60.64
40.	Soaps, cosmetics and toilet preparations	266.44	6.04	394.72	10.01	1,059.45	22.03	1,720.60	38.09
41.	Rubber goods	866.63	18.75	609.73	15.12	4,007.06	84.88	5,483.42	118.75
42.	Leather, leather goods and pickers	376.03	8.26	297.77	7.46	155.59	3.32	829.39	19.05
43.	glue and gelatin	0.00	0.00	90.04	2.28	0.00	0.00	90.04	2.28
44.	Glass	64.16	1.43	442.54	11.04	938.35	20.82	1,445.05	33.29
45.	Ceramics	2,557.99	57.46	4,626.16	115.11	8,508.67	198.53	15,692.82	371.10
46.	Cement and gypsum products	10,980.34	242.69	687.12	16.89	31,435.20	724.80	43,102.66	984.38
47.	Timber products	0.10	0.00	15.40	0.39	557.53	11.27	573.03	11.66
48.	Defence industries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.50	0.10	4.50	0.10
49.	Consultancy services	5,289.24	115.36	13,542.39	340.91	14,629.15	314.72	33,460.79	770.98
50.	Services sector	211,801.61	4,693.72	265,892.72	6,615.41	285,161.02	6,137.62	762,855.34	17,446.75
51.	Hospital and diagnostic centres	1,747.84	38.14	9,959.10	249.23	10,273.91	241.22	21,980.85	528.59
52.	Education	2,122.68	47.29	1,770.13	43.62	10,318.40	214.18	14,211.21	305.09
53.	Hotel and Tourism	8,821.37	194.83	16,938.69	421.44	20,299.60	449.83	46,059.67	1,066.11
54.	Trading	5,212.09	115.42	24,878.70	621.02	27,351.37	631.69	57,442.16	1,368.13
55.	Retail Trading (Single brand)	0.00	0.00	78.01	1.98	1,354.68	30.19	1,432.68	32.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
56.	Agriculture services	669.14	15.11	4,541.18	113.22	242.06	5.26	5,452.37	**58
57.	Diamond, gold ornaments	2,830.11	61.78	2,359.56	59.15	3,884.58	83.50	9,074.25	204.44
58.	Tea and coffee (Processing and warehousing coffee and rubber)	283.36	6.20	749.47	18.94	1,750.04	37.08	2,728.86	62.21
59.	Printing of books (including litho printing industry)	2,364.88	51.19	803.26	20.09	1,622.69	36.54	4,790.83	107.81
60.	Coir	1.82	0.04	0.60	0.01	0.00	0.00	2.42	0.06
61.	Construction activities	44,244.40	985.36	69,893.48	1,742.54	87,918.87	2,028.11	202,056.76	4,756.02
62.	Housing and real estate (including cineplex, multiplex, integrated townships and commercial complexes etc.)	21,211.07	467.34	87,493.37	2,179.13	126,212.41	2,801.17	234,916.85	5,447.64
63.	Miscellaneous industries	14,416.70	319.40	25,938.30	645.12	64,076.93	1,482.56	104,431.94	2,447.08
Grand Total		563,902.20	12,491.77	986,420.89	24,575.43	1,230,248.80	27,330.82	2,780,571.88	64,398.02

**Scheme for Development of
Mushar Community**

[English]

Increase in FDI

1061. SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

1062. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase
Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) share percentage in all
areas including telecom, insurance and banking sector;

(a) whether the Government has formulated any
scheme for the development of Mushar Community living
in poorvanchal of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

(c) whether the Government has accepted the
recommendations of Indo-US CEO Forum which
recommended to increase FDI in retail trade and in the
real estate, and introduce full capital account convertibility;
and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reason
therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D.
NAPOLEON): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M.
SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Government has put in place a
liberal and investor-friendly policy on FDI under which
FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route in
most sectors/activities. The FDI policy is reviewed through
an *Inter-Ministerial consultation process* with due

(c) Schemes and programmes are formulated and
implemented by the Government to benefit all Scheduled
Castes and no separate scheme is formulated for any
particular caste.

consideration of relevant issues raised by various stakeholders. Currently, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

in the Sectors of Telecom, Insurance and Banking, is permitted as below:

Telecom Sector:

Sl.No.	Sector/activity	FDI cap/equity	Entry route	Other conditions
a.	Basic and cellular, Unified Access Services, National/International Long Distance, V-Sat, Public Mobile Radio Trunked Services (PMRTS), Global Mobile Personal Communications Services (GMPCS) and other Value added telecom services.	74% (Including FDI, FII, NRI, FCCBs, ADRs, GDRs, convertible preference shares, and proportionate Foreign equity in Indian promoters/ Investing (Company))	Automatic up to 49%. FIPB-beyond 49%.	Subject to guidelines notified in the Press Note 3 (2007)
b.	ISP with gateways, radio-paging, end-to-end bandwidth	74%	Automatic upto 49%. FIPB beyond 49%.	Subject to licensing and security requirements notified by the Dept. of Telecommunications.
c.	(a) ISP without gateway, (b) infrastructure Provider Providing dark (c) electronic Mail and voice mail	100%	Automatic upto 49%. FIPB beyond 49%. Automatic upto 49%. FIPB beyond 49%.	Subject to the condition that such companies shall divest 26% of their equity in favour of Indian public in 5 years, if these companies are listed in other parts of the world. Also subject to licensing and security requirements, where required.
d.	Manufacture of telecom Equipments	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral requirements.

Insurance Sector: As per the extant policy, FDI up to 26% under the automatic route is allowed in the Insurance Sector, subject to licensing by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA).

Banking Sector: FDI up to 74% (including FDI and FII investment) under the automatic route, is allowed in the Banking Private sector, subject to guidelines for setting up Branch/Subsidiaries of foreign banks issued by RBI.

(c) and (d) Currently, FDI policy in retail and construction development sectors is as follows:

- (i) **Retail Sector:** No FDI is permitted in the Retail trading except for Single Brand product retailing where FDI up to 51% is permitted with prior

Government approval subject to the following conditions:

- i. Products should be sold should be of a single brand only;
 - ii. Products should be sold under the same brand internationally;
 - iii. Single brand product retailing would cover only products which are branded during manufacturing.
- (ii) Construction Development projects, including housing, commercial premises, resorts, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure, Townships:

FDI up to 100% under the automatic route is allowed for the sector subject to conditions notified *vide* Press Note 2 (2005 Series), including *inter alia*:

- a. Minimum capitalization of US\$ 10 million for wholly owned subsidiaries and US\$ 5 million for joint venture. The funds would have to be brought within six months of commencement of business of the Company.
- b. Minimum area to be developed under each project-10 hectares in case of development of serviced housing plots; and built-up area of 50,000 sq. mts. In case of construction development projects; and any of the above in case of a combination project.
- c. Original investment cannot be repatriated before a period of three years from completion of minimum capitalization. However, the investor may be permitted to exit earlier with prior approval of the Government through the FIPB.

For investment by NRIs, the conditions mentioned in Press Note 2/2005 are not applicable. For investment in SEZs, Hotels & Hospitals, conditions mentioned in Press Note 2(2005) are not applicable.

FDI is not allowed in Real Estate Business.

Retail is a labour intensive sector and is the second largest employer after agriculture. Government is fully committed to securing the legitimate interests of all stakeholders engaged in the retail business. Government also fully recognizes the need to ensure that small retailers are not adversely affected by the growing organized retail and that there is no adverse effect on employment. There is no proposal to change the current policy on FDI in Retail Trade.

There is also no proposal for full capital account convertibility.

Funds to Promote Exports Through Indian Missions

1063. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has established a Rs. 5 crore fund to promote the country's exports through Indian Missions abroad to boost the exports of small industries products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Challenge Fund is a special window for the Indian Missions abroad to access funds available under the Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme of the Department of Commerce for export promotion initiatives.

(b) The details regarding the fund are available on the department's website at <http://commerce.gov.in/trade/Challenge-fund.pdf>.

Export of Mangoes

1064. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding total quantum and value of exports of mangoes to USA and other countries during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(b) whether mango-export has declined in the current year;

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

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the export of mangoes and the outcome achieved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The details of export of mangoes, both in quantity and value, to USA and other countries during the last three years is given below:

Qty:-in MTs/Value-in Rs. Lakhs

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09 (April-08-Jan. 09)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
USA	Nil	Nil	143	196	203	293
Other countries	79061	14194	54208	12546	77934	14623
Total	79061	14194	54351	12742	78137	14916

(b) and (c) The export data for the current year is not available but the industry feedback reveals that export quality mango production was relatively short during the current season.

(d) The Government has been coordinating with the export promotion agencies such as Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Export Inspection Council (EIC) by providing necessary technical inputs and financial assistance. APEDA through its schemes for Infrastructure Development Scheme for Quality Development, Scheme for Market Development and the Scheme for Research & Development has been making efforts to gain market access for fruits and Vegetables including mangoes. The efforts have resulted in growth in export of mangoes to USA.

Enhancing Technical Capability of Bidders

1065. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Empowered Committee on Infrastructure has recommended to enhance the minimum threshold technical capability of bidders to twice that of the total project cost;

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

(c) the other changes being made in the Request for Qualification to keep only serious and stable bidders in the fray; and

(d) the penalty likely to be imposed in case of delay in completion of project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since BOT projects require the concessionaire to make the investment required for the project, it was suggested that threshold be increased to twice the project cost with a view to pre-qualify entities with greater experience and capacity so that the prospects of project financing and implementation are not compromised.

(c) The other changes proposed in the Model RFQ document to keep only serious and stable bidders in the fray are:

(i) In a consortium, the members in addition to holding 26% equity in the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) would hold equity share capital

equal to at least 5% of the total project cost for a period of 2 years after commissioning of the project.

(ii) The number of pre-qualified bidders has been restricted to 6 which could be further increased to 7 in case of project costing less than Rs. 500 crores or for repetitive projects.

(d) The penalty for delay in completion of the projects is prescribed in the Concession Agreement.

[Translation]

De-addiction Centres

1066. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to Implement Centrally Sponsored Schemes for de-addiction centres at village panchayat level in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the said centres opened during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) No, sir. However, under the revised Central sector Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse effective from October, 2008 Panchayati Raj institutions are also eligible for central assistance for setting up Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA) and taking up other drug de-addiction activities specified in the scheme.

(c) Details of State-wise number of De-addiction Centres opened during last 3 years are given in the enclosed Statement-I. No new De-addiction Centre has been sanctioned in the current year till date.

(d) State-wise details of actual releases made to NGOs under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (drug) abuse during last three years from 2006-2009 and state wise National allocation under the scheme in the current year are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Details of State-wise Number of De-addiction Centers opened during last 3 years under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of De-addiction Centres
1.	Chhattisgarh	1
2.	Himachal Pradesh	1
3.	Karnataka	3
4.	Kerala	1
5.	Madhya Pradesh	7
6.	Maharashtra	2
7.	Orissa	1
8.	Rajasthan	6
9.	Tamil Nadu	3
10.	Uttar Pradesh	1
11.	West Bengal	2
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
13.	Assam	1
14.	Meghalaya	1
Total		31

Statement II

Details of State wise actual releases made under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse during 2006-2009 and State-wise national allocation under the scheme in the current year 2009-10

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount released (Rs. in Lakh) 2006-2009	Notional Allocation for the year (Rs. in Lakh) 2009-10
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	261.68	140
2.	Bihar	203.60	130

1	2	3	4
3.	Chhattisgarh	36.80	30
4.	Goa	4.42	10
5.	Gujarat	91.35	50
6.	Haryana	222.45	150
7.	Himachal Pradesh	40.79	30
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	28.57	20
9.	Jharkhand	0	10
10.	Karnataka	520.79	250
11.	Kerala	394.84	190
12.	Madhya Pradesh	249.82	170
13.	Maharashtra	921.20	410
14.	Orissa	507.21	210
15.	Punjab	263.83	130
16.	Rajasthan	201.61	110
17.	Tamil Nadu	389.53	230
18.	Uttar Pradesh	765.29	410
19.	Uttarakhand	74.15	40
20.	West Bengal	323.60	130
21.	Chandigarh	4.19	10
22.	Delhi	170.06	90
23.	Puducherry	0	10
24.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	10
25.	Lakshadweep	0	10
26.	Daman and Diu	0	10
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	14.04	22
29.	Assam	141.90	70
30.	Manipur	496.76	200

1	2	3	4
31.	Meghalaya	41.81	22
32.	Mizoram	226.57	100
33.	Nagaland	126.48	60
34.	Tripura	13.22	15
35.	Sikkim	19.10	11
Grand Total		6741.63	3500

[English]

Endangered Languages

1067. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian languages have been listed as endangered by the latest UNESCO Atlas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to preserve these languages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The 'UNESCO Atlas of World's Languages in Danger' lists 196 languages for India, whose degree of endangerment varies from 'Vulnerable' to 'Extinct' as follows:

Vulnerable Languages:	84
Definitely Endangered Languages:	62
Severely Endangered Languages:	06
Critically Endangered Languages:	35
Extinct Languages (since the 1950s)	09
Total	196

The list of Indian languages along with the degree of endangerment; estimated number of speakers; accuracy of estimate; and sources of data are available in the UNESCO Interactive Atlas of the world's Languages in Danger (2009), an online database of the Intangible

Cultural Heritage Section of UNESCO (available at <http://www.unesco.org/culture/en/endangeredlanguages/atlas>). The said data base is a 'living' database being corrected constantly, due to user feedback, and after the screening of specialists of UNESCO.

While the total of the estimated number of speakers of the 196 languages listed in the Atlas amounts to approximately 2.7 crore, not all the 196 languages have reached the stage of 'severely endangered' or 'critically endangered'.

(c) This Ministry has reviewed the progress made in the Preservation and Development of Minor Indian Languages which are not covered under the VIII Schedule of the Constitution of India with States/UTs. It was noticed that States/UTs have taken concrete action to develop these minor languages.

[Translation]

Minority Status to Universities

1068. DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests for granting minority institution status to Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia University; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The question relating to minority institution status of Aligarh Muslim University is before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, where the interpretation of the term "establishing" a University, as was laid down in the "Azeez Basha" matter, is under challenge and that orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in that matter will have a bearing on the issue relating to the demand from certain quarters for according status of minority institution to Jamia Millia Islamia, which is before the Hon'ble National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions.

[English]

Telecommunication Connectivity

1069. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide Telephone/Mobile connections in all locations of the country including Purulia, Balurghat and Cooch Behar in the State of West Bengal;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which all the locations of the country including West Bengal are likely to be covered with the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) facility;

(e) the total number of SIM cards provided in the country, State-wise including Purulia, Balurghat and Cooch Behar during the first half of the current financial year;

(f) whether the Government is contemplating to enhance Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) facility in the country especially in the above urban areas in West Bengal; and

(g) if so, the time by which the said facility is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. BSNL has the vision to provide Telephone/Mobile connections in all locations of the country including Purulia, Balurghat and Cooch Behar in the State of West Bengal. The provision of mobile network being capital intensive can be done only in phases and as such BSNL is providing services in phased manner based on techno commercial viability

of different areas. The coverage details are given in the Statement.

MTNL is already providing Telephone/Mobile connections to the customers in its service areas i.e. Delhi and Mumbai.

(d) BSNL plans to expand the Mobile service coverage to all the villages having population more than 1000 progressively in next three years.

(e) During the period 01.04.2009 to 30.06.2009, BSNL has made available total 1.46 crore SIM cards to all its telecom circles for providing mobile connections. The circle wise details is given in the enclosed statement. During this period, the number of SIM cards made available to Purulia, Balurghat and Cooch Behar are 8342, 7352 & 6243 respectively.

MTNL has also made available sufficient SIM cards in its Delhi and Mumbai units. MTNL has provided 80,628 GSM connections in Delhi and 77,177 GSM connections in Mumbai from 01.04.2009 to 30.06.2009.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) services are enhanced in urban areas in the country including urban areas of West Bengal. The same is likely to be implemented by 31.03.2010.

Adequate capacity is available in telephone (PSTN) and mobile (CMTS) services in MTNL. MTNL is providing telephone services on demand. Further, MTNL has already launched 3G GSM services in both Delhi and Mumbai, which provides additional facilities like Video text, mobile TV, High speed data etc. to the customers.

Statement

Details of Cities/Towns, THQ, SDHQ, BHO & Villages covered with Cellular services as on 31.05.2009

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	Total No. of Cities /towns With Cellular services	Total SDHQ	SDHQ with Cellular Services	Total THQ	THQ with Cellular Services	Total BHO	BHO with Cellular Services	Total villages	Villages with cellular Services	SIM provided during the current financial year	Direct Exchange lines (fixed Lines	WLL connections	Total No. of SDCA covered with WLL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands**	7	4	4	7	7	5	5	501	312	0	19066	6858	2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1995	76	76	0	0	1126	1120	26613	17970	2520900	2185985	274497	243

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3.	Assam	584	55	55	145	140	223	215	25124	17069	310000	346636	103087	46
4.	Bihar**	1003	102	102	0	0	533	517	39032	18411	0	962758	243930	104
5.	Chhattisgarh	116	56	56	97	97	146	142	19744	6445	240000	226098	148875	105
6.	Gujarat	1514	46	46	226	226	0	0	18159	10163	50000	1897453	255586	161
7.	Haryana	128	47	47	67	67	116	116	6764	3726	20000	824498	102014	54
8.	Himachal Pradesh	57	51	51	75	75	75	75	17495	9239	140000	3269859	90156	33
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	74	18	18	73	73	135	128	6417	2128	60000	237162	100692	30
10.	Jharkhand	437	35	35	0	0	211	202	29354	16759	390000	414850	101388	74
11.	Karnataka	1232	52	52	176	176	176	176	27481	14997	320000	2147325	428263	180
12.	Kerala	1551	21	21	63	63	152	152	1372	1345	200000	3448613	573143	48
13.	Madhya Pradesh	346	187	187	318	318	313	313	52117	25221	730000	1090156	520255	249
14.	Maharashtra	2494	113	113	361	361	358	358	41442	18714	1755000	2950524	454142	304
15.	North East-I	142	49	45	183	30	101	81	7347	688	103500	206414	62800	28
16.	North East-II	150	120	87	0	0	170	103	7459	2930	50000	128345	49734	37
17.	Orissa	716	58	58	171	171	314	309	47529	20620	200000	624022	193392	120
18.	Punjab	159	0	0	74	74	143	143	12301	9840	750000	1327663	80690	55
19.	Rajasthan	1959	182	182	241	241	237	237	39753	20882	1800000	1458470	333805	253
20.	Tamil Nadu	1557	67	67	191	191	362	362	13837	7001	750000	2056777	403125	122
21.	Uttaranchal**	84	49	49	78	77	95	92	15761	7920	0	295660	71789	36
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	2592	165	165	203	203	575	575	74161	65061	1449999	1392533	399983	155
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	889	99	99	99	99	238	227	23781	3400	830000	990905	187277	73
24.	West Bengal	412	64	59	0	0	332	332	37512	19950	1030000	999284	132213	71
25.	Kolkatta	1	11	11	0	0	22	22	893	437	495000	1363049	36728	1
26.	Chennai	1	7	7	21	21	27	27	1655	310	300002	1011867	47269	8
Total		20200	1734	1692	2869	2710	6185	6029	593601	321538	14674401	28975972	5401691	2592

**42426, 123513 & 874943 SIMs are already available with Andaman and Nicobar, Bihar & Uttarakhand respectively as on 30.06.2009

Installation of Telephone Connections

1070. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for installation of Landline, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephone connections and laying of optical fibre cable in the country during the Current Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the targets achieved so far in this regard, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any variation in the achievement of the targets fixed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, the target fixed for instillation for landline, WLL telephone connections and laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) of BSNL & MTNL in the country, during the current Five Year Plan, is mentioned below:-

Sl.No.	Item	Unit	Target
BSNL			
1.	Wireline+WLL	Lakh connection	125
2.	OFC	RKMs	2,00,000
MTNL			
1.	Landline+WLL	Lakh connections	14
2.	OFC	In Fibre KMS	6,20,000

(b) The targets achieved by BSNL and MTNL so far is as under:-

BSNL

Item	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	Target As per Annual Plan	Achievement	Target As per Annual Plan	Achievement	Target As per Annual Plan	Achievement (upto 31.3.2009)
Wireline + WLL (in lakh connections)	15.75	-11.65*	-8.50*	-13.51*	-15.00*	-4.02*
OFC in RKMs	26250	43852	28500	44265	25000	2811.01

*Note: Negative figure means reduction in connections.

Details of targets achieved so far by BSNL, location wise (state-wise) is given in the enclosed Statement.

MTNL

Item	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total (2007-10)
Landline	17338	0	29970	-12632*
WLL	0	0	0	
OFC in Fiber KMs	43057	36538	1712	81307

*Note: Negative figure means reduction in connections.

(c) and (d) Yes there is a variation in achievement of targets fixed for BSNL and MTNL. Details of variations has been answered in para (b) above. Reasons for

variation may be attributed to switch over of landline customers to mobile phones and delay in supply and commissioning of WLL equipment by M/s ITI.

Statement*Achievement of fixed line (wire line + WLL), GSM telephones and OFC of BSNL during last two years*

Sl.No.	Name of circle	2007-08			2008-09			2009-10 (upto 31.05.09)		
		Fixed line (in nos.)	GSM	OFC (in RKMs)	Fixed line (in nos.)	GSM	OFC (in RKMs)	Fixed line (in nos.)	GSM	OFC (in RKMs)
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-2,731	9,727	0	-4,418	20,753	0	108	5,526	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	-241,784	394,095	4,604	-182,110	909,327	4,469	-46,976	130,385	187
3.	Assam	-52,825	234,703	689	-77,777	52,915	512	-3,536	27,459	0
4.	Bihar	21,882	313,653	1,278	40,850	871,882	1,055	4,942	60,673	70
5.	Chhattisgarh	7,752	208,707	1,206	-3,748	201,268	-2,603	-2,638	2,320	87
6.	Gujarat	-171,249	951,555	1,138	-126,814	321,977	2,220	-33,656	8,949	161
7.	Haryana	-63,585	266,138	1,242	-87,085	407,363	1,491	-25,394	144,667	94
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-12,055	50,795	1,026	-28,092	245,137	393	-8,205	70,931	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	-827	23,832	551	-25,269	14,181	494	-538	6,278	0
10.	Jharkhand	17,737	48,466	333	-15,606	189,639	216	37	20,328	3
11.	Karnataka	-61,828	9,006	4,800	-11,986	528,877	3,508	-22,779	144,110	80
12.	Kerala	76,310	201,217	2,494	-62,318	360,572	2,373	-16,931	72,683	200
13.	Madhya Pradesh	42,332	401,481	1,475	30,278	424,217	3,716	-19,373	-14,772	478
14.	Maharashtra	-301,334	943,231	2,216	-410,925	435,628	3,804	-60,336	-2,707	368
15.	North East-1	17,591	89,400	303	10,642	31,091	29	-495	29,750	0
16.	North East-2	-15,562	119,834	1,446	11,249	-456	1,891	4,362	27,829	163
17.	Orissa	36,055	245,148	1,389	-95,540	403,170	1,195	-24,202	128,816	96
18.	Punjab	-168,742	800,866	2,820	-84,279	880,466	1,928	-21,435	62,012	67
19.	Rajasthan	-41,278	206,499	3,521	-30,723	649,305	1,985	-22,227	-70,819	93
20.	Tamil Nadu	-180,009	329,678	3,444	-251,113	678,349	4,350	-33,056	192,584	180
21.	Uttarakhand	-11,876	131,198	991	-13,828	123,857	840	-4,602	15,304	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh East	42,169	1,424,533	4,301	88,598	1,421,879	2,888	-7,773	184,205	170
23.	Uttar Pradesh West	-36, 249	516,223	1,080	47,824	257,420	1,223	2,179	64,900	91
24.	West Bengal	-73,389	310,256	750	-86,950	426,080	599	-38,197	78,271	202
25.	Kolkatta	-1,955	401,121	617	13,001	507,800	325	-18,711	63,409	21
26.	Chennai	10,611	149,020	116	5,580	139,531	158	-2,374	32,613	0
	Total	-1,164,839	8,780,382	43,832	-1,350,559	10,502,156	44,265	-401,806	1,485,704	2,811

Revamping of Higher Education System

1071. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
 DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY:
 SHRI GANESH SINGH:
 SHRI PURNMASI RAM:
 SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:
 SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:
 SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to reform/reorganize/revamp/promote the higher education system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received suggestions for setting up a regulatory body to revamp and reform the existing education system;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) the funds likely to be spent by the Government for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (g) The Committee to Advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yashpal has submitted its Report on 24th June, 2009. The recommendations of the Committee *inter-alia* are:

(i) Creation of an all-encompassing. National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), a Constitutional body to replace the existing regulatory bodies including the UGC, AICTE, NCTE and DEC and to follow up the Constitutional amendment with an appropriate law for the Commission's functioning;

(ii) Universities are to be made responsible regarding the academic content of all courses and programmes of study including professional courses.

(iii) Curricular reform should be of priority of the NCHER which would create a curricular framework based on the principles of mobility within a full range of curricular areas and integration of skills with academic depth;

(iv) It should be mandatory for all universities to have a rich undergraduate programme and undergraduate students must get opportunities to interact with the best faculty. While appointing teachers to the universities their affiliation to a particular college should also be specified to emphasize the need for their exposure to undergraduate students.

(v) Undergraduate programs should be restructured to enable students to have opportunities to access all curricular areas with fair degree of mobility. Normally, no single discipline or specialized university should be created;

(vi) The vocational education sector is at present outside the purview of universities and colleges, and alienation of this sector can be overcome by bringing it under the purview of universities and by providing necessary accreditation to the courses available in polytechnics, industrial training institutions, and so on. Additionally the barriers to entry into universities for students going through vocational training should be lowered to enable them to upgrade their knowledge base at any stage of their careers;

(vii) The NCHER should also galvanize research in the university system through the creation of a National Research Foundation;

(viii) New governing structures should be evolved to enable the universities to preserve their autonomy in a transparent and accountable manner;

(ix) Practice of according status of deemed university be stopped forthwith till the NCHER takes a considered view on it. It would be mandatory for all existing deemed universities to submit to the new accreditation norms to be framed on the lines proposed in this report within a period of three years failing which the status of university should be withdrawn. However, unique educational initiatives which have over a period

of time enriched higher education by their innovations be given recognition and supported appropriately;

- (x) Modern higher education system requires extension facilities, sophisticated equipment and highly specialized knowledge and competent teachers. It would not be possible for every university to possess the best of these infrastructures. Hence, one of the primary tasks of the NCHER should be to create several inter-university centers (IUCs) in diverse fields to create the best of these possibilities and attract the participation of several institutions of higher learning to avail them.
- (xi) Institutions of excellence like the IITs and IIMs should be encouraged to diversify and expand their scope to work as full-fledged universities, while keeping intact their unique features, which shall act as pace-setting and model governance systems for all universities;
- (xii) One of the first tasks of the NCHER should be to identify the best 1,500 colleges across India to upgrade them as universities, and create clusters of other potentially good colleges to evolve as universities.
- (xiii) Universities should establish live relationship with the real world outside and develop capacities to respond to the challenges faced by rural and urban economies and culture;
- (xiv) All levels of teacher education should be brought under the purview of higher education;
- (xv) A national testing scheme for admission to the universities on the pattern of the GRE should be evolved which would be open to all the aspirants of University education, to be held more than once a year. Students would be permitted to send their best test score to the university of their choice;
- (xvi) Quantum of Central financial support to State-funded universities should be enhanced substantially on an incentive pattern, keeping in view the needs for their growth;
- (xvii) Expansion of the higher education system should be evaluated and assessed continuously to excel and to respond to the needs of different regions

in India in order to ensure not only equity and access but also quality and opportunity of growth along academic vertical. The NCHER too should be subject to external review once in five years.

- (xviii) A National Education Tribunal should be established with powers to adjudicate on disputes among stake-holders within institutions and between institutions so as to reduce litigation in courts involving universities and higher education institutions;
- (xix) A Task Force should be set up to follow up on the implementation of the recommended Agenda for Action within a definite time-frame.

The report is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Human Resource Development

1072. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) India's ranking in the world in respect of Human Resource Development as on date;

(b) whether India is lagging behind comparatively in the world in respect of human resource development despite a higher growth rate;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any action plan has been formulated to make India a leading country in this field; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) According to UNDP Human Development Indices: A Statistical update 2008 released on 18th Dec. 2008, India ranked 132 amongst 179 countries in the year 2006. In value terms it shows a progress over previous years with human development index (HDI), value of 0.609 in 2006 as compared to 0.561 in the year 2000. All countries included in the HDI are classified into one of three categories: high human development index (HDI value 0.800 and above), medium human development index (HDI value 0.500-0.799) and low human development index (HDI value less than 0.500). India has been positioned in medium human development group by UNDP.

*[English]***Proposals for Setting up of SEZs**

1073. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) the number of proposals received by the Ministry for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of cases where approval has been accorded to set up SEZs in both core and non-core areas; and

(c) the details regarding the amount of investment and employment likely to be generated from these SEZ project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Only those proposals which are duly recommended by the State Governments are considered by the Board of Approval. In addition to seven Central Government SEZs and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005, formal approval has been accorded to 578 proposals out of which 322 SEZs have been notified. A list showing sector wise distribution of SEZs is enclosed as Statement. As on 31st March, 2009, an investment of Rs. 1,08,903 crore has been made in SEZs and direct employment for 3.87,439 persons has been generated in the SEZs.

Statement*Sector-wise Distribution of approved Special Economic Zones*

Sectors	Formal approvals	In-principle approvals	Notified SEZs
1	2	3	4
Aviation/Aerospace	1	2	
IT/ITES/Electronic Hardware/Semi-conductor	354	10	205
Textiles/Apparel/Wool	20	13	12
Pharma/Chemicals	22	2	17
Petrochemicals & Petro	4	0	1
Multi-Product	23	55	12
Building product/material	1	2	
Beach & mineral/metals	3	0	2
Bio-tech	32	1	14
Ceramic & glasses	1		1
Engineering	24	9	16
Multi-Services/Services	17	13	7
Metallurgical Engineering	1		
Electronic prod/ind	3	4	3
Auto and related	3	5	1
Footwear/Leather	7	2	5

1	2	3	4
Gems and Jewellery	11	4	4
Power/alternate energy	4	2	1
FTWZ	8	8	2
Metal/Stain, Steel/Alum/Foundary	9	4	5
Food Processing	5	2	4
Non-Conventional Energy	5		3
Plasting processing		1	
Handicrafts	4	1	2
Agro	5	4	2
Port-based multi-product	7		2
Airport based multiproduct	2	2	-
Writing and printing paper mills	2	-	1
Grand Total	578	146	322

[*Translation*]

Allocation of Spectrum

1074. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS*
LALAN SINGH:
DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment about the likely impact of the proposed increase in basic reserve price for the auction of Third Generation (3G) Spectrum;

(b) if so, the likely impact of this increase on the Government, operators and telecom subscribers;

(c) whether the issues related to Second Generation (2G) spectrum have been put on hold till the auction of 3G spectrum;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the revenue loss to the Union Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) The Government has yet to fix the reserve price, hence question of assessment of impact does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

[*English*]

Export of Foodgrains

1075. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to remove restrictions on export of foodgrains including wheat and rice;

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

(c) whether the Government has assessed the domestic demand and supply situation before arriving at a final decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Madam. There is no proposal at present to remove restriction on export of foodgrains like non-basmati rice.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Shortage of Special Clothing and Equipments for Troops

1076. SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of special clothing and equipments for troops deployed in the high altitude regions;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure adequate and timely availability of these items for the troops?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The soldiers posted in High Altitude regions are being provided special clothing and equipment as per authorization.

Adequate reserve stock is also maintained to meet contingencies arising out of unforeseen situations.

An Empowered Committee under the chairmanship of Master General of Ordnance (MGO) was formed for fast track procurement of Special Clothing and Mountaineering Equipment in August 2007.

[Translation]

Adverse Impact of Imported Chinese Goods

1077. SHRI LAL CHAND KATARIA:
SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH:

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

(a) whether the cheap Chinese imported goods are adversely affecting the Indian industry specially small and medium enterprises in the backdrop of global economic recession;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed/being taken by the Government to tackle the situation by imposing safeguards such as ban on imports and anti-dumping duty on import of Chinese goods such as auto parts, toys, chemicals and metals and the outcome achieved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) India removed all Quantitative Restrictions on imports except those necessitated, inter-alia, on grounds of health, security, public morale and environment in the year 2001. However, the Government is monitoring import of certain sensitive items on monthly basis. As per the provisional import data available with the Government for the year 2008-09, import of these items increased by 27.7% compared to last year. The increase in imports of these items from China was at 34.3% during the period.

Any domestic concern arising out of imports are addressed by appropriate action under the provisions of the Agreement of Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1994, the Agreement on Safeguards and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures of the WTO.

[English]

Procurement of Combat Aircraft

1078. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:
DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of procurement of 126 medium multi-role fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force;

(b) the countries from which the aircraft are proposed to be procured;

(c) the status of technical and flight evaluation of the proposal; and

(d) the time schedule for induction of the aircraft in the Air Force?

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

(a) to (c) Response to the Request for Proposal (REP) for procurement of 126 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) for the Indian Air Force was received from six vendors viz. M/s Boeing USA, M/s Lockheed Martin USA, M/s EADS Germany, M/s Gripen Sweden, M/s Dassault Aviation France and M/s Rosoboronexport Russia. These proposals are presently at field evaluation trial stage.

(d) The aircraft is expected to be inducted into the IAF 36 months after the contract is signed.

Effectiveness of Mid-Day Meal Scheme

1079. SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO

DUDHGAONKAR:

SHRI BALIRAM JADHAV:

SHRI ARJUN MUNDA:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:

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

(a) the number of students died or fell sick after consuming mid-day meal in schools in the country including Maharashtra and Jharkhand during the last three years;

(b) whether quality testing is being regularly done for mid-day meal scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken against those found responsible for such incidents;

(e) whether the Government proposes to use bio-metric (Finger Print System) to mark attendance to students and teachers under mid-day meal scheme;

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

(g) the response of the scheme regarding its usefulness received from the public and the review made by the Government?

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

PURANDESWARI): (a) During the last three years 2006-07, 2007-08 & 2008-09, no confirmed case of death of any child after consuming mid-day meal has been reported by any State/UT. Certain cases of children falling ill after consuming mid-day meal have come to the notice of the Government. The number of children falling ill during the last three years i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08 & 2008-09 is reported to be 3273 in the whole country which includes 121 children in Maharashtra and 207 children in Jharkhand.

(b) to (d) Though the overall responsibility to ensure all logistic and administrative arrangements for regular serving of wholesome, cooked mid day meal in every eligible school, EGS/AIE centres lies with the State Government/UT Administration, the Central Government has been continuously urging the State Governments to

- ensure that food is cooked in a hygienic environment
- food items are stored in dry and safe places
- adequate drinking water is made available
- cooks are properly trained in adopting hygienic habits.

Besides, States have also been urged to involve the parents and community members to supervise the cooking and serving of mid-day meal. It is provided in the guidelines that the food prepared is tasted by 2-3 adults including atleast one teacher before it is served to children. As and when, any complaint is brought to the notice of the Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is asked to conduct suitable enquiry and to take appropriate action against the responsible person(s) and initiate corrective measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) In view of (e) above, the question does not arise.

(g) Various evaluation reports indicate that the Scheme has positively impacted attendance, learning achievements and helped in fostering social and gender equity.

Productivity and Quality of Rubber

1080. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board has submitted any proposal/project to improve the productivity and quality of natural rubber; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Rubber Board had submitted several proposals under 11th Five Year Plan for improving productivity and quality of natural rural rubber in the traditional and non-traditional rubber growing regions. Government has approved six schemes with a total outlay of Rs. 611.40 crore being implemented by Rubber Board during the 11th Five Year Plan. The main objective pursued in the natural rubber (NR) sector during the 11th Plan are fostering international competitiveness in quality of NR and cost of production, processing and marketing with special focus on socio-economic development of rubber growing regions, rural development and grower empowerment mainly through group approach. The schemes have components like research, training, replanting, distribution of plantation inputs, setting up of agro-management units, generation and distribution of quality planting materials, assistance to improve processing and quality of NR, etc., to enhance productivity and quality of NR.

Induction of AWACS

1081. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of induction of Phalcon Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) being procured from Israel;

(b) the extent to which the said system is likely to strengthen India's defence preparedness; and

(c) the efforts for its technology transfer and indigenous production?

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

(a) The first Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) was inducted into the Indian Air Force on 26th May 2009. The second and third aircraft are due for delivery in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

(b) The aircraft will enhance India's capabilities for surveillance and detection of airborne targets.

(c) There is no provision for transfer of technology in the contract for supply of the three AWACS aircraft. A project to develop an indigenous Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) System has been undertaken by DRDO.

Strikes and Lock-Outs

1082. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mandays wasted due to strike, lock-outs and lay-offs in public and private sectors during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to stop such incidents in future?

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

(a) A Statement showing the number of mandays lost due to strike, lock-outs and lay-offs in public and private sectors, State-wise for the period is annexed.

(b) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, provides a framework for maintaining harmonious industrial relations. The Act facilitates intervention, mediation and conciliation by the Industrial Relations Machinery of the appropriate Government for resolution of industrial disputes.

The conciliation officers of the Central Government and State Governments take steps in their respective jurisdictions, to intervene, mediate and resolve Industrial disputes. In the event of receipt of Failure of conciliation, the appropriate Government concerned takes a view on referring the dispute for adjudication; In a few important matters, the Government may also intervene at an appropriate level to resolve the conflict.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tamil Nadu	192835	130142	180249	0	530443	1280824	472569	0
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	107559	3179	36521	0	572035	387682	782	0
Uttarakhand	33400	269	125	9576	12401	24254	13452	0
West Bengal	677766	29478	210761	0	11854891	23746725	13318488	0
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	105063	39	0	0	108	6162	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	2419	1346	0	99563	18561792	27799939	15283208	1339024
Total	2715741	334296	1410477	199126	37123584	55599878	30799109	2678048

Source: Labour Bureau, Shimla, Ministry of Labour & Employment.

(P) Provisional

O= Nil

Note: The information in respect of years 2008 and 2009 is based on the returns/information received in the Bureau till 25th June, 2008 and 25th June, 2009, respectively.

Ban on Livestock Imports Due to Avian Influenza

1083. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to impose a ban on the import of livestock and livestock products including unprocessed meat and meat products due to the threat of Avian influenza; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Central Government imposed a ban on the import of livestock and livestock products including unprocessed meat and meat products due to the threat of Avian influenza, on

February 9, 2009 for a period of six months. A list of the products which has been prohibited is given below:

- (1) The import into India from all countries, the following livestock and livestock products are prohibited;
 - (i) Domestic and wild birds (excluding poultry and captive birds)
 - (ii) Unprocessed meat and meat products from Avian species except poultry
 - (iii) Semen of domestic and wild birds except semen of poultry
- (2) The import into India from the countries reporting Avian influenza, the following livestock and livestock products are prohibited:-
 - (i) Live poultry and captive birds

- (ii) Day old chicks, ducks, turkey and other newly hatched avian species
- (iii) Unprocessed meat and meat products from avian species.
- (iv) Hatching eggs
- (v) Egg and egg products
- (vi) Unprocessed feathers
- (vii) Live pig
- (viii) Pathological material and biological products from birds
- (ix) Products of animal origin intended for use in feeding or for agricultural or industrial use
- (x) Semen of poultry

Revision of Pension

1084. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enhance/revise the pension amount to the retired employees covered under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 and contributory Provident Fund Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof, separately; and

(c) the time by which such pension is likely to be enhanced/revise, separately?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allotment of Excess Spectrum

1085. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:

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

(a) whether some private telecom operators have been allotted more spectrum than their entitlement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been held in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the action/steps taken by the Government to check such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The initial spectrum has been allotted to the GSM operators based on their request and as per provisions of their respective Service Licence Agreement subject to availability of spectrum. With growth of their services, additional spectrum, beyond the initial spectrum, has been allotted to GSM operators as per guidelines, orders and subscriber based eligibility criteria in force at the time of allotment of such additional spectrum subject to its availability.

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

Central Madrasa Board

1086. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Central Madrasa Board to govern Madrasas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of Madrasas in the country-wise; and

(c) the present monitoring mechanism to oversee the functioning of these Madrasas and the quality of education being imparted by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Subject to building consensus among all stake-holders, there is a proposal to set up a Central Madrasa Board. The proposal is that the Central Madrasa Board could affiliate volunteering Madrasas and could be given a mandate to provide assistance to conduct examinations, award qualifications, design curriculum and syllabi as well as develop infrastructure in order to introduce uniformity in standards of the non-theological aspects of Madrasa education. The information on the number of Madrasas in various States is not maintained centrally.

(c) While there is no Central institutional arrangement at present to monitor quality of education in non-theological subjects in Madrasas, State Madrasa Boards exist in the States of Assam, Bihar West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh established by State legislatures, which monitor the functioning of Madrasas under their respective jurisdiction.

Opening of New Educational Institutions

1087. SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any detailed proposal from the Government of Gujarat in the context of opening of new educational institutes in the States;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said proposal and the present status thereof;

(c) whether the State administration has offered free of cost land for the purpose;

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

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The details of proposals received from the State Government of Gujarat and status of action taken by the Central Government are as under:

Sl.No.	Proposal	Status
1.	Establishment of 85 Model Schools and 240 Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools in the State under the Model School and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) schemes respectively.	As the requisite details were not furnished, Gujarat Government has been requested to resubmit the proposals with the requisite information.
2.	Opening of a new Kendriya Vidyalaya under civil sector in Gujarat at Amreli District in the year 2006	As the proposal was not in the prescribed format, a set of the prescribed norms was immediately sent to Government of Gujarat. No response from the Government of Gujarat has been received in this regard so far.
3.	Proposal for establishment of 4 Model Degree colleges	The proposal is under consideration of the Government.
4.	Proposal for establishment of 5 Polytechnics in the district of Narmada, Tapi, Junagadh, Kheda and Navsan have been received.	1st installment of Rs. 2 crore has been released for Polytechnic at Narmada and for the Polytechnic at Tapi, sanction has been issued for release of 1st installment of Rs. 2 crore.

[Translation]

Private Universities

1088. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the University Grants Commission is now planning to review the working of private deemed universities to check their irregularities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some private/deemed universities have been found guilty of running education complexes going out of their territorial limits and providing affiliation to colleges in contravention of the rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps taken so far by the Government to take action against such private/deemed universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Commission has commenced reviewing the functioning of existing institutions 'deemed to be universities' via 'on the spot assessment' of such institutions by its Expert Committees consisting of academic experts in relevant disciplines depending upon the courses being offered by the institutions.

(c) and (d) As per information gathered from the UGC, some of the institutions 'deemed to be universities' have violated the UGC guidelines and established new departments/new institutions/off campus/study centres without the approval of the UGC. The UGC has accordingly sought explanation from these institutions, which are under consideration of the Commission.

(e) The Commission has refrained all institutions 'deemed to be universities' from opening any new department/institution / off campus centre/off shore campus without the approval of the UGC/Ministry of Human Resource Development. Further, the institutions 'deemed to be universities' have been informed that they should not conduct any course under distance mode without the specific approval of the Joint Committee of UGC-AICTE-DEC. The Commission has also put the list of institutions 'deemed to be universities' and their approved 'off-campus' on its website and have cautioned the parents/students to be careful before taking admission in any unauthorized off-campus or centres.

Special Category States

1089. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 90 percent and 10 percent expenditure is borne by the Central and State Governments respectively out of the total expenditure meant for running the central sector schemes in the special category States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is discrimination in allocation of funds for the central sector schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meal in the North Eastern States and Himachal Pradesh and other special category States;

(d) whether some States are spending more funds on the schemes of central sector than that of the fixed ratio of 90:10;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) For Central Sector Schemes, the Government of India provides 100% funding and no State/UT share is expected. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM) States/UTs contribute their share as per details given below:

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA): At present, the funding pattern for implementation of SSA programme for North Eastern States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura is 90:10 *i.e.* 90% share to be borne by Central Government and 10% share by North Eastern States with the Central share resourced from 10% funds earmarked for North Eastern Region from the Central Budget. The funding pattern prescribed for all other States/UTs including Himachal Pradesh is 60:40 *i.e.* 60% share to be borne by Central Government and 40% share by the States/UTs including Himachal Pradesh.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM):

(a) Under Mid Day Meal Scheme Central Government bears 100% cost of the following components:

(i) Foodgrains: Supply of free food grains (wheat/rice) @100 grams per child per School Day at Primary classes (I-V) and 150 grams per child per School day at upper primary classes (VI-VIII)

(ii) Transportation: Actual cost of transportation of food grains from nearest FCI godown to the Primary School subject to the ceiling of Rs. 125 per Quintal for 11 special category States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and Rs. 75 per quintal for all other States and UTs.

(iii) Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (MME): at the rate of 1.8% of total assistance on (a) free food grains, (b) transport cost and (c) cooking cost. Another 0.2% of the above amount is utilized at the Central Government level for management, monitoring and evaluation.

(b) The Central Assistance for Cooking Cost is on sharing basis. At Primary stage the Central Assistance towards cooking cost per child/school day is Rs. 1.89 for NER States provided the States contribute minimum 20 paise and Rs. 1.58 for other States/UTs provided the State/UT contribute minimum 50 paise. At Upper Primary stage the Central Assistance towards cooking cost per child/school day is Rs. 2.42 for NER States provided the States contribute minimum 20 paise and Rs. 2.10 for other States/UTs provided the State/UT contribute minimum 50 paise. Some of the States/UTs are contributing more than their mandatory share for providing better quality of mid-day meal to children.

(c) In addition to the above, one time Central Assistance is provided to States for construction of Kitchen Sheds @ Rs. 60,000 per unit and Rs. 5000 for procurement/replacement of Kitchen Devices for each school covered under MDM Scheme.

Effectiveness of Telecom Services

1090. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding unsatisfactory telecom services especially from the private mobile companies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to give move powers to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to ensure that better mobile services are provided to the subscribers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The broad categories of complaints received are regarding Quality of Service (QoS), Billing and metering, Refund of security deposit, Tariff, Unsolicited commercial calls, etc. The individual complaints received in Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Department of Telecom (DOT) are forwarded to respective service provider for appropriate action.

(c) and (d) Proposal to amend TRAI Act has been received from TRAI seeking more powers including imposition of penalty on the telecom operators. The proposal is under consideration.

[English]

Price Stabilization Fund for Cardamom

1091. SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a Price Stabilisation Fund in respect of cardamom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposed fund is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to constitute a price stabilization fund for cardamom.

[Translation]

Funds For Welfare of SCs

1092. SHRI ARJUN MUNDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided by the Government and other financial bodies to Jharkhand under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and special programmes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the released funds have been fully utilized by the State; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Funds provided by this Ministry and two of its apex Corporations to the Government of Jharkhand and other implementing agencies for the welfare of Scheduled Castes from 2006-07 till date is as under:

(Rs. in Lakh)	
Name of the Scheme	Expenditure from 2006-07 till date
SC Girls and Boys Hostels*	674.20
Free Coaching for SC & OBC students	23.70
Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan	2731.55
Post Matric Scholarship to SC students	35.32
Scheme for Implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995 and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act) 1989	40.00
Assistance to Scheduled Caste Development Corporations	192.16
Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers	279.75
Funds provided by Apex Corporations	1132.00
National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)	
National Safai Karmachari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)	146.50

*Revised as Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana w.e.f. 1.1.2008

(b) and (c) Release of funds is ensured after receipt of utilization certificates from State Governments/ organizations receiving funds.

Introduction of free roaming services

1093. SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide free roaming services for mobile telephony in the States adjoining National Capital Region (NCR);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of States adjoining NCR where roaming services have been made free;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce free roaming services in the entire country;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) As per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act of 1997, the power to regulate tariff of telecom services in the country is vested with TRAI. TRAI, in exercise of its powers, has notified tariff for national roaming service vide Telecommunication Tariff (44th Amendment) Order notified on 24th January, 2007. This order, inter-alia prescribed a composite ceiling charges for regional/ national roaming as follows:-

(i) Rs. 1.40 per minute for outgoing local calls;

(ii) Rs. 2.40 per minute for outgoing NLD calls;

(iii) Rs. 1.75 per minute for incoming calls;

(iv) No rental permitted in any form.

Service providers have been given flexibility to determine tariff for roaming service within the above prescribed ceiling and this is applicable for States adjoining NCR also.

(c) As stated above, service providers are free to offer roaming services at tariffs within the prescribed ceilings of TRAI. Therefore, Service Providers are at liberty to offer roaming service free of charge.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Ban on Import of Dairy Products from China

1094. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

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

(a) whether the Government has imposed a ban on import of dairy products from China during the current year;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the reports of melamine contamination in milk and milk products in China, the Government had imposed a ban on import of dairy products from China. Vide Notification No.111 (RE-2008)/2004-2009 dated 16th June, 2009, the ban has been extended for a period of six months from 24.6.2009. Further, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India have advised State Food (Health) Authorities to take special care and action to ensure that food products containing melamine are not present in market to protect consumer health.

Development of Technology Institutes

1095. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to develop some technology institutes in the country including Madan Mohan Malviya Engineering College, Gorakhpur on the lines of IITs;

(b) if so the details thereof?

(c) the number of proposals received from Uttar Pradesh in this regard during the last three years;

(d) the number of proposals cleared so far and the number of proposals pending for consideration; and

(e) the time by which pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) An Expert Committee,

under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.K. Joshi, former Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), identified seven prominent institutions in the Country namely, Bengal Engineering College, Howrah, Cochin University of Science & Technology, Kochi, Andhra University College of Engineering, Vishakhapatnam, University College of Engineering combined with the University College of Technology, both belonging to the Osmania University, Hyderabad, Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, Engineering and Technology Departments of Jadavpur University and Zakir Hussain College of Engineering & Technology, Aligarh Muslim University, having potential for up-gradation, roughly to the level of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Subsequently, another Expert Committee headed by Prof. M. Ananda-krishnan, recommended first five of the seven institutions for up-gradation into a system of Indian Institutes of Engineering Science & Technology (IIEST). The name of Madan Mohan Malviya Engineering College, Gorakhpur, does not figure among these institutions. The Ministry of Human Resource Development have now taken a decision to convert the Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (IT-BHU), to an IIT.

(c) to (e) The State of Uttar Pradesh has an Indian Institute of Technology at Kanpur and an Indian Institute of Management at Lucknow. On a request from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, for establishing one more Indian Institute of Technology and Indian Institute of Management in that State, it was informed by this Ministry that besides the said institutes, there are four Central Universities and an Indian Institute of Information Technology, in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Indigenous Defence Production

1096. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of indigenous production of defence equipment at present;

(b) the long-term perspective plans to achieve self-sufficiency in defence production;

(c) the action taken to set up new industries and units with higher Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) so as to draw industrial, economic and technological advantages;

(d) whether the Government proposes to encourage foreign investors in defence production; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the benefits to be achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The indigenous production of defence equipments related to Ordnance is done by Ordnance Factories; Aircraft and Avionics by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited; Communication and Electronics by Bharat Electronics Limited; Heavy Engineering by BEML Limited; Missiles by Bharat Dynamics Limited; Alloys and Special Metals by Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited; Warship Building by Mazagon Dock Limited, Goa Shipyard Limited and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited; and also with private sector private sector participation.

(b) Ministry of Defence is constantly working towards self sufficiency in Defence Production through Research & Development, modernization, transfer of technology and private sector participation.

(c) to (e) The defence industry sector has been opened up for FDI with a sectoral cap of 26% of equity since 2001. As a result there are some joint ventures in public & private sector.

Government's endeavour is to reduce dependence on import of defence equipment to the extent possible for defence preparedness by encouraging indigenization and joint ventures in defence sector.

Higher Educations for SC Women/Girls

1097. SHRI PURNMASI RAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated and executed for imparting higher education to Schedule Castes women/girls;

(b) the number of Schedule Castes women/girls benefited from those schemes; and

(c) the number of such women/girls who became self-reliant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) All schemes of the University

Grants Commission (UGC) for imparting quality higher education aim at enhancing access of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) including women belonging to that section of the population. As per the information available in the Selected Educational Statistics (2006-07) of Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) during 2006-07 in higher education of SC women was 6.96%. While no information is Centrally maintained in respect of number of women/girls who become self-reliant, access to higher education is expected to empower women/girls.

Guidelines for Spectrum Allocation

1098. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed any lacunae in the guidelines notified for spectrum allocation to the telecom operators;

(b) if so, whether it has been rectified;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether due to the said deficiencies in the guidelines any of telecom operators have been benefited;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to recover the benefits accrued to private telecom operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The initial spectrum has been allotted to the GSM operators based on their request and as per provisions of their respective Service Licence Agreement subject to availability of spectrum. With growth of their services, additional spectrum, beyond the initial spectrum, has been allotted to GSM operators as per guidelines, orders and subscriber based eligibility criteria in force at the time of allotment of such additional spectrum subject to its availability. There is no lacunae in the guidelines notified from time to time for spectrum allocation to the telecom operators.

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

*[Translation]***Demand and Availability of Gold**

1099. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated demand and availability of gold in the country at present;

(b) the details of the import of gold during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the main reasons for fluctuations in gold prices in the country in recent past; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to control the prices of gold in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) There is no firm statistics on estimated demand and availability of gold in the country. However, rough estimates place gold demand in the country at 700-800 tonnes per annum.

(b) Statewise data on import of gold is not maintained. Import of gold during the period 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (upto the period January 2009) are as under:

Sl.No.	Year	Import Value (Rs. in lakh)
1.	2005-06	4795049.08
1.	2006-07	6543949.85
2.	2007-08	6733041.82
3.	2008-09(upto January 2009)	7600047.14

(Source: DGCI&S)

(c) and (d) Internationally, various factors such as demand and supply, investor interest, interest rates, movement in the exchange rate of US Dollar vis-a-vis other international currencies, etc. affect the gold price. The same holds good in India too. The movement in domestic price of gold in India in the recent period is broadly in tandem with similar movement in international markets.

Industry Status to Retail Market

1100. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

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

(a) whether industrial organizations have urged the Government to accord the status of industry to the organised retail market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion administers the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. The Act covers 37 broad categories of Industries in the Manufacturing sector in its First Schedule. This Department has not received any representation from industrial organization for grant of status of industry to the organized retail market.

*[English]***Trade on the Line of Control**

1101. SK. SAIDUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of items traded between the cross—Line of Control during the last three years, year-wise and item-wise;

(b) whether there is lack of proper checking on the trade between Line of Control (LOC);

(c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps being taken in this regard;

(d) whether trade of non-State items have been increasing between the countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (e) LOC trade between Salamabad on the Indian side and Chakoti on the Pakistani side on Srinagar-Muzzafarabad Highway; and between Chakkandabagh on Indian side and Rawalkote on the Pakistan side

commenced as a confidence building measures (CBM) with effect from 21.10.2008. Both sides can trade 21 items as indicated in the list enclosed as Statement. The objective behind allowing this trade is to facilitate movement of goods traditionally exchanged between the two sides, to maintain people to people contact and to allow access to nearby markets for local produce. It has been reported that quantities of items traded between two sides have increased in the month of March 2009 over the figures reported for October, 2008. Steps have been initiated to improve facilitation mechanism on entry/exit points so that only trade of products in the agreed lists is allowed.

Statement

Sl.No.	list of items for export from the Indian side	list of exports from Pakistan side
1	2	3
1.	carpets	Rice
2.	rugs	Jahnamaz and Tusbies
3.	wall hangings	Precious Stones
4.	shawls and stoles	Gabbas
5.	namdas	Namdas
6.	gabbas	Peshawari leather chappals
7.	embroidered items including crewel	Meidicinal herbs
8.	furniture including walnut furniture	Maize and maize products
9.	wooden handicrafts	Fresh fruits and vegetables
10.	fresh fruits and vegetables	Dry fruits including walnuts
11.	dry fruits including walnuts	Honey
12.	saffron	Moongi
13.	fruit bearing plants	Imli
14.	Dhania/Moongi/Imli and Black Mushrooms	Black Mushroom
15.	Kashmiri spices	Furniture including walnut furniture

1	2	3
16.	Rajmah	Wooden handicrafts
17.	honey	Carpets and rugs
18.	Peper mache products	Wall hangings
19.	spring rubberized coir/foam mattresses/cushion/Pillows and quilts	Embroidered items
20.	medicinal herbs	Foam mattresses, cushions and pillows
21.	aromatic plants	Shawls and stoles

Women Labourers in Construction Industry

1102. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal from Government of Assam for Grant-in-Aid to Non-Governmental Organisations to launch a programme on Women labourers in the construction industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the status of the proposal; and

(c) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Union Government to overcome such inordinate delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Assam had forwarded a proposal from a Non-Governmental Organisation for financial assistance to organize women labourers of construction industry in Assam under the Women Labour Scheme. The proposal seeks to provide social security, welfare Boards, insurance scheme, education programme etc. The grant-in-aid scheme for women labour is for organizing awareness generation campaigns, seminars/workshops and educating them about their rights and duties. Since the proposal does not conform to the scheme parameters, it has not been approved. Proposals found eligible for grant are processed as per the prescribed procedure and care is taken to avoid delays.

Suicide and Fratricide Cases in Armed Forces

1103. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of suicide and fratricide cases in the armed forces during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government has taken concrete steps to check the rise of such cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) to (c) The figures of suicide and fratricide cases in the armed forces during the last three years and the latest available in current year are given below:-

	2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Suicide	Fratricide	Suicide	Fratricide	Suicide	Fratricide	Suicide	Fratricide
Army	129	13	118	07	124	03	41	01
Air Force	24	00	21	00	25	01	06	00
Navy	01	00	03	00	02	00	01	00
Total	154	13	142	07	151	04	48	01

Proactive approach through better man management techniques is being adopted at different levels. Measures such as identification of high risk category, increased inter personnel relationship and communication between Officers and Jawans, lectures/workshops on stress management, counselling by professionals, establishment of helpline, redressal of grievances and increased focus on welfare activities are taken to prevent such incidents.

Development of Skills

1104. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workforce in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to make arrangements for development of skills for unskilled workforce to make them more employable in the country and abroad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the sectors identified for their employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):
(a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. In the latest

survey of National Sample Survey Organization, information was collected about the skill profile of the youth only (15-29 years) as to whether they had or were undergoing any formal or non-formal training. Estimated number of persons in the age-group of 15-29 who received/were receiving vocational training during 2004-05 and profile of labour force as per principal activity status is given in the enclosed Statement I.

(b) Yes. For development of skills for unskilled workforce, the Central Government launched a Scheme under the name "Skill Development Initiative based on Modular Employable Skills" in the country in addition to imparting training through the network of Industrial Training Institutes/Centres in the country.

(c) Skill Development Initiative (SDI) scheme has been operationalized from May 2007 in informal sector to improve their employability. Testing/assessment of the competencies are being done by the independent assessing bodies empanelled by DGE&T. Training under the SDI scheme is envisaged to be provided by various Vocational Training Providers (VTPs). 4143 VTPs have been registered across the country and 1,91,355 persons have been trained/tested so far. 446 demand driven short term course modules in 40 sectors (statement II) have been developed in close consultation with industry. Successful persons are awarded certificates issued by NCVT which is nationally and internationally recognized.

Statement I*Table-1: Estimated number of persons in the age-group of 15-29 who were receiving/received vocational training during 2004-05 (in thousands)*

Population segment	Estimated number of persons (age-group of 15-29)						Grand Total
	Formal Training			Non-formal Training			
	Receiving	Received	Total	Hereditary	Others	Total	
Rural Male	1016	1524	2540	5894	3760	9653	12194
Rural Female	489	1272	1761	3130	2934	6064	7825
Rural Total	1505	2796	4301	9023	6694	15717	20018
Urban Male	1634	2575	4209	1535	3020	4555	8764
Urban Female	798	1890	2688	714	1344	2058	4746
Urban Total	2432	4465	6897	2249	4364	6613	13510
Male	2650	4099	6749	7428	6780	14208	20957
Female	1287	3162	4449	3844	4278	8122	12571
Person	3937	7260	11198	11272	11058	22331	33528

Table-2: Estimated number of persons who received formal vocational training by principal activity status during 2004-05 (in thousands)

	Employed	Unemployed	Not in Labour Force	Total
Rural Male	1013	274	227	1515
Rural Female	422	263	541	1225
Rural Total	1407	536	743	2685
Urban Male	1619	405	534	2558
Urban Female	534	259	1105	1897
Urban Total	2158	667	1623	4448
Rural + Urban Male	2456	666	705	3827
Rural + Urban Female	887	516	1531	2934
Person	3412	1180	2297	6888

Statement II

List of Sectors developed under Skill Development Initiative (SDI) Scheme

1. Garment Making
2. Automotive Repair

3. Banking and Accounting
4. Beauty Culture, Hair Dressing
5. Carpet
6. Chemical
7. Construction

8. Electrical
9. Electronics
10. Fabrication
11. Gem and Jewelry
12. Hospitality
13. Information and Communication Technology
14. Khadi
15. Manufacturing of Indian Sweets and Snacks production
16. Medical & Nursing
17. Painting
18. Plastic Processing
19. Printing
20. Process Instrumentation
21. Production and Manufacturing
22. Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
23. Retail
24. Toy making (soft toy)
25. Food Processing & Preservation
26. Leather & Rexene Goods Maker
27. Media (Photography & Videography)
28. Security
29. Agriculture
30. Travel & Tourism
31. Wooden Furniture
32. Soft Skills
33. Courier & Logistics
34. Insurance
35. Jute
36. Jute and Diversified Products
37. Fisheries and Allied Sector
38. Fire and Safety Engineering
39. Business & Commerce
40. Material Management

Projects Under ASIDE

1105. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from Government of Goa regarding projects under Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE); and

(b) if so, the status of same alongwith the likely steps to approve this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) A communication has been received from the Chief Minister of Goa seeking additional allocation of funds to Goa under State component of Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme.

(b) The proposals for schemes under ASIDE scheme are considered on the basis of a formula for allocation of funds. The proposal of Goa Government will be considered in terms of this formula.

Cadre Review of Government/Autonomous Organizations

1106. PROF. RAMSHANKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

The details of cadre review of various Government/autonomous organizations undertaken by Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata during the last five years alongwith the amount charged from each organization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): A Consultancy Project on Cadre Review of Officers and staff of Lok Sabha Secretariat was undertaken by the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta during 2006-07. An amount of Rs. 12,00,000.00 was charged for the Project. The project study commenced in May 2006 and the final report was submitted to the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha on January 8, 2007. The scope of the study inter-alia involved cadre review of nine different services existing in Lok Sabha Secretariat.

National Merit Scholarship Scheme

1107. SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start Online Scholarship facility to the students for various stages at education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the existing National Merit Scholarship Scheme is likely to be revised; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the "National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme" for students in Classes IX to XII and the "Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students", the scholarship is disbursed electronically into the bank accounts of the students.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The National Merit Scholarship Scheme has been closed w.e.f. 31st March, 2007 and in its place two new schemes have been initiated, namely "National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme" and "Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students".

(e) In the "National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme", scholarships @ Rs. 500/- per month is awarded to meritorious students of economically weaker sections studying in classes IX to XII. The eligible students are selected through an examination conducted by NCERT. One lakh scholarships are available each year under this scheme.

In the "Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students" scholarship is paid @ Rs. 1,000/- per month at the graduation level for first three years and Rs. 2,000/- per month thereafter. Students securing a minimum of 80% marks in the Class XII or equivalent exams and belonging to non-creamy layer' are

eligible to be considered for the scholarship. Eighty-two thousand fresh scholarships, 41000 for boys and 41000 for girls are available every year under this scheme.

Opening of New ITIs

1108. SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVADANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from various State Governments including Government of Gujarat for setting up of new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the proposal, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which such proposal are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) New Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are set up by respective State Governments as per their requirement. National Council for Vocational Training, Ministry of Labour & Employment grants affiliation to the institutes to run training programmes under Craftsmen Training Scheme.

During the year 2008-09, 43 new ITIs covering 11 States including 4 ITIs from the State of Gujarat have been granted affiliation by NCVT. List is enclosed Statement.

Statement*List of Government ITI granted affiliation
During 2008-09*

Sl.No.	States	No. of ITIs
1	2	3
1.	Chhattisgarh	2
2.	Gujarat	4
3.	Haryana	2
4.	Himachal Pradesh	17
5.	Karnataka	2

1	2	3
6.	Maharashtra	7
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1
8.	Punjab	1
9.	Tamil Nadu	1
10.	Uttar Pradesh	4
11.	Uttarakhand	2
Total		43

[Translation]

Construction of Schools under SSA

1109. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools constructed under Santa Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the country including Bihar during the last four years;

(b) the allocation made and expenditure incurred during the aforesaid period; and

(c) the number of teachers recruited during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, 1.5 lakh school buildings have been constructed countrywide, including Bihar, during the last four years viz. April, 2005 to March, 2009, at an expenditure of Rs. 8345.85 crore against an allocation of Rs. 11804.92 crore.

During the period, 619512 teachers have been recruited under the SSA programme.

[English]

Modernisation of Armed Forces

1110. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to undertake modernization of the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(d) the areas and structures of the three forces which have to be strengthened to meet the emerging security challenges?

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

(a) to (d) Modernization of Armed Forces is a continuous process based on threat perception, technological changes and available resources. Adequate funds are allocated for this purpose.

The three Services have taken various steps in operational, training and administrative fields and significant strides have been made in this regard. The Long Term perspective Plans of the three Services are analysed and suitably merged to evolve a Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan at Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, thus achieving better coordination and synergy amongst the three Services to meet the emerging security challenges.

[Translation]

Procurement of Aircraft Carrier Admiral Gorshkov

1111. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has agreed to pay the additional cost for the procurement of Aircraft Carrier Admiral Gorshkov from Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount the Government has agreed to pay now vis-a-vis the original cost negotiated in the beginning; and

(c) the problems regarding procurement of other equipment, including T-90 tanks from Russia?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Russian side had submitted a revised Master Schedule indicating, delay and increase in prices for repair and re-equipping of aircraft carrier ex-Admiral Gorshkov. The Government have agreed to conduct negotiations for finalizing a revised Repair and Re-equipping Contract. The technical verification of additional work was undertaken by the Indian Navy. The Russian side has been invited for price negotiations and the details of the final prices would be known only after completion of these negotiations.

Various unforeseen problems sometimes arise in the procurement of defence equipment irrespective of their source of acquisition. Such problems are resolved

bilaterally at appropriate levels. Till date two contracts have been signed with Russia for acquisition of T-90 tanks. The delivery has so far been on schedule.

[*English*]

Amendment to TRAI Act

1112. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, which came into being in 1997, has several shortcomings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make amendments to the provisions of the said Act to remove the shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Based on the past experience, certain amendments in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997 viz. definition of certain words or expression, functions of TRAI, powers of TRAI to call for information, penalty for contravention of directions of TRAI, powers to make rules, etc. have been proposed for inter-ministerial consultation. Government has not so far taken any decision in this regard. However, a Bill to amend section 4 of the TRAI Act regarding qualification to appointment of Chairperson and other Members of TRAI has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 15.12.2008.

Setting up of Export Oriented Units

1113. SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Export Oriented Units functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more export-oriented units in various States, including the State of Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) A total number of 2546 Export

Oriented Units (EOUs) are functioning in the country as on 31.3.2009. A list indicating State-wise distribution of the units including those in Orissa is enclosed as statement. The Government does not set up EOUs. The Units are set up by the private individuals/corporate bodies with the approval of the Government.

Statement

Sl.No.	States/Union Territories	Nos. of EOUs functioning as on 31.3.2009
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	237
3.	Chandigarh	3
4.	Chhattisgarh	1
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22
6.	Delhi	47
7.	Goa, Daman and Diu	55
8.	Gujarat	301
9.	Haryana	111
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	3
12.	Jharkhand	6
13.	Karnataka	442
14.	Kerala	69
15.	Madhya Pradesh	18
16.	Maharashtra	387
17.	Meghalaya	1
18.	Orissa	22
19.	Puducherry	26
20.	Punjab	24

1	2	3
21.	Rajasthan	116
22.	Tamil Nadu	463
23.	Uttar Pradesh	107
24.	Uttarakhand	3
25.	West Bengal	74
Total		2546

Schemes for SC/ST Students

1114. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes sponsored by the Union Government for assisting Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students to pursue their education;

(b) the funds allocated and utilized under the said schemes during each of the last three years, scheme-wise;

(c) whether the implementation status of the said schemes have been evaluated;

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

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of the schemes launched in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The details of the schemes sponsored by the Union Government for assisting Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students to pursue their education are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The funds allocated and utilized under the said schemes during each of the last three years, scheme-wise given in the enclosed Statements-II and III.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had evaluated some of the schemes, details of which are given in the enclosed Statement-IV. The recommendations made in the evaluation studies have helped in better implementation of the schemes.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs have evaluated the schemes at Sl. 1 to 4 of the Statement-III. On the basis of some of the recommendations made in the Evaluation Studies, the schemes of Establishment of Ashram Schools and Hostels for ST Girls and Boys have been revised.

Statement I

Schemes for assisting Scheduled Caste Students to pursue their education

- (i) Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana for SC Girls and Boys Hostels;
- (ii) Central Sector Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of SC Students;
- (iii) Central Sector Scheme of Free Coaching for SC & OBC Students;
- (iv) Central Sector Scholarship Scheme of Top Class Education for SC Students.
- (v) Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to the Students belonging to Scheduled Castes for Studies in India.
- (vi) Scheme of Pre-Metric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation.
- (vii) National Overseas Scholarship for SC etc. candidates for higher studies abroad.
- (viii) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC students to pursue programme in higher education such as MPhil and PhD.

Schemes for assisting Scheduled Tribe Students to pursue their education

- (i) Post Matric Scholarship for STs.
- (ii) Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Area.
- (iii) Hostels for ST Girls and Boys.
- (iv) Upgradation of Merit.
- (v) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST students.
- (vi) Top Class Education for ST students.
- (vii) National Overseas Scholarship for ST students.

Statement II

Scheme-wise Details of funds allocated and utilized under the Education Schemes for SC Students during each of the last three years

(in Rs. Crore)

Programmes/Schemes	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
	2006-07	2006-07	2007-08	2007-08	2008-09	2008-09
Post Matric Scholarship	450.00	526.03	625.00	875.08	750.00	645.49
Coaching & Allied Scheme	6.40	3.91	7.00	3.91	8.00	4.00
Girls Hostels	32.00	28.81	32.00	30.50	55.00	58.53
Boys Hostels	30.00	25.23	35.00	36.78	40.00	25.73
Pre-matric Scholarships	16.00	20.25	20.00	3.11	54.00	59.27
Upgradation of Merit of SC Students	3.00	3.00	1.00	1.19	2.00	1.75
Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SCs	35.13	34.18	88.00	78.35	75.00	87.94
National Overseas Scholarship for SCs	1.40	1.05	4.00	2.89	5.00	4.99
Top Class Education for SCs	5.00	0.00	16.00	2.17	20.00	4.95

Statement III

Scheme-wise Details of funds allocated and utilized under the education schemes for ST Students during each of the last three years.

(Rs. In crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
1.	Post Matric Scholarship for STs	255.04	255.03	201.24	200.03	248.00	225.86
2.	Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas	16.00	15.50	20.00	20.00	30.00	30.00
3.	Hostels for ST Girls and Boys	32.00	28.11	37.00	37.00	66.00	65.00
4.	Upgradation of Merit	1.50	1.50	1.75	1.38	2.00	0.73
5.	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST students	15.90	15.90	26.00	26.00	32.00	31.03
6.	Top Class Education for ST students	Scheme was not in operation during 2006-07		10.00	1.05	10.00	1.22
7.	National Overseas Scholarship For ST students	0.40	0.043	1.00	0.14	2.00	0.01

Statement IV

Evaluation/Research Studies Sponsored Under The Scheme of Supporting Projects of All India or Inter-State Nature for Scheduled Castes Development (Research & Training) During Tenth Plan Period (2002-07) and During the Years 2007-08 and 2008-09

Sl.No.	Scheme	States Covered
1.	Hostel for SC Boys & Girls	Maharashtra, Kerala, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan
2.	Coaching and Allied Scheme for Weaker Sections including SCs and OBCs	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Pre-Metric Scholarship to Children of those Engaged in Unclean Occupations	Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka
4.	Post-Matric Scholarship for SCs	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tripura, Sikkim and Haryana

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

1115. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the waiting lists for telephone connections in rural areas of the country is increasing day-by-day;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the entire backlog is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A total number of 77,581 and 46,484 applicants have been wait listed for wire line and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephone connections respectively as on 31.05.2009. A statement indicating the status of State-wise waiting list in rural areas of the country for wire line and WLL telephone connections as on 31.03.2007, 31.03.2008, 31.03.2008 and 31.05.2009 is enclosed. There is no waiting list in the case of mobile phones in the rural areas of the country.

(c) The generation of waiting list is a continuous process due to new registration of applicants for telephone connections every month and provisions of telephone connections to old applicants. The current waiting list of wire line and WLL is likely to be cleared progressively by the end of March, 2010.

Statement

Status of State-wise waiting list in rural areas of the country for wire line and WLL

Name of circle	As on 31.03.2007		As on 31.03.2008		As on 31.03.2009		As on 31.05.2009	
	Wire line	WLL	Wire line	WLL	Wire line	WLL	Wire line	WLL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	577	0	97	185	125	0	20	0
Andhra Pradesh	4,238	6,619	2,533	8,971	3,748	3,605	3,369	3,069
Assam	4,680	262	349	468	220	80	242	110
Bihar	53,110	0	41,165	0	6,660	1,793	6,883	2,930

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chhattisgarh	8	1,506	8	215	3	24	0	24
Gujarat	34,890	0	7,344	0	1,190	0	1,083	0
Haryana	6,232	319	2,843	1,246	536	1,116	851	915
Himachal Pradesh	24,653	0	10,687	0	7,777	0	6,775	0
Jammu and Kashmir	13,069	0	3,442	0	4,090	0	3,010	0
Jharkhand	1,013	0	78	0	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	45,676	7,970	26,224	58,182	9,407	16,555	8,448	14,465
Kerala	1,22,996	4,724	40,341	621	16,449	24	15,841	9
Madhya Pradesh	10,386	83,135	3,674	20,270	0	8,238	0	4,630
Maharashtra	41,773	59,630	16,235	35,254	11,943	14,112	10,951	14,873
North East-1	827	389	0	0	32	88	0	236
North East-2	591	0	152	0	19	0	17	0
Orissa	10,185	11,461	4,065	9,756	477	0	416	0
Punjab	1,327	7	28	212	27	0	147	0
Rajasthan	58,288	0	5,371	0	282	0	403	19
Tamil Nadu	1,819	0	7,978	0	2,340	0	2,588	0
Uttar Pradesh (East)	31,254	1	13,237	1,001	1,138	1,200	981	1,070
Uttar Pradesh (West)	2,292	0	893	136	103	0	78	0
Uttrakhand	151	5,153	19	0	89	0	91	0
West Bengal	87,141	2,447	44,254	594	18,212	17	15,387	4,134
Kolkata	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chennai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5,57,176	1,83,623	2,31,017	1,37,111	83,867	46,852	77,581	46,484

[*Translation*]

Welfare Package for Workers in Cracker Industry

1116. SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether ninety percent crackers in the country are being manufactured in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to establish Cracker Research Centre (CRC);

(d) if so, the details thereof and name of the place where such centre is proposed to be established;

(e) the details of foreign exchange earned through export of crackers;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government has formulated any welfare package for the workers engaged in cracker Industry; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Approximately Ninety percent of the fire crackers manufactured in the country are at Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu. Around 670 units at Sivakasi are manufacturing fireworks of approximately Rs. 700 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Fireworks Research and Development Centre (FRDC) has been set up at Anaiyur Village, Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu to address the issues of personnel safety, mechanization of fireworks industry, quality assurance and Environment Friendly Fireworks.

(e) and (f) The details of the revenue earned on export of the fireworks for the last 5 years is given as below:

Year	Value of Export of Fireworks (in Rupees)
2004 to 2005	Rs. 39,13,876
2005 to 2006	Rs. 69,02,102
2006 to 2007	Rs. 50,10,887
2007 to 2008	Rs. 16,71,792
2008 to 2009	Rs. 7,87,000

(g) and (h) Yes, Madam. PESO conducted Safety Awareness Programmes for 1578 workers and foremen of Fireworks Industries in 3 phases at Sivakasi during 2007-08.

[English]

Joint Venture in Education

1117. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Malaysia have decided to enter into a joint venture in education with a view to specialized education in sectors like skills development, distance learning, bridging the digital divide etc; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement and method of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been proposed between India and Malaysia for cooperation in the field of education.

Establishment of Social Development Zones

1118. SHRI VIKRAMBHAJ ARJANBHAJ MADAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish the Social Development Zones in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the recently proposed Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) would be associated within the ambit of Social Development Zones; and

(d) if so, the names of the States in which these are proposed to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Even though the feasibility of setting up Social Development Zones was being explored by the Ministry of Planning, there is no proposal at present in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No Sir, these institutions are being located at sites identified in consultation with States which are required to provide land free of cost.

Financial Assistance to Ship Industry

1119. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Industry has requested to the Government for financial assistance to tide over viability crisis;

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

(c) the quantum of funds provided during each of the last three years and the current year to shipping industry to overcome such crisis?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) and (b) The Indian National Shipowners' Association which represents Indian Shipping Companies holding 90% of the Indian tonnage has represented for creation of Rs. 10,000 crore Corpus for providing credit facilities to Indian Shipping Companies for acquisition of ships as the recent global economic slow down has resulted in depressed earnings for shipping companies and credit crunch. On the advice of Finance Ministry, Indian Bank Association has constituted a Working Group to examine the request of Shipping Industry for extension of credit facilities for purchase of ships. The Indian Bank Association has recently advised that they have no role to play in the matter and the Shipping Company should take up the matter with the individual banks.

(c) Government has not provide any soft loan to the Shipping companies in the last three years and the current year.

Increase in Number of Students in KVs

1120. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the strength of students in each class in most of the Kendriya Vidyalayas is increasing more than prescribed limit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has initiated any steps to recruit more teachers in consonance with the increase in number of students in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Due to increased demand for admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) the class

strength in some schools, particularly in Delhi, is more than the prescribed limit. The average strength of students per section in KVs at all India level, as on 31st March 2009, was 41 against the prescribed limit of 40 students.

(c) to (e) As on 31st March 2009, the pupil teachers ratio in KVs was 25:1 Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has been taking steps for recruitment of teachers from time to time.

[Translation]

Internet Facility

1121. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Internet facility is available in the country especially in rural areas of the country including Orissa;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to popularise and provide the Internet facility in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir. Internet facility is available in the country including the rural areas. This includes rural areas of Orissa also.

(b) The details of State-wise Internet subscribers as on 31st March 2009 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to popularize and provide Internet and Broadband facility in the country include the following:-

(i) To bring the provisioning of Broadband Internet connectivity under the purview of the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), the Indian Telegraph Rules have been amended and stream IV has been added under the title "Provision of broadband connectivity to villages in the phased manner".

(ii) Under the programme of National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), Department of Information Technology has planned establishment of 1 lakh

kiosks called the Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas to provide Internet facility in about 6 lakh villages with Public Private Partnership (PPP) through establishment of State Wide Area Networks (SWAN). In Orissa out of total planned 8558 Common Service Centres (CSCs), 2478 CSCs have been established till June 2009.

- (iii) Education and Research Network (ERNET) India is providing Internet facility to academic and research institutes, Government organizations, private sector Research & Development (R&D) organizations and various other non-commercial organizations all over the country including rural areas of the country.

Statement

Internet Subscribers Report (State-wise) for the Quarter Ending March-2009

Sl.No.	State/Telecom circle	Internet subscribers (As on 31.03.09)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	6780
2.	Andhra Pradesh	975594
3.	Assam	70290
4.	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	179043
5.	Delhi*	1576095
6.	Gujarat	739167
7.	Haryana	254467
8.	Himachal Pradesh	59663
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	83985
10.	Karnataka	1093617
11.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep)	898009
12.	Maharashtra (including Goa)	2937570
13.	Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	503708
14.	North East**	84287
15.	Orissa	152280

1	2	3
16.	Punjab	538759
17.	Rajasthan	582968
18.	Tamil Nadu (including Puducherry)	1404983
19.	Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal)	644735
20.	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	860700
Total		13646700

*includes Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Gurgaon

**includes Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.

[English]

Depth of Approach Route to Haldia Port

1122. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the depth of the approach route to Haldia Port is decreasing very fast;

(b) if so, whether the Government has drawn up any elaborate programme to increase the depth of the approach route to Haldia Port; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):
(a) The depths of the two primary bars, Jellingham and Auckland, leading to Haldia Dock Complex under Kolkata Port Trust, have been decreasing gradually. A statement of depth in the above areas since 2003 together with average draft of Haldia Dock Complex since 2002 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) As a short term measure, Dredging Corporation of India Limited has deployed additional dredgers at Haldia since November, 2008 towards maintenance of the depth and presently, seven DCI dredgers are working in the Jellingham and Auckland areas. In addition, efforts are also being made by Dredging Corporation of India to mobilize two hired dredgers towards augmenting its dredging effort in the Haldia channel.

As a long term solution to the depth problem, Kolkata Port Trust, on the strength of the recommendations of National Institute of Ocean Technology, had drawn up a scheme comprising Capital Dredging & River Training works within the river (Haldia & Rangafalla Channel) for improvement of draught in the Hugli estuary. The scheme

is being revalidated by Water And Power Consultancy Service-Water & Power Research Station through mathematical model study in the light of present bathymetry as well as hydro-dynamic condition of the river. The Revalidation report along with fresh recommendations will be available by the end of October, 2009.

Statement

Upper Jellingham Shoal (Least Depth)-Channel Width-460 M

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.3	3.7 (3.9)
February	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.3	3.9 (4.0)
March	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.2	3.9 (4.0)
April	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.2	3.9 (4.0)
May	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.6	4.1	3.9 (4.0)
June	4.8	4.7	5.0	4.9	4.5	4.1	3.8 (4.0)
July	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.5	4.0	4.0 (4.0)
August	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.0 (4.1)	
September	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.2	3.9 (3.9)	
October	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.2	3.8 (3.9)	
November	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.2	3.7 (3.9)	
December	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.3	3.7 (3.9)	

Figures Within Bracket Indicates Least Depth Considering Present Reduced Width of Channel of 345 M

Lower Auckland Bar (Least Depth)-Channel Width-460 M

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	5.7	5.3	5.1	5.5	4.8	4.5	3.6 (4.0)
February	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.5	4.8	4.5	3.6 (4.0)
March	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.3	4.5	3.6 (4.0)
April	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	4.4	3.6 (4.0)
May	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	4.3	3.4 (4.1)
June	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	4.2	3.4 (4.2)
July	5.6	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.0	4.1	3.4 (4.4)
August	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.1	4.9	3.8 (4.3)	
September	5.5	5.2	5.5	5.1	4.9	3.8 (4.3)	
October	5.3	5.1	5.5	4.9	4.7	3.8 (4.0)	
November	5.3	5.1	5.5	4.9	4.5	3.6 (3.9)	
December	5.3	5.1	5.5	4.8	4.5	3.6 (3.9)	

Figures Within Bracket Indicates Least Depth Considering Present Reduced Width of Channel of 345 M

Average DRAFT HDC

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
January								
MAX	8.6	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.4	7.6	7.3	7.6
MIN	7.4	7.3	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.4
AV	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.2	7.1	7.1
February								
MAX	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.6	7.8	7.4	7.6
MIN	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.7	7.0	6.5	6.3	6.3
AV	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.2	7.0	7.1
March								
MAX	9.0	9.0	8.6	8.4	8.8	8.5	7.8	7.8
MIN	7.2	7.1	6.8	6.9	7.1	6.6	6.3	6.0
AV	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.7	7.2	7.2
April								
MAX	8.8	9.2	8.8	8.5	8.7	8.7	8.0	7.9
MIN	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.1	6.9	6.5	6.7
AV	8.0	8.2	8.1	7.9	8.1	7.9	7.4	7.3
May								
MAX	8.7	9.2	9.1	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.1	8.0
MIN	7.2	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.0	7.4	7.1	7.0
AV	8.1	8.1	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.0	7.6	7.5
June								
MAX	8.7	9.1	9.2	9.1	8.6	8.6	8.1	8.2
MIN	7.5	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.1	7.3
AV	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.2	7.6	7.7
July								
MAX	8.7	9.0	9.2	9.2	8.8	8.6	8.1	8.3
MIN	7.5	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.3	7.0	7.0
AV	8.2	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.3	8.3	7.7	7.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
August								
MAX	9.0	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.1	8.7	8.0	
MIN	7.5	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.5	6.8	6.9	
AV	8.3	8.5	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.0	7.7	
September								
MAX	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.0	8.4	8.0	
MIN	7.3	7.2	7.4	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.6	
AV	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.0	7.8	7.5	
October								
MAX	9.1	9.1	8.9	9.0	8.7	8.2	8.0	
MIN	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.7	
AV	8.1	8.3	8.2	8.2	7.8	7.7	7.5	
November								
MAX	8.7	8.8	8.6	8.4	8.3	7.8	7.8	
MIN	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.9	
AV	7.9	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.4	7.3	
December								
MAX	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.1	7.7	7.4	7.5	
MIN	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.3	6.9	6.6	6.8	
AV	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.7	7.3	7.1	7.1	

[Translation]

Check on Unsolicited Calls

1123. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mobile service provider companies have been directed to inform their subscribers the ways to check unsolicited calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) proposes to activate its 'Do Not Disturb' service within the 45 days;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to reduce this period and introduce the service at an earlier date; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, the mobile service provider companies have been directed to give

due publicity regarding "National Do Not Call (NDNC) Registry" including procedure of registration in the NDNC Registry through various means for general information to the public.

(c) Sir, as per the provisions contained in the Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC) Regulations, 2007 (4 of 2007) dated 5th June 2007 issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the service providers (including BSNL) are required to get the subscriber number listed in the NDNC Registry within 45 days of receipt of request.

(d) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Amendments in Labour Laws

1124. SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend various Labour Laws such as Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, Factories Act, 1948 etc; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy.

The Bills to amend the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988 to expand its coverage and allow maintenance of registers and submission of returns through soft devices, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 to change the definition of employer, family and workers, adding a new chapter on safety and the industrial disputes Act, 1947 expanding the scope of qualifications of Presiding Officers of Labour Courts or Tribunals, establishing Grievances Redressal Machinery and empowering the Labour Court or Tribunal to execute the awards etc. have been introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

Besides, Bills to amend Section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948 to provide flexibility in the matter of employment of women workers during night shift with adequate safeguards for their safety, dignity, honour and transportation from the factory premises, the Payment of

Gratuity Act, 1972 so that teachers in educational institutes benefit from it, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 to make it gender-neutral and the Employees' State Insurance Act 1948 to enable utilization of medical facilities of the Employees State Insurance Corporation for implementing the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana were also introduced in the Lok Sabha which have since lapsed.

[Translation]

Extension of Industrial Package

1125. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI VERNEDER KASHYAP:

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

(a) whether there is a special Industrial Package for the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend the period of the said package;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Government had announced New Industrial Policies and other concessions for special category States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand (now Uttarakhand) on 7.1.2003, 14.6.2002 and 7.1.2003 respectively. Under these policies, various concessions/incentives have been provided to these States such as Income Tax exemption, Excise exemption, Central Capital Investment Subsidy, Transport Subsidy, Central Interest Subsidy and Central Comprehensive Insurance. The last two concessions are available to the industrial units in the State of Jammu and Kashmir only.

(c) to (e) The above concessions are available for a period of 10 years from the date they were announced. The excise duty exemption in respect of the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand is available only to those industrial units in these States which were set up on or before 31st March, 2010 including also those industrial units which meet the criteria for substantial expansion as laid down by this Department.

*[English]***Hacking of Websites**

1126. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

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

- (a) whether a number of cases of hacking of websites have come to the notice of the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, till date;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to protect computer system from hacking of websites; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information tracked by, and reported to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Department of Information Technology, 9052 Indian websites have been hacked/defaced during the period January, 2006 to June, 2009. The details are:

Year	No. of Indian Websites hacked
2006	1216
2007	1373
2008	3177
2009 (January-June)	3286
Total	9052

(c) and (d) Government has taken several steps for securing the websites and enhancing cyber security of information technology infrastructure in the country, these are:

- (i) CERT-In has published several Security Guidelines for safeguarding computer systems from cyber attackers, specifically a Security Guideline for "Setting Websites" has also been published. All these guidelines have been widely circulated. All Government Departments/Ministries, their subordinate offices and public

sector undertakings have been advised to implement these guidelines to secure their websites.

- (ii) CERT-In issues security alerts, advisories to prevent occurrence of cyber incidents and also conducts security workshops and training programs on regular basis to enhance user awareness.
- (iii) The organizations operating critical information infrastructure have been advised to implement information security management practices based on International Standard ISO 27001.
- (iv) The Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 provides legal framework to address the issues connected with hacking of websites and information technology infrastructure.

*[Translation]***Agricultural Product Export Development Authority**

1127. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Agricultural Product Export Development Authority (APEDA) is promoting export of organic agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sanctioned facilitation centres for fruits and vegetables in Maharashtra through APEDA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. APEDA has taken the initiative for promotion of export of organic agriculture products by launching National Programme for Organic production (NPOP), framing National Standard for Organic Production and Certification Scheme, laying Procedures for Export of Certified Organic Products, accrediting inspection and certification agencies, developing organic farming, etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam, The Government, through APEDA, has set-up facilitation centres in the form of "Pack Houses" for various fruits and vegetables at a various places in Maharashtra, which include Ratnagiri, Sindhurg, Jalna, Indapur, Baramati, Wardha, Raver, Hingoli and Latur. These projects have been completed.

Increase in Unemployment

1128. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

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

(a) whether there is a sharp increase in unemployment due to decline in productivity in various sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to increase productivity and create more employment opportunities in the country?

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

(a) and (b) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of survey on employment and unemployment, unemployment rate on Usual Status basis has marginally increased from 2.2% to 2.3% during 1999-2000 to 2004-05. This was due to the fact that the pace of growth in labour force at 2.97% per annum exceeded the rate of growth of work force at 2.95% per annum. The Increase in labour force is mainly attributed to the fact that working age population grew faster than total population and labour force participation rate increased particularly, among women during 1999-2000 to 2004-05.

