

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

Third Session  
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Monday, December 14, 2009/Agrahayana 23,  
1931 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 341, Shri Rakesh Singh—not present. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL (Banda): Madam, I had given a calling Attention Notice that Poorvanchal should ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not disrupt the question hour.

...(*Interruption*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record, you are speaking in vain. Please sit down.

...(*Interruption*)\*

11.01 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. No. 342, Shri Lalchand Kataria.

[*Translation*]

### Village Public Telephones

\*342. SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has achieved the targets fixed for the Village Public Telephones (VPTs) during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the performance of the public and private sectors in this regard; and

(d) the strategy chalked out to implement the VPT scheme more vigorously?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) to (c) No, Madam. A target was set to cover all the villages by VPTs in the first year of Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007). Out of a total of 5,93,601 inhabited villages, as per Census 2001, 5,10,733 villages (about 84%) were provided with VPTs by December 2002. The share of public and private sector was 5,03,610 VPTs and 7,123 VPTs respectively. Those villages having population less than 100, lying in deep forests/difficult terrain, affected with insurgency, non-traceable, submerged in water could not be provided with VPTs.

(d) As on 31.10.2009, out of a total of 5,93,601 inhabited villages as per Census 2001, 5,62,152 villages (about 95%) have been provided with VPTs.

It has been decided to cover all the remaining inhabited villages with VPTs through subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in a phased manner by February, 2011.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA: Madam Speaker, WLL rural phones are installed in rural areas. The villages generally face power shortage. Even if they have generator sets, there is shortage of diesel and there is no one to take care of them. They have been installed to provide relief to the general public but actually they are not getting any relief.

I would like to ask to Hon. Minister whether the Government has any concrete plan or some other programme in this regard?

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: Madam Speaker, as has been said in the reply, the total number of inhabited villages in the country is 5,93,000. Out of these, we have connected 5,62,000 villages with VPT, i.e. We have provided VPT links to 95.5 per cent villages in the country. All the villages which have a low population and are situated in remote areas or in naxal affected areas will be connected through VPT.

As far as the question asked by the hon. Member about mobile tower, diesel, generator and electricity is concerned, I would like to inform the hon. Member, through you, that generation of electricity is the responsibility of the State Governments and our mobile tower work at all places where electricity is available. We have made arrangements for DG Gensets and diesel at places which face power shortage. We take great care. My Ministry has written to the Chief Minister to make arrangements in this regard in order to further strengthen the tele-communication systems.

SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA: Madam Speaker, the telecom service providers keep digging up roads time and again to lay optical fibre cables. I would like to point out the loss of national assets and inconvenience caused to the general public as a result thereof to the hon. Minister. What has the hon. Minister to say in this regard?

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: Madam, the concern of the hon. Member is totally justified because digging does take place whenever cables are to be laid. Indisputably, roads are damaged and utilities such as power, underground sewerage, pipes etc. are blocked and overhead costs increase. But we remain continuously in touch with the State Governments so that loss could be minimized through coordination and the cable laying process could be started at the lowest cost possible. Besides, when we take into consideration the wireless technology which we propose to provide under broadband and wireless services it will help in ameliorating this problem to a large extent.

*[English]*

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Madam, about the question of utilization of USO Fund, it is stated that a large quantity of USO Fund is lying unutilized at the disposal of the Government. At the same time, as the hon. Minister has stated, wherever they have provided VPT through WLL or MARR system, those VPTs are lying defunct. May I ask the hon. Minister, how many MARR systems are still lying defunct in the country out of the villages they have provided VPT? What is the amount that has still remained unutilized in so far as USO Fund is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): Madam, the concern of the hon. Member is appreciated. The Government is deeply concerned over how the funds available under the Universal Service Obligation Fund could be utilized. This Fund has been created under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. We do have problems on how to utilize this Fund since a huge fund is available. The Government wanted to follow a transparent policy by way calling for tenders on erecting towers in rural areas. Under the USO Fund, as the hon. Member observed, we have many schemes like for putting up Village Public Telephones, replacement of MARR-based VPTs about which the hon. Member is concerned, creating rural lines, etc. The problem in the system is that we cannot give you a figure as to how many VPTs are not functioning as on date. There will be defunct VPTs in a good number. Wherever such things happen, the District-level systems, the State-level systems will be deployed to see how those VPT systems can be restored. It is an ongoing process. We cannot say how many VPTs are non-functional as on date. It has come to the notice of the Government that some VPTs are not working.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Especially MARR system.