(c) Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at creating 58 million Job opportunities. The focus is also on productive employment at a faster pace than before, and target agriculture growth at 4% per annum in order to raise the incomes of masses of the rural population to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. Government has also been implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes, some of the important ones are Swarna

Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA).

[English]

Ban on Sale of Hazardous Products

1129. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America, Canada and many countries in Europe have banned the sale of hazardous products like asbestos, lead based paint, devices containing mercury;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ban these hazardous products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Manufacture, importation, processing and distribution in commerce of Asbestos was banned in the United States by the Environmental Protection Agency on July 12, 1989. Lead-containing paint and certain consumer products bearing lead-containing paint were banned by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) on December, 19, 2008. There is no ban on devices containing mercury. However, the Environmental Protection Agency has issued detailed guidelines for mercury-containing products and alternatives. In addition, the US Food and Drug Administration has issued information and guidance regarding presence of mercury in seafood.

Asbestos (chrysotile asbestos) continues to be exported from Canada.

European Union (EU) has banned the sale of measuring devices containing mercury from 3 April, 2009. Existing legislation already restricts mercury for packaging waste imposes a limit of 100 ppm by weight for the sum of concentration levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium. Lead-free directive (also known as Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive or RoHS Directive) also restricts the use of 6 materials including mercury in electrical and electronic products. The maximum permitted concentration is 0.1% or 1000 ppm by weight of homogenous material. The RoHS Directive

was adopted in February 2003 by the European Union and took effect on 1 July, 2006. It restricts the use of the following 6 substances:

1. Lead (Pb)
2. Mercury (Hg)
3. Cadmium (Cd)
4. Hexavalent chromium (Cr6+)
5. Polybrominated biphenyls (PBB)
6. Polybrominated biphenyl ether (PBDE)

In September, 2008 the European Commission adopted legislation banning all exports of mercury from the European Union with effect from March 2011.

Five different forms of Asbestos were banned in the EU in 1991. In 1999 the EU banned the use and import of the sixth form (namely, white asbestos or chrysotile asbestos) in Europe. The ban came into effect from 01 January, 2005.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Acute Shortage of Cement

1130. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of cement has been a great concern for the preparation of Commonwealth Games 2010; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard for timely completion of the said construction works pertaining to the Commonwealth Games 2010?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Incentive for Investment in Industrial Sector

1131. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV:
SHRI ARJUN MUNDA:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) the details of special incentives being provided for attracting investment in industrial sector and the areas covered alongwith the names of places for which incentives have been given;

(b) whether Bihar is also proposed to be covered under the said incentives and action to be initiated for industrial development and capital investment; and

(c) the target fixed for setting up of Industries by the Government including Jharkhand in the field of minerals, forest, agriculture and other areas during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA) (a) to (c) The State Governments are primarily responsible for industrial development in their State. The Union Government supplements their efforts through various general schemes. However, special incentive package schemes have been introduced by the Government for the North Eastern States including Sikkim as well as for the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand because these States are hilly, remote and have poor accessibility to markets and also have poor infrastructure, inaccessible terrain and poor resource base. As the States of Bihar and Jharkhand do not face such geographical adversities, there is no proposal to extend any special incentives for industries in these States. These States can avail the benefits under various other schemes.

[*English*]

Boost to Manufacturing Sector

1132. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to boost the manufacturing sector during the last one year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Development of the Manufacturing Sector is an ongoing process, Several measures/initiatives have been taken to boost the Manufacturing sector. These include, *inter-alia*, steps to reduce cost of credit and improve liquidity such as reduction of Repo rates, reverse Repo rates, cash reserve ratio etc., reduction in CENVAT, and sector specific initiatives to stimulate domestic demand and generate higher employment. The Foreign Direct Investment and Foreign Collaboration Policies have been rationalized to strengthen the manufacturing sector.

Further, a set of measures have been announced for enhancing flow of funds to the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises sector.

Violation of Norms by Deemed Universities

1133. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

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

(a) whether some Deemed Universities have been found violating norms prescribed under the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956;

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

(c) the steps taken by the UGC/Government to streamline the functioning of these Deemed Universities to protect the interest of students in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) There have been media reports regarding some institutions which were declared as 'deemed-to-be-universities' demanding capitation fees from students for admission. While no specific complaints have been received in regard to dilution in academic standards, some reports in the media express concern in this regard. In view of such perception, the Government has ordered a review of the functioning of institutions 'deemed to be university', both by the University Grants Commission as well as separately by an independent team of experts nominated by the Government.

Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas

1134. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:
DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ:
SHRI ARJUN MUNDA:
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

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

(a) the number of proposals received from the State Governments/Public Undertakings for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas in their respective State/area during the last three years alongwith the status thereof;

(b) whether the Government is planning to open more Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country during the Eleventh Plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the places identified for the establishment of such Kendriya Vidyalayas, Region-wise and the time by which these are likely to be made functional;

(d) whether the quality of education and the performance graph of students in these schools is much better than many of the public schools in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total amount earmarked, sanctioned and utilized during the last three years and the current year, region-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has received 161 proposals for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) from the sponsoring agencies including State Governments and Central Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years *i.e.* 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and till date. Out of these, 68 schools have been sanctioned.

(b) and (c) Opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas depends on receipt of viable proposals from the sponsoring organizations, availability of funds and sanction by the competent authority.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The comparative performance of Kendriya Vidyalayas and private independent schools in class X and XII Examinations conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education during the last five years is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(f) A statement-II showing the amount released and utilized in the last three years and during the current year till date region-wise is enclosed.

Statement I**A. Comparative Performance of Pass Percentage of Students of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Class-X Examination Conducted by CBSE**

School system	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Kendriya Vidyalayas	89.85	90.63	95.64	96.07	96.35
Navodaya Vidyalayas	90.82	91.13	96.41	97.54	97.84
Independent schools	85.87	85.94	91.81	91.77	91.89
Total (CBSE)	74.60	77.16	84.44	87.08	88.84

B. Comparative Performance of Pass Percentage of Students of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Class-XII Examination Conducted by CBSE

School system	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Kendriya Vidyalayas	92.47	92.89	93.14	91.00	91.32
Navodaya Vidyalayas	87.08	90.24	90.11	92.44	94.09
Independent schools	81.28	92.35	82.29	81.68	80.94
Total (CBSE)	77.80	79.55	80.64	80.91	81.00

Statement II

Statement Showing the Amount Released & Utilized Region-wise During the Last Three Years and Till Date for Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(In Rupees)

Sl.No.	Name of Regional Office	Year							
		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10 (April 09 to June 09)	
		Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Ahmedabad	30,12,36,042	30,12,36,042	32,38,69,739	32,38,69,739	55,17,82,928	55,17,82,928	25,02,29,985	25,02,29,985
2.	Bangalore	50,55,86,765	50,55,86,765	53,15,89,961	53,15,89,961	74,26,67,404	74,26,67,404	34,54,58,351	34,54,58,351
3.	Bhopal	56,70,92,329	56,70,92,329	56,65,70,747	56,65,70,747	80,83,17,414	80,83,17,414	39,51,83,500	39,51,83,500
4.	Bhubneswar	60,06,01,483	60,06,01,483	63,79,22,759	63,79,22,759	85,91,63,039	85,91,63,039	37,44,96,171	37,44,96,171
5.	Chandigarh	57,88,67,468	57,88,67,468	62,32,74,135	62,32,74,135	75,22,95,992	75,22,95,992	44,36,23,964	44,36,23,964
6.	Chennai	65,24,74,648	65,24,74,648	80,64,52,685	80,64,52,685	108,20,13,133	108,20,13,333	57,23,06,031	57,23,06,031
7.	Dehradun	53,02,60,298	53,02,60,298	56,72,58,815	56,72,58,815	77,87,23,064	77,87,23,064	39,13,23,916	39,13,23,916
8.	Delhi	98,59,02,581	98,59,02,581	110,37,15,257	110,37,15,257	146,42,96,227	146,42,96,227	73,32,72,713	73,32,72,713

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.	Guwahati	46,93,16,821	46,93,16,821	39,85,95,365	39,85,95,365	57,45,77,274	57,45,77,274	28,55,65,241	28,55,65,241
10.	Hyderabad	47,17,27,155	47,17,27,155	51,32,45,252	51,32,45,252	62,92,12,014	62,92,12,014	33,49,56,069	33,49,56,069
11.	Jabalpur-	49,59,19,700	49,59,19,700	58,38,12,824	58,38,12,824	69,40,98,078	69,40,98,078	29,58,19,650	29,58,19,650
12.	Jaipur	52,83,64,908	52,83,64,908	53,00,47,809	53,00,47,809	77,26,82,362	77,26,82,362	46,77,54,631	46,77,54,631
13.	Jammu	46,32,49,701	46,32,49,701	48,63,65,082	48,63,65,082	68,50,86,245	68,50,86,245	37,37,29,276	37,37,29,276
14.	Kolkatta	54,96,87,496	54,96,87,496	62,17,86,875	62,17,86,875	78,42,87,413	78,42,87,413	40,36,94,563	40,36,94,563
15.	Lucknow	60,85,60,705	60,85,60,705	71,17,45,324	71,17,45,324	103,69,24,945	103,69,24,945	55,19,14,480	55,19,14,480
16.	Mumbai	49,41,81,995	49,41,81,995	53,87,09,596	53,87,09,596	71,14,49,770	71,14,39,770	44,51,00,319	44,51,00,319
17.	Patna	48,85,54,299	48,85,54,299	48,41,38,582	48,41,38,582	78,70,18,850	78,70,18,850	39,97,59,954	39,97,59,954
18.	Silchar	36,83,21,396	36,83,21,396	29,67,60,236	29,67,60,236	44,90,00,846	44,90,00,846	20,38,51,011	20,38,51,011
Total		965,99,05,790	965,99,05,790	1032,58,51,043	1032,58,51,043	1416,35,87,198	1416,35,87,198	726,80,39,825	726,80,39,825

Welfare Schemes for SCs/OBCs

1135. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of welfare schemes launched by the Government for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) during the last three years;

(b) the funds allocated/released to the State Governments including Jharkhand for implementation of the welfare schemes during the said period. State-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) whether any incident of misutilisation or diversion of funds by the State Governments has been reported during the last three years and the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the Government has any monitoring mechanism to check the performance of these programmes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Central Sector Scheme of Top Class Education for SC Students was launched w.e.f. June 2007.

No new scheme for OBCs was launched during the last three years.

(b) State-wise allocation/release of funds is not made under the above scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) There is a Steering Committee to monitor the progress of implementation of the scheme.

[Translation]

Ban on Export of Goods

1136. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of items, whose export have been banned;

(b) whether the Government proposes to review the policy in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) A list of items whose export is banned is given in Schedule II of the ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Imports items (1st September, 2004-31st March, 2009), published by Government of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce. All amendments of the Schedule II are notified in the Gazette of India and are available on the website of DGFT at www.dgft.delhi.nic.in. The list includes wild animals, beef of cows, buffalo meat (except boneless), meat of sheep and goat (except boneless), agri-products like pulses, non-basmati rice (except export under Food Aid Programme and export to Maldives under Bilateral Trade Agreement), wheat, tallow/fat of animal origin, chemicals under Montreal protocol, edible oils, certain wood and wood products etc.

(b) and (c) Review of the policy of export of goods is a continuous process undertaken by the Government from time to time. The government reviews the export policy or agricultural/consumer products in consultation with the administrative Ministries, keeping in view various factors such as availability of goods in the domestic market, production, the price situation and various national and international commitments etc.

[English]

Setting up of New Technical Institutes

1137. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:
SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:
SHRI M.B. RAJESH:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:
SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI:
SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Information

Technology (IIITs), Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs) in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of places selected for the same purpose, State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose;

(d) the number of requests received from the State Governments for setting up of new IIMs, IITs, IIITs, IISERs and NITs during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(e) the status thereof alongwith the action taken thereon, state-wise; and

(f) the time by which these institutes are likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have decided to set up 8 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 8 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), 20 Indian of Information Technology (IITs), 5 Indian Institutes of Science Education 7 Research (IISERs) and 10 National Institutes of Technology (NITs) in the various part of the country during the XI Plan period.

The details of the places selected are as follows:

IITs: Patna (Bihar), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Rajasthan, Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Ropar (Punjab), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Mandi (Himachal Pradesh) and Indore (Madhya Pradesh).

IIMs: Shillong (Meghalaya), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Rohtak (Haryana), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Tiruchirapalli (Tamil Nadu), Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan.

IISERs: Kolkata, Pune, Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram.

NITs: Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Goa, Puducherry, Delhi, Uttaranchal & Sikkim. No specific location has been selected.

(c) During the XI Five Year Plan, fund allocation to the institutions is as follows:-

(Rs. In Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Institute	Allocation of funds
1.	IITs	2000.00
2.	IIMs	600.00
3.	NITs	500.00
4.	IITs	600.00
5.	IISERs	2000.00

(d) to (f) A large number of requests have been received from various State Governments to establish these institutions in their respective States. Based on these requests and after taking into account regional imbalances, a decision was taken to set up these institutions. Eight IITs have been set up in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. Out of these, six IITs have already been started functioning from the academic session 2008-09 and the remaining in Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh will commence their academic session from 2009-10. IISERs at Pune, Mohali, Bhopal, Thiruvananthapuram and Kolkata have already started functioning. The Expenditure Finance Committee meeting for setting up of IIMs & NITs was held on 09.06.2009. One IIM at Shillong has already started functioning. For the remaining, four IIMs are to be operationalised at Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu in the first phase. Twenty IITs are to be set up in various part of the country mostly on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model during XI Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Exploitation of Private Security Workers/Guards

1138. SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private security service companies are blatantly exploiting the workers and security guards and indulging in irregularity in the Provident Fund (PF),

Employees' State Insurance (ESI) of these workers and guards;

(b) if so, the number of such companies who have been found to be violating Labour and Social Security Laws during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such erring companies; and

(d) the details of PF, ESI and gratuity amount outstanding against such companies during each of the last three years and the current year, separately, State-wise?

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

(a) to (d) Few cases are noticed where private security service companies have defaulted in payment of regular contribution to Employees' State Insurance and Provident Fund dues. Details of such defaulting employers and outstanding Provident Fund and Employees' State Insurance dues for the last three years and current year are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

Action is taken against such defaulters under various provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 ranging from recovery by coercive method, issue of show cause notice, launching of prosecution in the court of law. Similarly, action initiated against such agencies under Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 include initiation of enquiry for assessment of dues, filing of prosecution, levy of interest and damages, filing cases under section 406/409 of the Indian Penal Code for non-remittance of employees' share of contribution, etc.

Regarding gratuity, most of the private security service providers operate in the State sphere and therefore, State Governments concerned are the appropriate Governments for gratuity under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

Statement I

State-wise details of private security service establishments not regularly depositing Provident Fund dues during the last three years and the current year

Sl.No.	State	Number of establishments	Amount in default (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Delhi	2006-07- 32	2006-07- 0.83
		2007-08- 31	2007-08- 8.16
		2008-09- 28	2008-09- 4.68
		2009-10- 20	2009-10- 40.89

1	2	3	4
2.	Uttarakhand	2006-07- 02 2007-08- 01 2008-09- 03 2009-10- Nil	2006-07- Nil (Dues recovered) 2007-08- Nil (Dues recovered) 2008-09- Nil (Dues recovered) 2009-10- Nil
3.	Maharashtra	2006-07- 16 2007-08- 26 2008-09- 50 2009-10- Nil	2006-07- 49.99 2007-08- 10.56 2008-09- 45.20 2009-10- 27.67 (Dues relates to previous years)
4.	Chhattisgarh	2006-07- 2 2007-08- 2 2008-09- 2 2009-10- Nil	2006-07- Nil (Dues recovered) 2007-08- Nil (Dues recovered) 2008-09- 0.36 2009-10- Nil
5.	Karnataka	2006-07- 41 2007-08- 29 2008-09- 23 2009-10- 12	2006-07- 11.59 2007-08- 45.34 2008-09- 38.67 2009-10- 00.90
6.	Goa	2006-07- 09 2007-08- 09 2008-09- 16 2009-10- 01	2006-07- Nil (Dues recovered) 2007-08- 0.10 2008-09- 0.60 2009-10- Nil (Dues recovered)
7.	Andhra Pradesh	2006-07- 21 2007-08- 28 2008-09- 13 2009-10- 06	2006-07- 5.03 2007-08- 38.25 2008-09- 33.29 2009-10- 24.02
8.	Orissa	2006-07- 42 2007-08- 10 2008-09- 09 2009-10- 03	2006-07- 3.25 2007-08- 0.48 2008-09- 29.06 2009-10- (Under assessment)
9.	Gujarat	2006-07- 10 2007-08- 20 2008-09- 36 2009-10- 18	2006-07- 12.16 2007-08- 246.39 2008-09- 312.12 2009-10- 2.68

1	2	3	4
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2006-07- 07	2006-07- 4.54
		2007-08- 16	2007-08- Nil (Dues recovered)
		2008-09- 09	2008-09- 1.48
		2009-10- 05	2009-10- 0.26
11.	Haryana	2006-07- 17	2006-07- 10.21
		2007-08- 18	2007-08- 2.68
		2008-09- 18	2008-09- 371.98
		2009-10- 00	2009-10- Nil
12.	Rajasthan	2006-07- 08	2006-07- 59.90
		2007-08- 18	2007-08- 0.02
		2008-09- 24	2008-09- 15.44
		2009-10- 04	2009-10- 0.31
13.	West Bengal	2006-07- 16	2006-07- Nil (Under assessment)
		2007-08- 24	2007-08- 0.15
		2008-09- 24	2008-09-132.47
		2009-10- 08	2009-10- 31.47
14.	North Eastern Region	2006-07- Nil	2006-07- Nil
		2007-08- Nil	2007-08- Nil
		2008-09- Nil	2008-09- Nil
		2009-10- Nil	2009-10- Nil
15.	Jharkhand	2006-07- 01	2006-07- Nil (Under assessment)
		2007-08- 01	2007-08- Nil (Under assessment)
		2008-09- 04	2008-09- 12.72
		2009-10- Nil	2009-10- Nil
16.	Tamil Nadu	2006-07- 38	2006-07- 10.60
		2007-08- 44	2007-08- 09.95
		2008-09- 69	2008-09- 20.55
		2009-10- 15	2009-10- 15.85
17.	Kerala	2006-07- 02	2006-07- 01.92
		2007-08- 02	2007-08- 51.77
		2008-09- 14	2008-09- 122.11
		2009-10- 03	2009-10- 35.06

1	2	3	4
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2006-07- 20 2007-08- 15 2008-09- 17 2009-10- 09	2006-07- 1.63 2007-08- 9.40 2008-09- 77.00 2009-10- 0.62
19.	Bihar	From 2006-07 to 2008-09- 04 2009-10- 05	2006-07- (Under assessment) 2007-08- (Under assessment) 2008-09- (Under assessment) 2009-10- (Under assessment)
20.	Punjab	2006-07- 28 2007-08- 20 2008-09- 37 2009-10- 20	2006-07- 0.36 2007-08- 0.05 2008-09- 80.20 2009-10- 01.48
21.	Himachal Pradesh	No complaint during the last four years	Nil information during the last four years

Statement II

Region-wise details of private security service establishments not regularly depositing Employees' State Insurance dues during the last three years and the current year

Sl.No.	Region/Sub Regional Office	Number of defaulting employers				Details of outstanding dues (in lakh)			
		2009-10	2008-09	2007-8	2006-7	2009-10	2008-09	2007-8	2006-7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	159	156	108	9.79	26.22	29.48	36.69
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Aurangabad	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	6.14	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Baroda	20	14	7	5	19.58	10.93	7.68	5.14
5.	Barrackpore	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Chennai	Nil	56	26	47	Nil	33.58	19.02	21.4
8.	Chhattishgarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Coimbatore	Nil	1	5	3	Nil	0.002	1.59	2.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Uttarakhand	Nil	8	5	3	Nil	10.36	5.29	2.67
11.	Delhi	Nil	2	4	4	Nil	0.29	3.79	7.24
12.	Goa	NIL	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
14.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	NIL	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Haryana	Nil	11	18	27	Nil	1.94	3.38	9.13
16.	Hubli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.12	Nil
18.	Jharkhand	2	4	10	Nil	12.14	1.36	17.75	Nil
19.	Karnataka	NIL	Nil	NIL	NIL	Nil	NIL	NIL	NIL
20.	Kerala	NIL	Nil	NIL	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NIL
21.	Kollam	Nil	NIL	Nil	NIL	NIL	Nil	Nil	NIL
22.	Ludhiana	NIL	9	Nil	NIL	Nil	2.84	NIL	Nil
23.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	NIL	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
24.	Madurai	Nil	Nil	Nil	NIL	NIL	Nil	NIL	Nil
25.	Marol	NIL	20	16	14	Nil	2.63	2.4	2.36
26.	Mumbai	Nil	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	Nil	NIL
27.	Nagpur	3	4	2	3	0.73	9.31	5.82	14.88
28.	Noida	3	28	9	7	2.79	6.75	4.18	20.05
29.	Orissa	7	4	2	19	3.11	2.09	1.09	10.78
30.	Pondicherry	2	2	3	4	9.82	0.36	8.59	4.94
31.	Pune	5	5	8	12	10.83	1.41	3.96	6.04
32.	Punjab	7	18	23	20	16.91	46.7	25.34	50.44
33.	Rajasthan	NIL	NIL	1	NIL	Nil	Nil	27.74	NIL
34.	Rohini	Nil	NIL	NIL	NN	NIL	NIL	Nil	NIL
35.	Surat	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
36.	Thane	Nil	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
37.	Tirunelveli	NIL	Nil	NIL	14	NIL	NIL	NIL	0.14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
38.	Uttar Pradesh	NIL	22	28	37	NIL	0.1	2.34	3.94
39.	Varanasi	NIL	NIL	NIL	Nil	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
40.	Vijaywada	4	2	5	3	Not Available	1.28	4.25	5.76
41.	West Bengal	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
42.	Udaipur	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	0.86	NIL	NIL	NIL
43.	Peenya	Nil	NIL	NIL	NIL	Nil	NIL	NIL	NIL
44.	Vishakapatnam	NIL	NIL	Not Avail	Not Avail	NIL	NIL	2.73	9.35
45.	Binneypet (Kar)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
46.	Nand Nagri	19	NIL	NIL	NIL	19.73	NIL	NIL	Nil
47.	Ambala	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Atrocities Against Domestic Servants and Children*[English]*

1139. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of atrocities against domestic helps and children by high-profile people in the country are on the rise; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to stop such incidents alongwith the action taken against the guilty persons?

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

(a) No Such incidents have come to the notice of Government.

(b) Section 14 of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits inter-alia, the employment of children below the age of 14 years as domestic servants. Any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is prohibited under the Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extend to one year or with fine ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- or with both. State Governments are the appropriate Governments for implementation of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 for the areas coming under their jurisdiction.

Utilisation of Unused Salt Lands

1140. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unutilized salt lands in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether many developmental projects of State and Central Government including Public Sector Undertakings are held up because of delay in allotment of salt lands; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The details are given below:

(i) In Greater Mumbai, Maharashtra 5378 acres of salt pan lands were identified for utilizing for socio-economic purposes and ordered for transfer to Ministry of Urban Development. Out of this, about 979 acres of land have been handed over/ transferred to various Central and State agencies for developmental purposes. Government have

decided that available developable land to the extent of 1648 acres in Mumbai and its Suburbs would be shared equally between Government of India and Government of Maharashtra. However, there are a number of cases pending in various Courts due to ownership disputes between the Government of India and private parties/lessees, termination of leases, etc.

- (ii) In Tamil Nadu, about 6100 acres of salt land in Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram Districts have been identified for transfer to Central and State agencies for undertaking infrastructure projects. Out of this, about 4915 acres have been ordered for transfer to various Central and State Government agencies.
- (iii) In Andhra Pradesh, Central Government has decided 'in principle' to transfer about 775 acres of salt land in Nellore District to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for development of Krishnapatnam Port.
- (iv) The requests of various Central and State Government agencies for transfer of salt land are processed as and when received by following due procedure and keeping in view the overall national interests and the requirements of salt industry in India.

Integrated Education for Disabled Children

1141. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has replaced the 'Integrated Education for Disabled Children' (IEDC) scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the new scheme Inclusive Education for the Disabled at the Secondary Stage (IEDSS) coverage area of IEDC; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the manner in which the interest of those physically challenged children who remained uncovered will be served under the new scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled

Children (IEDC) covering disabled children from the age group of 6-18 years has been replaced with a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) and is being implemented from the year 2009-10. The Scheme "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" covers the disabled children at the elementary level (6-14 years). The new Scheme "IEDSS" is meant to enable the disabled children to complete four years of secondary schooling (classes IX to XII) in an inclusive and enabling environment.

[Translation]

Export of Iron Ore

1142. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of iron ore exported to various countries during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and Country-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to review the export policy so as to keep the iron ore reserves secure in the national interest;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The quantum of iron ore exported to various countries during the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and the current year 2009-10 (April-May 2009) is as under:

Country	(Quantity in Lakh tonnes)			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (Provisional)	2009-10 (April-May) (Provisional)
China	801.60	919.82	978.48	177.27
Japan	86.32	77.03	54.29	13.23
South Korea	19.08	17.63	9.86	2.06
Europe	20.69	16.18	7.55	1.58
Others	10.21	12.04	8.47	0.84
Total	937.90	1042.70	1058.65	194.98

Source: Goa Mineral Ore Exporters Association (GMOEA), Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), MMTCL Limited.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal to review the iron ore export policy at present. As per available information, India has sufficient resources of iron ore. As on 1.4.2005 these resources are estimated at 25.25 billion tonnes, consisting of 14.63 billion tonnes of Haematite and 10.619 billion tonnes of Magnetite, and they are continuing to increase. The production of iron ore in India far exceeds the demand of the domestic steel industries and surplus iron ore is exported. The existing iron ore export policy regulates and promotes judicious use of iron ore for domestic purpose and export of surplus quantity.

[English]

Scrapping of UGC and AICTE

1143. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:
SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:
SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV:

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

(a) whether Prof. Yashpal Committee for Higher Education Reform has recommended scrapping of all regulatory bodies like University Grants Commission and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has also reportedly recommended setting up of a super regulator for the entire higher education system in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Committee on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education (Yashpal Committee) has recommended the creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) with Constitutional status to subsume the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and the University Grants Commission (UGC), the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and the Distance Education Council (DEC) and the academic

functions exercised by Councils regulating professional education. The Committee has also recommended that universities be made responsible regarding the academic content of all courses and programmes of study. The need for an overarching independent body for overseeing the entire spectrum of higher education has been accepted by the Government as one of its priorities for action.

Export Oriented Industrial Units

1144. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of export oriented industrial units set up in the public sector, till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more export oriented units in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) As per information made available by the Development Commissioners, there are five functional Export Oriented Units (EOUs) set up by public sector undertakings of which one in Orissa, two in Tamil Nadu and two in Karnataka. The Central Government does not set up EOUs. The Units are generally set up the individual entrepreneurs/corporate bodies with the approval of the Government.

Educationally Backward States

1145. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:
SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether the Government has identified educationally backward States and districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to develop the educationally backward States and districts by setting up model schools and colleges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the allocation made and expenditure incurred during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government have identified 374 districts according to the 2001 census where the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is lower than the estimated national GER of 12.4 for higher education. During XIth Plan Rs. 782 crore has been allocated for setting up one model college in each such districts for which proposals have been invited from State Governments.

In regard to schools, the Central Government has decided to set up one Model School in each of the 6,000 blocks in the country as benchmarks of excellence. Rs. 12,750 crore has been allocated for the scheme during the 11th Five Year plan, and Rs. 350 crore has been provided in the budget of financial year 2009-10. No fund has so far been released under this scheme till date.

Setting up of Tribunals in Educational Institutes

1146. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up tribunals in educational institutions to settle disputes between the staff and the authorities;

(b) if so, the time by which said tribunals are likely to be set up; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A Legislative proposal to set up educational tribunals in consultation with State Government is under consideration of Government. While the proposal is being accorded priority by the Government, in view of consultations required, including with States, no time limit can be prescribed at present.

Amendments in Plantation Labour Act, 1951

1147. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance and social benefits to plantation workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government contemplates to make suitable amendments in the Plantation Labour Act, 1951; and

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

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

(a) and (b) Workers of Tea Plantations constitute a major portion of the plantation workforce. Under the Human Resource Development Scheme of the Tea Board, as approved in the 11th Plan, a provision of Rs. 50 crore has been made for the socio-economic development of the tea plantation labourers and their dependants. The main objective of the scheme are:

- (1) For improving the health of the workers;
- (2) For education of wards of workers;
- (3) Imparting training to improve skills for growers/workers and plantation managerial staff etc.

Under the health component, there is provision for providing safe drinking water, improving sanitation facilities for the tea garden labourers and for improvement of Health Centers/Clinics/Hospitals by way of providing grants for construction of building and purchase of medical equipments.

Under the education component, financial assistance by way of educational stipends/Nehru Awards/Books and Uniform grants are given to wards to tea plantation workers for undergoing primary/secondary/higher secondary education as also higher and professional courses.

The Coffee Board under the Plan Scheme grants educational stipend/meritorious awards and also extends support to pursue professional degree courses to children of workers and tiny growers.

The above measures are over and above welfare amenities prescribed under the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 and enforced by the respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Plantations Labour (Amendments) Bill, 2008 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 21.10.2008.

The Plantations Labour (Amendments) Bill, 2008, *inter alia* seeks to amend the definition of 'family', 'employer' and worker to make such definitions broad based. A new chapter to provide for safety and health of workers in plantations has also been proposed; the prohibition of child labour in plantations, making penalty provisions more stringent, protection of action taken in good faith under the Act and allowing the State Governments to make rules are some of the important components of the Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

Impact of Economic Recession on Indigenous Industries

1148. SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO
DUDHGAONKAR:
SHRI BALIRAM JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of prevailing economic recession on indigenous industries and trade pacts with other countries, particularly USA, Europe and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the indigenous industries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) India does not have any trade pact with the USA. Negotiations for a Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BITA) between (i) India and the EU and (ii) India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) comprising of Iceland, Norway and the Custom Union of Switzerland and Liechtenstein are underway. India is also engaged with China under the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA). However, trade under APTA is limited. Assessment of the impact of the trade agreement is always undertaken prior to the commencement of such negotiations. However no specific impact assessment studies of recent economic recession on India's trade pacts and domestic industry has been undertaken.

(c) Several measures/initiatives have been taken by the Government to insulate the domestic industry from the impact of global recession and stimulate domestic demand.

The measures to stimulate domestic demand *inter alia* include significant reduction in ad valorem CENVAT duty, incentives to the housing sector with a view to give a boost to affordable housing, and sector specific initiatives. For automobile sector an accelerated depreciation of 50% on commercial vehicles was announced and assistance to the State under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) provided for purchase of buses for urban transport system.

Further, a set of measures were announced for enhancing the flow of funds to the MSE sector.

The various measures to support exports included interest subvention of 2% for pre & post shipment export credit for identified labour intensive industries, additional allocation for export intensive schemes, additional funds towards providing guarantee by the Export Credit Guarantee Corporations (ECGC) and enhancements of duty draw back benefits on certain identified exportable items.

In addition, RBI has taken a number of steps to reduce the cost of credit and improve liquidity for the industry such as reduction of the Repo rates, reverse Repo rates, Cash reserve ratio etc.

Welfare of Gold and Diamond Mines Workers

1149. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take steps for the welfare of workers engaged in gold and diamond mines in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to formulate social security/welfare schemes specifically for the workers engaged in gold and diamond mines. However, recognizing the need for social security for unorganized workers, including, those who are engaged in gold and

diamond mines, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the central level and State Social Security Boards at the State level which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganized workers.

For providing smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum to BPL families in the unorganized sector, the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' was launched on 1st October, 2007. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008.

To provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the "Aam Admi Bima Yojana".

Scholarship to Meritorious Students

1150. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to grant scholarship to the meritorious students belonging to minority communities for pursuing higher education (research); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for students belonging to minority communities has been initiated from 29.11.2007. Scholarship is awarded for study in India in a Government or private higher secondary school/college/university, including such residential institutes of the government and eligible private institutes selected and notified in a transparent manner by the State Government/Union Territory Administration concerned. Scholarship@ Rs. 510/- per month for hostellers and Rs. 330/- per month for day scholars is awarded for researchers at M. Phil and Ph.D level to those who are not in receipt of any fellowship by any university or other authority. There is also a "Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme" for meritorious students belonging to minority communities to enable them to pursue professional and technical courses. Twenty thousand scholarships are available under this scheme.

The rate of scholarship under this is Rs. 30,000 per annum for hostellers and Rs. 25,000 per annum for day scholars.

[Translation]

Surrendering of Telephone/Internet Connections

1151. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding surrendering of Landline Telephone connections/Internet connections being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of said connections surrendered so far during the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the BSNL/MTNL among the subscribers to create awareness for Landline Telephone connections/Internet connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, BSNL has undertaken a study regarding surrendering of Landline Telephone connection through M/s IMRB. However, no such study has been undertaken by BSNL regarding internet connections. The number of landline connections surrendered during the last 3 years and the current year (upto 31.5.2009) are 2.135 lakhs, 20.74 lakhs, 22.08 lakhs and 3.42 lakhs respectively.

MTNL has also done internal analysis to understand and arrest surrender of Landline Telephone connections. The number of landline connections surrendered during the last 3 years and the current year (upto 31.5.2009) are 2.33 lakhs, 2.08 lakhs, 1.96 lakh and 0.24 lakhs respectively.

The main reasons for surrender of landline connections in BSNL and MTNL are as follows:

1. Surrender of excess telephones.

2. Increased use of mobile phones.
3. Closure of office/Company.
4. Economic reasons.
5. Competitive Environment/Taking telephone from other operators.
6. Availability of faster wireless data communications through mobile communications.
7. Not satisfied with service

(c) The following steps are being taken by BSNL and MTNL to create awareness among subscribers for landline telephone and Internet connections.

1. Advertisement in electronic media, *i.e.* various TV channels and FM Radio.
2. Advertisement in Print media through newspaper, magazine, souvenir.
3. Sponsoring of various events like Health Mela in Delhi.
4. Launch of new services and attractive tariff in press conferences, which are covered by various media and highlighted in prominent newspapers, TV channels, Radio, inserters with the bills etc.
5. Press releases are issued from time to time to press for popularizing BSNL/MTNL services, Public Grievances Redressal mechanisms, Lok Adalats etc.
6. Formation of Marketing Task Force/teams of provide doorstep service to the customers.
7. Establishment of Out Bound Call Centre to proactively retain customer relation and to sell products and services.
8. Start of broadband, IPTV and VoIP services on landline connection.
9. Introduction of CDR based billing to improve handling of billing related problems and provide single bill to customers for various services.
10. Lot of efforts are being made to improve the quality of service.

Reduction in Call Rates

1152. DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ:
SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to slash Local, STD, ISD call rates including calls made to mobile phones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment has been made regarding decline in subscribers base of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) during the current financial year in comparison to pervious year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, the rates offered by BSNL are either cheaper or competitive to the tariff offered by private operators. In addition to above, field units are also authorized to offer different promotional tariffs taking into account the local market conditions. Moreover, the inter circle pulse rate under basic phones for all calls terminating on fixed line has been increased from 90/60 sec to 120 sec resulting in a reduction of charges up to 50% with effect from March 2009.

MTNL revises its tariff plans as per market trends/ conditions from time to time.

(c) The total subscriber base (Landline+WLL+GSM) in BSNL and MTNL during the last two years is given below:

	As on 31.3.2008	As on 31.3.2009
BSNL	3.62 Crore	4.67 Crore
MTNL	72.09 lakhs	80.54 lakhs

The number of connections during the year 2008-09 has increased in both BSNL and MTNL.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

[English]

**Spurious Drugs from China Under
Made in India Tag**

1153. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

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

(a) whether fake and spurious drugs manufactured in China are being pushed into various African countries with the 'Made in India' tag;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Nigeria's Pharma regulator seized a consignment of fake anti-malaria drugs carrying 'Made in India' label but produced in China;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to lodge protest with the Chinese Government and the response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (e) Government of India's attention has been drawn to the press release issued by NAFDAC, Nigerian Government Drug Regulatory Authority about detention and seizure of a large consignment of fake anti-malarial generic pharmaceuticals labeled "Made in India" but produced in China. Taking serious note of the contents of NAFDAC's Press Release, a strong protest was lodged with concerned Chinese authorities with a request to take stringent action against such unscrupulous elements.

Licence Fee on Telephone Connections

1154. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to revive its plan to waive licence fee on revenues earned from Landline telephone connections in rural areas;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to offset the loss made in this regard from various other sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, as Ministry of Finance did not concur the plan of waiver of annual license fee on fixed wire-line telephone services in rural areas, the said waiver has been kept in abeyance till further orders.

(c) No steps have been taken to offset the loss from other sources.

Setting up of Rubber Park in Kerala

1155. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Rubber Park in Ranni in Pathanamthitta District of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the proposed Rubber Park is likely to be set up?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Protection to Fishermen in Deep Seas

1156. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:
SHRI SURESH ANGADI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide alert transmitter devices to protect the distressed fishermen in deep seas in emergency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of distribution of these devices to the fishermen on various coasts, including the Orissa coast?

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

(a) to (c) The Government of India under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) 'Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operation' provides financial assistance to the tune of 75% of unit cost of a kit consisting of Global Positioning System (GPS), communication equipment, echo-sounder and search & rescue beacon to ensure the safety of fishermen at sea. In addition the Government of India has taken up the initiative to implement the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to regulate movement of Deep Sea Fishing vessels in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), beyond the territorial waters with a Hub station at Porbandar. The Indian Coast Guard has distributed 419 sets of Distress Alert Transmitters (DAT) received from ISRO to fishermen through its community interaction programme in maritime State including Orissa.

[*Translation*]

National Knowledge Commission

1157. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) whether various States of the country have been asked to prepare the blueprint of the recommendations of National Knowledge Commission recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of Commissions constituted so far for carrying out comprehensive changes in education system of the country; and

(d) the details of the steps taken so far by the Government to implement the recommendations of each of the constituted Commission in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi has reportedly prepared a blueprint for implementation of the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission, and that the States of Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh are also preparing such blueprints.

(c) and (d) The National Commission on Education under Prof D.S. Kothari was constituted in 1964 and submitted its report in 1966 for comprehensive transformation of the Indian education system at all levels. Several recommendations, including the achievement of social and national integration through the educational system, modification in the educational structure and duration, transfer of the pre-university course, implementation of pay scales for teachers, introduction of university scholarships, curricular improvement, vocationalisation of education, universal enrolment in primary education, development of affiliated colleges, expansion of facilities for higher education have been implemented in the manner feasible.

[*English*]

Setting up of Ezhimala Naval Academy

1158. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ezhimala Naval Academy has become fully operational;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the training courses conducted so far in the Academy; and

(d) the future plans for enhancement in infrastructure and facilities?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All infrastructure facilities for conduct of training are in place except for certain facilities like the assembly hall, library and hospital for which alternate arrangements have been made.

(c) Since 8th August 2005, the Academy has conducted 08 Naval Orientation Course (NOC) so far. The ninth NOC is in progress. The B. Tech and B.Sc. Courses have commenced from 22.6.2009.

(d) One additional squadron for training of 150 cadets has been sanctioned and is under construction.

Strengthening of Postal Network

1159. SHRI P.T. THOMAS:
SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the postal network in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to appoint an expert committee with the task of submitting a study report for strengthening the postal network by transforming each post office into a multifaceted service providing centres in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of post-offices upgraded/proposed to be upgraded in the country including Andhra Pradesh during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been the endeavour of the Department to continuously strengthen the postal network in the country.

(b) A target for opening of 3000 Branch Post Offices and 2000 Sub Post Offices was drawn up for the current Five Year Plan but since the financial approval for creation of new posts has not been received so far, the target could not be implemented.

(c) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal pending.

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

(e) The number of Post Offices upgraded during the preceding three years is 11, 29 and 33 for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. The details thereof with special reference to Andhra Pradesh Circle is given in the enclosed Statement.

As regards current year the upgradation of Post Offices will be effected as and when need-based proposals are received and thereafter approved depending upon justification of workload and availability of manpower.

Statement

Details of Post Offices upgraded during the last three years

Circle	No. of EDBOs upgraded into DSOs			No. of EDSOs upgraded into DSOs			No. of SOs upgraded into HOs			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	1	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bihar	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kerala	0	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1
Maharashtra	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North East	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Punjab	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rajasthan	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1	5	5	1	2	0	0	1	1
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttarakhand	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Bengal	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Total	8	23	27	2	5	4	1	1	2

[*Translation*]

Export of Meat

1160. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding quantity and value of meat exported to various countries during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and Country-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received requests from various social/religious organisations to impose ban on such exports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Madam, the details regarding meat exports to various countries for the last three years and the current year are available on the websites www.commerce.gov.in and www.dgciskol.nic.in.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. Various representations were received in 2008 from Maharaja Kumarapal Jeevadaya Trust, Munoth House, Chennai and Dhahraj

Baid Jain College, Chennai to impose Ban on Export of Meat. Considering the overall development of livestock sector, the Government of India is not in favour of ban on the export of meat. However, export of cow and or veal meat from India is banned.

Expansion of CDMA Network

1161. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to expand CDMA based network in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued by the subscribers as a result of this expansion of service; and

(d) the amount of funds likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, the Government policy is technology neutral and operators can choose CDMA or GSM technology. In BSNL, 19.21 lakh lines of CDMA based WLL equipments are under various stage of supply/installation/commissioning for the

year 2009-2010. MTNL is not planning to expand the core equipment of its CDMA network in near future. However, augmentation of WLL towers and their capacities is a continuous process for providing better coverage.

(c) The coverage of WLL in the country of BSNL will be strengthened with above mentioned capacity expansion, as a result of which the service will improve. MTNL has planned to add 10 number of WLL towers in Mumbai during 2009-10.

(d) BSNL has planned to spend Rs. 349.31 crores on procurement of 19.2 lakh lines CDMA WLL equipment during 2009-10.

The addition of 10 number of towers by MTNL Mumbai is a part of its 400,000 lines network expansion plan costing Rs. 122.91 crores.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1162. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps for achieving the target of hundred per cent literacy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the country as on date State-wise;

(d) the details of the amount allocated and spent on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during the last four years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;

(e) whether any review of the scheme has been carried out;

(f) if so, the findings of the same including Bihar;

(g) whether the Government is planning to use biometric (Finger Print System) to mark the attendance of the students and teachers under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; and

(h) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The National Literacy Mission provides functional literacy to adult illiterate persons in the 15-35 age group. There has been an overall increase of 12.63 % in the literacy rate in the 1991-2001 decade. In respect of female literacy the growth has been 14.38%. SC and ST literacy has increased by over 17%. There has also been significant enhancement in investments for elementary education and achievement of universal elementary education will arrest further influx into the pool of adult illiterates, and thus improve the literacy rate for the country.

(c) The State-wise progress made under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the country is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) Statement-II detailing SSA funds allocated during the last four years and the current year is enclosed.

(e) and (f) The SSA programme is reviewed through a Joint Review Mission (JRM) on six monthly basis. The 9th JRM broadly found out that the pace of progress has increased significantly in Bihar State.

(g) and (h) There is no such proposal. The Central Government has not proposed any biometric system of attendance under SSA.

Statement I

Cumulative performance under SSA till 31.3.2009

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Schools opened	No. of Teachers appointed	School buildings constructed	Additional class rooms constructed	Drinking Water Facility provided	Toilets Facility provided
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8786	38086	9163	34335	7483	6279
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	936	5121	1425	2685	1849	600

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	0	0	7132	38539	788	5251
4.	Bihar	28240	160145	4209	72027	11990	26234
5.	Chhattisgarh	16397	53148	13723	13213	2155	6129
6.	Goa	5	169	0	33	188	403
7.	Gujarat	0	0	797	17343	7161	7334
8.	Haryana	2301	7874	1579	11738	4351	9235
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1151	3453	0	7671	2261	5043
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	11238	27222	4666	4380	410	410
11.	Jharkhand	26609	77559	16423	29335	5708	7018
12.	Karnataka	10541	21798	3057	34668	21438	24491
13.	Kerala	0	0	305	6128	8345	12614
14.	Madhya Pradesh	41436	78672	36657	41622	17051	26453
15.	Maharashtra	6608	11132	10689	37524	5876	5386
16.	Manipur	0	0	457	886	566	1043
17.	Meghalaya	3622	8965	1287	1691	2971	850
18.	Mizoram	310	1407	1182	705	1763	3307
19.	Nagaland	56	0	143	2572	1179	2718
20.	Orissa	13289	68752	10359	25986	5123	5590
21.	Punjab	1233	2905	534	16733	16733	187572
22.	Rajasthan	46026	85633	8340	64699	18010	22669
23.	Sikkim	84	185	56	329	478	674
24.	Tamil Nadu	5977	25473	5254	23066	11531	16103
25.	Tripura	1320	3902	1341	1606	1184	1974
26.	Uttar Pradesh	41662	240157	47423	224429	7999	8346
27.	Uttarakhand	2307	5998	2709	4237	5027	6045
28.	West Bengal	1385	57460	4066	79936	8127	11488
29.	Andaman Nicobar Island	10	67	0	56	11	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
30.	Chandigarh	18	748	7	66	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	86	363	10	96	4	4
32.	Daman Diu	8	63	11	11	36	47
33.	Delhi	6	20	6	1063	68	450
34.	Lakshadweep	8	4	0	-	-	-
35.	Puducherry	8	12	0	166	118	118
Total		271663	986493	193010	799574	177982	242891

Statement II

GOI released during 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	GOI Release				
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (as on 30.6.2009)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37999.00	46245.56	28100.00	71031.78	13569.90
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4442.51	7143.74	11043.55	13683.64	4117.00
3.	Assam	13850.00	51464.72	289063.62	42740.91	22480.00
4.	Bihar	32399.56	107744.39	135417.64	186158.47	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	30184.39	50182.20	46787.76	51853.86	21892.60
6.	Goa	728.12	724.12	899.57	804.41	0.00
7.	Gujarat	15084.84	14806.97	22658.26	25432.47	0.00
8.	Haryana	10196.55	25647.12	14220.00	20546.87	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	7614.66	6250.75	7638.30	8552.99	3286.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	18530.65	22083.37	20063.27	20532.59	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	28568.50	51515.00	80748.99	69041.09	0.00
12.	Karnataka	28303.78	54206.98	40604.78	51578.19	12536.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Kerala	5939.00	6382.00	8323.42	10854.04	6039.50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	77173.12	110879.68	86769.94	85569.35	56719.00
15.	Maharashtra	50235.31	52158.56	45729.96	67386.02	18023.00
16.	Manipur	3208.44	9.24	1850.95	321.21	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	1921.00	4294.00	9359.63	9440.36	3383.00
18.	Mizoram	2559.15	3441.69	4212.02	5112.59	2645.00
19.	Nagaland	2323.01	2315.20	4596.00	2867.87	1413.00
20.	Orissa	32792.50	44010.95	62853.68	49080.9	15903.00
21.	Punjab	14683.89	12879.92	10493.88	13808.1	7524.00
22.	Rajasthan	60313.43	75809.82	101307.20	108326.8	42823.00
23.	Sikkim	1062.50	402.14	1036.25	1075.31	986.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	35329.53	37329.65	53125.09	45414.47	21325.00
25.	Tripura	7070.19	5330.01	4178.49	6464.12	4273.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	182799.00	206654.00	204758.00	212884.89	78448.30
27.	Uttarakhand	10004.00	16934.00	13162.80	11444.45	5391.80
28.	West Bengal	34199.79	61736.80	90571.68	65169.37	47842.00
29.	Andaman Nicobar Islands	163.00	419.62	187.10	780.54	119.00
30.	Chandigarh	350.00	300.00	934.95	820.52	126.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	100.00	418.54	104.63	15.00
32.	Daman Diu	111.91	-	-	-	69.00
33.	Delhi	1100.00	4230.24	1671.55	1529.01	1163.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	87.47	-	70	41.00
35.	Puducherry	529.40	-	577.07	638.59	273.96
	Total	751770.73	1083719.91	1143203.94	1261120.41	392427.66
36.	National Component	952.00	1115.04	1328.58	1459.41	13.05
	Grand Total	752722.73	1084834.95	1144532.52	1262579.82	392440.71

*[English]***Development of Skills in Youth**

1163. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made with a view to making the present education system employment oriented;

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

(c) the details of recommendations made by the Confederation of Indian Industry to set up sector specific skill development councils at the national level under public-private-partnership model;

(d) whether the Government proposes to create special funding mechanism for sector specific skill development councils to promote functional literacy, initiate skill development plans, determine competence standards and to establish a structured labour market information system to prepare young people for getting jobs in different industrial establishments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government has accorded importance to job-oriented system of education. While elaborating on essence and role of education, the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) has recognized that education develops manpower for different levels of the economy. The NPE 1986 also envisages the introduction of systematic, well-planned and rigorously implemented programmes of vocational education. These elements are meant to develop a healthy attitude amongst students towards work and life, to enhance individual employability, to reduce the mis-match between the demand and supply of skilled manpower, and to provide an alternative for those intending to pursue higher education without particular interest or purpose.

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

The National Policy on Education also envisages the delinking of degrees from jobs in selected areas. Delinking

is to be applied in services for which a university degree need not be a necessary qualification.

However, Government is not in favour of excessive emphasis on skills, employment, corporate and job-oriented education at the cost of Basic Sciences and Humanities which is fundamental to our all round development, material and spiritual.

(c) Following recommendation have been made by the Confederation of Indian Industry:-

- * Establish Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) as an independent autonomous body.
- * Establish SSC under the public private partnership model; to create new capacity of quality skilled manpower.
- * The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) will accredit the private training institutes on the recommendations of the SSCs.
- * Curricula of private training institutes to be upgraded depending on industry demand and technological changes.
- * Curricula of private training institutes to be upgraded depending on industry demand and technological changes.
- * Responsibility of funding SSCs and the new private training institutes would rest with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) which could draw funds from the National Skill Development Fund.

(d) and (e) National Policy on Skill Development approved by Government of India, is a guiding document for skill development programmes in country. "Government of Skill Development" in policy document, illustrates setting up of "National Skill Development Corporation", Responsibility for constitution of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) has been entrusted to the above Corporation. One of the function of SSC is to develop Skill Development plans, determine Competence Standards and establish structured Labour Market Information System.

*[Translation]***Homeless and Landless Labourers/Workers**

1164. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of homeless and landless labourers/workers at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve their condition during the each of the last three years and the current year, and

(c) the target fixed and success achieved by the Government in this regard during the said period, State-wise and year-wise?

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

(a) As per Census 2001, the number of agricultural workers in India is 10.67 crores. Statement-I showing the State-wise data of landless agricultural workers is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Labour & Employment has initiated several measures to solve the problems of the landless labourers. Various labour laws like The Minimum Wages Act, 1948; The Workmen Compensation Act, 1923; The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RE&CS) Act, 1979 are applicable to these workers. There are various schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government for improving the conditions of rural poor including landless labourers. Some of such schemes are; Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana; Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana; Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana; National Social Assistance Programme; etc. The Government has recently enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 which provides 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' for BPL families in Unorganised sector has been launched on 1st October, 2007. The unorganised sector worker and his family (unit of five) will be covered under the scheme. The total sum insured would be Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum on a family floater basis.

With a view to providing death and disability cover to rural landless households, the 'Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY)' has been launched on 2nd October, 2007. Under the scheme, the head of the family or one earning member in the family will be insured. The Central Government will bear 50% of the premium of Rs. 200/- per year per person and remaining 50% of the premium will be borne by State Government. The benefits under

the scheme include Rs. 30,000/- in case of natural death; Rs. 75,000/- in case of death due to accident. In case of partial disability due to accident, the insurance cover would be Rs. 37,500/-. The children of beneficiaries of AABY studying in classes 9th to 12th including ITI courses are eligible to a scholarship @ Rs. 300/- per quarter per child for a maximum period of 4 years under Shiksha Sahyog Yojana.

Similarly, the National Old Age Pension Scheme (Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme) has been expanded to cover all BPL citizens above the age of 65 years with effect from 19.11.2007.

Recognising the need for social security for unorganised workers, including, homeless and landless workers, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the central level and State Social Security Boards at the State level which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganised workers.

Whereas, other welfare schemes cater to different categories of workers, including landless labourers, without treating them as a separate category, 'the Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana' is a scheme primarily for rural landless households. A Statement-II showing State-wise and year-wise coverage under Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana is enclosed.

Statement I

Number of Landless Agricultural Workers in the Country

(Source: Census 2001)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UTs	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13832152
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18840
3.	Assam	1263532
4.	Bihar	13417744
5.	Chhattisgarh	3091358

1	2	3	1	2	3
6.	Goa	35806	22.	Rajasthan	2523719
7.	Gujarat	5161658	23.	Sikkim	17000
8.	Haryana	1278821	24.	Tamil Nadu	8637630
9.	Himachal Pradesh	94171	25.	Tripura	276132
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	246421	26.	Uttar Pradesh	13400911
11.	Jharkhand	2851297	27.	Uttarakhand	259683
12.	Karnataka	6226942	28.	West Bengal	7362957
13.	Kerala	1620851	29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5169
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7400670	30.	Chandigarh	563
15.	Maharashtra	10815262	31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	14715
16.	Manipur	113630	32.	Daman and Diu	1323
17.	Meghalaya	171694	33.	Delhi	15773
18.	Mizoram	26783	34.	Lakshadweep	00
19.	Nagaland	30907	35.	Puducherry	72251
20.	Orissa	4999104		Total	106775330
21.	Punjab	1489861			

*NOTE: India and Manipur figures exclude Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul sub-divs of Senapati District in Manipur State as census results were cancelled due to administrative and technical reasons.

Statement II

State-wise and year-wise coverage under Aam Admi Bima Yojana

Sl.No.	State	Coverage			
		2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Himachal Pradesh	5,000	—	—	5,000
2.	Andhra Pradesh	38,00,000	—	—	38,00,000
3.	Maharashtra	4,56,156	5,14,991	—	9,71,147
4.	Gujarat	—	1,36,488	54,893	1,91,381
5.	Chandigarh	—	1153	—	1153

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	51,000	—	51,000
7.	Madhya Pradesh	—	13,64,232	—	13,64,232
8.	Bihar	—	3,80,000	—	3,80,000
9.	Jharkhand	—	37,546	—	37,546
10.	Karnataka	—	2,27,563	22,437	2,50,000
11.	Kerala	—	1,68,811	—	1,68,811
12.	Uttar Pradesh	—	28,516	3,12,290	3,40,806
13.	Chhattisgarh	—	100	—	100
Total		42,61,156	29,10,400	389620	75,61,176

*[English]***Setting up of Deep-Sea-Ports**

1165. SHRI SK. SAIDUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up deep-sea-ports in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Creation of National Oceanic Waterway**

1166. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for creation of National Oceanic Waterway is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Establishment of Shipyards**

1167. SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to establish new shipyards in the country including Gujarat;

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

(c) the time by which said Shipyards are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) to (c) National Maritime Development Programme envisages setting up of two international size shipyards, one on the East Coast and another on the West Coast of India. Maritime States including Gujarat were requested by this Ministry to identify suitable locations for setting up of international size shipyards, one each on the East Coast and West Coast of India respectively. Certain locations have been suggested by some of the Maritime States including Gujarat. Detail of States and sites proposed by State Governments is given in the enclosed statement.

Government of India nominated Mumbai Port Trust and Ennore Port Limited to function as the Nodal Agencies for setting up of shipyards on the West Coast of India

and the East Coast of India respectively. The nodal agencies *viz.* Ennore Port Limited and Mumbai Port Trust have been authorized to appoint Consultants who *inter alia*, would identify 3 or 4 alternative sites each for setting up of shipyard on West Coast and East Coast of India respectively and also suggest optimal locations with detailed justification. The commencement of the project depends on the outcome of the recommendations of the Consultants.

Statement

The Maritime States were requested by this Ministry to identify suitable location for setting up of international size shipyards, one each on the East Coast and West Coast of India respectively, with the following basic requirements:

- (i) The minimum land requirement of 1000-1500 acres and waterfront of about 2.5 Kms in length;
- (ii) Water draft of 10 to 12 meters;
- (iii) The site location for the proposed shipyards to have good rail and road connectivity;
- (iv) Contiguity to a Major Port situated within the State.

In response, the following locations have been suggested by the Maritime States:

Sl.No.	Name of State	Site Proposed/Response of the State Government
1.	Government of Karnataka	Tadri Port (Kundle Beach) and Honne Beach under Belekeri Port
2.	Government of Kerala	Poovar in Thiruvananthapuram District on Kerala-Tamil Nadu Border
3.	Government of Orissa	(i) Nuagarh (Astraranga) Distt. Puri (ii) Palur, Distt. Ganjam (iii) Gopalpur Port at Arjipalli, Chatrapur, Distt. Ganjam (iv) Bahuda Muhana (Sonepur), Distt. Ganjam
4.	Government of Andhra Pradesh	Vodarevu in Prakasam District
5.	Government of West Bengal	No. specific site proposed as yet.
6.	Government of Gujarat	Government of Gujarat has proposed a few stretches such as Salaya, Jodiya, Mundra Chanch and Pipavav and Tuna.

Upon receipt of the proposals from the State Governments, further information/clarifications have been sought by the Ministry from the respective State Government.

Information Technology Education to SC/ST Youths

1168. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide Information Technology (IT) education to the SC/ST and tribal youths in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to encourage and make provisions for extending grants to various private Indian Educational Institute who are providing IT education to the SC/ST and tribal youths; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Government policy provides for reservation of seats for SC/ST students and tribal youth in all centrally funded technical institutions which provide information technology education in addition to other courses.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Social Justice has operationalised a Scheme of "Top Class Education for SC students" in June, 2007 under which SC students whose family income is upto Rs. 2 lakh per annum will be eligible for scholarship. The courses of study covered include engineering, of which information technology is a part. Moreover, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements a "Central Sector Scholarship Scheme of Top Class Education for ST students" in which scholarship is provided for the study of specialized streams including engineering, in which Information Technology is also covered.

As per information given by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), States where the student intake ratio is below the national average and which include the North Eastern States with a large tribal population, AICTE has not imposed the restriction of opting for at least 3 conventional branches for the establishment of new engineering institutions from the year 2009-10 onwards. Institutions to be established in such states can opt for any course of their choice including IT and related courses.

[*Translation*]

Upgradation of Infrastructure of Ports

1169. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any plan to upgrade the infrastructure of ports in the country as per international standards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the objective to upgrade and modernize port infrastructure in India to enable it to benchmark its performance against global standards, a National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) has been formulated by the Ministry of Shipping. Under the programme, specific projects have been identified to be taken up for implementation upto 2011-12. In the Major Ports, 276 projects covering the entire gamut of activities, namely, construction/upgradation of berths, deepening of channels, rail-road connectivity projects, equipment upgradation/modernization schemes and other related schemes for creation of back-up facilities have been identified for inclusion in the programme.

[*English*]

Criteria for Installation of Mobile Tower

1170. SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVDANJI GADHAVI:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether any criteria have been laid-down regarding installation of mobile towers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the uncontrolled and unscientific installation of mobile towers causes adverse impact on human life;

(d) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government has received any proposal for setting up of mobile towers in Banaskantha in Gujarat and Chitradurga in Karnataka;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Service Providers install the mobile towers in a service area to provide service as per their technical requirements.

(c) and (d) International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines has been adopted by Telecommunications Engineering Centre (TEC) of DOT regarding basic restriction and response levels for limiting Electro Magnetic Field exposures. Epidemiological studies on exposed workers and the general public have provided limited information and failed to demonstrate any health effects.

Government has also inserted a clause in the Service Licence Agreement stating "Licensee shall conduct audit and provide self certificates annually as per procedure prescribed by Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC)/ or any other agency authorized by Licensor from time to time for conforming to limits/levels for antennae (Base Station Emissions) for general public exposure as prescribed by International Commission on 'Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) from time to time."

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. Government has received proposals from many service providers such as Idea, Bharti Airtel, Reliance, Vodafone etc. for setting up mobile towers in Banaskantha in Gujarat and Chitradurga in Karnataka. Government has given permission for installation of approximately 630 & 650 mobile towers in Banaskantha in Gujarat and Chitradurga in Karnataka respectively.

Rehabilitation of Mentally Retarded Persons

1171. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made efforts to find out the number of mentally retarded persons in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such persons in the country at present, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to rehabilitate said persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The State-wise details regarding number of mentally retarded persons in the country are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The following steps are taken to rehabilitate persons with mental retardation by providing services through Government Organizations and through Non-Governmental Organizations given financial assistance:

- (i) Pre-schools and early intervention centres provide facilities for development of the abilities of children in the age group of 0-6 years.
- (ii) Education is provided either through inclusive schools or Special Schools to children with mental retardation, taking into consideration their special needs.
- (iii) Vocational training, as suitable for their individual abilities, is provided to persons with mental retardation who are aged 18 years and above. The focus is on developing employable skills and self-employment. Placement support is also provided.
- (iv) Loans are provided on low interest rates for self-employment ventures.
- (v) Social Security Schemes are also implemented.
- (vi) Supported guardianship is provided to destitute and abandoned persons.
- (vii) Awareness generation and family and community-based rehabilitation programmes are implemented to facilitate social rehabilitation.

Statement

Number of Persons with Mental Retardation Per 100000 Persons by Each State/UT (As per National Sample Survey Organization's 58th Round of Survey, December 2003)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of persons
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	104
2.	Himachal Pradesh	118

1	2	3
3.	Punjab	116
4.	Chandigarh	64
5.	Uttarakhand	104
6.	Haryana	92
7.	Delhi	44
8.	Rajasthan	82
9.	Uttar Pradesh	92
10.	Bihar	70
11.	Sikkim	39
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	11
13.	Nagaland	54
14.	Manipur	47
15.	Mizoram	127
16.	Tripura	24
17.	Meghalaya	63
18.	Assam	45
19.	West Bengal	114
20.	Jharkhand	63
21.	Orissa	104
22.	Chhattisgarh	84
23.	Madhya Pradesh	72
24.	Gujarat	93
25.	Daman and Diu	58
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	67
27.	Maharashtra	99
28.	Andhra Pradesh	90
29.	Karnataka	98
30.	Goa	240
31.	Lakshadweep	249

1	2	3
32.	Kerala	194
33.	Tamil Nadu	113
34.	Puducherry	95
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	78

[*Translation*]

Job Opportunities for Handicapped Children

1172. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handicapped children in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to create more job opportunities to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) According to Census 2001 data, there are an estimated 77 lakh children with disabilities. The State wise data is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1955, provides for 3% reservation in Government employment, including 1% each for disabled persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing impairment and (iii) loco motor disability or cerebral palsy in the posts identified for each disability.

In 2007, the Central Government identified about 5000 types of Government posts as suitable for various categories of disabilities, as against about 3300 posts identified earlier.

To encourage more employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector, a new Scheme of Incentives to the Private Sector for Employment of Physically Challenged Persons have been launched w.e.f. 01.04.2008. Under this Scheme, the Government of India provides the employer's contribution for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for 3 years, for physically challenged employees employed in the private sector on or after 01.04.2008, with a a monthly salary upto Rs. 25,000.

Statement

*State-wise data of children with disabilities,
as per census 2001*

Sl.No.	State	Number of Children with Disabilities
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	120137
2.	Himachal Pradesh	41319
3.	Punjab	148461
4.	Chandigarh	5685
5.	Uttarakhand	66734
6.	Haryana	159879
7.	Delhi	87735
8.	Rajasthan	490292
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1495260
10.	Bihar	833268
11.	Sikkim	6192
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	8255
13.	Nagaland	8205
14.	Manipur	7361
15.	Mizoram	4983
16.	Tripura	17449
17.	Meghalaya	10572
18.	Assam	192748
19.	West Bengal	632107
20.	Jharkhand	180321
21.	Orissa	336459
22.	Chhattisgarh	144459
23.	Madhya Pradesh	485316
24.	Gujarat	3545411

1	2	3
25.	Daman and Diu	972
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1430
27.	Maharashtra	542442
28.	Andhra Pradesh	444884
29.	Karnataka	327667
30.	Goa	3851
31.	Lakshadweep	561
32.	Kerala	145124
33.	Tamil Nadu	427915
34.	Puducherry	6322
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	2420
Total		7732196

[English]

Grants of Universities/Colleges by UGC

1173. SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for providing grants to the Universities and Colleges both Government and private in the States;

(b) the grants sanctioned/provided to each of the such Universities and Colleges during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the grants to these Universities and Colleges; and

(d) if so, details thereof alongwith the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission (UGC) provides financial assistance to eligible universities/colleges which are included under section 2 (f) of the UGC Act, 1956 and declared fit to receive central assistance/UGC grants under section 12B of the UGC Act in conjunction with the UGC (fitness of Certain Universities for Grants) Rules, 1974 and the UGC (Fitness of Institutions for Grants) Rules, 1975. A statement showing the grants released during the last three years is annexed.

(c) and (d) The Government has increased the quantum of assistance during XI Plan period to eligible universities and colleges under various schemes. During the Eleventh Plan, about 6000 colleges and 150 universities, which are technically under the purview of UGC but do not get assistance as they do not meet the minimum eligibility norms, are also proposed to be strengthened, with focus on under-served areas, to enable these institutions to fulfil the criteria for UGC assistance. A sum of Rs. 7000 crore has been provided in the Eleventh Plan for this purpose. Additionally during the Eleventh Plan, 160 State universities and 5625 colleges, which are provided development grants by UGC but due to the budgetary constrains the funding is low and insufficient, are proposed to be provided one-time assistance. A sum of Rs. 3000 crore has been earmarked for the purpose in the Eleventh Plan. Both schemes will be subject to the matching commitments on funding by the States.

Statement

The grants paid by University Grants Commission to the Central Univs. State Univs. And Deemed Universities during the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 under Non-Plan & Plan Schemes

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the University	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Andhra Univ., Visakhapatnam	612.78	1229.50	1852.93
2.	The English & Foreign Languages Univ., Hyd.	1305.31	1444.44	3701.55

1	2	3	4	5
3.	C.E.C.R.I., Hyderabad.	0	0	0
4.	Hyderabad University, Hyd.	4570.64	9250.70	8903.83
5.	Jawaharlal Nehru Tech., Hyd.	37.55	311.66	362.28
6.	Kakatiya Univ. Warangal	156.91	228.69	277.99
7.	Maulana Azad National Urdu Univ., Hyd.	1384.39	1883.37	3730.21
8.	Nagarjuna Univ., Guntur	119.11	24.13	135.72
9.	National Instt. of Tech, Warangle	4.68	8.71	0
10.	National Instt. of Tech, Hyd	0	0	0
11.	Osmania Univ., Hyderabad	454.15	1295.87	955.74
12.	Potti Sreeramulu Telugu Univ., Hyd.	48.75	78.97	99.29
13.	Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati	670.79	603.79	842.86
14.	Sri Krishna Devaraya Univ., Anantapur	51.01	221.59	321.76
15.	Sri Venkateswara Univ., Tirupati	301.46	456.64	518.85
16.	Sri Padmawathis Mahila V. Vidyalaya, Tirupati	138.61	130.63	232.00
17.	Sir Sathya Sai Inst.. of Higher Learning, Anantapur	115.76	64.50	129.85
18.	International Instt. of Information Tech., Hyd.	5.45	6.64	7.37
19.	A.N.G. Ranga Agricultural Univ., Hyd.	49.45	163.14	40.16
20.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyd.	3.00	0	0
21.	National Academy of legal Studies & Res. Univ.	174.63	130.46	91.20
22.	M.G. Narain Instt. Res. & Social, Hyd.	0	8.20	0
23.	Dravidian Univ	0	105.60	78.97
24.	Gandhi Instt. of Tech. Patnam	0	0.00	10.49
25.	SSSI of MLPM, Anantapuram	0	0.00	7.99
Total		10204.43	18509.52	22301.04

Arunachal Pradesh

1.	Rajiv Gandhi Univ., Itanagar	180.61	164.50	1971.76
Total		180.61	164.50	1971.76

Assam

1.	Assam University, Silchar	1193.25	1033.66	1534.40
2.	Dibrugarh Univ., Dibrugarh	62.8	193.15	395.33

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Gauhati Univ., Guwahati	158.86	100.42	498.03
4.	Tezpur University, Tezpur	750.26	2039.5	2550.29
5.	National Instt. of Tech., Silcher	0	2.25	0
6.	Assam Agril. Univ.	0	60.75	81.00
Total		2165.17	3429.73	5059.05

Bihar

1.	T.M. Bhagalpur Univ., Bhagalpur	42.18	209.50	184.83
2.	Babasaheb BRA Bihar Univ., Muzaffarpur	183.02	91.51	166.52
3.	B.N. Mandal Univ. Madhepura	95.72	95.48	221.03
4.	K.S. Dharbhanga Sanskrit V.V., Darbhanga	12.00	65.59	160.74
5.	Magadh Univ., Bodh Gaya	62.38	62.97	157.33
6.	L.N. Mithila Univ., Darbhanga	158.32	77.63	124.15
7.	Patna Univ., Patna	159.76	168.7	218.63
8.	Rajendra Agricultural Univ, Samastipur	1.11	0	0
9.	Jai Prakash V.V., Chapra.	0	64.43	42.66
10.	Veer Kunwar Sing Univ., Arrah	0	131.1	171.38
Total		714.49	966.91	1447.27

Chhattisgarh

1.	Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur	34.43	96.99	126.25
2.	Indira Kala Sangeet V.V., Khairagarh	4.96	205.32	49.31
3.	Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla Uni., Raipur	55.88	247.07	274.05
4.	Indira Gandhi Krishi V.V., Raipur	0	4.75	392.53
5.	Hidayatullah National Law Univ., Raipur	0	116.50	67.17
Total		95.27	670.63	909.31

Delhi

1.	Delhi University	15737.17	17739.05	21951.03
2.	Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha Univ. N. Delhi	54.49	135.97	166.45
3.	IGNOU	3.94	0.84	6.59
4.	Indian Agricultural research Instt., N.D.	33.00	40.22	30.22

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	7356.43	8497.82	15847.53
6.	Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi	704.55	672.23	906.95
7.	Jawaharlal Nehru University, N. Delhi	10728.98	13165.91	15533.54
8.	National Museum Instt. of History of Art, Conservation and Musicology, New Delhi	15.00	17.00	0
9.	School of Planning & Architecture, ND	0	0	0
10.	Shri LBS Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth	7.17	852.05	1025.72
11.	TERI School of Advanced Studies, N.D.	14.00	0	14.00
12.	Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi	897.67	2.47	0
13.	Indian Law Institute, New Delhi	300.00	4.44	0
14.	IIT, New Delhi	0.00	0	2.40
15.	AIIMS, New Delhi	0.00	0	0.45
16.	Indian Instt. Of Advance Studies	0.00	0	20.00
Total		35852.40	41127.90	55504.88
Gujarat				
1.	Bhavnagar Univ., Bhavnagar	15.11	137.30	156.87
2.	Gujarat Univ., Ahmedabad	172.72	164.64	455.68
3.	Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad	120.63	1059.02	1229.02
4.	M.S. Univ. of Baroda, Vadodara	597.69	368.55	842.79
5.	North Gujarat Univ., Patan	67.00	114.47	91.48
6.	Sardar Patel Univ., Vallabh Vidyanagar	187.81	195.07	511.41
7.	Saurashtra Univ., Rajkot	145.69	150.67	368.29
8.	South Gujarat Univ., Surat	48.74	204.58	262.02
9.	B.R. Ambedkar Open Univ., Ahmedabad	0	5.95	0
10.	National Instt. Of Management, Ahmedabad	0	0	0.23
Total		1355.39	2400.25	3917.79
Goa				
1.	Goa Univ., Goa	23.70	277.04	405.39
Total		23.70	277.04	405.39

1	2	3	4	5
Haryana				
1.	C.C.S. Haryana Agril. Univ., Hisar	1.55	2.32	12.40
2.	Guru Jambheshwar Univ., Hisar	88.88	108.33	220.08
3.	Kurukshetra Univ., Kurukshetra	218.32	325.11	373.02
4.	Maharshi Dayanand Univ., Rohtak	147.53	304.67	425.25
5.	National Brain Research Centre, Gurgaon	3.83	7.50	9.66
6.	National Dairy Research Instt. Karnal	1.11	0	.135
7.	National Instt. Of Tech., Kurukshetra	1.67	2.39	0
	Total	462.89	750.32	1041.76
Himachal Pradesh				
1.	Himachal Pradesh Univ., Simla	805.79	131.55	523.75
2.	Himachal Pradesh Krishi Univ., Palampur	3.44	0	0
3.	National Instt. Of Tech., Hamirpur	2.88	3.44	2.60
4.	Dr. Yashwatn Singh Parmar Univ. of Horticultural & Forestry, Solan	2.40	0	0
5.	Chaudhary Swaran Kuvar H.P. Agril. V.V.	0	7.60	0
6.	IIT Advance Studies, Shimla	0	0.00	13.95
	Total	814.51	142.59	540.30
Jammu and Kashmir				
1.	Jammu Univ., Jammu	231.21	229.21	1361.34
2.	Kashmir Univ. Srinagar	184.20	352.07	344.66
3.	Sher-e-Kashmir Univ. of Agril. Sc. & Tech., Srinagar	1.84	20.00	20.83
	Total	417.25	601.28	1726.83
Jharkhand				
1.	Birla Instt. of Tech., Mesra, Ranchi	129.02	90.35	348.9
2.	Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad	6.16	35.89	149.91
3.	Ranchi University, Ranchi	59.23	89.66	1280.07
4.	Vinoba Bhava Univ., Hazaribag	57.27	229.84	158.09
5.	Siddhu Kanhu Univ., Dumka			0
	Total	251.68	445.74	1936.97

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka				
1.	Bangalore Univ., Bangalore	237.45	277.64	524.22
2.	Gulbarga Univ., Gulbarga	26.44	197.61	155.47
3.	I.I. Science, Bangalore	301.44	379.45	1140.44
4.	Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advance Scientific Research, Bangalore	1.11	6.92	0
5.	Kannada Univ, Hampi	84.01	141.20	168.67
6.	Karnataka Univ, Dharwad	131.44	357.92	426.47
7.	Kovempu Univ, Shimoga	240.00	120.41	291.96
8.	Mangalore Univ, Mangalore	103.26	222.38	399.47
9.	Mysore Univ, Mysore	360.58	380.7	708.59
10.	Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal	0	0	1.70
11.	National Instt. of Mental Health & Neuro Science, Bangalore	7.12	20.00	39.15
12.	National Law Instt. of India, Bangalore	75.50	106.75	71.30
13.	Karnatak State Open Univ, Mysore	0	0	0
14.	University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore	1.11	1.11	0.25
15.	National Instt. of Tech. Karnataka	0	0.75	0
16.	Univ. of Agril. Sci., Dharwad	0	2.70	3.41
17.	Karnataka State Women's Univ., Bijapur	0	149.65	80.86
18.	National Law School of India Univ.	0	0	6.52
19.	Visvasaraya Tech. Univ., Belgaum			0
Total		1569.66	2365.19	4018.48

Kerala

1.	Calicut Univ, Kozhikode	180.93	212.73	450.83
2.	Cochin Univ. of Science & Tech., Kochi	169.26	1460.03	1850.51
3.	Kerala Univ., Thiruvananthapuram	258.18	290.49	684.63
4.	Mahatma Gandhi Univ., Kottayam	75.41	115.12	197.15
5.	Kerala Agri. Univ., Trichur	0	0	179.07
6.	Kannur Univ., Kannur	69.00	293.96	61.82

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Shri Sankaracharya Univ. of Sanskrit, Kalady	127.24	41.01	142.73
8.	NIT, Calicut	0	0	8.56
Total		878.02	2413.34	3575.30

Manipur

1.	Manipur Univ., Imphal	1759.68	4733.75	6164.70
Total		1759.68	47.33.75	6164.70

Madhya Pradesh

1.	Avdesh P. Singh Univ., Rewa	73.86	159.36	167.51
2.	Barkatullah V.V., Bhopal	63.35	79.62	204.60
3.	M.G. Chitrakoot Gramodyog V.V., Chitrakoot	76.98	121.60	189.40
4.	Devi Ahilya V.V., Indore	208.91	308.03	494.96
5.	Dr. H.S. Gour V.V., Sagar	133.44	193.06	1014.58
6.	Jiwaji University, Gwalior	106.36	98.88	87.24
7.	Lakshmbai National Inst. of Physical Education, Gwalior	33.00	0	50.00
8.	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapith, Prabhani	0	0.75	0
9.	M.P. Bhoj Univ., Bhopal	0	1.65	65.23
10.	National Law Instt., Bhopal	86.00	172.16	330.71
11.	Rani Durgavati V.V., Jabalpur	299.71	129.21	258.66
12.	Vikram University, Ujjain	195.60	176.25	224.33
13.	IIIT of Management, Gwalior	0.00	0	3.56
14.	GS Instt. of Tech & Sci., Indore	0.00	0	2.71
15.	JN Krishi Vish. Bhopal	0.00	0	142.30
Total		1277.21	1440.57	3235.79

Maharashtra

1.	SGB Amravati Univ., Amravati	141.77	135.27	204.32
2.	C.I.F.E. Versova, Mumbai	4.33	0	0
3.	Deccan College PG & Research Instt., Pune	77.00	7.92	62.94
4.	Gokhale Instt. of Pol. Economics, Pune	992.54	11.53	51.53

1	2	3	4	5
5.	International Instt. For Population Studies, Bombay	3.12	18.85	10.18
6.	Instt. of Science, Bombay	0	0	0
7.	Mumbai Univ., Mumbai	1475.14	722	5090.1
8.	MGA Hindi University, Wardha	1043.20	1656.72	1131.72
9.	Dr. B.A. Marathwada Univ., Aurangabad	71.01	151.57	351.83
10.	RTM Nagpur Univ., Nagpur	94.06	343.88	428.05
11.	North Maharashtra, Jalgaon	65.85	151.95	169.71
12.	Poona Univ., Pune	1010.86	528.54	1571.48
13.	S.N.D.T. Women's Univ., Mumbai	113.64	163.59	373.26
14.	Shivaji Univ., Kolhapur	233.27	404.62	348.26
15.	Tata Instt. of Social Science, Mumbai	1259.60	1184.54	1588.25
16.	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapith Bhavan, Pune	69.2	56.25	88.79
17.	Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open Univ., Nashik	0	0.46	4.00
18.	S.R.T. Marathwada Univ., Nanded	179.28	65.31	143.10
19.	Bharti Vidyapith, Pune	7.92	9.09	20.00
20.	Visvasaraya National Instt. & Tech. Nagpur	0	1.96	6.96
21.	Kavi Kulguru Kalidas Sanskrit V.V., Nagpur	1.15	0.97	0
22.	Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Prabhani	12.5	0	0
23.	Padamshri Dr. Dy. Patil Vidyapith. Mumbai	0	0.75	0
24.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Tech. Univ.	0	0	80.96
25.	Solapur Univ.			0
Total		6855.44	5615.77	11725.44

Meghalaya

1.	N.E.H.U.	5082.79	7353.36	9157.16
Total		5082.79	7353.36	9157.16

Mizoram

1.	Mizoram University, Mizoram	2547.96	2566.57	6830.32
Total		2547.96	2566.57	6830.32

1	2	3	4	5
Nagaland				
1.	Nagaland University, Kohima.	2089.06	2134.61	3241.46
	Total	2089.06	2134.61	3241.40
Orissa				
1.	Berhampur Univ., Berhampur	43.09	231.21	189.23
2.	Sambalpur Univ., Sambalpur	80.44	328.81	497.47
3.	Shri Jaganath Sanskrit Vidyapith, Puri	94.90	92.25	95.24
4.	Utkal Univ., Bhubaneswar	290.87	376.17	506.72
5.	North Orissa Univ. Baripada	7.44	85.00	29.57
6.	National Instt. of Tech. Rourkela	0	0	28.03
7.	Instt. of Sci. & Tech. Bhubaneswar	0	5.75	0
8.	Fakir Mohan Univ., Balasore	0	197.94	107.37
9.	Orissa Univ. of Agril & Tech., Bhubaneswar	0	3.00	0
10.	Ravenshaw Univ.	0	0.00	113.25
11.	Instt. of Social Work, Bhubaneswar	0	0.00	7.05
	Total	516.74	1320.13	1573.93
Punjab				
1.	Guru Nanak Dev Univ., Amritsar	276.02	158.05	694.52
2.	Punjab Univ., Chandigarh	790.94	379.76	1036.08
3.	Punjab Agril. Univ., Ludhiana	25.84	203.63	6.07
4.	Punjabi Univ., Patiala	124.92	350.05	778.12
5.	Thapar Instt. of Engg. Technology, Patiala	160.15	143.85	200.23
	Total	1377.87	1235.34	2715.02
Puducherry				
1.	Puducherry Univ. Pudicherry	2494.52	5562.68	4367.45
	Total	2494.52	5562.68	4367.45
Rajasthan				
1.	Kota Open Univ., Kota	0	0	0
2.	J.N. Vyas Univ., Jodhpur	104.23	315.15	497.97

1	2	3	4	5
3.	M.D.S. Univ., Ajmer	191.93	134.25	198.01
4.	M.L. SUkhadia V. Vidyalaya, Udaipur	168.18	107.08	181.73
5.	Rajasthan Univ., Jaipur	629.45	885.51	614.56
6.	Banasthali Vidyapith (Raj.)	424.11	357.08	277.75
7.	B.I.T.S. Pilani	61.56	550.85	327.47
8.	J.V. Bharti Instt., Ladnun (Raj.)	15.56	95.48	186.36
9.	JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur	16.01	3.45	32.58
10.	Malvia National Instt. of Tech. Jaipur	0.94	0.75	0
11.	Rajasthan Agri. Univ., Bikaner	0	2.99	94.45
12.	Instt. of Advance Study in Education, Sharanpur	0	0	0.10
13.	NIT, Pilani	0	0.07	8
14.	Bikaner Univ., Bikaner			0
Total		1611.97	2452.59	2411.76

Tamil Nadu

1.	Alagappa Univ., Karaikudi	106.43	182.29	362.64
2.	Annamalai Univ. Annamalai Nagar	434.61	348.98	579.09
3.	Anna Univ., Chennai	413.44	609.36	1174.83
4.	Bharthiar Univ., Coimbatore	149.66	166.71	458.09
5.	Bharthidesan Univ., Tiruchirapalli	127.81	296.34	451.22
7.	Madras Univ., Chennai	3470.53	383.46	3899.29
8.	Madurai Kamraj Univ., Madurai	1160.03	407.84	1295.76
9.	Mother Teresa Univ. for Women, Kodaikanal	35.53	52.93	94.79
10.	M. Sundarnar Univ., Tirunelveli	107.81	123.06	255.81
12.	Tamil Univ., Thanjavur	1080.38	121.31	131.74
13.	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	1.01	6.41	22.60
14.	Avinash. Instt. of Home Sci. for Women's Combatore	1081.77	1263.18	1355.32
15.	Gandhigram Rural Instt. Gandhigram	1196.95	1268.85	1684.60
16.	Sh. Chandrasekharandra Saraswati V.V., Kancheepuram	61.52	46.00	104.86

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Sri Ramachandra Medical College & Res. Instt.	2.80	3.94	0
18.	Shan Mugha Arts, Sci. Tech. & Research Acad.	0	0	0
19.	Vellore Instt. of Tech. Vellore (T.N.)	0	0	0.78
20.	National Instt. of Tech. Trichurapalli	0	0.46	0
21.	Satya Bhama Instt. of Science & Tech., Chennai	3	0	0
22.	Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore	0.10	0	0
23.	Periyar University, Salem	28.57	194.10	0
24.	Instt. of Tech. & Sci, Coimbatore	0	2.00	102.49
25.	CLRI, Chennai	0	0.00	0.10
26.	NIT, Chennai	0	0.00	0.10
27.	Amrita Vish., Coimbatore	0	0.00	5.80
28.	MGR Educational & Res. Instt., Chennai			0.00
29.	Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical, Chennai			0.00
30.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.			0.00
Total		9461.95	5477.22	11979.91
Tripura				
1.	Tripura Univ., Agartala	235.02	63.03	2666.07
Total		235.02	63.03	2666.07
Sikkim				
1.	Sikkim Univ.	0	0	1300.00
Total		0	0	1300.00
Uttar Pradesh				
1.	Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh	20554.94	23321.13	25701.82
2.	Allahabad Univ., Allahabad	6002.65	9771.26	15452.42
3.	Allahabad Agri. Instt. Allahabad	3.63	4.23	0
4.	Bundelkhand Univ., Jhansi	34.01	90.65	101.03
5.	Banaras Hindu Univ. Varanasi	23708.42	30940.38	30855.24
6.	Bhatkhande Music Instt. Lucknow	1.50	0.44	0

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Central Instt. of Higher Tibetan Studies, Varanasi	41.50	40.00	23.57
8.	Ch. Charan Singh Univ., Meerut	70.87	139.31	213.42
9.	Dayal Bagh Edu. Instt., Agra	556.21	772.32	848.09
10.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Univ., Lucknow	248.68	790.82	1531.32
11.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Univ., Agra	0.72	51.47	81.34
12.	Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (Avadh) Univ., Faizabad	211.93	66.52	195.81
13.	D.D. U. Gorakhpur Univ., Gorakhpur	235.45	215.51	380.66
14.	Ch. Shahuji Maharaj Kanpur Univ., Kanpur	8.55	32.82	82.87
15.	Indian Veterinary Research Instt., Izatnagar	2.22	3.29	3.88
16.	Lucknow Univ., Lucknow	203.77	555.45	659.92
17.	Motilal Nehru National Instt. Allahabad	3.08	0	0
18.	Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi	130.26	54.73	169.84
19.	M.J.P. Rohikhand Univ. Bareilly	5.05	59.73	81.39
20.	V.V.S. Purvanchal Univ, Jaunpur	35.62	46.68	147.76
21.	Sampurnanand Sanskrit V. Vidyalaya, Varanasi	0.20	97.17	98.00
22.	J.R. Handicapped Univ., Chitrakoot	1.14	130.85	89.09
23.	Indian Instt. of Information, Allahabad	1.16	0	0
24.	NIT, Allahabad	0	0	3.98
Total		52061.56	67184.76	76721.45

Uttaranchal (Uttarakhand)

1.	G.B. Pant Univ. of Agril. & Tech., Pant Nagar	12.25	2.60	19.25
2.	H.N.B. (Garwal) Univ., Srinagar	14.95	290.04	239.15
3.	Kumaon Univ., Nainital	38.24	306.98	293.31
4.	Roorkee Univ., Roorkee	0	0	0
5.	Forest Research Instt., Dehradun	1.25	1.13	0
6.	Gurukul Kangri V.V. Haridwar	893.21	824.67	1038.91
Total		959.9	1425.42	1590.62

West Bengal

1.	Burdwan Univ., Burdwan	172.93	191.13	493.65
2.	Calcutta Univ., Kolkata	3477.58	670.58	4266.15

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Jadavpur Univ., Kolkata	1214.07	2620.85	1771.63
4.	Kalyani Univ., Kalyani	106.85	103.23	255.98
5.	North Bengal Univ., Kolkata	81.69	319.05	451.53
6.	Rabindra Bharti Univ., Kolkata	48.89	321.93	214.54
7.	Vidya Sagar Univ., Midnapore	97.50	99.46	306.56
8.	Vishwa Bharati Univ., Shantinekerta	4940.46	6649.43	8646.65
9.	Bengal Engg. College, Howrah	169.46	1093.83	1211.13
10.	Ramakrishana Mission Vivekananad Educational Res. Instt. Howrah	100.00	280.00	379
11.	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Nadia	0.55	1.15	1.04
12.	West Bengal Univ. of Tech., Kolkata	0	6.13	0.60
13.	West Bengal Univ. of Animal & Fishery Sci., Belgachia	0	0	0.35
Total		10409.98	12356.77	17998.81

Regulation of Deemed Universities

1174. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission (UGC) plans to regulate fees and admission at Deemed Universities;

(b) if so, whether UGC plans to rein in skyrocketing fees in Deemed Universities and make their controversial admission process transparent;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which these regulations have helped both students and educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC), has, at its last meeting on 22nd June 2009 approved the UGC (Fee Structure in Institutions Deemed-to-be-Universities) Regulations, 2009 and UGC (Admission in Professional Programmes of Study at

Institutions Deemed-to-be-Universities) Regulations, 2009, which are at present with the Government for consideration.

Establishment of Vessels Traffic System

1175. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish any Vessels Traffic System in Gulf of Kutch to regulate the shipping traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of firm to which this project has been assigned;

(c) the time scheduled for completion of the said project; and

(d) the time and cost escalation, if any, occurred in the implementation of the project alongwith the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project consists of Civil Engineering work, telecommunication network and installation of equipment for the Vessel Traffic System. It comprises establishment of one Master Control Centre at Kandla, nine Radar Stations spread over the entire Gulf of Kutch, six Port Monitor Stations, two Radio direction finders Metrological and Hydrological Sensors and associated microwave link. The Civil Engineering work consists of construction of ten 60 meter, one 50 meter and two 30 meter high RCC towers, one Master Control Centre building and other ancillary buildings. The Civil Engineering work is spread over 21 sites. The project has been assigned to a consortium lead by M/s. Telecommunications Consultants India Limited. The other partners of the consortium are M/s. M.L. Dalmia and Company, Kolkata, and M/s Holland Institute of Traffic Technology, the Netherlands.

(c) and (d) The project was initially slated for completion by June, 2007. However, there has been time overrun due to remoteness of sites and slow progress of civil engineering workers. The project is now rescheduled for completion by 31.3.2010. So far, no cost escalation has occurred in the implementation of the project except for payment to be made for additional work required to be done by the contractor.