SHRI A. RAJA: Yes, MARR system is also working. If you want to have the details, agreements have been signed with the BSNL for replacement of 1,85,000 VPTs with reliable technologies where the Multi Access Radio Relay technology was working as on 1-4-2002. It is an ongoing process. Switching over from VPT technology on MARR, provision of RDEL, these are all ongoing programmes. Funds are available and the process is on. If the hon. Member has a specific allegation with regard to a specific peripheral area or territory, Government is ready to look into the matter.

SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Madam, according to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, the tele-density in urban areas and major cities has grown to over 50 per cent. However, in rural areas it is still very much stagnant leading to a large divide. There is a very good scheme that has been launched by the Government called the Kissan Call Centre Service which offers expert advice on agriculture-related problems and queries of the rural farmers. What does the hon. Minister propose for the laying out of telecom infrastructure to facilitate extension of this Scheme to all the villages in our country which can potentially be a lifeline for the rural masses.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: Madam Speaker, the hon. Member is correct in saying that there is a disparity in the tele-densities of rural areas and urban areas. The rural tele-density in the year 2006 was only 1.8 per cent. But today our rural tele-density is almost 20 per cent. The urban tele-density is in the high 90s. So, there is certain disparity and we are working very actively towards making sure that the disparity goes away in the near future. The Government of India with its PSUs as well as the private operators is now expanding very rapidly into the rural areas of the country so that the villages become a part of the communication revolution we have witnessed for the last decade and a half.

The particular scheme that the Member mentioned does not exist any more. But I think that was a good scheme because we must use our telephone network, mobile network, to impart knowledge and information to the farming community of our country. Once we empower the farming community we will see the economic benefits of that through the telecommunication sector. So, we are all looking forward to investing in ways that in the near future most parts of our rural India can be included in that scheme wherein the farming community - whether it is fishermen, whether it is north or the south - in the rural India, people who need the information and knowledge through the technology can be provided.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Madam, it is a great achievement that we could establish tele-link in 5,03,000 villages all over the country out of the 5,95,000 inhabited villages. But reading between the lines of the reply given by the hon. Minister, Madam, we can see that private players in this field are not fulfilling their obligations.

Five lakh three thousand VPTs were installed by the BSNL. At the same time, only 7,123 VPTs were installed by the private players. They are only interested in the lucrative side of the business. The fact is that there is a telecom revolution taking place in this country and the credit goes to the late Rajiv Gandhi. I want to know specifically from the Government as to whether the Government would enforce a legal obligation on the part of the private players in establishing the rural linkage by way of VPTs.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: The hon. Member has pointed out the limited role the private operators are playing in the VPTs scheme. First of all, I am happy to inform the hon. Member that in Kerala there are 1,372 villages as per the 2001 census, and all 1,372 villages have been connected with VPTs and there is not a single village in

Kerala that does not have a VPT. However, in the licence conditions, there is no legal obligation for the service providers to expand the network in the rural areas. But five per cent of each of the service providers adjusted gross revenue goes into the fund, which is the USO fund and the creation of the USO fund was to make sure that rural parts of India get connected with telecommunication facilities, whether it is through landline, broadband, wireless or mobile services and we are making sure that the USO fund is more judiciously used and more expeditiously used so that parts of our country that are thus far not being connected, in those villages, we will be able to connect in the near future.

[*Translation*]

#### Export of Onion

+

\*345. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:  
SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

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

(a) the quantity and value of onion exported during the last six months;

(b) the agencies in the country involved in the export of onion alongwith the locations thereof;

(c) whether onion is being exported on a regular basis inspite of the scarcity in the country; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

[*English*]

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

#### Statement

(a) As per the information from National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), a quantity of around 9.14 lakhs MTs of onion valued to Rs. 1188.20 crores (tentative) has been exported through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) during the last 6 months *i.e.* June-Nov. 2009.

(b) There are 13 canalizing agencies for export of onions which are as follows:

- NAFED, New Delhi.

- Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board, Pune (MSAMB)
- Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation, Ahmedabad (GAIC)
- Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd., Bangalore (KSCMF)
- Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation Ltd., Hyderabad (APSTCL)
- National Co-operative Consumers Federation of India Ltd., New Delhi (NCCF)
- Spices Trading Corporation Ltd., Bangalore (STCL)
- North Karnataka Onion Growers Co-operative Society Ltd., Hubli (NKOOGCS)
- Madhya Pradesh Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd., Bhopal (MPAIDC)
- Andhra Pradesh State Co-op Marketing Federation Ltd., Hyderabad (APfed)
- Madhya Pradesh State Co-op Oilseed Growers Federation Ltd., Bhopal (MPOGF)
- Karnataka Agricultural Produce Processing and Export Corporation Ltd., Bangalore
- West Bengal State Essential Commodities Supplies Corporation Ltd., Kolkata (WBSECS)

(c) and (d) There is no scarcity of onions in the country and the domestic availability is the same as it was last year. The policy of canalisation of Onion exports and the fixing of Minimum Export Price (MEP) by NAFED ensures a balance between exports and domestic availability. To check the price rise in the domestic market, the NAFED has been revising the MEP from time to time.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Madam Speaker, the reply given by the hon. Minister does not clarify the policy for export of onions. What is the policy in this regard? The onion prices are rising but their export is not being curtailed. You yourself have said that 9.14 lakh metric tones of onion has been exported and if we look at the actual figures, we will find that 12 lakh metric tonnes of onion has been exported. Now, the question arises that on the one hand, you have been regularly

exporting onions for the last one year and figures upto November have been provided. But the price of onion has been rising. So, I would like to ask you if you are aware, that there is a domestic market for onions along with the international market. What are the incentives being given by you to lower the prices of onions in the country, increase production and enable the farmers to get higher rates or, will you allow onions to being tears into the eyes of the people? This is my first question that has arisen out of your reply and my second question is regarding the 13 agencies...*(Interruption)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let him reply to the first question.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The first part is connected with this issue. I will ask the question pertaining to the second part later. He is saying that 13 agencies are exporting onions. What is the need to give permission for exporting onions to 13 agencies? How much export is being done by these agencies? What is their status, the rules and criteria in this regard? What is the reason for these 13 agencies being given the permission to export?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam Speaker, the question put by the hon. Member pertains to information regarding the quantity of onions exported during the last six months along with the names of the agencies through which the said exports are being done. There is no restriction in force on export of onions. The exports are done through NAFED which is the coordinating agency. The 13 agencies mentioned are state trading enterprises which are given permission to export. We have brought in a rationalization through a new notification on 14th May that all the State export agencies are permitted to take only one per cent service charges from associate shippers. This is channelized export. So, NAFED collects the information regarding the weekly outflow and the quantity transported out of the State from the enterprises of all the States and this information is conveyed to the Agriculture and Commerce Ministries immediately. As has been said in the reply to the question, more than 9,00,000 metric tonnes has been exported in six months during this year. As far as cost and achievement is concerned, these are fundamental issues. In my reply, I have made it clear to the hon. Member that last year onion production in India was more than 76 lakh metric tones and this year also there is a likelihood of as much production as last year. This year, total area under onion cultivation is more than last year's. So far as reserve is concerned, we have 25 lakh

tones. It means, neither there is decline in our reserve stock nor in our production. Then what is the reason behind its price-rise? Firstly, in case of higher prices in foreign markets, onions may have been exported, secondly, on-set of monsoon was late and consequently there was delay in sowing of onions. Heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra damaged the crops. It led to the apprehension of likelihood of fall in production and consequently there was a spurt in price. Every year, the Government hikes MSP through NAFED. Its export started in the month of June and export price was also increased constantly. The export price in the month of June was \$185 per metric tone and in the month of August it was increased to \$205. From 1 September onwards it was again hiked to 215 US Dollar and on 6 October, 300 US Dollar. In the month of December, it touched 450 US dollar per metric tones. It was a deterrent price so that our stocks do not decline further. As I have mentioned, every week I receive a report on the quantity exported and quantity in reserve with us. The deterrent price had a direct impact and the export which was 1,75,000 metric tone in October fell sharply to below 44,000 metric tone. As soon as the news of availability of adequate stock became clear, the prices fell in Nasik. Onion's price, which was Rs. 1250 metric tone in October came down to Rs. 900. In Delhi also the price fell from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 1280.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Madam, it is clear that this year also the production is as much as it was last year. The prices increased despite a-dedquate reserve in our stock. He is saying that the traders were making hefty profit in international market, but we checked it by imposing a deterrent price, still, the price increased. If we compare the price prevailing during the last year with that of current year, we find that the prices have increased by  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 times. Despite imposing a deterrent price, production being equal to last year's production, equal acreage being under onion cultivation and equal reserve stock the spurt in its price has very badly affected the people. If we compare both the years, especially the prices, prices have constantly increased except in December. Why this year the price is more in comparison to the last year? It seems that either Government's export policy is wrong or the figures presented are wrong or there is something messy which is beyond the control of the Government. I would like to know what steps the Government proposes to take to ensure that the onion's prices by December/January come to the level of what it was last year?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam Speaker, I would like to draw attention of the House to the fact that Shri Joshi's question is regarding availability of stock of onion in the country, the quantity of onion exported and whether its export resulted in its shortage in the country? It is question's part (c) and what corrective measures are being taken by the Government to ensure that there is no shortage of onions. I have given a detailed reply to all the four parts....(*Interruptions*)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Please don't beat about the bush. The reply given by you to earlier question is different one. Now you reply to my another question — how the Government proposes to control onion prices?