Setting up of Oceanarium Complexes and Marine Theme Parks

1176. SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has examined the proposal regarding setting up of Oceanarium Complexes and Marine Theme Parks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the proposals, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which said proposals are likely to be cleared and established such complexes and parks ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):
(a) to (c) No, Madam. However, a National Maritime Complex has been set up in Chennai in the form of a society with the following possible constituents:

- (i) Museum
- (ii) Art Gallery & Marine Aquarium
- (iii) Commercial Complex & Maritime Sector Offices

(iv) Food Court & Catering College

(v) Maritime Conventional Centre.

Silicosis Disease

1177. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether workers in stone crushing and mining factories are suffering from silicosis disease;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce any legislation/regulation to provide healthy working conditions and sophisticated equipments for prevention of such occupational diseases;

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

(e) whether the Government also proposes to provide compensation to the workers or their families of those who have lost their health and lives due to silicosis; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes Sir. Such reports have been received.

(b) This information is not maintained centrally.

(c) and (d) There are adequate legislative provisions under the Factories Act, 1948 and the Mines Act, 1952. The Factories Act 1948, is applicable to the factories employing ten or more workers and where manufacturing process is carried on with the aid of power, Section 85 of the Act also empowers State Governments to declare applicability of any or all the provisions of the Act to anyplace wherein manufacturing process is carried on, irrespective of number of workers employed. The Factories Act contains adequate provisions for ensuring safe and healthy working conditions for the workers employed in factories including stone crushing factories. The State Governments have also notified Rules detailing the requirements relating to safety, health, welfare, working hours etc. of workers employed in such factories.

Section 9A of the Mines Act, 1952 provides for undertaking safety and occupational health surveys in mines after giving appropriate notice. Section 25 of the Mines Act, 1952 provides that if any person employed in mine contracts any disease notified by Central Government in the Official Gazette as a disease connected with mining operations, the owner, agent or manager of the mine shall send notice thereof to the Chief Inspector and other authorities.

(e) and (f) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 address the issues relating to compensation and rehabilitation.

Expansion of Broadband Connectivity

1178. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the rural tele-density and expand broadband connectivity to connect every Panchayat to a broadband network in the country during the current financial year and the next two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and expenditure likely to be incurred for the said purpose during the current financial year; and

(d) the extent of coverage proposed during the current financial year in Orissa and Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of about 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across the country, 30,000 Gram Panchayats have been provided with broadband connectivity. It has been planned to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats in a progressive manner by the end of 2012.

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has signed an agreement with BSNL for subsidy disbursement for providing 9 lakh wireline broadband connections including customer premises equipment and computer/computing devices in rural and remote areas.

(c) The amount of Rs. 120 crore and Rs. 290 crore has been allocated by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) respectively for expansion of Rural broadband during current financial year i.e. 2009-10.

(d) 575 villages panchayats out of 6236 in Orissa & 109 panchayats out of 14506 in Gujarat have been planned to be covered with Broadband during 2009-10.

Tax Relief for SEZs

1179. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review income tax relief extended to Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to review SEZ Scheme in order to provide additional tax concessions to SEZs in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) No general review of the existing fiscal benefits as admissible to SEZ developers/units is under consideration at present.

Decline in Demand and Production of Coffee

1180. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA:

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

(a) whether the coffee growers in the country have been hit hard by slump in the global demand of coffee and low domestic production;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the total production and export of coffee for the last three years and the current year;

(c) the details of problems being faced by coffee growers/industry at present;

(d) whether the Government proposes to implement debt waiver for coffee growers or bring out a package for revival of coffee industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) There is no decline in demand for coffee in the world market. However, Coffee Growers in the country have been affected due to low domestic production.

(b) The details of coffee produced in the country and exported during the last three years and current year are as under:

Year	Production in (Metric tons)	Exports (in Metric tons)
2006-07	288000	249029
2007-08	262000	222339
2008-09	262300	201633**
2009-10	306300* (*Post blossom estimate)	50305** (April to June) (**based on permits issued)

(c) Adverse weather conditions, ravages of pests and diseases, old age of plantations and debt burden accumulated during the crisis period (2000-2004) are the problems faced by coffee growers.

(d) and (e) Coffee Growers' Associations have represented to evolve a debt relief package to tide over the debt crisis and to come out of debt trap. The demands of coffee growers are being examined by the Government. It is premature to indicate any time frame.

FTA with Bimstec Countries

1181. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of BIMSTEC countries i.e. Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal met recently in Phuket to conclude negotiations for Free Trade Agreement (FTA) after 18 rounds of talks since 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the proposed deal is likely to be concluded; and

(c) the extent to which the proposed deal is likely to increase multilateral trade to tackle recession in the global market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Officials of the BIMSTEC countries i.e. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand met in Phuket from 2-4 June 2009 for the 18th meeting of the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC). A major achievement of this TNC meeting was the finalization of the texts of the (i) Agreement on Trade in Goods, (ii) Rules of Origin and (iii) Operational Certification Procedures. Agreement on the three texts paves the way for future implementation of the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area (FTA). The BIMSTEC FTA will become operational once each BIMSTEC member country works out its schedule of tariff concessions, seeks necessary approvals and then circulates it among the other members.

(c) The BIMSTEC FTA is expected to substantially increase India's trade with Thailand and Myanmar with which India presently does not have any preferential trading arrangement.

Crash of Aircraft and Helicopters

1182. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircraft and helicopters crashed during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the loss of lives and property suffered as a result thereof;

(c) the reasons for frequent air crashes in the country; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) The number of aircraft and helicopters that crashed

during each of the last three financial years and the current year are as follows:-

Financial year	Aircraft	Helicopter
2006-07	9	5
2007-08	12	5
2008-09	11	8
2009-10 (till 2.7.2009)	5	1
Total	37	19

(b) 34 service personnel were killed in these accidents. There was no loss of civil life. The loss to civil property amounted to Rs. 6,32,047.

(c) The major reasons for aircraft accidents in the Defence Forces are Human Errors and Technical Defects.

(d) In each case of accident, an investigation is carried out and appropriate remedial actions are taken. Besides, a continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Defence Forces to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft.

[Translation]

Speed Post Service

1183. SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Speed Post Service is not still popular among masses in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any review in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to popularise Speed Post Service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Speed Post Service is popular among masses in the country. (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Review of the Speed Post service is an on going process and it is done by assessing the market challenges and emerging opportunities for postal services. Constant review aims to make this product customer friendly and competitive. These reviews are conducted at various levels in the Department of Posts at regular intervals.

(e) In order to popularize Speed Post, the Department of Posts has been taking a number of steps to improve the quality of Speed Post service in the country such as improvements in booking and delivery. Some of the steps undertaken by the Department in this regard are like track & trace, implementation of the scheme for Business Expansion of Speed Post which incorporates expansion of the network and up gradation of Speed Post Centres, introduction of one India one rate, reduction in local Speed Post charges, extending of credit facility and collection of Speed Post articles from the customers' premises.

Amendment in Central Labour Laws

1184. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments Including Madhya Pradesh regarding seeking amendments in Central Labour Laws relating to Special Economic Zones;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) According to the information received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the nodal Ministry, State legislations relating to Special Economic Zones, namely; the Andhra Pradesh Special Economic Zone Bill, 2005; the Maharashtra Special Economic Zones and Designated Areas Ordinance, 2008 and Jharkhand Special Economic Zone Bill, 2007 have been received by them for approval of the Government of India/assent of the President of India.

The Madhya Pradesh Labour Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003 after due examination has been returned to the State Government with a message dated 16.01.2008 from the Hon'ble President under the proviso to Article 201 read with Article 200 of the Constitution of India, with directions to return the Bill to the State Legislature to reconsider it as per the directions contained in the message.

*[English]***Export of Handicrafts**

1185. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the export of handicrafts as against the envisaged target set for the year 2008-09;

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

(c) the target set for the export of handicrafts in the year 2009-10; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the export of handicrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. There has been a decline in export of handicrafts registered during 2008-09. Export of Handicraft was Rs. 8183.12 crores compared to Rs. 14012.05 crores in 2007-08.

(c) A target of Rs. 9410.58 crores has been fixed for the exports of handicrafts during 2009-10.

(d) To increase the export of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets, financial assistance is being provided for participation in Fairs/Exhibitions abroad; organization of buyer-seller's abroad; awareness programmes about technology, packaging and various relevant policies in India; organizing sourcing shows and Thematic promotion of Indian handicrafts. Besides these incentives under Duty Drawback, interest Suvention, VKGUY, ECGC & DEPB schemes are being extended.

*[Translation]***Exploration of Unorganised Workers**

1186. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether labours/workers working in the small units like shops etc. in the unorganised sector are being exploited;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to take stringent action against the defaulting concerned authorities responsible in this regard;

(d) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to protect the interest of such workers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The Government has taken adequate measures for the protection of unorganised workers including those engaged in small scale industries through various legislations. Various labour laws like The Minimum Wages Act, 1948; The Workmen Compensation Act, 1923; The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Condition of Service) Act, 1979 are directly or Indirectly applicable to these workers. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to implement the various laws in letter and spirit.

(d) and (e) Recently the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 has been enacted. The Act provides for formulation of social security schemes viz. life and disability cover, health, maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Government, for unorganised workers.

For providing smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum to Below Poverty Line families in the unorganised sector, the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' was launched on 1st October, 2007. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008.

To provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the "Aam Admi Bima Yojana".

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for old age pension to all citizens above the age of 65 years and living below the poverty line.

*[English]***Consumption of Cement**

1187. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

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

(a) whether the consumption trend of cement and the steady rise in cement prices have affected the construction industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cement manufacturers have not passed on the benefit of four percent reduction in excise duty and lower cost of freight consumers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the initiatives taken by the Government to remove duty on cement to make import of cement cheaper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) There has been a marginal increase of only 5.51% in the prices of cement between May 2008 and May 2009. The consumption of cement has shown a steady growth of 8.42% during the year 2008-09.

(c) and (d) The average all India retail price of cement decreased by Rs. 4 per bag after the reduction of excise duty on cement in December, 2008.

(e) The import duty on cement is already 'zero'.

Admission Quota for Other Backward Classes

1188. SHRI T.R. BAALU:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

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

(a) whether a number of Central Universities, colleges and other grant-in-aid Institutions including University of Hyderabad are not implementing the Government's reservation policy in admission and appointments of teaching and non-teaching staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of OBC students in percentage admitted in these educational institutions during the last academic year 2008-09; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure that Government's reservation policy is implemented by all such educational institutions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The provisions of Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 are not applicable to Central educational institutions established in the tribal areas referred in the sixth schedule to the Constitution, institutions of excellence, research institutions, institutions of national and strategic importance specified in the Schedule to the Act and a Minority Educational Institution as defined in the Act. However, reservation policy of the Government of India in admission and appointments of teaching and non-teaching staff is applicable to University of Hyderabad. The Act enables staggering of reservation in admission over the three years.

(c) As per information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), total intake of students in 2008-09 was 69221, out of this 5829 Other Backward Classes (OBC) students i.e. 8.42 per cent were admitted during the year 2008-09.

(d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) which is the apex body for coordination and maintenance of standards of higher education in the country have issued necessary guidelines to all Universities, including Central Universities and UGC maintained deemed universities other than minority institutions to strictly adhere to the norms laid down for implementation of the policy of reservation in regard to recruitment as well as in filling up backlog thereto.

The Government and the UGC have been reminding Central Universities to fill vacant positions in respect of the backlog. This issue has also been taken up in the meetings with Vice-Chancellors and Registrars of these Universities. In addition, UGC has written to Central Universities and UGC maintained Deemed Universities about linking Non-Plan grants to the institutions with implementation of reservation and that Institutions which are deficient in the prescribed percentage of reservation should fill the backlog of reservation in teaching and non-teaching posts.

[Translation]

Exploitation of Child Labour

1189. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines/directives issued by the Union Government in regard to ban on employment of child labour are not being complied with;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has set up any Cell to check the exploitation of child labour;

(d) if so, the details and composition thereof; and
(e) the reasons for the failure of the cell in controlling child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Enforcement of law is an ongoing process. Section 2 (l) of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 entrust the powers of enforcement of the Act to the State Governments in establishments other than those under the control of the Central Government or a railway administration or a major port or a mine or oilfield.

(c) No Sir. Government of India has not set up any specific Cell to check the exploitation of child labour.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Capitation Fee

1190. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR:
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI S. SEMMALAI:
SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:

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

(a) the number of complaints received regarding donation/capitation fee being charged by the educational institutions including engineering/technical institutions during the last three years;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against such erring institutions;

(d) whether the Government proposes to bring any new legislation with regard to capitation fee and curricula in the higher education; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), issued a Public Notice on 7.5.2007 wherein it was stated that any instance of charging capitation fee may be reported to the Council alongwith evidence in the matter. As per the information given by AICTE, two cases of charging of capitation fee by People Education Society Information & Technology (PESIT) Bangalore (Karnataka) and Babaria Institute of Technology, Vadodara (Gujarat) which were accompanied by *prima facie* evidence, were reported to them since May, 2007. However, information regarding charging of capitation fee was received in respect of three more institutions viz. Draunacharya College of Engineering & Management, Noida (UP), Acharya Institute of Technology, Bangalore (Karnataka) and Raja College of Engineering & Technology, Madurai (Tamil Nadu) but was not supported by *prima facie* evidence.

(c) AICTE has informed that the above two institutions of Karnataka and Gujarat would not be granted any increase in intake or additional courses for two academic years. AICTE has also intimated that as and when complaints regarding charging of capitation fee are received, an Enquiry Committee conducts enquiry into the complaint and appropriate action is taken based on the report of the Enquiry Committee.

(d) and (e) A legislative proposal, to provide the legal mandate to prohibit unfair practices including charging of capitation fee in any form in technical and medical educational institution & universities, is under consideration and inter-ministerial consultation have been taken up for firming up the legislative proposal.

[*Translation*]

Colleges of Excellence

1191. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to encourage the States to establish colleges of excellence in the districts where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and the density of colleges in proportion to population is lower than the national average;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of districts identified so far in the country including the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether the Union Government will provide only one third of the total cost of establishment of such colleges; and

(d) if so, the amount of assistance granted during each of the last three years till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A proposal to launch a new centrally sponsored scheme to assist the State Governments for establishment of a model degree college in each of the 374 identified educationally backward districts with Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) lower than the national level including such districts in the State of Uttar Pradesh is under consideration of the Government. With the exception of educationally backward districts located in special category States, where the Central Government shall provide one half of the estimated capital cost of Rs. 8 crore for each college, the pattern of Central assistance in other districts is proposed to be one third of the estimated capital cost.

[English]

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme

1192. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has reduced the central share for the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme;

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

(c) whether the States have to bear most of the expenditure for Elementary Education from now onwards;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has any plan of sharing the expenditure on teachers salary, which at present is entirely borne by State Governments;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Union Government is considering to review its decision and re-introduce the earlier funding pattern; and

(h) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The framework for implementation of SSA programme in 11th Plan had envisaged a funding pattern of 50:50 between the Central Government and States/UTs. However keeping in view the demands of States, a revised funding pattern providing for funding in the ratio of 63:35 during the first two years of 11th Plan, 60:40 in the third year, 55:45 in the fourth year and 50:50 thereafter was notified on 25.9.2007. In respect of the North Eastern States the funding is 90:10 with the Central share sourced from the 10% earmarked funds for the NE States in the SSA's Central Budget.

(e) to (h) The salary of teachers sanctioned under SSA programme, an approved in the Annual Works Plan and Budget of States/UTs, is borne by the States and Central Government in the funding ratio applicable in that particular year. There is no proposal to revise the existing funding pattern.

[Translation]

Shortage of Warships

1193. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy is facing shortage of warships;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to meet the shortage;

(c) whether Russia has made any offer to supply warships to Indian Navy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the orders, if any, placed to purchase Russian warships?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Warships are inducted in the Navy as replacement for decommissioned platforms and for augmentation of strength of the Force. This is a continuous process based on the threat perception and security environment.

No fresh offer to supply warships to India has been received from Russia.

The repair and reequipping of ex-Admiral Gorshkov is in progress. In addition, three follow on ships of Talwar

class Frigates have been contracted for acquisition from Russia.

[English]

Subsidy on Educational Loan

1194. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to provide interest subsidy on educational loans to non-creamy layer students who want to pursue professional courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far;

(c) whether the Government contemplates to pass on instructions to banks to provide educational loans to economically weaker students on concessional interest rate to pursue vocational education;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) A proposal for providing interest subsidy to students belonging to the economically backward class with an annual income upper limit of Rs. 4.5 lakh for loans provided by the banking sector under the Educational Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks' Association, to pursue approved courses of studies in professional education in institutions within India is under consideration of the Government.

Revival of IT Sector

1195. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

(a) whether the Information Technology (IT) and its enabled services Sector have been adversely affected by global recession, visa-curb and restriction on outsourcing by some foreign countries recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the extent of slow-down and losses in this Sector particularly Indian IT Sector;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan/scheme to bail out the IT sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) The Indian IT and ITES sector has witnessed some slow down in comparison to its historical rate of growth. It is estimated that the growth rate of the IT and ITES sector during 2008-09 would be 16.3% as compared to around 30% in the last few years. The total export revenue of this sector is estimated at US\$ 47 billion in 2008-09, as compared to US\$ 40.4 billion in 2007-08.

(c) and (d) In order to tide over the slowdown in exports, in the budget 2009-10 proposals, the Government has extended the Tax benefits under sections 10A/10B of the Income Tax Act for the Software Technology Park (STP) units & 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU) in the IT sector by one more year i.e. for the financial year 2010-11.

Export and Import of Natural Rubber

1196. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any targets have been fixed for export and import of natural rubber during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of natural rubber exported and imported during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether there is a present demand particularly from rubber growers and Rubber Board to increase the export quota of natural rubber and formulate a permanent export policy of rubber; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Targets are fixed only for export of Natural Rubber (NR). The target fixed for export of natural rubber during the current financial year (2009-10) is 50,000 tones.

(c) The details of quantum of NR exported and imported during each of the last three years and the current year are as under:-

(Quantity in Tonnes)		
Year	Export	Import
2006-07	56545	89799
2007-08	60353	86394
2008-09p	46926	81545
2009-10p (1.4.09-1.07.09)	834	44083

p-provisional

(d) and (e) There is no fixed quota for NR export on account of high volatility in prices after the lifting of Quantity Restrictions (QRs) with effect from 1st April 2001. The Government has policy on export of NR under the export promotion component as provided for in the Market Development and Export Promotion Scheme being implementing by Rubber Board during the 11th Five Year Plan. The activities mainly include participation in domestic and international trade fairs, organising buyer seller meets, publicity, financial incentive and support to exporters for export of NR.

[Translation]

Unclaimed Money with EPFO

1197. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large amount of unclaimed money deposited in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);

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

(c) whether the Government has drawn up any scheme for the utilization of this unclaimed/dormant money; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to ensure that unclaimed money is neither misused nor disbursed to wrongful claimants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The amount of unclaimed money lying in the Inoperative Account as on 31.03.2008 was Rs.3,837.70 crore. The region-wise details, which covers all the States except the State of Jammu and Kashmir, of reported Inoperative Accounts as on 31.03.2008 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As the money lying in the Inoperative Accounts belongs to the members or their heirs and these are payable at any time when the claims are received, the same cannot be utilized for any other purpose. Hence, there is no scheme or plan for utilizing this money.

Instructions have been issued to all field offices of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to scrutinize the claims of Inoperative Accounts carefully and release the amounts only to the rightful claimants in accordance with the procedures prescribed in the Scheme and the Manual Procedures so as to avoid misuse or wrongful disbursement.

Regular efforts are made by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to trace out the beneficiaries through advertisements in newspapers, interaction with trade unions/employers, etc. inviting claims from any of those who have not preferred their claims for more than three years after leaving their job.

Statement

*Region-wise details of Inoperative account (Unclaimed)
as on 31.03.2008*

Sl.No.	Regional Office	Total Inoperative Amount
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh - Hyderabad	5,155,446,395.84
2.	Andhra Pradesh - Guntur	2,244,307,817.00

1	2	3
3.	Bihar - Patna	640,455.03
4.	Chhattisgarh - Raipur*	-
5.	Delhi - North	36,612,348.55
6.	Delhi - South	29,973,933.04
7.	Goa	42,930,277.85
8.	Gujarat - Ahmedabad	20,144,984.69
9.	Gujarat - Baroda	3,184,407.31
10.	Haryana - Faridabad	31,763,680.60
11.	Himachal Pradesh - Shimla	1,005,117,000.00
12.	Jharkhand - Ranchi	503,214.65
13.	Karnataka - Bangalore	31,901,486.00
14.	Karnataka - Mangalore	362,000.00
15.	Kerala - Trivandrum	1,757,689.00
16.	Madhya Pradesh - Indore	1,702,166,052.00
17.	Maharashtra - I (Bandra)	78,957,978.49
18.	Maharashtra - II (Thane)**	-
19.	Maharashtra - Nagpur	2,627,130,448.80
20.	Maharashtra - Pune	7,572,780,139.67
21.	North Eastern Region - Guwahati	4,241,478.53
22.	Orissa-Bhubaneswar	2,925,876.08
23.	Punjab - Chandigarh	44,649,373.00
24.	Punjab - Ludhiana	81,545,488.37
25.	Rajasthan - Jaipur	11,549,049.14
26.	Tamil Nadu - Chennai	1,148,071,632.58
27.	Tamil Nadu - Coimbatore	782,335,401.74
28.	Tamil Nadu - Madurai	472,589,908.80
29.	Uttarakhand - Dehradun	39,179,693.43
30.	Uttar Pradesh - Kanpur	10,832,881,850.74

1	2	3
31.	West Bengal - Kolkata	3,301,304,951.49
32.	West Bengal - Jalpaiguri	1,070,048,921.83
Total		38,377.003,934.25

*The Inoperative Amount of the Chhattisgarh - Raipur Region is included in the Total Inoperative Amount of Madhya Pradesh-Indore Region.

**The Inoperative Amount of the Maharashtra - II (Thane) Region is included in the Total Inoperative Amount of Maharashtra - I (Bandra) Region.

[English]

Welfare Schemes for Old Age Persons

1198. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented for the welfare of old age persons;

(b) the funds allocated and released by the Government to each State for implementation of these schemes during the last three years and current year;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from State Government under various schemes for the old age persons during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of old age homes functioning in each State at present and the number of old age persons benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The Government is not implementing any Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the welfare of old age persons. However, the Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme namely, "Integrated Programme for Older Persons" under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations on the basis of the recommendation of the concerned State Government. No funds are released to the State Governments.

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

(e) State-wise number of Old Age Homes assisted through NGOs and number of beneficiaries covered during 2008-09 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise No. of Old Age Homes assisted through NGOs and No. of beneficiaries covered during 2008-09

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No. of Old Age Homes assisted	No. of beneficiaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	68	1700
2.	Assam	13	325
3.	Bihar	1	25
4.	Chhattisgarh	1	25
5.	Delhi	0	0
6.	Haryana	4	100
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0
9.	Karnataka	38	950
10.	Kerala	0	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2	50
12.	Maharashtra	9	225
13.	Manipur	12	300
14.	Mizoram	0	0
15.	Nagaland	0	0
16.	Orissa	40	1000
17.	Puducherry	0	0
18.	Punjab	1	25
19.	Rajasthan	3	75
20.	Tamil Nadu	36	900
21.	Tripura	1	25
22.	Uttar Pradesh	4	100
23.	Uttarakhand	1	25
24.	West Bengal	24	600
	Total	258	6450

Setting up of Navodaya Vidyalayas

1199. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

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

(a) the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas opened during the last three years, location and State-wise;

(b) the number of new Navodaya Vidyalayas proposed to be established during the current financial year, location and State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated for setting up of such Vidyalayas during current financial year;

(d) the actual amount utilized for the purpose; and

(e) the effective steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide facilities to the Government School on the lines of the Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) 55 Navodaya Vidyalayas were opened in the last three years (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09). Location-wise and State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The opening of a new Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya depends on the concerned State/UT Governments making available about 30 acres of suitable land, free of cost, sufficient temporary accommodation and other infrastructure free of rent, to accommodate students and staff for three to four years or till such time the Samiti constructs its own building at the permanent site, and also on availability of adequate funds and sanction by the competent authority.

(c) There is a budget provision of the Rs. 1300 crore under Plan during 2009-10 for Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti. Separate allocation is not made only for new Vidyalayas.

(d) No amount has been spent for setting up any new Vidyalaya during the current financial year.

(e) Government has launched a scheme "Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan" under which facilities in the State Government schools are envisaged to be upgraded.

Statement

State	2006-07 (Name of the district)	2007-08 (Name of the District)	2008-09 (Name of the District)
1	2	3	4
Gujarat			49. Amreli 50. Dang
Maharashtra			51. Dhule
Arunachal Pradesh	1. Upper Diabang Valley 2. Anjaw 3. Kurung Kumey		
Assam	4. Baksa 5. Udalguri 6. Bongaigaon 7. Nagaon 8. North Cachar Hills	35. Dhubri	
Mizoram	9. Champhai	36. Lawangteai 37. Kolasib	52. Mamit
Nagaland	10. Kiphire 11. Zunheboto 12. Dimapur 13. Peren	38. Longleng	
Tripura		39. North Tripura	
Bihar	14. Lakhi Sarai 15. Rohtas	40. Arwal	
Jharkhand	16. Simdega	41. Jamiara	
West Bengal	17. Birbhoom 18. Cooch Bihar 19. Howara 20. Pashim Mednapur	42. Purulia	53. South 24 Pargana
Haryana	21. Fatehabad 22. Shahdol	43. Gurgaon	

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	23. Umaria		
	24. Jashpur		
Chhattisgarh	25. Kanker		
	26. Kawardha		
	27. Koriya		
Orissa	28. Bargarh	44. Nayagarh	
	29. Bhadrak		
	30. Deogarh		
	31. Jagatsinghpur		
	32. Jaiipur		
Himachal Pradesh		45. Kullu	
Punjab		46. Amritsar	54. Barnala
Uttar Pradesh	33. Hamirpur	47. Ambedkar Nagar	55. Shrawasti
	34. Ghaziabad		
Uttarakhand		48. Dehradun	

[Translation]

Setting Up of Post Offices

1200. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for setting up of post offices and sub-post offices in all the village Panchayats and far-flung, hilly areas in the country, State-wise, including Himachal Pradesh during the current Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government proposes to give relaxation in regard to criteria fixed for setting up of the said post offices;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Target of 3000 Branch Post Offices and 2000 Sub Post offices was planned for whole of the country (including Himachal Pradesh) for the current Five Year Plan.

(b) Relaxation in norms already exists in respect of hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas, which includes most parts of Himachal Pradesh.

(c) As against the prescribed norms for normal rural areas viz. population of 3000 souls, distance of 3 kms and income of 33113% vis-a-vis the cost incurred, relaxed norms for hilly and tribal areas are population of 500 souls in respect of single village and 1000 souls in respect of group of villages served by the proposed Post Offices as also income of 15% vis-a-vis the cost incurred. Besides, the minimum distance can also be relaxed by the Directorate under special circumstances only.

(d) The Post Offices as per the target are likely to be opened as soon as the required posts are created to man these proposed offices for which financial approval is awaited.

[English]

Affiliation by CBSE

1201. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools affiliated to and adopted Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) syllabus, State-wise;

(b) the number of requests from such schools for affiliation, upgradation pending with CBSE, State-wise;

(c) the number of Regional Offices of the CBSE with jurisdiction of each and the number of schools coming under each such region;

(d) whether the Government has decided to set up more regional offices of the CBSE in various States including Kerala;

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

(f) the time by which these offices are likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) State-wise number of schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) as on 31.5.2009 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) 2250 applications have been received by CBSE for fresh affiliation for the academic session 2010-11. The details are given in the enclosed Statement II.

(c) Details of the regional offices of CBSE alongwith their jurisdiction and the number of schools under each region are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Statement I

State/UT Wise Number of Schools Affiliated to CBSE as on 31.05.2009

Sl.No.	Name of States/ Union Territories	No. of Schools
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	264
2.	Assam	160
3.	Bihar	314
4.	Gujarat	188
5.	Haryana	788

1	2	3
6.	Himachal Pradesh	164
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	95
8.	Karnataka	356
9.	Kerala	829
10.	Madhya Pradesh	565
11.	Maharashtra	279
12.	Manipur	46
13.	Meghalaya	19
14.	Nagaland	26
15.	Orissa	173
16.	Punjab	609
17.	Rajasthan	477
18.	Sikkim	171
19.	Tamil Nadu	224
20.	Tripura	20
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1226
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	226
23.	Mizoram	5
24.	West Bengal	162
25.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	99
26.	Chandigarh	138
27.	Delhi	1714
28.	Goa	9
29.	Puducherry	8
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3
31.	Daman and Diu	5
32.	Lakshadweep	4
33.	Chhattisgarh	326
34.	Jharkhand	274
35.	Uttaranchal	314
36.	Foreign School	149
	Total	10429

Statement II

*State-wise Number of Fresh Applications for Affiliation, Upgradation Received by
CBSE upto 07.07.2009 for the Session 2010-2011*

Sl.No.	Name of States/ Union Territories	Total Received	Grant	Rejected	Pending Status	
					Applications Under Process	Cases Awaiting Fee
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	134	2	1	46	85
2.	Assam	27	2	1	5	19
3.	Bihar	101	5	4	20	72
4.	Gujarat	68	4	5	25	34
5.	Haryana	226	10	5	58	153
6.	Himachal Pradesh	34	0	2	10	22
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	0	1	6	7
8.	Karnataka	112	3	1	23	85
9.	Kerala	191	3	10	45	133
10.	Madhya Pradesh	194	13	3	43	135
11.	Maharashtra	164	6	15	47	96
12.	Manipur	3	0	0	2	1
13.	Meghalaya	1	0	0	0	1
14.	Nagaland	4	0	0	3	1
15.	Orissa	42	2	0	11	29
16.	Punjab	173	17	1	49	106
17.	Rajasthan	130	5	8	31	86
18.	Sikkim	1	0	0	1	0
19.	Tamil Nadu	66	3	2	15	46
20.	Tripura	6	0	0	2	4
21.	Uttar Pradesh	303	20	6	83	194
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	22	0	0	13	9
23.	Mizoram	1	0	0	1	0
24.	West Bengal	13	0	2	4	7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	0	0	0	5
26.	Chandigarh	8	0	0	3	5
27.	Delhi	53	2	2	23	26
28.	Goa	1	0	0	0	1
29.	Puducherry	3	0	0	0	3
30.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	3	0	1	1	1
31.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Chhattisgarh	50	1	0	12	37
34.	Jharkhand	31	1	3	10	17
35.	Uttaranchal	54	2	1	17	34
36.	Foreign School	12	2	0	6	4
Total		2250	103	74	615	1458

Statement III

List of CBSE Regional Offices Along with Its Jurisdictions and Number of Schools Under Each Region

1	2	3
	Nagaland Manipur Meghalaya Tripura Sikkim Arunachal Pradesh Mizoram	
Ajmer	Rajasthan Gujarat Madhya Pradesh Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1233
Chennai	Tamil Nadu Andhra Pradesh Karnataka Maharashtra Goa Puducherry Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2077
	Daman and Diu Lakshadweep	

Name of the Regional Offices	States	Total Number of Affiliated Schools in Each Region
1	2	3
Delhi	NCT of Delhi Foreign Schools	1863
Panchkula	Haryana Chandigarh Punjab Jammu and Kashmir Himachal Pradesh	1794
Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh Uttaranchal	1540
Guwahati	Assam	673

1	2	3
Patna	Bihar Jharkhand	588
Bhubaneswar	Orissa West Bengal Chhattisgarh	661
Grand Total		10429

[Translation]

Admission in KVS

1202. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

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

(a) the details of the guidelines fixed for Members of Parliament (MPs) regarding admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) the provisions made by the Government for those Members of Parliament under whose constituency, there are no Kendriya Vidyalayas are functioning;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the quota for admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas for Members of Parliament; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Each Member of Parliament can recommend two cases for admission in an academic year in Kendriya Vidyalaya(s) located within the parliamentary constituency of the concerned Lok Sabha MP for the eligible children belonging to the constituency. A Member of Rajya Sabha can recommend admission in any KV located within the State from which he/she stands elected. The recommendation can be made for all classes except pre-primary, class X and XII.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Diversification of Postal Activities

1203. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to diversify postal activities in other fields like financing, retail and banking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to spend Rs. 900 crores to give a new facelift to post-offices especially in rural areas, with a view to offering efficient services through modern technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating such post-offices that are proposed to be covered under this project in the country including Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Department of Post is offering services other than postal services in collaboration with Government and Non-Government agencies with an objective to leverage its network and to utilize its existing infrastructure optimally. The services offered by the Department are broadly as below:

- I. Post Offices is providing financial inclusion in rural areas under the scheme of Business Correspondent in collaboration with the State Bank of India.
- II. The disbursement of micro credit to self help groups is extended in collaboration with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in Tamil Nadu Circle.
- III. Selected post offices are offering Passenger Reservation Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways.
- IV. Post offices is providing a platform to facilitate payment of various bills by the customers for telecommunication companies and other utility service providers.
- V. Post office is distributing financial instruments like Mutual Funds etc. on behalf of financial institutions like Unit Trust of India, State Bank of India, Franklin Templeton, Reliance Mutual Funds etc. Post Office is also distributing the Non-Life Insurance Products of Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.
- VI. Post office provides the facility of receiving remittances from 205 countries through the International Money Transfer Service.

- VII. The disbursement of wages to the beneficiaries of the NREG Act 2005, is done through the post offices.
- VIII. The payment of Old Age Pension under the National Social Assistance Programme is being effected through post offices.
- IX. Post office also offers various Post Office Savings Bank Scheme viz. Savings Account, Recurring Deposit, Time Deposit, Monthly Income Scheme, Public Provident Fund, Senior Citizens

Savings Scheme, Kisan Vikas Patras and National Savings Certificates.

(c) and (d) The induction of modern technology through computerization of Post Offices is an ongoing process subject to feasibility and availability of funds. In addition, Rs. 65 crore has been approved for spending in the current financial year 2009-10 to give a facelift and improve core services in 500 Post Offices under the scheme of Project Arrow. Details of these 500 Project Arrow Post Offices, in both urban and rural areas, is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Phase III-List of 500 Post Offices

Sl.No.	Name of PO	PIN Code	Region	Circle
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Khairatabad HO	500004	Hyderabad City	AP
2.	Nellore HO	524001	Vijayawada	AP
3.	Rajahumundry HO	533101	Visakhapatnam	AP
4.	Srikakulam HO	532001	Visakhapatnam	AP
5.	Chittoor HO	517001	Kurnool	AP
6.	Kurnool	518001	Kurnool	AP
7.	Hanamkonda HO	506001	Hyderabad	AP
8.	Sangareddy HO	502001	Hyderabad	AP
9.	Kakinada HO	533001	Visakhapatnam	AP
10.	Tenali HO	522201	Vijayawada	AP
11.	Humayunnagar	500028	Hyderabad City	AP
12.	Sanathanagar I.E.	500018	Hyderabad City	AP
13.	Begum Bazar	500012	Hyderabad City	AP
14.	Repalle	522265	Vijayawada	AP
15.	Gandhi Chowk (Khm)	507003	Vijayawada	AP
16.	Kothapeta MDG	533223	Visakhapatnam	AP
17.	Bellampalli SO	504251	Hyderabad	AP
18.	Kazipet SO	506003	Hyderabad	AP

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Tirumala	517504	Kurnool	AP
20.	Nalbari	781335	Guwahati HQ	Assam
21.	Barpeta	781301	Guwahati HQ	Assam
22.	Dhubri	783301	Guwahati HQ	Assam
23.	Guwahati GPO	781001	Guwahati HQ	Assam
24.	Guwahati University	781014	Guwahati HQ	Assam
25.	Dibrugarh	786001	Dibrugarh	Assam
26.	Tinsukia	786125	Dibrugarh	Assam
27.	Jorhat	785001	Dibrugarh	Assam
28.	Sivasagar	785640	Dibrugarh	Assam
29.	Tezpur	784001	Dibrugarh	Assam
30.	Nagaon	782001	Dibrugarh	Assam
31.	Silchar	788001	Dibrugarh	Assam
32.	Bongaigaon	783380	Guwhati HQ	Assam
33.	Rangia	781354	Guwahati HQ	Assam
34.	Dhemaji	787057	Dibrugarh	Assam
35.	Morigaon	782105	Dibrugarh	Assam
36.	Barpeta Road	781315	Guwahati HQ	Assam
37.	Duliajan	786602	Dibrugarh	Assam
38.	Digboi	786171	Dibrugarh	Assam
39.	Doomdooma	786151	Dibrugarh	Assam
40.	Bokakhat	785612	Dibrugarh	Assam
41.	Mariani	785634	Dibrugarh	Assam
42.	Chariali	784176	Dibrugarh	Assam
43.	Buxar HO	802101	Central	Bihar
44.	Patna GPO	800001	Central	Bihar
45.	Darbhanga HO	846004	North	Bihar
46.	Purnea HO	854301	North	Bihar
47.	Katihar HO	854105	North	Bihar

1	2	3	4	5
48.	Saharsa HO	852201	North	Bihar
49.	Siwan HO	841226	North	Bihar
50.	Kishanganj	855107	North	Bihar
51.	Araria	854311	North	Bihar
52.	Patna City	800008	Central	Bihar
53.	Raxaul	845305	North	Bihar
54.	Patliputra	800013	Central	Bihar
55.	Gulzarbagh	800007	Central	Bihar
56.	Lohia Nagar	800020	Central	Bihar
57.	Barauni	851112	North	Bihar
58.	Bhagalpur City	812002	Central	Bihar
59.	Patna Secretariat	800015	Central	Bihar
60.	Dumraon	802119	Central	Bihar
61.	Dalmianagar	821305	Central	Bihar
62.	Rajgir	803116	Central	Bihar
63.	Patna University	800005	Central	Bihar
64.	Barauni Oil Refinery	851114	North	Bihar
65.	D.M.C.H.	846003	North	Bihar
66.	Raipur HO	492001	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
67.	Durg HO	491001	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
68.	Bilaspur HO	495001	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
69.	Korba HO	495677	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
70.	Raigarh HO	496001	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
71.	Raipur Ganj	492009	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
72.	Baloda Bazar	493332	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
73.	Dhamtari	493773	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
74.	Mahasamund	493445	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
75.	Jashpur Nagar	496331	Raipur	Chhattisgarh

1	2	3	4	5
76.	C.C. Bhilai	490006	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
77.	Akaltara	495552	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
78.	Dongargarh SO	491445	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
79.	Bhilai-I	490001	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
80.	Manendragarh	497442	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
81.	Kawardha	491995	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
82.	Mungeli	495334	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
83.	Champa	495671	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
84.	Sansad Marg HO	110001	Delhi	Delhi
85.	New Delhi HO	110001	-do-	Delhi
86.	Indra Prastha HO	110002	-do-	Delhi
87.	Lodhi Road HO	110003	-do-	Delhi
88.	Naraina	110028	-do-	Delhi
89.	Kalkaji	110019	-do-	Delhi
90.	Ashok Vihar HO	110052	-do-	Delhi
91.	Delhi GPO	110006	-do-	Delhi
92.	Jhilmil HO	110095	-do-	Delhi
93.	Krishna Nagar	110051	-do-	Delhi
94.	Ramesh Nagar	110015	-do-	Delhi
95.	Sarojini Nagar	110023	-do-	Delhi
96.	Karol Bagh	110005	Delhi	Delhi
97.	Rajender Nagar	110060	-do-	Delhi
98.	Patpar Ganj	140091	-do-	Delhi
99.	Civil Lines	110054	-do-	Delhi
100.	Badarpur	110044	-do-	Delhi
101.	Greater Kailash	110048	-do-	Delhi
102.	Jangpura	110014	-do-	Delhi
103.	Lajpat Nagar	110024	-do-	Delhi

1	2	3	4	5
104.	Malviya Nagar	110017	-do-	Delhi
105.	S.N. Puri	110065	-do-	Delhi
106.	Hauzkhas PO	110016	-do-	Delhi
107.	S.J. Enc.	110029	-do-	Delhi
108.	Janakpuri, B. Block	110058	-do-	Delhi
109.	Rajouri Garden	110027	-do-	Delhi
110.	Tilak Nagar	110018	-do-	Delhi
111.	Chankyapuri	110021	-do-	Delhi
112.	JNU	110067	Delhi	Delhi
113.	Connaught Place	110001	Delhi	Delhi
114.	Shahdara	110032	Delhi	Delhi
115.	O. I. Estate	110020	Delhi	Delhi
116.	Rashtrapati Bhawan	110004	Delhi	Delhi
117.	Janpath	110001	Delhi	Delhi
118.	Udyog Bhawan	110011	Delhi	Delhi
119.	UPSC	110069	Delhi	Delhi
120.	Ahmedabad GPO	380001	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
121.	Junagadh HO	362001	Rajkot	Gujarat
122.	Bhavnagar HO	364001	Rajkot	Gujarat
123.	Jamnagar HO	361001	Rajkot	Gujarat
124.	Rajkot HO	360001	Rajkot	Gujarat
125.	Surat HO	395003	Vadodara	Gujarat
126.	Bharuch HO	392001	Vadodara	Gujarat
127.	Vadodara HO	390001	Vadodara	Gujarat
128.	Valsad HO	396001	Vadodara	Gujarat
129.	Silvassa MDG	396230	Vadodara	Gujarat
130.	Vapi MDG	396191	Vadodara	Gujarat
131.	Paldi PO	380007	Ahmedabad	Gujarat

1	2	3	4	5
132.	Rajkot Bhaktinagr P.O.	360002	Rajkot	Gujarat
133.	Una MDG	362560	Rajkot	Gujarat
134.	Morbi MDG	363641	Rajkot	Gujarat
135.	Vyara MDG	394650	Vadodara	Gujarat
136.	Khambhalia MDG	361305	Rajkot	Gujarat
137.	Manavadar SO	362630	Rajkot	Gujarat
138.	Mahuva MDG	364290	Rajkot	Gujarat
139.	Umreth	388220	Vadodara	Gujarat
140.	Ankleshwar MDG	393001	Vadodara	Gujarat
141.	Ambala GPO	133001	Ambala	Haryana
142.	Ambala City HO	134003	Ambala	Haryana
143.	Faridabad NIT HO	121001	Ambala	Haryana
144.	Gurgaon HO	122001	Ambala	Haryana
145.	Hissar HO	125001	Ambala	Haryana
146.	Karnal HO	132001	Ambala	Haryana
147.	Panipat HO	132103	Ambala	Haryana
148.	Kurukshetra HO	136118	Ambala	Haryana
149.	Rohtak HO	124001	Ambala	Haryana
150.	Jind HO	126102	Ambala	Haryana
151.	Sadar Bazar Ambala SO	133001	Ambala	Haryana
152.	Sec. 8 Panchkula (MDG)	134109	Ambala	Haryana
153.	Sec. 16A FBD SO	121002	Ambala	Haryana
154.	Kaithal MDG	136027	Ambala	Haryana
155.	Sec. 15 Panchkula SO	134113	Ambala	Haryana
156.	Sec. 7 FBD SO	121006	Ambala	Haryana
157.	Charakhi Dadri	127306	Ambala	Haryana
158.	Sec. 22, FBD SO	121005	Ambala	Haryana
159.	Kurukshetra University SO	136119	Ambala	Haryana

1	2	3	4	5
160.	Medical College Rohtak	124001	Ambala	Haryana
161.	Jagadhri SO	135003	Ambala	Haryana
162.	Hodal SO	121106	Ambala	Haryana
163.	Shimla	171001	Himachal Pradesh	HP
164.	Chamba	176310	Himachal Pradesh	HP
165.	Kangra	176001	Himachal Pradesh	HP
166.	Dharamsala	176215	Himachal Pradesh	HP
167.	Keylong	175132	Himachal Pradesh	HP
168.	Kullu	175101	Himachal Pradesh	HP
169.	Reckong Peo	172107	Himachal Pradesh	HP
170.	Kasauli	173204	Himachal Pradesh	HP
171.	Dalhousie	176304	Himachal Pradesh	HP
172.	Manali	175131	Himachal Pradesh	HP
173.	Shimla East	171002	Himachal Pradesh	HP
174.	Ambedkar Chowk	171004	Himachal Pradesh	HP
175.	Parwanoo	173220	Himachal Pradesh	HP
176.	Baijnath	176125	Himachal Pradesh	HP
177.	Jawalamukhi	176031	Himachal Pradesh	HP
178.	Yol Camp	176052	Himachal Pradesh	HP
179.	Srinagar GPO	190001	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir
180.	Anantnag HO	192101	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir
181.	Baramulla HO	193101	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir
182.	Leh HO	194101	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir
183.	Jammu Tawi HO	180001	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir
184.	SR Ganj SO	190002	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir
185.	RS Pura MDG	181102	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir

1	2	3	4	5
186.	Doda MDG	182202	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir
187.	Pulwama MDG	192301	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir
188.	Ram Nagar SO	182122	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir
189.	Ankhnor MDG	181201	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir
190.	Nirsachtti	828205	Ranchi	Jharkhand
191.	Sahibgang	816109	Ranchi	Jharkhand
192.	Chatra MDG	825401	Ranchi	Jharkhand
193.	Japla	822116	Ranchi	Jharkhand
194.	Chirkunda	828202	Ranchi	Jharkhand
195.	Silli	835102	Ranchi	Jharkhand
196.	Pakur	816107	Ranchi	Jharkhand
197.	A.G. Bihar NDSO	834002	Ranchi	Jharkhand
198.	Chakradharpur	833102	Ranchi	Jharkhand
199.	Telco works	831004	Ranchi	Jharkhand
200.	Maithandam	828207	Ranchi	Jharkhand
201.	Satsang	814116	Ranchi	Jharkhand
202.	Bangalore GPO	560001	Bangalore	Karnataka
203.	Basavangudi HO	560004	Bangalore	Karnataka
204.	Jayanagar HO	560041	Bangalore	Karnataka
205.	Rajajinagar HO	560010	Bangalore	Karnataka
206.	Hal II Stage HO	560008	Bangalore	Karnataka
207.	Belgaum HO	590001	N.K Region	Karnataka
208.	Bellary HO	583101	N.K Region	Karnataka
209.	Bijapur HO	586101	N.K Region	Karnataka
210.	Bidar HO	585401	N.K Region	Karnataka

1	2	3	4	5
211.	Dharwad HO	580001	N.K Region	Karnataka
212.	Gulbarga HO	585101	N.K Region	Karnataka
213.	Kolar HO	563101	S.K. Region	Karnataka
214.	Mangalore HO	575001	S.K. Region	Karnataka
215.	Udupi HO	576101	S.K. Region	Karnataka
216.	Mysore HO	570001	S.K. Region	Karnataka
217.	Basaveshwaranagar MDG	560079	Bangalore	Karnataka
218.	Fraser Town	560005	Bangalore	Karnataka
219.	Museum Road	560025	Bangalore	Karnataka
220.	Indiranagar	560038	Bangalore	Karnataka
221.	Shahabad	585228	N.K. Region	Karnataka
222.	Chamarajpet	560018	Bangalore	Karnataka
223.	Jayanagar III blk.	560011	Bangalore	Karnataka
224.	Yelahanka SO	560064	Bangalore	Karnataka
225.	Peenya Small Industries	560058	Bangalore	Karnataka
226.	Viveknagar	560047	Bangalore	Karnataka
227.	Dharwad K.C. Park	580008	N.K. Region	Karnataka
228.	Chamarajnagar	571313	S.K. Region	Karnataka
229.	D R College	560029	Bangalore	Karnataka
230.	Science Institute	560012	Bangalore	Karnataka
231.	St. Thomas Town	560084	Bangalore	Karnataka
232.	Alappuzha	688001	Central	Kerala
233.	Aluva HO	683101	Central	Kerala
234.	Changanasserry	686101	Central	Kerala
235.	Ernakulam	682011	Central	Kerala
236.	Kochi HO	682001	Central	Kerala
237.	Kottayam	686001	Central	Kerala

1	2	3	4	5
238.	Thrissur	680001	Central	Kerala
239.	Calicut	673001	Northern	Kerala
240.	Kannur	670001	Northern	Kerala
241.	Palakkad	678001	Northern	Kerala
242.	Thalassery HO	670101	Northern	Kerala
243.	Kollam	691001	Southern	Kerala
244.	Pathanamthitta	689645	Southern	Kerala
245.	Trivandrum GPO	695001	Southern	Kerala
246.	Thycaud HO	695014	Southern	Kerala
247.	Tripunithura	682301	Central	Kerala
248.	Pallickal	690503	Central	Kerala
249.	Nileshwar	671314	Northern	Kerala
250.	Kottakkal SO	676503	Northern	Kerala
251.	Payyoli	673522	Northern	Kerala
252.	Pattom Palace	695004	Southern	Kerala
253.	Trivandrum Fort	695023	Southern	Kerala
254.	Trivandrum Med College	695011	Southern	Kerala
255.	Mannar	685612	Central	Kerala
256.	Kavarathi	682555	Central	Kerala
257.	Malegaon HO	423203	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
258.	Nashik Road HO	422101	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
259.	Malvan HO	416606	Goa	Maharashtra
260.	Chembur HO	400071	Mumbai	Maharashtra
261.	Thane HO	400601	Mumbai	Maharashtra
262.	Mahim HO	400016	Mumbai	Maharashtra
263.	Kalbadevi HO	400002	Mumbai	Maharashtra
264.	Nagpur City HO	440002	Nagpur	Maharashtra
265.	Pune HO	411001	Pune	Maharashtra

1	2	3	4	5
266.	Satara HO	415001	Pune	Maharashtra
267.	Ambajogai	431517	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
268.	Manmad SO	423104	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
269.	Tuljapur MDG	413601	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
270.	Azadnagar	400053	Mumbai	Maharashtra
271.	Chakala MIDC	400093	Mumbai	Maharashtra
272.	Gadchiroli MDG	442605	Nagpur	Maharashtra
273.	Chinchwad East	411019	Pune	Maharashtra
274.	Andheri RS	400058	Mumbai	Maharashtra
275.	Colaba Post Office	400005	Mumbai	Maharashtra
276.	Kurla (W)	400070	Mumbai	Maharashtra
277.	Sangmeshwar	415611	Goa	Maharashtra
278.	Tasgaon	416312	Goa	Maharashtra
279.	Gadhinglaj	416502	Goa	Maharashtra
280.	Savda	425502	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
281.	Dindori SO	422202	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
282.	Chikhalthana Industrial Area SO 431006	431112	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
283.	Kolhapur Railway Station	416001	Goa	Maharashtra
284.	Devrukh	415804	Goa	Maharashtra
285.	Kankvali	416602	Goa	Maharashtra
286.	Kudal	416520	Goa	Maharashtra
287.	Goregaon East	400063	Mumbai	Maharashtra
288.	Powai IIT	400076	Mumbai	Maharashtra
289.	Mulund (W)	400080	Mumbai	Maharashtra
290.	Borivali West	400092	Mumbai	Maharashtra
291.	Balaghat HO	481001	HQ.	Madhya Pradesh
292.	Seoni HO	480661	HQ.	Madhya Pradesh
293.	Damoh HO	470661	HQ.	Madhya Pradesh
294.	Tikamgarh HO	472001	HQ.	Madhya Pradesh

1	2	3	4	5
295.	Narsinghpur, HO	487001	HQ.	Madhya Pradesh
296.	Sidhi HO	486661	HQ.	Madhya Pradesh
297.	Satna HO	485001	HQ.	Madhya Pradesh
298.	Betul	460001	HQ.	Madhya Pradesh
299.	Govindpura SO	462023	HQ.	Madhya Pradesh
300.	Gwalior City	474003	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh
301.	Maheshwar	451224	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
302.	M.L. Nagar, Ujjain	456010	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
303.	Parasia	480441	HQ.	Madhya Pradesh
304.	Barwani	451551	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
305.	Maihar	485771	HQ.	Madhya Pradesh
306.	Nagda	456335	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
307.	Ravi Shankar Nagar, Bhopal	462016	HQ.	Madhya Pradesh
308.	H E Hospital	462024	H. Q.	Madhya Pradesh
309.	Dindori	481880	H.Q.	Madhya Pradesh
310.	Itarsi	461111	H.Q.	Madhya Pradesh
311.	Sagar University	470003	H.Q.	Madhya Pradesh
312.	R.B. Colony	474001	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh
313.	Porsa	476115	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh
314.	Manorama Ganj	452001	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
315.	RSS Nagar	452008	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
316.	Industrial Estate	452015	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
317.	Badnawar	454660	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
318.	JB Cantt.	482001	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
319.	Tekanpur	475005	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh
320.	Motimahal	474007	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh
321.	Gwalior R.S.	474002	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh
322.	City-2	452002	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
323.	Radhakishorepur	799120	North East	NE
324.	Dharmanagar HPO	799250	North East	NE

1	2	3	4	5
325.	Imphal HPO	795001	North East	NE
326.	Shillong GPO	793001	North East	NE
327.	Kolasib	796081	North East	NE
328.	Khowai	799201	North East	NE
329.	Along MDG	791001	North East	NE
330.	Tezu MDG	792001	North East	NE
331.	Khonsa MDG	786630	North East	NE
332.	Churachandpur	795128	North East	NE
333.	Mon	798621	North East	NE
334.	Tuensang	798612	North East	NE
335.	ARTC	797115	North East	NE
336.	Aska	761110	Berhampur	Orissa
337.	Bhawanipatna	766001	Berhampur	Orissa
338.	Koraput	764020	Berhampur	Orissa
339.	Balasore	756001	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
340.	Cuttack GPO	753001	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
341.	Kendrapara	754211	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
342.	Rairangpur	757043	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
343.	Keonjharagarh	758001	Sambalpur	Orissa
344.	Hirakud	768016	Sambalpur	Orissa
345.	Bhubaneswar-2 (Old Town)	751002	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
346.	Paradeep	754142	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
347.	Deogarh	768108	Sambalpur	Orissa
348.	Barbi MDG	758035	Sambalpur	Orissa
349.	Burla MDG	768017	Sambalpur	Orissa
350.	Jatni MDG	752050	Sambalpur	Orissa
351.	Nimapara	752106	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
352.	Bhoinagar	751022	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
353.	Telenga Bazar	753009	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
354.	Balugaon	752030	Bhubaneswar	Orissa

1	2	3	4	5
355.	Utkal University	751004	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
356.	Rourkela-5	769005	Sambalpur	Orissa
357.	Rourkela-11	769011	Sambalpur	Orissa
358.	Nalco Nagar	759145	Sambalpur	Orissa
359.	GPO, Chd.	160017	HQ	Punjab
360.	Ludhiana HPO	141001	HQ	Punjab
361.	Patiala	147001	HQ	Punjab
362.	Amritsar	143001	Punjab Region	Punjab
363.	Bathinda HO	151001	Punjab Region	Punjab
364.	Faridkot HO	151203	Punjab Region	Punjab
365.	Kapurthala HO	144601	Punjab Region	Punjab
366.	Phagwara HO	144401	Punjab Region	Punjab
367.	Gurdaspur HO	143521	Punjab Region	Punjab
368.	Jalandhar City	144001	Punjab Region	Punjab
369.	Model Town	141002	HQ	Punjab
370.	Central Post Office	141008	HQ	Punjab
371.	Barnala S O	148101	HQ	Punjab
372.	Golden Temple, Amritsar	143006	Punjab Region	Punjab
373.	Bathinda City	151005	Punjab Region	Punjab
374.	Abohar	152116	Punjab Region	Punjab
375.	Fazilka	152123	Punjab Region	Punjab
376.	Model Town	144003	Punjab Region	Punjab
377.	Samana SO	147101	HQ Region	Punjab
378.	Malerkotla SO	148023	HQ Region	Punjab
379.	Industrial Town	144004	Punjab Region	Punjab
380.	Kot Kapura	151204	Punjab Region	Punjab
381.	Sultanpur Lodhi	144626	Punjab Region	Punjab
382.	Zira	142047	Punjab Region	Punjab
383.	Gidderbaha	152101	Punjab Region	Punjab

1	2	3	4	5
384.	Udaipur HO	313001	Ajmer	Rajashtan
385.	Tonk HO	304001	Ajmer	Rajasthan
386.	Bhilwara HO	311001	Ajmer	Rajasthan
387.	Jaipur GPO	302001	Jaipur	Rajasthan
388.	Dausa HO	303303	Jaipur	Rajasthan
389.	Sambhar Lake HO	303604	Jaipur	Rajasthan
390.	Dholpur HO	328001	Jaipur	Rajasthan
391.	Bikaner HO	334001	Jodhpur	Rajasthan
392.	Churu HO	331001	Jodhpur	Rajasthan
393.	Jhunjhunu HO	333001	Jodhpur	Rajasthan
394.	Jaipur City	302003	Jaipur	Rajasthan
395.	Masuda	305623	Ajmer	Rajasthan
396.	Nasirabad MDG	305601	Ajmer	Rajasthan
397.	Shastri Nagar	342003	Jodhpur	Rajasthan
398.	Makrana MDG	341505	Jodhpur	Rajasthan
399.	Kekri	305404	Ajmer	Rajasthan
400.	Bharatpur City MDG	321001	Jaipur	Rajasthan
401.	Kuchery, Ajmer	305001	Ajmer	Rajasthan
402.	Vidhyadhar Nagar SO	302023	Jaipur	Rajasthan
403.	Todabhim	321611	Jaipur	Rajasthan
404.	Singhana SO	333516	Jodhpur	Rajasthan
405.	Siwana	344044	Jodhpur	Rajasthan
406.	Surajgarh SO	333029	Jodhpur	Rajasthan
407.	Jhotwara	302012	Jaipur	Rajasthan
408.	Shyam Nagar	302019	Jaipur	Rajasthan
409.	Chennai GPO	600001	Circle Office	TN
410.	Puducherry HO	605001	Chennai City	TN
411.	Tambaram HO	600045	Chennai City	TN
412.	Udagamandalam	643001	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu

1	2	3	4	5
413.	Chengalpattu HPO	603001	Chennai City	Tamil Nadu
414.	Vellore HO	632001	Chennai City	Tamil Nadu
415.	Chidambaram HO	608001	Central	Tamil Nadu
416.	Cuddalore HO	607001	Central	Tamil Nadu
417.	Thanjavur HO	613001	Central	Tamil Nadu
418.	Tiruchirapalli HO	620001	Central	Tamil Nadu
419.	Madurai	625001	Southern	Tamil Nadu
420.	Mettupalayam HO	641301	Western	Tamil Nadu
421.	Erode HPO	638001	Western	Tamil Nadu
422.	Coonoor HPO	643101	Western	Tamil Nadu
423.	Salem HO	636001	Western	Tamil Nadu
424.	Adyar SO	600020	Chennai City	Tamil Nadu
425.	Guindy IE SO	600032	Chennai City	Tamil Nadu
426.	Basant Nagar SO	600090	Chennai City	Tamil Nadu
427.	T Nagar North SO	600017	Chennai City	Tamil Nadu
428.	Teynampet SO	600018	Chennai City	Tamil Nadu
429.	Coonoor RS SO	643102		Tamil Nadu
430.	Royapettah SO	600014	Chennai City	Tamil Nadu
431.	Gudalur Nilgiris	643211	Western	Tamil Nadu
432.	Love Dale SO	643003	Western	Tamil Nadu
433.	Charring Cross SO	643001	Western	Tamil Nadu
434.	Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya SO	641020	Western	Tamil Nadu
435.	Indu Nagar	543005	Western	Tamil Nadu
436.	Etawah HO	206001	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
437.	Mathura HO	281001	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
438.	Ghazipur HO	233001	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
439.	Mirzapur HO	231001	Allahabad	UP
440.	Muzzafarnagar HO	251001	Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh
441.	Meerut City HO	250002	Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3	4	5
442.	Saharanpur HO	247001	Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh
443.	Deoria HO	274001	Gorakhpur	Uttar Pradesh
444.	Gonda HO	271001	Gorakhpur	Uttar Pradesh
445.	Fatehpur HO	212601	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
446.	Lucknow GPO	226001	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
447.	Sitapur HO	261001	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
448.	Faizabad HO	224001	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
449.	Robertsganj	231216	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
450.	Moghalsarai	232101	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
451.	Dilkusha SO	226002	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
452.	Modinagar	201204	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
453.	Ghaziabad City	201009	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
454.	Alambagh SO	226005	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
455.	Hathras MDG	204101	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
456.	Chunar SO	231304	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
457.	Mainpuri City SO	205001	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
458.	New Hyderabad SO	226007	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
459.	Armapore SO	208009	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
460.	IIT Kanpur SO	208016	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
461.	BHU	221005	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
462.	AMU Aligarh	202002	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
463.	Geeta Press	273005	Gorakhpur	Uttar Pradesh
464.	Shaktinagar	231222	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
465.	Ramnagar SO	244715	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
466.	Virbhadra SO	249202	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
467.	Bajjnath	263641	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
468.	Augustmuni	246421	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
469.	Okhimath	246469	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
470.	Dehradun City	248001	Dehradun	Uttarakhand

1	2	3	4	5
471.	Dhumakot	246277	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
472.	Asansol	713301	South Bengal	West Bengal
473.	Burdwan	713101	South Bengal	West Bengal
474.	Durgapur	713201	South Bengal	West Bengal
475.	Howrah	711101	South Bengal	West Bengal
476.	Midnapore	721101	South Bengal	West Bengal
477.	Alipore	700027	Kolkata Region	West Bengal
478.	Barabazar	700007	Kolkata Region	West Bengal
479.	Berhampore HO	742101	Kolkata Region	West Bengal
480.	Kolkata G.P.O.	700001	Kolkata Region	West Bengal
481.	Park Street	700016	Kolkata Region	West Bengal
482.	Tollygunge HPO	700033	Kolkata Region	West Bengal
483.	Darjeeling HO	734101	North Bengal & Sikkim	West Bengal
484.	Gangtok HO	737101	North Bengal & Sikkim	West Bengal
485.	Siliguri HO	734001	North Bengal & Sikkim	West Bengal
486.	Port Blair	744101	HQ Region	West Bengal
487.	Maynaguri	735224	North Bengal & Sikkim	West Bengal
488.	Bolpur SO	731204	Kolkata Region	West Bengal
489.	S.B. Road DSO	700029	Kolkata Region	West Bengal
490.	New Alipore SO	700053	Kolkata Region	West Bengal
491.	Kakdwip SO	742347	Kolkata Region	West Bengal
492.	Alipurduar MDG	736121	NB & Sikkim Region	West Bengal
493.	Ballygunge MDG	700019	Kolkata Region	West Bengal
494.	Kalimpong MDG	734301	NB & Sikkim Region	West Bengal
495.	Tarakeswar	712420	South Bengal Region	West Bengal
496.	Intally PO	700014	Kolkata Region	West Bengal
497.	Egra	721429	South Bengal Region	West Bengal
498.	Singur	712409	South Bengal	West Bengal
499.	Bagnan SO	711303	South Bengal	West Bengal
500.	Dainhat	713502	South Bengal	West Bengal

[*Translation*]

Irregular Services of MTNL and BSNL

1204. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of Telephone/Mobile connections provided by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are irregular in the country, including Jharkhand;

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

(c) the details of the amount spent and the available additional resources for the expansion of telephone and Mobile connections in the country including Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The details of amount spent during last five years and amount to be spent during 2009-10 by BSNL, including Jharkhand Telecom Circle, is given in the enclosed Statement.

The current capacity of mobile 2G and 3G network of MTNL is 20.25 lakh and 23.25 lakh lines in Delhi and Mumbai respectively. MTNL has incurred investment of approximate Rs. 577 crores and Rs.509 crores respectively in Delhi and Mumbai units on account of equipments and network elements. MTNL is in process of adding 5 lakh lines of 2G in Delhi and 2 lakh lines in Mumbai. In addition, MTNL is also adding 5 lakh lines of 3G, each in Delhi and Mumbai unit. The total approximate investment on equipment and network elements is approximate Rs.208 crore and Rs. 200 crore in Delhi and Mumbai respectively.

Statement

Details of amount spent during last five years and to be spent during 2009-10 by Jharkhand Telecom Circle and BSNL

(Rs.in Crores)

Sl.No.	Years	Amount spent by Jharkhand Circle			Amount spent by BSNL (as a whole)		
		Telephone	CMTS	Total	Telephone	CMTS	Total
1	2004-05	53.60	10.15	63.75	2655.43	2755.98	5411.41
2	2005-06	70.36	32.52	102.88	2660.52	2281.56	4942.08
3	2006-07	61.90	30.89	92.79	2278.77	2040.33	4319.10
4	2007-08	81.54	59.62	141.16	2132.12	1720.98	3853.10
5	2008-09 (Preliminary)	22.00	121.46	143.46	1477.62	3105.38	4583.00
6	2009-10 (To be spent as per annual plan BE)	3.70	181.93	185.63	69.17	7750.79	7819.96

Pending Industrial Disputes

1205. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial disputes pending in various Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts including Delhi and Mumbai during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether any time limit has been fixed by the Government for settlement of such disputes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to appoint more presiding officers in such labour courts including Delhi and Mumbai in view of increasing number of such disputes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the further steps taken by the Government for disposal of the pending cases expeditiously?

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

(a) The details of number of industrial disputes pending in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts, including the CGIT-cum-Labour Courts at Mumbai

and Delhi, for the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) A time limit of 3 months is specified for submitting the award in terms of sub-section 2A of Section 10 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Proviso to sub section 2A of Section 10 of the said Act further provides for extension of above time limit by the Labour Court, Tribunal or National Tribunal on the request of parties to an industrial dispute jointly or separately.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) A Scheme for holding of Lok Adalat, as an Alternative Grievance Redressal Mechanism, was introduced in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) for speedy disposal of the industrial disputes in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts.

Statement

Year wise pendency figure in the CGITS Cum labour Courts (Centre Sphere)

Sl.No.	CGIT	2006-07 (as on 31.3.2007)		2007-08 (as on 31.3.2008)		2008-09 (as on 31.3.2009)		2009-10 (as on 31.5.2009)	
		Cases	Applications	Cases	Application	Cases	Application	Cases	Application
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Mumbai I	193	35	242	130	248	173	248	174
2.	Mumbai II	410	506	427	530	433	536	432	521
3.	Dhanbad I	1746	358	1,877	356	1800	349	1,771	343
4.	Dhanbad II	949	35	976	35	953	35	953	35
5.	Asansol	606	62	661	69	707	72	701	64
6.	Kolkata	281	95	314	103	304	107	304	107
7.	Chandigarh I ^A	846	98	841	103	402	71	1,453	45
8.	New Delhi I*	540	469	220	442	220	342	245	307
9.	Kanpur	560	154	526	161	543	327	546	332
10.	Jabalpur	1438	489	1,472	386	2165	165	2,171	165
11.	Chennai	293	30	305	42	308	24	298	23
12.	Bangalore	288	95	368	80	449	89	457	89

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13.	Hyderabad	856	199	993	207	901	625	901	625
14.	Nagpur	836	18	900	25	894	29	896	29
15.	Bhubneshwar	412	136	399	117	431	378	404	376
16.	Lucknow	379	38	394	29	388	31	381	32
17.	Jaipur	228	0	299	4	330	38	334	39
18.	New Delhi II	333	82	568	43	416	58	416	58
19.	Guwahati	37	7	27	6	30	6	28	6
20.	Emakulam	247	29	175	25	110	31	107	28
21.	Ahmedabad^^	1947	1473	305	1,627	8	1571	8	1568
22.	Chandigarh 11**	946	112	880	144	986	176	0	0
Total		14371	4521	13,169	4,664	1302.6	5233	13054	4966

^^1654 cases 2007-08 and 310 cases and 88 applications during 2008-09 transferred to State Tribunal

*318 cases and 26 applications transferred to CGIT-II, New Delhi during 2007-08

^1140 cases transferred from CGIT-II, Chandigarh to CGIT-I, Chandigarh in May, 2009

**All cases and applications transferred to CGIT-I, Chandigarh, in May, 2009

Cases: Cases are those that are referred under Section 10 of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 to the CGIT -cum-Labour Courts for adjudication consequent upon the failure of conciliation made by the RLC (c)s or the ALC(c)s.

Applications: Applications are those that are filed by the workers directly under Section 33-A and 33-C of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 before the CGIT-cum-Labour Courts.

[English]

Installation of Detection Facilities at Ports

1206. DR. K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of banned material imported illegally including arms, rocket shells and bombs seized at the various ports during each of the last three years and the current years, State-wise and port-wise;

(b) the action taken to check such violations;

(c) whether the Government proposes to install state-of-the-art scanners at all ports to ensure detection of arms and radioactive substances; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) The details of port-wise/state-wise and last three years and current year as under:

Years	Details of Major Ports.
2009-10 (upto June)	Nil
2008-09	Nil
2007-08	Nil
2006-07	At Cochin Port Trust in Kerala in imported consignment had been declared to contain 810 cartons of chappals and furniture in one 40 feet containers seized by the customs. Out of these 810 cartons, 37 cartons were found to contain arms (49 air-pistol and 37 air-guns). The consignment was seized on 9.1.2007 and is presently lying at the customs warehouse.

(b) Not applicable as the provision related to illegal imports are dealt by Customs Department under Import Export Policy.

(c) and (d) Two scanners (one Stationary and one mobile) for scanning of containers for arms and ammunition have been installed at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and are operational since June, 2005. Two scanners in each of Mumbai, Chennai, Tuticorin and Kandla Ports are proposed to be installed by Department of Revenue. This Ministry has presently no proposal for installing Radio active material detectors in Major Ports.

[Translation]

Mobile Phone Companies

1207. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile phone companies operating in the country, as on date;

(b) the criteria laid down for launching a new company;

(c) whether the said companies are providing more attractive plans to their subscribers which is affecting the services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL); and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) (a) As on 30th June 2009, Government has awarded Unified Access Service (UAS)/ Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Licenses to 38 companies for operation of mobile phone services in the country.

(b) Sections 11 to 54 under Part II of the Companies Act, 1956 read with the Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms, 1956 lay down the criteria for launching a new company.

(c) The Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), 1999 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) provides flexibility to all telecom operators to fix tariff. The telecom operators can offer alternative tariff plans to subscribers depending upon their usage pattern, Bharat Sanchar

Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are offering tariff plans comparable to private operators.

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

Eradication of Child Labour

1208. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV:
Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE:
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has identified, rescued and rehabilitated child labourers including the bonded child labourers in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to eradicate the child labour and to ensure stringent punishment to the guilty persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of cases registered against the guilty during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(e) whether the Union Government proposes to create a separate Child Labour Rescue Force in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 does not differentiate between child bondage and adult bondage. The State-wise break-up of sanctioned coverage for rehabilitation of identified and rescued, child labour for providing bridging education for mainstreaming them into formal education system is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Under the scheme, about 5.21 lakh children have been mainstreamed into regular education system since inception of the scheme.

(c) and (d) Section 14 of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 16 occupations and 65 processes. Any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is prohibited under the Act, is liable for

punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extend to one year or with fine ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- or with both. State Governments are the appropriate Government for Implementation of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 for the areas coming under their jurisdiction. As per the information received from the State/UT Governments, state-wise details of prosecutions launched during the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement I

State	Sanctioned Coverage	
	No. of Schools	No. of Children
Andhra Pradesh	978	48900
Assam	177	8850
Bihar	1518	86550
Jharkhand	212	10600
Jammu and Kashmir	16	800
Gujarat	116	5950
Haryana	128	6400
Karnataka	379	18950
Madhya Pradesh	598	30100
Chhattisgarh	267	15800
Maharashtra	238	11900
Orissa	971	48550
Punjab	107	5350
Rajasthan	1171	58550
Tamil Nadu	496	24800
Uttarakhand	10	500
Uttar Pradesh	1522	76100
West Bengal	916	45800
Total	9820	504450

Statement II

Name of State/UT	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands I.U.T.	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	6124	9228	3104
Aunachal Pradesh	11	-	-
Assam	1	0	0
Bihar	147	284	-
Chandigarh U.T.	0	0	8
Chhattisgarh	10	19	
Dadra and Nagar H.U.T.	0	0	
Daman and Diu U.T.	0	0	0
Delhi U.T.	253	187	274
Goa	0	-	-
Gujarat	23	270	-
Haryana	0	0	2510
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	3
Jammu and Kashmir	17	60	
Jharkhand	27	4	-
Karnataka	1078	3235	473
Kerala	1	1	1
Lakshadweep U.T.	0	0	-
Madhya Pradesh	37	150	58
Maharashtra	84	54	23
Manipur	0	-	-
Meghalaya	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	-

1	2	3	4
Nagaland	0	0	-
Orissa	1	73	145
Puducherry U.T.	0	0	0
Punjab	20	129	-
Rajasthan	13	22	26
Sikkim	0	0	-
Tamil Nadu	415	603	218
Trlpura	0	0	-
Uttar Pradesh	19	117	-
Uttarakhand	0	0	6
West Bengal	0	7	2

[English]

Review of SEZ Policy

1209. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the existing policy regarding Special Economic Zone (SEZ) projects;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the sanctity of purpose behind the setting up these SEZ projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) In terms of SEZ Act, 2005, main objectives of the SEZ Scheme are:

- (i) generation of additional economic activity
- (ii) promotion of exports of goods and services
- (iii) promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources

(iv) creation of employment opportunities

(v) development of infrastructure facilities

In addition to seven Central Government SEZs and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005, formal approval has been accorded to 578 proposals out of which 322 SEZs have been notified. As on 31st March, 2009, an investment of Rs. 1,08,903 crore has been made in SEZs and direct employment for 3,87,439 persons has been generated. Total export of Rs. 99,689 crore has been made from SEZs during the financial year 2008-09 registering a growth of 50% over the exports in the year 2007-08 registering a growth of 50% over the exports in the year 2007-08. The Development Commissioners and Approval Committees of SEZs continuously monitor the operation of SEZs. Besides, Board of Approval periodically meets to decide new proposals as well as important issues as and when brought to its notice. Corrective steps as warranted are taken under the provisions of SEZ Act and Rules.

Increasing Course in IITs

1210. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to increase more courses in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) including Gujarat's IIT; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The process of introducing new and different courses in an Institute is a continuous one. The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), including the new IIT in Gujarat, being autonomous Institutions, are empowered to design and develop various branches of learning in their curricula, as recommended by the appropriate academic and administrative bodies from time to time.

Pension Schemes for Old Age, Widow and Disabled Persons

1211. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the pension amount paid to old age persons, widows and disabled persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the mechanism adopted by the Government to ensure that the pension benefit reaches to the eligible persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to increase the central assistance to the aged, widows and disabled.

(c) There are three pension schemes under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) viz Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS). These schemes provide pension for those aged 65 years or higher belonging to households below the poverty line. The State/Union Territories are responsible for identifying eligible beneficiaries from the BPL List 2002 in rural areas and corresponding list in urban areas. Under IGNOAPS, State/Union Territories were advised to disburse the pension through bank/post office account while in the case of IGNWPS and IGNDPS, disbursement of pension through Bank/Post Office account has been made mandatory. In order to enhance transparency and accountability, software for NSAP-MIS had been developed. State/UTs are required to make the details of beneficiaries available in public domain.

[Translation]

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas

1212. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up new Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas in the country including Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations where such Vidyalayas have been set up during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) 2573 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), including 391 KGBV s in Bihar, have been set up in the country during the last five years as per norms of the KGBV scheme. A state-wise list of the number of KGBV s sanctioned is enclosed as Statement. The block-wise list of locations is available on the website www.ssa.nic.in.

Statement

State-wise list of the number of KGBVs sanctioned

Sl.No.	State	Total No. of KGBV's sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	395
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	36
3.	Assam	26
4.	Bihar	391
5.	Chhattisgarh	93
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
7.	Delhi	1
8.	Gujarat	63
9.	Haryana	9
10.	Himachal Pradesh	10
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	79
12.	Jharkhand	198
13.	Karnataka	64
14.	Madhya Pradesh	200
15.	Maharashtra	36
16.	Manipur	1
17.	Meghalaya	2
18.	Mizoram	1
19.	Nagaland	2

1	2	3
20.	Orissa	157
21.	Punjab	3
22.	Rajasthan	200
23.	Tamil Nadu	54
24.	Tripura	7
25.	Uttar Pradesh	454
26.	Uttarakhand	26
27.	West Bengal	64
	Total	2573

[English]

New Industrial Policy

1213. SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to formulate new Industrial Policy in the country;

(b) if so, whether the new policy has been drafted;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(d) the expected date of announcement of such policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The Industrial Policy of the Government is guided by the Statement on Industrial Policy 1991. At present, a few sensitive industries require licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. In keeping with the Government's policy of progressive liberalization, the role of the Government remains more of a facilitator. As such, there is no proposal with the Government to formulate a new industrial policy.

Private-Public Partnership in Education Sector

1214. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated an action plan on private-public partnership to attract private agencies for collaboration in expanding educational facilities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to set Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IITs) Polytechnics and model schools in private-public partnership mode;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the recent meeting with representatives of the private sector had expressed concern over the Private-Public Partnership model on the issue of autonomy and were demanding full autonomy sans any interference from the Government or institutions being started by the PPP mode; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Government favours active support and involvement of private participation for funding and management of educational institutions subject to reasonable surplus earned and the same being ploughed back for development of institutions. The 11th Plan document as approved by the National Development Council, also mentions the need to explore private sector initiatives and various forms of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the education sector.

(c) and (d) Government has already decided to set up 2500 Model Schools and 300 Polytechnics under Public Private Partnership mode during 11th Plan period. A proposal for setting up of 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology in various parts of the country under PPP mode is also under consideration.

(e) and (f) During interaction with various stakeholders to discuss setting up of model schools in the PPP mode, some of the participants had raised the broad issue of functional autonomy for the model schools to be set up in PPP mode.

National Literacy Mission

1215. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS* LALAN SINGH:
DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to recast the National Literacy Mission (NLM) as a National Mission for Female Literacy to make every woman literate in the country in the coming years;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the achievements made under the NLM since its inception;

(c) the details of the targets fixed by the Government under the said programme including special schemes, if any, for rural women and working women; and

(d) the details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred by the Government under the said programme during the last three years including the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to recast the National Literacy Mission to focus on literacy of women, action has already been initiated to recast the Mission.

Since the launch of National Literacy Mission in 1988, 597 districts have been covered under various literacy programmes and 127.45 million persons have been made literate during this period, out of which about 60% are women. The male-female literacy gap, which was 24.48% in 1991 was reduced to 21.59% by 2001.

(c) The Government have set the target of achieving 80% literacy by 2012.

(d) A Statement of expenditure is appended.

Statement

Amount released to States under literacy programmes during 2007-08 to 2009-10

				(Rs. In lakhs)
Sl.No.	State/UT	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 as on 30.06.09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2162.21	773.06	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.54	0.00	—
3.	Assam	79.09	0.00	—
4.	Bihar	304.39	0.00	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	284.80	556.62	—
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	—
7.	Gujarat	180.01	65.19	—
8.	Haryana	157.72	105.47	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	43.33	0.00	—
11.	Jharkhand	758.95	232.53	—
12.	Karnataka	2247.68	144.81	—
13.	Kerala	279.75	303.59	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	—

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Maharashtra	336.65	365.79	—
16.	Manipur	62.78	0.00	—
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	—
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	—
19.	Nagaland	0.00	11.59	—
20.	Orissa	183.35	0.00	—
21.	Punjab	22.70	195.92	—
22.	Rajasthan	3427.84	1135.17	44.49
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	799.82	237.76	—
25.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1933.67	1004.82	—
27.	Uttarakhand	256.06	20.84	—
28.	West Bengal	1232.04	1058.41	—
29.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	—
30.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	—
31.	Puducherry	38.70	0.00	—
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	—
33.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	—
34.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	—
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	3.48	—
Total		14801.08	6215.05	44.49

Right to Education

1216. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact a law to provide compulsory and free education to all children in the age of six to fourteen years in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to give necessary assistance to the State in implementation of the proposed law;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some State Governments have recorded their apprehensions on the proposed legislation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) Article 21A, as inserted by the Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002, provides for free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2008 which represents the consequential legislation, was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 15.12.2008. Clause 7 of the Bill provides that the Central Government and the State Government shall make available funds for carrying out the provisions of the Bill. The Bill also stipulates that the Central Government shall prepare the estimates of capital and recurring expenditure and provide to the State Governments, as grants-in-aid revenues, such percentage of expenditure as it may determine from time to time, in consultation with the States.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill is the outcome of extensive and wide ranging discussions, which included (a) consideration by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) comprising Ministers of Education of all States/UTs (b) circulation of a draft Bill based on CABE discussions to all States/UTs for their comments (c) discussion in a High Level Group (HLG) constituted by Prime Minister, and preparation/circulation of a Model Right to Education Bill. The present Bill takes into consideration the concerns of States and UTs as well as teachers' association and civil society organizations.

Old Age Security Cover to Unorganised Workers

1217. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring old age security cover/pension scheme for all workers engaged in the private and unorganized sector by making the new pension scheme more attractive;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such pension scheme is likely to be implemented alongwith the steps being taken by the Government to give wide publicity of this scheme among the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The New Pension System (NPS) has been launched for all citizens on a voluntary basis with effect from 1st May, 2009. Any citizen of India aspiring to open an NPS account can contact any of the twenty one (21) Points of Presence (POPs) appointed by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). The subscriber to NPS will have the option to invest in any of the 3 investment schemes managed by the Pension Fund Managers, each scheme investing in three different assets classes, that is, equity, Government securities and credit risk bearing fixed income securities. The offer document containing details of the NPS application form for opening NPS account and welcome brochure is available on the website of PFRDA at www.pfrda.org.in.

Shortfall in Production of Salt

1218. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

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

(a) whether the production of salt is decreasing in the country continuously during the last few years especially in the State Gujarat;

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

(c) the impact of shortfall on edible and industrial salt consumption including price hike;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of edible and industrial salt consumption;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide any special financial assistance to the salt producers to produce more salt; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Production of salt is not decreasing in the

country continuously. However, it has been fluctuating during the last 5 years. The actual production of salt in the country and Gujarat during the last five years is as follows:

Figures in lakh tones

Sl.No.	Year	Production in the country	Production in Gujarat
1.	2004-05	166.67	128.27
2.	2005-06	189.69	146.92
3.	2006-07	178.98	137.23
4.	2007-08	178.45	127.65
5.	2008-09	191.51	149.04

(b) Gujarat received unseasonal rain during July 2007 and September, 2008. Likewise Tamil Nadu also and unseasonal heavy rains during November 2008 & March 2009 which has affected the production of salt in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

(c) There was no impact on consumption of edible or industrial salt as sufficient buffer stock was available. There was slight increase in price of salt during 2008-09 due to comparative lower stock and increase in export of salt.

(d) In order to meet the requirement of edible and industrial salt, in the areas of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, fed by the salt produced in Tamil Nadu, special arrangements were made with the help of Railways for transport of salt from Gujarat to these States.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

Change in Exam Pattern

1219. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI UMASHANKAR SINGH:
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to change the exam pattern into grading system at school level and make class tenth exam optional in accordance with the National Curriculum Frame Work-2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of States in this regard;

(c) the steps taken or being taken to ensures that changed/proposed pattern of examination at school level does not affect the efficiency of the students;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to set up one nation one board for school education in the entire country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ease mental stress on the students and the parents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The National Curriculum Framework-2005 has recommended that the Board should consider, as a long term measure, making the Class-X Examination optional, thus permitting students continuing in the same school (and who do not need a Board certificate) to take an internal schools exam instead. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has proposals to introduce grading system in class-X Examination and to make Class-X Examination optional for students continuing to study in the same school in Class-XI.

(c) The following steps are meant to ensure that the efficiency is adversely affected.

1. To complete the required course of study of Classes IX and X as per Board's scheme of studies and to follow the prescribed text books.
2. The school to conduct the examination on the basis of the curriculum prescribed by the CBSE.
3. The pattern of question paper in the internal school examination to be similar to the Board's exams.
4. To strengthen continuous and comprehensive evaluation up to Class X.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) CBSE has taken the following measures:

1. Fifteen minutes of additional time is given to students for reading the question paper before they begin to write the answer in the examination.

2. The question paper in some of the important subjects has been restructured to enable a student to complete the answer well in time.
3. The number of questions has been reduced.
4. 5 chances are provided for Compartment Examination in two subjects in Class X and one subject in Class-XII.
5. There has been a shift from content based testing to problem solving and competency based testing.

Military and Sainik Schools

1220. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Military and Sainik Schools in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to open more such Schools in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the locations, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government is satisfied with the performance/standard of education in these schools;

(e) if not, the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government to maintain high standard of education in these Schools;

(f) whether the Government has evaluated the performance of these schools during the last three years; and

(g) if so, the details thereof indicating the outcome of such evaluation and the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) As on date, there are five Rashtriya Military Schools and twenty four Sainik Schools under the Ministry of Defence in the country. Their state-wise location is given in the Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details are as under:-

State	Location
Mizoram	Chhingchhip
Sikkim	Yet to be decided
Chhattisgarh	Gumla district
Andhra Pradesh	Kadapa district

(d) to (g) The Sainik Schools Society reviews the working and performance of Sainik Schools in respect of academic results and NDA intake as well as infrastructural facilities. There is an upward trend in respect of the academic as well as NDA results. However, in pursuance of the decisions taken during Review meetings, following steps have been taken:-

- (i) An elaborate programme of in service training to the teachers and competition oriented training is being implemented with the assistance of experts from the Services and professional educational institutions/bodies like National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- (ii) Service Selection Board (SSB) oriented training is also being provided to the cadets using professional resource personnel.
- (iii) It has recently been decided to detail Principals of Sainik Schools to empowerment programmes conducted by CBSE in collaboration with Indian Institutes of Management and NUEPA.
- (iv) The Ministry of Defence has also provided training grants to the schools with a view to upgrade training infrastructure and skills.

Statement

Sl.No	State	Name of Rashtriya Military Schools
1.	Himachal Pradesh	Rashtriya Military School, Chail
2.	Karnataka	1. Rashtriya Military School, Belgaum 2. Rashtriya Military School, Bangalore
3.	Rajasthan	1. Rashtriya Military School, Ajmer 2. Rashtriya Military School, Dholpur

Sl.No.	State	Name of Sainik Schools
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Sainik School Korukonda
2.	Assam	Sainik School Goalpara
3.	Bihar	1. Sainik School Gopalganj 2. Sainik School Nalanda
4.	Chhattisgarh	Sainik School Ambikapur
5.	Gujarat	Sainik School Balachadi
6.	Haryana	1. Sainik School Kunjapura 2. Sainik School Rewari
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Sainik School Sujampur Tira
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	Sainik School Nagrota
9.	Jharkhand	Sainik School Tilaiya
10.	Karnataka	1. Sainik School Bijapur 2. Sainik School Kodagu
11.	Kerala	Sainik School Kazhakootam
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Sainik School Rewa
13.	Maharashtra	Sainik School Satara
14.	Manipur	Sainik School Imphal
15.	Nagaland	Sainik School Punglwa
16.	Orissa	Sainik School Bhubaneswar
17.	Punjab	Sainik School Kapurthala
18.	Rajasthan	Sainik School Chittorgarh
19.	Tamil Nadu	Sainik School Amaravathi Nagar
20.	Uttarakhad	Sainik School Ghorakhal
21.	West Bengal	Sainik School Purulia

[Translation]

Primary Schools in Tribal Areas

1221. SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tribal districts where primary schools have been set up or proposed to be set up with the assistance of World Bank, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether State-Governments have requested for financial assistance from the World Bank for promotion of primary education in their States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The financial assistance provided by the World Bank becomes part of the overall annual budget earmarked for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme by the states/UTs. The World Bank is not providing any state-wise funds.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[English]

Opening of Model Degree Colleges

1222. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to open new model degree colleges in each State;

(b) if so, the number of colleges proposed to be opened during the current financial year, State-wise;

(c) the number of requests received from the State Governments for setting up of such colleges in their States;

(d) the name of places identified and funds allocated for the purpose during the current financial year, location and State-wise; and

(e) the progress made so far for opening of such colleges in the State, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) A proposal is under consideration of the Government, to launch a new scheme to assist States for establishment of a model degree college in each of the 374 identified educationally backward districts having Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

in higher education lower than the national level. An amount of Rs. 782 crore has been earmarked as the Central Government share in the 11th Plan. 200 colleges are proposed to be set up during the remaining period of the 11th Plan.

A Statement-I indicating the number of proposals, received by the University Grants Commission from the State Governments is enclosed. Statement-II indicating the list of 374 identified educationally backward districts is enclosed.