MADAM SPEAKER: Joshiji, he is replying to, please let him reply.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam Speaker, Joshi ji is a senior member. So far as prices are concerned, the Government is worried about inflation. It is right that the prices have increased. However, the concerned Ministry, that is Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, keeps a watch on it from time to time. Your question relating to exports is concerning the Ministry of Commerce. So far as it availability in the country and MSP is concerned, I have made it clear that there is adequate availability and there is no shortage, including in storage. So far as prices are concerned, this question can be put to the Department of Consumer Affairs. The question out up to me....(*Interruptions*).

MADAM SPEAKER: Please let him reply to the question.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam Speaker, I restrict my reply only to the question of hon. Member. As I have said earlier, there was a positive effect on the prices. Minimum Export Price, which was \$185 in June was hiked to \$450 later on and it resulted in decline in its export.

Second reason, as observed by the Government, is that first, there was drought and then heavy downpour in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra which damaged the crops quite extensively.

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please maintain order in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)



[*Translation*]

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: It created some kind of apprehension or say speculation and a fear also that perhaps there might be a shortfall in the production. And consequently, less quantity arrived in market. But that is not the condition today. I have mentioned post-corrective-measures prices in Nasik and Delhi markets. The export price is deterrent one but there is no shortage. Apart from it, the concerned departments keep a watch on it on weekly basis.

[*English*]

Every weekend that Report is submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: You sit down.

[*English*]

Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)...\*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Jagdish Sharma, not present.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please keep silence.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, the hon. Minister has replied that 13 canalising agencies for export of onions include West Bengal Essential Commodities Supply Corporation, WBECSC. I would like to say that the WBECSC is specifically a loss-making unit. West Bengal Essential Commodities Supply Corporation as such is not rising to the occasion and its performance is a total failure. I may be clarified as to how many tonnes of onions are being exported through this agency along with the other 12 agencies and whether we can be communicated the break-up of the performance of these 13 agencies? Can the Minister table in the House the break-up in the form of a report today itself?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam Speaker, the question is regarding the information about the quantity of exports, availability and the agencies through which it is exported. The export of onion is a canalised export

and NAFED gives the necessary approval to the State trading enterprises. The West Bengal State Essential Commodities Supplies Corporation Limited, Kolkata, is one of those 13 canalised agencies which are permitted to export onions.

As far as the quantity exported by West Bengal is concerned, I can get that information for the hon. Member. But the total quantity which has been exported by all the 13 agencies, I have submitted it before the House.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Can you give the break up?

MADAM SPEAKER: You can send it to him.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon. Madam Speaker, Dr. Joshi had asked a very simple question but I could not understand the detailed reply given by the Hon. Minister. Onion is an essential food item today and as told by the Hon. Member it has led to the fall of three Governments. The Government is exporting onion either to earn foreign exchange or for its own benefit. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister about the effective steps taken by the Government to check the prices of onion in view of the rising prices. Onion is being sold in the country at Rs. 40-45/- kg. due to this price rise. Will the Hon. Minister only say that this matter falls under the Agriculture Minister or will he give a proper reply. ...(*Interruptions*).

MADAM SPEAKER: You have asked the question, now let the Minister give his reply.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, the question is fairly simple that prices will rise here is onion is exported.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam Speaker, this question has been raised here by many Hon. Members and I have given a detailed explanation of all the points. Still, for the benefit of the Hon. Members I would like to tell that if he goes through the question with attention then he will understand that this question is about the export of onion and the concerned agencies through which onion is exported and is intended to know whether there is any decrease in the quantity of export? I had clarified it earlier also and am repeating it again that the production of onion in the country this year has been just the quantity by which it was surplus beyond 76 lakh metric tonnes last year...(*Interruptions*).

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members should ask the questions related to his Ministry.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: My question is why the onion export is rising?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: As far as export is concerned...(*Interruptions*) just listen to me. All the Member are our own.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shailendra Kumar ji, please listen to Mr. Minister. He is giving a reply.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: If the Hon. Members are worried about shortage in availability or storage then it is not so. I just said....(*Interruptions*) Hon. Madam Speaker, this question is not related to the prices of onion. As I said, the export prices have been increased. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, this is not a reply. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: There are separate Ministries in this regard.

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. 346—Shri Ramsinh Rathwa— not present.

Q. 347—Shri Mithilesh Kumar.

[*Translation*]

#### Women in Defence Forces

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\*347. SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR:  
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women recruits in Army, Navy and Air Force for the last two years and the current year;

(b) whether the number of women in defence forces is as per sanctioned strength;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to induct women into combat duties including that of fighter pilots in Air Force; and

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

[*English*]

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

#### Statement

Women are inducted as officers in the defence forces. There is no specified sanctioned strength for women officers in Army, Navy and Air Force. The number of women officers recruited in the defence forces in the last two years and the current year is as under:—

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force	Armed Forces			Grand Total
				Medical Services			
				Army Medical Corps	Army Dental Corps	Military Nursing Service	
2007	188	19	88	39	06	58	398
2008	72	15	77	58	14	163	399
2009	92	23	50*	74	04	189	432

\*Half yearly figures.

At present, there is no proposal to induct women into combat duties in the defence forces including that of fighter pilots in Indian Air Force. A study carried out by Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff in 2006 on all aspects of employment of women officers in the armed forces, recommended exclusion of women officers from close combat roles.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR: Hon. Madam Speaker through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister if gender based discrimination exists in the Army and women officers in the Army have been denied permanent commission and pension? A case related to this is subjudice in the Delhi High Court too. Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the reasons behind not giving permanent commission and pensionary benefits to the women officers even today?

[*English*]

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Madam, as far as the Short Service Commission is concerned, there is absolutely no discrimination except that women are eligible for permanent commission only in selected streams. There is a case in the Delhi High Court which is pending and it is *sub judice*.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR: Madam the Hon. Minister has not given any information about any proposal for recruitment to be made for Armed Forces including Air Force. What are the reasons behind it? It is the Government is considering to open all the areas of the Armed Forces for women in the 21st Century.

*[English]*

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Madam, induction of women into the Army and Air Force started in the year 1992 beginning with the Short Service Commission. However, there has been a conscious attempt to ensure that they are not into combat roles but they are given opportunities in most of the roles and these areas are expanding continuously.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Rudra Madhab Ray.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the answer that has been given. If one would look at the figures of women in all the three Services – it is 398 in 2007, 399 in 2008 and 432 in 2009. Obviously these figures represent very low percentage compared to the standing Army or the strength of the Air Force and Navy.

Madam, my question to the hon. Minister is this. Is this strength low because lesser number of women is applying or is it that women are not able to come up to the benchmark which has been set for recruitment?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Madam, I would like to say that most of the women who are applying are definitely meeting the benchmarks. But like as I said before, the streams into which women are being inducted are limited and streams into which Short Service Commission women are being allowed into permanent commission are also limited. There is also a conscious attempt to keep them out of combat roles. Naturally that limits their opportunities. However, women who are applying are quite motivated and they are meeting the standards.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, I feel very sorry after reading the written reply of the Hon. Minister and it seems that you too will feel sorry because you yourself are a capable lady. The Government of the country which has produced women like Jhansi ki Rani Laxmibai, Kittur ki Rani Chennamma who had not only fought war but led it, is saying that combat responsibilities cannot be given to the women. It is injustice to the women to deny them combat responsibilities.

Madam, I would like to ask if the Government would raise special women battalions led only by women captains. Even though there is a very small number of women in the Army but there was news recently about

some women getting court martialled. I would like to ask is some separate mechanism would be put in place for redressal of the women officers' complaints so that the court martial proceedings could be avoided?