Statement I

The number of proposals received by the University Grants Commission (UGC) from State Governments for establishment of Model Degree Colleges in identified Educationally Backward Districts:

Sl.No.	Name of the State Government	No. of Proposals
1.	Kerala	4
2.	Karnataka	3
3.	West Bengal	28
4.	Punjab	19
5.	Tripura	4
6.	Gujarat	2
7.	Maharashtra	4
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	1

Statement II

Statement containing the list of 374 identified Educationally Backward Districts

1. **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

Andamans
Nicobars

2. **Andhra Pradesh**

Adilabad
Anantapur
East Godavari
Kurnool

Mahbubnagar
Medak
Nizamabad
Prakasam
Srikakulam
Vizianagaram
West Godavari

3. **Arunachal Pradesh**

Changlang
Dibang Valley
East Kameng
Lohit
Lower Subansiri
Tawang
Tirap
Uppper Siang
Upper Subansiri
West Kameng
West Siang

4. **Assam**

Bongaigaon
Cachar
Darrang
Dhubri
Goalpara
Hailakandi
Karbi Anglong
Karimganj
Marigaon
Nagaon
Sonitpur
Tinsukia

5. **Bihar**

Araria
Aurangabad
Banka
Begusarai
Darbhanga

- Gopalganj
Jamui
Kaimur
Katihar
Khagaria
Kishanganj
Lakhisarai
Madhepura
Madhubani
Nawada
W. Champaran
E. Champaran
Purnia
Saharsa
Samastipur
Sheohar
Sitamarhi
Siwan
Supaul
Vaishali
6. **Chhattisgarh**
- Bastar
Bilaspur
Dantewada
Dhamtari
Durg
Janjgir—champa
Jashpur
Kanker
Kawardha
Koriya
Mahasamund
Raigarh
Raipur
Rajnandgaon
Surguja
7. **Dadra and Nagar Haveli**
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli
8. **Daman and Diu**
- Daman
Diu
9. **Gujarat**
- Amreli
Banas Kantha
Bharuch
Bhavnagar
Dohad
Jamnagar
Junagad
Kachchh
Kheda
Mahesana
Narmada
Panch Mahals
Patan
Porbandar
Rajkot
Sabar Kantha
Surat
Surendranagar
The Dangs
Valsad
10. **Haryana**
- Fatehabad
Gurgaon
Jind
Kaithal
Karnal
Panipat
Sirsa
11. **Himachal Pradesh**
- Chamba
Kannaur
Lahul & Spiti
Sirmaur

12. **Jammu and Kashmir**

Anantnag

Badgam

Baramula

Doda

Kargil

Kathua

Kupwara

Leh

Punch

Rajauri

Udhampur

13. **Jharkhand**

Chatra

Deoghar

Dumka

Garhwa

Giridih

Godda

Gumla

Kodarma

Pakaur

Palamu

P. Singhbhum

Sahibganj

14. **Karnataka**

Bagalkot

Bangalore Rural

Belgaum

Bellary

Bijapur

Chamrajanagar

Chikmagalur

Chitradurga

Dakshina Kannada

Gadag

Hassan

Haveri

Kodagu

Kolar

Koppal

Mandya

Raichur

Tumkur

Udupi

Uttara Kannada

15. **Kerala**

Kasaragod

Malappuram

Palakkad

Wayanad

16. **Lakshadweep**

Lakshadweep

17. **Madhya Pradesh**

Balaghat

Barwani

Betul

Bhind

Chhatarpur

Chindwara

Damoh

Datia

Dewas

Dhar

Dindori

East Nimar

Guna

Harda

Jhabua

Katni

Mandla

Mandsaur

Morena

Narsimhapur

Neemuch

Panna

	Raisen		Saiha
	Rajgarh		Serchhip
	Ratlam	21.	Nagaland
	Sagar		Mon
	Satna		
	Sehore	22.	Orissa
	Seoni		Anugul
	Shahdol		Balangir
	Shajapur		Bargarh
	Sheopur		Baudh
	Shivpuri		Debagarh
	Sidhi		Dhenkanal
	Tikamgarh		Gajapati
	Ujjain		Ganjam
	Umaria		Kalahandi
	Vidisha		Kandhamal
	West Nimar		Kendujhar
18.	Maharashtra		Koraput
	Buldana		Malkangiri
	Gadchiroli		Nabarangapur
	Hingoli		Nayagarh
	Jalna		Nuapada
	Rajgarh		Rayagada
	Ratnagiri		Sonapur
	Sindhudurg	23.	Puducherry
19.	Meghalaya		Yanam
	East Garo Hills	24.	Punjab
	Jaintia Hills		Amritsar
	Ri Bhoi		Bathinda
	South Garo Hills		Faridkot
	West Khasi Hills		Fatehgarh Sahib
20.	Mizoram		Firozpur
	Champhai		Gurdaspur
	Kolasib		Kapurthala
	Lawngtlai		Mansa
	Lunglei		Moga
	Mamit		Muktsar
			Nawanshahr

- Patiala
Singrur
25. **Rajasthan**
- Ajmer
Alwar
Banswara
Baran
Barmer
Bharatpur
Bhilwara
Bikaner
Bundi
Chittaurgarh
Churu
Dausa
Dhaulpur
Dungarpur
Ganganagar
Hanumangarh
Jaisalmer
Jalor
Jhalawar
Jhunjhunun
Jodhpur
Karauli
Nagaur
Pali
Rajsamand
Sawai Madhopur
Sikar
Sirohi
Tonk
Udaipur
26. **Sikkim**
- East
North
South
West
27. **Tamil Nadu**
- Ariyalur
Coimbatore
Cuddalore
Dharmapuri
Dindigul
Erode
Kancheepuram
Kanniyakumari
Karur
Madurai
Nagapattinam
Perambalur
Pudukkottai
Ramanathapuram
Salem
Sivaganga
Thanjavur
The Nilgiris
Theni
Thiruvallur
Thiruvarur
Thoothukkudi
Tirunelveli
Tiruvannamalai
Vellore
Viluppuram
Virudhunagar
28. **Tripura**
- North Tripura
South Tripura
West Tripura
Dhalai
29. **Uttar Pradesh**
- Bahraich
Balrampur
Banda
Barabanki

Bareilly
 Basti
 Bijnor
 Budaun
 Bulandshahr
 Chitrakoot
 Etah
 Farrukhabad
 Fatehpur
 Gonda
 Hamirpur
 Hardoi
 Hathras
 Jyotiba P. Nagar
 Kannauj
 Kanpur Dehat
 Kaushambi
 Kheri
 Kushinagar
 Lalitpur
 Maharajganj
 Mahoba
 Mathura
 Moradabad
 Muzaffarnagar
 Pilibhit
 Rae Bareli
 Rampur
 Saharanpur
 Sant Kabir Nagar
 Shahjhanpur
 Shrawasti
 Siddharthnagar
 Sitapur
 Sonbhadra
 Sultanpur
 Unnao

30. **Uttaranchal**

Bageshwar
 Champawat

31. **West Bengal**

Bankura
 Bardhaman
 Birbhum
 Dakshin Dinajpur
 Darjiling
 Haora
 Hugli
 Jalpaiguri
 Koch Bihar
 Maldah
 Medinipur
 Murshidabad
 Nadia
 North 24 Parganas
 Purulia
 South 24 Parganas
 Uttar Dinajpur

Total Districts = 374

[Translation]

Computer Education in Schools

1223. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to impart computer education in schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the schools identified in each State/ Union Territory for the purpose;

(d) the details of funding pattern envisaged for the scheme;

(e) whether any priority is given to girls students under the scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools" was launched in December 2004 to provide computer education to secondary school students and to use ICT enabled processes for teaching. The Scheme provides financial support to States/UTs for computer infrastructure, teachers' training and internet connectivity.

(c) Details of the number of schools approved under

the Scheme during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided by the Centre to the States on a 75:25 sharing basis except special category States where it is 90:10.

(e) and (f) The Scheme caters to all students in the identified schools at the secondary or higher secondary stage.

Statement

Schools approved during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 under ICT in Schools Scheme

Sl.No.	State/UT	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	12	—	14
2.	Andhra Pradesh	200	5000	2000
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	35	—
4.	Assam	—	641	—
5.	Bihar	—	1000	—
6.	Chandigarh	20	67	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	100	200	800
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	6	—
9.	Daman and Diu	—	22	—
10.	Delhi	75	53	—
11.	Goa	—	432	—
12.	Gujarat	150	1150 (including 150 approved in 2006-07)	2500
13.	Haryana	—	500	1000
14.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	628
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	200	200
16.	Jharkhand	—	1074	—

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Karnataka	—	2279	4396
18.	Kerala	—	1016	3055
19.	Lakshdweep	12	—	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	—	320	1000 (including 320 schools approved in 2007-08)
21.	Maharashtra	200	500	2500
22.	Manipur	—	65	—
23.	Meghalaya	—	75	75
24.	Mizoram	—	—	100
25.	Nagaland	147	284	—
26.	Orissa	—	1500	—
27.	Puducherry	25	169	—
28.	Punjab	—	—	2000
29.	Rajasthan	—	2500	2000
30.	Sikkim	—	2	—
31.	Tamil Nadu	—	400	400
32.	Tripura	200	400	282
33.	Uttar Pradesh	200	2500	1500
34.	Uttarakhand	—	100	500
35.	West Bengal	—	343	1400
Total		1347	22833	26350

Amendment in Law enacted for Disabled Persons

1224. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to amend the law enacted for disabled persons after signing the UN convention; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The Government has taken various steps towards amending the Persons with disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995. The National Consultation

for amending the Act was initiated in June, 2006 with the first consultation meeting at Patna with State Governments, experts, NGOs and stake holders. The second meeting was held in July, 2006 at Chennai and thereafter, there were demands from stakeholders that the consultation process may be kept in abeyance till India signed the United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). This demand was accepted and the consultation process was again resumed after India signed the UNCRPD on 30.03.2007. The last two consultation meetings were held at Delhi and Goa in August and November 2007 respectively. The suggestions received during the consultation meetings as well as provisions of the UNCRPD as ratified on 03.05.2008, have been considered while drafting the proposal for amendment of the Act.

[English]

Innovative Practices in IT Sector

1225. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has executed or proposes to execute innovative practices to keep the pace of India's success in the Information Technology (IT) sector going and also to keep upper hand among other emerging IT locations globally;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to speed up its e-governance projects as it would improve citizen services and stimulate the Indian economy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) In the budget 2009-10 proposals, the Government has extended the Tax benefits under sections 10A/10B of the Income Tax Act for the Software Technology Park (STP) units & 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU) in the IT sector by one more year i.e. for the financial year 2010-11. The Government had earlier extended the tax benefits for STP Units & EOUs by one year i.e. upto 31.3.2010. Government is also pursuing a strategy of encouraging the proliferation of the industry to tier II and Tier III towns which are more cost competitive globally.

(c) and (d) In order to speed up e-Governance projects, approval of the Cabinet was obtained for launching National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) in May 2006. Presently the Core IT Infrastructure consisting of State Wide Area Networks (SWANs), State Data Centres (SDCs), Common Service Centres (CSCs) and Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) are in different stages of implementation for delivery of citizen services.

Establishment of New ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries

1226. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open new Employees State Insurance (ESI) hospitals and dispensaries in the country including Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) the time by which such hospitals and dispensaries are likely to be established?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Employees State Insurance Corporation has approved/proposed opening of the following new ESI Hospitals and dispensaries:

- (a) Sanathanagar, Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Baddi, Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Gurgaon, Haryana
- (d) Bhiwadi, Rajasthan
- (e) Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu
- (f) Tirupur, Tamil Nadu
- (g) Haldia, West Bengal
- (h) Haridwar, Uttarakhand
- (i) Rudrapur, Uttarakhand
- (j) Peenya, Bangalore, Karnataka
- (l) Alwar, Rajasthan
- (m) Patna, Bihar

(n) Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

Diagnostic Centres (10 Bed)

(a) Raipur, Chhattisgarh

(b) Dehradun, Uttarakhand

(c) Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh

(d) Mandideep, Madhya Pradesh

(e) Thudiliari, Puducherry

(f) Ayanavaram, Tamil Nadu

Dispensaries (details enclosed as statement)

(c) The opening of new hospitals and dispensaries is an ongoing process on the basis of norms laid down by ESI Corporation. After approval of ESI Corporation, the dispensaries are set up by the respective State Governments. For establishment of hospitals, land has to be allotted by the State Government after which construction is taken up.

Statement

ESI Dispensary Sanctioned Under ESI Scheme in Newly Implemented Geographical Areas

1. Jaggaiahpet Krishna Dist., Andhra Pradesh
2. Sri Kalahasthi, Chittor Distt., Andhra Pradesh
3. Kurmannapalem, Distt., Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
4. Sullarpet, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh
5. Shamshebad, Andhra Pradesh
6. Gantyado, Andhra Pradesh
7. Mobile Dispensary, Tohana Area, Haryana
8. Nainital Area, Nainital, Uttarakhand
9. Bhagwanpur, Distt. Haridwar, Uttarakhand
10. Roshnabad Industrial Area (SIDKUL), Uttarakhand
11. Gopichettipalayam, Chennai
12. Bhilai Area/Centre, Chhattisgarh
13. Korba Area/Centre, Chhattisgarh

14. Kauzumunda Sundergarh Distt., Orissa

15. Duburi, Jaipur Distt., Orissa

16. Kheda, Hayathnagar, Andhra Pradesh

ESI Dispensaries Approved in Existing Implemented Areas

17. Alwar No. I, Rajasthan

18. Bhiwadi, Rajasthan

19. Diagnostic Centre Jeedimetla, Andhra Pradesh

20. Auto Nagar, Andhra Pradesh

21. Industrial Estate, Vishakpatnam, Andhra Pradesh

22. Korlim, Goa

23. Meenambakkam, Tamil Nadu

24. Ambur, Tamil Nadu

25. Virudh Nagar, Tamil Nadu

26. Hissar Industrial State, Haryana

27. Faridabad, Haryana

28. Manesar, Haryana

29. Murthal, Haryana

30. Arryankuppum, Puducherry

31. Reddipalayam, Puducherry

32. Andoguidy, Karnataka

33. Wazipur, Delhi

34. Pappan Kalan, Delhi

35. Agra, Uttar Pradesh

36. Raipur, Chhattisgarh

37. Mylom, Kerala

38. Vilakudy, Kerala

39. Ashramam, Kollam, Kerala

40. Samba, Jammu

41. Mobile Dispensary Bhondsi Gurgaon, Haryana

42. Hissar, Haryana

43. Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand

44. Jhazsuguda, Orissa

*[Translation]***Consturction of Rohtang Tunnel**

1227. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction work of the Rohtang Tunnel being undertaken by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to link Lahul-Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh with other parts of the State;

(b) whether the BRO has sought approval for inviting tenders for construction of the tunnel; and

(c) if so, the latest position thereof alongwith the list of firms finalized to which works relating to the tunnel are to be assigned?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Global tender for construction of the tunnel was issued. Technical and commercial bids have been opened and the same are under evaluation.

*[English]***Regulation of Migrant Workforce**

1228. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made it compulsory for employers to register domestic and professional staff at the nearest police station;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to regulate the migrant workforce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Universal Service Obligation Fund**

1229. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allocate the funds to the various mobile companies through the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of funds allocated to phone companies through this fund during the last three years and the current financial year; and

(d) the number of villages which have been provided with telephone facilities in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been providing subsidy support for setting up of 7,440 Shareable Infrastructure Sites in the country for increasing the mobile services in rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. Out of these, 5,624 towers in the country have already been commissioned under this scheme as on May, 2009. The remaining towers are likely to be commissioned by September, '2009. Besides, USOF is also likely to launch shortly second phase of setting up 10,128 additional towers to cover the remaining uncovered rural and remote areas.

(c) The mobile infrastructure scheme (Phase-I) of USOF for setting up of 7440 shareable infrastructure sites was launched in June, 2007. Under this scheme, a sum of Rs.588 crores is to be disbursed to the companies in a phased manner over their agreement period. Actual disbursement from USOF during the last three years and the current financial year is given below:-

(Rupees in Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of Company	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10*
1.	BSNL	NIL	NIL	0.15	0.52
2.	GTL	NIL	NIL	3.74	0.00
3.	QTI	NIL	NIL	0.54	0.22
4.	VESL	NIL	NIL	0.06	2.75
Total		NIL	NIL	4.49	3.49

*The projected amount for disbursement for the year 2009-10 is Rs. 120 Crores.

(d) A Statement indicating the State-wise number of facilities in the country under USOF during the last three villages which have been provided with telephone years and the current year is enclosed.

Statement

Number of Villages provided with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility under subsidy support of USOF during the last three years and the current year upto 31.05.2009

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	Number of inhabited villages provided with VPT facility in the last three years from 01.04.2006 to 31.03.2009	Number of inhabited villages provided with VPT facility from 01.04.2009 to 31.05.2009	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	91	2	93
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1141	191	1332
3.	Assam	6106	-5	6101
4.	Bihar	1250	0	1250
5.	Jharkhand	2046	101	2147
6.	Gujarat (including Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli)	3369	29	3398
7.	Haryana	231	35	266
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1716	38	1754
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1282	91	1373
10.	Karnataka	829	14	843
11.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep)	0	0	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6414	-85	6329
13.	Chhattisgarh	1915	150	2065
14.	Maharashtra (including Goa)	5787	103	5890
15.	North-East-I. (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)	526	155	681
16.	North-East-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland)	1174	-158	1016
17.	Orissa	3848	391	4239
18.	Punjab	8	10	18

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Rajasthan	9825	85	9910
20.	Tamil Nadu (including Puducherry)	482	21	503
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	5966	132	6098
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	629	212	841
23.	Uttarakhand	2380	145	2525
24.	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	911	234	1145
	Total	57926	1891	59817

[*English*]

Setting up of Maritime Board

1230. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has provided financial assistance to State Governments for setting up Maritime Boards in the respective States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and released for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):
(a) and (b) Under the Indian Ports Act, 1908, responsibility for development of Non-Major Ports vests with the respective State Government. Maritime Boards are set up and funded by the Maritime State Governments for the development of Non-Major Ports and sectors related thereto.

[*Translation*]

Interest Rate on EPF

1231. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken by the Government to maintain the status-quo of the interest rate 8.5 per cent of Employees Provident Fund (EPF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of employees registered at present under EPF in the country including Jharkhand, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to make available the facilities of Employees' State Insurance Hospitals to the employees in the country including Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For the year 2007-08 and 2008-09, rate of interest on EPF deposits has been maintained at 8.5%. Further, Central Board of Trustees (Employees' Provident Fund) has recommended the same rate for the year 2009-10 also.

(c) The total membership of the Provident Fund as on 31.03.2009 was 4.49 crore (provisional). The region-wise details of membership, which covers all the States including Jharkhand and except the State of Jammu and Kashmir, is as per statement annexed.

(d) At present, the facilities of Employees' State Insurance Hospitals in the country including Jharkhand are open to all Insured Persons under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

Statement

Region-wise details of membership in Provident Fund of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

Region	Membership		
	Unexempted	Exempted	Total
1	2	3	4
Delhi North	954508	307235	1261743
Delhi South	898908	91187	990095

1	2	3	4
Haryana	2508613	143549	2652162
Himachal Pradesh	213623	10555	224178
Chandigarh	1288823	10424	1299247
Ludhiana	1708157	33888	1742045
Uttar Pradesh	1598078	166583	1764661
Uttarakhand	115823	63178	179001
NORTH ZONE	9286533	826599	10113132
Bihar	269079	33986	303065
Jalpaiguri	841748	5078	846826
Kolkata	1413228	578386	1991614
Jharkhand	731247	208624	939871
Orissa	590729	67888	658617
North East Region	310080	14271	324351
EAST ZONE	4156111	908233	5064344
Bangalore	2990018	370323	3360341
Mangalore	1023865	91639	1115504
Guntur	778061	63226	841287
Hyderabad	1985902	231183	2217085
Kerala	1520003	52962	1572965
Chennai	3296680	188584	3485264
Coimbatore	2129257	60185	2189442
Madurai	1628036	16012	1644048
SOUTH ZONE	15351822	1074114	16425936
Chhattisgarh	317695	72420	390115
Goa	569758	14443	584201
Ahmedabad	1246483	94492	1340975
Vadodara	1238607	103050	1341657
Mumbai-I [Bandra]	2007329	638704	2646033

1	2	3	4
Mumbai-II [Thane]	1588015	155067	1743082
Nagpur	1150473	141740	1292213
Pune	806274	168686	974960
Madhya Pradesh	1782797	35405	1818202
Rajasthan	1060205	129551	1189756
WEST ZONE	11767636	1553558	13321194
Total	40562102	4362504	44924606

Rehabilitation of Scavengers

1232. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:
Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of scavengers has declined in the country;

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

(c) the funds allocated and spent by the Government on rehabilitation of such persons during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) A Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) was introduced in January, 2007 for rehabilitation of remaining manual scavengers and their dependents in alternative occupations, in a time bound manner. At the time of preparation of the scheme, the estimated no. of manual scavengers and their dependents to be rehabilitated was 3.42 lakh. As per updated reports received from State Governments, the no. of eligible beneficiaries identified under SRMS is 1.15 lakh, State-wise details of which are given in the enclosed Statement-I. Out of the identified beneficiaries some have already been rehabilitated, including rehabilitation of all identified beneficiaries in Karnataka and Puducherry.

(c) Under SRMS, State-wise allocation of funds is not done. Funds are released to State Governments as per their demand. State-wise details of funds released during the last three years for implementation of SRMS are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

State-wise no. of manual scavengers and their dependents identified under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Number of beneficiaries
1.	Assam	4404
2.	Bihar	15352
3.	Delhi	1085
4.	Gujarat	8740
5.	Himachal Pradesh	3296
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	254
7.	Jharkhand	5750
8.	Karnataka	10
9.	Madhya Pradesh	15213
10.	Maharashtra	13320
11.	Meghalaya	372
12.	Orissa	16386
13.	Puducherry	30
14.	Rajasthan	1446
15.	Tamil Nadu	11896
16.	Uttar Pradesh	9426
17.	Uttarakhand	1435
18.	West Bengal	6708
Grand Total		115123

Statement II

State-wise details of funds released during the last three years under the Self Employment Scheme-I Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Funds provided (Rs. in lakh)		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	0.0	260.33	221.36
2.	Bihar	0.0	207.28	803.79
3.	Delhi	0.0	0.0	77.82

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Gujarat	0	200.0	1455.03
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.0	170.16	79.55
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.0	13.22	15.48
7.	Jharkhand	0.0	279.75	0.0
8.	Karnataka	0.0	0.75	0.0
9.	Madhya Pradesh	36.4	1317.26	2420.0
10.	Maharashtra	0	413.81	710.0
11.	Meghalaya	0.0	0.0	52.50
12.	Orissa	0.0	1469.28	503.64
13.	Puducherry	0.0	4.51	0
14.	Rajasthan	0.0	163.87	113.64
15.	Tamil Nadu	34.40	21.50	2245.15
16.	Uttar Pradesh	0.0	82.5	843.78
17.	Uttarakhand	0.0	0.0	26.4
18.	West Bengal	0.0	136.93	343.63

Allocation of Funds for Defence Procurement

1233. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for procurement of defence equipment during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the utilization of the allocated funds during the said period;

(c) the reasons for non-utilisation of the funds;

(d) whether the Government proposes to streamline the expenditure for non-essential items so as to undertake other developmental activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)
(a) and (b) The allocation of funds for procurement of defence equipments and their utilization during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

(Rs. in crores)				
Year	Revised Estimates	Actuals	Savings(+)/Excess(-)	%age utilized
2006-2007	26774.39	26900.44	(-)126.05	100.47
2007-2008	28110.01	27903.42	(+)206.59	99.27
2008-2009	30614.64	29994.03*	(+)620.61	97.97
2009-2010 (As per Demands for Grants)	40367.72			

*As accounts for 2008-2009 have not yet been closed, March (Correction),2009 figures have been taken.

(c) While in 2006-2007, there was slight excess expenditure, in the two subsequent years there has been marginal underutilization, primarily on account of the complexities of the procedure for procurement of defence equipments.

(d) and (e) Each expenditure proposal passes through a rigorous process of scrutiny, which includes the aspect of necessity for incurring the expenditure. This obviates the possibility of any expenditure being incurred on any non- essential item.

[English]

Development of Leather Industry

1234. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop the leather sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked for the said projects;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to set up leather parks in various States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations of the said parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The Central Government has approved 11 sub-schemes for implementation during the 11th Five Year Plan period under Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP). The sub-schemes aim at infrastructure development, capacity building, human resource development, investment promotion, providing support to leather artisans and addressing environmental issues of the leather industry.

The details of the sub-schemes under ILDP are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the sub-schemes under ILDP	Allocation (Rs. In crores)
1.	Integrated Development of Leather Sector	253.43
2.	Leather Complex, Nellore	29.00
3.	Footwear Design and Development Institute, Fursatganj	7.17
4.	Footwear Complex, Chennai	3.00
5.	Saddlery Development	10.00
6.	Support to Artisan	40.00
7.	Human Resource Development	60.00
8.	Upgradation and Establishment of Institutional facilities	300.07
9.	Environment Initiatives	200.00
10.	Establishment of Training Centre in Madhya Pradesh	24.85
11.	Mission Mode	10.00
Total		937.52

(d) and (e) The Central Government has approved proposals to establish a Leather Complex with assistance of Rs. 29 crores at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh and a Footwear Complex with assistance of Rs. 14 crores at Chennai in Tamil Nadu under Indian Leather Development Programme.

Pharmaceutical Education

1235. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the standard of the pharmaceutical education in the country is at par with standard being followed in the various developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to upgrade standards of the pharmaceuticals education at par with the standards being followed by developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), the Council has introduced Pharm. D. qualification (six years course) as a registrable qualification under the pharmacy Act, 1948 to practice the profession of pharmacy. The syllabus/course content is designed in a way that it not only takes care of national needs but is also at par with international standards. It lays emphasis on (i) Community Pharmacy, (ii) Clinical Toxicology, (iii) Pharmacotherapeutice, (iv) Clinical Research, (v) Hospital Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical care etc.

Jobs for Disabled Persons

1236. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently taken any steps for creating jobs for disabled persons, to improve their condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of disabled persons likely to be benefited therefrom;

(c) whether the Government has issued any directions to private sector also to create job for disabled persons; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the private sector in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Section 33 of the Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for 3% reservation in Government employment, including 1% each for disabled suffering from (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing

impairment and (iii) loco motor disability or cerebral palsy. Moreover, a special recruitment drive has been initiated recently to fill up backlog vacancies for posts reserved for persons with disabilities.

(c) and (d) No directions have been issued to the private sector to create jobs for disabled persons. However, a new Scheme of Incentives to the Private Sector for Employment of Physically Challenged Persons has been launched, w.e.f. 01.04.2008. Under this Scheme, the Government of India provides the employer's contribution for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for 3 years, for physically challenged employees employed in the private sector on or after 01.04.2008, with a monthly salary upto Rs. 25,000.

Ban on Import of Chinese Mobiles

1237. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) whether a large numbers of Chinese mobile phones without International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number are being imported in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ban the import of such mobiles in view of security concerns; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Vide Notification No.112 (RE-2008)/2004-2009 dated 16th June, 2009, the Government has prohibited the import of 'Mobile Handsets' (classified under EXIM Code '8517') without International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) No. or with all Zeroes IMEI with immediate effect.

Export of Agricultural Commodities

1238. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to remove restriction on export of all agricultural commodities;

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

(c) whether prices of all agricultural commodities have gone up during the last six months; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prices of all agricultural commodities have not gone up during the last six months. As per the data maintained by the Price Monitoring Cell of the Department of Food & Public Distribution, the wholesale prices of wheat and rice are lower than the prices reported 6 months back at many places in India.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Maritime University

1239. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Maritime Universities functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government proposes to set up a Maritime University in Gujarat; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) There are two Maritime Universities in the country, namely, the Indian Maritime University, Chennai which has been established in the year 2008 through Indian Maritime University Act, 2008 (22 of 2008) and the other Academy of Maritime Education & Training which is a deemed University in the private sector in Chennai.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no proposal to set a Maritime University in the State of Gujarat. Requirement of more Universities would depend on the experience gained from establishing the Indian Maritime University

and other enabling factors like availability of land, resources and presence of Maritime Institutes in the region.

Welfare Funds for Construction Workers

1240. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States Governments lag behind in terms of implementation of welfare measures for construction workers and utilization of funds meant for this purpose;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has issued guidelines/directives to the State Governments recently to take special steps and respond within a week in terms of measures taken or being taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto; and

(e) the further steps taken or being taken by the Government for implementation of welfare measures for construction workers alongwith the purposeful utilization of welfare funds?

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

(a) to (e) The Government has enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996. Under these Acts, the States have to frame and notify Rules, constitute Advisory Committees/expert Committees, appoint various authorities for registration of workers, cess collection, Inspection and Appealing Authority and constitute State Welfare Boards to frame and implement various welfare schemes in pursuance of the said Acts. The State Governments are collecting cess and the same is transferred to the State Welfare Boards. State Welfare Boards are implementing various welfare schemes for building and other construction workers. Some States are in the process of formulating different welfare schemes. The States are at various stages of implementation of these Acts. Till date 27 States/Union Territories have notified Rules under the Act, 26 have constituted Welfare Boards, 24 have notified Implementing/Cess collecting authorities and 26 have constituted State Advisory Committees.

The Government is monitoring the implementation of the Acts in the States/Union Territories. The Government has been issuing directions from time to time to the States/Union Territories for speedy implementation of these Acts. In this regard, under the directions of Prime Minister's Office, a Special Group had been constituted under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Labour & Employment) to monitor and review the implementation of Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996. The Special Group is holding region wise meetings with the State Governments and 15 such meetings have already been held in different regions.

Revival of Telecom Equipment Manufacturing Units

1241. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has sought foreign collaborations for revival of its six telecom equipment manufacturing units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Joint Venture proposals has been received and finalized in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Joint Venture would also include technology transfer and the investment by foreign partners in the machinery;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which the proposals are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (g) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Encroachment on Territorial Waters in Arabian Sea

1242. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large scale encroachment by neighbouring countries on Indian territorial waters has been noticed recently in the Arabian sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the Indian territorial waters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)
(a) and (b) There is no report about large scale encroachment of Indian territorial waters in the Arabian Sea.

(c) The Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard carry out regular surveillance and maintain their presence to prevent any encroachment in Indian territorial waters.

Shortage of Teachers in Higher Educational Institutions

1243. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether there is acute shortage of teachers in Higher Educational Institutions including engineering colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to start the recruitment of teaching staff banned as per earlier recommendations made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Committee headed by Mr. Chadha has recommended uniform age of retirement for teachers throughout the country; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the report of the Committee on "Faculty Development in Technical Education" constituted by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) under the Chairmanship of Prof. P. Rama Rao, the total

shortage of teaching staff in engineering & technology. during 2005-06, for the country as a whole. was about 40,000. This shortage was estimated based on the AICTE norms of teacher to student ratio as 1:15.

(c) and (d) The process of recruitment of faculty in the Centrally funded institutions is a continuous one and there is no ban on the recruitment of teaching staff in these institutions.

(e) and (f) The Chadha Committee had recommended that the age of superannuation of teachers should be 65 years throughout the country whether in a State or Central University as also whether in a college or in a university. The age of superannuation of teachers in centrally funded institutions in Higher Education under the purview of this Ministry was raised from 62 years to 65 years. The State Governments were also advised to make changes in respect of their teachers in Higher Education institutions.

[English]

Deemed University Status

1244. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI S. SEMMALAI:
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

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

(a) whether the Deemed University status has been granted to some educational institutions without the mandatory screening process;

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

(c) the rationale for granting Deemed University status on conditional basis;

(d) whether some educational institutions were found lacking in adequate infrastructural set-up including faculty/ programmes after having been granted the Deemed University status;

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

(f) the corrective steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Central Government is empowered by Section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 to declare an institution of higher education, other than a University, as 'Deemed-to-be-University', on the advice of the UGC. The Commission has laid down guidelines for consideration of proposals from institutions seeking declaration as an institution 'Deemed-to-be-University'. Such proposals are examined by the UGC as per the provisions of these guidelines. The Commission then deposes a Committee of Experts including nominees of the relevant Statutory Regulatory Bodies depending upon the courses being offered by the applicant-institution. The Committee makes an assessment of the applicant-institution and the facilities available, including infrastructure, and faculty, and submits a report to the UGC. This report is approved by the full Commission before making appropriate recommendations to the Central Government. On the basis of the recommendation of the UGC and the recommendation as contained in the report of the UGC's Expert Committee, the Central Government declares the applicant-institution as an Institution 'Deemed-to-be-University'. This procedure has been adopted in all cases and institutions are declared as 'Deemed to be Universities' only after verification of the infrastructure and other facilities available with the institution by the UGC's Committees of Experts.

(c) to (f) The rationale behind declaring institutions as 'Deemed to be universities' on conditional basis is to safeguard the interests of student community, faculty and staff of the institutions concerned; by way of illustration, an institution declared as a 'deemed to be university', has to disaffiliate itself from its affiliating university and until disaffiliation, the newly declared 'deemed to be university' cannot grant degrees to students enrolled after such declaration and therefore a condition to this effect has to be incorporated in the notification. Similarly, under the UGC Guidelines, relaxation related to requirement of infrastructural facilities is available to certain institutions categorized under *de novo* category that is, in emerging areas of knowledge. However *de novo* institutions are also required to fulfill the norms as prescribed under the said guidelines at the earliest which condition has to be, therefore, incorporated in the notification.

Inter State Trading Council

1245. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to revive the Inter State Trading Council which had become non-functional from sometime;

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

(c) whether the Government is also considering to bring about uniformity in granting special category status to all the States to bring about uniform industrial growth; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Inter-State Trade Council is a Permanent Advisory Body constituted to ensure continuous dialogue with the State Governments/UTs.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Inter-State Trade Council of bring about uniformity in granting special category status to all the States to bring about uniform industrial growth.

[Translation]

Impact of Agricultural Imports

1246. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether the Government has imported huge quantities of agricultural product in the current year as compared to previous year;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to reduce import of agricultural products and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the long term impact of agricultural imports on our domestic agricultural and horticultural sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (e) There has been no import by the Government of wheat or rice during the year 2008-09; and no decision has been taken for import of wheat or rice during the current year. Agricultural products are classified under Chapters 1-24 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import items, The import data, chapter-wise for the period April 2007 to January 2008 and for April 2008 to January 2009 are enclosed as Statement.

The Government has not conducted any formal study to assess the long term impact of agricultural imports on our domestic agriculture and horticulture sector during the last 5 years.

However, the Government is monitoring import of certain sensitive items (including both Agricultural and non-Agricultural) on a monthly basis. As per the provisional import data available with the Government for the year 2008-09, import of these sensitive items increased by 27.7% compared to last year.

Any domestic concern arising out of imports are addressed by appropriate action under the provisions of the Agreement of Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1994, the Agreement on Safeguards and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures of the WTO.

Statement

Chapter wise India's imports of agricultural products during April'08-Jan'09 vis a vis April'07-January'08

Chapter	Description	April'07-January'08 Value(INR)	April'08-January'09 Value(INR)
1.	LIVE ANIMALS	205024601	253971302
2.	MEAT & EDIBLE MEAT OFFAL	26555399	28603924
3.	FISH, MOLLUSES & OTHER ACQUATIC INVERTEBRATES	1056163940	2030628991

4.	DAIRY PRODUCE, BIRD'S EGGS ETC, EDIBLE PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORGN NES	589235795	722726333
5.	PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN N.E.S.	597761011	527733444
6.	LIVE TREES, BULBS, ROOTS, CUT FLOWERS & ORNAMENTAL FOLIAGE	317992984	482302716
7.	EDIBLE VEGETABLES & CERTAIN ROOTS & TUBERS	46414823321	54943246988
8.	EDIBLE FRUIT & NUTS; PEEUCITRUS FRUITI MELONS	28988875711	43610371080
9.	COFFEE, TEA, MATE & SPICES	8064585593	9532891216
10.	CEREALS	24252266878	378837713
11.	PRODCTS OF MILLNG INDSTRY; MALT, STARCHES, INULIN, WHEAT GLUTEN	625388047	706795978
12.	OIL SEEDS, OLEAGINOUS FRUITS, INDUSTRIAI/MEDICINAL PLANTS ETC	4491679466	5674596179
13.	LAC,GUMS,RESINS & OTHER VEGETABLE SAPS & EXTRACTS	2404177491	2859354185
14.	VEGETABLE, PLAITING MATERIALS, VEGETABLE PRODUCTS N.E.S.	132315831	196043320
15.	ANIMAL VEGETABLE FATS & OILS, PPRD EDBLE FATS, ANMUVEGTBLE WAXES	94028909272	131388433257
16.	PRPN OF MEAT, FISHICRUSTNS MOLCS/OTHER AQUATIC . INVBRTS ETC	96647519	136121423
17.	SUGARS AND SUGAR CONFECTIONARY	1520003488	2976647325
19.	COCOA AND COCOA PREPARATIONS PRPN OF CEREAL, FLOUR, STARCHMILK; PASTRYCOOKS PRODUCTS	1067868058	1105486324
20.	PREPARATION OF VEG, FRUIT, NUT/OTHER PARTS OF PLANTS	1306874471	1477037082
21.	MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PREPARATIONS	1324132896	2127037097
22.	BEVERAGES, SPIRITS & VINEGAR	4838169917	8101062621
23.	RESIDUES & WASTE FROM FOOD INDUSTRIES; PREPD	3731717594	5005806612
24.	TOBACCO & MANUFACTURED TOBACCO SUBSTITUTES. ANML FODDER	463041602	659324911
GRAND TOTAL		227978022480	276895074005

[English]

Unused Lands in Defence Production Units

1247. SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large acreages of lands are lying unused in various Defence production units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the unused lands in the ordnance factory at Saintala in Orissa;

(c) whether any action plan has been formulated to utilize the surplus lands; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to surrender the surplus lands for other developmental purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Army Central Welfare Fund**

1248. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of contributions made by the people in Army Central Welfare Fund during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided to the dependents of martyrs of Kargil War from this fund;

(c) whether any other scheme has been formulated under Army Central Welfare Fund to provide financial assistance to the dependents of martyrs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

	Years	Amount in Rupees
(i)	2006-2001	28.34 Lakh
(ii)	2007-2008	20.52 Lakh
(iii)	2008-2009	10.52 Lakh
(iv)	2009-2010	Nil

(b) The financial assistance of Rs. 1,56,90,000/- was provided to the dependents of 523 Kargil Martyrs at the @ of Rs. 30,000/- each out of the amount donated by the people in the Fund.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Bal Bhawans

1249. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Bal Bhawans presently located in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct more Bal Bhawans for the benefit of the children in the country including backward and rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise: and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The State-wise number of Bal Bhavans in the country affiliated with National Bal Bhavan, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government. However, for the purpose of expansion of network of Bal Shavans in India, National Bal Bhavan grants affiliation to those Bal Bhavans who fulfill the prescribed eligibility criteria and affiliation norms.

Statement

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of Bal Bhavans affiliated to National Bal Bhavan
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3.	Assam	-
4.	Bihar	01
5.	Chhattisgarh	01
6.	Goa	01
7.	Gujarat	10
8.	Haryana	11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	01
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	02
11.	Jharkhand	01
12.	Karnataka	09
13.	Kerala	08
14.	Madhya Pradesh	08
15.	Maharashtra	04
16.	Manipur	01
17.	Meghalaya	-

1	2	3
18.	Mizoram	01
19.	Nagaland	01
20.	Orissa	03
21.	Punjab	01
22.	Rajasthan	01
23.	Sikkim	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	21
25.	Tripura	-
26.	Uttar Pradesh	08
27.	Uttarakhand	01
28.	West Bengal	02
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	-
30.	Chandigarh	-
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	01
32.	Daman and Diu	02
33.	Delhi	01
34.	Lakshadweep	-
35.	Puducherry	01
Total		120

Social Security Schemes for Poor People

1250 SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has discontinued some of the schemes meant for providing social security to the poor;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure social security of the poor in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government implements several schemes for the social, educational and economic empowerment of the most disadvantaged sections of society, namely Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Persons with Disabilities, victims of Substance Abuse and Senior Citizens.

Further, the Ministry of Rural Development administers the National Social, Assistance Programmes (NSAP) which was launched from 1995-96 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Later on, NSAP was transferred to the State Plan w.e.f 2002-03 and funds are provided as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States. At present NSAP comprises of following schemes:

- (i) **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)** - Under this Scheme, pension is granted to persons aged 65 years or higher and belonging to a household below the poverty line according to criteria prescribed by the Government of India.
- (ii) **National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)** - Under this scheme, Rs. 10,000 is granted to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) family in case of death of primary breadwinner of the family in the age group of 18-64 years.
- (iii) **Annapurna Scheme**-Under this scheme, 10 kg of food grain free of cost is provided to those who have not been covered under old age pension scheme.
- (iv) **Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme(IGNWPS)**- Under this scheme, pension is granted to BPL widows in the age group of 40-64 years @Rs. 200 p.m. per beneficiary.
- (v) **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)**- Under this scheme, pension is granted to BPL persons with severe or multiple disabilities between the age group of 18-64 years @ Rs. 200 p.m. per beneficiary.

[English]

Setting up of Spectrum Regulator

1251. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an independent spectrum regulator to solve the spectrum related issues in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to streamline the process of allotment of spectrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

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

Annual Defence Procurement Policy

1252. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Annual Defence Procurement Policy as reported recently in the media;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the salient features of the policy; and

(c) the manner in which the said policy will be helpful in speeding up the procurement procedure and bringing transparency in defence purchases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)-2008 has come into effect from 1st September, 2008. There is a provision for periodical review of this procedure every two years. It has now been decided that in order to infuse greater transparency and to encourage involvement of indigenous industry in defence procurement and to keep pace with changing times, a review of DPP may be undertaken annually.

Auction of 3-G Mobile Spectrum

1253. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

(a) whether the Government has finalized the auction criteria for the Third Generation (3-G) Mobile spectrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which auction process is likely to commence;

(d) the reaction of the Ministry of Defence in vacating more of its spectrum for this purpose;

(e) whether the Government has decided to increase the basic reserve price from the previously proposed price for the auction of 3-G mobile spectrum; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) to (f) Several issues including amount of spectrum to be auctioned, fixing of reserve price, annual spectrum charges etc. for 3G spectrum and its allocation, are under consideration of the Government. As such time frame for auction process to commence can not be specified.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Ministry of Defence & Ministry of Communications & IT. As per the MoU, Ministry of Defence will release spectrum for 2G and 3G services in steps from the date of signing of MoU till the completion of an exclusive, dedicated OFC network for Armed Forces.

Setting up of Educational Institutes Abroad

1254. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Universities and Government run institutes like Indian Institutes of Management and Indian Institutes of Technology have been allowed to set up campuses abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of institutes already opened abroad and the number of such institutes are likely to be opened in the next two years;

(d) the number of universities and institutes requested the Government to start their operation abroad;

(e) whether the Government is issuing any guidelines on the use of the funds generated through opening of such campuses/institutions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) According to the University Grants Commission, the following institution 'deemed-to-be-universities' have approved off-shore campuses:-

Sl.No.	Name of Institutions 'Deemed-to-be University'	Country
1.	Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani, Rajasthan	United Arab Emirates
2.	Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Mesra, Ranchi	Oman, Bahrain
3.	Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal	Malaysia, United Arab Emirates and Oman
4.	Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation, Salem, Tamil Nadu	Thailand
5.	Sir Ramachandra Medical College & Research Institute, Chennai	Mauritius

The following deemed to be universities have submitted their proposals to UGC to open off-shore campuses

Sl.No.	Name of Institutions 'Deemed-to-be University'	Country
1.	Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi, Jharkhand	Mauritius
2.	Sumandeep Vidyapeeth, Vadodara, Gujarat	Mauritius
3.	Academy of Maritime Education and Training, Chennai Tamil Nadu	United Ara Emirates (Dubai)
4.	Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation, Salem, Tamil Nadu	United Arab Emirates

Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, had requested in the year 2005 for setting up Campus in Singapore.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Ban on Import of Chinese Toys

1255. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

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

(a) whether the Government has recently imposed a ban on import of Chinese toys;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to ease the restrictions on import of toys from China;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to protect and promote indigenous toy industry and secure the healthy of children using imported Chinese toys having harmful contents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Based on growing concerns relating to safety of Chinese toys and their likely adverse impact on children in India, the Government banned import of Chinese toys on 23.1.2009. Subsequently, the matter was examined by the Government on 2.3.2009, and import of such toys from China was permitted, which meet standards prescribed in ASTM F963 or ISO 8124 (Parts I-III) or IS 9873 (Parts I-III). The matter has been again examined by the Government and vide Notification No. 113 dated 16.6.2009, the import of toys from all sources have been subjected to the prescribed standards under ASTM F963 or ISO 8124 (Parts I-III) or ISO 9873 (Parts I-III) or EN-71.

(e) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has implemented a National Programme for development of Indian toy industry jointly with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The programme sought to promote production of safe toys in India.

Impact of Global Recession on Exports

1256. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the impact of global recession in the country, particularly on the export sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a decline in export of goods has been registered in the country during the previous year and the current year, mainly due to global recession;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to provide relief to the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Quick Estimates of monthly trade statistics compiled by DGCI&S indicate declining trend in India's merchandise exports during the last few months. While there are various contributory factors, recession, particularly in the developed countries, is a significant factor for decline in our exports. Details of Quick Estimates of monthly merchandise exports from April, 2008 till May, 2009 (alongwith figures of corresponding month of previous year) are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(e) The measures announced in the Stimulus packages, and the announcements made in the Budget 2009-10, by the Government, particularly for exporting sector, are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Details of Quick Estimates of monthly merchandise exports from April, 2008 till May, 2009

(Figures in US\$ Billion)

Month	2007-08*	2008-09**	Increase (+)/ Decrease (-)
1	2	3	4
April	11.327	16.227	+43.3
May	12.456	16.062	+29.0
June	12.101	17.005	+40.5
July	12.513	17.318	+38.4
August	12.640	16.126	+27.6

1	2	3	4
September	12.521	14.298	+14.2
October	14.675	12.861	-12.4
November	12.909	10.308	-20.2
December	14.625	12.690	-13.2
January, 09	14.889	12.381	-16.8
February	15.221	11.913	-21.7
March	17.254	11.516	-33.3

Month	2008-09	2009-10	Increase (+)/ Decrease (-)
April	16.076	10.743	-33.2
May	15.550	11.010	-29.2

(Source: DGCI&S)

*Revised Estimate

**Revised Quick Estimate

Statement II

Steps Taken by Government/RBI to Address the Concerns Arising Out of Present Global Economic Slow Down

(A) Measures taken by the Government:

(1) Interest subvention of 2% provided, till 30.9.2009, to the following labour intensive sectors for exports:-

Textiles (including Handlooms), Handicrafts, Leather Gems & Jewellery, Marine Products and SMEs;

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

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

- (4) Rs. 1100 crore provided to ensure full refund of pending claims of CST/Terminal Excise duty/Duty drawback on deemed exports;
- (5) Exporter friendly and the popular Duty Neutralisation Scheme *i.e.*, Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEBP) Scheme extended upto 31st December, 2009;
- (6) DEPB rates for all items where they reduced in November, 2008, restored to higher rates from retrospective effect;
- (7) Duty Drawback rates on certain items restored to higher rates effective from 1st September, 2008;
- (8) DEPB and Freely Transferable Incentive Schemes allowed without the initial requirement of Bank Realisation Certificate (BRC);
- (9) Export Obligation Period under Advance authorization Scheme enhanced from 24 months to 36 months without payment of composition fee.
- (10) Back-up guarantee made available to ECGC to the extent of Rs. 350 crore to enable it to provide guarantees for exports to difficult markets/products. ECGC is now been able to widen its coverage;
- (11) Additional funds of Rs. 1400 crore provided to the Ministry of Textiles to clear the backlog claims of textile units under Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF);
- (12) Export duty on iron ore fines eliminated, and for lumps, reduced to 5%;
- (13) Some pending issues relating to Service Tax refund on exports-resolved. However many issues remain un resolved;
- (14) For Fast Track Resolution of a number of procedural issues thereby reducing delays for the exporters, a Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Finance Secretary including Secretaries of Department of Revenue and Commerce; A number of issues sorted out accordingly;
- (15) Excise duty reduced across the board by 4 per cent, for all products except petroleum products and those products where current rate was less than 4%. Excise Duty was further reduced by another 2% in certain products like Leather etc;
- (16) The guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises on loans doubled to Rs. 1 crore, with a guarantee cover of 50%. The facility upto Rs. 5 lakh. The lock-in period for such collateral-free loans reduced.
- (17) To protect the domestic manufacturing industry from dumped/cheap imports, in particular, from China, import restrictions have been imposed on HR coil, Carbon Black, Polyester Filament Yarn (PFY) and Radial Tyres (Bus & Trucks).
- (18) Import duty on naphtha for power sector eliminated;
- (19) CVD on TMT bars and structurals and on cement removed;
- (20) Exemption from basic customs duty on Zinc and Ferro Alloys withdrawn;
- (21) Regular monitoring mechanism;
- (a) The situation is being regularly monitored at the highest level of Government, so that immediate further corrective measures, can be taken as may be required. In this regard, the Government has constituted the following two High Level Committees which have been deliberating the issue on regular basis:
- (i) An Apex Group chaired by Prime Minister with Finance Minister, Commerce Minister, Deputy Chairman (Planning Commission), RBI Governor;
- (ii) Committee of officers chaired by Cabinet Secretary, including Finance Secretary, Commerce Secretary, Secretary (DIPP), Secretary (Planning Commission)- to meet regularly to look into the suggestions made by Trade and Industry and the respective Administrative Ministries in respect of the current global economic and financial crisis and to recommend action to the Apex Group.
- (b) Department of MSME and Department of Financial Services to jointly monitor on the progress of the meetings of Monthly meeting of State level Bankers' Committee for resolution of credit issues of MSME.

(B) Measures taken by RBI:

(a) Increase in Liquidity to the banks for improving credit flow, by:

(i) Reducing CRR, SLR, Repo rate and Reverse Repo rate (from Oct 08, CRR reduced from 9% to 5%, SLR reduced from 25% to 24%, Repo Rate reduced from 7.5% to 4.75%, and Reverse Repo Rate reduced from 6% to 3.25%).

(ii) Refinance facility to the EXIM Bank for an amount of Rs. 5000 crores for providing pre-shipment and post-shipment credit in Rs. or dollars;

(iii) A special re-finance facility has been put in place for banks for the purpose of extending finance to exports, micro, and small enterprises, mutual funds and NBFCs. Provisioning requirements have been lowered. Export Credit Refinance facility for commercial banks increased to 50% of the outstanding Rupees Export Credit.

(b) Increase in FOREX Liquidity:

(i) RBIs assurance for continued selling of foreign exchange (US\$) through banks, to augment supply in the domestic foreign exchange market;

(ii) To enable banks to profitably lend to exporters in Foreign Exchange, Ceiling rates on export credit in foreign currency has been raised to LIBOR + 350 basis points, subject to the condition that the banks will not levy any other charges, *i.e.*, service charge, management charge, etc. except for recovery towards out of pocket expenses incurred.

(c) Easing of Credit Terms:

(i) The period of pre-shipment and post-shipment Rupee Export Credit enhanced by 90 days each;

(ii) Time period of export realization for non-status holder exporters increased to 12 months, at par with the Status holders. This facility which was available upto 03.06.09, has been extended for one more year.

(iii) PSU Banks, consequent to measures announced by RBI, reduced the margin money on Guarantees for export units;

(c) Recent Steps Announced in Budget 2009-10:

(1) MDA Scheme-allocation increased to Rs. 124 crores (increased by 148%)

(2) Interest subvention of 2% on pre-shipment credit for 7 specified sectors extended beyond 30.9.09 till 31st March, 2010;

(3) An adjustment assistance scheme initiated in December 08 to provide enhanced ECGC cover at 95% to the badly hit sectors continued till March, 2010;

(4) Mega Handloom clusters in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu and Powerloom cluster in Rajasthan and New Mega clusters for carpets in Srinagar and Mirzapur approved;

(5) Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) abolished;

(6) Section 10A and 10B related to Sunset clauses for STPI and EOUs schemes respectively extended for the financial year 2010-11. Anomaly removed in Section 10AA related to taxation benefit of unit vis-à-vis assessee;

(7) Additional items allowed within the existing duty free imports entitlement for the following employment oriented sectors:

(i) 5 additional items for sports goods sector;

(ii) Additional items for leather garments and footwear and textile items.

(8) Basic customs duty of 5% on Rough/Unworked corals abolished;

(9) Service Tax-Following changes have been made.

(i) Exemption from Service tax on services linked to exports:

(a) On service related to transport of export goods by road from any CFS or ICD to the port or Airport and on service related to transport of export goods by road directly from their place of removal, to an ICD, a CFS, a port or airport;

- (b) Services provided by Foreign Agent Commission service.
- (ii) Procedure for refund of service tax simplified by allowing refund on self certification in case refund claim does not exceed 0.25% of FOB value of exports; and certification by Chartered Accountant in case of others;
- (iii) Time period for filing refund claim increased to 1 year from the date of export (as against half-yearly).

Job Loss Due to Economic Downturn

1257. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

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

(a) whether there has been large scale retrenchment, lay-off, lock-outs and closure of industries due to global downturn in various sectors including export-oriented sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of workers/employees rendered jobless as a result thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and sector-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide alternative employment to workers/employees rendered jobless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):
(a) and (b) Labour Bureau of the Ministry of Labour & Employment has conducted two quick quarterly surveys of a few important sectors to assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment in India. The first survey was conducted in the month of January, 2009 to assess the impact during the quarter October-December, 2008. The second survey was conducted in the month of April, 2009 to assess the impact during January-March 2009. The important findings of the survey for the quarter October-December 2008 are:

- About half a million workers have lost their jobs during October-December 2008.

- The most affected sectors were Gems & Jewellery, transport and automobiles where the employment has declined by 8.58 percent, 4.03 percent, and 2.42 percent, respectively during this period. In Textile sector, 0.91 percent of the workers have lost their jobs.
- The major impact of the slowdown was noticed in the export oriented units.

However, the second survey conducted for the quarter January-March, 2009 indicate that:

- Total estimated employment in the sectors covered increased by 0.6% during January-March, 2009. Non-export units have shown higher rate (.092%) of increase in employment as compared to export units (.028%).
- Sectors registering increase in employment during January-March, 2009 are gems & Jewellery (3.08%), textiles (0.96%) IT-BPO (0.82%), handloom-powerloom (0.28%) and automobiles (0.10%).
- A decline in employment during Jan.-Mar., 2009 has been observed in leather (2.76%), metals (.056%) and transport (.036%).

(c) Since the global recession has been observed from the middle of the year 2008, data on number of workers/employees rendered jobless as a result of global meltdown is not available.

(d) Government is concerned about the impact of economic slowdown in the country and several financial and fiscal measures mainly comprising of additional spending, interest subvention and excise duty cuts have been initiated to spur growth and overcome the crisis. These include steps taken by RBI to enhance liquidity in the market and an economic package announced by the Government of India. These measures will prevent large scale job losses and wage cuts. Besides, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 also puts restriction on lay-off and retrenchment and provides protection to the workmen in case of lay-off, retrenchment and closure of establishments.

[Translation]

Regularisation of Casual And Contract Workers

1258. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) the number of non-musterroll and casual workers appointed in the Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings during each of the last three years and the current year, separately, State-wise;

(b) the details of minimum wages paid to them;

(c) the mechanism put in place to ensure payment of minimum wages to the contract and casual workers through the labour contractors;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any policy for regularisation of above workers including contract workers; and

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

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

(a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

FDI in Retail Sector

1259. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS* LALAN SINGH:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

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

(a) whether the retail market constitutes a major part of the Gross Domestic Product;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its share in the organized and unorganized sectors;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Indian retail market; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of the small retailers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As per the report of Indian Council

for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRISER) on the subject 'Impact of Organised Retail on unorganized Sector', the retail trade is estimated to grow at 13% per annum from US \$ 322 billion in 2006-07 to US \$ 590 billion in 2011-12, contributing around 11-12 percent to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2006-07. The share of organized retail in total retail has grown from 3.3% in 2003-04 to 4.1% in 2006-07.

(c) and (d) Retail is a labour intensive sector and is the second largest employer after agriculture. Government is fully committed to securing the legitimate interests of all stakeholders engaged in the retail business. Government also fully recognizes the need to ensure that small retailers are not adversely affected by the growing organized retail and that there is no adverse effect on employment. There is no proposal to change the current policy on FDI in Retail Trade.

Foreign Trade

1260. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present volume of foreign trade export/import-wise and the details with regard to countries with whom India has signed free trade agreement;

(b) whether the Government is exploring new markets for escalating foreign trade;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to bring a comprehensive foreign trade policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) India's merchandise exports and imports are as given in the enclosed Statement. Free Trade Agreements (FTA) signed by India are India-Sri Lanka FTA Agreement on South Asian FTA (SAFTA), India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), India-Nepal Treaty of Trade and India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade Commerce and Transit.

(b) and (c) The Government has announced Focus Market Scheme (FMS) and Market Linked Focus Product Scheme for promoting exports to select international

markets with a view to enhance our export competitiveness in these countries. Details of the same can be viewed from the DGFT website: <http://dgft.gov.in>.

(d) and (e) The existing comprehensive Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2004-09 has been extended beyond 31.3.2009 "till further amendments" vide Notification No. 70 dated 8.12.2008.

Statement

India's Merchandise Exports & Imports

(Values in US\$ Billion)

Year	Exports	% Growth	Imports	% Growth
2004-05	83.53	30.8	111.52	42.7
2005-06	103.09	23.4	149.17	33.8
2006-07	126.26	22.5	185.60	24.4
2007-08	163.12	29.0	251.65	27.0
2008-09	168.70	3.4	287.76	14.3

Source: DGCI&S

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Papers to be laid.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Madam, 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 BEML Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 167/15/09]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Goa Shipyard Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 168/15/09]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Electronics Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 169/15/09]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 170/15/09]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mazagaon Dock Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 171/15/09]

- (vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 172/15/09]

- (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 BEML Limited (formerly Bharat Earth Movers Limited), Bangalore, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the BEML Limited (formerly Bharat Earth Movers Limited), Bangalore, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith 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. LT 173/15/09]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat

Dynamics Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 174/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 175/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 176/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 177/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 178/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Indian Fishing Boats) Amendment Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 448(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2009 under sub-section (3) of Section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 179/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 449(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India

dated the 26th June, 2009 declaring ports, mentioned therein, to be the ports or places of registry of Indian fishing boats and appointing the officers mentioned in column 2 of the Notification as the registrars of the Indian fishing boats in relation to such ports or places issued under Section 435 D and 435 E of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 180/15/09]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:-

(i) G.S.R. 198(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 2009 approving the Kolkata Port Trust Employees' (Pension) Second Amendment Regulations, 2009.

(ii) G.S.R. 227(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2009 approving the Calcutta Port Trust Employees' (Leave) Amendment Regulations, 2009.

(iii) G.S.R. 428(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 2009 approving the Mumbai Port Trust Employees' (Leave) Amendment Regulations, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 181/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 182/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the State Trading Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 183/15/09]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the PEC Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 184/15/09]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the India Trade Promotion Organisation Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 185/15/09]

- (5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the MMTC Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 186/15/09]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 18G of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951:-

- (i) The Newsprint Control (Amendment) Order, 2009 published in Notification No. S.O. 1354(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 2009.
- (ii) The Newsprint Control (Amendment) Order, 2009 published in Notification No. S.O. 629(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 2009.
- (iii) The Newsprint Control (Amendment) Order, 2009 published in Notification No. S.O. 863(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2009.
- (iv) The Newsprint Control (Amendment) Order, 2009 published in Notification No. S.O. 630(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 187/15/09]

- (7) A copy of the Rubber Board (Rubber Production Commissioner and Secretary) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English

versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 454(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2009 under sub-section (3) of Section 25 of the Rubber Act, 1947.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 188/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jharkhand Education Project Council, Ranchi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jharkhand Education Project Council, Ranchi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 189/15/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon and statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 190/15/09]

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow for the year 2005-2006 together with Audit Report thereon and Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Papers mentioned.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 190A/15/09]

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow for the year 2006-2007 together with Audit Report thereon and Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Papers mentioned.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 190B/15/09]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Bhopal, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Bhopal, for the year 2007-2008.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 191/15/09]
- (6) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Allahabad for the year 2006-2007 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 192/15/09]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), Kanpur, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), Kanpur, for the year 2007-2008.
- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 193/15/09]
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Uttarakhand Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha Parishad (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Dehradun, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Uttarakhand Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha Parishad (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Dehradun, for the year 2007-2008.
- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 194/15/09]
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 195/15/09]
- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the U.P. Education for all Project Board (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Lucknow, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the U.P. Education for all Project Board (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Lucknow, for the year 2007-2008.
- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 196/15/09]
- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2006-2007.

(17) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 197/15/09]

(18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Authority, Punjab, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Authority, Punjab, for the year 2007-2008.

(19) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 198/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 199/15/09]

(2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 200/15/09]

(3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Posts for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 201/15/09]

(4) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 202/15/09]

(5) A copy the Indian Post Office (6th Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 864(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2008 under sub-section (4) of Section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 203/15/09]

(6) A copy the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Commercial) (No. CA 25 of 2009-10) (Compliance Audit Observations) - Telecommunications Sector under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 204/15/09]

(7) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and the Department of Telecommunication for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 205/15/09]

(8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of Section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885:-

(i) The Indian Wireless Telegraphy (Experimental Service) (Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 324(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 2009.

(ii) The Indian Wireless Telegraphy (Demonstration License) (Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 325(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 2009.

(iii) The Use of very low power Radio Frequency devices or equipments including the Radio Frequency Identification Devices, (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 90(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 206/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 207/15/09]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA, for the year 2007-2008.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 208/15/09]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2241(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2008, extending to the State of Sikkim the Apprentices Act, 1961 issued under clause (n) of Article 371F of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 209/15/09]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 566(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2009, appointing 27th day of February, 2009 as the date on which the Apprentices Act, 1961 shall come into force in the State of Sikkim issued in pursuance of clause (ii) of the notification, mentioned at item no. 4 above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 210/15/09]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961:-

(i) The Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 52 in Gazette of India dated 25th April, 2009.

- (ii) The Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 53 in Gazette of India dated 25th April, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 211/15/09]

- (7) A copy of the Financial Estimates and Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 212/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): On behalf of Shri D. Napoleon, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 213/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): On behalf of Shri Sachin Pilot, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Information Technology for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 214/15/09]

12.03 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) **Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps**

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, 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 Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year from the date of election, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, 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 Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year from the date of election, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

12.04 hrs.

(ii) Court of Aligarh Muslim University

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-clause (xxiv) of clause 1 and 2 of Statute 14 of the Statutes of Aligarh Muslim University, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, six members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University, subject to the other provisions of the said Statutes. The members so elected shall not be the employees of the University."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-clause (xxiv) of clause 1 and 2 of Statute 14 of the Statutes of Aligarh Muslim University, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, six members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University, subject to the other provisions of the said Statutes. The members so elected shall not be the employees of the University."

The motion was adopted.

12.05 hrs.

(iii) Rubber Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of clause (e) of sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Rubber Act, 1947, read with sub-rule (1) of rule 4 of the Rubber Rules, 1955, 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 Rubber Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (e) of sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Rubber Act, 1947, read with sub-rule (1) of rule 4 of the Rubber Rules, 1955, 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 Rubber Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

12.06 hrs.

(iv) Spices Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Madam, I beg to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of clause (b) of sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Spices Board Act, 1986, read with sub-rule (1) of rule 5 of the Spices Board Rules, 1987, 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 Spices Board for a term of three years, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (b) of sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Spices Board Act, 1986, read with sub-rule (1) of rule 5 of the Spices Board Rules, 1987, 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 Spices Board for a term of three years, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

12.07 hrs.

(v) Tea Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Madam, I beg to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of clause (f) of sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Tea Act, 1953, read with clause (b) of sub-rule (1) of rule 4 and sub-rule (2) of rule 5 of the Tea Rules, 1954, 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 Tea Board, for a period upto 31-03-2011, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (f) of sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Tea Act, 1953, read with clause (b) of sub-rule (1) of rule 4 and sub-rule (2) of rule 5 of the Tea Rules, 1954, 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 Tea Board, for a period upto 31-03-2011, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

12.08 hrs.

(vi) National Welfare Board for Seafarers

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): Madam, I beg to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of sub-rule (i) of rule 4 of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from amongst themselves to serve as a member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers, subject to the other provisions of the said rules."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-rule (i) of rule 4 of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from amongst themselves to serve as a member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers, subject to the other provisions of the said rules."

The motion was adopted.

12.09 hrs.

(vii) National Shipping Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): Madam, I beg to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, read with sub-rule (2) of rule 4 of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the National Shipping Board for the remaining term of the Board, *i.e.* upto 31 August, 2010, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958,

read with sub-rule (2) of rule 4 of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the National Shipping Board for the remaining term of the Board, *i.e.* upto 31 August, 2010, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted.

12.10 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(i) **Regarding Reported accident at the construction site of Metro Railways in Delhi**

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now we take up matters of urgent public importance. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Madam, with a heavy heart I seek to raise, in the 'Zero Hour' and draw the attention of the entire country and the Government, the issue of the great tragedy that has befallen Metro construction yesterday. It is the second consecutive accident. Eight months before, there was another accident that killed two persons. In this particular accident, 30 people of Gammon India Limited were working. Out of 30, six people are already dead, some people may be dying today and 15 are critically injured.

Madam, how has it happened in the citadel of power in the Capital of India? A launching girder had crumbled down. The pillar that collapsed leading to the tragedy had developed a crack three months before. The crack was not carefully repaired. It is a grave omission that led to this tragedy. Without carefully repairing the cracked pillar, the construction was in a hurry because of the pressure of the Government they would like to complete the construction before the Commonwealth Games.

Frequency of accidents in Metro sites spotlights serious violation of Central Government laws for construction workers. These poor workers were always the victims everywhere in the country. There is a law passed by Parliament for the welfare of construction workers and that is called the Buildings and Other

Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. This Act and its accompanying Cess Act have not been implemented.

My complaint is that a Central Government law is not being implemented in Delhi under the nose of the Central Government. The Act requires, under section 38, that there will be a Safety Committee, a Joint Committee of the Workers and the Management and the Safety Committee will meet every month to review the safety, the quality of the safety and the precaution that has to be taken to prevent accidents as per the provisions of the law. Had the law been implemented, had the Safety Committee been formed, had the review been done, this calamity would not have happened. My complaint is that safety is in default in Delhi in Metro construction. There is no monitoring and the construction law is being violated. All this is being done to hurry up the construction so that this Metro line could be completed before the Commonwealth Games.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I will conclude in just one minute Madam.

What is the situation? Contractors are being appointed and then contractors appoint sub-contractors and the sub-contractors appoint the sub-sub-contractors. This is the situation. This is how no monitoring takes place. The precaution and the precondition that is imposed on contractors do not apply in the case of sub-contractors and sub-sub-contractors. This is the reason for the tragedy. I am giving you an example. Afron Infrastructure was found responsible for the earlier accident in Laxmi Nagar. The firm was blacklisted but not removed. What a sorry position? It was blacklisted but not removed. The same Gammon India, which is responsible for this collapse now, had constructed a fly-over in Hyderabad which had also collapsed in the same way. Therefore, it is not a question only of violation of laws. It is a question of jungle rule absolutely of sub-contractors and also sub-sub-contractors.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude. You are far exceeding your time.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Madam, in an unusual hurry to prepare for the Commonwealth Games, this is being done. So I demand a judicial inquiry into the whole safety measures. This may be under the Government of

Delhi, but the Government of India is funding the whole project. Therefore, the matter is fit to be raised in Parliament. I demand a judicial inquiry into the whole thing and those who have been blacklisted should be removed and proper monitoring should be done so that poor contract labours are not slaughtered like pigs in the heart of the Capital of India.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you. The hon. Minister wants to respond.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Bolpur): Madam, I would like to associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Madam, with your permission, I would like to respond spontaneously to the vital matter raised by my friend Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. As reported by DMRC, a launching girder along with a portion of a Metro viaduct under construction collapsed at Jamrudpur near East of Kailash in South Delhi at about 5.00 a.m. on 12.7.2009.

A total number of six workers, including one Junior Engineer of M/s Gammon India Limited who are the contractors for this portion of Central Secretariat-Badarpur Corridor, died in the accident. Out of those dead, three were trapped in the debris; another 15 workers are injured and out of them two are seriously injured.

A compensation of Rs. 5 lakh is being paid to the kin of all the deceased in addition to the compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Those who are grievously injured will be paid a compensation of Rs. 2 lakh and those injured will be paid a compensation of Rs. 50,000.

The traffic on the road has been closed at Kailash Colony T-Point, LSR College-Blue Bells School T-Point and Amar Colony Police Station. Rescue operations are in full swing involving six cranes of capacity of 250 tonnes and one crane of capacity of 400 tonnes. Gas cutters and over 100 engineers are drawn from all metro sites, apart from Police and Civil Defence personnel.

In spite of delay caused due to rain, partial traffic is likely to be restored by 4 p.m. today. A helpline, No.23414461, has been started to inform the public about

the developments. The estimated direct loss due to the accident is Rs. 6 crore. The accident is likely to cause delay to this portion of the project by about three months. However, the overall target of commissioning of Central Secretariat-Badarpur Corridor, namely, September 2010, would remain unchanged. A high-level four-member committee has been constituted to investigate the incident. The members are Prof. A.K. Nagpal of the Civil Engineering Department, IIT, Delhi, Prof. P.R. Bose, Professor of Structural Engineering, Delhi College of Engineering, Mr. Steve Lawry, Project Director, General Consultant, DMRC, and Mr. Rajan Kataria, Chief Engineer, Design, DMRC will work as the Coordinator.

The committee is to submit its report within ten days, namely, by 22 July 2009. The committee will go into the causes leading to the accident, including checking designs, workmanship, quality of material used, method of construction and precautionary measures to be taken at other work sites.

Madam, I would like to respond to some of the points made by a senior Member, like, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. First of all, I would like to clarify categorically that the accident did not take place because of any hurry. We are, no doubt, keen about completing various projects relating to Commonwealth Games, but we shall never compromise on the quality of work just for the sake of any particular project. I would like to emphasise that point with all the force at my command.

As for the reasons for the accident, I can only say it is being looked into by a very high-level committee.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I have stated very clearly that the rules are being flouted...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The defect was also detected three months back...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: A high-level committee of independent experts has been constituted to submit the report just within ten days. If necessary, it will certainly look into various aspects. If you want more aspects to be included in the Terms of Reference, we shall be willing to do so. The Report will be submitted in just 10 days. We will look at the Report and take a view.

As for accidents, I must say that any accident is unfortunate; any loss of life is unfortunate. However, we must look at the track record of DMRC in respect of accidents, in terms of global index...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Repeated accidents are taking place....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I agree with you but there is a way of examining the track record of DMRC in respect of accident. There is a global index known as Index LTIFR and we do not suffer by contrast.

While the record of DMRC is 0.4, the record of Singapore is 1.1, and London Underground is 0.32. Therefore, whenever a huge work is constructed....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You are talking about globalization figures....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am not talking about globalization....*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let the Minister reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI (Jagatsinghpur): A judicial inquiry should be conducted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: May I tell you friends that judicial inquiry is no panacea? We are not averse to ordering any judicial inquiry. Will you kindly wait for the First Report?

Secondly, in all these matters, we have global indices. I referred to one global index. Therefore, in terms of track record, in respect of accidents, I should say that DMRC does well. All the points mentioned by you will be looked into by the Committee if necessary. If you want, I will come back to you. Therefore, I do not think there is any cause for undue concern. It shall be our endeavour to prevent recurrence of any accident. I would like to assure the House that our concern for the Commonwealth will not be allowed to compromise the quality of work on the way.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: I would like to know whether the Government is taking full responsibility of the treatment of the injured workers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We will take full care of the families of the deceased; we will take full care of the workers injured. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Yogi Adityanathji please speak.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Madam Speaker, a large part of the population of East Uttar Pradesh, West-North Bihar has been in the grip of an epidemic for the last 31 years and thousands of innocent children die of this epidemic every year. The Japanese Encephalitis outbreak in Eastern Uttar Pradesh first time in 1978. Neither the State Government nor the Central Government have taken any concrete steps so far for the eradication of the said disease during the last 31 years. Today 25 states and also some Union Territories are also in the grip of this disease. I would like to place before the House, the figures of the deaths caused by Japanese Encephalitis every year particularly in East Uttar Pradesh. Recently, the Government of India had sent a committee over there. In the B.R.D. College, Gorakhpur alone, 937 people died in 2005, 431 in 2006, 516 in 2007 and 410 innocent children died last year. Brain fever has claimed 98 lives in the B.R.D., Gorakhpur till 10th of July this year. This Japanese Encephalitis is a kind of epidemic and its outbreak takes place after rains and approximately after 15th June onwards and continues till October-November. During the rule of the NDA Government, this area was identified for vaccination at a large scale and this practice continued for 4-5 years. This is sad that even after 98 deaths, this time, neither vaccination has been done nor any concrete steps have been taken to check the disease.

Madam, through you, I would like to submit to the Government that districts such as Gorakhpur, Deoria, Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Siddharthnagar, Shrawasti, Balrampur etc. fall under the terrain of Nepal. The west-northern Bihar is also a part of Nepalese terrain area. The diseases caused due to virus like Encephalitis, Malaria, Fileria, Dengue, Kalaazar claim thousands of lives every year. The State Government have completely neglected this area and have lack of resources.

Madam, through you, I would like to request the Union Government to make efforts for the treatment and

eradication of these viral diseases at its own level. The resources made available to the State Government by the Central Government are not utilized properly. This year, too, vaccination has not been done, which indicates the carelessness being observed. A viral research centre was set up in Gorakhpur during the rule of the NDA Government and work thereon had also commenced at that time.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, conclude.

YOGI ADITYANATH: Madam, the viral research the viral research centre has not started functioning so far even after being established. Biologist and other staff should have been appointed over there. Incidentally, the financial position of the B.R.D. Medical College is very poor. The B.R.D. medical College has to cater to a large area of east Uttar Pradesh, North-West Bihar and Nepal and it fails to manage it.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, conclude.

YOGI ADITYANATH: Madam, I request through you the Government to make available resources for the treatment of viral diseases. The B.R.D. Medical College fulfils the health requirements of a population of three crores and that is why it may be given the status of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now please conclude and take your seat.

[*English*]

Nothing will go on record except what Dr. Charan Das Mahant says.

...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT (Korba): Madam, I would like to draw your kind attention towards the naxalite problem in the country. I would like to draw your attention towards the State of Chhattisgarh, the most critically naxalite affected state among the nine such states, which are facing the naxalite problem. Yesterday only, 42 Jawans including a police superintendent were killed here. These gruesome killings took place in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh and

the hon. Chief Minister belongs to this district. The election team was also massacred here during the Lok Sabha elections. Thereafter, a Sarpanch was killed there. This way, a chain of killings are taking place continually in a single district.

There are only 18 district, out of which 9 district are naxal affected. With a view to tackle this problem, the State has equipped poor tribals and minor children with petty weapons to take on the armed naxalites. My humble submission is that we should encourage or direct the State Government for this purpose. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that naxal massacre are taking place there, as the hon'ble Minister has himself submitted on 7th July that 706 tribals and 443 security personnel have been killed during the last three years. Similar incidents have taken place yesterday thrice at different times but at the same place. Initially, four security personnel were killed and when the Superintendent of Police was proceeding to rescue them, he was surrounded and killed by a land mine and thereafter when the rescue team was proceeding there through another route, they were also attacked and killed by the naxalites. I would like to submit that such incidents are taking place at the same place and the state police do not have any information in this regard. It mean that the intelligence system of the State Police has totally failed and the funds provided by the Union Government to tackle the naxal problem is not being utilized properly.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: I would like to make a request that the Union Government should ask the to submit a report in this regard under section 355 of the Constitution of India and initiate action to dismiss the Government. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Sohan Potai. Please associate yourself.

SHRI SOHAN POTAI (Kanker): Madam Speaker, thank you. I would like to submit in this regard as it is a a sad incident. Just now, hon'ble member was mentioning that nine districts of Chhattisgarh are affected. I would like to correct him that there are ten naxal affected districts, as in Dhamtari district also attack has been carried out earlier by the naxallites. 13 Jawans were killed there. I would like to say that this problem should not be politicized. Naxalims is not only related to the law and order of Chhattisgarh, it has become a national problem. Naxalism is a challenge for the

*Not recorded.

democracy. Therefore, the naxal problem could not be solved merely by politicizing the issue and dismissing the concerned Governments. If its problem could be solved through similar fashion, then, first of all, the Governments of Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh should be dismissed, where the problem of naxalism and terrorism exists. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: I would like to submit that as the Union Government took initiative to resolve the naxal problems in Lalgah, West Bengal, similarly stringent action needs to be taken in Chhattisgarh also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Basu Deb Acharia speaks.

...*(Interruptions)**

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS—*Contd.*

(ii) Regarding condition imposed by G-8 countries on transfer of enrichment and reprocessing items to India

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam Speaker, the House was told a number of times when there was discussion on the Indo-Nuclear Deal that the waiver or exemption would be clean, without any condition. We expressed our apprehension that the United States of America would impose conditions because they had been trying since long to bring our country within the NPT or the CTBT.

There is a consensus in the country and there is a consensus in the House that India would not be party to an agreement, which is discriminatory. But Madam, in the Group-8 Summit, which was held in L'Aquila, Italy, these Group-8 countries have decided to impose a condition in regard to sale of enrichment and reprocessing items; and they have linked the sale of enrichment and reprocessing items with the signing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

*Not recorded.

I would like to know from the Government about its stand. When the Prime Minister was attending the Group-8 Summit as a guest, whether this issue was raised.

After the Agreement was signed, we were told, the House was told that the waiver would be clean. Now, how the condition is being imposed? I demand that when the Prime Minister makes a statement on Group-8 Summit, he should clarify in regard to the condition which is being imposed on our country in regard to sale of enrichment and reprocessing items, which is being linked with signing of Non-Proliferation Treaty. This is insult to our country.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I demand a clarification from the Government.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha) Madam, I would like to associate the whole party with this issue and I want that the hon'ble Prime Minister should make a statement in this regard. I would like to request that a discussion may kindly be held on the issue as it is an important matter. Prime Minister should make suo-moto statement in this regard and we want to have a detailed discussion on this issue. I associate whole party with this.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, let there be a discussion.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Varanasi): It would be better if the Government make a statement in this regard because this matter concerns sovereignty of the country. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Government should respond. This is very important. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: The Minister is going to say something, please.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, I will bring to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister the statement made by Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI (Banaskantha): Madam Speaker, I would like to say with heavy heart that 165 people have died due to consumption of poisonous liquor in Gujarat. There are a number of people, whose death record is not available. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not show papers.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Madam, the worst thing was that when our MLA's tried to raise the matter in the Assembly, they were not allowed and were made to leave the Assembly and when our MLA's want to observe hunger strike in front of Gandhi ji's statue in Assembly premises they were beaten up by the goods hired by some BJP workers. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude and take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Madam, it is a very serious matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please maintain decorum in the House and take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: This Government should be dismissed. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: I think you should conclude now. Please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Madam, an FIR under IPC should be registered against them. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

12.38 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: We proceed now to Item No.20. Matters under rule 377 listed for the day are to be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) **Need for gauge conversion of railway line between Gonda & Gorakhpur via Anand Nagar-Nautanwa in Uttar Pradesh**

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): In my parliamentary constituency, gauge conversion of Gonda-Gorakhpur rail line has not been completed yet, which has obstructed the development of the region.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government that inspection in respect of incomplete gauge conversion of railway line between Gorakhpur-Anand Nagar Nautanwa should be conducted immediately through Railway Safety Commissioner and remaining works may kindly be completed during the current year.

[*English*]

(ii) **Need to address the problems of Anganwadi workers in the country**

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (Chalakyud): The Anganwadi workers and helpers are carrying out various works under the ICDS scheme of Central Government. The National Policy for Children, Government of India provided minimum health facilities for women and children through the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) which was launched in 1975. Under the scheme, supplementary nutrition is given to children below 6 years age, nursing of expectant mothers, nutrition and health education for women in the age group of 15-45. Immunization of all children less than 6 years and co-ordinating the policies of various departments to promote child development.

More than millions of Anganwadi workers and helpers working all over India under this scheme are getting only meager wages for their work. Some of them are more than 70 years old who joined at the time of introduction of this scheme and presently they are not capable to carry out the welfare work due to their old age.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

I, therefore, request the Government to fix age of superannuation for Anganwadi workers and start a monthly pension scheme for them. Apart from that the present monthly salary is meagre one. Kindly enhance the amount and modify the ICDS manual scientifically since it was prepared 35 years ago.

(iii) Need to give proper training to Assistant Railway Drivers appointed in Guntakal Division of South Central Railway

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY (Anantapur): In the Guntakal Division of South Central Railway recently some 250 Assistant Engine Drivers were appointed but they are being deputed on duty without fully completing their LRN training. In the name of economy, the Railway authorities are deputing these Assistant Drivers on duty in Gooty, Guntakal, Kadapa, Renigunta, Pakala and Raichur stations which is causing a lot of tension as these people have not completely undergone the training. They should be given complete training along with Senior Pilots (Drivers) and Senior Assistant Pilots (Drivers) who are aware of the signals, level-crossings, cross-points, etc. They should be first directed to undergo complete training.

I am given to understand that many of these Assistant Drivers are not having proper understanding of the railway routes in this division. The result is that the Senior Pilots themselves have to do these duties with utmost care and attention. The lack of complete training to these newly recruited Assistant Drivers is causing a lot of difficulties and obstructing the smooth running of trains and creating problems regarding passenger safety. There have been press reports also about the operation of trains by these Assistant Drivers who are not fully and completely trained and there is a public outcry about the safety of the passengers.

I would urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to kindly take immediate steps to give complete training to these newly recruited Assistant Drivers in Guntakal Division, South Central Railway and depute them only on successful completion of the training keeping in view the safety of the passengers.

(iv) Need to protect and maintain the picnic spot around Manimuthar dam in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (Tirunelveli): Sir, Manimuthar Dam in Tamil Nadu is located 47 kms. away

from Tirunelveli in my Lok Sabha Constituency. It is an ideal picnic spot blessed with beautiful garden and peaceful atmosphere. It is a prominent tourist spot in southern Tamil Nadu. It is having rare species of flora and fauna, ornamental trees, well-maintained park for children, beautiful fountain which attracts large number of tourists from within the country and abroad.

However, for the past few years, this tourist spot is neglected and adequate funds are not released by the Local Bodies for its upkeep and maintenance and with the result the tourist inflow for the Manimuthar Dam is greatly reduced. Because of lack of maintenance, there is a fear of ecological imbalance in the region. As this place is lying in the Western Ghat, there is no dearth of water and this picnic spot can be well maintained with minimum cost. To save the ecology and to protect the glory of this region, the Union Government should come forward to protect this tourist spot at any cost.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Tourism to kindly release adequate funds to protect the picnic spot/park around the Manimuthar Dam in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

(v) Need to release funds in a time-bound manner for Gosikhurd Irrigation Project in Maharashtra

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR (Nagpur): Realizing the importance of the Gosikhurd Irrigation Project for the Vidarbha region meant to irrigate about 10 lakh acres of land and solve the drinking water problem of large number of villages, Government declared it as a National Project for implementation with Central financial assistance. The project could not achieve the desired pace due to paucity of funds. With its declaration as National Project, the implementation process is expected to pick up. However, this would be possible if the required funds are released on time. I have requested the Government to release a sum of Rs. 1400 crore as the first year's contribution out of Rs. 5000 crore earmarked for this project by the Central Government. However, only Rs 400 crore were released in March, 2009. I would urge upon the Government to release Rs. 1500 crore during the current financial year and Rs. 1000 crore each during the next two years and Rs. 500 crore in the third year. Unless the funds are released on time on year to year basis it would not only hamper the progress but might also result in escalation in the cost of the project.

(vi) Need to declare Patan Parliamentary Constituency in Gujarat as a backward region with a view to give impetus to development in the region

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR (Patan): My constituency Patan is a very backward area of Gujrat. The number of unemployed youths is increasing day by day in the absence of employment opportunities in the area and people are compelled to migrate to other districts, states to earn their livelihood.

In my constituency, most of the people are farmers and workers, dependent on farming. They are compelled to depend on monsoon due to lack of proper means of irrigation and scarcity of water, which affects farming and production of food grains as a result of which the financial condition of farmers have become pitiable.

Through this House, I would like to request the Union Government that my constituency Patan should be declared as backward region in this financial year in view of economical educational and industrial backwardness so that new industrial units are established there and poor Dalit, OBC, minority class unemployed youths can get employment and people of Patan district are benefitted.

(vii) Need to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Shrawasti district, Uttar Pradesh

DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY (Shrawasti): The Shrawasti district of Uttar Pradesh is a border district adjoining Nepal. though it has got special place on the map of tourism, but it is one of most backward district. It's main reason is illiteracy. The literacy rate is very less here. As literacy is the first step towards development, education should be given proper attention. So there is need to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya here. This place fulfills all the norms laid down to open such vidyalaya. For example the offices of centre and State Government and it's undertakings are located there. Thousands of families of armed forces and paramilitary forces reside there and beside that retired personnel of such forces are also settled there.

So, I would urge the Government to give approval to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Shrawasti.

(viii) Need to provide adequate funds under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and other employment schemes in Gaya Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

SHRI HARI MANJHI (Gaya): My Constituency, Gaya is a naxal affected area. It is a naxal dominated area. The unemployed youths of this area are forced to get involved in extremists activities. The only way to protect them from setting involved in such activities is to create employment opportunity there. For this there is a need to provide adequate funds under schemes like NREGA, BGEF, etc, in Gaya Parliamentary constituency to protect youth from setting involved in such activities.

(ix) Need to provide funds under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for irrigation projects in Dhule Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRO (Dhule): My Parliamentary Constituency Dhule is a backward area of Maharashtra. Being a scheduled tribe dominating area, it is alienated from development during the last 60 years. Not only the villages, but, district center Dhule city itself has been facing acute shortage of water. Here drinking water is supplied once in two days. The main demand of the people of this area is supply of water for agriculture and drinking purpose. Two major irrigation projects of this area are lying pending due to scarcity of funds.

'Nimn Panzar' Medium project is proposed in Avkalpada, Talluk-saki, District-Dhule. This project will extend irrigation facility to 7585 hectare area of land in Dhule district 7.99 'Dulghami' drinking water is proposed to be provided in Dhule metro city. The Industrial area of Dhule metro city is proposed to be given 8.50 'Dulghami' water by this project. The central water commission has recognized this project in view of the benefit of this project. The pace preform of work on this project is very slow due to lack of funds. Through you, I would like to demand the Minister of Water Resources to provide funds for this project under AIBP scheme.

'Vadi Shevadi medium project' is situated at shindkheda district on Burai river in my constituency Dhule (Maharashtra). 36.93 'Dulghami' water is proposed to be provided for Shindkheda and Dhule district under this project and 5980 hectare area is proposed to be irrigated in these districts by this project. 0.71 drinking water is likley to be provided in Dhimthane and Shindkheda villages. The work on this project has already started.

But the pace of work on this project is very slow due to lack of funds. Through you, I would like to demand Minister of Water Resources, to provide funds for this project under AIBP scheme.

(x) Need to build a memorial on the Samadhi of late Shri Morarji Desai, former Prime Minister of India in Gujarat

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad East): The former Prime Minister of India Shri Morarjibhai Desai died at Mumbai. The Government of India and the family members of Shri Morarjibhai Desai conveyed to the State Government his desire to be cremated near Sabarmati river and Ashram Gaushala in Ahmedabad. The State Government of Gujarat had requested Sabarmati Ashram Gaushala Trust to spare a portion of their land adjoining the Sabarmati river bank for cremation and Samadhi of Late Shri Morarjibhai Desai. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India had constituted a concept committee on 23.2.1996 to develop suitable memorial on the Samadhi named as Abhay Ghat. Since this land belongs to Sabarmati Ashram Gaushala Trust, the Trust is asking for payment for the land. The expenditure for acquiring the land from Sabarmati Ashram Gaushala Trust for building Samadhi of former Prime Minister of India Shri Morarjibhai Desai is Rs. 1.0 crore approximately. Government of Gujarat had requested to Government of India to bear the cost of land. Ministry of culture had indicated unwillingness to do so. Government of Gujarat has no scheme to acquire land or set up national memorial which is a subject of Ministry of Culture. Sir I request Government of India to do the needful at the earliest in this case and to ensure acquisition of land at the earliest for timely completion with adequate provision of funds for the scheme.

(xi) Need to check spread of malaria and provide adequate medical facilities to people in Lohardaga Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT (Lohardaga): Malaria spreads every year in my Parliamentary constituency, Lohardaga and in the Gumla district and other adjoining district resulting in the death of hundreds of people every year. As per available information, last week 13 people of Kisko area of Lohardaga died of malaria. Lohardaga

and the adjoining districts are very inaccessible and hilly due to which people are not even able to get medical facilities. There are areas like Bishunpur, Chainpur, Dumri and Raidih etc. where malaria spreads like a epidemic. It is regrettable that malaria is not being checked so far. The epidemic of Malaria is recurring in this area due to the negligence of the Central Government. The Government is requested to take special measures to check the spread of malaria in Lohardaga and the adjoining districts and special arrangement should be made for the treatment of malaria during the rainy season in particular.

Through this House, it is requested that adequate arrangements should be made to check the spread of malaria in Lohardaga and adequate medical facilities should be provided for the treatment of malaria afflicting the tribals living the inaccessible and hilly areas of this region.

(xii) Need to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Jalaun Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI (Jalaun): A large number of Central Government employees are posted in my Parliamentary constituency, district Jalaun, Uttar Pradesh. Their children roam around here and there in search of proper education. Every child has a right to get proper and quality education. Children should get quality education at the local level, so that they could contribute in the development of the country and the society in future. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has not taken any initiative so far to open any Kendriya Vidyalaya over there and as a result thereof there is great resentment among the Central Government employees posted there and also among the respected common men of the area. In absence of quality education, children are not witnessing proper development. In absence of higher education, children are deprived of present multifaceted education. There is an urgent need to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in this region.

Through this House, I request the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to kindly issue necessary instructions to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Jalaun district at the earliest.

(xiii) Need to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Sambhal Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Sambhal): I want to draw your attention towards my Parliament constituency,

Sambhal. Two years back the Government had approved the setting up of a Kendriya Vidyalaya here but no action has been taken so far in this regard due to the negligence of the concerned Department. While one scheme after another is formulated by the Government to spread education and action on urgent basis is being taken, people of my constituency are waiting for years for a Kendriya Vidyalaya to be opened. It is requested that the Kendriya Vidyalaya approved to be set up at Sambhal, district Muradabad, be set up at the earliest this year itself.

(xiv) Need to start research work at Betel Leaf Research Centre, Islampur in Nalanda district of Bihar

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Erstwhile Minister of Agriculture had inaugurated a Betel leaf Research Centre in the year 2003 at Islampur in the Nalanda district of Bihar, which came into existence as a result of the mass agitation. Agricultural scientists were recruited, building was constructed and boundary wall was fenced. But research work has not yet started.

Through this House, I demand the Government to initiate research work in this Betel Leaf Research Centre at the earliest, so that betel leaf growers could use latest agricultural technologies for their farming in order to enhance the production of betel leaves as Magahi betel leaf is well known for its quality in the world and maximum quantity of the said leaf is exported. The country earns huge amount of foreign exchange from the export of Magahi betel leaves.

(xv) Need to expedite the construction of road between Mechada to Ranichak on N.H. 41 in Tamluk Parliamentary Constituency, West Bengal

[English]

SHRI SUVENDU ADHIKARI (Tamluk): It is a matter of great concern to note that the work of Golden Quadrilateral Scheme has been completed almost in all the proposed areas, but in my Constituency Tamluk, this Project is not completed so far. This road connects Haldia Port to the other places. The progress of the work is very slow. Due to this the road congestion is happening every day. I would request the Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways, to give proper direction to the implementing agency for early completion of the road from Mechada to Ranichak on National Highway No.- 41.

(xvi) Need to extend financial assistance to Anna University in Tamil Nadu with a view to promote technical education in the State

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruvannamalai): Technical education with continued efforts to improve quality is spreading in tune with the technological era. Upholding this spirit the Government of Tamil Nadu has been carrying out Technical Education Quality Improvement Project with the financial assistance of the World Bank. Under this programme, infrastructure facilities in the existing Government engineering colleges and poly techniques are improved. Anna University in Tamil Nadu was established as a technological university and as a model point of technical education in Tamil Nadu. This conscious effort has resulted in the opening of numerous private engineering colleges all over Tamil Nadu. In order to monitor and ensure quality in technical education, Anna universities were set up in Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, apart from existing Anna University in Chennai. This apart, Anna University has also started several government engineering colleges in the backward regions of Tamil Nadu. Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed in this year's Budget that Anna University will establish five more Government engineering colleges in Tiruvannamalai, Thamjavur, Dindigul, Tuticorin and Kanyakumari. I urge upon the Union Government to provide special funds to Anna University this year as we celebrate the centenary year of our former Chief Minister late leader 'Anna' (C.N. Annadurai).

(xvii) Need to set up a Cashew Board with its Headquarters in Kerala

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Attingal): The Cashew industry occupies the prime position among the traditional industries of Kerala. It employs more than 3 lakhs workers, 98% of whom are women, who are hailing from the lower strata of the society especially SC/ST communities. As you are aware, our country earns about Rs. 2,700 crores per year through export of cashew kernel. Domestic sales account for another Rs. 3,000 crore. 75% of the cashew processing in our country is being carried out in Kerala, mainly in Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram Districts. There are a total of 648 cashew processing units, in Kerala.

Cashew industry in India requires about 12 lakhs metric tons of raw cashew nuts. Out of this only 5.5 MTs are produced in India. We are depending on import from African countries, Brazil and Vietnam. But unlike the past, those countries also have started large scale

processing of cashew and Vietnam has emerged as a close competitor to India. USA and European countries are the prominent buyers of cashew kernel from India. Now Vietnam has also started export of cashew kernel to the above countries. Thus Cashew industry is facing a severe competition. Unless substantial support is provided the existence of the industry would be in peril. It is in the above background that the demand for the setting up of a Cashew Board.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to accomplish the demand for the setting up of a Cashew Board with Head Quarters in Kerala.

(xviii) Delay in revision of royalty on Coal produced in Orissa

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA (Kendrapara): Of all the major minerals, only coal, chromites and bauxite enjoy ad-valorem basis of royalty and all other minerals including iron ore continue to be subjected to specific rates of royalty regime. There is an urgent need to bring in ad-valorem linked royalty regime in respect of other minerals as well to help Orissa and other States financially.

In case of coal there has been a delay of 2 years in revision of royalty. The revision that was due after 15.08.05 was notified only on 1.8.07. The 11th Finance Commission had recommended that in case the process of revision is not completed by the date the new revision is due, the States are entitled to compensation. The Orissa Government has written a number of letters for compensating Orissa state for the loss suffered by it as a result of delayed revision of royalty on coal which should now be done urgently.

Further, the Centre instead of revising the royalty upward, has levied an export duty on mineral which accrues to the Centre. In all fairness, the Centre should share the revenue that accrues to it out of this export duty on chrome and iron ores with the States of origin.

(xix) Need to review the list of B.P.L. Card holders in Western Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN (Bijnor): Sir, the number of poor living below the poverty line is increasing constantly in the western part of Uttar Pradesh. But as per the official records, BPL card holders have not been properly identified in this region, due to which the number of such card holders are increasing continuously. Therefore, it is urgently required that the BPL list be

reviewed by the Central Government in order to extend the benefits of the Central Government schemes to the growing numbers of new BPL card holders of western Uttar Pradesh particularly those belonging to Bagpat, Meerut, Bijnor, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar. A Central enquiry team should be constituted to ensure that genuine card holders could get the benefit of the scheme.

(xx) Need for maintenance of airstrips of Kolhapur airport in Maharashtra by Airport Authority of India

[English]

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK (Kolhapur): The Kolhapur airport is located in agricultural production zone. The items like flowers, mangoes of various varieties, Hand-crafted goods, variety of jaggery and Hand-crafted Silver ornaments are being exported from Kolhapur & surrounding districts like Sangli & Ratnagiri through Mumbai Air Terminal.

In addition to above, various industrial machines and parts are also being exported from Kolhapur industrial Estates. Kolhapur district also has 22 Spinning Mills and majority of them manufacture export quality yarn which is also exported from Mumbai. The district also boasts of 18 functional sugar mills and, therefore, has a potential of heavy passenger traffic.

The Kolhapur Airport was made operational in the year 1987 and was taken over by Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) on 16.04.1997 from Airport Authority of India. Since then the airport maintenance is being looked after by MIDC, Maharashtra.

Recently the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Chief Executive Officer, MIDC have agreed to handover airstrips at Gondia, Kolhapur, Amravati, Yeotmal & Ratnagiri in Maharashtra to Airport Authority of India.

In this connection, I may also add that the Minister of Industry of Maharashtra State has already conveyed willingness to terminate the lease agreement which was signed by the parties concerned about 15 years ago as well as providing water, electricity & airport security free of cost.

Through your good office, Madam, I urge upon the Central Government to direct the Airport Authority of India for taking over the airstrips from the MIDC as early as possible.

12.38¹/₂ hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 2009-2010—
GENERAL DISCUSSION
AND
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS
(GENERAL), 2006-2007— *Contd.*

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, we will take up further discussion on Budget—General and further discussion and voting on Demands for Excess Grants-General.

Shri Madan Lal Sharma—Not present.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Nishikant Dubey to speak. Please come in front and speak.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda): Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose this general budget. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Mukesh Kumar has concluded. Now discussions on budget have started.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Madam Speaker, first of all, I thank my party for giving an opportunity to speak on the General Budget. I have been elected to this House for the first time. When I came here to listen to the budget speech, I was under the impression that it reflects the truth but after attending the budget. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You have concluded.

MR. MUKESH KUMAR has concluded.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: After listening to the budget speech, I felt that the budget prepared by the hon. Minister of Finance is. ...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.42 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.01 hrs.

(Lok Sabha reassembled at one Minute past Fourteen of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

GENERAL BUDGET, 2009-2010—GENERAL
DISCUSSION
AND
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS
(GENERAL), 2006-2007— *Contd.*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SEAPER: Now, we start discussion on the Budget (General) 2009-10. Shri Nishikant Dubey.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I am grateful to the senior leader of the party, Lal Krishna Advaniji and hon'ble Sushma Swaraj ji for allowing fist time MP like me to participate in the budget discussion. I am grateful to the party for this.

Sir, when I was not a Member of Parliament, I always felt that Lok Sabha is the place where truthy is upheld and as such, it is sacrosanct like God, Gita and Bible and that nobody resorts to falsehood here. When the hon'ble Minister of Finance started his budget speech, he said, I would like to quote-

He says that:

[*English*]

"... a single Budget Speech cannot solve all our problems, nor is the Union Budget the only instrument to do so..."

[*Translation*]

When he said so, I realized that for the first time, a Minister of Finance, whose political career spans as many years as my age, is speaking the truth. When I went through the whole budget, as a student and as an economist, I found that this budget is a bundle of lies and nothing could be more misleading than this budget.

Shri Manish Tiwari, Shri Sandeep Dikshit and Shri K.S. Rao have spoken before me. They repeatedly mentioned about Rs. 1 lac 86 thousand crore of fiscal deficit and called it a stimulus and booster. The Government have given a stimulus of Rs. 1 lakh 86 thousand crore to save the economy of the country in view of the economic slow down. Fiscal deficit has grown by 3.5 per cent. In the year 2008-09, fiscal deficit increased from 2.75 per cent to 6.2 per cent and the hon'ble Minister of Finance said it has grown by 3.5 percent as fiscal stimulus has been given for tax relief, to raise demand, increase expenditure and support public projects. It is only partially true. If you go through the balance sheet, you will find that out of Rs. 1 lakh 86 thousand crore, Rs. 1 lakh 30 thousand crore which is 2/3 of the total amount consists of income tax and on the other hand, Rs. 20 thousand crore of income tax has not been collected. He has provided that amount for this purpose. Was he not aware of the economic slow down? Secondly, Rs. 40 thousand crore have been provided taking into account the expenditure due to the Sixth Pay Commission. Hon'ble Chidambaramji had mentioned about the Sixth Pay Commission while presenting the budget last time in the House. Was he not aware that funds would be needed for that purpose. Rs. 40 thousand crore have been given for the Sixth Pay Commission. Is the hon'ble Minister of Finance not aware about the amount of fertilizer required in the country? He must be aware of the requirement as when the budget is prepared, all this is taken into account in regard to the area of agricultural land, cultivated land and fertilizer required for the same? Rs. 45 thousand crore have been earmarked for fertilizer subsidy and Rupees 11 thousand crore have been provided for food subsidy debt waiver in regard to which the Congress Govt. creates much hype that we have waived the farmers debt and at the time when hon'ble Chidambaramji submitted in his budget speech that the Government would waive the debt of the farmers, the same question was raised as to how the Government would generate funds for the purpose. How are the funds being generated? Out of that money Rs. 15 thousand crore have been provided for debt waiver and Rs. Two thousand crore is for extra interest. If you go through the whole budget, the total amount works out to be Rs. 1.30 lakh crore. The Hon. Minister has allocated Rs. 1.30 lakh crore in an injudicious manner for things regarding which facts were known to him and has failed to make provisions for several things, and yet he is saying that the Government has given fiscal stimulus of Rs. 1.86 lakh crore to boost the economy. The Government could not have come up with a bigger lie than this.

As far as second question is concerned, they patted themselves, the members of ruling party thumped the tables and it was announced that from Rupees 193 crore this budget has now crossed Rs. 10 lakh crore mark. They have increased Rupees 1.20 lakh crore as compared to the budget proposal for the year 2008-09. And if you look at this increased amount of Rs. 1.20 lakh crore, Rs. 44 thousand crore have been allocated for Sixth Pay Commission, Rs. 33 thousand crore have been allocated for extra interest and Rs. 10 thousand crore for non-plan grant. Rs. 29 thousand crore have been allocated for fertilizer subsidy besides, that only Rs. 42 thousand crore have been allocated for NREGA. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are also from Jharkhand. When I went there to contest elections, the people of that area said that whosoever will accept work will fall death. No stimulus has been given in this budget except this amount of Rs. 42 thousand crore and honourable Finance Minister is celebrating it by stating that non tax revenue is likely to be increased by Rs. 46 thousand crore. Fact is that there is an estimate of 35 thousand crore rupees to be generated from auction of 3-G license, but, the Finance Minister has not mentioned anything about it in his budget. It is a fraud with people. Not only this, the Congress Government have always been blaming that we are not able to take up any reforms due to members of lift parties.

When I was a student, our teachers, used to tell us that if you want to know about the direction and situation of the country then go through Economic Survey. If you go through it, you will find that they have stated in it that they will improve the economy. Whatever reforms they want to bring about. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: They will implement them. If you go through the Economic Survey you will find that it is totally different from what they have done. They have stated nothing about banking regulation, in insurance sector. They had mentioned about FDI in retail sector but now nothing has been said about it nor they have made any mention about defence industry. Today, nobody from left is trying to stop them but, still their statement and whatever has been mentioned in Economic Survey are contradictory. It means that their intentions are not clear. They trying to mislead the country.

Beside that, they have mentioned about share market in the Economic Survey. The day the hon'ble Minister of Finance presented Budget in the House, the share market crashed. That day share market crashed by one thousand

points. When he talked about weaker section sit crashed by 137 points, when he talked about social sector exposition it crashed by 245 points, when he talked about tax reforms it crashed by 340 points and when he announced MAT it crashed by 400 points.

Sir, I would like to raise some sensational issues. He talked about 81(B). When NELB, investment was being made under 81(B), Ministry of Petroleum was repeatedly saying that foreign investors are not investing in it. Former Finance Minister Chidambaram stated that there would be 3.5 billion to 8 billion investment under NELB. The foreign companies will invest up to 8 billion in our country. He did not made any amendment in 81(B). Now, when you have awarded contract to the companies and they are going to start work there, they have included gas, mineral oil under 81(B). What is your intention? It has no transparency. They should explain this.

In the last budget, Chidambaramji had excluded refineries from 81(B) and stated that they were excluding from tax rebate refineries having above 49 per cent and only are company was excluded. I do not want to name it. Now you have again included this refinery by amending it. I would like to know that on one hand they give rebate on gas, but, on the other hand, they have excluded coal bed methane which is very important for our country. Last time your Finance Minister had set a dead line to exclude a company from 81(B), but, now they have announced to include it. Their rules have charged with in just six months. It is a big scam. I would like to make a demand before the Minister of Finance to issue a white paper regarding the circumstances in which gas has been included from 81(B). Why CBM has not been included in it? Last time regarding refinery, the Finance Minister had withdrawn tax holiday to exclude the company which now have been provided tax relief to give benefit to whom?

Sir, hon'ble Finance Minister has talked about border management. You are also from Jharkhand. Bangladesh infiltration has become a menace for all of us. He has mentioned about border management and border fencing. Whenever we raise the issue of infiltration from Bangladesh you call us communal. Through you, I would request the Government that this matter should not be communalized. This matter is linked with employment. What is the present state of affairs? The people infiltrating from Bangladesh are working at the places like Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. Whose livelihood they are snatching? They are snatching the petty jobs of drivers, domestic servants and watchmen. Despite this, the budget increased in this respect is quite insufficient. The

employment opportunities are being robbed and Bihari migrant labourers are being targeted to protect the interests of locals. Widespread violence occurred in Mumbai over this issue. What is the definition of Bhari? The term 'Biharis' do not suggest the people of Bihar only, but, it includes the people of all Hindi speaking areas, be it Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand or Bihar. They are abusing the people who build this nation. You are not committed towards the development of this area.

You are weakening the Eastern India. There is no provision for eastern India in this budget. The headquarter of Coal India Ltd. is in Kolkata while the Coal is extracted from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh, copper is produced in Jharkhand while its headquarter is also located in Kolkata, NMDC gets supply of Iron ore from Chhattisgarh while its headquarter is in Hyderabad. You collect taxes from the people in the name of corporate social responsibility. We, the people are owner of there resources. From where the big business houses like Tata, Birla and Ambanis are earning the profits. They are earning profits from this area. There are abundant reserves of iron ore, copper and uranium in our area, despite this fact when the people of this area reach Mumbai in search of petty jobs, they are humiliated like beggars and ridiculed.

Sir, one of my colleagues just said that 28 percent of revenue is generated from Mumbai alone. From where Mumbai generates this revenue. This revenue is being generated by utilizing the resources, iron ore and coal of our area. If you are making this development, then your vision towards eastern India is poor.

Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to state that this budget lacks transparency. You are talking about fiscal stimulus of 186 crore rupees but it is not visible in the budget. ...(*Interruptions*) There is nothing about the development of eastern India. I oppose this budget.

[*English*]

*DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar):
Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to express my views on the General Budget. The Congress-led UPA Government after coming back to power has presented it first Budget. I find that there is lack of focus in the Budget. The Budget speech promises 9% growth, however, there is nothing in the Budget which gives an

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

assurance that such type of growth can be achieved. Sir, health is one of the major problems in India. There is big gap both in rural and urban areas. In my area Bhubaneswar is the only state capital which has no medical college. One AIIMS has been sanctioned but money has not been allocated/released. Work has, therefore, not yet started. I urge upon the Government to immediately provide Rs. 200 crores for the AIIMS. I also request that a new Medical College should be sanctioned. UGC has recommended that more Universities should be opened in Orissa. There is no Central University in Orissa. I therefore, request that one Central University should be sanctioned in Bhubaneswar. One more Agriculture University should be sanctioned in Western Orissa.

Sir, Bhubaneswar Airport should be immediately upgraded to an International Airport. Every year lacs of tourist visit Konark, Puri and Lingraj Temple from India as well as abroad. As there is no International Airport, international tourists have to come from Kolkata or Delhi. I also request that an Airport be opened near Konark also which can cater to Konark as well as Puri. There is huge number of technically qualified persons in Orissa. Due to non-development of Airports industries are not coming hence these technically qualified persons have to go out for search of jobs. I also request that there should be new flights from Raurkela and Jaipur in Orissa. Chilka lake is the biggest lake in Orissa as well as in India. It caters to a huge bio-diversity. There are 428 types of birds which come to Chilka. Moreover, there are the Mangroves and other types of flora and fauna. I request that Chilka should be developed as a bio-diversity tourist centre. Barulei Hill and temple is a heritage site. Temple and Hill needs to be renovated and protected. Khordha is the ex-capital of Orissa. Khordha Fort is a heritage site. The fort needs to be renovated and declared a national monument. Tourism can be developed here. Orissa has always been neglected by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. There is no project for providing Irrigation to the vast unirrigated drought prone land of Orissa. KBK area is perpetual drought prone area.

There are super cyclone, super drought and super flood that is why there is super poverty in Orissa. The Central Government is not cooperating. They are not releasing funds for drought or cyclone or floods. We have drought and cyclone every year however, we hardly receive any central grants. This year Budget has earmarked Rs. 3973 crore for urban infrastructure this include provision for Rajiv Awas Yojana. I request the

Finance Minister to select Bhubaneswar and Puri under the Jawaharlal National Urban Reward Mission. Puri is world famous for the cart festival and the urban infrastructure at Puri beach in Puri and Bhubaneswar has to be improved.

Sir, Interstate border terrorism is effecting Orissa. Naxalites and Maoists are intruding into Orissa. There can be no permanent military solution. The only solution is development. Better roads, better hospital, better schools have to be developed in these areas. Lastly, I would like to add that Pikas (Milila) are the freedom fighter of Orissa. These people had fought for the freedom of the country. These people must be recognized as freedom fighter and freedom fighter pension should be given to them.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Sir, this Budget is a very loaded Budget. Lot of exercise has gone into the making of the Budget. The Finance Minister has taken lot of pains to bring in this Budget this year. He has presented several Budgets in 1982, 1983 and 1984. When compared to those Budgets, the Budget presented by the Finance Minister this time is very good; lot of exercise has gone into it.

It touched all sections of the people – the poor, the marginalized sections, the middle class, industry, women, farmer – every section of the society was covered in this Budget.

While presenting the Budget in 1958, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru after the death of Shri T.T. Krishnamachari, he said that the Budget should improve the standards of all the sections of the people. In 1987, after the exit of Shri Viswanath Pratap Singh, Rajiv Gandhiji presented the Budget. While presenting the Budget, he quoted his grandfather, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and said that the Budget should improve the living standards of every one. While speaking on the Budget last year, Shri Rahul Gandhi said that there are two sections of people in this country – one with loud voice and another with no voice.

I would like to speak about the people who do not have voice. We brought in employment guarantee programme. For this programme, he has provided Rs. 39,000 crore in this Budget. It actually has revolutionized the whole country. The Communist countries like China and Russia were not able to bring such programmes in their countries. But the UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Prime Minister and others were able to bring

this programme. I congratulate them for bringing this programme.

How is it improving the living standards of people in this country? I would like to give a small example of a place called Kalathur, near Tirupati, my Constituency. Three years before, the people there, were living below poverty line. They did not have place to sleep; they were sleeping on the floor. They did not have even one meal per day; today they are having three times food; every day they are taking eggs; their standards have gone up. They got Rs. 45 lakh in the form of wages, in the last three years. Using the wages, they are able to build their own houses. Earlier they were sleeping on the floor; now they are sleeping on a bed. Everybody is having a colour TV set today. Everybody is having fans in their houses today. They are very happy.

I would like to quote another example. There is a place called Pelletivari Kandriga, where 50 per cent of Scheduled Tribes are living. In these three years, they were able to earn Rs. 54 lakh. Their standards have gone up. The Tribals were able to develop the mango garden. They were able to build the houses. They are sleeping on a bed. Every day they are taking eggs. They have fans and colour TV sets in their houses; they are planning to purchase mobile phones. This is the type of benefit that they got from that programme in this country. It changed the living standards of all the sections of the people who did not have food to eat three years before.

I would like to say about another part of my constituency which has come after de-limitation; it is part of Nellore district. There, people in Gram Panchayat are not able to earn Rs. 1 lakh a year. In a gram panchayat, on one side of my constituency, they are earning more than Rs. 45 lakh and Rs. 54 lakh, but on this side of my constituency, they are not able to earn Rs. 1 lakh. This is the plight of the people. I want the Government to take all steps to see that the bottlenecks of NREGA are removed. The district officers should take more interest. The Government should put in all efforts to see that the officers take interest. The landlords of the area are not allowing to take up the NREGA programme. I want the Government agencies to take up this programme and see that it is implemented properly.

The second laudable programme is the Mid Day Meal Programme. Under this programme 15 crore people of the country are getting benefit. Children who were not able to go to the primary schools are able to go to

schools today. They are getting good meal in the school. They are getting tastier meal than what they get in their houses. Every child instead of sitting at home is sitting in the schools where he is taking good food and learning what he can. This is one of the best programmes to which Rs. 8000 crore has been given in this Budget. I congratulate the Government on this.

Another programme Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is trying to bring in is the Food Security Act. Probably it may be introduced in Parliament soon. Under this programme 25 Kgs. of rice and 25 Kgs. of wheat at Rs. 3 per kilo may be given to all the people below poverty line. This is a very good programme which is going to help all the people below poverty line. These are the good programmes which are improving the living standards of the people of this country.

As Shri Rahul Gandhi said that there are people who do not have voice, I would say that there are people who do not have voice and which is not presented in this Budget is the Panchayati Raj System. Before Independence Mahatma Gandhi talked about Gram Swaraj and 50 years back Pandit Ji talked about Panchayati Raj and decentralisation. Rajiv Ji said 'power to the people' and he gave reservation to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women in the Gram Panchayats. What is the plight of the Gram Panchayats today? Gram Panchayats do not have money to change their street lights. The *Sarpanches* do not have money to change the street taps, sweep the streets or to give chocolates on an Independence Day which is customary in Gram Panchayats. This is the plight of the Gram Sarpanches and Panchayati Raj System. I want the Government to give at least 5 per cent of the entire Budget to the Gram Panchayats. Rajiv Gandhi Ji wanted power to the people and he gave cheques directly to the Gram Panchayats. Today Gram Panchayats are suffering in some States. I want the Government to earmark at least 5 per cent of the entire Budget for the Gram Panchayats and Zila Parishads.

Anganwadi workers are taking care of lactating women, pregnant women and children below six years. They are giving them food, making them play and study but the Anganwadi workers are getting only Rs. 2200 whereas NREGA workers are getting Rs. 100 per day. I want the Government to increase this amount of Rs. 2200 to at least Rs. 3000 per month. The children constitute about 30-35 per cent of the population but they are not given sufficient care in this Budget. The Government has given Rs. 18,000 crore to the Health

Ministry. In villages number of children die of vomiting, diarrhoea or fever. Children are to be given good care but in the Capital city like Delhi we do not have a good children hospital. Except at two places, nowhere in the country we have a good children hospital. Children are to be given good care. At least 10 per cent of the money allocated to the Health Ministry should go to the children hospitals. We should build good children hospitals in this country.

Finally, there are about 4-5 lakh journalists in this country. We have the Working Journalists Act which has come in 1955 and revised in 1958. There are about 1 lakh people who are in the electronic media representatives who are not covered under the Working Journalists Act. All Electronic Journalists should be treated as the working journalists. The journalists working in the rural areas working in suburban areas are getting Rs. 500 per day. I would say that this Working Journalists Act should be revised to see that all the rural journalists also are given proper care through the management.

Finally, I would like to speak about the economy of this country in comparison to a place like New York, America, where all the shopping malls are getting closed. In London also, all the big shopping malls are getting closed and jobs are being cut. In a place like Shanghai, China, also shopping malls are being closed. Whereas in Delhi or Gurgaon or any other place in India, these shopping malls are not being closed and not even our Super Bazars or shopping centres are being closed. That goes to show that our economy is strong and vibrant. Our Finance Minister, the Prime Minister and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi all have been able to give a good economy to this country when compared to other countries.

I would like to say a word about the taxes which many people of this country may not like. But we need to collect more taxes from people for helping marginalised sections of the society. To help the marginalised sections of the society, we have to bring in taxes like Death Tax. We always compare ourselves with America and western countries. In America, when Michael Jackson died, he had to give 30 per cent of his property to the nation. We should also impose such tax like Death Tax or Estate Tax in this country so that we can collect more taxes and see that we can help the marginalised sections.

I congratulate the Government. I also congratulate the Finance Minister, the Prime Minister and also Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for giving us a good Budget.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Tikamgarh): As per the report published by Central Electricity Authority, 106304 villages are without electricity as on 29th February, 2008. The work of electrifying 1.15 lakh villages under Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaram Yojana is lagging 50 percent behind the schedule in 20994 villages of Orissa, 20235 villages of Jharkhand, 12298 villages of Uttar Pradesh, 18395 villages of Bihar, 5383 villages of Assam and 5081 villages of Maharashtra. This Scheme which was started in 2005 was suppose to benefit 2.34 lakh families living below poverty line, but, the factual position is that only 61,375 villages have benefitted so far and the scheme is supposed to be completed by 31 March, 2010. Under this scheme Government have to electrify more than 50940 villages.

Under Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 166938 villages are eligible to be linked with the pucca roads out of which 45506 villages have been linked with roads so far. Large scale irregularities are being observed in the construction work under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, quality is being Compromised and the roads constructed under first phase has got damaged in patches and big pits have appeared in it at several places. In the absence of approval from the forest department and non-construction of bridges these incomplete roads are getting damaged. Availability of land and approval from concerned authorities should be made a prerequisite before commencing the construction of roads.

If we talk about drinking water, we find that there are 20150 such villages, where there still no facility of drinking water. Either woman have to carry water from long distance or people are forced to transport the water on cycles or on bullock carts.

If we look towards health sector, we find that only 1/9 of total beds and 1/4 of medical staff is available in the rural areas. There is huge shortage of medical staff in Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres of rural areas. According to National Family Health Survey 2004, 68 percent people of our country do not avail Government health facilities since, they believe that proper treatment is not given there.

The Premier medical institute, 'AIIMS' has been allocated 177 crore rupees this year while an amount of

Rs. 218 crore was sanctioned under 'planned' head during 2008-09. This institute is the only hope for the poor people of entire country. There was a proposal to construct 6 'AIIMS' like institutes but no mention has been made about it in this budget. Though, allocation has been increased, but it will take a lot of time to translate this proposal into reality.

The work related to the conservation of national rivers and lakes should be undertaken on a wider scale expeditiously. There are ancient historical ponds and lakes in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat etc. in our country. These should be covered under the scheme and water conservation should be promoted. There were around 950 ponds of Chandel era in my Parliamentary constituency, Tikamgarh, M.P. out of which around 450 ponds are still existing which are being used to irrigate thousands of acres of farmers land and also to resolve the problem of drinking water. These ponds are the life line of the people of Tikamgarh. Lakes of Rajasthan are the centre of special attraction for the tourists. Allocation under this scheme should be increased.

The maids engaged in domestic chores should be covered under unorganised sector so that they can avail the benefits of welfare schemes of the Government and their children can get higher education. Besides, monetary assistance should be given for the marriage of their daughters.

Child labour is a very big challenge before us. The Government has banned child labour by enacting a law to this effect but nobody is abiding by it. Around 61000 child labourers can be seen working in Dhabas, hotels and tea stalls. There is no mention in the Budget of carrying out practical assessment of their condition and their rehabilitation and education. There are 22 crore children in the age groups of 6 to 14 years in India. 2 crore 60 lakh children and 1 crore 85 lakh children are working as full time and part time child labourers respectively. In fact, it is necessary to adopt multi dimensional approach to eradicate child labour.

Bharat Nirman is much discussed about. I wonder if the development of the metros will be the model of the country and high-rise buildings will be the development model of the country? Whether imported luxury cars with foreign breed dogs peeping out of the windows of the said cars, will be the role model for the development of this country? Whether the rising number of aids patients will be the role model of this country? Whether blind emulation of western culture in every respect will be the

role model for the development of the country? Whether on the one hand the people living in extreme poverty and on the other the people facing scarcity of drinking water will be the role model of this country? Whether the youth who are disappointed and dejected in the search of job, will be the role model of the country for development.

It has been proposed to set up a central university in each state which is a welcome step, but where universities are being upgraded to a central university, we should think of making special provision for reservation of local students in admission and also consider to regularize the services of those teachers who are working on contract basis for years together.

Today, the country is passing through a phase of crisis. Livelihood of farmers and labourers of the Bundelkhand region in both Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh has been affected by drought for the last five years. This year also, the farmers are disappointed due to scarcity of rain so far and the country is facing a serious crisis. There is more serious and far-reaching challenge in respect of climate, so it is necessary to generate employment and device programmes aimed to maintain balance between environment conservation and generation of employment. Efforts should be made to enhance productivity by affordable technology so that the farmers do not have to live in debt due to uncertainty of weather.

Had we properly myofilament the programme of interlinking the rivers, rain water could have easily been diverted from flood affected areas to scanty rain areas and farmers could have easily been provided relief in such adverse weather conditions. The scheme of interlinking the ken-Betwa rivers was sanctioned in the first phase. With this scheme thousands of acres of land of the farmers in the districts of parma Jhansi, Raisen and Vidisha including my parliamentary constituency, Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur would have got water for irrigation and ground water level would also have been raised besides solving the problem of drinking water but the work on this project has not been expedited during the last five years. Therefore, the work related to interlinking the Ken-Betwe vivers should be completed within the stipulated period.

Betel leaf is widely grown in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar Orissa, Tamil Nadu etc. but it is included in horticulture though, betel leaf growes have been demanding for years to include it

in the submit of agriculture. Betel leaf used to be exported from our country to Pakistan and other countries in large quantity but due to non-inclusion of the production of betel leaf in agriculture, the farmer are not able to get the benefit of crop Insurance Scheme. Therefore, the matter may be considered and farming of betel leaf should be included in agriculture and its producers should be given the benefits of crop Insurance Scheme.

Bharat Niramn is incomplete Unless poorest of the poor of this country gets food, clothing and medical facilities, unemployed get employment and homeless people get home as also each village gets adequate quantity of drinking water. While allocating funds for various sectors in the budget, all these things should be considered with humans perspective. Only then, all-round development of the country is possible.

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY (Mathura): Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you for allowing me to speak on this subject.

I have heard the points raised by various hon'ble Members regarding budget. Hon'ble Member Shri Joshiji specifically presented detailed data highlighting the condition of farmers. He presented data of Arjun Sengupta commission in the House. I would like to remind that the economic condition of farmers has been elucidated in the report of the said commission. He submitted that the monthly income of small farmers is Rs. 1578 and the so-called big farmers Rs. 8321. It shows the plight of the farmers. Hence, I and many other people would like to know as to what provisions have been made for the young farmers, who are engaged in agriculture sector, and also at the border areas risking their life to protect the sovereignty of the country and these who produce foodgrains to feed the country and the world at large. What provisions have been made for those young farmers in the budget? At the outset, I will oppose the term and ask all the hon'ble Members, the Government and the media persons what the term "Aam Aadmi" used in the budget means? What message is likely to be conveyed through this term "Aam Aadmi"? What is the meaning of "Aam Aadmi" as referred by the Government? It means that we are accepting the fact that there are two sections in the country. One is the common man and the other is the important person. There is one general category *i.e.* "Aam Aadmi" in the country. The poor villager, is the child of a lesser god in every respect we assess him, so it would be better to call them poor and backward people instead of "Aam Aadmi".

As far as budget is concerned, I would say that treasury benches have called it as good budget, whereas opposition parties have criticized the budget. I would like to give certain suggestions instead of criticizing it and it would be better if the hon'ble Minister of Finance pay some attention towards these suggestions, specifically towards the problems being faced by farmers and devise ways in which we can raise the family income of farmers and improve their standard of living. The Government should spend more funds on agricultural research. Nothing has been said in the budget regarding new inventions in the agriculture sector and how farmers can increase their production by lowering cost effectively with lesser irrigation facility, through organic farming, traditional farming and by using new variety of seeds. There is no scope for food processing industry. We have failed in creating a conducive environment therefor by giving relaxation in duty and taxes to attract investment in this sector. This is the main reason why farmers are getting only 20 percent of the sale price of their produce in cities. Unless the farmer is involved in this process of marketing, his standard of living and economic status will not be improved.

It was proposed to set up a market stabilization fund some years back. Poor, small and medium farmres are facing market risks on the one hand and climate change hazards-*i.e.* drought and flood-on the other hand. Their crops are destroyed due to these calamities. Market prices are determined by the Government to some extent and by other market players like middlemen, black marketiers and hoarders. Therefore, there is need to set up a market stabilization fund to protect the interest of farmers from fluctuations. It would be better if Government would seriously consider this aspect without delay.

I would like to say something about health sector also. We have been providing less than one percent of GDP on health sector. Due attention has not been given to primary education and nothing has been said regarding "Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan" in the budget. We spend less than 3.5 percent of gross domestic product on education sector. Health and Education should be our priority sectors to take the country ahead in future.

I would like to draw the attention of the House towards another important aspect. We have raised the matter of black money during elections as well. According to some unofficial estimates some 40-50 billion US dollars are deposited in Swiss banks. This money belongs to India. The Irak is tighttopped on this. Germany and France have taken initiative on this front in the G-20 meet,

whereas the Government of India kept mum in this regard. There is another aspect to this fact in our domestic economy size of black economy is many fold in comparison to the white money. We proudly say that expenditure has increased to more than Rs. 10 lakh crore, but as per some unofficial estimates the amount of black money is more than Rs. 24 lakh crore. I think Chidambaram Ji introduced VDIS scheme in the year 1997. Many people criticized the scheme at that time. But as per the facts Rs. 33,000 crore had been raised during that period. There is shortfall in revenue collection and in the present scenario the Government is dependent on borrowings, disinvestment and sale of spectrum. It is based on economy. Even if small shortcoming remains it will be disastrous. Therefore, I would suggest that it should be reconsidered. A scheme similar to the previous one may be launched irrespective of the fact that time has changed a lot. A lot of people have made quite a lot of money. If we will not introduce this kind of scheme, the money will not be utilized in the interest of the nation. Therefore, this needs to be considered seriously. That is why, I raised this point in the House.

I would like to discuss one more point in the House. Today, we are concerned about energy. We are also concerned about rising prices of petrol and diesel. Farooqji is not present here, reply to a question was not given that day. We have not done anything in the budget to make the solar panel cheaper, so that people can have access to solar energy. The Hon. Minister of Finance could have reduced excise duty and custom duty on it. You may observe that ethanol is being mixed in oil in Brazil since 1931. We do not have any policy in this regard. The Government of India and the Indian consumers are indeusive between the oil Lobby and the sugar lobby. The Government should take concrete steps in this regard. Farmers and consumers both will be benefited if at least ten percent ethanol is mixed with petrol.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR (Nagpur): There is a policy to mix ten percent and you can buy it for Rs. 23.60.

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY: But where is the policy, it has not been implemented. Not a single owner of sugar industry is ready to sell it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sir, please do not talk to each other. You are a senior Member. Jayantji you may please conclude now.

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY: I would like to point out one more subject.

The Hon. Minister has mentioned about improving the credit flow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please conclude now.

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY: I will conclude after submitting my last two points During the year 1990, credit deposit ratio was sixty percent in rural areas whereas it has been reduced to forty nine percent during the year 2004-05. We talk about expanding the credit flow but in the credit policy of the year 2008, RBI had established a standard for Scheduled commercial Banks to extend 18 percent credit to agriculture and 10 percent to the people of the weaker section of society. Even a single bank would not have achieved the said target. Instead of penalizing them, the RBI has made a provision that if they cannot achieve the target, then they should deposit the fund in the rural infrastructure development fund meant for the purpose. In this way, we have given them an option. It is good to have more and more bank branches in the rural areas to make it possible for labourers and farmers to approach the banks directly because they are the real borrowers. We should encourage the banks to have direct interaction with the borrowers *i.e.* farmers. These are my views on expanding the credit flow.

At last, I would say that the concept of child budgeting is at initial stages and many Members have discussed on the information provided by the budget in this regard. 40 percent population of the country consists of children and expenditure upto 5 percent has been allocated for them in the budget. The matter is very serious. You are spending five percent for 40 percent population. At the same time, we will demand that similar sort of figures should be presented for youth in the forthcoming budgets, which would be a welcome step. We would be able to discuss on that, which would mount pressure on the Government and the Government will have to explain the common man about the amount being spent for the youth.

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (KHADOOR SAHIB): Sir, The Finance Minister of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee is an experienced person and when he was presenting the budget he was feeling very happy, that 62 years ago a budget of Rs. 193 crores was presented and today it is of the amount of Ten lakh twenty thousand

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

eight hundred thirty eight Rupees. Than the population of the country was 35 crores and now its 110 crores!

The population would keep on increasing and consequently the amount of budget, what would be the development of the country?

Deputy Speaker Sir until we control the population and neglect the base of the society than what would be the development. If you go to the mansion of a rich person you see he is having 2 children and if you go to a poor persons habitation he is having 10 children. The population of poor is ever increasing. Due you think they will become rich ?, That is not at all possible, so I request the whole house that population control is necessary and we should concentrate on dealing with this aspect.

Secondly Deputy Speaker Sir all who are speaking on budget and who has presented it are Members of Parliament. Have we thought over the aspect, that after spending how much money we have become members of Parliament ?, you ask anybody they will say that I have spent 2 crores, 5 crores and 7 crores for being getting elected. Until we do not do electoral reforms the basic need of democracy would not be fulfilled. All the parties have to get together and work towards electoral reform which would lead to the development of democracy. What we are observing that the person who is rich is able to get elected and come into this August House and a poor person cannot afford to come here. If he is not here who would speak for the poor, as the rich can only keep him in illusion, and make schemes like NREGA. Until poor speaks for the poor there would not be development of the democracy. There is need for electoral reforms, its my humble submission that we should all work for reducing the expenditure on elections. Even the press cannot cover the elections without spending considerable amount of money; Don't you mind! There is need for electoral reforms other wise it would cause problems in future.

Mr. Advani was speaking that this century i.e. 21st Century is century of development agreed upon by Dr. Manmohan Singh, this is a very good thing. But the century is not only of development but also of corruption. The amount of corruption which exists in India isn't found anywhere in the world, where there is corruption how could their be development. You go to any office their is corruption and its not decreasing but ever increasing in the 21st century. Until we control corruption there wont be development in the 21st Century.

So Deputy Speaker Sir, I request that until we address the basic needs and problems of democracy there wont be development.

Every year budget is being presented; its been 62 years presenting the budget, the poor wont become rich by this. India was known as a sparrow of gold and was robbed of its wealth by the Mughals for 300 years, 200 years by the Britishers and 62 years by Black marketers. It was also spoken about in the Presidential address that wealth of India is being stashed in Swiss Banks, Whose wealth is that ? it is of the poor people of India.

During elections it was said that vote for us and form our Government, we will bring the black money within 100 days. After Government formation nobody spoke about it, even the Prime minister did not speak about it during G8, though the other world leader spoke about it. Until this money comes back Deputy Speaker Sir you are intelligent enough to guess how would the country develop. Pranab Mukherjee would not be having the money for the budget within a year, How would their be development? This subject of Black money was not even mentioned in the budget presentation, until you speak about it you wont be able to measure upto be expectations of the people who have elected you. Everybody is watching her M.P. and If the M.P. does not perform the people will resort to revolution. I see only 35% of the MP's have been returned to the house and 65% haven't we have defrauded the people, until we stop doing this the democracy wont function. We have to fulfill their needs.

It is being seeing that how the population of villages is decreasing and of cities increasing because we are not providing them facilities. 65% are remaining in villages out the 80% population. Migration is due to denial of facilities!

It is said that Bihari labour migration has dwindled to other states due to NREGA, it's a misnomer as in Punjab Rs. 250 Per day labour is being given whereas under NREGA its Rs. 100 per day. So the preference is for Rs. 250 per day. They will be earning here more within 2 months what they would do so in 6 months back home. There is no shortage of labour here because we pay more than NREGA. ...*(Interruptions)*

Deputy Speaker Sir, we are 5 MP's of Punjab! Please allow us to speak, as our state is being looted.

Let us now speak about farmers of Punjab. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said that he has reduced rate of interest to 7 % for farmers and if they return the loan in time than interest is 6%, whereas for industrialists its 4% and for a person taking loan of Rs. 2,50,000 it is 7%; what a contradiction and injustice towards farmers! If you can give loan at 4% to an industrialist why this policy is not for farmers. The farmers return every penny of loan taken as their lands are mortgaged to the banks, but an industrialist does not return the money taken, contributing to the non performing assets. This is strange that a person who is returning money on time has to pay higher rate of interest whereas the person who doesn't, gets benefit of less rate of interest.

This is big injustice, rate of interest Charged from farmers be reduced to 4 %. The farmer of India fills the stomach of the whole country, Until we protect the farmers we will all die, Deputy Speaker Sir !

Rs. 71000 Crore of debt was waived by last Government, in case of Punjab the loan waived was of Rs. 1022 crores. Deputy Speaker Sir, the state which contributes 60% of wheat and Paddy in Central pool gets only 1% debt waiver and those who contribute nothing get whole of their debt waived off, this is great injustice. Why don't we make such policies that the state which contributes 60% in Central Pool gets 60% waiver and those who contribute 2% get 2% waiver; its great injustice towards the people of Punjab. That out of Rs. 71000 crore only Rs. 1043 crore came in the share of Punjab; than how can development take place.
...(Interruptions)

Please Deputy Speaker sir, you are poor as I am, state is also poor, you listen to me.

Those who contribute maximum they are not taken care off and those who don't they are rewarded.

Punjab is under debt of Rs. 7000 crores, out of this farmers debt is of Rs. 3500 crores. They are committing suicides due to the debt by drowning in canals along with their families.

Drought has hit Punjab and Punjab Govt. is giving Rs. 250 crores for electricity every week to compensate the farmers. Who will compensate the Punjab Government which is already under debt, the Government of India should compensate the farmers where we contribute 60% of food grains.

Deputy Speaker Sir, I live on border, about 550 Kms. Is international border in Punjab. The B.S.F. does not allow the farmers to till their land which is across the border fence. During the Government of Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee it was decided to compensate the farmer but this concession was taken by the subsequent Congress Government. I request that Border area farmers be compensated, as they are in lot of trouble.

The army during its annual exercise, stays put on the land of farmers for a considerable time, I request that the farmers be compensated for the loss due to the army's presence on their lands, its very important.

Deputy Speaker Sir that things wont solve by presenting the budget but by doing things on the ground and helping the people would work!

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Budget and I stand here to support the Budget. I would like to say a few words about this Budget from the point of view of minorities.

Sir, Rs. 250 crore has been given in the Budget for 3 scholarship schemes. For these 3 scholarship schemes, last year 48 applications were received. My request to the Government, through you, is that the target should be increased to 50 lakhs and if you increase the target to 50 lakhs, you require only an additional amount of Rs. 315 crore. This should be provided because this scheme is bringing a great revolutionary change on the ground. You cannot imagine the amount of excitement which is there right now among the minority students to apply for these 3 scholarship schemes.

Then, Maulana Azad Education Foundation has been given Rs. 115 crore. The corpus has been increased to Rs. 331.66 crore. My submission is that there is duplication of this scheme because you are giving three scholarship schemes and in Maulana Azad Education Foundation again you have the Girl Meritorious Scheme. I would request the Government to give this Girl Meritorious Scheme also along with the three scholarship schemes and the Maulana Azad Education Foundation be given the task of identifying 20 most backward minority districts in the country and the Government should open coaching institutes so that the results of 10th Standard and 12th Standard can be improved.

With regard to NMDFC, 10 months ago the Cabinet took a decision to restructure it. I would like to know as

to when this will be given to the consultants. Then, an amount of Rs. 10 crore has been given for the computerization of wakf records. I can understand that this is a new scheme. But I had expected that at least Rs. 100 crore would be given for the development of wakf properties. The Government should identify 25 select cities and give Rs. 4 crore each for the development of wakf properties. The reason why I am saying this is because according to Sachar Committee, the market value of wakf properties is Rs. 1.25 lakh crore and if that is invested, with 10 per cent interest return on this Rs. 1.25 lakh crore worth wakf properties, we can easily get Rs. 12,000 crore annually and this amount can be utilized for the upliftment of the Muslim community. That is why I was expecting that the Government would act on the JPC recommendations by giving a huge amount of money to the Central Wakf Council to strengthen it.

Sir, I am amazed and I can give you a glaring example that in Mumbai, the richest man in India has constructed his residential building on a *Yateem Khana*. It is sickening. I do not know how he sleeps in the night by constructing his palatial bungalow on a *Yateem Khana*, an orphanage. Why has it happened? It is because the Wakf Act, 1995 has no eviction powers.

I would like to highlight another issue about Islamic banking. Last time, in 2007, a Committee was formed under Mr. Anand Sinha – the hon. Minister was also invited to the function – and that Committee stated that the Government should amend Sections 5, 8, 9, 16 and 19 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Not only that, the present Economic Advisor to the hon. Prime Minister, who headed the Committee on Financial Sector Reforms, recommended interest-free banking. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that globally the market share of Islamic banking is 500 billion US dollars and it is growing to the tune of 10 to 15 per cent every year. This is not Muslim-centric. It will be in the interest of our nation. You require Rs. 500 crore for 10 years for the investment. Where do you get that money from? Now funds are diverted from countries like UK, France and Malaysia. After 9/11, funds are being diverted from Europe and US to South Asian countries. It is high time, India opens up and looks into it because as far as my opinion is concerned, I am of the opinion that the immediate gain would be to the tune of five per cent of the GDP in stock market if Islamic banking is allowed. Moreover, NPA is not there, interest is not there. It is investment. Many countries for fiscal deficit are issuing Sukook. I hope the Government would look into it.

Now, I come to the Haj subsidy. Let there be a debate. You are not giving Haj subsidy to Muslims, you are giving Haj subsidy of Rs. 620 crore to Air India. I am not saying this because I agree with the line of BJP. I can never agree with the line of BJP, come what may. What I am saying is that you are giving it to Air India in the garb of Haj subsidy. My suggestion to the Government is to call for open international tender. Let every airline come. Why only Air India? If you do that, the charter fare will come to 75 per cent of IATA return. With this Rs. 20 crore which you are giving, let the Haj Committee gets buildings in Mecca and Madina on a long-term lease because the biggest problem wherein the Government gets a bad name when the Hajis go to Mecca and Madina, especially, in Mecca, they are put five-six kilometres away from the holy Kaaba and after doing all the hard work you get a bad name. So, why do you not utilise this amount?

Secondly, a sum of Rs. 6 crore has been given for Haj delegation. Scrap it. It is a criminal waste, I say. Why do you want to give it? If you want to send your party people or any party people, let them go on their own fund. Transfer this amount of Rs. 6 crore to girls' scholarship scheme. The Government of India can be represented in Haj Committee, in Saudi Arabia, by the Ambassador, by the Consulate. Why spend Rs. 6 crore? For what? You might be having political orphans but for God's sake why do you want to use that fare money? Give it to those poor Muslim girls or minority girls who will be very well benefited.

Another issue is of MCDs. I am surprised that no one from the Congress Party has touched this. In fact, the Left Parties have very conveniently forgotten it. There are 90 MCDs. In Uttar Pradesh, out of 20 Uttar Pradesh districts, in six districts Rs. 69 crore have been released by this Government. Why do you not talk about this? Why do you have to be so apprehensive? Why do you have to be so shy about it? When you are doing something, claim it. Moreover, in one year's time you know what is going to happen to UP. Our Left Front friends have completely forgotten about West Bengal. In West Bengal, out of 11 districts Rs. 97 crore have been released. This is a huge amount for development of various it is, of school buildings, handpump sets, etc. I would request the Government to ensure that this scheme is expedited.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): What about Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: In Andhra Pradesh, according to the parameters set by the Consultant, Andhra Pradesh's Minority Concentration Districts are much better than all, Uttar Pradesh, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, etc. It speaks a lot about political empowerment of Muslims in Andhra Pradesh. Now, this is a question mark. It is introspection for all the political parties to ensure and to see what they have to do.

No one spoke about priority sector lending. A sum of Rs. 82,000 crore has been given in the Budget this year. The target was of 13 per cent and you have met 12.41 per cent. For 2010, it has to be 13 per cent. I would hope that the Government would look at it. But the biggest problem comes in access to credit. No one is giving access to credit. No banks are coming forward to give loans, especially, to Muslims. We have earmarked all red areas saying 'no we cannot give, these are all dens, and you know Muslims are living there.' This is the place wherein the Government's intervention is required seriously. Even on the website of various public sector banks, they do not show all these details.

Lastly, the issue of micro credit to women. Though you have attained Rs. 1789.69 crore, Rs. 15,239 crore has to be given. This also has to be improved. Next is the National Skill Development Board under Planning Commission. I once again request the Government that special focus should be made towards minority artisans. In this year's Budget, which I am supporting, the Government has given Rs. 25 crore each to open two centres of Aligarh Muslim University. The sub-committee talks about five centres, one in Katihar, Bhopal and Bangalore. They have forgotten these three centres... (*Interruptions*) In Kerala they have already given. Out of Rs. 50 crore, Kerala is there and Murshidabad is also there. What about Andhra Pradesh?

15.00 hrs.

From Andhra Pradesh, there are 33 MPs who are supporting the UPA Government, and we are not getting AMU centre. Fatimi Sub Committee talked about at least Rs. 10,000 crore being earmarked. You are only giving Rs. 25 crore for a DPR report. How will that suffice? It is high time that the Government take it into consideration. With this, I support the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad East): Deputy Speaker, Sir, budget for the year 2009-10 has been

discussed at length. I participate in this debate every time. I thought to speaking in the last so that I could avoid repeating the subjects which have already been discussed by hon. Members.

MR. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is my 7th term in Lok Sabha and I have observed during the last 20 years that my new colleagues come with a vision. Newly elected Members have been meeting us in the Central Hall for some time and they all know it. 62 years have passed since the independence of the country. What would have been the vision of Gandhiji about India. However, I do not want to quote Gandhiji, however, our Hon. Finance Minister has quoted him. Douting Gandhiji he concluded while submitting his approach paper. That dream has been shattered. The Poor are becoming poorer day by day which they rich are becoming richer. One of colleagues, who is good friend of mine, says:

[*English*]

"Allocation of fund is not the only criteria to build the nation."

[*Translation*]

However, I would like to show the reality to my new colleagues. What is the present condition of the country?

[*English*]

Ten crore people of this country cannot afford to spend more than Rs. 9 per day for their family.

[*Translation*]

There are ten crore people in the country who cannot afford to spend more than Rs. 9 per day for their family.

[*English*]

Thirty crore people of this country living in rural India cannot afford to spend more than Rs. 12 per day.

[*Translation*]

These are not my words, but it is written in the book about the poor people living in the urban areas:

[*English*]

"Thirty crore people living in urban India cannot afford to spend more than Rs. 18 per day".

[*Translation*]

This is not a first time case study. Population of the country has touched 110 crore. A day before yesterday, I was at Delhi Railway Station and was observing the data on T.V. How the population of the country is increasing day by day? There are 78 crore people in the country, who cannot afford to spend Rs. 20 per day on their families. I do not want to blame any party. I have been witnessing this for years. The question is what would be our approach.

Allocation has been raised in the approach paper but what about the economic, social and other problems of the country. I would not like to mention about the social problems but I would like to know as to when will the economic problems of our country be solved and our country will regain the status of "Soney ki Chidia". 80 crore people of our country are waiting for the Government which will provide them two square meals. They should not say that they have come for the first time. They should not give an account of these 6 years. Congress has rules for 42 years. During these 42 years, the condition of our country has been before you from the panchayat level to Parliament.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR (Nagur): Your Government also came in power but it did not bring about any change. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honorable Member may not speak out while sitting.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Please have some patience, it is a fact. I will also mention about the year 2004.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Sir, he is right. Budget provisions are not sufficient, but they have prepared a 100 day programme.

As Pathakji has said that a way to achieve something can be found if under the 100 day programme the Indian wealth stashed in Swiss Banks could be brought back to India.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I am leaving this subject as it bothers them a lot. I would like to submit that it is not in my nature to level allegations and counter allegations. Being my old colleague he must be knowing me very well. We should express the pain of our people in proper words. Wiston churchill had said that

[*English*]

"There is a difference between a politician and a statesman." The country needs not politicians but statesmen.

[*Translation*]

This country needs such a statesman who thinks about the future, about the coming 20 years and keeps the promises made by him. Are we able to fulfil the expectations of the people? You may see in regard to this budget. All of them are my friends and I have some new friends also and I respect them all.

Sir, Pranabda is older to me and have a lot of experience. I have been a public representative for the last 20 years and it is my duty to discuss before this House and put forth before the country the doubts in regard to this budget and the consequences likely to be faced during the next five years and request the Government to find out some solution.

Sir, this budget has no vision and it will increase poverty, unemployment and compel farmers to commit suicide and lead our country towards bankruptcy. I do not say such a situation will arise.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): You are stating that you had raised all these problems in the last budget also. Please make some changes in it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please speak on your turn, otherwise, it will not be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Now, I will mention some figures. You go and ask about the prices of vegetables, flour, wheat and rice in the market. You can compare the prices of potato in 2004 to its prices in 2009. You may belong to a rich family but we are not here for the rich families. Sardarji, the M.P. from Akali Dal was rightly stating that this had been started by my friend Shri Chinta Mohanji. We will have to raise the problems of those 80 crore people who are deprived of even basic minimum needs. It has not been done through the

*Not recorded.

NREGA during the last five years and the Government has failed in this regard. Please do not interrupt. You an old Member...*(Interruptions)* I am not the only person who is saying so.

[English]

I am not saying. The whole country is saying.

[Translation]

Our country will become bankrupt. The greatest economist of the IIM Ahmedabad -one of the most renowned institutions of India- Shri Ravindra Dholakia had written in the Times of India on 12th of this month.

[English]

“Disastrous Budget may lead to bankruptcy.”

[Translation]

But now if I mention it, you may feel bad. I am leaving it. There are two international rating agencies. For your information, I would like to state that I had not mentioned this last time. Today, I am stating. There are two international rating agencies. They have more knowledge of economics than me. One is the Standard and Poors Rating Agency and another is-Moody's International Rating Agency. They carry out ratings at international level. What are the views of these two agencies about the budget of India. Whether there will be inclusive development? Whether the problems will be solved?

[English]

As per standard and poor Ratings Agency and the Moody's International Ratings agency, India's Budget rating is negative.

[Translation]

This is not going to catalyse development. There are certain reasons behind that without much time I would like to draw the attention of the House on just four issues. I will not repeat anything. The matter of rising prices in the country has been discussed. The hon. Finance Minister has listed 11 issues in fifth para of the budget. During 100 days some of the issues out of those 11 issues...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: I make you understand that this is the budget of the current year. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, let Mr. Pathak speak. You may speak when its is your turn.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: This budget is for this year only and I am quoting from this budget, which is being implemented for this year.

[Translation]

This is the current year is budget and I am giving the figures of this year's budget only. Bring a joint budget for five years. Minister of state for Finance is present here. He should take advice from the hon'ble Member on how to present a consolidated budget for four years in future. This budget is for one year, hence, the house will discuss this budget only. It has been mentioned in the budget.

[English]

“Sustained growth rate of at least, nine percent. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I have just started reading. I have not completed even the first page as yet. Hence, I state that this situation has arisen, and it will lead to bankruptcy, I will just take five to seven minutes, not more than that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please don't interrupt. Hon'ble Member, you may continue and don't respond to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: This is for the first time in the last 20 years that somebody is interrupting me like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, in my last 20 years in this house, I have never been disturbed like this.

[Translation]

No one has ever interrupted me in such manner. This is the first incident in so many years. I command respect in the house. I have neither humiliated nor sued abusive language against him. I have not got such sacraments. It pains me to see that you find fault in everything. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Bahrapur): The bigger the stature of a leader, the more will he be interrupted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I am not a big figure, I am a small fry. But is it my duty to tell the truth, whether anybody likes it or not. The country will decide on that.

[English]

“Sustained growth rate of, at least, nine percent per annum over an extended period of time.”

[Translation]

How can GDP be achieved at nine percent rate? What was the rate of GDP during the last budget? So, they should not try to misguide the people of the country by presenting a populist budget. Some efforts need to be made to raise the rate of GDP from 6.7 per cent to 9 percent. Tell us how it will be done. I may take my seat for some time. Tell us what are the measures? How it will be achieved? I will not repeat this issue. An international agency states that this is a negative budget. No one is going to prevent the inflow of foreign investment. How you are supposed to achieve 9 percent growth rate?

[English]

I quote, what the F.M. says, “Fiscal consolidation process is to be put on hold.”

[Translation]

Both these things are contradictory to each other. Have you observed such a scenario in any country of the world where rate of inflation is - 1.55 and prices are still rising everyday? The entire world is surprised at this contradictory situation. You have admitted yourself that rate of inflation will be seven to eight percent. But, your figures did not prove to be correct. Rate of inflation is not at seven-eight percent.

[English]

Last week, two days ago, the inflation was minus 1.55.

[Translation]

There are 33 such food items on which the people subsist and prices of those items are increasing. In this situation who will grow? The house applauded at the mention of ten lakh. As a student I was surprised, I am not an economist. Should the increase in expenses be applauded? Increase in income is celebrated. Is right to cheer a leader when he loses the election? When he is leading in his constituency it is worthy of being cheered. There is a non-plan expenditure of seven crore rupees it means the establishment cost and the interest on loan of Rs. 2 lakh 25 thousand crore, that we have taken. There is no income yet expenditure is being incurred and more than 70 percent of the said amount is going to non plan expenditure. In the present scenario you have just followed one policy.

[English]

Strengthen the mechanism of inclusive growth for creating about 12 million new work opportunities per year.

[Translation]

Do you need the record of the last five years? Do you have patience to listen that? During the last five years they have allocated Rs. 49 thousand crores under NREGA. Times of India conducted a survey throughout the country and published a report on NREGA. About West Bengal it has been reported that

[English]

“The UPA is showcasing its rural employment scheme as the harbinger of inclusive growth. Sunday Time reporters travel across the country to find out who is on the job.”

[Translation]

I welcome whatever good steps are taken. Is the NREGA a solution to the problems of the 80 crore people? Will the people go on digging earth and making roads? The situation is getting worse. He has later written

[English]

“Reduce the proportion of people living below poverty line to less than half from current levels by 2014.”

[*Translation*]

Hon. Member has rightly said that the number of people living below the poverty line would be reduced to less than half from the present levels. According to the hon. Finance Minister, the number of people living below the poverty line is 28.4 percent *i.e.* it would be reduced to 14.4 percent. The Ministry of Rural Development had constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri N.C. Saxena to review the status of poverty in the country.

[*English*]

Sir, let me give you the recommendation and the report of this Committee. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether you are aware of this or not. What does he say in his report? The report says – 'Fifty per cent Indians are living below the poverty line.'

[*Translation*]

He is talking of 24 percent. He is misleading the 28.4 per cent and keeping in mind the 73-74 per cent. He finds himself in trouble when somebody points out something during the discussion. I am not saying, but the committee constituted by you says a lot about the existing condition of the country. The committee has stated that the 50 percent population of the country is living below the poverty line.

I would like to request him that as subsidy is given to the farmers, if the fertilizers is worth Rs. 4 lakh crore, they have to arrange the amount. Similarly, I would like to draw the attention of the House that one lakh crore is linked with the common man and the subsidy of one lakh crore we provide. They repeatedly say that they are working for the farmers. They have provided a subsidy of Rs. one lakh crore on diesel, petrol, oil, kerosene, cooking gas and fertilizer to give relief to the farmers. They have provided Rs. one lakh crore for the farmers and the common man and Rs. three lakh crore for the industries. It is never discussed that they have given a subsidy of Rs. three lakh crore for the industries. They say that they have given a lot to the farmers. This budget will create the same situation as it is in present and farmers will have to the same situation again - take loan, commit suicide, loans waived even then situations arising to commit suicide. When monsoon rain is not taking place, how can you expect four per cent growth in agriculture? How will it happen?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude after making two three points. Though I had to say a lot...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may lay your remaining speech.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I do not lay my speech.

[*English*]

I never prepare my speech, I speak spontaneously. I read a lot.

[*Translation*]

I would conclude after making one or two points.

I would like to this much only that in the budget the loan given to the farmers should be taken into account. The time limit of loan has been extended further up to 31st of December. The farmers have repaid 75 percent of loan.

[*English*]

I have come to know one thing. I have been representing Ahmedabad urban city for the last six terms. Now, fortunately in the new constituency which has been constituted, I have got two rural Assembly segments.

[*Translation*]

This is the first time that I got the opportunity to meet farmers after so many years. They say that they have repaid the loan. The Government are not making payment of the 25 per cent amount payable to banks. The Government will have to pay 25 per cent, then only farmers would get no dues certificate. We are providing all this to those who have more than two hectares of land. The number of small and marginal farmers having less than two hectares of land is more than seventy percent, they require Rs. 1.5-2 lakh as loan. I would like to submit that the Government should provide leaving aside 6-7 percent. The 80 percent marginal farmers having less than two hectares of land, should be given loan at the rate of 4 percent so that they could survive. These loans are for big farmers.

I would conclude after making a point about Gujarat. Three things have gone missing in this budget-diamond industry. The diamond industry in Gujarat made an export of Rs. 90,000 crore last time. I demand a package to save the diamond industry...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Five more members are in waiting to speak from your side, they will not get time.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude in a minute. Three industries—diamond, textile and plastic provide livelihood to thousands of people. They have not given anything to the textile and the diamond industries. The Government should ponder over it again.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hindustan Diamond Limited is one such company which procures rough diamonds and gives these diamonds to the diamond industry where these are polished. The Government should pay attention towards it. This would accrue earning to the and support the industry. The sick textile, plastic and diamond industries in Gujarat and other States could be revived.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I, once again, would like to submit that we should work in the interest of the poor and the middle class living in this country rising above the party lines...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the hon. Member will continue, it will not go on record.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I conclude with these words.

15.27 hrs.

[DR. GIRIJA VYAS *in the Chair*]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Wardha): Madam Chairman, at the very outset, I would like to welcome the hon'ble Minister of Finance who has presented the budget keeping in view the common man. Rs. 80,770 crore has been allocated to the Ministry of Rural Development for accelerating the pace of rural development. A provision of Rs. 39,100 crore has been made for 'NREGA' in this budget for the year 2009-10. The budget is mainly focused on common man.

Madam, during the last elections Dr. Manmohan Singhji and Smt. Sonia Gandhiji had said that if they come to power, they would work for the common man. They have kept this thing in mind and have fulfilled their commitment in this budget. We would also have to increase the growth rate from 6% to 9%. Our endeavour is to promote private participation. Rs. 12,887 crores have been allocated for highways, rail routes and for urban development. Rs. 3973 crores have been earmarked for the development of basic infrastructure to provide houses to urban poors. The budget has made sufficient provisions under various important heads, be it power generation, agriculture development, national security or Bharat Nirman.

Madam, just now my friend Shri Harin Pathakji was asking as to what steps have been taken for the farmers in this budget. I would like to mention that I hail from a backward area of Vidarbha where 80% of the population comprises of farmers. In five six districts of that area farmers are committing suicide every fortnight. Hon'ble Prime Minister himself had visited the Vidarbha region. He visited the houses of some farmers and talked to them. Before leaving for Delhi, he also released a package of Rs. 3170 crore for them. This package has been utilized in five six districts of Vidarbha region during the recent years which has brought down the incidents of suicide. Earlier more number of people were committing suicide. Now this number has come down, but, still the farmers are taking this extreme step. I must say the farmers have availed the benefit of this package for the last three years and now the farmers will be deprived of its benefit if this package is discontinued.

Madam, Parliament has pondered over the bight of farmers, be they from Vidarbha, Marathwada, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala or Karnataka. The loan waiver scheme for the small farmers with land holding of less than five acres has benefited the farmers in the entire country. However, the scheme has failed to provide benefit to the targeted section of poor farmers. My friend from Punjab was demanding that since their agriculture production is much higher, they should be given at least 1000 crore rupees from the package of Rs. 71 thousand crore. I would like to mention that Vidarbha region where farmers are taking the extreme step of suicide has also got a very small irrigation facilities are not available to amount. In this region the farmers having more than five acre of land holding and other small farmers hence they have not benefited much from this package. Later on this matter was regularly discussed by Shri Rahul Gandhi and us but cases of suicides could not be checked. That package has been utilized but irrigation arrangements are yet to be completed. The water has not reached the farmers there. Water can be provided in one or two years, but for that the package should be extended for three more years. The entire loan of Vidarbha farmers has not been waived off. Only the loan up to the amount of Rs. 20 thousand have been waived off. The loan taken by them from money lenders or from others have not been waived off.

Even today the farmers are in a distressed condition there. Some districts were facing drought, only after the recent rains farmers have sowed the seeds. But the condition o the farmers is deteriorating in some districts. *I do not mind others getting a good share. The share*

has also been allocated to the areas like Nasik and some western districts where incidents of suicides have not taken place. But the issue still exists in the affected areas. Therefore, I would request the Government to waive off the entire loan of farmers at least in five districts of Vidarbha region. And the package scheme should be extended to us for another Government which has waived off the farmers' loan upto Rs. 71 thousand crore. No loan waiver was given during your tenures in the Government. Small farmers are happy as their loan up to Rs. 20 thousand has been waived off. The farmers having less than five acres of land holding in Vidarbha region have benefited this time, later on the farmers all over the country would get this benefit...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: You are not aware that incidents of suicide have started recurring there.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: That is what I was stating that out of the package of Rs. 71 thousand crores, the share was given to those also who were not in need. I feel more funds are required to be spent in the districts where the issue still exist. No earlier Government took the steps which have been taken by the present Government. The funds under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana are allocated directly to the districts. My district Vardha is a small district, still last year it got Rs. 125 crore for construction of rural rads. Funds were also allocated for providing drinking water facilities. Earlier central funds were never directly allocated to the district administration, but now funds are being allocated directly under rural schemes. Though there may be some irregularities in their implementation, yet the funds are being allocated directly to the districts, be it for construction of roads, for drinking water, education, Arogya or any other schemes. Funds are being spent on a large scale. This task is being done through budgetary allocation in accordance with the policy of Dr. Manmohan Singhji. We saw in Maharashtra that...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Meghe Saheb, wind up now. 30 more Members, are yet to speak.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: I referred to this issue as the Government has done something in this regard. Our Chief Minister also apprised all prominent leaders of all the about this parties, be it from Shivesena, BJP or NCP. All of them wanted increase in allocation of funds in this regard. In this regard I would like to urge the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Minister of Finance is listening.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: I am saying that in view of the suicides, our Prime Minister went to the villages, even Rahul ji, Sonia Gandhiji also visited those affected villages, but people are still committing suicide. Not much, if the Government provides a package of Rs. 2-3 thousand crore for these areas, and provides some more facilities then I feel they will get adequate relief.

I have been doing good job in the field of education for the last 20-25 years. However, in balance is growing in the field of educations. The affluent are studying, whereas, the children of the poor are not getting the benefits of good education. Therefore, today everyone talks of education, especially higher education. Now, neither the central Government, nor the state Government wants, to open either engineering colleges or medical colleges. The Government wants the private sector to do it. Private parties opened several colleges. Though the students benefit from such colleges but poor men's children can't afford studying there. In Maharashtra, students belonging to SC category study free there and those belonging to OBCs avail 50 per cent concession. My submission is that the Central Government should bear the expenditure of children of poor families as they can't afford paying fees of the private colleges. The hon. Member was telling about minorities. It will be very good if minorities too have access to higher education. It is the responsibility of the Government. If the Government does not open new colleges then it should bear the expenditure on education of the children of the poor by way of scholarship etc., otherwise they will remain deprived of higher education. I myself run educational institutions. I feel greatly pained to see how a poor man can afford to pay such high fees. The Supreme Court has said that fee should commensurate with the cost of education, but poor families can't even pay that much. I feel that the colleges are meant only for those who can afford paying high fees. The Government itself should do something in this regard. My submission is that the Government should pay the fees of poor students so that they could also become doctors or engineers or go to foreign countries. There are several such issues.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. If you speak for more time, you eat into other's time.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Madam, even today there is drought in Vidarbha, there are problems galore...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have spoken on Vidarbha.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Madam, there is unemployment in Vidarbha...*(Interruptions)* Maharashtra is quite a big state. It has some famous people, big leaders but Vidarbha is a backward area. People are suffering from malnutrition here. Small Children in Meghat district die of malnutrition. Godhchiroli district is Naxalite affected. Even today people live in jungles in this district and consume Tari. It has a large number of naxalites. We talk of the poor, but until and unless we make a special provision for them, we can't provide them relief.

Madam, all my colleagues made good speeches. I was listening to each quite attentively, but no constructive proposal was made by any Member. My submission is that something concrete should be done. If the Government provides a package to the tune of Rs. 200 or 500 crore, they will feel that they are also citizens of our country. There is no educational facility for them. They live in forests. What facility will they get while living in small groups of 10,20,50 or 100? They should be allotted land so that they could live together in groups of 200, 500 or 1000 people.

They should be given education and food, villages should be formed with their groups and they should get basic facilities.

This is poor man's budget but it is the Government's job to think about the poorest of the poor. All our party leaders including Soniaji, Rahulji and Manmohan Singhji should speak in the Parliament for the poorest of the poor. There are poor people in our country, our country itself is poor. All of us have made progress in last so many years and then we have reached here. When Rajiv Gandhiji was alive, people used to say what will change with telephone and television? Our Comrades were saying that when there is nothing to eat then what is the use of television? Today people in all the villages watch television. They know everything. As far as mobile is concerned, our country is making immense progress in the field of science. There should be some package for those people who have not got anything so far. There are very few such districts like Garhchiroli, Meghat and Vidarbha. When we talk to people over there then we feel bad that so far we have not given them anything in the last so many years.

I have said a lot of things about Vidarbha. I would like to urge the hon'ble Finance Minister to allocate Rupees two to three thousand crores for the upliftment of the people over there out of the special package given by him. There is a lot of unemployment over there.

Very little efforts have been made in our area to solve unemployment. I welcome all that has been done by the Government for the rural people and rural department.

[English]

*DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI (Ahmedabad West): On outset, Madam I am very thankful for providing me an opportunity to express my views on General Budget. I am also extremely thankful for my party and leadership.

Madam, I would like to share my views that this Government has missed an opportunity to take long sited concrete decisions to uplift the economy.

India is fortunate to have extensive youth power. Our country has largest number of youth in the world. Yuva Shakti shall be encouraged to strengthen and rebuild powerful India. But unfortunately this Budget doesn't contain any measure to encourage youth.

No definite infrastructural measures are taken to improve agricultural economy. The benefit of 4% excise duty is withdrawn on man made yarn fibre. This will lead to increase of Rs. 2 to 4 per kg in the cost of this material.

Though, it was planned to upgrade technology in the field of textile. But due to inadequate allocation of fund, there is disappointment in textile industry. This budget is not development oriented. When fiscal deficit is 6.8%, the expectation of 6.77% growth seems to be unachievable and over expectation on the part of the Government.

Corporate world is disappointed due to 5% increase in MAT. Budget is negative in terms of Direct and Indirect taxes. No definite encouragement is given for corporate tax payers.

This Budget was expected to over come, global recession, but unfortunately, no concrete measures have been taken. As far as Gujarat State is concerned, it is one of the fastest growing states. In the budget, Gujarat state is again ignored. One of the biggest and ambitious projects of Sardar Sarovar Narmada Project, wherein four states are involved is again not recognized as, National programme. I wonder that, why Government is not declaring Narmada Yojana as 'Rashtriya Yojana'?

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

Probably it is one of the biggest Yojana where extensive irrigation of lands and huge production of electricity are the prime goal. Madam, I appeal the Government to declare Narmada Yojana as Rashtriya Yojana. Government should take necessary steps to held Diamond Industry in Gujarat.

I would like to say something for disabled, both physically and mentally. To be more precise, children with "Cerebral Palsy" are in miserable condition. Positions of their parents and family members also require attention. I appeal Government to assess them and some concrete measures should be taken to support them. It is our social responsibility.

Aligarh Muslim University, Universities in Murshidabad (West Bengal) and Mallapur (Kerala) grant worth Rs. 25 crores each is allocated while there is no provision for Banaras Hindu University, one of the oldest Ayurvedic University in Gujarat and Somanath Sanskrit University. Rs. 1740 crores are allotted for minority, which is 74% increase as compared to Rs. 1000 crores last year. Moreover Rs. 994 crores are allotted for Maulana Azad Institute, National Minority Development and Financial Corporation and pre and post matric scholarships for minorities. While no major provisions are made for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and Dalits. It is our social responsibilities to uplift SC/ST. In each Budget adequate funding should be allotted for them.

In last few years, public sector industries has gone in hands of private sector. Here employee of private sectors are exploited and their rights are undermined.

I propose to set up a system to protect the rights of employee in private sector.

*SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad): At the very outset, I would like to say that the Budget 2009-10 presented by Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Pranab Ji, though sounds pro-development and capable of resisting the global economic slowdown has inherent incapacities of implementation.

The Finance Minister has very resoundingly said on the day of Budget for the first time in the history of Independent India the total expenditure has crossed Rs. 10 Lakhs Crores figure. Yes certainly the figure is very big but look at the rate of ever-highest fiscal deficit *i.e.* 6.8%. Nearly a short fall of a huge and whopping Rs. 4.00 Lakhs Crores. There are no clear hints forth

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

coming from Finance Minister about the source of borrowing to balance this deficit. After the budget there were apprehensions coming from various sections that the money will be extracted from Banks.

If this is done banks in the country will be left with no money for funding the private sector. We should also be aware of fact that why did the budget cause the senserx to crash by over 1000 points and cause global agencies to say that if nothing is seriously done its bonds would be downgraded.

The Finance Minister has said the spending spree is a stimulus to bring the slowing down economy back on track and to achieve targeted 9% growth of GDP. The excess of Government spending over revenue from 6.8% of GDP this year to 5.5% next year and 4% the year after *i.e.*, 2011-12 to meet this budgetary gap Finance Minister proposed to borrow from market this year four times the borrowings proposed in the last budget. There are reports that even the Finance Secretary has proposed the R.B.I. to print money to fund half of Rs. 4.00 Lakhs Crores. I don't know whether it is a fact only Finance Minister has to clarify. But if it is true nothing can be more disastrous than this as it leads to further deficit *i.e.*, deficit in the deficit and hence cannot be a good economics. There are already apprehensions expressed that such a big borrowing by the Government, to widen its deficit may dry up resources for private sector, which has already found its effect in the immediate fall in the Sensex on the budget day.

I would also like to draw attention of the Finance Minister to the fact that in the last two years the Government Tax Revenue has risen to 35000 crores but spending has gone up by Rs. 3.00 lakhs crores spending almost nine times as much as the nation's income. It is heavy over spending from any yardstick.

I also warn Finance Minister that this process of spending spree all the time cannot be a stimulus package as said by you Pranab ji, because this does not look like a temporary surge that can be reversed in the next two years or at any time to say so. Ever rising outlays on social schemes like NAREGA, and now the food security etc., will get institutionalized and make it irreversible. This looks like a big gamble Hon'ble Pranab ji, which may push the country into a big debt trap and you an elaborate explanation on this. The erratic monsoon which is most likely and its resultant drought also be kept in mind. Which enavitabalises heavy spending.

Agriculture and its revival: Secondly, I will come to agriculture. In Para 27 of your budget speech it is admittedly about over 60% of our population is engaged in agriculture and deriving its sustenance. It is said with the substantial increase in the allocations in outlay and as well as increase in credit flow of Rs. 325000 crores from 287000 crores of 2008-09 budget and 4% amount growth will be possible.

I have been repeatedly saying during the past 4 years, that our Agriculture today is on cross roads. Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) has already warned after a detail study and Indian farmer is rethinking on continuing this profession for its non-profitability. A mere Rs. 10600 Crores is the allocation, which is less than 1% of the total expenditure nothing revolutionary can be achieved by this. Moreover there is nothing in the Budget which focuses on the Government's resolve to lift this sector from its collapse. No mention about the streamlining the Crop Insurance Scheme excepting that Finance Minister has washed his hands by allocating some funds routinely to the scheme. There is no mention about any commitment to a constructive package by which the Indian farmer will be made to stand on his legs without looking to any intermediaries for survival. Agriculture's contribution is about 16% to 17% of GDP and the expenditure on it is just less than 1%. Finance Minister owes an explanation on this.

The Finance Minister mentioned about a low interest special short term Crop Loan Package i.e., at 7% interest up to limit of Rs. 3.00 lakhs. There is nothing big in it. I like to draw the attention of Finance Minister to a crop loan scheme introduced by the Chief Minister of Karnataka Mr. Yediyurappa at the rate of a nominal 3% interest. I urge this Government, to adopt this scheme if it is really interested in the overall welfare of farmers.

Regarding constitution of 'Task Force' to go into the issue of large number of farmers in Maharashtra indebted to private moneylenders. I urge this Government, to extent the working of this task force to Karnataka also and other States why Maharashtra alone.

Development of Infrastructure: Hubli – Dharwad to be included in JNNURM: It is really good that this Government, is gradually realizing the importance of growth in the infrastructure and spending huge funds involving in it which Finance Minister calls as special status for slowdown. For NHAI, JNNURM and Bharat

Nirman put together about Rs. 45000 Crores is proposed to be spent. In addition to this refinancing to the tune of Rs. 1.00 lakhs crores by IIFCL for all infrastructure projects is also mentioned.

In the meantime the Surface Transport Minister Mr. Kamalnath, has also spoken much about spending more than 1 lakh crore for highways and committed himself in constructing 20 Kms., road per day. It sounds very interesting but he is not much open about from where he is bringing money. At least it needs clarification from Finance Minister.

I take this opportunity to include Hubli – Dharwad the second largest city to include in JNNURM under the less than 10 lakhs populated city category.

Rs. 10800 Crores of Railways: In para 21 of the budget speech there is mention about Rs. 10800 allocation for development of Railways. I take this opportunity to urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister to clear the clouds of doubts that have been surfaced with the statement of Rail Minister Mamata ji, contradicting Laluji's much sounded story of a huge profit of Rs. 90000 crores for Railways. Who is right whether Mamata ji or Lalu ji, the nation wants to know the real truth.

Price rise and confusing rates of inflation: In para 10 of his budget speech hon'ble Finance Minister has admitted the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) had reached 13% in August – 2009 and now there is sharp fall to 0% in March-2009. I would like to know from the Finance Minister when the WPI has reached 0% and there is a negative inflation why the prices of essential commodities like food grains, edible oil and other manufactured items are still sky high. I would also like to know from the Finance Minister as a layman why there is divergence measured by WPI & CPIS. Even the Economic Survey has not come out with clear picture and drawn any conclusion on this.

Disinvestment Process: Much was speculated about the Government's stand on PSUs and their disinvestments process. In Para 37 there is a clear indication by Finance Minister that PSUs like Banks and Insurance will remain in the public sector and will be given all support. Does it mean others are on the agenda of disinvestments?

National Investment Fund: Though there is no clear-cut mention about scraping of NIF in the budget but enough indication can be gathered from reports in the

section of press that Government, is also thinking to scarp this fund to make the way for proceeding towards disinvestments of PSUs and using it for social spending and counter the fiscal deficit. I urge upon Finance Minister to make the position clear otherwise we in the House need to depend on speculative press reports only even during the House in session.

Delivery mechanism: Lastly I would like to touch upon Para 9 of Budget speech of Finance Minister, I am very happy that at last the Government, opened its eyes to such important issue of delivery mechanism.

The Finance Minister has made up his mind towards improving the re-energising delivery mechanism which everybody will agree for qualitative and qualitative implementation of various social flagship schemes of Government.

I believe much is said and reported in the media about partial success of NAREGA due to poor delivery mechanism of various Government, agencies that are ahead in its implementation.

The Act guarantees at least 100 days of employment as unskilled labour to at least one adult member of any rural household that registers for employment under it. Finance Minister, Pranab Mukherjee has promised in his budget speech that the real wage rate paid under NREGA Rs. 100 per day. Put those two things together and what it amounts to is that if the Act is perfectly implemented, any rural household availing of the scheme should be able to earn at least Rs. 10,000 a year from it.

But how much of this potential has actually been realized? Data for the three years during which NREGA has been in operation, 2006-07 and 2007-08 and 2008-09 shows that on average only 50% of the households that registered under the scheme actually got employment. Further, the average number of days each household not employment was only 50 against the promised 100. In short, at best a quarter of what was promised has been delivered. It's a beginning but a long way from meeting the objective.

What's more, the all-India figures do not reveal the true picture. The reality is that there is a wide variation of performance across States. In terms of the percentage of registered households provide work, Maharashtra has averaged an abysmal 13% over the three years while Rajasthan at the other end of the spectrum has averaged 73%.

In view of this I urge upon this Government, to first order for a through enquiry in to the functioning of this Scheme.

I am happy to see in Para 69 the Finance Minister has increased allocation for higher education Rs. 450 crore for new I.I.Ts. I take this opportunity to urge Finance Minister to set up new I.I.Ts. in Hubli-Dharwad as per recommendation of U.R. Rao Committee.

I also urge upon Finance Minister to provide funds for establishing Cold Storages to protect agri produce in Dharwad District which is a long pending demand of people of this region.

The New Textile Clusters: I also urge upon new textile cluster to my Karnataka State which has high potential for textile industries.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): This is not a budget of the common man. This budget is directed towards benefiting certain specific clases. There are certain targets set by the Hon'ble Minister of Finance in his budget speech, which are impossible to achieve. It is extremely difficult to arrange resources to meet these targets.

As the population of our country is increasing, our foodgrain production is reducing and the agricultural land for growing food grains is shrinking. The allocation made in the budget for agriculture is insufficient and the Government is aiming to achieve 4 percent agricultural growth rate on the mere basis of low interest loans. How will they achieve if. The allocation made by the Government is one percent of all the expenditures sanctioned and under this situation it is actually a very big task to achieve four percent growth rate. On the other hand budget allocation for seeds, water, pesticides and other inputs has been reduced. No attention has been paid towards allied activities like dairy farming animal husbandary pisci culture and horticulture etc., which are associated with agriculture. The production of pulses, oil seeds, sugarcane and other cash crops is also decreasing year after year. If this situation continues then we may well have to import sugar. Agricultural and is reducing and demand for food grains is increasing. A little increase has been made in the allocation under the basic agricultural need *i.e.*, under irrigation head, but this amount is too little in comparison to the demand and is proving to be a drop in the ocean. 60 percent area under

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

agricultural land is not irrigated and only monsoon based crops are grown in that area. Even in the irrigated areas irrigation-projects are getting stalled due to shortage of water. In the budget, the Government has not made any announcement to link the rivers. Water is the most important input required to improve agriculture in the country. What will they do for water, and if this attitude continues for agriculture then the growth rate might get reduced to one or one and a half percent. If foodgrain production gets reduced then it will lead to increase in starvation. With deep regret I would like to say that out of 100 crore starved people throughout the world, 25 crore people belong to India. No arrangements have been made for the farmers in this budget. Farmers do not get remunerative prices for their produce. Today 70 to 75 percent farmers in the country are dependent upon agriculture. 70 percent of our population is living in villages and the economic system of our country is largely dependent upon agriculture. Standing Committee on Agriculture and Farmer's Commission had recommended disbursement of loan at 4 percent rate of interest but the same was not implemented. Today the entire country and specially the Northern India is reeling under severe drought condition. I believe the Government is soon going to bring a contingency plan in this House to deal with the ongoing drought condition, the situation is worse in Rajasthan.

What to talk of water for irrigation, acute shortage of drinking water has arisen. There is a severe water crisis.

With much pain, I am saying that the hon. Finance Minister has not taken into account the severe drought in the country and its effect on the prices of essential commodities particularly foodgrains. No provision been made in the budget to check price rise.

Nothing has been given to Rajasthan in the budget of 2009-10. People of Rajasthan are deeply disappointed after hearing the budget speech. The Hon. Finance Minister has tried to placate the people of Rajasthan by only providing a powerloom mega cluster to it. Rajasthan has not received anything in the central budget except its share of contribution in other central schemes. Rajasthan has returned almost empty handed in this budget even after having won 20 seats for the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections. Rajasthan did not get the benefit of having the Congress Party's Government both at the centre and the state. Even reflection of the influence of the Union Rural Development Minister C.P. Joshi was not visible in this budget. Rajasthan is a backward state and the Government is not giving special package to it, which means the intention of the Government is not

bonafide. It has tried to stop the development schemes of the state. Why the Government does not want to do justice to Rajasthan? There is a severe crisis of water for drinking and irrigation in the state. There is water emergency like situation in Rajasthan. What to speak of granting the status of a special state to Rajasthan on water, even mention of water has not been made in the budget and grant of any additional relief has also not been considered. Instead of getting something from the centre Rajasthan has incurred a loss of Rs. 384.25 crore in the budget estimates in comparison to the interim budget due to lesser recovery of central taxes.

No mention has been made in the Budget of the Indira Gandhi Canal project, of providing water from Narmada project to other districts and about the second phase of the Aapni scheme implemented in collaboration with Germany. There is severe drinking water crisis in Ratangarh and Sujangarh area under Churu district the solution whereof lies in this scheme only. No mention of Refinery has been made in the budget. Setting up of IIM in the state, Jaipur Metro Rail Project, relief measures for handicraft sector, scheme to fight expansion of desert, setting up of power station in Banswada, expansion of national highway in the state and scheme for development of tourism etc. find no mention in the Budget.

Indira Gandhi canal project should have been completed long back but it has not been completed so far due to meagre financial provision and non-release of water by Punjab. Punjab is not releasing the remaining share of 060MAF of water to Rajasthan as per the agreement. Same situation exists in case of Sidhmukh-Nohar feeder canal where 017 MAF water is not being released. Rajasthan is not being given representation in BBMB for which the Government of Rajasthan has made claims time and again but of no avail.

The hon. finance Minister has promised to provide actual wage of Rs. 100 per day to the workers under NREGA. The previous Government in Rajasthan had fixed the wage of Rs. 100 per day under NREGA. But, in fact, wages for less than Rs. 100 per day are being paid today. Labourers are exploited in the name of work. Provision should be made to ensure that at least wage of Rs. 100 should be paid under it. The Government as given indications conducting some new experiments in the budget proposals with a view to regularise works under NREGA. For this, NREGA will be linked with the schemes related to agriculture, forestry, water resources, land resources and rural roads to increase productivity and resources. It is proposed to be implemented in 115

districts first. I would like to urge the hon. Finance Minister that districts Churu and Hanumangarh under my parliamentary constituency which are always affected by famine should be included under it. Rural people have no source of income. The roads being constructed under NREGA should be made of tar so that the money spent on it is utilized properly.

The steps taken in the education sector by the Government are insufficient. There is a need of employing at least two lakh new teachers while about 72000 posts are vacant at the secondary education level. The Government has launched the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan and wants to open 6000 model schools at Block level under it. But, budgetary provision is very little for it and it should be increased.

The efforts made for solving the electricity crisis are also insufficient. There is no concrete provision in the budget to solve this problem. The General Budget for 2009-10 has been disappointing for the power sector.

Legal services have also been brought under the service tax regime. It has made lawyers very unhappy and it should be rolled back.

The BPL list should be reviewed and the number of people coming under it should increase. No justice has been done to the urban poor as well.

*SHRI G.M SIDDESHWARA (Davangere): General budget for the year 2009-10 is a vision-less and disappointing budget. It has nothing new for the country which has suffered a lot due to economic slowdown. The Hon. Finance Minister has not introduced any economic reform or strategies for the progress of the country. Our economy is badly hit due to the rising price of essential commodities and increasing unemployment. The Finance Minister failed to meet the challenge of economic recession.

Garment industry provides large number of employment. It was badly hit by the global slowdown. But in the budget the Finance Minister has not introduced any steps to retrieve the garment industry. In the budget the Finance Minister promised for creation of 1.20 crore jobs. But it was not clarified how he would achieve this target. As a whole this budget has no novelty.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada and also laid on the Table.

As far as Karnataka is concerned this budget is very much disappointing and discouraging. We made a few requests like allocation Rs. 8000 crore for development of infrastructure in Bangalore city and reimbursement of Rs. 1880 crore against Rs. 2,380 crore loan waiver scheme introduced by the Government of Karnataka during the year 2007. But the Government of India has not paid any attention to it.

In Karnataka 84 talukas were badly hit by severe drought and heavy flood. We have requested Rs. 2019 crore for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people. The government of India turned its deaf ear towards our repeated requests. But it has allocated special grants to Maharashtra and West Bengal for flood and cyclone. It is a clear evidence of step motherly attitude of the union Government towards Karnataka. 18 general budgets have been presented since 1991. Among them 14 budgets triggered fall in the stock market. The current budget presented by Shri Pranab Mukherjee ji is not an exception to that. Industrial sector was expecting some tax relief and special incentives from the budget, but this sector is very much disappointed as the budget has nothing for them.

The Hon. Finance Minister said that he was committed for the welfare of poor but relief measures he has announced for farmers would benefit them very little. He has increased the allocation for agriculture upto Rs. 3.25 lakh crore, but in my opinion it is a meagre amount as 70 percent of our people are still dependent on agriculture. It is a matter of serious concern that the budget has not earmarked any fund to ensure remunerative prices for agriculture produce. The Government of Karnataka has been providing farm loan at the interest rate of Rs. 3 per annum, we expected the same from the centre, but our hope is shattered.

Under the new scheme of 'Adarsh Garm' the Government propose to give 10 lakh rupees each for the 1000 identified villages. It is very inadequate. The Government of Karnataka introduced 'Suvarna Garm' scheme under which one crore rupees are being given to each village. That is why union Government should also consider to increase the fund to one crore rupees.

The Hon. Finance Minister tried to focus on 'Aam Admi' in his budget but he failed to save common man from the spiralling prices of essential commodities. Common people are living in pitiable condition. The Government has failed to control the prices of petrol, diesel and to find ways to tackle power problems.