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Madam, I fully share the sentiments of Smt. Sushma Swaraj and other hon. Members who have expressed their concern regarding the lesser number of women officers in the Armed Forces. But at the same time one must understand historical developments also. Women were admitted in the Armed Forces 80 years ago, mainly in the nursing and medical officers level. Only in the year 1992 women were given a chance to join the short service in other Armed Forces like the Army, the Air Force and the Navy. ...*(Interruptions)* But last year, for the first time, our Government had given the permission to women to join the Armed Forces in permanent commission. Now this year, I have given direction to the Armed Forces that they must expand the areas. Last year, we have allowed women to join eight streams in Army, Navy and Air Force. Now, we have requested them that they must expand the streams. So, gradually, we are expanding the areas for women. Now, as per their study which they conducted in 2006, the Armed Forces think that they are not still ready to join the combat areas. ...*(Interruptions)* I am sure that this is not the final decision.

As I told you earlier, even though women were allowed to join the Armed Forces 80 years ago, it was only in nursing service and medical service. After a long time, only in 1992 we allowed the women to join short service that too for only five years. That period is also extended. Instead of five years, it has now been extended to ten years, and it can even be extended to 14 years. This year, we are going to expand the streams. I am sure that gradually they will be able to join combat areas also. That day will come and things are moving in that direction.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: They are ready but only the Government is not ready. Mr. Minister, you need the will power to get ready and not the years.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: With due respect to Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, I would like to say that only this Government, last year, gave permanent commission for women. This shows our sincerity. I am not arguing, but I am just saying that this Government, in September, 2008, gave permanent commission for women for the first time after 80 years. So, we are committed, we are sincere and...*(Interruptions)* Let us not politicize the issue.

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: You should not speak like this.

...(Interruptions)

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...\*

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Last year, for the first time, we have opened up permanent commission for women in eight streams. This year, I have given specific directions to the Armed Forces that eight streams are not enough and that they have to expand and give more of non-combat areas to women. I am sure, even though the Report of the Commission in 2006 is against it, that in the course of time, they will be able to join the permanent commission in combat areas also. I agree with Shrimati Sushma Swaraj that there are brave women who are ready to join. I am sure that, that day will come and our Government is trying for it.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, I am looking forward to that day coming soon.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, what about court martial? He has not replied to it....(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Madam Speaker, I am also waiting for that day. I have already told the Armed Forces to study the trend as to what is happening in the US and western countries. They are going to make that study. So, that day will come and we will all wait for that day.

*[Translation]*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam, the Hon. Minister has been asked a question about the strength of women in the Armed Forces, Air Forces, Navy and Army and how much their strength should be. But the Hon. Minister has not stated the sanctioned strength of women. Through you, I would also like to know from the Hon. Minister whether women are also discriminated against? Recently, it was published in the newspaper that the officer grade women are committing suicide. They are committing suicides. I also want to know the number of women officers and their number in the Air Force, Navy and other places.-

\*Not recorded.

*[English]*

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: I would like to make it clear that there is no sanctioned strength as such. But women are inducted as per their eligibility. There is a conscious attempt to see that there is no discrimination. As far as their induction and their promotional aspects are concerned, there is absolutely no discrimination whatsoever.

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: This issue of discrimination is actually one of the greatest barriers that come in the way of women's induction in the Armed Forces. Despite the efforts being taken by the hon. Minister, there remains an impression that the atmosphere within the Services is a little hostile to women who are already in it. This is bolstered by the media reports of several cases of workplace harassment which women officers have filed.

I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister that in the civilian sector there are already many laws in place to protect women from workplace harassment. Would the hon. Minister tell us as to what steps has he taken to provide similar steps within the Armed Forces so that there are written procedures that women are not harassed and to see that if they do make allegations of harassment, they are treated in a fair and honourable manner?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: We are aware that in the Armed Forces, the respect for women and the work ethos is the highest. There is a conscious attempt to continuously improvise the working atmosphere for women who are in the Armed Forces. As I said just now, there is an attempt to make sure that they are not in combat roles just to protect them. Similarly, in the work areas, there is a conscious attempt to continuously improvise the working environment.

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. No. 348—Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh—not present.

Q. No. 349—Shri Brijbhushan Sharan Singh—not present;

Shri P.P. Chauhan—not present.

Q. No. 350—Shri Kaushalendra Kumar

#### **Recommendations of Saxena Committee**

\*350. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the socio-economic status of the poor communities was one of the terms of reference of the Saxena committee;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the committee, in brief, in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for implementation of those recommendations?

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) The socio-economic status of the poor communities was not one of the terms of reference of the Expert Group constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development under the chairmanship of Dr. N.C. Saxena to advise the Ministry of Rural Development on the methodology for conducting the Below Poverty Line (BPL) census for 11th Five Year plan. However, the expert Group recommended the methodology for identification of Below Poverty Line families based on some socio-economic indicators.