Only a few programmes like providing rice at Rs. 3 per Kg, increase in the allocation of NREGA, Bharat Nirman, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan are good. Apart from these the budget is disappointing and discouraging.

*SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN (Sabarkantha): I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the budget. The General budget for the year 2009-10 presented before the House by the hon. Finance Minister falls short of the expectations of the people of the country and will be ineffective in dealing with the economic slump in the country. It is said that whims are sweeter than reality. The Finance Minister's vision is beautiful but not real. Paper flowers may be beautiful to behold but have no fragrance. This budget has neither direction nor vision. It negates the hopes and aspirations of the people. Hon. Speaker, our country consists of small villages and 78 per cent of the people of this country are dependent on agriculture. The farmer toils in his field to grow food for us. He starves his children to feed us. This is the pitiable condition of the farmer today. I would like to quote here four lines of the Gujarati poet Karan Das Manik:

“Kamdhenu panti na ek suku tankalu,
Ne leela chham khetrao aakhala chari jaye chhe.
Chhe garibo na kuan ma tel teepu dohalyu,
Ne Shrimantoni kabar par geena diva thayechhe.
Devadiye dand paame chor muthi jaarna,
Ne lakhe lootnara mahphile mandayechhe.
Ej samajha tu nathi ke keyam aauth thayechhe.”

Madam, the farmers are called the nurturers of the world. But the Finance Minister has failed to take into account the problems being faced by the hardworking farmers. What have the farmers got out of this budget? They have got nothing. Under this Government the dishonest people who employ illegal means to have their way enjoy themselves whereas the honest people have to endure untold hardships. The Government has waived the loans of those who have not repaid loans of Banks amounting to lakhs of rupees during the last four to five years. However, the farmers who made timely repayments of loans to banks have been given a mere one percent concession in the rate of interest. Is it justified? I demand that the Government should formulate a scheme to waive the interest on loan taken by the honest farmers for five years as an incentive to them. Madam, the farmers of my constituency, Sabarkantha, are very hardworking. They are honest and sincere. But

they are very poor owing to inadequate irrigation facilities, small land holdings and scanty rains. These farmers are honest despite being poor. They make timely repayment of bank loans. Interest on loan should be waived for a period of five years in the case of all such farmers. This is my demand.

Now I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister and the House towards the fact that the Minister has made a provision of a substantial amount of fund for the housing scheme but BPL criteria fixed for it is not justifiable. There are many poor people in villages who are not on the BPL List and due to the criteria laid down in the budget they would be deprived of the benefits of this scheme. I suggest that just as all the poor people are entitled for employment under NREGA without any condition, similarly all the poor people should get a roof over their heads. I demand that the BPL criteria should be lifted for allotment of houses under the housing scheme. The UPA Government considers itself to be a messiah of the poor. But it works for the benefit of the rich. This budget has made clothes more expensive and cars cheaper. The wealthy are getting the cream while the I poor do not even have bread. I call for fulfilment of all my demands.

[English]

SHRI SOMEN MITRA (Diamond Harbour): Madam Chairperson, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate on the General Budget 2009-10. Since it is my maiden speech in this august House, I will not take much time of the House. I just only touch upon some of the important areas.

People from all sections of the society every year look forward to the presentation of the General Budget to see how the Budget would help them to solve their problems and manage their financial affairs. Big corporate houses, industrial houses also hope for some concession or relief from every budget.

This General Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister, the first one of UPA-II Government, has addressed the basic issues involving our country. This is an inclusive development focused budget, which ensures continuity of policy and resolves to fight the global slowdown. This budget will contribute to infrastructure development across the country. Impetus to help the rural and farm sector will generate demand for the manufacturing sector and will lead us back to nine per cent growth target. The budget, which is a

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

spending budget, will help the country re-emerge and swiftly move back to the growth path. The emphasis on infrastructure development through PPPs is a welcome move. The Finance Minister has proposed substantial investment in the power, oil and gas sectors through the Assam Gas Cracker Project (APDRP), National Gas Grid, which is a positive step towards meeting the energy needs of the country. Another commendable initiative is the focus on improving healthcare mechanism for the masses by increasing the planned outlay for both the National Rural Health Mission and the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna.

Abolishing the FBT gets a big signal. The hon. Finance Minister has announced that the scope of provisions relating to weighted deduction of 150 per cent on expenditure incurred on in-house R&D to all manufacturing businesses being extended. This move will definitely provide a much-needed impetus to corporate innovation aimed at meeting the evolving customer demands. At the same time, it is disappointing to note that corporate tax rates have remained unchanged. A reduction of rates in this area is also necessary.

In my opinion, hon. Finance Minister realized the present economic condition of the country including the vibrant scenario in agriculture sector. It is a matter of satisfaction that the target for agricultural credit flow for the year 2009-10 is being set at Rs. 3,25,000 crore which is Rs. 38,000 crore more than 2008-09. The interest rate of the farmers who repay their short-term crop loans on schedule will come down to six per cent per annum which will decrease the financial burden on these farmers. The hon. Minister has proposed to set up a Task Force to examine the matter of farmers of Maharashtra who had taken loans from private money-lenders and the loan waiver scheme did not cover them. I would like to request the hon. Minister to examine the case of similarly situated farmers of other parts of the country including my State, West Bengal. I also thank the hon. Minister for extending the period up to 31st December, 2009 for paying the overdues by the farmers under Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme 2008.

Hon. Finance Minister in his Budget has made commitment to provide basic amenities and opportunities for livelihood to vulnerable sections (*aam aadmi*), and empowering the weaker sections, women and children

by various programmes and schemes namely NREGS, NFSA, Bharat Nirman, PMAGY, IAY, SGS, Women's Self Help Groups, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Female Literacy, ICDS, etc.

Various welfare schemes for weaker sections, minorities, workers in unorganized sectors have been proposed and the plan outlay has been increased; sufficient funds have also been allocated to implement these schemes properly.

I am not going into the facts and figures since my colleagues have already mentioned the same in this august House. I would request the Government through you, Madam, for proper and expeditious implementation of these schemes with a vigil monitoring to check the pilferage of allocated funds at the various levels of implementation.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your time is over! Five minutes are there for your Party and you have three Members!

SHRI SOMEN MITRA: I will conclude in two minutes.

Hon. Finance Minister has proposed to increase the personal income tax exemption limit by Rs. 15,000 from Rs. 2.25 lakh to Rs. 2.4 lakh for senior citizens, by Rs. 10,000 from Rs. 1.8 lakh to Rs. 1.9 lakh for women tax-payers and by Rs. 10,000 from Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 1.6 lakh for all other categories of individual tax-payers and also proposed to increase the deduction under section 80DD in respect of maintenance, including medical treatment of a dependent who is a person with severe disability to Rs. 1 lakh from the present limit of Rs. 75,000.

By this exemption, people will get some relief, but keeping in mind the exorbitant price hike high due to which people have to spend more money for their day-to-day survival, the exemption limit should be increased. I would also like to mention here that agriculture is the backbone of India; so, the income from agriculture is fully exempt from income tax; women are given special basic exemption limits in income tax for the last few years towards the commitment of women empowerment.

The peace of the country is also important for development and growth. Our military soldiers are there on the border to sacrifice their lives for peace.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can lay the paper on the Table of the House. Otherwise also, you are reading out.

SHRI SOMEN MITRA: In two minutes, I would conclude.

To give full weightage and respect to the courage of our soldiers, their salary income should also be fully exempted from income tax or at least some special exemptions should be given to them.

For IP and BPO industries also, this Budget is very positive since it addresses almost all the concerns. Exemptions under STPI scheme has been extended till 31st March 2011. Tax anomalies for SEZ units have been removed. This Budget will also help the Indian IT and BPO industry to remain in global scene.

This Budget likes to continue providing relief to export-hit sectors and also provides for tax and other benefits to other sectors such as oil and gas, autos, gems and jewellery, the benefits on account of these will boost these sectors. But the Budget does not adequately address the issue of subsidies in fertilizer and petroleum sectors.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SOMEN MITRA: Just a minute.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can lay your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI SOMEN MITRA: I will do it. I will conclude in one minute.

The Government has proposed to set up an expert panel to look at the petroleum pricing mechanism and has also laid out a direction for future fertilizer policy, but no time limit for implementation of these initiatives has been fixed which could potentially impact short-term liquidity for entities in these sectors. I would like to request the hon. Minister through you, to look into this.

Lastly, I would like to remind that every Budget has two sides – income and expenditure. As far as possible, this Budget has reached some sort of a harmonious balance between the two sides.

But fiscal deficit, though alarming, cannot be overlooked in the long run. While the Finance Minister remains growth focused and aims to regain the 9 per cent growth rates for the economy, the high fiscal deficit estimate of 6.8 per cent, is an area of huge concern. I am confident that our hon. Finance Minister with his acumen will chalk out some remedial measures to bridge the gap....*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, Sir. I now call Shri Bansa Gopal Chowdhury.

SHRI SOMEN MITRA: Madam, I would like to suggest the following to overcome the deficit. The Government should prevent dumping of substandard products by China and other countries. The Government should raise income tax on higher income groups to reduce fiscal deficit and should initiate legislative and other action to bring the black money hoarded by Indians in tax haven countries.

With these words, I support the Budget, and I also lay my rest of the speech on the Table of the House.

Wasteful Government expenditure is to cut down and the Government should undertake some austerity measures for itself. To raise excise duty on cigarettes, cigars, pan parag, tobacco product, wine which will result in higher indirect tax revenue and will also reduce smoking habit at least among the middle and lower class people and their medical expenses; to raise the export duty on raw materials like Iron ore, plastic and cotton, make available enough raw materials to the indigenous industry; to prevent dumping of substandard products by China and other countries; to raise Income Tax on higher income groups to reduce fiscal deficit; to initiate legislative and other action to bring the black money hoarded by Indians in tax haven countries.

SHRI BANSA GOPAL CHOWDHURY (ASANSOL): Madam Chairperson, hon. Finance Minister has presented this Budget after the new Government has assumed Office. As you know, our hon. Finance Minister has a vast experience in the field of Parliament as also in the Ministry. Before I go into the details regarding the Budget, I do not want to personally be a critic against the Finance Minister but I would just speak about the contradictions of the Budget.

The Budget is full of contradictions and the hon. Finance Minister has presented this contradictory Budget as per the policy of the UPA Government. On the one side, the hon. Finance Minister has called this as an '*Aam admi*' Budget. I would say that firstly it should be determined whether it is an *aam admi* Budget or a Budget of a *khas admi* of the UPA Government. Whose interest is being protected by this Budget? The Minister has clarified a lot of things in his Budget speech but I would simply like to quote an observer of Indian economy. Some expert of the Indian economy, along with Shri Kohli, Dhilon and others, told that the present

situation of the Indian economy is being attacked both ways. On the one side the attack is coming from the multinational corporations from outside the country and on the other, the attack is coming from some of the privilege class whose interest the Government is trying to protect.

One may find from the Budget that the Government has spared Rs. 4.18 crore for the rich people. They will never invest this amount for the development of the country or for the development of the industry. This is the contradiction because it has come through liberalization, through new liberal economic policy of the Government of India. It is not a new thing. When Shrimati Indira Gandhi came to power in 1980, she started a joint collaboration of the Indian economics with the big business houses. There is the Planning Commission and some planning is going on. You may find that in the Budget there is no firm allocation made for the social sector, primary education, ICDS project or the rural health programme. The allocation made in these fields is minimum. In the last Session we discussed a lot about the unorganized workers. The allocation made to the unorganized workers is minimum. What is the policy of the Government with regard to the unorganized workers is not explicitly written either in the Budget or in any Paper.

There are contradictions in the Economic Review and the Budget. You may be aware that after his placing the Budget here, two-three Union Ministers have given statements in the newspapers and not in Parliament which is very much irregular in my opinion. They are giving their statements outside Parliament when Parliament is in Session that disinvestment of some of the public sector units is in the process and that they will carry out disinvestment. For example, in today's newspaper the Union Minister of Coal has talked about disinvestment of Coal India. Some days back, there were reports regarding the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and also Indian Oil Corporation. This is very bad economics. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to stop this bad economics. After this Budget Session, he should discuss all these things regarding protection of public sector. To meet the financial deficit, the Government cannot sell the rights of the people, *i.e.*, the public sector undertakings. I firmly believe in it and I want to say that it is the right of the people that cannot be ignored. In the public sector units, public money is involved but now discussion is going on about their disinvestment.

Secondly, no allocation has been made – which is the minimum requirement – for the agricultural workers and those who are living in the villages. These people are partially employed and are not fully employed. In the villages, it is the tragedy that they are partially employed. If you see the investment in the agricultural sector from the Government side including the question of loan sanctioning and other things, this is being avoided. A lot of things are there. In his speech, he has a lot of things. He has described many things for the agricultural workers and for the protection of the farmers. But those who are going to the banks for loans and other things, they are not poor people or the poor farmers of our country. They go to the moneylenders and for that he has already said that they will take some steps for Maharashtra. But why for Maharashtra only? Is it for the minority community? We want to protect the rights of the minorities because they are poor. Some political parties are criticising this thing from other angle, namely, from communal side. In some States some political parties are utilising this for their vote bank. But Muslims are not the vote banks. They should not be allowed to run in their own way. It is being criticised. It is very unfortunate on the part of our country. After Independence, there was no specific mention about the development of the minority community. Sachar Committee Report has been placed but what the Government was doing for the last 42 years. What the Government was doing after Independence? There was no mention about this thing. All of a sudden, Sachar Committee has come. What will they do? The Sachar Committee cannot do anything without money and particularly this is not for one State. So, fund allocation for five years by the Planning Commission should be discussed.

Lastly, what I want to say is that the facilities for the rural development are inadequate. As regards NREGA, it is a separate matter. In NREGA something is going on. But for the poor people in the rural development sector, those schemes are going from the Centre and the States are handling this. So, there is some gap. When it is going to be distributed to the villagers and the poor people, some things they like and some things they do not like. They do not know the reality. Just like in Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission for the urban areas, what is the fate of the basic services for the urban poor? This project is delayed in every State because there is a provision to take loan from the banks. These poor people of urban areas who are inhabitants of the *bastis* do not want to go to the banks because they have a very bad experience.

16.00 hrs.

Who will protect their interest? Nobody in the local body or in the Government helps them to push their projects forward and consequently they do not get the loans.

As I said at the very commencement of my speech, I would reiterate again that this Budget is full of contradiction. This Government initiated the process of reforms in the late 80s and consequently the rights of the Public Sector Undertakings. That is very unfortunate. This Government did not take any action to protect the interest of the workers of the MAMC in Durgapur. The Ministry of Heavy Industry is silent about it. The Government did nothing to protect the Hindustan Cables Factory. It was a very good Public Sector Undertaking but is now going down the drain. Should there be politicisation on this?

Sir, these are the reasons why I cannot support the Budget and I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to review the policy of the Government in regard to the Public Sector Undertakings.

[Transation]

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH (Hamirpur): Madam Chairperson, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the General Budget 2009-10.

16.01 hrs.

[DR. M. THAMBIDURAI *in the Chair*]

The budget is voluminous and it is not possible to cover this budget within 10 to 15 minutes, hence I would like to express my views in brief. I would like draw your attention to agriculture sector to Hon. Minister has mentioned about agricultural development on the page no. 6. Hon. Minister has stated that there will be minimum 4 percent growth this year. It seems that hon. Minister of Finance forgot that just fifteen days back the Hon. Prime Minister said that the production and growth in agriculture had been between 1 percent and 1.5 percent for the last fifteen years. Hon. Minister of Finance did not do his homework and announced that there would be 4 percent growth in this sector. I want to say that you have allocated one percent of GDP for agriculture

and you have stated on page no. 5 of your budget speech that 62 percent of the population living in the villages is connected with agriculture. It is true that 70 to 75 percent people living in the villages are connected with agriculture. Allocation of just one percent of GDP for 70 to 75 percent population shows that this budget is for VIPs, privileged class and not for common man.

The second point that I would like to state is that day before yesterday the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance Shri Namo Narain Meenaji made a statement in Rajya Sabha that the loan payable by farmers was Rs. 431 per family in the year 1971 and it was Rs. 12058 in the year 2003. About 25 percent of the farmers are debt-ridden. This amount may be more than Rs. 20,000/- in the year 2009. It is not the mistake of hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. It seems that the bureaucrats in North Block involved in preparation of the budget are more inclined towards stock-exchange, metropolitan and five star culture. I would like to tell you that it has been proved that whatever number of maruti cars are manufactured and whatever number of factories are set up, India can not progress until and unless the farmers in this country progress.

If monsoon is late by fifteen days, the entire system will collapse. In this context I would like to draw your kind attention towards our Minister of Agriculture. Our hon. Minister of Agriculture Shri Pawar Saheb spends his 80 to 90 percent time on affairs of cricket and BCCI.

He is the Minister of Agriculture of our country, but, he cannot assess the condition of the farmers. The support price for wheat has been fixed at Rs. 1080/- per quintal. I have done the calculation and I will lay it on the Table of the House which shows that minimum production cost of wheat is Rs. 950 to 1000/- per quintal. You have fixed the support price of wheat at Rs. 1080/- per quintal ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Pal Saheb cannot say ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want any argument between the Members. Hon. Member Hon. Member Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh, address the chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member address the Chair and try to wind up.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: My relation with Pal Sahab has been that of a client and counsel also. ...
(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Only Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh's speech will go on record. Nothing else will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, I would like to request that as the playing time lost due to interruptions in a hockey match is not taken into account, similarly the time allotted to me to speak, may be extended as much as lost due to frequent interruptions. Only then the interrupting Members will be silent. Today the farmers have come on the road because of the style of functioning of the Congress party during the last fifty years. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, address the Chair and try to wind up.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, I will lay my speech on the Table of the House, but, before that I would like to tell one thing that if there is not enough time for us to speak, then it would be better to put in place a new system so that we may be able to transmit our speech to the House from our residence itself. We may send our speech through e-mail and we need not come here. When a person speaks, his speech is noticed and action is taken thereon. Several great economists have expressed their views in the books. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Members are asked to lay their speeches in order to accommodate more Members. We are trying to give chance to every Member. Otherwise, how can we accommodate all the 540 Members?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, I will wind up within half a minute. The schemes like NREGA and loan waiver etc are totally flop schemes. The schemes have benefited only the Congress party to gain votes. I would like to speak about the mid-day-meal scheme also. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to say that the poor village folk are sending their wards to schools for getting education and not for food only. I have seen during my election campaign that students are engaged in cooking during school time and soon after mid-day-meal, school time is over. Only two persons—schools master and village headman and the secretary are benefited.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Whatever Shri Bishnu Pada Ray speaks, will not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, with your permission, I would like to lay my speech on the table of the House.

*Sir, the time is so short that it is impossible to comment upon the budget speech of 139 paragraphs.

Therefore, being the representative of Bahujan Samaj Party and Members of Parliament I would like to focus on agriculture sector only. Hon'ble Minister of Finance, as you are aware, every budget has two aspects—short run budget and long run budget.

Short run budget focuses on revenue receipt, loan receipt, total expenditure, loan payment etc. whereas long run budget gives directions regarding the long-term future policy of the Government and reform process etc. I have made an in depth study of the budget just like I used to prepare a case when I was practicing law. I found the budget directionless both for short and long run.

I made a self-introspection during the last 24 hours to comprehend the reasons for such a directionless budget. I know you are not only the leader of the House but one of the most experienced persons as a Minister of Finance. However, the north block team of bureaucrats

engaged for preparing budget have ideas confined to metropolitan culture and volatility of sensex only. Their hidden agenda and five star culture is clearly reflected in this directionless budget.

For example, on 2.7.09 when Parliament started its business at 11 O' clock, members came to know that the prices of petrol and diesel were already increased by Rs. 4 & Rs. 2 respectively w.e.f. midnight just 12 hours before the .next sitting of the House.

I was not surprised at the hike in prices of petrol and diesel because 6 such an unfortunate step taken by the congress reflects the extent of its bonafide and the tendency of doing such things repeatedly. Especially I have objection about timing of hike. People all over the country know that there is a difference between your words and deeds, your bonafide has always remain doubtful and you have expertise in back-door entry. I consider it a very unfortunate step and It shows lack of bonafide on your part.

I would like to say that you have termed it as a common man's budget but there is nothing for common man in this budget.

Small relief in taxes, Rs. 10 thousand rebate in income tax, loan waiver etc. are mere cosmetic touches. The budget presented by you merely mentions about putting check on inflation, increasing production and making fural development but there is no mention of taking any effective steps to achieve any result, there is nothing like that. Now, I would like to draw your attention towards budget speech page 1 paragraph 5 (d) and page 6 paragraphs 27, 28, 29 and 30 that you have mentioned about your beliefs on page 1 of the opening speech and there is also a brief mention of agricultural development on page 6 paragraph 27 to 30.

Your statement that there will be 4 percent growth in agricultural sector is absolutely misleading and false.

The main demand of today's farmer in Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand is water for irrigation and power for every village. There is drought situation in Bundelkhand, people have to dig deep borewells because there is a granite underneath and a farmer cannot do this with a loan amount.

Second thing is that diesel of Rs. 2000 is burnt for irrigating one bigha of land and the total cost of irrigation per acre is Rs. 4500 for diesel alone and one cannot

produce crop worth Rs. 4500 on one acre of land. Therefore, the expenditure is then income in irrigating land by using diesel.

In order to get rid of this, there is a need of 15-20 hours of continuous power supply in the irrigation season whereas, sufficient power was not generated for irrigation in Uttar Pradesh for the last five years. Expenditure of Rs. 2500-3000 is incurred on diesel for irrigating one acre of land. If it is done 3 times then there is a huge loss to the farmer in irrigating land with diesel pumps.

I want basic change in the thinking of hon'ble Minister of Finance that neither the grant of loan and waiver of loan is going to work for the welfare of farmers and nor is it going to increase production. I would like to give a logic in this regard.

In this regard, I would like to mention in this House that it costs a minimum of Rs. 950 to produce one quintal of wheat to the farmer. A farmer merely earns Rs. 80 by producing one quintal of wheat and thus he will earn only Rs. 8000 by producing 100 quintals of wheat and there are not even 5 percent of farmers in Uttar Pradesh who produce 100 quintals of wheat. So Rs. 877 crore is too little for Rural Development and that too when it includes irrigation also.

The standard of living of farmers cannot be improved even in another 50 years unless the farmers get remunerative prices for their produce and rebate on other things like seed, machinery, tractor, diesel and power etc.

Hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance Shri Namo Narayan Meena had accepted in his reply to a question in Rajya Sabha that in the year 1971 the debt per rural family was Rs. 437, which has increased to Rs. 12585 in the year 2003, *i.e.*, 25 times and alongwith this there is' another harsh truth that every year, more than one lakh farmers are committing suicide in the country.

According to a National Sample Survey report the Indian farmers are reeling under debt. This report states that per capita income of farmers in Rajasthan is Rs. 17976, whereas they have a debt of Rs. 18372 to pay off. The income to debt ratio is constantly increasing.

Hon'ble Minister of Finance has accepted that 60 percent of the population depends on agriculture and 70-75 percent population of the country is living in

villages and their life is associated with agriculture. Only Rs. 10 thousand crore has been allocated for this 60 percent of the population for the purpose of agriculture which includes irrigation as well and this is just 1 percent of the total GDP. It means that for the 60 percent population there is provision of only 1 percent of the budget and the remaining 40 percent population has a provision of 99 percent of it. Rs. 62837 crore have been given for rural development which is 6 percent of the total expenditure and it is impossible to achieve 4 percent growth in agriculture sector with this much. There is Government expenditure of Rs. 10 lakh 20 thousand crore. Out of that 62,837 crore is not enough for agriculture.

Second thing is that Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had stated that agricultural production has remained stable during the last 15 years and there has been a growth of mere 1 percent only. Under this scenario it is impossible to achieve agricultural growth of 4 percent every year.

The daily newspaper Amar Ujala reported on 12th July 09 that foodgrains worth Rs. 500 crore get wasted on an annual basis. There is a lack of cold storage facilities. Farmers bear more loss and more farmers commit suicide during a season which yields bumper crop of potatoes because cold storage facility for only 25 percent of the crop is available.

In this context, I would like to point-out that the NREGA scheme is a complete flop. It is impossible to implement it properly. One gets work for 100 days under the scheme. Full wages are not given and even if work for 100 days is given then the rural denizens have no means to earn enough to get two meals a day for 265 days out of 365 days. Similarly, the mid-day meal scheme is also a flop. The poorest of the poor send their children to school to learn so that they are able to get a job or some kind of work in future. They do not send their children to school merely to get food for them. They get work for merely 40-42 days instead of the promised 100 days.

While on the election campaign trail, I have observed in most of the schools that within an hour of the opening of the school, the teachers and the young children remain busy in preparations for cooking food. The schools get over as soon as lunch is finished and no teaching takes place. The real financial benefits are derived by the village headman, the panchayat Secretary and the headmaster etc. Education takes a backseat instead of these schools becoming the backbone of education.

Hon. Finance Minister, I would like to place a few facts highlighting the pitiable condition of the farmers before this august house.

The major expenditure incurred by farmers is on the following heads:

1. Health
2. Cost of production
3. Marriage, clothes, housing, education etc.

The problems of farmers can be resolved only if steps are taken to improve agricultural production and provide employment to farmers. These issues have not been addressed in the Budget and even if there is any mention of these issues, the steps suggested are impossible to be implemented.

If the treasury benches, particularly the members belonging to the Congress do not be angry, I have no hesitation to say before their House that loan waiver and NREGA has merely served to improve the vote bank of the Congress party. The farmers' interests have been hurt instead of being furthered. The BPL list should be prepared and all the eligible persons should be included therein.

I toured my constituency to thank the people after winning the elections and after announcement of the loan waiver scheme. Scores of farmers earn up to me and asked me to get loans sanctioned for them. There is an impression in the minds of the farmers that the Finance Minister will make it a practice to waive loans before the elections. This makes it clear that this procedure is neither likely to help the farmers nor increase production.

I would like to reiterate that if irrigation facility is extended to every field and every village and farm is provided electricity then the farmers would need neither loan nor loan waivers. In fact if they take loans they would be able to repay them full.

The Finance Minister has bowed to political expediency in giving equal to treatment the farmers who repaid the loans and those who did not. It is my firm belief that this step will be detrimental to the interests of farmers and the agricultural production.

With this background in mind, I would like to remind the hon. Finance Minister, Pranab Mukherji that efforts

to raise the standard of living of the farmers is not charity but a constructional obligation which has also been laid down in the directive principles in the Constitution. 70 percent of India's population lives in villages and it is said that the villages are the soul of the country. So, till the standard of living of the rural population is not raised, independence of India would remain a mirage in actuality and a meaningless achievement. The only reason for their failure is that the Congress has more or less remained in power for the last 50 years.

The Congress ruled for almost 50 years since 1950 first under the leadership hon. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, then his daughter late Indira ji followed by her son hon. late Rajivji and now her daughter-in-law hon. Soniaji. Following achievements were made in rural India during the said period:

1. Pitiabile condition of farmers;
2. Disappointing foodgrain production;
3. Scarcity of clean drinking water in villages;
4. Absence of a Health Care system;
5. Educational institutions and schools are turning into eateries; and
6. Total lack of electricity, water, road, health and education facilities.

This is the achievement mode in the 61 years of independence and I feel ashamed of mentioning it in the House.

I fail to understand the short term and long term policies of hon. Pranab Da regarding farmers and agriculture. For example, Uttar Pradesh, particularly Bundelkhand was completely in the grip of drought for 4-5 years prior up to 2009. Farmers could not do sowing for 3-4 years and resorted to committing suicides regularly. A woman farmer from district Banda in Bundelkhand region near Chitrakootdham, where Maryada Purushottam Ram lived for 12 years, had to sell her child named Chainu to another woman because she was unable to afford his treatment. But, unfortunately, the woman who purchased the child could not save him too despite being better off. There are thousands of such mothers and children in Bundelkhand which the you icon hon. Rahul Gandhi of the youth Government of UPA must have realized during his visit to Banda district when

it was affected by drought. But, this area has not received the attention of the Government of India so far and it seems as if that visit was just a media visit.

The whole country receives 101.5 ml. of rain in the month of June but only 48.8 ml of rainfall has been received in this month so far *i.e.* there is a shortage of 48% rainfall. From the point of view of weather, there has been very low rainfall in 29 sub-divisions out of the 36 sub-divisions in the country. In the whole of Uttar Pradesh and particularly in my constituency, Bundelkhand, not even 5% of sowing has taken place so far and Kharif crops have not been sown in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh.

I feel very sorry to say that the hon. Agriculture Minister, Sharad Pawar ji is more interested in cricket and perhaps more than 80 per cent of his time is spent in the affairs of BCCI and the international cricket. It will not be wrong to say that he has devoted his heart to cricket completely and I think there is nothing wrong in that. But, I also believe that cricket may progress further and the number of 20-20 matches may also increase but the farmers are not going to benefit.

The farmer of India, who is called the provider of food is himself hungry. The labourer who builds multistorey houses has no roof over his head. This is the gift of the succeeding Governments during the last 61 years.

Hon. Finance Minister will have to work very hard to improve this situation, about which I would like to say that as long as the farmers' interests are not given priority and the budget protects the interests of computer and sensex only, India's freedom will remain incomplete.

More than just a Finance Minister he should become a friend and sympathizer of the farmers and earn their blessings from their heart which will prove fruitful for both the farming community and him as well.

The Agriculture Minister is relentlessly saying that the godowns are full of foodgrains but I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister towards a UN report which says that 63% children do not get a full meal at night whereas the poor condition of the godowns of FCI, as quoted below from the reply given to Debashish Bhattacharya under the Right to Information Act, tells its own story. Twenty five crore people in India go to bed empty stomach. Finally, I would like to draw

the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards the following agriculture-related issues which have a bearing on the progress of the farmers in the country.

1. Ten lakh tonnes of foodgrains got spoilt during the last decade.
2. FCI spends 2.42 billion rupees annually to save foodgrains from rotting in the godowns.
3. Money was spent on burning the rotten foodgrains worth Rs. 2.59 crore the previous year.
4. 1.83 lakh tonne wheat, 3.96 lakh tonne rice, 22 thousand tonne paddy, 110 tonne corn, and 10 lakh tonne foodgrains rotted during the period from 1997 to 2007.
5. In reply to an RTI query FCI has informed that Rs. 87.15 crore were spent to prevent spoilage of foodgrains in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi. Even then 7 lakh tonnes of foodgrains got spoilt later on.
6. It is a matter of greatest regret that 60 lakh rupees had to be spent on disposal and burning of rotten foodgrains.

In the case of the Eastern states of the country, 1.5 tonnes of foodgrains got spoilt in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal although the FCI had spent 1.22 billion rupees on prevention of food spoilage in the region. Spoilage of 43,069.023 tonnes of foodgrains occurred in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala despite incurring an expenditure of 25 crore rupees thereon. Moreover, 3,40,867 rupees had to be spent to dispose of the rotten foodgrains.

I would like to urge the Prime Minister to strike a balance between the importance given to cricket and the aspirations of the farmers and help the farmers progress like the 20-20 matches. With this, I pray for the bright future of the Minister of Agriculture, hon. Sharad Pawarji.

The hon. Finance Minister has talked of annual growth rate of 9 per cent in paragraph 5 and has expressed hope of achieving a growth rate of 4 per cent in the agriculture sector.

I would like to request the Finance Minister, through the House, to make a short term and long-term water management policy to enable irrigation of all farmlands and end dependence of the farmers on Monsoons. For example, there are seven or eight big and small rivers in Bundelkhand including Betwa, Ken and Ghasan alongwith the River Yamuna that flows adjacent to the Bundelkhand region. Adequate arrangements for irrigation can be made if a few small and big dams are constructed on Betwa and Ken rivers. Otherwise, the future of the country is going to be jeopardized.

[English]

Water related small and big projects.

Water harvesting Schemes throughout the country
Restoration of water bodies.

Irrigation and Tube Well irrigation through private sources and funding.

Reasonable and remunerative and practical price fixing of the food grains.

Micro finance,
Farm Insurance.

Small Scale Industries.

Housing for the Poor, Agro-Processing, Rural Irrigation, Oil seeds, Horticulture, and Floriculture. Farm Credit, Agricultural Research & Development in Areas like Dry Land Farming, Bio Technology, Medical Care to People Below the Poverty Line, Group Health Insurance, Panchayat Raj, Co-operative Banks, Flood Control Work, and anti-Erosion Schemes.

[Translation]

In the interest of agriculture, network of roads should be laid in the villages so that transportation of farmers' produce especially fruits, vegetables etc. is not hindered. Presently, when the farmers take their produce to the mandi in the town, the commission agents form a union to buy the produce at rock bottom prices.

A farmer gets around one rupee per cauliflower for a cart of cauliflower he takes to the mandi and when the same vegetable is taken to a bigger town its cost rises to three or five rupees. It is further taken to Delhi and other big cities by a bigger dealer who sells it for more than ten rupees. It is evident that the farmer who has to toil for the quarter of a year to harvest his crop gets merely one rupee whereas the middlemen earn ten times the amount in two days. The hon. Minister has not addressed this issue in the budget.

Laying a network of roads or highways to provide access to the villages is not as difficult as signing a nuclear deal. The hon. Finance Minister is intelligent and experienced enough. If an international level road network with guaranteed life of five years is laid in the country, agricultural development and industrial revolution will automatically follow. This is not as difficult as signing a nuclear deal.

Practical or Actual Budget.

1. Political Budget.
2. Political Donation package.
3. Impractical Budget
4. Non-Transparent in between the lines.
5. City, metro, urban oriented Budget.
6. Five Star culture Budget
7. Directionless Budget.
8. Urban Vs. Rural
9. Neglect of farmers, agriculture and villages.

Hon'ble Minister of Finance has wrongly titled this budget. It is not a common man's budget rather it may turn disastrous for him. The UPA Government is patting its own back on this budget but the farmer is suffering and in English this Budget can be termed as Operational Successful but the talent died.

This will not help in increasing the agricultural production. It rather contains a plan to increase the vote bank. It is a Five Star Culture budget and the reality of this budget is going to come to surface within few months. If the condition of monsoon remains like this for another one month, then certainly yet another famine is going to occur in the country which will be a disappointing thing in the Indian history. I am hopeful about all these things but still I support this budget and conclude my speech.

In the end I would like to say that this budget has completely ignored and overlooked the principle of 'Bahujan Hitay and Bahujan Sukhay' of the Bahujan Samaj Party, propounded by its national president and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Behin Kumari Mayawati. As such it will be difficult for us to achieve our objective of creating an egalitarian society which will be above caste and class.

Therefore, in one word I would like to say that no attention has been paid towards the common man in this budget and I have no hesitation to term this budget as anti farmer and anti rural development. Despite all this I support this budget.*

[English]

*SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman And Nicobar Islands): I wish to lay the following matters on the table:-

Sanction of Ration Allowance to the Andaman and Nicobar Police Personnel. Posted in remote, uninhabited islands surrounded dense forests and sea as; Cost of living is higher than compared to Delhi and the Involved in life in-risking guard duty on international borders against intrusion of foreign nationals and poachers. Sanction ration allowance @ Rs. 950 [Delhi Police Personnel are getting] to 3438 police personnel in lower ranks. There is a proposal for creation of posts for coastal Security. Andaman & Nicobar Islands is in the open ocean, 200 km from the mainland. Though the armed forces are protecting the borders, there is need to protect the vast forest and marine wealth of the islands and coasts, which is not physically possible for the armed forces to take on their already overburdened shoulders. Therefore, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration had drawn out a proposal for personnel-(a) 2245 posts, with permission for installation of 23 check posts, 3 watch towers and (b) infrastructure-10 marine operational centres, 10 large boats. Kindly sanction the posts, permission for setting up check posts, watch towers and funds for infrastructure [pending with MHA] since December, 2008]

Provision for Drinking Water for Port Blair Town should be made. Drinking water is supplied by the respective State Government for distribution through Municipal Council /Corporation/ Committee. In Andamans, APWD is the sole water supplying agency. The total requirement is 68.21 lakhs gallons daily as against supply of 33.18 lakhs gallons during monsoons [July to Jan] falling short by 25.03 lakhs gallons daily. The supply treacle down to 29 lakhs gallons falling short by 39 lakhs gallons, irritatingly, rationed at a frequency of 2 days and sometimes 5 days. Tourism sector has attracted huge investments, in the last 10 to 15 years, more than 100 hotels, lodges and other infrastructure, both mobile and immovable. Other developments include clinics and mini hospitals, schools, and trade centres. All these suffer

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

from short supply of water. APWD draws 90% of its supply from only one dam [Dhanikhari] and rest from small dam [Choldhari] which are susceptible to damage from earthquakes, fear of which is always present due to the fact that the islands are in high seismic zone as also the constant reminder of the major earthquake and devastating Tsunami of December 2004. This apart, structural faults and unpredictable weather compound the fears. Ongoing projects for tapping rain water-dams, will take at least 3-4 years to become functional.

A 14 MLD Desalination Plant with investment of Rs. 90 crores is pending with Ministry of Urban Development since June 2007. the proposal may be sanctioned quickly so that potable water for Rural population-domestic, hospitals, schools etc. may be supplied. Forest Corporation employees and their families [total 2000] living in forest Areas-Krishna Nala, Balu Level etc in Little Andaman have no drinking water facility. Forest Encroacher's pre and post 78 having 15000 population have no drinking water facility. In some backward revenue village and in Nicobar District, drinking water pipeline is to be laid or damaged pipeline has to be changed. Whatever water is being supplied in rural areas 90% is raw water causing different water borne diseases like jaundice, gastro-enteritis, typhoid etc. Necessary funds for filter bed, clean water tank, sump for raw water etc may be sanctioned so as to ensure daily potable water supply to the Rural Population.

Ayush Hospital is foundation stone was laid by Hon'ble L. K. Advani and inaugurated during 2005 by Shri M. R. Bhakta, Ex-M.P. As per norms of Ministry of Health and Family Welfares every PHC, CHC, and Dist. Hospitals should have at least 1 stream of Ayush but yet to be achieved though qualified Doctors are available in these Islands. Existing post of Ayurvedic/Homeopathy medical officers (Ayush) filled on contract basis working over 5-24 years yet to be regularized. Requirement of Ayurvedic/Homeopathy medical officers with supporting staffs (approx. 78) for the Ayush unit in the A & N Islands in 31 centres (PHC, CHC, Dist. Hospitals etc). Kindly sanction the funds for opening of Centres with other infrastructure fund, medicines, regular contract Doctors and sanctioned post with fund etc. immediately.

Funding for purchases under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Transport Mission [JNNURM]. In Port Blair City 48 buses (State Transport Services)- insufficient to cope up with the number of tourists visiting many historical important places or monuments, memorials connected with Indian Freedom Struggle. Population in

Port Blair city is 3 lakhs and increasing at a rapid speed. Central institute of Road Transport recommended 50 more buses in the fleet of STS Dept. is facing shortage of fund. Request for 44 new buses under JNNURM sanctioned-DPR already sent to the Ministry of Urban Development on 12.6.2009.

City of Port Blair (Capital of A & N Islands) may be included as Mission City under JNNURM for procurement of 44 buses with sanction with fund.

A & N Islands Forest & Plantation Dev. Corporation Ltd: - This corporation was one of the Navaratna PSU in India. In 2002, the Supreme Court Judgement suspended extraction activities and many restrictions on sale of Logs resulting hard hit period for its 1600 permanent employees and the depending members compassing 10000 reeling under uncertainty, resulting lack of facility of education of the children, affecting their health, livelihood, food etc. and living like half dead living beings. There was revival proposal submitted by the TATA Consultancy Services in 2002 but no action was taken on this. In the HMAC meeting during December 2006 express the need for the speedy revival process. In the IDA meeting on 19th June, 2003 endorse the same – revival of ANIFPDCL. Ministry of Environment and forest assured the Rajya Sabha assurance committee on 18th January, 2006- the Ministry will take appropriate action to revive the Corporation. 6th Pay Commission and salary/wages extended to the employees of A & N Admn/ Central government Employees/Municipal employees etc. except the employees of Corporation. With the excuse of restructuring and revival proposal pending with the Ministry for approval since many years. Second pay revision of the group 'D' employees (Industrial after serving 30-35 years labours are getting wages even on today Rs. 3000-4000/- per month which is lower than the minimum wages of Rs. 156/- per day in A & N Islands.

6th Pay Commissions recommendation and Industrial workers wages according to today's 6th Pay Commissions recommendations should be implemented with providing fund. Revival package and one time financial support as grant should be given.

Laying Optical Fiber Cable landing station at Port Blair-Granting of funds Rs. 527 Crore: Laying of Submarine optical fiber cable was discussed in the 10th IDA meeting (19/01/2003). Expert group suggested to go ahead with the project. Submarine optical fiber cable is suited to these Islands and has the potentials for

being used by many agencies like Andaman & Nicobar Unified Command, Coast Guard, Defence Agencies, IT-based Industries and National E-governance etc. Department of Telecommunication has allocated Rs. 181/- crores in 11th Plan, which was taken up by Planning commission with additional funds as a special PM's package to A & N Islands. Ministry of Communication and Information Technology through DO letter, dated 13/02/2009 to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, informed estimated cost of this project has gone up from Rs. 344.14 crores to Rs. 527 crores. Hon'ble Lt. Governor and Chief secretary has pursued the matter vigorously.

Ministry of Finance may kindly allocate funds to the tune of Rs. 346/- crores as special package for A and N Islands.

Acute shortage of fund in APWD sectors and non-APWD sectors:

Department projected fund requirement 2009-10 as Rs. 151.25 crores but Annual Plan of 2009-2010 restricted to 76.45 crores. Committed liability in APWD is Rs. 74.80 crores. Two-years old works sanctioned could not be implemented. Sanctioned work (New) have to be dropped. Non-payment of bills over 6 to 8 months of APWD/Zilla Parishad/Municipal Council etc. is amounting to over Rs. 120 crores. As a result the basic payment of wages and salaries, Government dues etc. has made the situation more complicated.

Additional Rs. 70 crores required to be provided to APWD. Immediate release of Rs. 120 crores for clearing non-payments of the contractors.

Foreign Flights connectivity to Port Blair (Veer Savarkar International Airport). Domestic Airport at Port Blair was declared as International Airport in May, 2007. Parking Space constructed for boarding and un-boarding of Passengers. Foreign Tourist has increased (Example: 2003-04-4281, in 2006-07-(10,975). International flight connectivity will boost Tourism in A & N Islands. Keshab-DSS note @ 0900 hrs.?

Tourism-Indian Airlines and other private airlines-air fares against Islanders and Tourism. A & N Islands situated remotest corner of the country and connected by sea or air routes. The current trends of charging exorbitant ranging 15000 to 24000 one way by three airways company (jetlite, Sahara & Indian Airlines) is beyond the reach of common people. The price for two hour flight is more than double/tripple charged by any

airlines operating in any other sector in India or in operating international sector. Return fares for Kolkatta/Chennai to Singapore/Bangkok/Malaysia range from 12000/- to 15000/-. Abnormally high fares have not only affected the permanent Islanders but also Tourism Industry which is the only industry with job avenues. In Port Blair and adjoining rural areas many hotels/lodges/paying guest accommodations constructed by the entrepreneurs from bank loan-with a view to cater the needs of LTC tourist of Steel Authority of India and other PSUs. Suddenly this facility has been withdrawn. Resulting hardship not only the owners, but also to tourist guides, tourist vehicle owners etc.

International Airlines Viz. Thai Air, Singapore Airlines, Malaysian Airlines operate flights from their country of origin to Chennai/Kolkatta/via Port Blair and provide incentives by allowing them to carry domestic passengers between Chennai/Kolkatta & Port Blair. 2) Easy connectivity for the international tourist. 3) Facilitate the locals to travel to Chennai/Kolkatta and back at an affordable cost. 4) Allow outbound tourist from Port Blair to reach these countries of South Asia directly from Port Blair other than traveling to Chennai/Kolkatta and flying back to these countries. 5) Allow export of fisheries and other products to these countries will boost the fishing industries. 6) LTC tourist with 5 days stay of Railway, other PSUs may be allowed with tourist point of view particularly Naman the National memorial (Cellular Jail).

Increase of Old Age, Widow, Handicapped, Pension which is presently Rs. 500 is paid as pension per month and it should be increased to Rs. 3000 per month, keeping cost Index in view-"Jine ke layak Rupeeya"

Stretcher Patient-Single Ticket Presently for the cost of six Air-ticket is charged. But previously, Cost of Single Air-ticket was charged for it during NDA Government period. Only Cost of Single Air-fare may be reverted, considering the backward class status of this UT.

Forced divorcee pension should be provided. Presently no such pension is paid. Considering the difficulties experienced by forced divorcee, Rs. 3000 per month may kindly be sanctioned.

Bank Erosion-Retaining wall should be constructed. Lots of Farmers suffered due to erosion. No proper survey is carried out by the competent authority so land cost due to bank erosion, be compensated by allotment of alternate land.

National Illness Fund (BPL extend upto Rs. 8000/- per month) should be set up. Rs. Fifty lakhs sanctioned for treatment of Islanders in Mainland Hospital, suffering from major diseases such as Cancer, Heart Ailment, Brain Tumor etc. Same schemes may kindly be revived which should cover the persons with permanent income of Rs. 8000/- for Super specially treatment. Sanction for Rs. 2 crores be accorded by G.O.I. for the purpose.

The proposed NIT at Port Blair should remain functional: - Ministry of HRD communicated the Administration on 1st June, 2009 that NIT at Andaman & Nicobar Islands will be shifted to Puducherry. We have objections to it as Puducherry is having one Government Engineering college and five Private Engineering colleges. Pudducherry is having one Medical Engineering college named JIPMER and 5-6 private medical engineering colleges also.

NIT of A & N Islands may remain there itself. Establishment of Medical college-Port Blair (A & N Islands). As per DPR estimated cost for establishment of Medical College have been projected Rs. 277.61 crores. Health and Family Welfare Ministry may provide Rs. 277.61 crores as Plan Fund.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Bahrapur): Sir, at the outset I must appreciate and applaud the Budget proposals that have been enshrined in the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The Budget proposal enunciates the goals, objectives, priorities and policies for the coming days. The Budget should not be read in the relevance of the current year only. The relevance lies in the broad policy parameters for the future with an objective to shrug off the Indian economy from the recessionary trend which has been prevailing all over the world. This is the simple equation.

Sir, my first reaction to this Budget proposal is that it is reminiscent of Gandhian days that still India begins and ends in villages. This is the first time what I have witnessed that all sections of our society have participated in the pre and post Budget discourse. This is a very new dimension and I think it is healthy for any body polity as Budget is meant for the economic security of common people. Naturally, the enthusiasm of the common people which was expressed in various fora ranging from farmers to industrialists, I think, is the inherent virtues of Indian economic resilience.

Sir, just for example, I will recall the Tsunami scenario. The earthquake induced by volcano took place

in the distant land from our country. But we have not been able to resist the cascading effect of that devastation which even ravaged the Indian coasts.

Sir, in the same analogy we should observe that the financial Tsunami which took place in the distant Atlantic shore have had a spilling effect on all emerging and developing countries including India. We have not been able to escape ourselves from the financial toxication occurred in America and European countries. But for what I am going to appreciate our Government is, as you are well aware, that a dying patient needs adrenaline. If you do not put adrenaline at the right time to a dying patient, it will simply invite death. Similarly, the stimulus packages which were administered in our financial system, act as an adrenaline which had staved off the scourge of global financial meltdown.

Sir, I must appreciate the RBI authority who took a number of ingenuous and innovative measures to ensure the flow of liquidity in our financial system to the tune of Rs. 3,00,000 crore.

I got prompted to quote Subba Rao, RBI Governor that our approach was crossing the river by feeling the stones. Sir, the cost of interest got reduced. The repo rate and the reverse repo rate got reduced and a plethora of monetary and fiscal policies that were adopted by the UPA Government had rescued our economy from the abysmal depths of despair. *...(Interruptions)* We cannot ignore this.

The BJP leader Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and some other leaders also were alluding that in the Budget Speech, our Finance Minister has assured four per cent agricultural growth. I would suggest that they should read the Budget Papers a little bit sincerely where it has been stated that in the recent past, the sector has recorded a growth of about four per cent *per annum* with substantial increase in plan allocations and capital formation in the sector. Yes, the objective of the UPA Government is to increase the growth of agriculture to four per cent because without sound agriculture, we will not be able to feed our ever increasing population....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: If you allow me, I will make only two or three suggestions....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are many hon. Members to speak. We have to conclude it. Otherwise, it will go up to mid-night. Other Members may not be interested to wait till Twelve of the Clock in the night.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: I am giving only two or three suggestions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can give it in writing.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to one important aspect. Sir, I am fortunate enough that the hon. Finance Minister is already present here in person.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Both of them are here. Do not worry.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: There are about 44,000 villages in which the population of Scheduled Castes is above 50 per cent. A new scheme called *Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana* is being launched this year on a pilot basis for the integrated development of 1000 such villages. Here, I would like to propose to the hon. Finance Minister that this scheme should not be confined only to the Scheduled Caste people populated villages. I would request the Finance Minister to extend the same scheme to the Scheduled Tribe people populated areas also....*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the other day, the Home Minister admitted here that the sphere of influence of the naxalites has been increasing in the tribal people populated area. So, more schools, IT education, etc. should be introduced in the tribal areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

Now, I would like to put one question only. What is the net worth of our total public sector companies? What is the average rate of Government equity in the public sector companies and what is the net worth of our Government equity in those public sector undertakings.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI (Chatra): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I will not take much time because you are explaining the importance of time to everyone. But I would only like to draw your attention towards that comment of hon'ble Minister of Finance in which he has quoted Kautilya

[English]

He has mentioned about Kautilya. The hon. Minister says:

"I intend to take Kautilya's advice."

[Translation]

I would like to follow Kautilya's advice. In this regard I would like to tell you as to what was Kautilya's advice.

[English]

"In the interest of the prosperity of the country, a king shall be diligent in foreseeing the possibility of calamities."

[Translation]

Any ruler of the country should have the wisdom to foresee the problems likely to be faced by the country. Not only this, he had also said that:-

[English]

"The King shall try to avert them before they arise, overcome those which happen, remove all obstructions to economic activity and prevent loss of revenue to the State."

[Translation]

This has been said by Kautilya. But Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, has the Government ever followed this path? Kautilya says the ruler of any country should have premonition of the crisis likely to happen in the country. But whether this has ever happened in our country? If there was foresightedness then China would have never occupied Tibet. The condition of Indian forces became worse when China attacked India in 1962.

[English]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may remember what happened in 1962.

[Translation]

Our forces met humiliating defeat. If the rulers of country at that time had foreseen the problems we were likely to face then India would not have been in the present condition. I would like to say that our rulers also never thought about the problems staring in the

face of our country. Now Shri Pranab Mukherjee is there, he is a very fine and experienced person. Therefore, I am reminding him that the rulers of India never thought of the problems this country was going to face. Today many states of the country are affected by terrorism and naxalism is also increasing. Whether the Government has ever thought as to how it will overcome this naxalism or whether any efforts were made to check this at their initial stage? yesterday only, a big incident took place in Chhattisgarh, dozens of people including a Superintendent of police lost their lives. Whether the Government has ever tried to understand as to how we can overcome or check this problem.

[*English*]

Jharkhand State, from which I come, is now in the grip of naxalism, but no mention has been made in this Budget about how to solve the problem of naxalism.

[*Translation*]

Therefore, I would like to tell hon'ble Pranabji that this Budget is a budget of politicians, and not of the statesman. By politicians Budget, I mean what Dr. Radhakrishnan used to say on this.

[*English*]

“the politician thinks of the next election whereas the statesman thinks of the next generation.”

[*Translation*]

This budget is not for the coming generations, this is for the next elections. That is why I call it a politician's budget and not a statesman's budget. If it were not a politician's budget, how is it, then, you could see, that certain gifts have been given to all those states where elections are to be held soon? But those states have been forgotten where no elections are to take place. They have given a package of Rs. one thousand crores for “AILA” to Bengal and nobody has any objection to it. But whether the people affected by Kosi floods in Bihar do not deserve a similar package and whether states like Jharkhand which are affected by naxalism should not have been considered upon? Therefore, I would like to say that

[*English*]

it is a politician's Budget, it is not a statesman's Budget.

[*Translation*]

Besides this Rs. 3000 crores has been given to Mumbai for sewerage system because elections are going to be held over there. They have given something to all those states where elections are due. But there is nothing for the states which have remained backward.

Sir, you have mentioned Kautilya, I am reminding the hon'ble Minister of Finance that he should also read ‘Meghdootam’ of Kalidas alongwith Kautilya in which Kalidas has stated that a ruler should make the tax system like clouds.

[*English*]

They take the water from the ocean.

[*Translation*]

They take water from the ocean and sprinkle it over villages and fields of the country and states. Therefore, the tax system should be like this that money should be collected from the rich people and distributed amongst the poor. But the budget lacks this as well. I wanted to forego my time so that some other colleague of mine could be accommodated. But I am concluding early on the orders of the Chair, though I have still a lot to say. I do not want to entangle the House in the web of figures. Many distinguished people have kept their views here. I would only like to ask you to kindly think of the coming generations, think of the country's condition irrespective of party and politics. Only then this country could be saved otherwise the country will be facing a lot of problems.

Therefore, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister of Finance that I have drawn his attention towards the problem of terrorism and I would also like to mention that the predecessor of the Minister of Home Affairs Shri Shivraj Patilji

[*English*]

he went to Chatra. He went to Palamau district of Jharkhand.

[*Translation*]

He said that we would get pilot projects. The District Administration was asked to send schemes but one and a half year's time has elapsed when schemes were sent thrown into the dustbin.

[Translation]

There is no one to take care of it. If there is such discrimination, then there cannot be an overall development of the country. Therefore, through you I would like to urge upon the Government that if they quoted Kautilya then they must also follow his theories so that development of this country could take place, the country could progress and become prosperous and become a powerful country of the world.

With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY (Alipurduar): Mr. Chairman, the hon. Members have expressed their views on the Budget 2009-10 presented by the hon. Minister of Finance. I find that, in all the budgets, be it presented by the congress, or UPA Government, efforts are hardly made to the basic problems of people. Though Eleventh Five Yearn Plan has taken a shape, yet, the problem of hunger, poverty and unemployment is on the increase in our country. These are the basic issues which need to be pondered over. The hon. Minister of Finance is a learned person.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had envisioned setting up of big industries in the country so that the people of our country get employment. Subsequently, late Smt. Indira Gandhi also made efforts and nationalized the banks in the country. Coal sector was also nationalised. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi also made efforts in this direction. But after the Gandhi family new era of liberalization started. There is no harm if assets of our country increase, but the Government desires to sell its assets in the name of globalization or privatization. It is highly surprising that the our spending on social sector is declining, whereas, in case of defence it has increased. It is not good. The matter of serious concern is that are neglecting social sector on the pretext of naxalism and Maoism. If the Government undertakes development works the youth will get employment. Tribal areas have not been developed and are thus naxalite affected. People are not getting job. If development work is done it will root out naxalism.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Finance Minister hails from West Bengal. Tea industry is the biggest industry is my state. All of us take tea. Prevalence of old system in this industry is causing loss. Tea industry is facing

closure. My submission is that the Government should improve the economic condition of tea gardens. The Government provides rebates to the north-eastern states including Assam and Sikkim. My submission is that rebates should be given to North Bengal, a tribal area totally neglected, has no industry except tea industries, but abundant natural resources, so that people get employment. This area's natural beauty has scope for development of terrorism there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the prices are increasing. Tribal areas are in bad shape. My submission is that the Government should do something for West Bengal. PDS should be strengthened in the State and ration should be provided to the poor. It can help the poor. In view of these problems of public, I would urge the Government to address these problems in the budget.

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Kallakurichi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the new Budget in the New Lok Sabha, the Fifteenth Lok Sabha is to be passed soon. On behalf of our party, DMK, I welcome the Budget. At this juncture, I would like to thank our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, our Deputy Chief Minister Thalapathi Mu. Ka. Stalin, Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister Veerapandi Arumugam, Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister Mr. Ponmudy, and the people of my Kallakurichi constituency for having sent me to this august House.

Speeding of growth, building rural infrastructure, providing job opportunities, and extending social security measures are the four important thrust areas in this Union Budget. I find that you have found the model form of our leader, Dr. Kalaignar and his budgets in a row from 2006. Our Finance Minister was an eye witness to the pro-poor and pro-farmer announcements of Dr. Kalaignar when he assumed office for the fifth time. He announced Rs. 2 a kilogram of rice which Kalaignar himself has brought down to Re. 1 a kilogram now. Immediately after taking oath, he fulfilled his vow to waive the cooperative loans to the tune of Rs. 7000 crore. While drawing a road-map for nation's economy, our Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee follows the blueprint and the footsteps of our leader Dr. Kalaignar.

The hallmark of this year's Union Budget is increasing allocation for NREGS to Rs. 39,100 crore. It is a welcome measure. The Central Government's spending on both rural and social sector will touch Rs.

71,000 crore while Rs. 1 lakh crore will be for infrastructure. Our Finance Minister had tried to pour milk to the empty stomach of the poor; every BPL family will get Rs. 25 kilogram of rice or wheat per month at the rate of Rs. 3 per kilogram. This may be extended to all the ration card holders who depend on ration shops for rice to eat. Kalaingar's Farm Loan Waiver Scheme was adopted by the UPA Government. Now the low price rice and wheat scheme is also followed by the Centre emulating Tamil Nadu. When we face economic slowdown, this is necessary. Only the responsible social visionaries can understand and implement this. All the Governments in the future will make budgetary provisions for this scheme. After passing the Food Security Act, it will become mandatory. So the absence of Budget allocation for this is not a thing to cry about. Some wolves are crying. The poor are in dark woods of poverty.

Some of these popular schemes cannot be dismissed as populist. After feeling the pulse of the people, some of these schemes are implemented. To feel the pulse, you need a hand and the heat energy of the sun. Sun is essential to support life. Both the clouds and clouts must know this.

Even after floods and droughts in several parts in Tamil Nadu, food production increased last year. It is proposed to be increased further this year. This is because of modern agricultural methods. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been paying over and above the Minimum Support Price for rice and incentives to both paddy and sugarcane growers. The Central Government gives Rs. 900 per quintal for paddy; at the same time the Tamil Nadu Government gives Rs. 1000. It is Rs. 100 extra. For the fine quality paddy, the Central Government is giving only Rs. 930; at the same time the Tamil Nadu Government gives Rs. 1100 for the same. For sugarcane also, the Central Government gives only Rs. 811; at the same time the Tamil Nadu Government gives Rs. 1050 for the same. In the wake of higher target fixed by the Tamil Nadu Government and its earnest efforts, the Centre must come forward to help the Tamil Nadu Government that has enhanced MSP for both rice and sugarcane.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, inter-linking of rivers is a very important issue. There is no mention about the linking of Ganges with Cauvery in this year's Budget. The Central Government must come forward to help the State Government for promoting such ventures. The Tamil Nadu Government has announced in this year's Budget to link Cauvery with Gundar from Kattalai. The second scheme

is linking of Tamirabarani-Karumeniyar-Nambiyar. With an allocation of Rs. 200 crore, this scheme is to be taken up. The Central Government must come forward to extend financial assistance to such visionary schemes. This will solve the problems of both drinking water and irrigation supply.

Our hon. Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers aims at giving subsidy directly to our farmers. He has taken up measures to make it nutrient-based. This will really help our farmers directly.

After 18 years, the Centre's fiscal deficit will be 6.8 per cent of GDP. Market borrowings would be about Rs. 4,51,093 crore. It is about Rs. 90,000 crore more than the projected fiscal deficit. The balancing act of our Finance Minister must be congratulated. He provides a cushion to the poor, marginalised and also the farmers. He takes care to save them from being hit heavily by the collapse of the world economy.

Subsidies and social security measures help to protect the buying capacity of our common man. Focus on women and providing education to minorities and marginalised groups are dear to our Chief Minister and to our Deputy Chief Minister Thalpathi Mu. Ka. Stalin. Various incentives to help our rural children for completing school education are there in Tamil Nadu. While enacting the Right to Education Act, the Central Government must follow the Tamil Nadu Government model.

Sir, the Government of Tamil Nadu has allocated Rs. 5 crore for improving the standard of camps for Shri Lankan Tamils in Tamil Nadu. I find that the Centre has earmarked Rs. 500 crore only for Tamils in Sri Lanka who are living in camps in their own country. Our Chief Minister has expressed hope that the Sri Lankan authorities would solve the problems faced by the civilians there. It is time that the Tamil civilians there do not remain refugees living in camps maintained by their Army. It is time that peaceful life and social security are extended to Sri Lankan Tamils. They must be helped to settle down in their homeland. The Government of India must take effective steps in this regard.

Human Resource Department and Health are important. The Government of Tamil Nadu has come forward to offer its share for the Centre to upgrade the Madurai Rajaji Hospital as a multi-speciality hospital like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences at New Delhi.

Textile units and sago units which are having effluent treatment plants must get subsidy. In my constituency, Kallakurichi, most of the sago units are there. The Union Government must evolve a plan to help the State Governments like Tamil Nadu to give incentives for effluent treatment plants that go for manufacturing manures, producing electricity, etc. from the waste. For such effluent treatment plants, electricity subsidy also must be considered.

Sir, I would like to make a request to the hon. Finance Minister to set up one Parliament Office in each Parliament constituency, and also to post one Parliament Officer there.

Another important point is that in Tamil Nadu, each MLA is getting Rs. 1.5 crore per year as MLA Fund but each Member of Parliament is getting only Rs. 2 crore per year under MPLADS. Sir, I have got six Assembly constituencies. So, the money provided to the Members of Parliament under MPLADS may kindly be raised to Rs. 6 crore per year.

Every Panchayat in Tamil Nadu is provided with Rs. 20 lakh under the All Villages Anna Marumalarchi Scheme. In the last three years, a sum of Rs. 1,524 crore has been spent and Rs. 509 crore has been allotted for this Scheme during this year. I would like to urge upon the Central Government to evolve a matching scheme in this Centenary year of Anna, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the great statesman of India. This is also necessary because rural development was dearer to Gandhi and Nehru.

With these words, I would like to extend my support to this General Budget and conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, there are 35 Members yet to speak on the Budget. We have to finish the debate today within three to four hours, otherwise, it would be midnight. I would, therefore, request that each speaker must take just three to four minutes to express his views, and if there is any written speech, that may be permitted to be laid on the Table of the House. So, please cooperate with the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH (Dhanbad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing General Budget. Every state has different per capita income. A person's average income is 16 to 17 thousand rupees in one state one lakh rupees in another state. It was certainly expected

from the hon. Minister of Finance that the Government would take initiative to remove this imbalance. But the Government and the Minister of Finance are silent. It certainly creates disparity and causes a threat to nationalism. It is quite apparent now that in Indian politics that feeling of regionalism is on the rise and nationalism is declining. Hence, I would humbly request the hon. Minister of Finance that if per capita income can not be brought at par, then the disparity therein should not be so wide as to give rise to acrimony and anger in the minds of the people. In this age of globalisation when the market of the country is one and then if the income cannot be the same, then, whatever has been discussed here in regard to brining down the number of persons living below poverty line to half cannot be possible.

Sir, I have just returned after visiting my constituency and whichever village I visited, everywhere the women, in particular, were seeking red cards under which they would be able to get pension and widow pension. More than half the number of persons coming to us come for this purpose only. It is not only with me, but all the hon. Members sitting here must be facing the same situation during their visits to the villages.

Sir, the Minister of Finance has referred to the youth power in this budget and mentioned about inspiring the youth. If ten twenty young members have been elected to this Parliament, then, it cannot be termed as youth empowerment. It has been stated in the budget that loans would be provided to the students and subsidy would be provided on the loans for higher education and vocational education. But when a student goes to bank seeking loan for higher education and if he needs five lakh rupees only Rs. 1.5 lakh is sanctioned.

Hon. Minister of Finance, if you look at the figures of the number of applications received by the banks and the number of applications sanctioned, you will be disappointed. The students, particularly the poor students are not benefited by the scheme formulated by the Central Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit in regard to the farmers loans that despite the announcement of loan-waiver scheme by the Government, the banks are not ready to give loan to those farmers whose loans have been waived. Their condition worsened and that was why the Government had to take a decision of waiving the loans. We look forward to their future but the banks are not ready to give loans to them despite the loan-waiver announced by the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to emphasize one point that the whole country is facing a famine and drought like situation and the people are in distress...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am winding up within a minute. I have been elected as a member of Parliament for the first time, but prior to it I have been member of Legislative Assembly and Minister many a times. The Chair has to break this myth. 25 to 30 new members of the ruling party and 25 to 30 new members of the opposition party do not get an opportunity to participate in the debate during the entire period of five years, hence I should be given an opportunity to speak...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to wind up.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will follow your direction. Hon. Finance Minister should take a concrete decision in regard to the drought situation in the country. With these words, I conclude. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI C. RAJENDRAN (Chennai South): Hon. Chairman, it is a great day for me, a red letter day in my life to stand in this august House, the highest forum of Parliamentary democracy in this country, and to put on record my maiden speech in this Fifteenth Lok Sabha.

At the very outset, I would like to thank my leader, the General Secretary of my Party, AIADMK, hon. Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for having given me this golden opportunity to serve the people of South Chennai Parliamentary constituency in Tamil Nadu.

I also owe my deep sense of gratitude to my electorate for having chosen me as their representative to voice and redress their grievances in the Fifteenth Lok Sabha.

Hon. Chairman, we all know that the country is going through period of recession, as is the case with the other countries of the world. We expected the Finance Minister to bring the country out of recession but I find that no concrete measures have been proposed in the Budget to tackle the problem.

To begin with, price rise is a very big issue that is staring at the face of common man. With another bout of rise in petroleum prices last month, it is going to increase the prices of day-to-day consumable items. This is going to hit the common men, for whom there is no proportionate rise in their salaries.

Hon. Chairman, the paltry hike in the income-tax exemption limit as Rs. 10,000 for individuals in general and Rs. 15,000 for senior citizens has greatly disappointed the lower and middle income groups. The removal of the income-tax surcharge benefits only higher income individuals with an annual income of more than Rs. 10 lakh. This paltry increase in exemption limits makes very little sense, especially in the context of spiraling prices of essential commodities and a very bleak employment scenario. This is particularly disappointing for India's huge middle-class, which is the worst hit by the economic meltdown. I urge the Finance Minister to raise the income-tax exemption limit to Rs. 5 lakh.

The hon. Finance Minister made an allocation of Rs. 120 crore for the multi-purpose national citizens' identity card. It is going to be a very massive exercise and it would incur heavy expenditure. The amount allocated is so meagre that it could never make a start. When will the scheme be completed? Will the hon. Finance Minister make additional allocation for this purpose?

Hon. Chairman, Sir, the condition of lakhs of civil Tamilian refugees in the Sri Lankan camps is appalling. Food is short, sanitation is non-existent and medicines are not available. The wounded and traumatized civilians are in desperate need of help. The Tamils existing in refugee camps need to go back to their homeland with dignity and honour at the earliest.

The AIADMK in its election manifesto has promised that if voted to power, it would prevail upon the Government of India to sanction Rs. 10,000 crore as rehabilitation package for the Eelam Tamils. The hon. Finance Minister's announcement of Rs. 500 crore for the rehabilitation of Eelam Tamils is meagre and pays only lip service. On behalf of the AIADMK and our Party

General Secretary Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I urge the Government to sanction Rs. 10,000 crore as rehabilitation package.

In the case of Delhi, the hon. Finance Minister has allocated additional funds to meet the expenditure proposed to be incurred on account of the Commonwealth Games. The capital city of Delhi had hosted Asian Games earlier. By holding of such games, additional infrastructure is developed and the city gets developed. I would request that such sports or games should be held in other metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad etc. This will ensure development of the respective cities. Actually, this happens in other countries of the world. Why can we not hold such games in other cities of India as well?

In the case of Chennai, our hon. Amma has constructed Nehru Stadium exclusively for this purpose and we have other stadiums at Chennai. They are all under-utilised. If we hold such games in other cities of the country, in rotation, each city would get developed automatically.

My Party leader hon. Amma has been insisting time and again to bring back illegal money kept in foreign banks by some Indian nationals. It has been admitted by the Government that illegal money of Indian citizens outside the country in secret bank accounts will be brought back to India with the coordination of the governments of those countries. Will the Government come forward to place a White Paper in this regard? I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether a time frame has been fixed in this regard or not.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech has stated in para no. 52 that it is estimated that over five lakh students from weaker sections will be benefited by way of education loans. Is the Government aware of the fact that most of the banks insist for immovable property documents as security even for smaller loans? Will the Government instruct the banks suitably for timely disbursement of education loans and be user-friendly?

Sir, before I conclude, I would like to quote what Dr. Rajendra Prasad said – “Whatever the Constitution may or may not provide, the welfare of the country depends upon the way the country is administered. That will depend upon the men who administer it.”

I expect that the men who govern, administer the country for the poor and the common men.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate on the budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance. I would neither prolong my speech nor repeat anything. If I repeat the points raised by the hon. Members in their speeches, I would waste the time of the House. All of us know well that after the independence, democracy was adopted in our country and the overall progress made by the country thereafter is a result of the progress made in every field under the five year plan in a planned manner during the last sixty years.

Our hon. Minister of Finance, who I think is a symbol of humanity, has presented this budget in this August House after a lot of deliberation as he has said in his budget speech that he has finalized this budget in consultation with the intellectual people from all over the country and the Finance Ministers of all the States. I would like to appreciate him for presenting a historical budget after the independence. It may be called historical in the sense that for the first time such areas have been covered in this rural people have been covered under this budget and the allocation of funds for the development of rural sector, education, medical facilities etc. has been increased. Different sectors have been given priority and if I start counting each of them then it would take time but I appreciate and praise each word in this budget.

I would wind up my speech after stating two more points. I can say that injustice has been meted out to ex-servicemen for long and it was mentioned in the President's address that one-rank, one-pension would be introduced in the next 100 days. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for keeping this promise by including it in this budget speech. But I would like to give one suggestion that it was a gross injustice not to address the problems of lakhs of servicemen who are guarding the borders of our country as well as the problems of ex-servicemen who have spent the prime time of their lives for the sake of the security of this country, but, I congratulate this UPA Government and the Minister of Finance for keeping this promise because the servicemen would have done their duty in blazing desert, snow-filled mountains, surface, sea and forests and when they come back home after

retirement nobody is concerned about their problems. They are treated unfairly and the earlier governments did not pay any attention to it. This Government has paid attention to it, therefore, I would like to congratulate them and at the same time I want to say that there is no mention about any commission for them as sixth pay commission. I want to say that several commissions have been constituted for the other departments.

17.00 hrs.

A Commission should be constituted for defence personnel also. That should be a permanent body so that these personnel, be it a soldier on duty or a personnel attached with an officer or a defence personnel, may register their grievances there and those grievances may be addressed. It is my view that commission should have legal powers.

Sir, our country has borders on all sides. Jammu and Kashmir, the State from which I hail, has witnessed many wars. I can say that the entire country was affected by 1962 war, but, the wars of 1965, 1971 and 1999 affected Jammu and Kashmir the most. At the same time I would like to say that the problem of Jammu-Kashmir, from Gujarat to Rajasthan and Punjab, be they related to international border or actual line of control, are different from other parts of the country. How can a person construct his house who has been a victim of half a dozen wars? He is devastated. He cannot progress, but, even the Government does not create enough infrastructure at those places. As the villages have been given priority in this budget, I would like to state that there should be a separate planning and budget provision for these border states—from Gujarat to Kashmir including Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir so that the persons who have been backward for the last sixty years and the places lagging far behind in infrastructure, medical facilities, connectivity, telecommunication facilities might be taken care of.

Sir, on several occasions there is unprovoked firing from Pakistan. Crops are destroyed in bombardment. The people lose their legs and lives as well but they do not get any compensation from the Government. The cattle of the people are killed. I want to say that when the hon. Minister of Finance has shown much Kindness and far sightedness in this budget, there should be a parameter for insurance of the life and property of these people so that the civilians living in the border areas may fight with the enemies and secure their country.

Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Concluding, I would like to thank hon. Madam Soniaji, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Minister of Finance and our rising star Shri Rahul Gandhiji who have given their contribution in preparing this budget through their suggestions. With these words, I conclude.

17.03 hrs.

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA *in the Chair*]

SHRI S.D. SHARIQ (Baramulla): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me 2-3 minutes to speak. As all of us are aware, we have socialist nature of constitution. It is based on the principles of socialism. Though sixty years have elapsed since we became an independent country, yet there is a huge gap between rich and the poor. There are people who play with crore of rupees and at the same time, in our country, there are people who can't buy even a tablet if they are sick. Our budget should be planned in such a way that this huge gap could be reduced. As all of my colleagues have said, 80 percent of India's population lives in villages. Therefore, there is a need to give maximum attention to the development of villages. Gandhiji had said that until and unless we take care of our rural population, we can't do good to our country. Under Indira Aawas youjana, a sum of Rs. 25,000-30,000 is provided for constructing a dwelling unit which is highly inadequate. Prices have risen to a very high level. In view of it, I would urge that at least rupees one lakh should be provided for constructing a dwelling unit under IAY in rural areas.

As woman constitute a major portion of our population, paying attention towards their education, the Government should take steps for opening maximum number of colleges in selected states for girls. At the same time, more such colleges should be opened in backward area also.

Coming to the minorities, though I do not consider Muslims as minority in India as they have second largest population in the country. No doubt, the government has in fact, taken certain applaudable measures for their development, to bring them out of poverty, their education etc. which I appreciate. But, still there is a need for further improvement. There is an urgent need for providing them education, employment, social upliftment and ensuring their other kind of progress. Not only Muslims, for the poor people, irrespective of their religion

or faith, or the area they live in, adequate funds should be provided in the budget for their development.

Despite very high price rise, without having adequate funds, being a hilly and remote state, Jammu and Kashmir has paid arrears of Sixth Central Pay Commission to its employees. We have been facing militancy for the last twenty years. We have lost lakhs of lives. We have large number of orphans, widows, disabled persons and there is a need to pay more attention to them. Hindu pandits, who are part and parcel of our life, without whom we have no life, no value, had to leave their home land, had to migrate to other areas. Through you, I urge the Government to provide a special package for them so that the youth get employment. For no fault of theirs, they are languishing in camps. Therefore, there is a need to give special attention to them...*(Interruptions)*

One of my colleagues has made a mention of MPLAD Scheme. When hon. Atalji was the Prime Minister, I had a meeting with him on MPLADS wherein, he said that the allocation under this scheme will be increased from present Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 5 crore. Perhaps, it was increased to Rs. 2 crore during his regime. We sought it to be raised to Rs. 5 crore, and he had assured us of favourable action. MP's talk here this and that, but when they visit the villages and if villagers request them say for a grant of Rs. 50 lakh for constructing a culvert where they will hide their face. My submission is that the allocation under MPLADS should be at least Rs. 5 crore...*(Interruptions)* Alright, let it be Rs. 10 crore, I would have increased it to Rs. 15 crore if I was empowered to do so, but now they are empowered to do it...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding. ...*(Interruptions)* As I have said a package should be provided for rehabilitation of Kashmir Pandits.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir has enough water resources to generate 25 thousand MW power but the state has no funds. I would like to say that during Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's time. ...*(Interruptions)* When water treaty was signed with Pakistan, rivers flowing through Kashmir were given to Pakistan and those flowing through Punjab were retained by India. As and when we start some work on these rivers, Pakistan immediately objects. When work on wooller barrage was started, Pakistan objected to it and the work was stopped. The work has been suspended for the last then years.

I would urge the Government to compensate us financially as our rivers have been transferred to them.

The loss we are facing equal to that...*(Interruptions)* Lakhs of Kashmiri youths are unemployed, who later on become terrorists...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, I will conclude in a minute.

Finally, I would say that unemployment is an issue there. Red tapism is rampant every where, as it was during British rule. Files do not move easily in offices, there is a need for the Government to act in this direction...*(Interruptions)* However, the steps taken by the Government to ensure food security is highly appreciable. I appreciate it and at the same time I would say that every member has complaints that they are not getting time to speak. All of us request that working time of the Parliament be increased. No sooner one rises to speak, the bell is rung...*(Interruptions)* As he is unable to raise his voice, the people in his area won't spare him.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give others also a chance to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI S.D. SHARIQ: Any how, the working days and the time of the Parliament should be increased.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record now. Thank you. If you want, you can place the rest of your speech on the Table.

*(Interruptions) **

[Translation]

**SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): The Hon'ble Minister of Finance, while presenting the Budget 2009-10, has very categorically stated that this Budget is a common man's Budget and it will fulfill the assurances laid out in the Address of the Hon'ble President in letter and spirit both. However, it does not seem so. The jugglery of figures shown in the Budget is far from reality because the actual condition of the country, particularly the situation in rural areas is really worrisome. Under the burden of heavy debts people are continuously ending their lives. I am myself giving one such example.

*Not recorded.

**The Speech was laid on the Table.

All the young people of my age who used to study alongwith me were unable to leave that place due to poverty and now when I look at them I pity their poor plight. Poverty is increasing day by day but the hon'ble Minister of Finance has claimed to reduce country's poverty to half by the year 2014. He has talked about maintaining agricultural growth rate at 4 percent whereas it is a fact that the production cost and lack of adequate rain make agriculture a loss making profession. The farmers are reeling under huge debts and are committing suicide. Why is this sector, where 70 percent population of the country is involved in agriculture, being neglected? How can we make agriculture a profitable business by spending a mere one percent of the total budgetary provision on the agricultural sector? Every year the farmers are getting further indebted due to natural calamities and uncertainty of rain.

If the hon'ble Minister wants to strengthen the agricultural sector, then first of all he should increase the provision in Budget. For once they should waive the entire loan of the farmers. They should also provide sufficient water and power to the farmers and take steps to help the farmers get the right price for their crops in proportion to the production cost and only then they can maintain the growth rate at 4 percent, otherwise not.

The figures given regarding the agricultural sector are not correct. Recently, the hon'ble Prime Minister had stated that it is getting difficult to even maintain agricultural growth rate at one percent, therefore, the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to maintain 4 percent growth rate is totally false. Earlier agriculture used to contribute 21 percent to the economy and it was considered as the basis of economy but there is a huge question mark on the expenditure being incurred in the Budget upon agriculture. The Parliament should deeply think over this issue because the production cost is increasing day by day. It costs more than Rs. 950/- to produce one quintal of wheat and if the same is sold at Rs. 1080/- per quintal in the market, then how will the condition of farmers improve?

Hon'ble Minister of Finance has claimed in the Budget to eradicate poverty by 50 percent by the year 2014, but how will he improve their economic condition. Nothing has been mentioned as to whether their names would be removed from the BPL list just because their houses now have pucca toilets, they have got a power connection, houses have been provided to them or their names have been added to the Rozgar Guarantee Scheme. Therefore, I would like to give an example of

Madhya Pradesh. The total number of families below poverty line was 42 lakh in the year 2002 in Madhya Pradesh. When BJP Government was formed in the state, village people were complaining that their names were added in the BPL list despite their fulfilling the eligibility norm. Then the State Government again got the BPL survey done and it has now gone up to 62 lakh families.

I believe that poverty is increasing. Indiraji had given a slogan-eradicate poverty, but it is increasing. The figure among 100 person there are 36 poor persons in the country, is wrong. The reality is that the actual number of poor families in the country is more than 60 percent.

The hon'ble Minister should withdraw the announcement made by him to reduce poverty by 50 percent in year 2014 and he should run time bound programmes to improve the financial condition of BPL families.

The hon'ble Minister of Finance has considered the Rozgar Guarantee Scheme to be most successful scheme and mentioned that the workers get Rs. 100 as wages every day, which is wrong. The reality is that the average wage being received by workers is Rs. 35 only because as per the task rates a person will receive wages only as per the work done. If extensive reforms are not carried out in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, then no agencies will be able to get the work done, and this has made the said scheme extremely slow.

Payment of wages under this scheme is done through banks whereas even after running around for the whole week the workers are unable to get their dues from these banks. Similarly, the ban imposed on pucca works under the said scheme should also be lifted. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance has made no provision in the budget for the States facing natural calamities. On one hand, Rs. 1 crore has been given for AIIA in West Bengal and Maharashtra but nothing has been given to a state like Madhya Pradesh which is facing natural calamities since last four years. In spite of the recommendation made by Central Study Group regarding Rs. 34 thousand crore assistance to be given to the State, nothing has been given. This is highly discriminatory. Not only this, not even a single rupee has been given to states like Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh which have been facing natural calamities continuously.

The hon'ble Minister of Finance has talked about power generation and its equal distribution, I would like to tell him that the Union Government has grossly discriminated in distribution of power. Madhya Pradesh used to receive 552 megawatts of power from the central pool and today that has been reduced to 31 megawatts only. In spite of repeated demands justice has not been done to us.

In the Budget nothing has been mentioned to check the increasing inflation. It seems the Union Government lost all control over price rise. On the one hand, they have talked about eradicating poverty and on the other hand no concern has been shown towards increasing the purchasing power of the poor man. Today prices of all the items have increased. When will the same be checked and who will check inflation? I believe the country wants to know that and the Hon'ble Minister of Finance may please tell us about it.

The schemes of the Central Government have lost momentum. The National Highways are in a poor state. National Highway No. 75 running through the historical tourist spot, Khajuraho, Panna famous for the National Park and diamond mines; Satna, where Lord Ram meditated for eleven years, is infamous as an accident-prone road today. I have been putting my demand for widening of national highway no. 7 which passes through my constituency to touch upon the places where Ma Sharda and Baba Alaaddin mediated, and for construction of railway overbridge in Mehar under the BoT scheme for the last five years. However, sanction for the same has not been granted till date despite budgetary provisions to fulfill the said objective. I also want construction of Allahabad road from Satna to Fkaria with the national road fund.

Orchha, Khajuraho, Panna, Chitrakoot, Satna, Mehar, Amarkantak, Rewa, Benaras are areas which witness heavy domestic and foreign tourist traffic. Satna is also a major industrial hub but there is no air service there despite the presence of an airport. I want Satna to be provided direct air links to Delhi, Bhopal and, Mumbai and my constituency to be linked to the central tourist circuit.

In the end, I would term the Budget to be imbalanced, discriminatory, against the interests of the people, unduly favourable towards certain sections and an inflationary budget.

[English]

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to make my observations on the Budget. I would like to say that this budget is presented with a sense of reality. In the contemporary Indian situation a budget of this type only can be presented. It is really development-oriented and targeting the downtrodden and marginalized sections of the society.

Hon. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech says that we have to meet three challenges. One is to lead the economy back to nine per cent GDP growth; deepening and widening of the agenda of inclusive development is the second challenge; and the third challenge is re-energizing of the administrative set up. These three challenges categorically prove that this Government has farsightedness. I would like to say that this Government can really implement such things.

When we talk about the economy in the light of the global economic meltdown we all can arrive at a conclusion that global economy's ups and downs will have an impact on Indian economy also. In this new world order no country can live in an island of its own. All nations are a part and parcel of the world developments. If you go through the Indian developments, we can be proud of saying that we have maintained a position hitherto. We were successful in dealing with this situation. Of course, there is some downward trend, I agree. At the same time we can say that fortunately India is having an inbuilt shock absorber system to resist this global economic meltdown.

When we talk about globalisation and things like that, this point was debated at length. Many discussions, debates, seminars, and things like that are going on. But one thing is sure. It has become a reality. India can really receive the impact of globalisation in Indian style. I would like to say that India can have 'Indianisation' of globalisation. That is what is narrated in the speech of the hon. Finance Minister.

If you just do a sort of analysis of Indian situation, what is our strength? Our strength is talented and skilled manpower. Ours is the youngest country in the world. We can make wonders. This 21st century is controlled by knowledge only. It is not an agro-based economy or industry-based economy. The economy of the 21st century is controlled by knowledge only. In this knowledge era we can give leadership to the entire world provided

we make optimum utilization of the young manpower this country is having.

I would like to note that. Wisdom has been applied in this Budget on manpower generation and planning. I congratulate the Government and the Minister for having such a farsightedness in manpower utilization.

Coming to the minorities, the learned hon. Members who spoke before me expressed their feelings here. I agree with them and endorse their views. There is a kind of a fear complex that if you do something for the minorities, your finger will be burnt. There is a kind of criticism in that. There is no question of appeasement. It is the constitutional right that the minorities are asking. It is the duty of the Government to give it. Certain bold steps will have to be taken. I agree. We did a lot of things. This Government was bold-enough to take some effective measures in that. But it should be done in a time-bound manner.

As an example, I would like to tell you about 93rd Constitutional amendment. There are many constitutional experts sitting here. What was the purpose of 93rd Constitutional amendment? 93rd Constitution amendment is just a three sentence amendment to clause 15 of the Constitution. It says that the State can introduce reservation system in all the educational institutions, whether it is aided or unaided. What happened to that? Nothing has been done to that. I would like to say that legislations are made, not to keep them in cold storage. They are to be implemented. I request the Government to take this very seriously and implement the things stipulated in the Constitution amendment.

I do not want to take much time of the House. An important point that I would like to raise is about the NRI voting rights. We have been discussing this point since long time. I would like to say that it is the most-justifiable demand. Considering the time constraints, I do not want to enter into the details. Many countries of the world have already introduced this system – whether it is proxy voting or voting through the Embassies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: I am going to conclude on health.

There is some specific recommendation in this. We have forgotten the significance of Indian system of medicine, that is, ayurvedic. There was a proposal to start an ayurvedic university in Kerala, in my constituency

in Kottakkal. This idea was mooted during the period of former President of India Shri V.V. Giri when he had the treatment at Kottakkal. I urge upon the Government to do the maximum possible for the development Indian system of medicine and start an ayurvedic university in my place, that is proposed, at Kottakkal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up. I am calling the next name.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: There is a small point for the poor patients also.

Financial assistance is sanctioned from the PM's Relief Fund. A lot of applications are pending; I realize that we have financial constraints in disbursing the funds. But the poor cancer patients are having endless waiting for that. I request the hon. Minister and the Government to give more allocation for this purpose.

I want to request one more thing for the kidney patients. The treatment cost is very expensive. Some special consideration for an exclusive Central fund may be allotted for the kidney patients.

In the end, I have only one thing for deaf and dumb, physically handicapped and mentally retarded students.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: We have an Act in that regard. I request that that Act may be strictly adhered to.

With these few words, I once again express my thanks for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful you for giving me the opportunity to take part in the discussion on the Budget.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Members to speak within their time.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Sir, how much time is allotted to me?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are given five minutes because there are about 60 Members to speak.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: In that case it is better that I should not speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can make salient points and the rest of the speech you can lay on the Table of the House.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: I am the Deputy Leader of the Samajwadi Party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can lay your speech on the Table.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly listen to me. I am the Deputy leader of Samajwadi party. You are giving everyone else seven to eight minutes but I am being asked to conclude in five minutes only. It would be better if I do not speak at all.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you may continue.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: If you do not allow me to speak, I forego my time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may continue.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: You may be a relatively new entrant in the House, but you should be aware of the position each Member holds and the party to which he belongs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may start your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am going to speak on the Budget for 2009-2010 presented by the Finance Minister in the House. Nearly 72 percent of the population of the country is dependent on agriculture even after 62 years of independence, merely 38 percent of agricultural land in our country is under irrigation. Even now the farmers are dependent on monsoons. The monsoons have failed this year. I am surprised that the meteorological department is also silent on this matter. It is not able to predict when it will rain. I demand that the farmers should be given a special

package-only then would the country be able to progress. A one time loan waiver will not benefit the farmers. The farmers are deeply distressed. Not a single farmer in Uttar Pradesh has got the minimum support price fixed by the Government for paddy and wheat. I talk about the situation in Uttar Pradesh with full authority. I regret that my colleagues in the Congress are not raising this issue. The Government in the state is least concerned about agriculture and farmers. My colleague, Dara Singh, is present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Do not disturb him. Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: You need courage to speak the truth...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address to the Chair.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Sir, he is disturbing me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. You may continue. You have one minute more to speak. You have six more speakers.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: I want to say that the Budget presented by the Finance Minister has got nothing for the farmers.

Secondly, I want to point out that this Budget has a six percent fiscal deficit. How do you intend to make it up? It is a matter of concern. The fiscal deficit has gone up to six percent and in fact, higher than that, But this fact has not been reflected. How will you make up this deficit? The Government has talked of capital disinvestment but, hon. Chairman, I would like to remind the Congress that the public sector units set up by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru are still operational. Economies of India and China have survived despite the economic slump even though the percent of such units may have gone

*Not recorded.

where as the economies of America and Europe have failed entirely.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You are the sixth speaker from your Party.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Sir, only four speakers have spoken from our Party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, you are the fifth speaker. Please conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: You are in a great hurry. It is not your fault, you also are bound by time constraints. Still, I would like to take up another issue. The Government is tom-tomming the NREGA scheme but merely 50 percent of the people have got employment thereunder. Assuming one family consists of five persons, then it gets ten thousand rupees in a year. Is providing a family with an annual income of rupees ten thousand reason enough to be so self-congratulatory? Has the Government set up a monitoring mechanism for the NREGA scheme to find out how well the scheme is being run? Rs. 39 thousand crore has been allocated for NREGA scheme. Hon. Palanimanickam is sitting here. This Government has helped an industrial house to gain a profit of Rs. 50,000 crore to by amending section 80 (B) of Income Tax Act. Merely Rs. 39,000 crore to NREGA but Rs. 50,000 crores to an industrial house—how is this justified? The government may kindly clarify whether the Budget is for the general public or for industrial houses.

[*English*]

DR. RATNA DE (HOOGHLY): Respected Chairman, thank you very much for allowing me to speak in this august House.

I rise to support 2009-10 union Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee on 6th July, 2009. The Budget 2009-10 has been presented in a very difficult time. The world is going through its worst ever economic crisis since 1930s India. Despite its relative insulation is not out of that. The growth rate in the last fiscal has been reduced to 6.7 per cent after averaging almost to nine per cent in the previous five years. Along with that went down also employment and

the purchasing capacity of the people both in the urban and rural India. This creates potential for social instability and agony.