(b) The recommendation includes automatic exclusion of rural household from the BPL list, automatic inclusion in the BPL list and grading of the remaining households. For automatic exclusion of rural household from the BPL list, the Expert Group recommended indicators such as ownership of land, ownership of motorized vehicles, ownership of mechanized farm equipment, regular employment and income tax payers. The Expert Group recommended automatic inclusion of rural households from certain groups in the BPL list such as designated 'Primitive Tribal Groups', designated 'Maha Dalit Groups', single women headed households, households with disable person as bread-earner, households headed by a minor, households dependent on alms for survival, homeless households and households with bonded labourers. The Expert Group recommended that remaining households may be ranked on a scale of ten based on caste community, religion, occupation, educational status and age of head of Household. The Expert Group submitted its report to the Ministry of Rural Development on 21st August 2009.

(c) The report of the Expert Group has been circulated among the State Governments/UT administrations and the concerned Central Ministries for

their comments. It has been posted on Ministry's website at [www.rural.nic.in](http://www.rural.nic.in). The Ministry is in the process of finalizing the methodology for identification of persons below the Poverty Line in rural areas, taking into account the suggestions/comments received.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Madam, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Central Government proposes to set up a Mahadalit Ayog on the lines of Bihar so that the people can get maximum benefit from it.

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: Hon. Madam Speaker, regarding the question asked by the Hon. Member on Prof. Saxena's report, it is true that Prof. Saxena Committee was set up because complaints were being received from various States that those who are not poor are included in it. This Committee, which has submitted its report, was set up in 2008 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Saxena. The question asked by the Hon. Member is not related to this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: You should ask questions related to the original question.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government proposes to formulate such rural schemes so that migration from rural areas can be checked and if so, the details thereof?

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: Hon. Madam Speaker, our entire country consists of 619 districts under which there are more than 6 lakh villages and 2,25,000 Gram Panchayats. The Rural Development Ministry under the Government of India has launched a lot of schemes to provide work to everyone. Each family in each village in every State of the country has a right to get employment under the biggest scheme and the highest law of the century. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Madam Speaker, under this scheme, about 11 crore families have got employment through separate job cards in the years 2006-07 and 2008-09 and up to now. Besides this SGSY Scheme is another scheme for rural development through which our brethren living below the poverty line can get employment. The basic aim of the schemes of the Rural Development Ministry is to provide employment opportunities to the poor. Today, NREGA has generated a degree of self-confidence among the poor and unskilled workers in the whole country. The common man feels today that the demand of the people in the

whole country for the right to employment and payment of unemployment allowance in case of unemployment—that demand for which struggle was going on since independence, has been met. This is such an Act under which every family is getting employment...(*Interruptions*).

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister is giving reply. You should listen to him. Maintain order. Do not interrupt.

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: I believe that even today this scheme has definitely generated a degree of self-confidence among the workers in every State in the country. The Members of this Maha Panchyat of our country also get a chance to monitor this scheme. It is such a scheme of the Government of India under which work is being done in each parliamentary constituency and each village and the most special feature of the scheme is that the work being done under it is demand based. The demand for work decided by the last man of the Gram Panchyat reaches the district and then to the State and from there to the Government of India which allocates the entire amount of the demanded funds for the all the round development of that village. I would like to tell the Hon. Member that through these rural development schemes they can do the complete and proper development of any village of any area.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member had asked whether migration from villages is taking place or not but the Hon. Minister is just going on lecturing...(*Interruptions*).

MADAM SPEAKER: You take your seat please.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Madam, under the NREGA Scheme, it allows the small water channels which run through the fields of small and marginal farmers. But, as you are aware, the same water channel runs from the main canal into the field of all the farmers. So, how is it that under NREGA we can use it in the small and marginal farmers to make them pucca, but not in the big farmers because it is the same channel? You cannot do in somebody's farm and not do in the next farmer's farm. So, is there any proposal by the Government to change the scheme? ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask the question which is related to the original question.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Madam, I have asked the question under No. 351, which is what I have sent the request to you. ...(*Interruptions*)

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: Hon. Madam Speaker, the question asked by the Hon. Member is not related to the original question but still I would like to tell that. ...(*Interruptions*).