By going with the Union Government's commitment towards growth with inclusive the challenges in front of the hon. Finance Minister were too many. In this background, one could evaluate the success of Budget from different perspectives. Firstly, to what extent can the Budget revive growth? It becomes crucial also for inclusiveness and reform. Secondly, to what extent can this Budget can meet the challenge of economic and social inclusion, *i.e.*, to what extent the division between the Bharat and India could be mitigated? Thirdly, what is the picture for second generation reform in the Budget? It becomes the real matter of concern in medium to long run. Lastly, to what extent this budget could create conditions for stability, thereby I mean both political and economic stability ?

As far as the objective of growth is concerned, this Budget is nothing but for growth. The problems of growth has been discussed both from the demand as well as from the supply also. Considering the immediate problem of the demand constraint, a substantial amount of money has been injected into the economy through a large fiscal stimulus. These fiscal stimulus came both in the form of large Government expenditure and marginal tax relief.

In terms of the Government expenditure this budget is the largest ever. The Budget proposes to spend a sum of Rs. 10.2 trillion which is an increase of 36 per cent over the previous year and this is in addition to earlier three big doses of fiscal stimuli over the last seven months. This is bound to boost demand substantially both for consumer goods and investment. Tax relief to salaried middle class is marginal. Our expectation was much more. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to lower the age limit of senior citizens for providing tax relief.

Now, I would like to come to the supply side. Infrastructure is the real bottleneck of the Indian growth story. Lack of infrastructure not only dampens private investment but also discourages Foreign Direct Investment. The hon. Finance Minister has realised this problem and allocated a huge sum of money for infrastructure creation with special emphasis on rural development. The allocation for Bharat Nirman has been raised by 45 per cent; allocation on irrigation benefit programmes has been raised by 27 per cent. The Budget

also proposes to spend more than Rs. 12,000 crore to build urban infrastructure.

Sir, it is heartening to note that despite its overriding emphasis on growth target of 9 per cent, the hon. Finance Minister has not deviated from the commitment of the UPA Government towards inclusive growth. In such difficult times, balancing these varied objectives was not easy because they meant huge fiscal deficit (almost 6.8%) on the part of the Government. But even at the cost of facing the allegations of financial profligacy, he has allocated huge sums of money for rural development, employment generation and various other welfare schemes.

Sir, I represent a constituency, namely, Hoogly in West Bengal. My constituency mostly is rural in character and the inhabitants are mostly villagers and villages. The literacy rate of women in those villages is very low. A sum of Rs. 500 crore has been allocated for the Self-help Groups. But women should be empowered and the illiteracy rate should be lowered down. Moreover, women should be empowered to move India forward. One should keep in mind what once our beloved & respected ex-Prime Minister, the late Rajiv Gandhi said, only 16 paise of a rupee reaches to beneficiary. It is astonishing but true. So, there is a need for reformation of the Administration. Record increase in allocation of NREGS by 144%.

Sir, two campuses of the Aligarh Muslim University are being proposed to be opened – one at Murshidabad in West Bengal and the other at Kerala. There is already a lot of murmur going on about the names of these two proposes campuses. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to name the campus in Murshidabad as Bengal Aligarh Muslim University and Kerala Aligarh Muslim University respectively.

Sir, I would also like to request the hon. Finance Minister to save the poor cotton weavers of Dhaniyakhali and Begumpur so that this age old traditional industry, popularly known as the "*Banglar Tanter Saree*" could survive and regain its lost glory.

Sir, my next point is about the BPL list. All the allocations of rural people in the BPL category were distributed to the actual beneficiaries through the BPL list. A proper BPL list should be prepared. There should be a mechanism devised and should be done under central monitoring and the list should be published irrespective of caste, creed and political affiliations.

Sir, to conclude, this commendable, highly appreciable all inclusive Budget for growth and development which is highly appreciable and which is meant for growth and development must have a human face. The wheels of development should not tread upon the people for whom it is made for. The hon. Finance Minister has expressed his desire to make India strong. All of us know what Swami Vivekananda said. He said, "We, all have the inner strength to achieve what we desire."

[Translation]

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL (Banda): Sir, I want to raise a point of order. Through you, I would like to...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under which rule are you raising the point of order?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: Hon. Chairman, Sir, the district level meetings regarding developmental issues in the State are convened even during the period when Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies are in Session. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, do not waste the time of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Please let me speak. This relates to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you have not mentioned under which rule you want to raise the point of order?

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, a review meeting is going on in the districts Banda and Chitrakoot, my constituency. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no time.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, I am not allowing you.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please do not disturb Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not quoted the rule.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhlishahr): Mr. Chairman, Sir, district review meetings should not be held while the House is in session. ...(*Interruptions*). This is the rule.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no such rule.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, please listen to me. There is a Government under which lays down that no official meeting should be held in districts while the House is in session. But a meeting on developmental issues is being held there in violation of the said order that there should be no meeting regarding such issues in districts. So, these people are violating the said Government order. Kindly issue necessary directions from here.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rewati Raman Singh, you made your point.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please do not disturb Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal.

[*Translation*]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (Paschim Champaran): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to our hon'ble leader Shri L.K. Advani ji and Smt. Sushma Swaraj...(*Interruptions*) It is my maiden speech, please let me speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

I am grateful to my party leader Shri. L.K. Advaniji and Deputy leader Smt. Sushma Swaraj for giving me an opportunity to speak in the House on behalf of Bhartiya Janata party.

In developed countries general budget is presented without much fanfare. But in our country discussion in this regard starts all around even month before the budget session. However, I am grateful to hon'ble Pranavji that if he continues to present the similar budget for two more years, People would stop discussing it. I am attending the budget session of Lok Sabha for the first time, I listened the speeches of two hon'ble Minister. Both the Ministers hail from the same state and both have talked about the interests of the nation and its people. I hail from the west Champaran district of Bihar. An ordinary farmer of this district Shri Rajkumar Shukla attended Mahadhivation of Congress Party and went back to his place accompanying a barrister. Today that barrister is known as the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi. I also hail from that area. I asked the common people of that area about the budget. How it is a common man's budget when tax on set top box costing Rs. 2000 through which he can see 76 free channels on T.V. has been increased, whereas tax benefit has been given on the purchase of LCD TV costing Rs. 50,000. The Government has increased the import duty on Gold and Silver affecting the common man making purchases in villages, but, is ready to give tax benefit to those making same purchases of jewellery from air-conditioned malls in cities. The Government thinks that a common man might not take the services of all India Institute of Medical Sciences or Safdarjang hospitals, otherwise, they would not have made a cut of Rs. 60 crore to these hospitals.

The Government has announced tax benefit on purchase of more than 2000 CC cars so that a common man could afford them. A common man must be a film Star or cricket player or C.A. of corporate world, that is why these cars have been exempted from FBT.

So far as financial assistance is concerned, the backward states like Bihar and Madhya Pradesh slipped from the mind of hon'ble Minister, however, special concession has been given to poor states like Maharashtra and Kerala. The Government has given Rs. one thousand crore to AILA hit West Bengal but did not utter a single word about Bihar which has been ravaged by floods in river Kosi. They are talking about common men and development of villages, however, out of the total budget of 10,20,000 crore rupees, a sum of Rs. 62,887 crore only has been sanctioned for agriculture, rural development and irrigation. They have given a rebate of 10% to Print media on Government advertisement and waived a commission of 15%. All the members present here are elected members of Parliament. When we were contesting elections, the same print media was asking us to take the package of 5,10 or 20 lakh to give us coverage. How a person would contest election when print media will not give him publicity. I oppose this relaxation to print media. An investigation conducted in this regard would reveal that every newspaper has bungled crores of rupees. I quote Danik Jagran which published news items instead of advertisement and bungled 200 crore rupees in this regard.

Sir, I am thankful for making 144% increase in NREGA, but, who would monitor the new projects. IAS officers in the rank of DC and DM come under the jurisdiction of Central Government. why an IAS officer is not held responsible whenever a package, be it of NREGA or of PDS is misutilized. IAS officers should be blacklisted. We would not be able to achieve fruitful results even with the budget of 10, 20 or 50 thousand crore till we fix the responsibility. Therefore, please fix the responsibility so that the centre's funds may not be misappropriated.

[English]

SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in this august House on the discussion on the General Budget.

Sir, I used to sit in the Visitors' Gallery when my husband used to speak, sometimes speaking from the Treasury Benches and sometimes from the Opposition.

Sir, my heart is bleeding and it is painstaking for me to speak in this august House because the day he had been declared as the best Parliamentarian, within seven days, he became unconscious and till today he is neither able to speak nor he is responding and he is still in the hospital. But it is the peoples' verdict and that is why I have come here and it is my responsibility to speak about them, especially in the Budget.

Sir, this is the first time with the great sentiment and it is very painstaking for me. So, I would request you that I will speak for a little more and you please do not put buzzer on me.

Sir, it is a five years' achievement of the UPA Government under the leadership of great leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the UPA Chairperson; our beloved Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; and the Leader of *Aam Aadmi*, Shri Rahul Gandhiji as to how the UPA has come into power with all the team work. It is not the work of a single person, but it is the team work that the UPA Government has come back again.

Sir, this is the first Budget of the new Government and I thank Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the hon. Minister of Finance that he has placed a Budget of Rs. 10,20,838 crore. He has decided to keep the fiscal gap open. It is the growth oriented Budget with the GDP growth rate of nine per cent. We all know that once the economy returns to the higher path, the buoyancy in revenue will help to lower the deficit.

He has focussed attention on restoring higher growth as a real challenge. I have heard one of his interviews where he has said that it is a calculated risk taken by him. It is a very clear, positive signal given to the weak macro-economic condition which is going on globally. This stress on infrastructure and rural development will help to improve the prosperity and productivity in the long-term. I am hearing the other opposition Members while delivering their speeches where they are saying:

[Translation]

how much time will it take

[English]

It is a long time process.

[*Translation*]

the manner is which prices are shooting up and the way we all are facing it

[*English*]

it is not a magic that the hon. Finance Minister can do. It will take a long time. But it is a Budget that he has placed before this House which is really a poor people's Budget.

[*Translation*]

Some members were saying that it is not a common man's budget rather it is for some special persons. I strongly claim that this budget can turn a common man into a special man.

[*English*]

It will make the under-privileged people a privileged one. They will definite give some privilege.

The hon. Finance Minister has hit all high points without promising out of turn anything. In his Speech, he has reached out to the rural people of India - we must say rural Bharat - through power, infrastructure, housing for the poor, urban job-holders. He has abolished the surcharge on income-tax and, of course, the fringe benefit tax. I will not focus on so many things. Since I am a woman, I would like to say that it is not the benefit that the women have got; it is not that the women are happy that they can buy jewelleries but it is the literacy the poor, rural literacy that has been taken care of which makes us happy. The target is that 50 per cent of them are enrolled into Self-Help Groups which is very essential for rural India.

Since I have come from a rural constituency, I must say that even 32 years of ruling by the Left Front Government in West Bengal, in my constituency where I used to represent as an MLA the Goalpokhar constituency, after 62 years of Independence, there is no girls high school till date. It is a shame on us. Even then, we are trying to do. We have given land. We have registered the land for that purpose. We have given our proposal but the Government is not giving any assurance that there could be a girls high school. It is a thickly populated minority area, especially Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe area.

I would further like to say that for the *Rashtriya Mahila Kosh*, the allocation has been increased from Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 500 crore. Coming to Education, he has given priority to education; priority for upgrading polytechnics. He has announced tax reduction for interest on loans taken for pursuing higher studies. It is especially for the poor who can go for the higher studies. I have seen with my own eyes in my own constituency the plight of poor Muslim minorities. The boys are going to the Aligarh Muslim University. They are passing out MA but they cannot do MBA or some specialised courses. For the minorities, there are so many scholarships which have been announced. For the specialised course, there should be some specific scholarship that should be given to the minorities.

There are so many schemes for rural development. I am not going through all these because it will take more time. For schemes like PMGSY, the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, for JNNURM, APDRP, RKVY, RSBY, NREGA, more money has been given. But I will speak on the NREGA. The NREGA or any other Scheme is basically meant for the BPL category people. For the last 32 years, the people of West Bengal are crying for a published BPL list.

It has never come in front of the people and because of that the NREGP is a total flop in West Bengal. When we ask them, they say that money is going directly from the PM to DM no CPM or CM is acting as middle men.

That is the problem, but the people of West Bengal are not getting the benefit of NREGP. Out of 100 days, it is only for 11 to 17 per cent of days people have got jobs there. It is really very painstaking, but this BPL List should be rectified very soon. I know that there are many poor people who are out of this list, but their names should be included and that should be done quickly.

The schemes are really good and they are really for the development of the people. But there are many leakages in implementation. When the schemes go to the States, there is no proper implementation of various schemes at the ground level. That is why, leakage-proof should be there. Increased allocation to NREGP coupled with an increased target of agricultural growth would improve rural investment and income levels definitely and as a result, companies focussed on consumer spending specially in the rural market will definitely do well.

Sir, I now come to some very specific programmes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Sir, I will conclude by stating about a real problem faced by us. In the entire North Bengal, there are 6 districts and in those districts, we have only one Medical college and only one Government Engineering College. That is the real problem we are facing. As you know, the Uttar Dinajpur district of West Bengal is like a chicken neck and after that there is Darjeeling. There is a problem brewing in Darjeeling like a volcano. Like Lalgarh, a problem is coming there also. The Government is spending so much money, So much money is being spent for curbing naxalism. But what is the reason behind it? It is because of non-development of those areas that this problem is coming up. They are not getting funds, there is no development, there is no improvement in their social status and that is why these things are coming up.

Now, at this point of time, 13 Tea Gardens are closed in West Bengal and over 15,000 labours are on the street. The girls of these labours are becoming sex workers and their children are being sold. This is the position now. For the relief and rehabilitation of Aila cyclone victims, the Finance Minister has given Rs. 1,000 crore and I appreciate him for that. But, I would like to submit that the problem of Tea Garden workers is very real and genuine. We all drink tea and when we sip a cup of tea, we must think of those 15,000 Tea Garden workers who are on the street now. So my earnest request to the Government is that there should be a package for them, for the entire North Bengal like the North East so that this problem could be solved.

Sir, about the Budget, many people have said that it is a negative Budget. But I must say that for some people it is cheers and for some people it is tears. So it is a mix of cheers and tears.

[Translation]

We would like to place all our demand because whenever budget is presented, we always feel to get more allocation under it. Therefore, “Yey Dil Mangey more” with these words I thank you and support him budget.

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (Sikkim): Mr. Chairman, Sir, taking off from where the previous speaker left and with the kind of emotion that she has shown, I commend the

Finance Minister for coming out with, what I call, an appropriate Budget for the time. If there is a question that we need to, perhaps, ponder over, it is, in a time of recession, who gets hurt the most and without any kind of analysis, we can always say that it is the people who are vulnerable and the poor who get hit the most during a time of recession. Indeed the global recession has not spared our country. But yesterday, when I was discussing this very matter with a professor from Wharton, he said that the problem in India was not as much as in the US and the reason for that, he said, was that India had a great domestic market and the stimulus packages that had been unleashed by hon. Pranab Mukherji Ji had actually started working. This, I think, says a lot for the Budget itself.

So, the Budget is, in many ways for the *aam adami* and it is definitely rural development centric which is also very good economics. Even though it has not been factored in perhaps by the stock markets, other than that if you have a look at some of the analyses and what most of the gurus in economics have to say, many of them have given it more than seven or eight on ten.

Sikkim, the State which I represent, has made a lot of progress. Today, it is also known that in many of the indicators that we have under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Pawan Chamling, we have transferred more than 70 per cent of our Budget to the rural sector. If you look at the figures, perhaps I will come back to you with more figures on maybe the Gini-index which tells more about the equitable distribution of resources. It will be more than heartening to tell this august House that marginalisation is very little in our State. That is one of the reasons that we have managed in our State to show all round progress and on many indicators we are leading in the country.

Having said that, I would like to also place in front of this House the need for part of the Aila package which the hon. Finance Minister is giving to West Bengal. The path for Aila actually also reached Sikkim. It has reached Darjeeling, it has reached Kalimpong and indeed there was a lot of devastation in our State. Therefore, the tail-end of the package, which I would call, of about Rs. 100 crore may also be allocated to our State.

I would also like to bring to the notice of this august House, since there are more than 282 new Members, that it was in 1973 that Sikkim signed the May 8 Agreement and it was in 1975 that Sikkim became a part of the Indian Union. So, it is after 35 years that we

are seeing that what Sikkim has actually into what is known as the Indian Union. Before that, I would like to mention here that Sikkim was a fully tribal Kingdom. The reason I am saying all this is because the case for Sikkim is protected under 371 (F) and I just want to make a mention of that.

I would like to also bring to the notice of this august House that we need a public policy on water. There has to be strict guidelines and codes for the use and conservation of water. In the State of Sikkim where we have an abundance of water, where we are starting to look at a long-term water policy because of the need for conserving our glaciers which feed the very rivers that emanate from our State. We do not have any rivers coming in from the Tibetan Plateau, but all the rivers that flow through our State actually emanate from our own glaciers and the glaciers are actually in very hasty retreat, I might add.

I would like to finally mention one more thing that in the Budget the fruits of what our hon. Finance Minister is actually targeting — and I make this a passionate plea — and looking for can only be made possible if the delivery mechanism is made much more robust.

18.00 hrs.

There is a need for accountability and the bureaucratic mechanism has to be made much more result-oriented. I think I will not be the first one neither the last one to ask for this particular case or present this particular case because we all know that most of the programmes are well-intentioned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please sit down. I will take just a minute.

I would like to extend the time of the House for two more hours. If the House agrees, we could extend the House.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, the House is extended by two hours.

SHRI PREM DAS RAI: So, I will finish with this that the accountability that needs to be sought from the bureaucratic mechanism that takes on all the programmes of the Government needs to be first looked at in very great detail.

With that, I will be placing the rest of my speech on the Table.

*My Party, The Sikkim Democratic Front, part of the UPA would like to extend its support to the Union Budget, 2009 and I would like to commend the Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee on coming up with an excellent Budget in such a short time.

Several people have made contributions with the aim of enriching the Budget formulation. While acknowledging the achievements of the Honourable Finance Minister, I would like to present my suggestions for his consideration before the House.

I would like to bring to the notice of the House a host of issues revolving around the allocation of the Union Budget to the development of Roads, and Airports in the North East Region, Information Technology, Primary Education, Rural Development, Environment and Climate Change in India, and further bring to focus the need to look at the issue of **Mountain Paradigm** with a refreshed outlook.

There is a need to work towards the making of a '**mountain perspective**'. One may use the concept of five '**mountain specificities**' to identify the specific features of the mountain environment and economies as opposed to the plains. Three of them, inaccessibility, fragility and marginality constrain biophysical features, while the other two, diversity and niche, provide positive opportunities for mountain development. The fact that most 'Plains' oriented development projects fail to succeed in Mountain regions is linked to insensitivity to, or lack of recognition of these specificities.

I would like to further classify some important environmental and socio-economic features of the mountains by outlining certain '**mountain characteristics**'. These are Structural Fragilities, Climate and Biological Diversity, High level of Precipitation, and Ecological Complexity. The socio-economic implications of Environment Characteristics are relative inaccessibility, cost enhancement from fragility, climate advantages and hazards, storage sites, and hydro-potential and marginality.

The Union Budget has done a commendable job in ensuring a need based allocation of funds to various sectors with a long term view of overall socio-economic development of the country. I would like to however comment on the need to focus on allocation made

towards the development activities in the North East region with special emphasis on roads, airports, and the DONER Ministry, Information Technology, Rural Development and Primary Education.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways—The overall allocation has increased from Rs. 18216.64 Crore to Rs. 21635.06 Crore. Allocation of Rs. 1511 Crore has been made for projects/schemes for the benefit of the North Eastern Region (NER) and Sikkim. This has been increased from Rs. 1206 Crores allocated in 2008-09 (RE and is an increase of 25%).

Ministry of Civil Aviation has made a lump-sum provision of Rs. 20 Crores for projects/schemes for the benefit of the North-Eastern Region and Sikkim.

Deduction in respect of export profits is available under sections 10A and 10B of the Income-tax Act. The deduction under these sections would not be available beyond the financial year 2009-2010. In order to tide over the slowdown in exports, the Finance Minister has proposed to extend the sun-set clauses for these tax holidays by one more year i.e. for the financial year 2010-2011. The extension of IT tax exemption (Section 10A and 10B) by a year to March 31, 2011, scrapping of FBT in the IT industry (which has a high tax incidence due to ESOP) and removal of duty on packaged software bodes well for the industry.

The North East has not benefited much from these exemptions; partly because of the fact that IT industry in the North East has been slow to take off. This is on account of the fact that the IT infrastructure is yet to be robust enough for establishment of high quality and mission critical work and business. I request that to promote IT in North East that these tax exemptions be only given to north east so that more IT investment happens in the region. In the budget sunset clause of STP policy has been extended for one more year only because GOI wants to promote SEZ policy. All IT SMES however, want STP policy. You can change the fate of the IT industry in the NE by removing the sunset clause of STP policy on the ground that IT SEZ is not happening in NE.

I would like to now bring to the notice of the House the need for creation of a Knowledge Space in Sikkim and the North East Region. Our country is in the middle of a transitional phase moving steadily towards economic and social development and prosperity. Such a transition taking place smoothly cannot be achieved without

overhauling the entire education system. It is here that the boom in the IT Sector can significantly transform education and e-learning making the best libraries of the world available at the door steps of every village in the region. We are thus looking forward to a 21st Century State of the Art Digital Network that would herald a new phase of development in the region. In this endeavor we hope to coordinate with at least 3-4 major players like the Power Grid Corporation of India, the Railways and private players such as Bharti, Reliance, Tata Telecom, among others. My State, Sikkim would also be keenly looking forward at its own power grid network to ensure that fibre optic cables are taken to all villages of the State.

Currently SSA funds states on an annual basis, which does not allow the states to create a long term plan. It may be good to provide 3 years of assured funds for a set of goals to achieve and to monitor half-yearly progress.

Sound higher education is the gateway to professional success. I would thus like to take this opportunity to laud the efforts of the Union Budget to allocate Rs. 50 Crore in order to attempt to improve the facilities at Punjab University, Chandigarh. At the same time I would like to highlight the dismal conditions of Universities in the North East and the urgent need to build higher education infrastructure in order to cater to the burgeoning demands of the young North Eastern student population. I would hence like the Union Budget and the Central Government to look into the issue of improving higher education in the North East Region which would in turn provide the youth with greater opportunities and help in containing the growing discontent among them.

There has been practically no change in the allocation of the DONER ministry compared to the last Budget.

There has been a decrease in the allocation to the North East by almost ten percent. Higher allocation has been done for schemes like:

- National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
- Indira Awas Yojana
- Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana
- Water and Sanitation Programme

The seriousness of Climate Change being witnessed in our country can be measured in the form of increasing trends in temperature, shifts in rainfall pattern, glacier retreats and deglaciation, rise in sea level, increased intensity and frequency of extreme weather conditions, changes in crop patterns, and the spread of vector borne diseases to name a few. I would like to bring to the notice of the House, the urgent need to deliberate on these issues and chart out a well constructed path to control adversities posed by climate change and design a strategy to work towards better energy management.

While acknowledging the vision of the UPA in addressing these issues, I would like to take this opportunity to focus on some key elements that could potentially be addressed by the Union Budget, 2009-2010.

The National Action Plan on Climate Change was unveiled last year promised to adopt a strategy on Climate Change and enhance the ecological sustainability of our development path. Necessary funds were designed to be provided for Eight National Missions namely the National Solar Mission, National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency, National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, National Water Mission, National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system, National Mission for a Green India, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change.

The introduction to the NACCP was a welcome step however the Government is yet to pronounce any measures for financing public expenditure on any of the eight missions identified. The urgency of doing the same should be recognized immediately to minimize the damages of Climate Change.

The honourable Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Chamling has received the Greenest Chief Minister of India Award from the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi. However, in spite of being the greenest State in the country, Sikkim today is faced with a large magnitude of climate change related problems. The river Teesta is today flowing at an all time low and the State has in its recent history witnessed some of its warmest summers. Global warming has had adverse affects on drinking water, Rabi crops, and cash crops like cardamom, ginger and orange. The summer Monsoon rainfall has shown an increasing trend with an increase of 5.6 mm rainfall per ten years, and the rainy season has on an average shown an increase of about

two months, with the quantum of rain increasing in September and October over the last five years. Rains in Sikkim today are much more unexpected, torrential and heavy than before. Surveys conducted in 40 village milk union functionaries have revealed that villagers feel that their cattle are more affected by diseases now than ever before. I would also like to bring to the attention of the house to the far more grave issue of glacier retreat and deglaciation in the Himalayas.

India is witnessing a dangerous result of global warming in the form of Rapid de-glaciation and glacial retreats. Deglaciation is a loss of glacial mass and glacial retreat is the retreat of the glacial snout.

Surveys based on satellite images and ground investigations by ISRO's Space Application Centre (SAC) Ahmedabad have established that in Himachal Pradesh alone, the glaciers have reduced from 2,077 km² to 1,628 km² – an overall deglaciation of 21% in four decades. According to SAC as many as 127 glaciers of less than 1 km² size have lost 38 per cent of their geographical area since 1962. The larger glaciers, which are progressively getting fragmented, have receded by as much as 12 per cent which is truly alarming. Data on glacial recession from the IHR are available only for last 150 years. These reveal that the Himalayan glaciers are retreating at an average rate of 18-20 m yr⁻¹ (Mazari 2006)

Snout Recession in Himalayan Glaciers: The Department of Science and Technology, GOI, under the Himalayan Glaciology Programme (HGP) has been carrying out a multidisciplinary study on the mass balance, recession, ice thickness, glacial discharge, sediment transfer, isotopic and chemical characteristic of snow, ice and melt water and geomorphology mapping under the leadership of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology since 1986. During the first phase information has been generated on Chhota Shigri glacier in Himachal Pradesh, Dokhriani in Bhagirathi Valley and Chorabari in the Alaknanda basin of Uttaranchal. These glaciers are being monitored regularly to detect the changes.

Sikkim has 84 glaciers covering an area of 691 sq. km. Most glaciers in Sikkim originate from the Kanchenjunga and in turn give rise to streamlets. This is also a source of the Teesta River, which is one of the main sources of water for the State of Sikkim. Rangit, an important tributary of Teesta is fed mainly by the Rathong Chu and the Prek Chu glaciers in North West Sikkim. The Teesta is fed by the Onglonthang Glacier.

Global warming has resulted in a faster rate at which snow melts in the Sikkim glaciers, leading to huge quantities of water into glacier lakes. Once the water level in these lakes rises beyond the normal ranges, breaches of the dam formed of ice, boulders, and sand give way. This surge of water and debris caused by outbursts of glacier lakes can change entire courses of rivers also leading to a rise in the river level and causing floods of severe magnitudes in the Himalayan region.

What needs to be noted by the House is that a study conducted by scientists in 1995 found that the Onglokthang and Rathong Chu glaciers are receding at a rapid rate, threatening the fragile ecology of Sikkim. Studies have further revealed that since the Ice Age the Onglokthang glacier has retreated by about 500 metres, while the Rathong Chu glacier has retreated by about 600 metres. As per a study carried out in collaboration with JNU, the Zemu glacier has retreated by 963 metres from the year 1909 to 1999. Between 1998 and 2008, there has been a vertical thinning in the ice cover without any significant change in the snout position. This data indicates that there has been a continuous retreat at the rate of 13.6 metres per year between 1909 and 1965. Post 1965, the rate of retreat has been slower with an average of 5.8 metres per year between 1965 and 1999, without a significant change in the snout position from 1999 to 2008. These figures are in line with global figure trends. However, there remains an urgent need to have a permanent snout monitoring station near Zemu Glacier which would help in quantification and assessment of figures on an annual basis.

Another impending problem is the increase of pollution in the Plain regions of Bengal and Meghalaya owing to excessive industrial activity. Understanding fully the need for increase in industrial activity in these States as one of the only means of attaining socio-economic development and progressing on the path of prosperity, I would at the same time like to point out that the thermal power projects (especially in Garo Hills, Meghalaya) and other industries have become a threat to the health of the glaciers in Sikkim. Pollutants emitted by the operational industries in the South West and South East regions of Sikkim are carried by the South West Monsoon winds from their destination of emission to the glacier lands of Sikkim. This advance of pollutants has the potential to considerably increase deglaciation

by causing a decrease in the albedo (reflective capability) of ice, and increasing the acidity of precipitation making it absorb more energy and thus making the glaciers melt faster.

The continuation of glacier retreat and deglaciation can lead to initially massive floods in the region and then the eventual drying up of Mountain Rivers.

The Sikkim Government has constituted a commission to study the status of Glaciers potential impact of climate change in mountain eco-systems and water systems. Sikkim State Council of Climate Change has been constituted to provide policy directions and institutional mechanisms for effective implementation of programmes under the National Missions on Climate Change. I would like to place on record that the proactive nature with which Sikkim Government has acted should be lauded and taken cognizance of and funded to the extent of double of what we have already expended.

Other initiatives by the State Government include snow cover mapping, inventory of glaciers for the entire State, Glacier Field Studies for Zemu Glacier, study of impact of climate change on cardamom plantations, study of people's perception of climate change on various animal diseases and effect on milk production, Mass balance and snout monitoring studies for East Rathong Chu Glacier. At this point I would like to acknowledge the initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India which has included East Rathong Chu Glacier of Sikkim as one of the ten benchmark Glaciers of the country for long term studies. Joint initiatives have also been undertaken with the Indian Space Research Organisation, Department of Space, Government of India for installation of a network of 15 Automatic Weather Stations for monitoring weather parameters and with Indian Meteorology Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India for installation of Doppler Radar System for greater coverage of weather prediction and snow and glacier monitoring.

I would like to bring to the attention of the House that a much needed National Research Programme on Himalayan Glaciology, initiated by the department of Science and Technology, Government of India (1986) has covered Himachal Pradesh and Garhwal Himalayas. There is an urgent need to follow similar programs at the National level in the Eastern Himalayan belt as it is closer to the tropic of Cancer and is thus at a greater risk of melting faster. At the same time there exists a need of similar urgency to renew the study in Western

Himalayas in order to get the latest figures on glacier retreat and deglaciation and consequently deliberate at the policy level on how to avert a national calamity in the making.

I would thus implore the House to acknowledge the lack of availability of data on the issue of glaciers and Mountain Rivers and also recognize the existing lack of field experts and glaciologists in the country. Although as indicated earlier, Sikkim has taken the proactive step of instituting a Committee of esteemed experts on the issue, the State would require the Government of India to take up this issue at the national level.

The phenomenon of *jokulhlaup* of glacier leap, also called Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) is a frequent occurrence in Sikkim. The State is dotted with numerous glaciers, and thus the issue of GLOF remains a serious concern for the people of the State.

The river bank/front development programme being included as a part of the National Missions on water resources is also suggested with special emphasis given to the problem of Glacier Lake Outburst Floods and Land Slide Dammed Lake Outburst Floods. A monitoring mechanism using sensors and satellite technology for prevention of glacial lake outburst floods and for an early warning system should also be assisted by the Central Government.

The study of Moraine Dammed Lake formed in Lonak Glacier has revealed that the glacier area has reduced from 7.56 sq. km in 1965 to 5.77 sq. km in 1976 and 5.506 sq. km in 2004. The area of the lake has increased from 21 hectares in 1976 to 86 hectares in 2005 due to glacier melt. This example shows that there exists a need to continuously monitor such lakes in order to avoid GLOFs.

It must be duly noted that the Eastern Himalayas are more prone to GLOFs. Addressing of Natural Disasters in the Mountains is thus an imperative. Negligence on part of India can lead to a calamity like situation that was witnessed at the time of the Kosi floods which caused great harm to the lives of scores of people in both India and Nepal.

Landslides (caused by land mismanagement, particularly in mountains, steepening of slopes by erosion or human modification, heavy rains, earthquakes, soil erosion and alternate freezing or thawing) represent about 80% of all geological hazards occurring in mountain

lands. Sikkim in particular being part of the Himalaya—a young Mountain range is seismically active and characterized by frequent landslides. As steep slopes are very sensitive to any geo-environmental changes, even sudden rainfalls can destabilize the soil-rock balance and cause landslides. This problem has been aggravated due to climate change and frequent torrential rains as experienced in the year 2007. There is thus an urgent need to have a special focus on landslide rehabilitation among the Missions of National Action Plan on Climate Change.

I would like to thus request the Honourable Finance Minister to give priority to Sikkim in provision of technical and financial support through the Eight National Missions constituted as part of the NAPCC.

I would request the Union Budget to consider complete funding for the scientific management of Alpine lakes and wetlands which are a major source of water in Sikkim Himalayas. An equal thrust is required for identification of ground water recharging zones and measures for augmenting water supply in natural springs.

Month wise snow mapping in Sikkim has shown that in one year from February 2007 to February 2008, the percentage of snow covering the geographic area of the State has decreased from 50.6% to 41.67%. This further highlights the need to focus on the issue of snow cover reduction in the State.

There is a dire need for adoption of appropriate technologies for solar passive houses in Alpine and high altitude regions of the Himalayas. The same regions are also in need of a network of micro hydel projects. Provision of these development measures should be undertaken as part of the missions of the National Action Plan on Climate Change.

Natural resources and climate change can be addressed better through extensive use of Remote Sensing and GIS for preparation of scientific database. With the above aim in mind a Geo-informatics Centre must be set up with special focus on the volatile regions of the North East. I would also like the Finance Minister to note the need for a Regional Institute on Glacier and Climate Change study for the entire North East region which should be set up in Sikkim.

I would like to suggest the inclusion of at least three Glaciers of Sikkim in the National Action Plan on Climate Change for long term monitoring of glaciers for the next 20 years.

Impacts of reduced catchment capabilities in Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is likely to be far more serious on cities, towns and villages downstream including Himalayan foothills that depend completely (or partially) on mountain streams and rivers.

Water provided by the hill aquifers in the form of springs is responsible for sustaining domestic livestock and agricultural activity since the ancient times. Already access to safe potable water is limited in the IHR. Under the changed precipitation conditions, leading to increased run-off and less infiltration; coupled with removal of forest cover, has already started showing signs of depleted hill aquifer regimes in the IHR.

Shifts in precipitation patterns coupled with elevated temperature would have direct impact on Crop Productivity. As the glaciers disappear and summer runoff diminishes, much of the catchment areas are likely to face aridity. Changes in climate would affect the quality of horticultural crops such as apple and apricots. There may be shifts in fruit belts but there exists very little scope for expansion. Flowering and fruiting phenology of many species would alter. Rangeland forage quality and quantity would be seriously affected, suggesting an increased requirement for feed supplements for livestock. At higher altitudes increased temperature and heat stress may influence livestock production. As livestock diseases are much influenced by climate change, transmission of wind borne Foot and Mouth Disease viruses may increase.

Climate change is likely to enhance the Frequency and intensity of forest fires in the mountains, exacerbating problem of carbon emissions, haze and habitat destruction. The factors listed for plants and crops in general also largely apply to forests. A depletion of soil moisture may cause productivity of major species to decline. Productivity of moist deciduous forests could also be reduced. Global climate change has prompted serious concern over the potential consequences to the world's ecological systems and wildlife.

The Government has set up a 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) and has proposed the increasing of the budgetary outlay for the National River and Lake Conservation Plans to Rs. 562 Crore in 2009-10 from Rs. 335 Crore in 2008-09. While understanding the need for this measure, I would again reiterate the

urgency to focus on Mountain ecology related issues which are the source of life for the great rivers of the plains and allocate similar Authorities for a revised look at status of Glaciers in the country.

The Government has taken the welcome step of setting up the National Calamity Contingency Fund to build up resources to meet emergency situations in the country. It is pertinent at this point to highlight some of the major disasters that occur in Mountain Ranges of India and consequently request the Union Budget to pay special attention to the needs and fears of the Mountain People focusing on Natural Disaster Management, and the lack of any evacuation facilities (rescue hospitals) in the N/E region. Besides allocating special funds for Mountain disasters such as landslides, Glacier Lake Outburst Floods, I would like to briefly emphasis on the need to focus on the dangers of flash floods and debris flow in Mountain regions.

A flash flood is a rapid flooding of geomorphic low-lying areas, caused by heavy rains. Flash floods can also occur after the collapse of an ice dam, or a human structure. These are distinguished from a regular flood by a timescale of less than six hours. It occurs when the ground becomes saturated with water that has fallen too quickly to be absorbed. The runoff collects in low-lying areas and rapidly flows downhill. The place of occurrence is most often in dry areas that have recently received precipitation, but can be seen anywhere downstream.

Sikkim is not alien to flash floods. As recent as in June 2009, a sudden change of course by Khani Khola, a stream through the hills, in the wake of incessant rains caused heavy damage, washing away two houses and filling the nearby farmland with debris.

Debris Flows and mud flows are rivers of rock, earth, and other debris saturated with water. They develop when water rapidly accumulates in the ground, during heavy rainfall or rapid snow melt, changing the earth into a flowing river of mud or "slurry." They can flow rapidly, striking with little or no warning at avalanche speeds. They develop mainly in regions with strongly weathered and fractured rocks, sparse vegetation, unconsolidated slope regolith and heavy rainfall.

It is believed that intense rainfall in Sikkim not only contributes to rapid erosion and weathering of the rock mass, but also increase the groundwater level that leads to reduction in the stability of natural slopes. Debris flows

can involve up to 800,000 metre cube of material including rocks of more than 100 metre cube within a single hour, causing destruction of Bridge piers, overturning of trains and death to many passengers and residents.

Recommendations of the Task Force on the Mountain Ecosystems (Environment and Forest Sector) for the 11th Five Year Plan need to be considered. These are:

Establishing a network of meteorological stations and adequate infra-structure for integrated climatological research across the IHR; Revamping Clean Development Mechanism across IHR; Monitoring glacial recession and extending glaciological programmes to Eastern Himalaya; Disease surveillance and developing forecasting system for vector borne diseases; Bio-prospecting for future crops, and Long term ecological research on climate-endangered species-ecosystem relationships.

There is a need to strengthen the State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) including strict compliance of Environment Management Plans and Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plans.

There is a need to promote Integrated River Valley Authorities for management of river basins, considering upstream and downstream inflows and withdrawals by season, interface between land and water, pollution loads and natural regeneration capacities to ensure maintenance of adequate flows, in particular for maintenance of in-stream ecological values, and adherence to compliance of EMPs.

Having presented a synopsis of my suggestions on the Union Budget I would like to conclude by highlighting the achievements of Sikkim with special focus on Climate Change Control and Sustainable Development with the aim of pitching it as a model State of the country and requesting more attention for its growth through technical and financial assistance by the Central Government. The list below presents only some of the achievements of the Sikkim Democratic Front Government headed by Shri Chamling among a far wider range of development initiatives that were successfully adopted and implemented.

Sikkim has successfully banned the use of non biodegradable materials like plastic and poly bags, green felling in forests has been prohibited and a ban has

been imposed on grazing in reserved forest areas. The year 1999, saw the State Government provide for mass sapling plantation. Smoking in public places is also prohibited in the State.

The State Government has announced a Comprehensive State Policy on Forest, Environment and land use based on basic principles of conservation and sustainability.

In order to generate a respect for environment, compulsory Environment Education has been introduced for schools.

The State Government has further made mandatory Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), Environment Management Plan (EMP), and Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan for all Hydro Electric Projects (HEP). Eco Governance has been strengthened by launching a CM Online Website. For community participation in Forests, Environment, and Wildlife and Natural Resources, protection and management has been institutionalized through the creation of a network of Joint Forest Management Committees in 1998, which would involve NGOs/Panchayats and women participation.

A Network of Protected Area Network of National Parks, Sanctuaries have been created.

At the State level to avoid landslides, land slip and erosion of soil, treatment has been made a part of all State Project Planning.

Sikkim Green Mission was launched in 2006 post which all roads have green plantation components. 2% of the budget of SPWD and RMDD and 1% of all other Departments have been earmarked for the Green Mission.

Power Projects Proponents have made sufficient provisions for Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plans by imposing an Environment cess of one paise per unit of electricity sold, and Catchments Area Treatment Plans.*

[Translation]

*SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (North Goa): Sir, finance is the strongest pillar of democracy with which the whole country can be developed well. Mahatma Gandhi had said,

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

[English]

“Democracy is the act of science of mobilizing the entire physical, economic and spiritual resources of various section of the people in the service of the common good of all”

[Translation]

But the way our democracy is functioning today, one is forced to say that our democracy is meant for the ruling class and not for the masses.

The cases of suicide by farmers crossed all limits during UPA regime. Our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh have a package of Rs. 60,000 crore. And therefore, nothing was given during the subsequent two years. Some funds were relased during run up to the elections. But nothings was done about the loan taken by the farmers from money-lenders to clear debt of banks, which resulted in majority of suicide cases.

Sir, I do not oppose implementation of the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission for Government employees. But what does its implementation just before the elections indicate? Orissa faced a calamity and Bihar suffered floods. Gujarat Government also sought help, but none of the states was given any help. And wahtever little was given, was taken back.

Sir, on the call of the hon. Chairman, my colleagues in the parliament contributed Rs. 10 lakh each from their MPLADS fund for construction of houses in tsunami affected areas. But, no dwelling units have been allotted to the sufferers in Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Lakhs of our countrymen contributed generously to over come the said national calamity. The work on the projects has come to a halt because of red-tapism.

Sir, all the hon. Members have urged upon the government through you that allocation under MPLAD scheme should be enhanced to Rs. 5 crore from Rs. 2 crore. MPLAD is a good scheme and its implementation ratio has been over 85%. Almost, all the Central schemes utilize funds not above 40 per cent. As prices have increased so much the actual value of these Rs. 2 crore is reduced to Rs. one crore. Therefore, on behalf of all the MPs. I urge that it should be increased to Rs. five crore.

Sir, they say it is a common man's budget. But there is nothing for a common man in this budget. On

the contrary it has resulted in more inflation. Time and again the Government says that the prices have come down. But let them name even a single item the price of which has come down. The price rise has very badly hit the common man and it has become difficult for them to manage two-square meals. The Government has failed to check the price rise. Rice is available at the rate of Rs. 40 a kg and Arhar dal, which was available at Rs. 25 a kg, is available at the rate of Rs. 75 kg. A day's wage under NREGA is hardly adequate to purchase one kg of rice and one kg of Arhar Dal. How can a common man lead his life?

Sir, the hon. Minister has increased the income tax exemption limit from Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 1.60 lakh, an increase of only Rs. ten thousand. In view of the steep price rise this limit should have been increased to Rs. three lakh.

Sir, our country became independent in 1947. exactly after a gap of 14 years in 1961, Goa a part of our country, got freedom from the Portugese rule. But, so far as development is concerned, Goa is still backward. Educated youths in the state are not getting employment. During the last five years, industries have shifted from here to other states. Ultrakhand and Himachal Pradesh still enjoy tax-exemptions, whereas, it has been withdraw in Goa. Therefore, my submission is that the earlier tax exemptions should be restored in Goa, so that the industries are again attracted towards the state and youth get jobs.

Sir, the two national highways in Goa have neither been four-laned or six-laned. Zuari setu connecting two districts have also been closed for traffic. My submission is that NH-4 and NH-17 should be widened and a new Zuari Setu should be constructed.

Sir, Goa is a potential tourist spot. Demanding a package for development of tourism in Goa, I conclude my speech.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhlishahr): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was that zero-hour will be at 6 o'clock. There are 2-3 issues to be taken up during zero hour and those should be taken up...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House is extended. Please sit down. You will get your chance.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: It is a very serious issue you take up other business latter...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: It has been decided by you that zero-hour will be at 6 o'clock...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please sit down. If the House agrees, we can shift to 'Zero Hour'. I do not know what you prefer whether debate or 'Zero Hour'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We want debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You see everybody wants debate. So, please sit down. We will see later.

Now, Shri Nripendra Nath Roy to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VERENDRA KUMAR (Tikamgarh): Mr. Chairman Sir Zero-hour be taken up...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to take the sense of the House. Please sit down. Do not disturb.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: At the end of the day, after the discussion, we can take up 'Zero Hour'. Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: The government will get everything passed is the House by virtue of its majority...(*Interruptions*) It was said that Zero-hour will be taken up at 6 o'clock...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please sit down. The hon. Minister wants to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, I would suggest that there are not more than three Members who have to make their submissions in the 'Zero Hour'. You may

give about 15 minutes' time for that and then begin with the debate again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I have already called the hon. Member. There will be 'Zero Hour' after his speech.

Hon. Member, you start your speech

[*Translation*]

SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY (Cooch Behar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I represent Cooch Behar parliamentary constituency in West Bengal. The hon. Minister of Finance presented budget on the 6th of this month. Several hon'ble Members have taken part in debate on the budget, however, I won't take much time.

Sir, treasury benches have termed it as a common-man's budget. On behalf of my party, I would like to say that it is not common man's budget. I outrightly oppose it as it is not poorman's budget but favouring the rich. It has been stated in the budget that our 70-75 per cent population comprises of farmers who are engaged in agriculture. The Government, for their strengthening financial condition, has stated that it will provide loan to small farmers at 7 per cent rate of interest, whereas, such promises remain only on paper. It has never been thought that the promises made in this regard are implemented or not. Banks were nationalized in our country. The influential persons, industrialists get loan easily in our country. When farmers approach banks for loan they face lot of problems and they do not get the loan so easily, whereas, the rich gets the loan easily.

Sir, our 70 percent population comprises of farmers. Jute is produced in abundance in West Bengal. When jute arrives in the market during its crop season it is purchased at lower rates. The Government claims that it has brought farmer's budget, whereas, no arrangements are made for procurement of jute. Sir, through you, I urge the Government to ask JCI to procure jute from farmers at MSP. Bengal produces maximum jute. Jute is produced in very large quantity in Cooch Behar, Jalpaigudi, Malda, North Dinajpur and West Dinajpur. West Bengal contribute a major share in jute production of the country. The Government has taken no steps for jute processing and increasing its production. The hon. Finance Minister has termed the budget as pro-poor and farmers, but farmers not get remunerative price for their paddy and jute. No arrangements have been made by

the Government for procurement of paddy and jute. The Government makes lots of announcements for the farmers in the budget, whereas, no steps have been taken by the Government for betterment of agriculture and processing of farm products.

Sir, announcements have also been made for the youth in the budget. It has also been stated that the Government will provide educational loan to the students. It has also been stated that minorities will be provided more loan for their economic upliftment. But no arrangements have been made for monitoring as to whether the funds released reach real beneficiary or not and how much money they get in fact. When a student, farmer or a person belonging to minority community approaches banks for loan, the banks create number of hurdles for him. The process is so cumbersome that a person seeking loan has to make innumerable rounds to the banks and banks ask for so many documents and finally one does not get loan. Ultimately one is forced to take loan from moneylenders. My submission is that the Government should monitor the funds released by it? The hon. Minister of Finance should consider it.

Sir, Bengal comprises of North Bengal and West Bengal. North Bengal comprises of Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Jalpaigudi, West Dinajpur and Malda. Tea is produced in abundance here. The tea we take in Central Hall comes from there only. Tea gardens have been there for 200-300 years since British Era. The Central Government has not provided anything for tea growers. Two-three lakh labourers are engaged in tea gardens. I demand that the Government should provide some relief for the development of tea-gardens in Northern Bengal.

SHRI SHAIKENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, large scale irregularities are being committed in mid-day-meal scheme all over the country. A survey conducted in this regard has reported complaints from 17 States. Even today 8 lakh 90 thousand children are not getting mid-day-meal. Earlier in Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu and Daman and Diu, children were getting 100 grams of food under this scheme but now only 83 grams are being given. Adulteration in rice has been reported from four states-Orissa, Punjab, Haryana and Tripura.

18.09 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

In three states, the food given under mid-day-meal scheme is not even worth eating. Mid day meal has not been served in 2086 schools in Uttar Pradesh from October 2006 to March 2007 and so is the case in Jammu and Kashmir from 2005 to 2007. The other big problem is that Gram Pradhan is providing mid day meal through conversion money. The main reason behind it is that prices of essential commodities like flour, rice and pulses etc. have increased due to drought. Therefore, the Gram Pradhan is using conversion money for purchasing these commodities to arrange mid-day-meal. Besides, cooks are also to be paid honorarium. Very unsatisfactory reports are coming from all over the country regarding mid-day-meal scheme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to demand an investigation in this regard. Inquiries should be conducted at all the places from where irregularities have been reported and the guilty should be punished. Concrete arrangements should be made to provide mid-day-meal to the children at these places so that half of the children suffering from mal-nutrition could maintain a good health and pay attention to their study. With these words, I conclude...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I would not allow a discussion on this issue. The Treasury Bench has not responded to it, and the Minister has not responded to it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, this will not go on record. Mr. B. Mahtab.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My intention was to raise this issue or to be associated with the issue, which was raised this morning in the House. But somehow my name was not called. It relates to the reported issue, which occurred in the G-8 and G-5 Conferences, which have very recently concluded where the G-8 has passed a Resolution banning Enrichment and Reprocessing (ENR) Technology

*Not recorded.

sales to our country. It is a matter of concern if the G-8 Nations insisted on curbing transfer of Nuclear Enrichment and Reprocessing (ENR) Technology and equipment to all the non-signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission namely, Dr. Anil Kakodkar has very recently expressed his apprehension that the G-8 ban would undermine the promise of full civilian nuclear cooperation to India under the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement. We have deliberated it during the 14th Lok Sabha threadbare, but today, the news that is being circulated in our country and outside is a matter of concern. Some are saying that we do not need ENR technology.

My concern is that the Government should come out clear on this subject, and it should not speak in two voices. Can we expect the Government to respond on this subject when the Prime Minister is back and will be laying his statement before this House?

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): Thank you, Sir. Kindly permit me to raise the following matter of Urgent Public Importance in this House.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed development of six Regional Greenfield Airports, and one of the Greenfield Airports is in Badangi, Vizianagaram District. A team from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has visited Bobbili for a feasibility study on 29-04-2008, and they have concluded that the development of the airport was not possible because of the extent of land and presence of highway.

In this connection, I would like to suggest and request, through you, an alternate place between Chipurupalli and Rajam. As there is a lot of industrial activity going on, if a Greenfield Airport is sanctioned, then it will serve the needs of the air passengers, and further boost the economy in the Vizianagaram District, which is one of the backward areas. Therefore, I would request the AAI to conduct a feasibility study for the proposed Regional Greenfield Airport at the above mentioned place.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH (Kaisergani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while drawing the attention of the Government to Uttar Pradesh, through you, I would like

to state that on the 9th, in district Gonda, a group of advocates on their way to submit a memorandum to the commissioner in a peaceful manner were first stopped by the officers using water cannons and when they came back they were again lathicharged in which 145 advocates got injured. Some of them are in a serious condition. Even those who did not participate in the procession and were studying in library chamber were not spared. Some of them are also in a serious condition. The leader of opposition in Uttar Pradesh Shri Shivpal Singh Yadav and state Chairperson of Congress Smt. Reeta Bahuguna Joshi had also visited there to express their resentment. Advocates in nearly 25 districts in Eastern Uttar Pradesh are on agitation on this issue.

Sir, I would not take much time. I just wanted to say that since the formation of Government in UP, 22 advocates have been murdered and at 14 places they have been lathicharged ruthlessly. The issue is not a major one. It is the newly constructed Devi Patan division. Inside its campus the office of the commissioner was to be set up. The previous Government has allotted the place for it but a Commissioner in the present Government rejected the same on the pretext that setting up of Commissioner's office in court premises would increase the visitors rush as in the absence of the Collector, people would approach the Commissioner. Therefore, Commissioner's office should not be set up there. Now the Commissioner's office is being constructed in the heart of the city which is a residential area with lots of greenery. Trees are being felled without taking permission. Law is being flouted, Houses are also being demolished and the construction of the Commissioner's office is going on in full swing. Members of parliament in the neighbourhood Shri Jagdambika Pal and Shri Binu Pandey are aware of the situation. There is resentment in the entire Purvanchal on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a 'Zero Hour' submission, so let there be no interventions.

[Translation]

Brijbhushan Sharan Singhji, please complete your submission.

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is resentment among the advocates in the entire Uttar Pradesh on this issue.

They are on strike, they have launched an agitation there. Therefore, I request the Government of India to intervene in this matter. The incident has not happened with some ordinary individual. It is a question of injury caused to 145 advocates. Some of these advocates are in serious condition. Therefore, I request the Central Government to intervene and pay compensation to the injured advocates besides transferring the Commissioner. Cases have been filed against 500 advocates and 30 advocates have been charge sheeted. Therefore, I would like to state that the cases filed against them should be withdrawn. Action should be taken against the guilty officers and they should be penalized. Compensation should be given to advocates. The Central Government should intervene in the matter as law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh is deteriorating...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete his submission.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow your colleague to complete his submission. Please take your seats. The hon. Member is raising an issue. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb him. The hon. Member is raising an issue. Shri Brijbhushan Saran Singh, you have made your point and, therefore, Please do not repeat. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in short, I would like to say that the Union government should intervene in the matter. It should ask for a report of the incident, the court cases should be dropped, compensation should be paid and the illegal construction being carried out in defiance of the public sentiments should be immediately halted.

18.19 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS—*Contd.*

(iii) Regarding reported disappearance of documents related to Ayodhya issue

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to

you for allowing me to speak on an issue which is of great public importance and highly sensitive in nature.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the previous governments as well as the present Government have always expected the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute in Ayodhya to be resolved either by a consensus being reached among the parties or by the hon. Supreme Court. Now that the hon. Supreme Court is moving towards finding a solution to the dispute, important files pertaining to the Ayodhya dispute have been lost by the High Court. This has indisputably, created a major roadblock on the way of reaching a solution to the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute. This is an incredibly sensitive matter which concerns all the people of the country. The country has been seething over the matter for many years. Many unacceptable decisions have been taken. Files kept on disappearing but the State Government slumbered and no one took any notice of the matter. When the hon. High Court asked for submission of the important documents pertaining to acquisition of the land in 1950, the State Government initially reported that five documents were missing. When intensive investigations were conducted it was found that 23 documents were missing and today the hon. Chief Minister says that these documents have disappeared during the BJP regime. The present Government cannot escape from its accountability. It cannot shirk responsibility by saying that it recommends a CBI inquiry. This is no term of reference. The section officer who was arguing the case in court, Shri Bham Shad, later became an Under Secretary. When he went to appear for the Ayodhya case in Delhi, he was killed in an accident in 1992. Now, in view of the manner of disappearance of the files, it seems that his death could not have been an accident, his body. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already made your point.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I am concluding. It seems to be a certainty that he was murdered. Disappearance of 23 files, which include telegrams sent by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru to the erstwhile Chief Minister and the correspondence between the DM, Commissioner and the Chief Secretary, is a serious matter. The country wants to know which Government is responsible for the disappearance of the documents pertaining to the most sensitive and important issues of the country. I do not wish to trade in accusations and counter-accusations.

However, the statement of the present Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, that they have disappeared during the previous regime is an irresponsible statement. she has been in power for two and a half years and there is no Governance worth the name in the State. Those documents could not be safeguarded by the State Home Ministry and the State Government. How can the people of the state be expected to take care of them. Today the Government is not interested in tackling such a sensitive matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are repeating what you have already said. You have made the point.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding. The documents pertaining to the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmbhoomi case of 2000 are missing and the official handling the case in Court has died. It should be investigated whether he died an accident or he was murdered.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not allowed to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: you have made the point. The Government has noted that. Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI (Jalaun): Sir, I would like to associate myself with Shri Jagdambika Pal, on this important matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very serious matter.

Seven districts of Bihar are suffering from drought and famine. This area of Bihar is being irrigated with obsolete methods. It is the responsibility of the Union government that water from Rihand reservoir and Bansagar reservoir should be released to fill up the reservoir constructed in the Son Command area. Bihar is facing a strange situation. This is the region which provides foodgrains to the entire state and also to the eastern and north-eastern parts of the country. Despite

availability of water for irrigation of eight lakh hecatres, there is no water in the entire Command area. There are more than one and a half crore farmers in Buxar, Kaimur, Rohtash, Patna, Aurangabad, Arwal and Bhojpur regions and their lives are in danger. I urge the Ministry of Water Resources and the Central Water Commission under it to resolve the problem of irrigation instead of generating hydro power, and to make efforts to provide water to the entire Son Command Region upto its peripheries. The entire nation is in the grip of drought. Low yield is expected this year. The region which is capable of supplying foodgrains to the entire nation is in danger. The Union Government should pay attention towards should ensure water supply for the farmers of the region.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today's last 'Zero Hour' submission will be by Shri Prahlad Joshi.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, at least the Home Minister should respond to this...(*Interruptions*). He is a Union Minister. ...(*Interruptions*). This matter shall be raised in the Parliament not just once...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a good suggestion but you cannot insist on the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I am requesting, through you. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today we cannot do that. You know that we have decided to take up only five issues. To give opportunity to the Members we have taken this up and this is the seventh Member to speak. We cannot disturb the other discussion that is going on. What you have said is very correct. The Government has already noted that.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very important subject. I will convey the

feelings of the hon. Member to the Minister concerned. If need be, he will get back to the Member.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now, Shri Prahlad Joshi.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad): Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity, Sir.

In the last one and a half decades we have been proudly claiming that we have revolutionised the state of communications in the country. However, I am very sorry to say that the services of BSNL and MTNL have gone from bad to worse. If you sit inside a building, you will not have the network. If you come out of the building and try to connect, the message 'Network is busy' appears. The state of telecommunication service of BSNL has become much worse in Karnataka and especially in Bangalore. The same is the case with Delhi. After great difficulty if you are able to establish connectivity, the call gets disconnected after a couple of minutes. When asked about the reasons for this, some of the senior officers of MTNL and BSNL say that there are problems with the import of some tower related equipment and that there are also some problems at the highest level in the Government because of some differences between an old Minister of Telecommunications and today's Minister of Telecommunications.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): The issue raised is related to the equipment and not to the Ministers, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you only make very precisely the point. You are not to talk about other related subjects.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: I am not blaming anybody. What I am saying is that because of some problems at the highest level in the Government, non-availability of equipment is creating problems as far as the services of MTNL and BSNL are concerned. The people at large are getting a feeling that there are some vested interests at work to benefit some private operators. That is why I urge upon the Government of India, particularly the Minister of Telecommunications, to look into the matter and arrange for better services. In the company I run I use only the BSNL network. All the phones, mobile and fixed lines, that I use in my business are of BSNL. That

is why I urge upon the Government to look into this and improve the BSNL and MTNL services as early as possible.

18.29 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET 2009-2010—GENERAL
DISCUSSION
AND
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS,
(GENERAL) 2006-2007—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will continue with the discussion on Budget—General and further discussion and voting on Demands for Excess Grants-General. We have fifty more speakers to participate in the discussion. So, please confine yourselves to making suggestions within three minutes' time. We are not extending the sitting today beyond 8 o'clock. So, allow all your colleagues to participate.

Shri Bishnu Pada Ray.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Sir Mr. Chairman: Bishnu Pada Rayji, just a minute. You have already laid your speech on the Table and the points are already with the Government. After laying a speech, rule does not permit a Member to speak again. Please take your seat.

Not one word could be permitted – rule does not permit that. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. ASRARUL HAQUE (Kishanganj); Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate on the budget. Sir, at the outset, I would like to congratulate the UPA Government, especially Madam Sonia Gandhi, Dr. Manmohan Singh and also Shri Rahul Gandhi for winning hearts of the people of our country and returning to power for the second term and providing a clean Government to the country.

*Not recorded.

Sir, I support the General Budget 2009-10 and congratulate Shri Pranab Mukherji for presenting a very good budget taking proper care of the common man, the poor, down-trodden and also the minorities. It has become clear from this and also from the Rail way Budget that the UPA Government desires to solve the basic problems of poor, down trodden and the minorities and serious efforts should be made to provide equal rights and special facilities to them in every walk of life. We should always remember what Gandhiji, the father of the nation, used to say that the real progress of a country lies in the fact that the poor and weaker sections of its society can raise their head with respect among the rich and the powerful. Sir, we should see as to who amongst the poor sections are facing poverty and which are the most backward areas in the country. It is evident from the UPA's budget that the Government desires to reach upto the last poor man in the country so as to take the country to new heights of progress and wants to include the backward areas in this race. I represent Kishanganj, one of the most backward areas of the backward state Bihar. There is acute shortage of educational facilities, employment opportunities, transportation and basic infrastructure in this area. It is a quite backwards area, but this area has religious identity as people of this area had strongly opposed the two-nation theory, particularly as this led to separation of one brother from another. A lot has happened in our country during the last 60 years, since our independence, but this area remained untouched by the wave of hatred. Kishanganj also kept the feeling of national integration, brotherhood and love for each other alive. But it is quite surprising that how an area which stood the test of national love for this nation and maintained peace remained backward. The Government should pay special attention to this area and announce a special package for it. My submission is that vocational colleges should be opened in this area for providing educational facilities and a referral hospital should also be opened for providing medical facilities. Mahananda basin project should be completed on time so that loss being caused in this area by land erosion by rivers can be prevented. Along with proper maintenance of roads, proposed bridges on rivers in this area should be constructed so that better transportation facilities can be provided. Gogalia-arariya railway line should be laid expeditiously and proposed survey for Jalalgarh-Kishanganj new railway line should be started.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Haque Saheb, you are speaking in Urdu and there is no arrangement for its translation. You lay your remaining speech on the Table.

SHRI MOHD. ASRARUL HAQUE. Please do not do so as I have come to the House for the first time and I am speaking for the first time. Kindly let me put forth the problems being faced by the people in my area, therefore, give me 2-3 minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not given notice and there is no arrangement for translation from Urdu into Hindi. You should have given a notice that you would speak in Urdu. If you want to speak in Hindi, you may continue your speech.

SHRI MOHD. ASRARUL HAQUE: It contains Hindi words also. Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has increased the allocation for minorities by 74 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude your speech in a minute.

SHRI MOHD. ASRARUL HAQUE: Sir, I am speaking in Hindustani I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that education is the main issue before the minorities and also the Muslims. They have become greatly aware about the need for education and now they are rapidly moving into this direction. But lack of infrastructure and resources is creating hurdles in this regard. They are facing more problems in rural areas. Good schools are not available for them. In view of poverty, they cannot make proper arrangements for sending their children to schools. They want to educate their daughters but separate facilities for girls' education are not available. My submission is that the Government should pay attention to these issues for educational upliftment of the minorities. Special education development programmes should be started for girls in predominantly minority areas having low rate of literacy.

Financial help should be provided to the research and training projects for the minorities at national level. National overseas scholarship programme should be introduced for the minorities. Government assistance should be provided to the organizations working for the welfare and upliftment of the minorities.

Sir, the Government has formulated several schemes but I would like to say that the Government should monitor the implementation of the schemes with the same degree of sincerity as shown at the time of formulating the schemes. In regard to implementation it is also necessary to point out here that implementation of the recommendations of Sachchar Committee and the report of Joint Parliamentary Committee on Wakf is also required. This issue should also be addressed in the same way as the Government has waived the loans of debt ridden farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude your speech.

SHRI MOHD. ASRAUL HAQUE: I am just concluding. Welfare schemes should be introduced in the areas dominated by the minorities and identified by Sachchar Committee and the schools associated with the boards, and madarsas should also include the fund of building scheme. The 'Ulemas' of the schools should be taken in confidence so as to make them accountable for imparting modern education in the madarsas.

I will conclude after mentioning this last point. Let me request the entire House. I request the House that the issues of minorities and weaker sections are also a part of national issues. As it is not possible to solve the problems without addressing those problems, similarly there cannot be inclusive progress in the country without treating those problems as national problems. I hope that the House will carry on its generous tradition by making the efforts to solve the problems of the weaker sections and minorities as a part of national efforts. It is our responsibility that we should become an example for the entire world. It will happen only when we work collectively for the welfare of the poor, weaker sections and the minorities.

I hope that the hearts of the Members of this House will melt for the poor. Our hearts should cry when we see a widow the uncovered head, a poor man faced with starvation, an orphan in distress and an ill persons in agony. If our hearts do not cry, then they are not hearts but stones. I hope that we will sacrifice our interests and work for the public welfare. I just want to request the hon. Members of this House. "Phoonk kar apne aashiyane ko, roshni baksh do jamane ko".

In the last, I would like to congratulate Madam Sonia Gandhi, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Mr. Rahul Gandhi who have won the hearts of the public by providing a fair Government and two good budgets to the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please cooperate with the Chair. He has taken nine minutes. For senior Members, we are giving some concession. But this is denying chance to others. So, please do not repeat this.

[Translation]

*SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Faridabad): This budget is the biggest budget in Parliamentary history

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

and offers something for everyone. This budget provides big reliefs for the persons in service by extending the tax rebate by 10 to 15 thousand, withdrawing the 10 percent income tax surcharge and fringe benefit tax. The decisions of interest on education loan for the poor students of paying interest on education loan for the poor students by the Government and to provide foodgrains to the poor at cheaper rates and provide fertilizer subsidy directly to the farmers show that the Government has taken special care of the poor and the farmers show that the Government has taken special care of the poor and the farmers in the budget. This budget provides comprehensively for strengthening the infrastructure, developing agriculture and for the social sector in order to achieve 9 percent growth rate.

Plenty of funds have been provided for all the flagship schemes of the Central Government like Rajiv Gandhi Awaas Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana which shows the concern of the Government about BPL people.

I hope that this budget presented under the leadership of our charismatic UPA Chairperson and foresighted Prime Minister will prove helpful in increasing the GDP of the country, providing housing to the urban poor and more loans to the agriculture sector at cheaper rates. Several welcome steps like providing relaxation from T.T. and DDT to the new pension system trust, 100 percent rebate on donation to the political parties and full interest subsidy to the students in selected educational institutes have been taken.

I support this budget for all these good things.

[English]

*SHRI MOHAN JENA (Jajpur): Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak. Generally budget reflects the hopes and aspirations of the common man. But the present budget has not adequately reflected the concerns and aspirations of the working class, the poor, the farmers and the labourers. India is primarily an agricultural country. So the budget should have focused more on the farming community. The previous budget had announced the waiving of agricultural loans. The current budget too has mentioned it. But many farmers of our country have not benefited. Primarily because they had borrowed from micro-financial institutions of the locality or unorganised private money-

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

lenders. Farmers are paying water-tax but not getting water to irrigate their fields. Without proper irrigation facilities how will agriculture improve? Government should take steps to revive and renovate old, existing irrigation channels/canals which are now submerged. .

Sir, in Orissa the condition of the farmers are deplorable. They fall prey to natural calamities like drought, flood etc. In desperation they are resorting to distress sale. The Food Corporation of India has fixed quota for each state for procurement of paddy and wheat. but in Orissa the procurement policy is not being adhered to. Farmers are thus making futile journey to FCI centres carrying their produce. This is really pathetic. The central government should address this problem.

India has a federal structure. So the policies of the union government should be all-inclusive and should aim at the all-round development of each state. Otherwise the nation can not progress.

Sir, I come from the Jajpur, Parliamentary constituency in Orissa, which is at the confluence of three rivers—Brahmani, Birupa and Keluo. One of the long-pending demands of my people in the project of embankment on these rivers. The doab area of these rivers if properly protected, could solve the irrigation as well as water-logging problem of two blocks. A controlled irrigation can go a long way to significantly improve the standard of living of the peasant community there. The central Government, thus should take up the embankment project immediately.

Sir, now I want to speak about the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. While implementing this programme the regional variation of different states should be taken into consideration. The 60/40 ratio should be reconsidered. The daily wage earners are not getting enough under NREGS. Thats why they are taking up private assignments which is more lucrative money-wise.

Sir, I'll speak about the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme. It claims to light up every rural home and farmer's fields. But in Orissa, this programme is moving at a snail's pace. That is why our state government has initiated the "Biju Jyoti Yojana" Orissa is a backward state and I urge upon the central government to expediate Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme.

The budget mentions about student loans. Sir, the students of the weaker sections like the SC/ST who have no landed property are finding it pretty difficult to get loan. Banks are harassing them by demanding collateral. We must do something.

The budget mentions about environment and climate change. Sir, the Puri-Konark Sea-beach of Orissa in world-famous. Now the sea has made in roads into the adjoining landmass leading to coastal erosion. In Kendrapara district, there is a place called Satavaya where two villages have been completely submerged under the sea. Orissa has 480 Km. of coastline and this saline bay in ever-expanding. The Government should protect the landmass by erecting barriers and embankments. Protecting the coast-line in a national responsibility, because it is beyond the economic and strategic capability of any state Government.

Again Sir, some important rivers of Orissa like Mahanadi and Brahmani are gradually falling prey to soil erosion. Silt-deposition in the river-bed is leading to natural calamities like flood. The river-beds must be revived by dredging. Many rivers in our country are on the verge of extinction. Just like the mythical river Saraswati, we have river Prachi in Orissa which is now extinct. This is the river by which stones were carried to Konark for construction of the Sun temple.

Sir, Orissa is a state with abundance of mineral resources but poor economy. The central Government has a faulty mineral policy which is depriving Orissa of its due. All the mineral rich states like Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar etc are demanding a revision in the existing policy but the central Government in not paying any attention. Every year Orissa is loosing thousands of crores in the form of royalty of coal and other minerals.

The central Government has an apathetic attitude if the state government is controlled by a rival political party. Orissa has been a victim of this step-motherly attitude of the centre. A federal Government should have a pan-Indian view for growth. It should include every citizen in its schemes for development. Unfortunately in our country only a selected few are enjoying the fruits of freedom. There are teeming millions who even after 62 years of independence leading lives of poverty and deprivation. In my district there are nomadic tribal communities like Makidia and Mundapota Kela. They have till now no voting right, do not get BPL facilities or any other welfare measures. They are socially - economically and educationally backward. As if they are

still living in the 18th century. Sir India of the 21st century in only a distant dream for them. They should be brought to the mainstream and the gap between India and Bharat should be bridged. Sir, I believe we need another 'Renaissance' a new awakening to bring a social revolution.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHATABDI ROY (Birbhum): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on the General Budget as a first time Member of Parliament. While supporting this budget I would like to put two-three demands. I know that after presentation of Budget every time we have long discussions on the various provisions of the Budget in this House because every Party holds different opinions and has different expectations. But I believe that there is a sense of commonality amongst all of us here and that is on the aspect of MPLADS. I feel the amount in the MPLAD scheme should be enhanced.

[Translation]

When I visited my constituency during the elections, I realized that people need many things but later on I found that an MP has not even 50 per cent of the things to give them. I felt that being an MP we can assist the people of our constituencies and satisfy them if the MPLADS fund is increased. I offered to purchase a scanning machine for a hospital in my constituency but, the cost of that machine was one crore rupees. How can an MP purchase and donate a machine worth one crore rupees? When he gets Rs. two crore? On behalf of all the hon. Members, present in the House or out of it, I would request that the MPLADS funds should be increased so that we can do more work in our constituencies. ...*(Interruptions)*. I am a newcomer and still in the learning process. I will get nervous if you interrupt me.

My next point is about the BPL cards. After becoming an MP, I realized that an MP needs a BPL card as much as the poor because

[English]

if a Member wants to do something for his constituents like providing medical facilities or for granting of senior citizens' pension or widows' pension, for everything a BPL card is necessary.

[Translation]

Those owing a BPL card also have a three storied house, bike, fridge, TV besides the BPL card. I, therefore, would say that the Panchayats should not distribute the BPL cards in accordance with the voting behaviour or party affiliation of the people. BPL card should be given only to those who really deserve it. The system of issuing BPL cards must be changed if need be.

[English]

Sir, my next point is about providing 100 days of work under NREGP. It is a Central Scheme implemented through the State Governments. But I am sorry to say here that last year, in my constituency, people got only 20 days of work. The Central Government should institute an Inquiry to find out as to why the State Government failed to provide 100 days' of work.

[Translation]

Why the State Government failed to provide 100 days of work. or it is not able to provide it? We need to know this.

[English]

We are happy that the Central Government has provided a relief of Rs. 1,000 crore for the AILA affected people in my State. But I would like to request the Central Government to constitute a Monitoring Committee to find out as to how the relief has been distributed in practice.

[Translation]

I would like to say, as an Indian and not as an MP that our schemes are very good for the poor but the people who implement those schemes are corrupt. Poor, therefore, remains poor while the rich becomes richer. We will have to change the system for which I would like to request for creation of a monitoring system which would see that the right person gets the benefit of the schemes.

[English]

My last point is this. Since I am coming from the film industry, I would request on behalf of the entire film industry to consider withdrawing countervailing duty on film roster. We have been approaching the authorities in this matter for the last ten years in this regard. Please consider it.

As we are newly elected MPs, we want to do more work. We have to prove ourselves. So, please support us.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not wish to go into the technicality of the Budget. Lalu Prasadji has supported this Budget of the UPA Government, therefore, I support this Budget. But, when I look at its result then I feel that this Budget is not for the villages and poor of India. Regional imbalance of the country cannot be removed through this Budget. Bihar, which is the most affected by regional imbalance, will not be able to achieve the national average income even after 100 years through this Budget. Will the poor people living in villages ever be able to reach the level of the rich people of the country? I feel that it will not happen even after 500 years.

Imparting education to the poor is being talked about for which a huge amount is being proposed to be spent through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Can a poor person from village dream of reaching the top posts in the country through the present education system? When will the people of villages who are having no buildings for schools, no study material and no teachers in schools come up to the level of educated people in the cities? Will the Government ever talk about uniform education for this? At present, there is a level playing competition among the citizens of the country, the Government should adopt uniform education system in the country. Just saying that knowledge is the biggest asset in today's world is not enough. Where should the poor in villages send their children to get knowledge? If these children study in the schools which have nothing then they will never be able to participate in the competitive examinations held in the country. A huge amount is going to be spent on higher education. Will the children educated in such primary schools ever be able to get admission in the big institutions that are going to be opened in the country? Will they ever be able to become top-notch scientists after securing admission there? Will they ever become a management student? Will they ever become doctors, engineers? This is a very important question. Hon. Finance Minister will keep on earmarking a fixed amount for education like this but will not relate education with the result. We will not do anything for our villages and its poor. The country is heading towards chaos. Subsidy will reach the farmers directly to increase the agricultural production and hon. Finance Minister is also saying that it will take place in a year. I think this

is a important favour to the farmers that he can do. But, for the last 3-4 years, the farmers are witnessing that subsidy worth crores o rupees is going in the hands of the industrialists while he has to purchase fertilizers in black market. Subsidy for fertilizers is merely a cover up. In fact, it is for the industrialists and not for the farmers. The extent of our agriculture is from seeds to the market. This extent is not an ordinary one. It would discourage the farmers if they do not get remunerative prices for their produce. The House cannot even imagine that in the state like Bihar, minimum support price for Paddy is Rs. 650 per qt. though at other places it is Rs. 950 per qt. Farmers of Bihar are getting Rs. 300 less than those of other states. This amount to distress sale. Capital erosion is going on there. Here we are talking about some hundreds, some thousands and some crores but alone in Bihar a capital of Rs. 2.5 to 3 thousand crores has not been paid to the farmers. I would conclude in two minutes. Indira Awas Yojna has been proposed for our village but I would like to state that the word 'Awas' should be deleted from it as not a house but only a room is being constructed under this scheme. In one room mother, father, son, daughter and daughter-in-law all would live together thought the room is not more than 10'X15' and we are calling it 'awas'. I would like to tell the hon'ble Finance Minister that the number of houses to be constructed under this scheme may be reduced but at least a proper house having a separate kitchen, bathroom, toilet and a place for cattle also should be constructed with the construction cost of at least one lakh.

Sir, it is being propogated that through NREGA, they are providing employment guarantee to each and every one in the country. A fund of Rs. 39000 crore has been earmarked for it though the wage rate has been increased from Rs. 60 to Rs. 100. If we take into account only BPL people in the country, with this meager amount of Rs. 39000 crore we would be able to provide employment to only 2.5 crore people out of 4.5 crores. Can't we generate 100 days' employment for more than two crores of people? I would like to conclude by mentioning one point that if we have to increase the agricultural production, it should be clearly mentioned in the budget. Farmers' income cannot increase if they continue to get loans at 6.7% interest rate. Loan should be sanctioned to them at the rate of 4% ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH: Sir, Agricultural Prices Commission decides the prices of commodities. At least the minimum support price for Paddy, Wheat and rice should be fixed by the Government in the light of the recommendations of the Commission. Otherwise, the farmer will go to cell. Regional imbalance would increase and the gap between the rich and the poor would widen. Poverty would continue to increase and a time will come when the number of poor people would become a threat for the country.

Bihar is the biggest example of regional imbalance. Bihar should be given the status of a special state if we really want Bihar to progress. At the time of division of Bihar, it was mentioned that Rs. 1,80,000 crore...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Shri Jagdanand Singh, thank you very much. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH: But the amount of compensation would be more than that. Annual Plans are needed to be formulated to bring Bihar at par with national average.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, if any hon. Member wants to lay his speech on the Table of the House, he can do so because a large number of speakers are there in the list. We are sitting only up to 8 o'clock.

...*(Interruptions)*

*SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT (Mumbai North-central): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my thoughts on the General Budget presented by Hon'ble Minister of Finance. I would like to congratulate Hon'ble Madam Sonia Gandhi Ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Finance Minister for an inclusive Budget which focuses on inclusive development of the country. The

uniqueness of the Budget is that it puts a special emphasis on poor and downtrodden. I wish to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his effort to facilitate domestic demand-driven growth, trying to create newer job opportunities and reach out to rural and urban poor.

As far as food security is concerned, the National Food Security Act is being carried out in all earnest to provide grains to BPL families at Rs. 3 per kilogram for 25 kilograms of grain per month. This will curb hunger no doubt, but will it maintain health, prevent malnutrition? At the United Nations Millennium Summit, 189 member States of United National General Assembly including our very own India committed to reduce poverty, improve health, promote peace, and promote human rights and environmental stability. The Millennium Development Goals drawn from the Millennium Declaration thereof thus signed and set out eight goals and quantifiable time – bound targets to reduce poverty, hunger, ill health, gender inequality, improve access to education, clean water and environment for all by the year 2015. I think we should introduce the concept of nutrition security alongwith food security. Our short-term objective should be food security and medium and long term objective should be food and nutrition security.

Sir, I represent the city of Mumbai and, therefore, I feel it my duty to highlight the problems being faced by the people of Mumbai, Sir, Mumbai is a vibrant metropolis, it is also the Financial Capital of the country. People from all over the country come to Mumbai for livelihood. This is putting a heavy pressure on the existing infrastructure of the city. I would like to thank the Finance Minister for allocating Rs. 3,973 crore in this year's budget for urban infrastructure including provision for urban housing under the Rajiv Awas Yojana. Our Finance Minister has also stated that he intends to make the country slum free within a period of five years. I think Sir, this is a huge task considering the fact the lakhs of people are living in slums in Mumbai. I would, therefore, request Hon'ble Finance Minister to allocate a special fund for rehabilitation of the slums of Mumbai. The biggest problem we face is that many of these slums are situated on central Government land and are declared as encroachments but many have been in existence there for more than 50 years. Madam a national policy involving state government and central government on a cost sharing basis for the rehabilitation of the people is needed if we want to accomplish the task of a slum free India.

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

Sir, if an agreement is reached between the Urban Development Minister, the Railway Ministry, Defence Ministry and the State Government for cost sharing, as was done by the airport authorities for the development for the airport land in Mumbai this problem can be solved. Lakhs of persons will get roof over their heads. Their children can live with dignity.

I would like to thank the Finance Minister for allocating Rs. 500 crore for the Brihan Mumbai Storm Water Drainage Project (BRIMSTOWA). I would request that this project should be completed at the earliest and within a stipulated time period.

Sir, I would like to thank the Finance Minister ushering the movement of women's self help group in rural areas, I would like to request for a similar project for the urban areas. Sir, this budget has a focus on the weaker section of the society, but I see no mention of the disabled, I feel that the disabled are the weakest of the weak in our society and need special attention, may it be in education, employment, health and infrastructure.

I want to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister that The Persons with disability Act is not fully implemented. Many posts reserved for disabled persons under this Act in various Government institution are not filled. This Act also provides that public places to be made disabled friendly. But, I feel there is hardly any work done in this direction. The maintenance and Welfare of Senior Citizen Act provides for having one old age home in every district. However, I do not find that there much progress in this account either.

Sir, Health for All by 2020 is a target, which we have given to ourselves. But as of now I feel that we are quiet far from achieving the target. Still in rural areas there is hardly any medical facility available. I thank the Finance Minister for allocating additional Rs. 2075 crore over Rs. 12,070 crores for this mission.

Sir, in rural areas the biggest problem is non-availability of qualified doctors. I think if a system of compulsory internship in rural areas for all graduate doctors is introduced, we can to some extent take care of the problem. This problem has to be urgently attended to. Due to non-availability of a reliable medical system in the rural areas the poor people of rural areas have no option but to go urban areas for treatment. This is putting huge pressure on the urban hospitals. Government hospitals in urban areas are also ill equipped. I, therefore, request you that a National Urban Health Mission should also be started.

Sir, cancer is becoming one of the biggest killer in India. The problem in India is that cancer is never detected in early stages. Breast cancer and cervical cancer amongst women is increasing day by day. Breast cancer cases are rising alarming high, especially in urban India, where 1 in 30 women is at risk of getting breast cancer in her lifetime. In rural areas the breast cancer ratio is 1 in 70. 75% of all breast cancers diagnosed in India are already so advanced due to late detection making survival rates low. Estimated 1,00,000 new cases of Breast cancer expected in India each year.

There is hardly any knowledge about breast cancer and cervical cancer amongst women. Moreover, even when the cancer is detected, the treatment is very expensive. Most of the people cannot afford the treatment. I, therefore, request that cancer treatment should be made free in Government hospitals. Moreover, there should be a massive awareness campaign for breast and cervical cancer.

Sir, while our country has progressed no doubt on many development makers, chronic hunger related malnutrition and compromised chronic health related situations persist even today. Every one out of two children and every one out of three adult women suffer from malnutrition. To reach the target of reducing maternal mortality, infant and child mortality, the supply of grain, as suggested at Rs. 3 may not be enough. The quality of food provided in Mid-day Meal Program should be improved. I suggest that at least 200 ml. of milk per child should be provided in addition to the food presently being provided. The other nutritional requirements like vitamins, minerals and regulated amounts of proteins and fats will have to be ensured through the PDS and awareness towards this end initiated. I thus request the hon. Finance Minister to consider fortifying grains and supply such elements to effectively reach the said targets.

Sir, the Central Government have given many welfare schemes but unfortunately most of the schemes are not properly implemented. The key for the Government to reach its desired target is to ensure systems in place to monitor the implementation of the various schemes and funds allocated for various projects, specially infrastructure projects if delayed due to red tapism increases costs tremendously thus making the said project unviable, we have seen that happen with many projects in the past. Sir, very strict action must be taken against those involved in corruption, which causes loss of crores of rupees of the public money and takes away

from the development plans of the Nation. This should be considered as crimes against the Nation.

[Translation]

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI (Shirur): Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the first budget presented by the hon'ble Minister in the 15th Lok Sabha. People of the country, especially poor farmers and employees were expecting some relief in the budget. For the first time the UPA Government has been given a heavy mandate expecting that this Government will formulate a special scheme for the poor. I am speaking on behalf of the people of the country and it is distressing that the Government has lost the golden opportunity to express gratitude to the people. I don't think that the loan scheme formulated for the farmers would bear any fruitful result for them.

[English]

Sir, in my constituency, a lot of industrialization has taken place. Now, because of liberalization in industry, a lot of industries are shifting towards tax holiday area; and because of that most of the companies which are settled in Pune and in Maharashtra are closing their companies and are shifting to tax holiday area.

19.00 hrs.

The result is that a lot of employees are becoming jobless even after working for ten years and so on. If a company is closed, the employees have problems. So, I would like the Government to look into this problem seriously.

[Translation]

Besides this I would like to mention regarding IT hardware that our neighbouring countries Korea, Taiwan, Hongkong and China have made a great progress in the field of electronics and hardware, a lot of work and research has been done in this regard. However, despite having good quality manpower and brain power, our country's concentration remains focused on the software sector only. Despite a huge scope in the hardware sector. I would request the hon'ble Minister of Finance and the Government to formulate good schemes to promote the hardware sector so that we could progress in this field also at par with Taiwan and Korea.

Secondly, I would like to mention that many of my colleagues have stated that Rs. two crore given under

MPLAD Scheme is a very meager amount. Even an MLA in Maharashtra gets more than one crore under this fund and in some states they get more than that. But MPs have to manage with Rs. two crores only despite having a number of Parliamentary Constituencies under them. The same demand to increase the MPLAD Fund was made by the Members of 14th Lok Sabha also, therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Finance Minister to increase the Fund to Rs. 5-6 crores. I think it would not cost much to the Government. There are many schemes like Bharat Nirman and others on which 10, 20 or 40 thousand crores are spent and I don't think increasing the Fund to Rs. five crore for Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Members would cost much to the Government. I would again request the Government to increase the amount under MPLAD Fund. Technological development is most needed in the IT hardware sector in the years to come. Therefore, the hon'ble Minister of Finance should pay special attention to it.

With this, while expressing my opinion on the budget on behalf of the Shivsena, I conclude my speech.

[English]

*DR. TARUN MONDAL (Joynagar): I rise to speak on General Budget (2009-10) to register that it cannot be called a pro-people/ Aam-admi budget which will do any good to our 80-85% population. Rather this is a pro-capitalist, pro-corporate budget in line with globalization, liberalization policies of WTO which can give benefit to richer section of the Society with plenty of concessions and exemptions to them.

There are no declarations to reduce prices of the essential commodities of livelihood within coming 100 days. No declaration to stop hoarding, black marketing of food grains, kerosene etc. Though prices of purchase of food grains have been raised a little bit, that will not meet the need of the farmer- producers, especially the small and middle ones from frustration. No guarantee for employment to huge unemployed youth, no assurance against retrenchment and opening of closed industries which are essential steps to create purchasing power of people and to infuse demand in the market. Pulling funds from FDI, borrowing, disinvestment, selling out/leasing Government/PSU properties can bring some liquidity (money) in the market but unless employment is generated through labour - intensive industries, stopping

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

downsizing and nationalization of sick PSUs/industries market cannot be stimulated. Corporates mainly multinationals in retail sector will be disastrous. To rural sector, at least NREGA should be for 200 days/per annum and daily wage be raised to at least Rs 150/- per day.

About Education, I would like to place that government's attitude to make it an open sector for service investment is going against the dreams of our nation builders and education will be more costly as well as out of reach of common people. It should be a national responsibility and education budget should be 10% of general budget as per recommendations of Kothari commission of 1960s.

Similarly in Health sector, rampant privatization projects are going on further robbing our people of their right to health. NRHM and UHM are no panacea – only avenues to make health a commodity. You have money; you can buy health, no money no health. India is the TB, malnutrition, anaemia capital in the world till today.

Therefore, as per Bhole Committee and Mudaliar Committee's recommendation of allotting 10% of budget to health sector be ensured with protection and development of existing public health facilities with supply of essential medicines.

Irrigation is a very neglected sector and 62% of our cultivable land still remains without irrigation, which requires proper attention and funding. If this trend continues, fertilizers price will be hiked and number of farmer's suicides will increase.

Drinking water problem of the nation be mitigated within coming 5 years and Government should show the world that India can supply drinking water to its one billion plus population.

Along with I support propositions submitted by other members to raise at least I.T. exemption up to income of Rs 2, 50,000/ per annum to save even some senior grade 'D' employees of the nation.

I did expect a Sunderban package for development which is a world heritage delta forest, but the fund related for rebuilding may be misutilised by West Bengal Government unless monitored strictly.

Defence, a non-productive sector, its budget has been raised nearly Rs. 40,000 crores only to fortify arm-race in the world, and to artificially stimulate the market

which has become the post second world war trend of capitalist imperialist economies.

In Nobel laureate economist shri Amartya Sen's words more than 80% of India is like Somalia and the rest is like New York-Washington. I can say this budget will only justify his statement, increase the rich-poor gap and therefore, it cannot be endorsed.

*SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA (South Goa): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, when the Finance portfolio was entrusted to an experienced veteran administrator like Shri P.K.Mukherjee, the country had great expectations from him, and I can say with confidence that he had not belied the hopes and faith, people had reposed in him. This budget has received widespread acclaim from every quarter and deservedly so. It has amply catered to the interests of not only the Aam Admi, the main concern of the UPA, it has also met with the approval of the captains of industry and trade, the investing public, as well as foreign investors who bring in the much needed capital for our developing economy to sustain its extraordinary rate of growth in comparison to most other countries faced with a slow down in economic activity.

The most commendable feature of the budget is the substantial allocation of funds to make our development as well as progress an "inclusive" one, so that the under privileged sections of our society do not miss out on the benefit accruing from all this growth and prosperity. This perhaps was the single most onerous responsibility entrusted to our Hon'ble Finance Minister and I am proud to say that he has done full justice to it without any doubt whatsoever.

The very concept of providing the have-nots with an assured supply of their daily bread has been given a new meaning and dimension by the budgetary provision. The proposed Food Security Act, to which there is now an express commitment of a timeframe for implementation, makes the whole concept revolutionary. It is no longer mere charity that we are talking about when it comes to food for the hungry, but an inalienable and enforceable right. The proposed legislation involves creating entitlements backed by legal guarantee to provide basic amenities and opportunities for livelihood to vulnerable sections. Aam admi is now the focus of all our programmes and schemes.

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

I find that even the very manner in which the Finance Minister has gone about the budget making process calls for special mention. He is the first Finance Minister of independent India to hold a meeting of all State Finance Ministers as part of the preparations for the budget, thereby making the achievement of its goals a joint effort of the Central and State Governments. He has declared that the interests to make this an annual feature and this is indeed praiseworthy.

The noteworthy and salient features of the budget which require special attention are:-

1. Creating 12 million new employment opportunities to bring about 'inclusive' growth.
2. A fiscal stimulus of 1,86,000 crores to counter the negative fall out of global slow down.
3. Introducing for the first time in India, the international scheme of "take out financing" to meet the huge requirements of infrastructure projects.
4. One hundred thousand crores for infrastructure through PPP (Public Private Partnership).
5. Annual allocation of 12,887 crores to improve the lot of the urban poor and to make the country slum free in five years.
6. 3,25,000 crores agricultural credit to farmers at a low interest rate of 6% per annum.
7. 827 crores for the proposal of one central university in each uncovered state. Goa should also get one under this.
8. 2113 crores for new IITs and NITs. Goa must get one.
9. 2000 crores for higher education.
10. Fiscal support to the New Pension System.
11. "Safe Harbour" rules to improve the investment climate in the country to attract foreign capital.
12. Abolition of commodity transaction tax, fringe benefit tax and surcharge on income tax.
13. 100% tax deduction of contribution to political parties.

By these measures, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has lived up to his promise that he is fully sensitive to the great challenge of rising expectations of a young India.

I wish to record my special appreciation for the allocation of 25 crores for each of the two new conferences to be opened by the Aligarh Muslim University in West Bengal and Kerala. It is only through education and enlightenment we can integrate our minorities into the mainstream of my society and this budgetary allocation is a reflection of the unshakable faith the Congress party and the UPA have in their secularist ideas, and also the fact that we practice what we preach.

NREGA

In the implementation of this important programme, certain states, which already have a minimum wage level which is higher than most other states, faced the difficult problem of allocation sufficient number of workers to fully utilize their budgetary allocation of funds. To overcome this problem, we will have to adopt different yardsticks to the minimum wages payable to every state taking into consideration the wages already prevailing in the respective States. Otherwise the allotted funds will remain unutilized, defeating the very purpose of launching this programme.

Another part I would like to make is to allow NRE Indians including shippies to have a vote in their villages. Saying this, I support this very good budget.

*SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon'ble Sir, thank you for allowing me to express my views on the General Budget. Much have been talked about on behalf of our Party C.P.I. respected Gurudas da raised very important matters. I would like to raise few pertinent points. The budget proposals are welcome particularly for some remarkable announcements in social sector, in flagship programme as well.

I am raising specially on 4 points. Firstly in respect of fiscal deficit. Hon'ble Finance Minister ramped up total expenditure by over 36% to Rs. 10,20,838 crore, when revenue are Rs. 6,14,497. We are to borrow Rs. 4,00,996 crore or around Rs. 1,100 crore every day of this year. Money is not cheap. The Government has to pay Rs. 2,25,571 crore or over Rs. 3 of every 10 Rs it earns in interest cost.

He is referring "Koutilya". How it would match Koutilya in this context. It can match Charvakas of Indian Philosophy. The verse is "Yavat Jibet Sukhang Jibet Rinang Kritwa Sukhang Bhaket".

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

Secondly, I am coming to the Tax proposals. The proposals are the rap to the economically upper section. Anybody is earning less than Rs. 10 lakhs in a year, the change in the tax exemption will put just Rs. 1,030 crore in his pocket or less than Rs. 100 a month around. But the monthly relief of over Rs. 5000 that some one is earning Rs. 2 lakh a month will get. That because the 10% surcharge on tax for incomes over Rs. 10 lakh has been scrapped.

The removal of the fringe benefit tax (FBT) is good news for companies, because they will no longer have to pay tax on the benefit.

Thirdly about Agriculture: Yes it is a rightly said that agriculture is the mainstay of Indian economy. But how much allocation is proposed in this sector. Only 1% of the total budgetary allocation, as good peanut to only 1% of the total budgetary allocation, as good as peanut to the children. Agriculture contributes around 17% to the G.D.P. 75% of the population live on agriculture. Around 56% of the working population are engaged in this sector.

The recommendation made by the National Commission on farmers, not have been given due honour. Nothing is said about remunerative prices for agriculture produce, about 4% simple interest in agriculture credit. No assurance of time from for providing enhanced subsidy in fertilizer and transferring it directly to the farmers or producers. Two-third of the arable lands are non-irrigated so far. Agriculture is mainly dependent on the vagary of erratic monsoon. It is desirable that the Government would come out with a stimulus programme and announce comprehensive package proposal for Agriculture and Kisan to enable the 75% of the population to stand on their own feet. It would effectively help the Nation if becoming super power in food. That would be the way to face the global challenge. At the same time universal public distribution system needs to be introduced covering more than 14 items of essential commodities.

Last but not the least about the policy of disinvestment. Though there is no mention in the budget proposal about Bing Bang Reforms but the hint can be understood. Just I take this opportunity to refer the announcement made by the Secretary of Finance Ministry on 6th July in a press conference. He made the statement that the asset-sale plan would be announced by the Finance Ministry when he would present the next Budget. So it is assumed that the Government is sleeping towards the asset sale programme shortly.

All these trends are matter of great concern as following such may the self-reliance economy of our country would be jeopardized. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. RAJAN SUSHANT (Kangra): Mr. Chairman, as per the figures given in the budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance, 19 paise, out of one rupee, will have to be spent on payment of interest on loan and 15 paise on repayment of instalments. Thus, we can sum up that Rs. 3,42,851 crore will be spent on payment of loan amount and Rs. 2,25,511 crore on payment of interest on loan, whereas, the Government has total revenue receipts of Rs. 6,14,497 crore, leaving a revenue deficit of Rs. 2,22,737 crore. In a layman's language, out of a rupee, 19 paise will be spent on payment of interest and 15 paise on repayment of loan. I think it is a matter of very serious concern for all our intellectuals and MPs. In this regard, an Urdu poet has quite aptly said. "Dhoop ki tapish se dam jinka apna nikal raha ho, un darkhton se kabhi saye ki ummid mat karo". I feel expectations of crores of young Indians have been diminished by this budget. If we want our country to march ahead on the path of progress, we will have to get ourselves free from the clutches of MNCs and big corporate houses. We will have to see India's ground reality, remember Gandhiji and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay whose policies, will definitely prove effective, if not today, surely tomorrow, otherwise our country will never get rid of the debt.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, allocation of Rs. 39 thousand crore for NREGA is a welcome step. Will this amount be adequate to feed crores of our unemployed youths? Today India is the second most populated country after China. China's population is 125 crore against India's 115 crore. America's population is 35 crore. Alarmingly concerning fact is that we, in our country, have more educated unemployed than America's total population. Our Government plans to set up world class institutions and universities. But it raises a question with regard to a large army of youth passing out from these universities who remain jobless and many of them are committing suicide. There is a great resentment among them. If no attention is paid to them, the day is not far when it may create havoc. Therefore, the country will have to do something to avoid such a situation.

Sir, the budget has no mention of steps to be taken for providing employment to 30-35 crore unemployment youth. Can we expect a Ph.D, a doctor or an engineer to work under NREGA on daily wages for 100 days in a year. He would prefer death in place of compromising with his self respect. The Government has not envisioned any plan for providing jobs to educated unemployed youth. I recollect a couplet of a revolutionary poet:

Jis Khet se dahkaan ko mayassar na ho roji,
Us khet ke har joshay gandam ko jala do.

Sir, I am saying it with a serious concern. This budget expresses no concern about today's youth. I would suggest the hon. Minister of Finance to prepare a new scheme for educated unemployed youth on the lines of NREGA and that scheme should be named-NYEGA, *i.e.* National Youth Employment Guarantee Act. Till the Government is able to provide employment to the youth commensurate with their education, they should be provided unemployment allowance at the rate of Rs. 1000 per mensem, so that they can feel that at least the Government is concerned about them, though it will unburden the budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, coming to the issue of funding of elections. It has been stated in the budget that the large corporate houses which give contributions to the political parties will be granted tax rebate. Where we are heading to? Are we going to purchase our MPs? The hon. Members are saying that the situation is serious in the country. My submission is that the Government should allocate funds in this budget itself for funding elections. We have 545 MPs in Lok Sabha and 250 in Rajya Sabha. Only Lok Sabha MPs need expenditure to contest election. If one MP is provided Rs. 10 crore, then an allocation of Rs. 5450 crore will be required for 545 MPs. Similarly, funds will be required for Panchayat Election also. I think we will need Rs. 15 thousand crore for five years. If the Government makes provision for Rs. 3-4 thousand crore every year our honest and able people can contest elections without any kind of burden and it will strengthen the domestic system.

Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister and also the hon. Finance Minister for having resolved the long pending issue of 'one Rank one Pension'. By doing so they have resolved a serious issue before the country. A number of ex-defence officers have met me. If you have done so much for the 12 lakh ex-servicemen, then I want that justice should also be done to about one lakh Army Officers.

*Sir, in addition to it, MPLAD funds should also be increased to atleast Rs. 10 crore from Rs. 2 crore annually and the Members should also be given a discretionary Fund of at least Rs. 2 crore every year.

Sir, the coverage of the social security pension should be increased and I strongly demand that the monthly pension for all the senior citizens above 60 years, all the widows over 18 years and physically challenged should be increased from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 and the conditions related to children's income and income from land should be removed while filling the form or selecting the BPL because it has been seen that even though the children are earning but they are not supporting their old parents and the income from land is not sure. Also, there is no income from land in the case of natural disasters like drought, flood etc. Therefore, these two conditions should be removed while selecting the BPL.

Sir, in addition to it, the farmers are facing a problem of stray animals and monkeys which destroy their crops in no time. Therefore, the Government should make some scheme in this regard and provide a special budget for it.

Sir, similarly, the Committee should make efforts to appeal to the hon. Supreme Court to remove the ban on felling of their trees by the farmers in Himachal Pradesh so that lakhs of the Himachal farmers could be saved from starvation.

Sir, similarly, my another important demand is that a 'Himalayan State Development Board' should be formed early for the accelerated development of the hilly states and a special budgetary provision should be made for it.

A university based on 'the Vedas, Sanskrit and rituals' should be set up in Himachal Pradesh to promote the rich culture of the nation in Himachal Pradesh.

Besides, a 'Hills Engineering University' should also be set up in Himachal Pradesh for the development of the hills.

The industrial package, which was sanctioned by the hon'ble Shri Atail Bihari Vajpayee ji should be extended upto 2013.

A 'Biotechnology University' should also be opened in Himachal Pradesh with a special budgetary provision for promotion of Biotechnology in the state.

The carpenter community of Himachal Pradesh should be granted the status of scheduled caste to create social harmony.

Sir, a Central University in the Kangra district and an IIT in Una district should be started early. An IIM should also be started early in Himachal Pradesh. Similarly, a Hydropower Technology Engineering Institute should be opened in Bilaspur district.

An early provision for sufficient funds for Renuka Dam, Tispa and Kishai hydropower projects should be made.

Sir, injustice is being done to Himachal Pradesh regularly since independence. This budget too has disappointed Himachal Pradesh very much. I therefore, demand that:

1. The Pathankot-Joginder Nagar rail line should be converted into broad gauge and it should be extended upto Leh and sufficient budget should be provided for it.
2. A new rail line from Talwada-Dhameta-Fatehpur-Rehan-Jasur to Nurpur-Udhampur should be laid for the security of the nation.
3. Nangal-Talwada line should be completed early.
4. Ghanauli-Baddi line should also be completed early.
5. Bilaspur-Mandi-Kullu-Manali-Leh line should also be constructed.

Sir, sufficient budgetary provision should be made for early completion of the national highways in Himachal Pradesh and the required fund for the repairs of the 1500 kilometers long national highway should be provided.

Construction of the Rohtang tunnel should be started early and a provision should be made for the CAMPA plan in the budget.

Sir, Himachal Pradesh wants its dues and not alms. Nature has provided us everything-beautiful, mountains and valleys, snow, huge deposits of minerals and herbs, pure environment and beautiful forests and rivers. God has given us everything but the problem starts when we do not get our share. Lakhs of people of Himachal Pradesh are displaced when we set up Hydropower plants but we do not get fair share when it comes to electricity. It happens not because we do not have our share but because we are far too meek and we have not been taken seriously till date. Today, I demand with all seriousness that Himachal Pradesh should be given

its rightful share. Royalties of water, electricity, minerals, forests and herbs alongwith our dues should be given to us without any delay.*

*SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Girdih): I would like to express my views on the General Budget for 200-10. The people of the country had a lot of expectation from this budget but when the budget was presented in the House, the investors' budgetary expectations crashed and the BSE sensex slumped by 869 points as a result of heavy selling. The fiscal deficit in the percentage of gross domestic product in the budget estimates is 6.8 percent against 2.5 percent in the budget estimates 2008-09 and it is 6.2 percent according to the final accounts of 2008-09. The Government itself admits that this deficit is a matter of serious concern.

Even after about 61 years of independence we are helpless in providing agricultural, educational, medical facilities and housing to the poor and the middle class. The salary of Government employees/officers was increased by the Sixth Pay Commission and the whole country was pleased with the announcement of loan waiver of Rs. 70,000 crore and the Congress led Government succeeded in retaining the power.

But crores of people are dependent on temporary jobs and wages other than Government jobs in this country. They do not get any benefit of the recommendations of any pay Commission. Sitting in air-conditioned rooms one cannot assess the effects of price-rise on those people. Food is subsidized in the Parliament and the meal available at Rs. 10 in the Parliament costs Rs. 80/- outside. The market rorars after implementation of the Pay Commission's report. Whatever increased in the salary is spent in the market. The remaining crores of people are reeling under the impact of price-rise.

Today, the public education and health system is not sufficient. We are trying to achieve 4 percent growth rate in agriculture. Lakhs of debt-ridden farmers are on the verge of committing suicide. Mafia is active in every region in the country. Crores of rupees are misused in the name of subsidy in the country. In such a situation the Government should formulate such a scheme that the poor and the middle class people get subsidy directly and the health, education, food and housing facilities should be provided by the Government mechanism. There should be a quota and smart card scheme for all the beneficiaries.

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

National agricultural policy was formulated in this agricultural country in the year 2007 which provided for social security, guarantee of livelihood including insurance and schools for the farmers. But nothing more has been done in this regard.

As regard food management, the farmers should get proper price of their produce. The poor should get foodgrains at lower prices and the farmers should get assistance for producing foodgrains. But, the UPA Government has failed in this regard and the Government ordered for import of 5.5 million tonnes of wheat at the average rate of \$2047.7 per tonne in 2006-07 and 1.8 million tonne wheat at the rate of \$373.8 per tonne in the year 2007-08.

There was surplus stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool during the period from 2001-03. It reached 64.7 million tonne in June which is the highest.

It proves that the UPA Government successfully imported wheat into the country but failed in increasing the production of wheat.

As regards rural development, the status of implementation of rural development projects in Jharkhand is quite worse.

Only Rs. 178 lakh out of allocated funds of Rs. 356 lakh for Swajaldhara scheme were received during 2005-06. Similarly 13326 Indira Aawas were completed against the annual target of 34261 aawas and 42376 applications were sanctioned against 78160 applications under SGSY.

In the power sector, 40 hydroelectricity projects having 13085 MW capacity are under construction. Hydro electricity projects in Konar dam in Jharkhand are proposed since 1990 but the Union Government has failed to complete these projects.

Jharkhand was created a new state in the year 2002 but its development took place during NDA rule and thereafter there has been no development. The quality of rural electrification is poor. Effective steps are not being taken for expansion of irrigation projects. The entire region is malaria affected. All the schemes relating to health, education, NREGA, rural roads are running behind schedule.

Hence, the Government should take effective steps for completing the following:-

- (1) Work on the Hydro-electricity project should be started at Konar dam, the proposed site for this project.

- (2) The Government should provide additional allocation for upgradation and development of Madhuban Parasnath as a tourist spot.
- (3) Hydro-electricity project at Konar-dam should be sanctioned.
- (4) Work relating to revision of BPL list in Jharkhand should be taken up at the earliest and effective steps should be taken for providing ration and benefits of the government schemes to the poor.
- (5) An action plan should be taken up urgently to urgently to save the Damodar river from being polluted.
- (6) Additional funds should be provided for completion of the pending/ongoing irrigation projects in Jharkhand.
- (7) Effective steps should be taken to implement the tribal welfare projects completely in Jharkhand.
- (8) Necessary action should be taken urgently for completing the work of Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Projects and ensuring sufficient supply of power and removing the lapses in the quality of the scheme in Jharkhand.

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister.

This is a good Budget which aims at inclusive growth. I welcome the proposal of the hon. Finance Minister to increase the allocation of funds to Bharat Nirman which has gone up by 45 per cent, NREGP which has gone up by 144 per cent, Indira Awas Yojana which has gone up by 63 per cent, Minority Affairs which has gone up by 74 per cent and subsidy which has gone up by 84 per cent. This is truly a Budget of *Aam Aadmi* and it will cover the length and breadth of our country. The increase in the allocation for the health and education sectors is also very significant. The other highlight of this Budget is the welfare of the unorganized and the informal sector workers who constitute more than 92 per cent of the work force of our country. There are many other good schemes in this Budget like the National Food Security Act, the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, many other schemes for the rural India and also

the stimulus package for industrial growth in the country. Many hon. Members have deliberated upon all these schemes very elaborately and so I do not want to take the time of this august House by going into all these points.

Sir, as I come from the North Eastern Region, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to some of the burning problems of the North Eastern Region. As you know, the North Eastern Region, particularly in Assam, the flood problem is a very grave one and it is a disaster of national magnitude. In the last decade, we have lost about more than one lakh hectare of cultivable land and several thousands of crores worth of property. We have lost many public properties belonging to the tea industry, school and college buildings. The State Government will not be able to control the flood problem and the problem of erosion in our region. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to allocate more funds to effectively solve this problem. Sufficient grant should be given from the Central Government for this purpose. Many lakhs of people have lost their houses and their cultivable land and so I would request the Government to announce a special package for the flood affected people who have lost everything due to flood in our region.

The North Eastern Region is geographically isolated from the national mainland and we have to fly over a foreign country to go to the North Eastern Region. So, connectivity is one of the major problems in our region. We have to develop the road connectivity, rail connectivity and air connectivity so that the people who live in the North Eastern Region feel that they are part and parcel of this great nation. Infrastructure development in the North Eastern Region is not adequate. So, I would request the Government that sufficient funds should be provided so that infrastructure development can be made in the North Eastern Region.

The Government has taken up the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. But considering the remoteness of the North-Eastern Region, you will find that all the funds are channelised through the bank. There is not sufficient number of banks. For that reason, the flagship programmes like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Indra Awaas Yojana, are getting slowed down because there is not sufficient number of nationalised banks in those remote areas. So, I would request the Finance Minister to ensure that sufficient number of branches of the nationalised banks is established there.

It is because of the remoteness, because of insurgency problem and because of difficulty in connectivity, though the North-Eastern Region is rich in tea, timber and minerals, no industrial investment is going on there. For that reason, the Central Government had declared the North-Eastern Industrial and Investment Policy in 2007 to encourage investment. But despite the special package, no significant capital investment is taking place in the North-Eastern Region.

As you know, in the country, unemployment is the highest in the North-Eastern Region. Many of our young boys are going to insurgency and taking up arms because of unemployment problem. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to re-visit this Policy and make it more attractive so that new investments should go to the North-Eastern Region.

I have a few suggestions. There should be restoration of central excise refund benefits granting full refund of central excise to industrial units in the North-Eastern Region.

The refund of central excise, transport subsidy, etc., is to be treated as tax-free incentives by the Income Tax Department.

The Government has to provide adequate budgetary provision for various incentives to be paid by the Central Government to tea and other industries in the North-Eastern Region, ensuring timely and hassle free disbursement.

The Central Government, under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh has rightly created a special bank called, the North-Eastern Development Financial Institution. The entire incentive fund is disbursed through this institution. But the working of this institution has to be improved so that timely disbursement of the incentive is taking place.

I come from one of the largest tea growing areas of the country. Almost 60 per cent of the export tea of India goes from Assam. The tea industry is situated in the very remote and difficult places. They are working in a very difficult condition. The tea industry directly employs about two million people in our country. We have tea industry in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, Tripura and West Bengal. They employ directly two million people. Indirectly, they give employment and other livelihood to about 10 million people, to those who are situated in the remotest corner and difficult terrains of our country.

So, I would request the Finance Ministry to look into the difficulties of the tea industry. The tea industry's continued viability is of paramount importance in order to provide source of income to a large number of rural population in the remote and backward regions of our country. It is important that the Central Government favourably considers the difficulties and problems.

The tea industry in Assam is incurring a high cost on maintenance of security force. As you know, the insurgency problem is there. There is Assam Tea Protection Force, and it is entirely funded by the industry. I think this is the only industry which is giving the whole money for protection. Though they are running in difficulty, they have to pay the security money for maintaining the security force. Bearing the cost of deployment of the force is becoming very difficult for the tea industry.

I request the Government to help the tea estates of Assam and particularly in this matter thereby securing the sustainability and competitiveness of the tea industry in the world market.

For tea industry, fertiliser is a major component of the cost which is presently availing the benefit of the subsidy of some of the fertilisers like urea, MOP etc. I welcome the decision of the hon. Finance Minister to pass the benefit of subsidy directly to the farmer or the user. I request the Government to include the tea estates in the list of beneficiaries of the fertiliser subsidy.

To keep the Indian tea more competitive in the world market, the Central Government has to take some steps regarding the social cost of the tea industry. Several Committees including inter-Ministerial Committees constituted by the Central Government have well recognised this and recommended for sharing the social cost between industry, Central Government and the State Government. Early step in this regard is needed.

The NEC is working as a catalyst for the development of the North-Eastern region. This is specially created. They are working with financial difficulty. There is a proposal from the NEC for grant of another Rs. 700 crore from the Central Government. I would definitely request the hon. Finance Minister to consider this.

The Central Government has created the Department of North-East Region for the development of the North-Eastern region. A proposal of giving Rs. 1,000 crore is under consideration of the Central Government and I

request the hon. Finance Minister to release this sum of Rs. 1,000 crore as early as possible.

To bring the benefits of all the Central Government programmes for the common people, the administrative system of our country has to be reformed very drastically. They have to be motivated. I must mention one thing here. The Central Government has taken a flagship programme for providing 30 kg. of rice or wheat at the rate of three rupees per kilogram to all those families in the country who are living below the poverty line. They will be going to provide this benefit to these people so that they will have a square meal. But the public distribution system of our country is very weak. I want to know whether they will be in a position to take this burden to take all these schemes to the people at the grassroot level and to the poorest of the poor of our country which is the aim of our UPA Government under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh.

All these schemes have to be taken up by our bureaucracy. Many a times they fail. The benefits are not reaching to the poor for whom these schemes are taken up and they live in frustration. I would definitely urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to look into this aspect. At the same time, all these administrative reforms should be expedited so that these schemes like poverty alleviation scheme, literacy scheme etc. should reach those for whom these schemes are envisaged.

Sir, with these few words, I wholeheartedly support the Budget presented by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, hon. Finance Minister for the consideration of this House.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am quite thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate and discussion being held on the General Budget for 2009-2010. I rise to support this Budget. But I do have some critical observation on certain matters that pertain to the allocation of meagre amount of funds for the development of the North-Eastern region, on the allocation of funds for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and particularly on the allocation of meagre amount of only Rs. 50 crore for the most backward and neglected part – our Bodoland Territorial Areas District. It was constituted in the year 2003 under the provision of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India as a result of the political agreement signed between the Government of India and the Government of Assam on the one hand, and the Leaders of the erstwhile Bodo Liberation Tigers.

Here, I would like to quote the figures for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The allocation for 2008-2009 was Rs. 1,984.16 crore, and the allocation for this year is Rs. 2,720.11 crore. It is an enhancement of only Rs. 735.95 crore. Likewise, the allocation for the Ministry of DoNER for 2008-2009 was Rs. 1,473.25 crore, and the allocation of this year is Rs. 1,475.47 crore. It is an enhancement of only Rs. 2.22 crore over the figures of the previous year. Further, very surprisingly, the allocation for the Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD) last year was Rs. 100 crore, but the allocation this year is only Rs. 50 crore.

Our Bodoland Territory is having a population of about 3 million. The Bodoland Territory has been neglected and discriminated against in very many spheres of developmental activities. Over the last 62 years — after Independence — nothing was done over there, and only some kind of developmental activities are taking place and that too after the new political agreement was signed on 10 February 2003. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Government of India, through you, to take appropriate steps to enhance the allocation for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of DoNER, particularly, for our Bodoland Territory.

In this regard, I would like to emphasise the paramount importance of enhancing the Central fund for the Bodoland Territory from mere Rs. 50 crore to a minimum of Rs. 500 crore per year, and this amount of money should be given directly to the Bodoland Territorial Council Administration. This should be made a regular feature. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up your speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I have only started just now. Sir, I am the lone MP from my Party, namely, the Bodoland Peoples Front. It is one of the pre-poll partners of the UPA. Therefore, we should be given more time to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is allotted on the basis of the strength of the Party in the House. Please understand that you have exceeded your time limit. Therefore, please wind up your speech in one more minute.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Then I will table some of the points in written form.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you can do it. The remaining portion of your speech may be placed on the Table. Thank you, Mr. Bwiswmuthiary.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to raise one more point. Several hon. Members have stated in negard to enhancement of funds fer MPLAD scheme. I would also like to state that this fund should be increased at least upto Rs. 10 crore from Rs. 2 crore.

[*English*]

I represent my Parliamentary Constituency, which consists of 10 Assembly segments, which are too backward.

[*Translation*]

What can be done with 2 crore rupees? It is my humble request that the MPLAD fund needs to be increased from 2 crore rupees to 10 crore rupees.

*Honourable Chairperson Sir I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion held on the General Budget for 2009-10. While submitting my observation on the General Budget, I am of the opinion that so far as the Central funds allocated for different sectors under different departments and ministries is concerned, may be satisfactory to some extent. However, so far as the budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER) and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and particularly for constitutionally recognized but most backward, neglected and deprived tribal area 'Bodoland Territorial Areas District ' (BTAD) in Assam is concerned, I am not at all happy and satisfied. Taking into account the degree of backwardness and socio-economic and educational underdevelopment of the Northeastern region, all the tribal-dominated regions and areas across the country and particularly of our Bodoland territory, the budgetary fund allocation for the Ministry of DoNER, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and also for Bodoland territory should have been increased substantially.

Sir, here I would like to mention the comparative figures of the budgetary allocation made for the Ministry of DoNER and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and also for our Bodoland territory for the Financial Years of 2008-09 and 2009-10 as follows:

*...*This part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

Name of the Ministry/ Department	Budgetary Fund allocated for the year 2008-09 (in Crores)	Budgetary Fund allocated for the year 2009-10 (in Crores)	Variation (in Crores)
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Rs. 1984.16	Rs. 2720.11	Rs. 735.95 * an increase over the figure of the previous year.
Ministry of DoNER	Rs. 1473.25	Rs. 1475.47	Rs. 2.22* a meager increase of just Rs. 2.22 Crore over the figure of the previous year
Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)	Rs. 100.0	Rs. 50.0	Rs. 50.0 *50% less than the amount of the previous year

The figures stated in the table itself shows the utter neglect of the concerned ministries in the matter of allocating the required adequate amount of central fund for the Ministries of DoNER, and Tribal Affairs, and also for the Bodoland territory to speed up the pace of overall development in the concerned regions and areas in question. I am extremely sorry disappointed with the allocation of only Rs. 50.0 Crore for BTC for the Financial Year of 2009-10 which is 50% less than the figure of the previous year. The question of development of various sectors under different line departments transferred to the BTC administration for 3 million people has indeed been a matter of great surprise and shock. This allocation of a meager amount of Rs. 50.0 Crore for BTC area, a constitutionally recognized tribal area constituted under the provision of the 6th Schedule to the Constitution of the country has been a glaring example of utter neglect and great discrimination. In terms of population, the central fund earmarked for BTC area compared to the Union Territories as mentioned hereunder indicates the discriminatory approach and step-motherly attitude of the Centre towards the backward tribal regions and areas like the BTC ostensibly because these regions do not constitute states or UTs.

Name of UTs/autonomous councils	Population (2001 Census)	Fund allocated for 2009-10 (in Crores)
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar Island	356152	Rs. 2756.22 (Rs. 1796.73 Revenue + Rs. 959.49 Capital)
Chandigarh	20833803	Rs. 2082.00 (Rs. 1644.99 Revenue + Rs. 437.01 Capital)

1	2	3
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	220490	Rs. 2036.66 (Rs. 1979.92 Revenue + Rs. 56.74 Capital)
Daman and Diu	158204	Rs. 864.29 (Rs. 781.81 Revenue + Rs. 82.48 Capital)
Lakshadweep	60650	Rs. 737.61 (Rs. 544.24 Revenue + Rs. 193.37 Capital)
BTC	3000000 approx.	Rs. 50.0

In view of the above, through you, I would like to strongly urge upon the Union Government of India to take appropriate steps to help and concede the following long-pending genuine demands and issues made by me and by the Bodoland Territorial Council administration over the past couple of years:

The Government of India should take appropriate steps to provide central fund amounting to a minimum of Rs. 1000.0 Crore directly to the BTC administration annually and on permanent basis to help speed up the pace of overall development within the Bodoland territory keeping into account the population figure of Bodoland territory and also the degree of backwardness of the concerned autonomous tribal area in Assam in line with the central fund provided to some smaller states and UTs as a measure of addressing the regional disparities in fund allocation.

The Government of India should take appropriate steps to help ensure the establishment of a Bodoland

Central University at Kokrajhar, a Central Agriculture University, a Bodoland Medical College, an AIIMS model institute, a Bodoland Institute of Information and Technology, one IIM, one IIT, a Nursing cum Paramedical Staff Training College, a Pharmaceutical College, a Bodoland Physical Health Education Training College, a Forest Training College, a Bodoland Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology at Kokrajhar, 4 Nos. of Polytechnic Institutes (one in each district), 4 Nos. Textile Institutes (one in each district), an Agriculture College at Udalguri, and 9 Nos. of new ITIs for each of the civil subdivision within Bodoland Territory, and one IIIT, some JNVs, KVs, model schools, quality science colleges within Bodoland aiming at developing educational sector in the most backward and neglected-constitutionally recognized Scheduled Tribe area (region) under the provision of the Sixth Schedule to the constitution;

The Government of India should take appropriate steps to help ensure the setting up of 2 domestic Greenfield airports, one at Kokrajhar and another at Rowta Chariali in Udalguri district within BTC area with immediate effect:

The Government of India should take appropriate steps to help implement the commitment made earlier while signing the BTC Accord on 10th February, 2003 that pertains to the construction of a new lateral national highway through the middle portion of Bodoland territory starting from Rowta Chariali in Udalguri district to NH-31 (C) meeting at Barabisha in Jalpaiguri district (West Bengal) via Jomduar with immediate effect; (ii) one lateral national highway also starting from Lalai in Bhutan to NH-31 meeting at the eastern approach of the Aie river bridge via Amteka, Koilamoila and Mongolian Bazar in Bodoland; (iii) the following state PWD roads should be upgraded to national highways with immediate effect-(a) from Sandrupjungkar-Darrangamela to Rangiya meeting at NH-31; (b) from Gelephu in Bhutan to Shyamtaibari meeting at NH-31 (C), and (C) from Sorbhang in Bhutan to Bishmuri meeting at NH-31 (C);

The Government of India should take appropriate steps to adopt the required proactive and positive policies for rapid industrialization within Bodoland in particular, and also within the entire northeastern region in order to help facilitate the overall socio- economic and industrial development within the region in question. In the backdrop of the overall backwardness and the acute unemployment problem prevailing within our Bodoland territory, I would like to strongly urge upon the Union Government of India to take appropriate steps to help

set up some viable industries in the following sectors in order to create jobs and stimulate industrial development in the region. (i) some agro and forest based industries, (ii) Eri/Indi (indigenous Bodo wild silk), Silk and textile based industries, (iii) food processing industries, (iv) some downstream industries based on the byproducts of BRPL, Dhaligaon, and (v) some medium and major industries in steel sector;

The Union Government of India should take appropriate steps to help ensure the construction of some viable hydro-electric projects on certain rivers like Sonkosh, Saralbhanga, Aie, Manas, Beki, Putimari and Dhansiri etc. within Bodoland area;

The Central Government of India should take appropriate steps to help to sanction minimum of Rs. 1000.0 Crore to the BTC administration to help develop tourism sector within Bodoland area aiming at providing employment opportunities to the unemployed people and thereby augment the economic development within the concerned area;

The Central Government of India should take necessary steps to help provide a minimum of Rs. 500.0 Crore to the BTC administration to do the massive task of reforestation of the denuded areas within the Reserved and unreserved forests areas within Bodoland territory aiming at contributing greatly towards the goal of sustainable development and in fighting climate change. In this regard, I would like to urge upon the Centre to take a proactive policy to allow the bodoland administration to raise a separate Forests and Environment Protection Force with the name and style of 'the Bodoland Forest Protection Force/Battalion' wherein anywhere between 5000 and 10000 unemployed youths may be recruited;

The Central Government of India should take appropriate steps to direct the State Government of Assam to transfer the law and order and police including the political department to BTC administration and the BTC administration should also be allowed to raise a separate Police Battalion for BTAD area with the name and style of the 'Bodoland Territorial Police Battalion' in order to maintain law and order within Bodoland. In this regard, a minimum of Rs. 500.0 Crore should be allocated to the BTC to implement this novel idea and project.

The Central Government should take appropriate steps to raise a separate regiment in the Indian Army

with the name and style of 'Bodo Regiment' in line with Nagar Regiment, Gurkha regiment, and so on and so forth;

The Government of India should take appropriate steps to implement all the clauses of the Bodo Accord signed on the 10th February, 2003 between the Union Government of India and the State Government of Assam on the one hand the leaders of the erstwhile BLT on the other. In this regard, it is worth while to mention that the Clause No. 8 of the aforesaid Accord that pertains to the inclusion of the Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi Anglong and in North Cachar hills has not yet been implemented in spite of the Centre's commitment made earlier. This long-pending genuine issue should be addressed with immediate effect. I also would like to urge upon the Government of India to take necessary steps to help ensure the withdrawal of all the Bodoland movement related cases and the transfer of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department with immediate effect. It is also a notable fact that majority of the surrendered BLT cadres have not yet been provided with proper relief and rehabilitation packages which should be addressed with immediate effect. Further, I also would like to draw the kind attention of the Centre to the fact that a good number of surrendered NDFB cadres also have not yet been provided with any relief and rehabilitation resulting in a serious kind of tension and frustration among the surrendered militants concerned. This issue should be taken care of and addressed by the Centre with immediate effect;

The Government of India should take appropriate steps to help set up a National Scheduled Tribes Development Authority with federal structures having branches at the state level in order to administer and run the affairs of the overall development of the STs across the country. This authority should be headed by the Prime Minister himself and all the MPs belonging to the ST community should be made members of this authority. At the state level, this authority should have branches to help implement the guidelines and policies adopted by the National Scheduled Tribes Development Authority. The Centre should earmark a separate budgetary allocation amounting to minimum of Rs. 10000 Crore per annum for the aforementioned authority. It should have a separate mini Secretariat in New Delhi.

The Government of India should take appropriate steps to help enhance reserved quota in job reservation for the STs from 7.5% to 12%, the reason being, the population of the STs also have increased over the past 3 decades after 1971 Census;

The Centre should take appropriate steps to help set up one Central Medical University for STs, some hostels for ST students (boys and girls) and one Tribal Bhawan or House in New Delhi with the total project cost of around Rs. 1000.0 crore:

I would like to draw the kind attention of the Union Government of India that the Railway Budget introduced for 2009-10 has discriminated against our Bodoland territory in particular, and the entire Northeastern region in the matter of sanctioning new projects for the region in question. I, therefore, would like to urge upon the Union Government of India through the honourable Union Minister of Finance to address all the long-pending railway service connectivity and railway projects related issues in relation to Bodoland territory with immediate effect. In this regard, it is worth while to mention that all the south and west bound trains should be allowed to halt at Kokrajhar Railway Station. Some specific trains also should be allowed to stop at Barpeta Road, Bijni, Basugaon, Fakiragram Jn., and at Gossaigaon Hut Railway Station. The Centre should take necessary steps to open new railway lines (i) from Geleghpu (Bhutan) to Salakati-Kokrajhar Railway Station, (ii) from Sandrupjungkha (Bhutan) to Rangia Railway Junction, and (iii) from Fakiragram Railway Junction to Jamduar connecting Bhutan, within Bodoland Territory in Lower Assam. The Centre should direct the Ministry of Railways to set up medical colleges at Kokrajhar and at New Bongaigaon in line with the policy announced so far for other areas.

The Union Government of India should take proactive initiatives to help set up some SEZs taking the BTC administration into confidence aiming at boosting socio-economic and industrial sector within Bodoland.

As on today around 2,000 numbers of Bodo Medium schools that include 1000 numbers of Primary Schools, 500 numbers of upper primary (Middle English) and 500 numbers of High Schools of Bodo medium have been languishing in Bodoland territory as well as in some other districts of Assam are not having been taken up by the State Government of Assam due to lack of resources since the 1990s. These vernacular medium schools are on the verge of being totally collapsed. In view of the above situation, I would like to strongly urge upon the Union Government of India to take appropriate steps to help ensure the allocation of an adequate amount of central fund amounting to minimum of Rs. 500.00 crore in order to enable the BTC Administration and also the State Government of Assam

to provincialize all these languishing schools of Bodo Medium without any further more delay so as to rescue the moribund Bodo Medium education from the jaws of total collapse in honour of the Union Government of India's policy decision culminating in the inclusion of Bodo language in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution of India in 2003 and the perennial flood and river erosion problems of Assam have really become matters of serious concern all the year round for the people of the State of Assam. These problems should be declared as the National problems of the Government India itself. In view of the above, I would like to urge upon the Union Government of India to declare the flood and river erosion problems of Assam as the major national problems and necessary arrangements of permanent feature for providing minimum of Rs. 1000.0 crores to the State Government of Assam and also to the Bodoland Territorial Council Administration annually in order to undertake reconstruction works on the infrastructure ravaged by devastating and grim floods that keep on coming every year.

Sir, last but not least, I would like to remind the Government of India of the real fact that continuation of any further discrimination against the people of Bodoland territory for any more longer period in near future in the matter of according justice in all spheres of development would definitely contribute a lot to catalyzing the process of further balkanization of Assam State again on federal plan in line with the separation of the present day Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh in the 1960s and in the 1970s on account of the too much neglect and discrimination done towards the hills tribal people of the present day hill states of the North-Eastern Region.

I hope, the honourable Union Minister of Finance would be kind enough to appreciate the genuineness and serious public importance of the concerned long pending demands and issues that I have mentioned above in the course of my participation in the debate and discussion held on the General Budget for 2009-10, and accordingly take appropriate steps to fulfill all the above mentioned demands and issues without any further more delay as genuinely deserved and as sought for.*

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kottayam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely happy that the Budget presented by the Union Finance Minister fulfills the faith reposed by the people in the UPA Government under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh and Soniaji. We are at a time when we have to make a decision for the progress of

our country. We have to choose, that is, either to suffer the future shock or define our economic policies to conquer the future shock. Our Finance Minister has presented a Budget that will make India ride high even at the time of world economic recession.

In evaluating the Budget, the main test is to find out whether the Finance Minister has addressed the challenges faced by our country. He has said in his Budget Speech: "The main aim of the Budget is to lead the economic growth back to nine per cent and also secure inclusive growth and equitable development." Sir, it is a paradox that the agricultural growth has declined to 1.6 per cent, when we are proud of the general GDP growth at nine per cent, and we are able to sustain this growth. Unless we attain a bigger agricultural growth, I am sure that we will not be able to attain inclusive growth. We know that 70 per cent of our total population live in the villages and they are agriculturalists. The benefit of additional generation of growth should reach the villages and then we will be able to attain the inclusive growth and also equitable growth.

The allocation of Rs. 39,100 crore which is 144 per cent higher than the previous year's Budget allocation for the employment generation scheme, and the decision to provide 25 kilograms of rice per Rs. 3 per kilogram for the BPL families is revolutionary and, of course, it will accelerate the inclusive growth.

Sir, I am cutting down my speech by making a few suggestions. The high rate of interest on agricultural loans is one of the reasons for the debt trap of the farmers. Though in the Budget there is a one per cent subsidy given for the prompt payment of the loan, ultimately, the interest on agricultural loan remains at six per cent, which is very high. The interest rate should be reduced to four per cent.

Another problem is the huge loss caused to the agricultural community every year by drought and floods. The amount disbursed by the National Calamity Contingency Fund is not enough to compensate the huge loss incurred by the farmers. The insurance companies have to come in a big way to help compensate this huge loss. There are insurance schemes, but they are limited to certain areas of agricultural sector. What we need is an integrated insurance scheme that will cover all the crops including the seasonal crops so that the entire agricultural community could be protected against the devastating floods and drought.

Another point which I would like to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister is the variation of the price of agricultural commodities, which is a major problem being faced by the cultivators. The price of the commodities fluctuates and they are not able to anticipate what is the amount of loan which they have to take and how they can repay the amount because of the fluctuation in the prices. So, the Government has to devise a scientific or mechanism to procure the commodities and also ensure remunerative price for the cultivators.

With these few words, I thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak. I wish to conclude by saying that the test of our progress is not whether we add to the abundance of those who have much, but it is whether we provide enough to those who have little.

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (Dhubri): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for providing me with the opportunity to express my views. Our Party, AUDF, supported the UPA Government with the hope that this will bring additional benefit to my State. But it seems that it had made little impact. I still support the Government as I have not lost my hope.

[Translation]

I would like to support the views expressed by Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar in regard to Assam.

[English]

I would support it.

Sir, the House is aware that in order to address the regional imbalances, institutions like NEC and DONER and schemes like ten per cent non-lapsable pool have come into existence.

[Translation]

The budget provisions for our 18 departments have been lesser in this budget.

[English]

The average allocation for non-lapsable pool of 18 departments is 3.73 per cent, that is, Rs. 9984 crore instead of ten per cent, that is, Rs. 26,367 crore. Thus the due amount of Rs. 16,525 crore has not been earmarked for NE by these 18 departments. This is unbelievable decision.

I strongly demand ten per cent allocation, that Rs. 26,367 crore under non-lapsable pool of NE. I demand a hundred per cent increase of fund for NEC and backward regions. Declaration of flood and erosion, as my brother has said and I am supporting him, as national calamity and rehabilitation of lakhs of families who are permanently displaced due to erosion. Then I demand rehabilitation of the riot victims and internally displaced persons. There should be complete border sealing. I am not asking for fencing. We are demanding for sealing the border. We demand and fully support in preparation of NRC in Assam. We demand special package for small tea growers and Char area dwellers of Assam. We demand to complete the Dhubri to Fulbari Bridge over River Brahmaputra.

I demand the welfare of minorities. I am of the opinion that the Government of India should not limit the Ministry of Minority Affairs into five to six incentive schemes. The amount of Rs. 1756 crore should be increased as NREGA and allocate Rs. 39000 crore and for the Bima Scheme for the poor, a sum of more than Rs. 2500 crore should be allotted. In addition to increasing the Budget, the Government should find out why nearly fifty per cent of the estimated Budget is reduced in the Revised Budget. The Government should ensure reservation of jobs for Muslims in Government, Police, private sector and para military forces. In this regard, I would like to point out that the Congress has promised in its manifesto of 2004 and 2009 reservations for Muslims. Contrary to this, the Union Minister for Minority Affairs has given his statement against it. We do not know as to who is right.

There should be higher education facilities for minorities. The setting up of two campuses of Aligarh Muslim University is appreciated but allocation of Rs. 25 crore only is not sufficient. I would demand that this amount should be increased to at least Rs. 100 crore.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Badruddin Ajmalji you may lay your remaining part of speech on the Table.

[English]

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: I am going to conclude in one minute.

As expected, the Budget has not given emphasis on reforms and management of the Wakf properties. In

India. I demand immediate constitution of proposed National Wakf Development Corporation with a revolving corpus fund of Rs. 1000 crore. I also demand concrete steps for recovery of wakf lands from the encroachers across India.

Last but not least, I am supporting the demand of all hon. Members to increase the amount of MPLAD from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 10 crore. I am also supporting them. I request the whole House to support it. With this, I would say that I have raised the issues not to oppose but to support the Budget with the hope that the hon. Finance Minister will take note of this and take action. Therefore, I do hereby support the Budget. Thank you very much.

I am laying the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

*Sir, our party AUIF has supported the UPA Government on the hope that this will bring additional benefit to my State. But it seems that it had made little impact. I still support the Government as I have not lost my hope. Now, instead of any rhetoric, I wish to directly come to the facts and figures of the budget document. The regular publicity given by the Government of India for the priorities, special packages, fast track initiatives etc. etc. etc. for NE states has perhaps made other states to envy us. But my dear members of other states, there is little truth in these publicities. The figures announced publicly for NE have not found their way in the budget document. This is a bitter truth we are habituated to consume. Of course Congress ruled States like Assam is happy with public announcement only. They have no time to look into the budget document.

Sir, the House is aware that in order to address the regional imbalances institutions like NEC and DoNER and scheme like 10% non-lapsable pool have come into existence.

The average allocation for non-lapsable pool of 18 departments is 3.73% (Rs. 9984 crore) instead of 10% (Rs. 26367 crore). Thus a due amount of Rs. 16525 crore has not been earmarked for NE by these 18 departments. This is unbelievable deception. The departments of Rural Development, Water Resource and Chemicals and petrochemicals have reduced the share of NE by approximately 20%. There are 10 other departments which have not increased a single rupee

for NE. For DONER, the amount of Rs. 1455 crores for 2008-09 has remained same in 2009-10. This is frustrating. Special Central assistance to NEC Plan remained same as 470.50 crore. This is painful. No increase in Backward Area Region Fund of Rs. 1130 crores. Let the backward area remain backward, who cares? Rs. 1000 crore for AILA. Good! But why not a penny for Assam which faces similar losses in every year.

Rs. 500 crore for rehabilitations of internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka but no fund for 25 years old Nelia victims, 15 years old internally displaced persons of Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, Barpeta and recently displaced persons of Darrang and Udalgri districts of Assam. Decrease of budget of Bongaigaon Refinery and Petro Chemicals Ltd. from Rs. 650 crores to Rs. 561.00 crores at the same time increase of allocation for Mangalore Refineries from Rs. 527 crores to Rs. 2020 crores. Is it not a classic example of discrimination?

Sir, there are no end of such instances. Due to shortage of time I beg your permission to lay before you the detailed facts and figures in written.

I strongly demand:

1. Complete 10% allocation i.e. Rs. 26367 crore under non-lapsable pool of NE.
2. 100% increase of fund for DoNER, NEC and Backward Region Fund.
3. Declaration of Flood and Erosion as national Calamity and rehabilitation of lakhs of families permanently displaced due to erosion.
4. Rehabilitation of the riot victim internally displaced persons.
5. Complete Border Sealing instead of fencing.
6. Full support in preparation of NRC in Assam.
7. Special package for the small tea growers and Char area dwellers of Assam.
8. White Paper on time and cost over-run national projects.
9. Dhubri to Fulbari Bridge over river Brahmaputra which also serves the state of Meghalaya.
10. To complete Bogibil Bridge

Before, I conclude please allow me to share my views on one or two national issues. I am of the opinion that, the Government of India should not limit the Ministry

*...*This part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

of Minority Affairs into 5-6 incentive schemes. The amount of 1756 crore should be increased as NREGA is allocated 39000 crore and even Bima Scheme for poor is allocated more than Rs. 2500 crore.

In addition to increase of budget, the Government should find out why nearly 50% of the estimated budget is reduced in revised budget?

The Government should ensure reservation of jobs for Muslims in Government Police Private Sector and Para Military Forces. In this regard, I would like to point out that the Congress has promised reservation for Muslims in its manifesto. Contrary to this the Union Minister for Minorities Affairs has given his statement against it—Who is right?

Setting up of the two campuses of Aligarh Muslim University is appreciable but allocation of Rs. 25 crore is not sufficient. It is demanded to increase the same to atleast Rs. one hundred crores. It is also demanded to have a campus of AMU in Assam, Dhubri with second largest minority population in India.

As expected the budget has not given emphasis on reforms and management of the Wakf properties in India. I demand immediate constitution of proposed National Wakf Development Corporation with a revolving corpus fund of Rs. 1000 crore. I also demand concrete steps for recovery of Wakf lands from the encroachers across India. I am also fully supporting to increase the (MPLAD) from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 10 crore. Before conclusion, I would like to share my concern regarding increased fiscal deficit, 2.26 lakhs of interest payment which is 36% of the revenue budget.

I am hopeful that Hon'ble Finance Minister will take note of the facts and do the needful. I have raised the issues not to oppose but to support the budget with the hope that Hon'ble Finance Minister will take note of these and take action. Therefore, I do hereby support the budget.*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not going to deliver a long lecture on the budget. Hon. Members have raised several point. One thought has come to my mind that we are talking about finance but one important sector which involves financial activities, has been ignored in this budget. Hence, I rise to speak about that sector. That sector is co-operative sector. I would like to put my views particularly on urban and rural co-operative banks in that sector.

Sir, we know that a co-operative bank is set up by the common people for the common people, be it in the rural sector or in the urban sector. Similarly, a bank was set up in my constituency. Four friends were having a friendly chat and they noticed that one of them was very much worried. He was not talking much. On being asked he told that the date of his daughter's marriage was nearing and he had no funds. He could not go to any bank. He had no approach in any major bank. He was helpless. Then his friends assured him that they would help him, though they themselves were not in a sound condition. But, they assured him that they would mobilize funds for him but he would have to pay it back later on. Thus, his daughter's marriage was solemnized respectably. Then a thought came to those four friend's mind that they could help each other in this way which brought happiness to one of their friends. They thought about the possibility of setting up any such society. Today, that society has completed fifty years. That society was transformed into a good co-operative bank. I have preferred to raise this point because co-operative banks are not viewed in good esteem in the banking sector. You may take 80:20 ratio. There is mis management in 20 percent banks, They sometimes collapse also and there is much hue and cry. In such a situation its the good work of 80 percent co-operative banks, which perform well, goes unnoticed. Even their condition is not so good as on date.

The first point towards which I wish to draw attention is that the profit earned by co-operative banks is not retained by the banks. The profit is disbursed amongst shareholders or members. Many co-operative banks are being run by successive generations of the same family. They carry out certain such activities which benefit the people. I request the Finance Minister to waive the income tax on the profit earned by co-operative banks.

My second suggestion is that TDS on deposits should also be waived as the depositors are also shareholders in the banks. My third point is that when there is a rise in the NPA of banks it is assumed that the accounts in the concerned co-operative banks are sub-standard accounts. Even standard accounts are deemed to be sub-standard. This view needs to be changed. In all other matters they are considered at par with nationalized banks and commercial banks, whereas their accounts are looked down upon in view of their NPAs. I have a suggestion for the banks regarding the NPAs. The court cases drag on for years. This is my experience. Even the cases of nationalized banks drag on years. There should be fast track courts for the bank defaulters. Besides, when a

defaulter wished to appeal against the decision of such fast track courts ordinarily, it should be disallowed. However, if he is insistent then he should be made to deposit hundred percent of the loan amount in court. If he appeals then the amount of his deposit should be deducted from the amount of total NPAs of the banks at the time of counting of NPAs. This would result in lessening of NPAs of banks and thus save the banks from the crisis caused due to huge number of NPA's. This would be beneficial for the banks.

Co-operative banks are doing good work. Sometimes, when a bank has the backing of an influential person, it gets the benefits of his influence but other banks are not saved from censure. DICGC, which is a credit insurance corporation, keeps an eye on the interests of depositors who have deposits of more than one lakh in banks that file for liquidation. Although the banks also pay a premium on such deposits. It is not as if the Government has constituted a corporation that makes free payments to banks. Every bank pays a premium for the service. My suggestion is that the said limit of one lakh rupees deposit which was decided 20-25 years ago, should be increased to five lakh rupees. Besides, the rules and regulations of DICGC should also be kept in mind. It is an insurance corporation which takes premium to pay the money. But, the present scenario is that it starts behaving like a trader later on. When a bank which has filed for liquidation recovers the loans given by it, the depositors have the first right on the money. And it should be so because it is their securitised, guaranteed money. After the banks come into liquidation mode the depositors stop getting interest. So, the depositors have the first right on recovery amount not the DICGC. This needs to be looked into.

I have another suggestion. The budget has many good points. Senior Citizens have also been taken care of although they haven't been given much benefit. The age of retirement should be considered to be the age when a person is deemed to be a senior citizen. Presently, 65 years is the designated age and this should be reduced.

The other suggestion I have is that the packages for the farmers do not reach them. It is good that the packages are being given. However, some financial assistance should be given to small scale industries, small traders, women's Saving Groups to help them when they face some crisis, since such groups also bravely fight for survival. Small-scale industries offer employment to the greatest number of persons. The large industries go in

for automation but small-scale industries are labour-intensive. It would be good if some consideration is given to such savings groups and small scale industries also.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak): Sir, thank you.

Let me begin by congratulating our Finance Minister for steering our economy clear of the global recession, a recession which has been worse since the Great Depression. Let me also congratulate him for the Budget, which he has presented, which I am here to support.

This Budget is a bold Budget and this Budget is a balanced Budget. I will explain how. Let me start by explaining the 'bold' part. When all the economic experts were worried about the fiscal deficit, the Finance Minister has chosen to take risk, by expanding on our fiscal expenditure. It is a calculated risk and I will tell you why.

First, during times of recession when the private investment which has been driving the growth of our country for the last decade was evaporating, I think there could be no better time to increase our expenditure on the social sector and the public expenditure on infrastructure. That is why the Finance Minister has chosen to ignore the expenditure side of the balance sheet.

Second, whenever the difference between the revenues and the expenditure increases the Government has to go for borrowings. With the current excess liquidity available in the banking system, in our credit system, I think this is the best time that a Government can actually increase its borrowings. So, I think this is a very calculated risk and a good risk.

I think this Budget is a balanced Budget. This is a Budget that balances political expectations with economic compulsions. This is a Budget that bridges India with Bharat. This is a Budget that balances investment-led growth with consumption-led growth. This is a Budget that balances continuity and change. We needed continuity because that is where we got our mandate from. Expenditure on social sectors, education, health, agriculture, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Bharat Nirman, all those things were required and we needed to increase those expenditure. We needed to continue with that. But

along with that we also needed change. Why did we need change? It is because the private investment that was driving the growth of our country for the last decade was evaporating up. The only way in which we could protect the growth of our country was to adopt the two-fold policy. One, we needed to increase the public expenditure on infrastructure and some of these schemes that I have talked about which the Finance Minister has done. But that would not be sufficient. We have to necessarily move from an investment-led growth to a demand-led growth, private consumption-led growth

Last decade has seen the fall of private consumption, the fall of domestic demand as a percentage of our GDP. It is alarming that the private financial consumption expenditure, which was two-third as a percentage of our GDP in 2000, came down to about 51 per cent. It was a big fall. But I think with the kind of steps that Shri Pranab Mukherjee has taken, steps like NREGA which puts money directly in hands of customers, steps like all the social expenditure schemes, I think private consumption and domestic demand will be augmented as we go forward and our economy's growth profile is going to change. I think that is why he does the balancing act between change and continuity.

As far as some of the criticisms about the stock market falling are concerned, I would like to comment on that too. A lot of Members from the Opposition have tried to use stock market to mirror the performance of our Budget.

[Translation]

The Bharatiya Janata Party and other opposition parties have tried to measure the budget in terms of stock-market and I would like to tell them that they have got to know the public sentiment in the recent polls. This is the same stock exchange in which the Bombay Stock Exchange had risen by 500 points the day after the tsunami waves had devastated the coastal areas of the country. It had no concern for the people of the country. But the people in the infrastructure business bought many stocks of the companies because they thought that rebuilding would earn them great profits. I feel that no one could understand the stock market better than a shepherd. Mr. Chairman, you know what a shepherd is, a shepherd takes the cattle and goats for grazing. In Haryana, buffaloes are taken out of bath in a pond and in case of something unusual the first two buffaloes run

out of the pond and the rest of the herd follows blindly. It is the same with the stock market. I feel sad that the opposition has tried to make comparison with the stock-market. But there are many other indicators that can be used to measure the budget.

[English]

Just two days after the Budget was presented, the IMF revised the growth rate potential for India from 5.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent. I think we live in an age of exaggerated exuberance like Alan Greenspan once said and there can be nothing better to present.

For the specifics, there are a few points that I would like to make. Firstly, I would like to welcome the one-rank-one pension endeavour the Government has taken notwithstanding some of the confusions, which I hope will clear. Shri Pallam Raju is sitting here and I congratulate his Ministry. Especially, from the standpoint of Haryana, every tenth soldier in this country comes from Haryana. Even though it is such a small State, we welcome this step wholeheartedly.

We have been talking about administrative reforms, especially the younger generation. They want to see the delivery systems improve; they want to see corruption go down, and for this, as you know, the bureaucrats are very good at coming up with Administrative Reform Commissions. There have been 73 such Commissions since we got Independence. But for the first time Universal ID (UID) concept has been brought in and I welcome that. It is going to be a big step.

[Translation]

Sir, the farmers have a big hand in the mandate given to our party. Many provisions have been made for the farmers but we want more provisions. The credit interest rate has been reduced from seven percent to six percent but I feel that it would be of no use until it is brought-down to four percent.

The Agriculture refinancing rate of NABARD is four percent but it needs to be reduced to two and half percent. A task force for private moneylenders has been constituted in Maharashtra. It is a welcome step. But seventy three percent of the farmers in the country go to private moneylenders. Hence, task force only in Maharashtra is not enough. I welcome the step in Maharashtra but task forces for the entire country need to be constituted.

So far as fertilizer subsidy is concerned, it has raised a hope but at the same time some question have also come to mind direct to farmer subsidy.

[English]

I think that is a welcome step. We all know, last year's fertilizer subsidy ran into Rs. 1 lakh crore. It is a big amount and we have all been saying that it is not right to conduct subsidy on administered price. Why are we saying this? Once we fix the price of fertilizer, a farmer who has 1000 acres of land gets 1000 times more subsidy than a farmer who has one acre of land. We need to make sure that the subsidy goes to the smaller farmer and to the right farmer. So, direct to farmer subsidy is a good step but I think at the same time from administered price going to nutrient-based subsidy is adding on confusion. I think in the coming future, we would like to seek clarification on that.

Similarly, as opposed to Rs. 84,912 crore outlay for fertilizer subsidy last year, the outlay for this year is Rs. 44,032 crore. There is a drop of almost 50 per cent. I do not know what is going to happen. We have all seen what is the fertilizer situation in our particular constituencies and when we take this outlay down so much, I think it is a cause for worry.

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to mention two three points regarding Haryana. First, it is unfortunate that Planning Commission works on the Policy of one-size-fits-all. Haryana has been discriminated in all the successful schemes introduced by our Government in the past be it NREGA, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana or Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana. We had achieved te last mile connectivity in eighties hence no benefit of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Similarly minimum wages in Punjab and Haryana are more than the national rate hence we are deprived of the benefits of NREGA. What for we are being punished like this?

Even today, farmers of Punjab and Haryana are fulfilling 60% of the country's demand of wheat and rice. However, these farmers are being cheated. We should pay attention to it.

So far as irrigation is concerned, it is good that 75% increase has been made in this regard under AIDP but I would like to mention that some of the major projects are still pending. In the year 1960, my grand-father

Chaudhary Ranbir Singh had mentioned in this very House to construct Renuka, Layar, Vayasi and Kissau dams in Himachal as 50% of Yamuna's water is still flowing in to sea. The schemes which can benefit the farmers and people of south Haryana and Rajasthan are needed to be taken up.

A budget of Rs. 5000 crore has been sanctioned to Delhi for Commonwealth games and NCR Planning Board's outlay for this year is Rs. 50 crore. I would like to state that 50 crore rupees sanctioned for NCR Planning Board be taken back and a big wall be erected all a round Delhi displaying a message restricting movement into and out of Delhi and prohibiting visitors from outside also.

20.00 hrs.

The mandate has been given for the inclusive growth, for the harmonious growth of all. When such a large amount is being given for Delhi, adequate amount should be given for the development of NCR. Rohtak, Sonapat, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Alwar and Panipat should be included under Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is now 8 o'clock. What is the sense of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, let the time of the House be extended by another half an hour so that some more hon. Members could speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This can be done only if Members are prepared to confine their speeches in three minutes only. Otherwise, there is no meaning in extending the time.

The time of the House is extended up to 8.30 p.m and not beyond that.

[Translation]

*SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (Erode): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on the General Budget for the year 2009-10.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

At a time when the global economy is facing recession and at a juncture when our Indian economy faces the brunt of it, this Budget has been presented in this august House. But I would like to point out that this has ended up as a disappointing exercise.

The token tax relief to the salaried class and monthly wage earners is an utter disappointment. I urge upon the Government to see that the relief is given in full measure.

I would like to point a finger at this Government that adequate steps have not been taken to give an impetus to agricultural growth. There is no enthusing announcement to provide remunerative price to the agricultural produce. Agricultural loans at an interest rate of 7 per cent will only be burdening and crushing the farmer further. There is an urgent need to bring down this rate of interest on farm credit.

Without taking remedial measures and right steps to control the prices of petroleum and petro products you have only set up an Expert Committee to go into this. In my opinion, it is nothing but an eye-wash. This is like running with the hare and hunting like hounds.

It is not at all acceptable to us to see that the fund allocation for the minorities has been reduced by half in this Budget when compared to the previous year's Budget.

I, for one, who feel that this Budget lacks vision, farsightedness and a blueprint for viable economic growth.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Murthy you are reading out the speech. You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: Sir, the speech is in Tamil. Is it possible to lay the speech?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The speech can be in any language. If it is a written speech then you can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: Sir, I will just take another two minutes.

It is a welcome step to have increased from Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 the daily wage that is being paid to the needy rural folk under NREGP. At the same time, I would

like to point out that the works that are being taken up under this scheme are not really asset-building or beneficial in the long run. I would like to point out that there are many a slips and mismanagement. The objective of this major measure is not really accomplished. Jobs that are being undertaken must be such that they add real assets to the rural community. Jobs must not be identified to engage people, but jobs in themselves must engage and employ people.

Bharat Nirman, Indira Awas Yojana, PMAGS, SGSY and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh are some of the schemes meant for the depressed sections of the society. Such schemes must be implemented in the parliamentary constituencies under the supervision of Members of Parliament. This would help the Government to accomplish its aims and objectives while overcoming any of the shortcomings.

It is paining to note that no remarkable announcement has been made to give a boost to the weaving industry or to improve the lot of handloom and power loom weavers. Setting up of Mega Power Loom Clusters that was announced in the last Budget taking even the name of Erode remains an empty announcement. I would like to point out that such complexes have not come up in Erode so far. I urge upon the Union Government to ensure that it is implemented in right earnestness.

National Ganga River Basin Authority which was established to clean and beautify River Ganges has been allocated with funds while national rivers and reservoirs conservation scheme has also been apportioned with funds from the Budget.

In Tamil Nadu, Cauvery, Bhavani, Noyyal and Amaravathi are the rivers that pass through important industrial towns like Erode, Tiruppur and Coimbatore. Industrial effluents, flow from dyeing units and tanneries have polluted sections of these rivers in such a fashion that they have become poisonous becoming unfit for human consumption and agriculture.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to evolve a scheme to establish Effluent Treatment Plants across the country near such rivers that are in the proximity of industrial towns so that sewerage and drainage do not mix with these rivers in addition to industrial wastes. I want the Union Government to evolve a suitable plan in this regard. If the Union Government is to delay any further, then these three districts in Tamil Nadu would

soon become desert-like without water for drinking purposes and agricultural irrigation purposes.

There is a welcome announcement pertaining to the welfare of the workers of the unorganized sector. Adequate funds may also be allocated. Toddy tappers in several states face hardships. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to evolve a National Plan to declare 'toddy' as a medicinal and vegetable or herbal product. It must be removed from the list of alcoholic beverages.

It is needless to emphasize the need to increase the annual expenditure limit of MPLADS Fund to Rs. 6 Crore from Rs. 2 Crore. Many of my colleagues, who spoke ahead of me, have stressed the need to do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ganeshamurthy, your three minutes time is over. You may place your speech on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: Sir, I am laying the rest of my speech on the Table of the House Rs. 500 crore have been earmarked for the rehabilitation of internally displaced Tamils in Sri Lanka. I would like to point out to you that there is no arrangement in place to send these people to their earlier settlements so that they may rebuild their lives. But unfortunately, I find that in the places where they had lived earlier, Sinhalese are being settled under the government patronage. Right now they are refugees in their own homeland. They are being made orphans and slaves. They have been herded in the camps under the surveillance of armed and gun-totting Sri Lankan Army. Barbed wire fencing surrounds their camps. They are people without freedom in their own country. With parched throats they look forward to food and every other basic need at the hands of their authorities. Proper toilet facilities are not there. Basic medical facilities are absent. Six such camps are concentrated with about three lakh Tamils who are slaves in their own country.

The UN has described the Chettikullam Camp as the largest in the world and it is shocking that even the former Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, Shri Saratnand de'Silva has openly commented against such a pitiable situation that exists in the camp. The UN Secretary-General Ban ki Moon has also expressed his serious concern.

*...*English translation of this part of the speech was originally laid on the Table in Tamil.

The Times daily from London has stated that basic sanitation facilities are not available in those refugee camps. People who have been displaced have not been provided with basic amenities by the Sri Lankan Government. The relief camps are there to have the people laid in rest once and for all. It is reported that about 1,400 people per week are dying in those camps.

Even the relief material that has come from various countries is lying in Chennai. We could not send it to the affected people. Various NGOs, including the Red Cross, are being forced to leave Sri Lanka. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to ensure that the rehabilitation they have earmarked, reach the needy people and is not handed over to the Sri Lankan Government, which seeks to wipe out the already decimated Tamil race. Hence, I would like to warn the Union Government that our fund allocation would only be used for a destructive purpose, making us a party to that destructive act. The only solution can be the formation of a separate Eelam for the Tamils. Otherwise, Tamils cannot live there. When Baluchistan is possible, this is also possible. Hence, I urge upon the Government of India to act wisely and help them in their right cause.*

SHRI RAJU SHETTI (Hatkanangle): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my view on the budget presented in the House. The Minister of Finance has taken some steps for boosting agriculture sector and economic growth. There is an urgent need to give a serious thought to slow growth of agriculture sector. The budget proposes an increase in agricultural loan from last year's Rs. 287000 crore to Rs. 325000 crore this year.

Sir, the nationalised banks do not entertain small farmers. The nationalised banks provide loans to big farmers and the small farmers have to take loan from private money lenders only. The Finance Minister says that he would propose from 3 to 10 per cent. Under present three tier system of banking, *i.e.* NABARD, State Cooperative Banks, cooperative societies and other cooperative banks at districts, if total commission etc. is taken into account a farmer has to pay not less than 11-12 per cent rate of interest and when a farmer is in need of money, he does not get it and he has to run from pillar to post for getting loan, even he has to find out political connection. Therefore, my submission is that NABARD should directly grant loan to the farmers. In this way the farmers will not have to pay any kind of commission and disbursement of loan directly to the farmers by NABARD will be beneficial to the farmers.

The Government has announced waiver of bank loans but the banks have not been provided the amount against the loans so waived by them. Many banks are still demanding the interest from the farmers on the loan waived by them earlier and fresh loans have been stopped. Banks have been telling the farmers that the Government has not released funds to them in lieu of the loan waived and therefore, some of the banks are facing financial crunch and they can't grant fresh loans. Though the Government proposes to boost agriculture sector, yet, the Minister of Agriculture has reduced the base price of MSP of sugar cane, which is 9 per cent. The price of Rs. 125 recommended by CACP has been reduced to Rs. 107 by the hon. Minister of Agriculture...*(Interruptions)* My submission is that if farmers do not get MSP for their produce how will it help growth of agriculture sector? Therefore, there is a need to give a serious thought to it, otherwise, the cases of suicide by the farmers will not come to an end. If we want to do something, we will have to take concrete steps.

*SHRI P. LINGAM (Tenkasi): Hon. Chairman, while presenting the Union Budget for 2009-10, Hon. Finance Minister stated that it is Receipt and Expenditure statement for a sum of about Rs. 10 lakh crore and he was jubilant about it too. We welcome it. Only very few countries in the world present budgets of this magnitude. But the growth of Indian economy has not enabled the poor to grow. One third of our Scheduled Caste population and at least half of our Scheduled Tribe people live on Rs. 12/- per day which is a meagre earning. Majority of the population live on a daily earning of Rs. 20/- per day. I would like to draw your attention to consider this. Hence I urge upon the government to be considerate towards the poorer sections of the society when you are preparing budget.

I welcome the announcement that Rs. 500 crore is being allocated to rehabilitate the internally displaced Tamils in Sri Lanka. That assistance must help the Tamils to rebuild their lives and houses in their dwelling places rather than in the camps. The funds from India for the purpose must not be handed over to the Sri Lankan Government. An early political settlement must be found to enable the Sri Lankan Tamils to live with dignity and honour and respect with a right to self-determination and equality.

You are to enact Food Security Act and you have announced that every BPL family would get 25 kilogrammes of rice or wheat per month at Rs. 3/- per Kg. I would like to urge upon the government that this

must be extended to all the Ration Card holders who are dependent on Ration Shops to buy rice or wheat for their families. All such people are poor. I am also one among them. Distribution of rice and wheat under this scheme must be of quality.

Several parts of the country have not got rains and drought looms large. Failure of monsoon has caused concern. This is the time when we must go in for inter-linking of rivers. Water-resources must be used by the entire country. Even the apex court has ruled in favour of such a venture. Hence I urge upon the union government to go in for inter-linking of rivers.

Public sector undertakings that were raised as National assets for the welfare of the people must be strengthened. Privatisation and disinvestment can not be a response to the question of revitalising them.

Tax on gold coins has been enhanced. It is a reality that even poorer section of the society would require gold for auspicious events like marriages in their families.

Marriages are sacred in the social life of Indian people. The role of gold in such marriages is significant. Even poor people go for gold for auspicious occasions like marriages. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to give tax exemption at least up to the limit of 5 sovereigns of gold to benefit the poor people.

There is a proposal to establish a textile park in Tamil Nadu. I urge upon the hon. Minister to establish such parks in the backward districts situated in the southern parts of Tamil Nadu so that there can be economic activity and employment generation. I would like to point out that both handloom and powerloom units are there in the districts of Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, Madurai and Ramanathapuram.

Interest rate on farm loan must be reduced to four per cent. Sugarcane farmers must get the amount due to them for their produce and in time. In the NREG Programme, the guaranteed wage of Rs. 100 per day must be paid in time and it should not be reduced in the name of volume of work.

The Government must take effective steps to bring back the black money that have been stashed in Swiss Banks.

*The traditional fishing rights of Indian fishermen near Katchativu must be restored and their fishing rights must

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

... English translation of this part of the speech was originally laid on the Table in Tamil.

be protected. Effective steps must be taken by our Government to protect the lives and property of our fishermen who are often shot dead by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces who behave in a high-handed fashion in the high seas in the international waters. Steps must be taken to ensure that our Indian fishermen are not lodged in the prisons of Sri Lanka and languish there for long often.

Sethusamudram Project must be taken up overcoming the bottlenecks and must be completed as promised.

Even today, drinking water is a problem in many towns and villages. Rajaplayam, Srivilliputhur, Sankarankovil, Puliangudi, Samayanallur are the towns that are worst hit by drinking water problem. Sethur and other Panchayat Unions have got several problem villages where there is no basic source for drinking water. We must evolve schemes to see that at least drinking water problem is solved once and for all.

In my constituency, Pilavikkal dam situated in Vathirayiruppu Union of Srivilliputhur needs to be connected with Varusa Nadu via Kamarajapuram. This road connectivity as a hill tract must be completed relaxing certain rules of Forest Department. This is necessary to benefit the poor people living in that hill terrain. I would like to point out that the Government of Tamil Nadu has allocated funds for this scheme, but we are still waiting for the Central clearance.

In order to protect the textile sector and its workers, Government must take adequate steps to provide cotton bales in time.

In Rajapalayam, mangoes are grown in a big way. For want of storage facility, large amount of fruits go waste without fetching remunerative prices. Hence, I urge upon the Government to set up a mango processing unit there which will provide livelihood to many of the agricultural labour.

The world renowned Courtallam Falls must be projected as an important tourist centre and Tourism Department of the Government of India must take effective steps in this regard.

Senbagavalli check dam situated in the western ghats near Vasudevanallur is lying in a dilapidated condition for the past many years. I urge upon the Union Government to take it up with the Kerala Government

so that this check dam is repaired and extend its benefit to the people of both the States. Similarly, Achankovil-vaipparu river scheme must be taken up to benefit the farmers of both Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The welfare of the marginalized sections of the society and the minorities must be central to any of the developmental schemes. Even the rights to graze the cattle are denied to the subaltern people. The rights of the people living in forest areas, especially that of the tribals, must be restored.

Major part of the western ghats area in my constituency comes under wildlife sanctuary. This announcement has resulted in the deprivation of grazing rights to the poor people who always had a right to take their cows and sheep up to a height of 300 metres. The livelihood of these traditional settlers has been lost. Rearing cattle is a basic need in the rural areas and also a basis of rural economy. Hence, I urge upon the Government to evolve a plan to restore their lives and bring about schemes providing incentives so that cattle wealth assume their pre-eminent position in the rural economy. The traditional rights of people living in the hilly terrains must be protected. They must get back their rights to graze and rear their cattle.

In order to bring about a meaningful land reforms in the country, landless poor must be provided with *pattas* (documents for ownership) of lands. Similarly, lands occupied by landless labour for raising their dwelling units must belong to them. Government must initiate suitable action in this regard.

Drinking Water Missions must be provided with uninterrupted power supply. This will go a long way in solving drinking water problem in many places and may even bring about a lasting solution to such problems.

In order to ensure facilities for primary education in rural areas, adequate number of primary schools must be established and run. In my constituency, Kalingapatti is a small hamlet situated in Kadaneri that comes under Srivilliputhur taluk. I would like to point out that it is a village that belongs to the Scheduled Caste people. Unfortunately, there is no educational facility as there is no primary school in that village. There are some such villages here and there. The Government must carefully take steps and come forward to establish primary schools in such villages as and when they fulfil the basic criteria.

Even today in many of the villages and small towns, there is no facility of toilets for women. We are now talking about toilets for individuals. We must not forget the fact that there are families without houses. This is a fundamental problem. More fundamental than this could be the problem of not having toilets for the deprived sections of the society, especially women among them. I urge upon the Government to evolve a national scheme to put an end to this problem once and for all. Budget provisions may also be made in this regard.*

[English]

DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK (Thane): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance. I am supporting this Budget. Basically, our hon. Minister of Finance did a wonderful job. I am from Thane constituency. I am representing Thane, Navi Mumbai and Mira Bhayandar

Sir, basically, the urban sector people are facing a lot of problems. I know a lot of people who belong to the rural areas. There are a lot of representatives from the rural areas also. But, now, the urban sector people are also facing some problems.

Sir, I would like to just highlight some points, namely, about the JNNURM Scheme. This time, the hon. Minister of Finance has provided good Budget allocations. But I am requesting the hon. Minister to increase this amount at least to Rs. 5,000 crore. Basically, I am coming from the State of Maharashtra. My friend has said that election is coming in that State. The State of Maharashtra – especially Mumbai – is giving more revenue. Comparatively, we are asking for more Budget for the State of Maharashtra but we are not asking for more than what is required. So, it is a request which I make through you, Sir. Through the hon. Speaker, I am making my demands.

There is the Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana. The point is that the houses are so small that it is very difficult for a family to reside in it. I got the opportunity to be the Mayor of CT for three times. The people are facing problems with the small houses. So, my request to the Government is to increase the area at least by 500 sq.ft. so that the people in a family can be accommodated.

When the other problems are there, basically, we have to concentrate on the drinking water problem because all the cities in our country are facing this

problem. My request is that we should introduce the Public-Private Partnership Scheme. Our Government is supporting it in the Budget. So, in the health sector, education sector, etc. we can introduce this type of a scheme.

Finally, I do not want to make much of your time. All that I would like to say is that we have to increase the tourism potential in the country. If we want to generate more funds, we have to focus more on the tourism sector like the other countries are doing. They are generating more funds through the tourism sector. If our Government can consider these projects like the other countries, it will definitely be beneficial for our country also.

Next, Members spoke about the MPLADS. Everybody is asking for more funds. We are new comers from various parts of the country. I think everybody has supported it. Some hon. Member was asking for Rs. 10 crores. I do not want to quote how much I want but I would say that as per every Member's requirement – maybe Rs. 5 crore or Rs. 10 crore – considering the State and the problems, money should be granted. So, these are our problems. I hope the Government will do the needful.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Rakesh Sachar, now you start your speech, But give introduction in two minutes and lay your remaining speech on the Table.

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN (Fatehpur): Sir, I am highly grateful to you for permitting me to speak on Budget 2009-10. Many of my colleagues have expressed their views on this Budget. I will not speak at length in this regard. Ours is a predominantly agriculture based country and agriculture is backbone of our economy. But it has been neglected constantly. Agriculture sector recorded a dismal growth rate of 1.6 per cent compared to 4.9 per cent during last to last year. Inadequate budgetary allocation is the main reason for the said decline in growth rate. At the time of independence, the contribution of agriculture in GDP was 50 per cent which as per the economic survey, has now shrunk to 17 per cent. Earlier, 74 per cent of our population was dependent on agriculture, whereas, today the said percentage has come down to 52 per cent. This Budget proposes to provide rebate of Rs. 3 lakh and soft loan also to the margina

farmers. My submission is that the rate of interest for the loan to farmers should be only 4 per cent. My submission is that the proposed rate of interest on farm loan should be reduced from 7 per cent to four per cent.

Sir, the report of Swaminathan Commission has recommended 4 per cent rate of interest. But the said report has been put in cold storage. When farmers fail to repay their loans, their agriculture loan is auctioned. I hail from a rural area. Fatehpur, my parliamentary constituency is a backward area. It has six assembly segments having a total of 16.5 lakh voters. This area is predominantly agriculture based but backward. The condition of farmers in this area is pitiable and farmers resort to suicide. They do not get loan. There are no irrigation facilities. No attention has been paid for providing irrigation facilities in this budget. Monsoon is playing truant. Kharif crop...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your Party time is over. It is a special case for you. You have to lay the rest part of your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: Won't you let me speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken three minutes. This is a special consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude in two minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No two minutes. You have to take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it in a question of my constituency.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: No arrangements have been made for irrigation. Atleast, fifty per cent of places in the country do not get monsoon rain. No provision has been made for irrigation in the Budget also...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What you are saying is not going on record. This is not the way.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate with the Chair. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: A power project of 60,000 MW had been sanctioned at Dadri in Uttar Pradesh when Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was the Chief Minister but it is still pending. Attention should have been paid to it, atleast, in this Budget...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot continue. What you are saying will not go on record. Please do not waste the time of the House.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Either you lay the rest part of the speech on the Table or take your seat. Your time is over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No please. I have taken a wrong decision to call you. The time allotted to your Party is over. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to take your seat now. Please, I am repeating it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, this will not go on record. This is too much.

*(Interruptions)**

[*Translation*]

*SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: Sir, agriculture is the backbone of the economy of the country but it has been neglected regularly. The growth rate of 1.6% in the agriculture sector last year is disappointingly lower than the 4.9% per cent earlier. The main reason behind it is very low budgetary allocation for the agriculture sector. The share of agriculture in the GDP was about 50% per cent at the time of independence of the country. It has now come down to 17% per cent as per the economic survey while earlier 74% per cent people were dependent on agriculture. Even if the economic survey is accepted as true then agriculture is providing employment to 52% per cent people even now. In this Budget, there is a mention of continuing loans upto Rs. 3 lakh at the rate of 7% per cent to the marginal farmers like before.

Swaminathan Commission and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture has made recommendations for giving loans at 4% per cent interest rate to the farmers but those recommendations have been put in the backburner. The farmer is forced to commit suicide only due to defaulting on loan repayment.

Reconciliation Board - the land of the farmers should not be auctioned on non-payment of a loan. There should be a reconciliation board for restructuring of agricultural loan on the lines of reconciliation board for restructuring of industrial loan.

Food processing Industry is neglected - fruits, vegetables, meat and fish worth more than Rs. 50,000 crore gets perished every year but very little fund has been allocated to this Ministry. Only two per cent has been allocated for processing whereas in Brazil it is eighty per cent. There is huge potential for growth in the livestock and fisheries sector also. The revenue earned through milk and meat is almost equal to the revenue earned from wheat and paddy but this sector is also neglected completely.

Poverty - According to the economic survey 77% per cent people in the country have purchasing power of only Rs. 20. It means that more than half of the population of the country is below poverty line. There is need to redefine the poverty line properly.

NREGA - Job card has become victim of corruption. All the work is done through machines and payment is made by preparing fake muster rolls.

Unemployment - it is root of the poverty. It has been said in the Budget, to provide employment to 1.20 crore people every year. Before this, the Prime Minister had also made an announcement from the rampart of the Red Fort to provide employment to 5 crore people but it remained just announcement.

Irrigation - more than half of the land in the country is unirrigated and a very large part is wasteland which can be made arable but there is no scheme in this regard.

There is electricity crisis. The number of BPL cards should be increased. Improvements should be brought in the Public distribution System where rampant corruption is prevailing. The farmers should get remunerative prices for their produce. Wheat from the farmers in my district was not procured. Arrangements should be made to set up schools in villages and hamlets under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Schemes like Unemployment Allowance Scheme and Kanya Vidya Dhan Yojana should be implemented. The sugarcane grown in my area is supplied to the Ghatampur sugar mill. The funds under Indira Awas Yojana should be increased. The Government should provide a special package to Fatehpur district in the present Budget itself by including it in the list of backward districts. Importance should be given to the livestock and funds should be provided to the farmers at a lower rate of interest. There is a severe crisis of drinking water, Sahbhagita scheme is not successful. The norms fixed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on the basis of population should be relaxed.*

[*English*]

SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA (Tehri Garhwal): Sir, this is a very practical and realistic Budget. It will increase the spending ability of both the rural and urban areas. The essence of the Budget is that it is committed to the welfare of the down trodden, the weaker sections, the minorities, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, in the face of a global recession, the Prime Minister did an excellent work. We are fortunate to have a financial wizard as our Prime Minister. He insulated our economy. The production did not fall. The GDP was still maintained. Our foreign reserves were intact Sir, the flow of funds of Rs. 39,000 crore to NREGA, over Rs. 12,000 crore to JRNuum will improve the living conditions of the people living in villages and in the urban areas.

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

I will place my speech on the Table, but with regard to Uttarakhand I have just to make six suggestions. It is a hill State and because of global warming the sources are dry. There is an acute drinking water problem. The Government of India should come out with a special plan to provide drinking water to hill areas.

Secondly, the norms which are there for the hill areas with regard to medical care needs reconsideration. A population of 10,000 criteria is required for opening a primary health centre. The plains have got different considerations because of a geographical consideration. The norms with regard to health should be changed.

There is a huge connectivity problem. Only 60 per cent of the State is covered by road. There has to be a special package to the State for improvement of the connectivity, whether it is communication or roads.

The next major problem is that the funds which are flowing from the Central Government are not really reaching the masses because of the inactivity of the State Government.

There has to be a very strict monitoring of the programmes of the Central Government so that the benefits reach the people for which they are intended. In every State we find this problem that the entire Budget is not being utilised or is being misused.

The programme of the UPA to provide Rs. 3 per kg of rice and wheat to the BPL families is a landmark programme. It will go a long way to bring about a qualitative change in the life and style of the people of this country.

I am thankful to you. With your permission, I would like to lay my speech on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you can.

*SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA: Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to express my views on the General Budget of 2009-2010.

The Finance Minister has to be congratulated for presenting the first 10 lakh crore budget in the country's history. This is a practical and realistic budget, which would increase the spending ability of both urban and Rural areas.

The budget is a vision statement that lays down the road map for the economy over the next four years. The UPA government has brought the common man at the core of the budget.

The Finance Minister has presented this budget against a challenging backdrop, as he had to do a fine balance act between stimulating growth, ensuring fiscal prudence and focusing on inclusive growth.

Ever since the UPA Government was formed in 2004 under the able and dynamic leadership of our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh the nation witnessed an era of development in trade, Commerce and Industry. The growth rate went up to 9% and inflation came down.

There was a steady flow of fund to the social sector. NREGA was the historic step taken by the Government to provide development in the rural areas and provide financial security to each of the BPL families. The Bharat Nirman Mission, JURM, Rajiv Gandhi Vidyut Yojna, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Midday meal, Scholarship to SC, ST and Minorities brought smile on the face of the downtrodden, deprived and weaker sections of our society.

The world got a rude shock when in 2008 there was an unprecedented global economic crisis, which resulted in recession and slow down. This had a negative effect upon all the economies of the world.

To counter the negative fallout of the global slowdown of the Indian economy the Government responded by providing 3 focused fiscal stimulus packages in the form of tax relief to boost demand and increased expenditure on public projects to create employment and public assets. The RBI took a number of monetary easing and liquidity-enhancing measures to facilitate flow of funds.

The fiscal stimulus of 3.5% of GDP in current market prices of 2008-09 amounts Rs. 1,86,000 crore.

This fiscal accommodation led to an increase in fiscal deficit from 2.7% to this however the present land of 6.8%.

It was our good fortune that a financial wizard and economist Dr. Manmohan Singh ji is our Prime Minister.

The UPA Government did a commendable work by ensuring that Agriculture and Industrial output was protected.

*...*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

The budget aims to raise infrastructure spending to 9% of G.D.P. There has been significant increase in allocation to highways, Railways and PMGYS, which would improve our transport infrastructure.

Flagship programme of the Government have been provided enlarged expenditure, which will change the very character of Rural India.

At 7% growth India will become the hottest growing economies in 2009-2010 perhaps next only to China.

The present fiscal deficit of 6.8% is likely to fall at 5.5% in 2010-2011 and to 4% in 2011-2012.

Smt. Sonia Gandhi Chariperson UPA has been championing the cause of the poor and soon the BPL families in urban and rural areas will be provided wheat or rice 25 Kg per month at the price of Rs. 3 per kg.

Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. The govt. took a historic decision to wave debt of farmers to the tune of 70 thousand crore.

In this budget incentive of 1% reduction in interest has been provided to farmers who repay their loan in time.

Disinvestments of PSU should not be delayed and the Government should utilize the revenue earned from disinvestments to increase productivity and support its social programmes.

It is matter of grave concern that the some State Government are lagging behind in implementing the centrally sponsored schemes. Strict monitoring of the implementation of the central schemes by state should be ensured and if necessary alternate methods may be evolved.

The allocation for NREGA has been enhanced to 39000 crores and for JURM Rs. 12887 crores. These two schemes have given financial relief to villages and better civic amenities to the people living in slums in the urban areas.

[Translation]

Sir, we have to pay special emphasis on development of the hill states in the country on the lines of the special schemes being formulated for agriculture, industry and trade.

The hill states are lagging behind in terms of rate of growth and there is a lack of basic infrastructure. There is scarcity of drinking water and health facilities and the road network is insufficient. While 96% of Himachal Pradesh is linked with a network of roads, merely 60% of Uttarakhand is covered by road links.

The forest cover in the hill states is depleting rapidly. LPG gas should be made available to the largest possible extent in rural areas for conservation of forests.

Recently, the MPs from the hill states had demanded constitution of Himachal Development Authority.

I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji and the UPA Chairman Smt. Sonia Gandhiji should direct the Rural Development Ministry to formulate special drinking water schemes and relax the population norms for provision of health care facilities.

The Central norms regarding health care facilities are based on population. Primary health centre is set up on a population of 10,000. The difficult terrain means that a person would need to travel for hours to reach the primary health centre. Hence, the said norms should be relaxed.

Many areas also lack telecommunication facilities. It is important from the point of view of internal security that road links in the border states should be available for the larger portion of the state and telecommunication facilities are improved. The Border Roads Organization should build a large number of roads. condition of roads in Gangotri section in Uttarakhand very poor.

The benefits of Central schemes are not reaching the people. The State Government are acting lethargically. There is need to take firm steps in this direction and the State Government also need to be pursued so that the benefits of development reach the people in real terms.

There is need to conduct a survey of BPL cardholders once again so that the deprived sections could also avail benefits of Central assistance.*

SHRI RAMESH VISHWANATH KATTI (Chikkodi): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak in front of this Maha Panchayat. I am in complete agreement with the opinion expressed by Shri Mahajan regarding the cooperative sector. Our country is connected with both nationalised as well as on the cooperative sector.

Sir, the cooperative movement was started in 1904. From the day of their inception we have been giving tax relief to farmers and the middle classes. However, the

Finance Minister imposed income tax on the profit of urban banks. We collect deposits from the public in urban banks, rural banks and cooperative banks and give loans to them from the said deposits. We pay them dividends out of profits and also run a cooperative society. Despite all this, we remain under control of the Reserve Bank and work as per its directions. In this way, we invest 25 per cent of total deposits in SLRs. The rest we invest in banks listed by the RBI. If, after all this, the income of cooperative banks is taxed as profit, it would affect the general public adversely. I would like to request you to restore section 80 (P) which had been deleted.

Sir, suicides have not yet stopped. We have waived loans, waived interest and yet the farmers are committing suicide. Where does our fault lie? The Central Government, state Government or the officials concerned are at fault somewhere. 60 years ago when our national flag was hoisted for the first time, Nehruji had said that this is a country of farmers and the country would remain strong till the farmers remain strong. Since Nehruji had said this, it is our duty to strengthen the position of farmers. Nehruji had dreamt of implementing a comprehensive agriculture policy, but no one has translated this dream into a reality so far. Support prices are declared but such declarations have failed in stopping the suicides. Suicides have not stopped despite waiver of loans and interest. The Government needs to give serious consideration to this issue and find a different and effective solution. There is no minimum price for the product of the farmers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Your tie is over. You have taken three minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH VISHWANAT KATTI: Sir, a minimum price for products of farmers should be fixed and efforts should be made to stop the suicides by farmers. I would like to make this request to the Government and the Finance Minister, through you.

[English]

MOHAMMED AZAHARUDDIN (Moradabad): Hon. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for giving me time. Although it has come very late in the day, as a cricketer the first thing I was taught by my coaches to have patience. I think, patience has played a part in this today.

This is my maiden speech. I am very happy to be here in the House with so many outstanding Members who are in the House and also who have been in the House over a period of time. I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee ji for giving such a wonderful Budget. I think it covers all aspects of the Indian economy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mohammed Azharuddin, you can be on your legs. You can continue tomorrow.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow the 14th July, 2009 at 11.00 a.m.

20.30 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Tuesday, July 14, 2009/Asadha 23,
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