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Member you are asking a supplementary regarding next question.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Madam, I had asked the supplementary under Q. No. 351 in respect of NREGA. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: You have to ask the supplementary in respect of Q. No. 351. But you have given me the notice in respect of Q. No. 350. That is why I gave you a chance.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Madam, I am extremely sorry.

MADAM SPEAKER: It is all right.

*[Translation]*

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that he has mentioned about NREGA. We live in villages.

MADAM SPEAKER: This is your next question No. 351. But we are discussing Q. No. 350. You ask supplementary regarding this question, only.

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Hon. Madam Speaker, I am asking a supplementary on that question only. Madam, according to Saxena Committee there are 50% BPL families and according to the Govt., there are only 36% BPL card holders. The BPL card holders get benefits of the other schemes of the Central Govt. besides NREGS. If the number of BPL cardholders is increased to 50% then the people will also get benefitted directly from the Government's other schemes in addition to NREGS. This will check migration and employment will also be provided. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister if the Govt. is formulating any schemes to implement the report of the committee so that the number of BPL cardholders can be increased?

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to tell the Hon. Member that each committee has its own terms of reference and the terms of reference of the Prof. Saxena Committee were not to determine the number of the BPL families. Its terms of reference were to recommend the next workable methodology alongwith simple, transparent and objectively measurable indicators for determination of the BPL families from the view point of providing assistance under the programmes of the rural development ministry. ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUAMR: The committee has accepted it to be 50 per cent.

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: It was not in the terms of reference of the committee to determine the number of BPL families. The Govt. of India has set up a committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Tendulkar for determination of the number of people living below poverty line and the number is determined by the Planning Commission. The Committee was set up because every state used to complain that the norms for determination of poverty line were not proper and the poverty line was not fixed properly and because of this a large number of people were not getting all the facilities which they should have got. So, we called the Secretaries of all the states and put all the information on the website as recommended by the Prof. Saxena Committee in order to ensure that the real poor get all the benefits available to the people living below poverty line. We are also taking suggestions from all the states alongwith the changes and suggestions submitted by all the ministries in this regard and we will start the enumeration in the villages once all this information is recieved.

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Whether the Hon. Minister will have a discussion on this? Will a commission be set up again? What does it mean?...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: You be seated. You have made your point.

*[English]*

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGOVAN: Madam, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to put the question.

The hon. Minister's Statement says that the recommendation includes automatic exclusion of rural household from the BPL list, automatic inclusion in the BPL List. With the prices of essential commodities rising every week, the poor are suffering. The certain income which a family earns this month may not be sufficient for their survival in the next month because of the rising prices. Therefore, I want to know, through you, Madam, from the hon. Minister whether the Government would consider increase in the total income of a family every year or periodical increase in the total income of a family for including a family in the BPL or APL List.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: Hon. Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member has said, the question was particularly about the Prof. Saxena Committee's report and the objective behind the provisions for automatic inclusion and exclusion was there in the report that a poor man's name should be included in the BPL list automatically and the name of person, who is not poor but still misusing the rights and facilities of the poor, should be excluded automatically from the BPL list. He has sought to know and every one has this thing in mind as to what is the basis of grade on which someone has got full marks and his name has been included in the BPL list. We also understand it because somewhere the state Govts., which had been entrusted with the implementation responsibility, had somehow not done the work properly when the last poverty line was fixed. I think that when the suggestion and consensus are received from all the states and the ministries, the biggest concern in the entire country that the eligible person should get the benefit under the BPL scheme will be sloved to a great extent.

#### **Scope of Works under NREGS**

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\*351. SHRI RAKESH SACHAN:  
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drought hit areas registered a decrease in employment under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to expand the scope of work by including 27 new works under NREGS such as pucca work, work on private land of small and marginal farmers, sanitation work, social services, construction of dwellings for BPL beneficiaries, etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### **Statement**

(a) and (b): Status of implementation under NREGA in drought hit States in the country is given in the enclosed Annexure.

(c) to (e): The benefits of works on individual lands as given in para 1(iv) of Schedule I of NREG Act have been extended to small and marginal farmers vide Notification dated 22.7.2009 as per the following amendment:

“Provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities to land owned by households belonging to the Schedule Tribes or below poverty line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana of Government of India or that of the small farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debit Relief Scheme, 2008.”

Further, construction of Bharat Nirman, Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchyat Bhawan at Gram Panchyat level has been included as a permissible activity in para 1 of Schedule I of the Act vide Notification dated 11.11.2009.

### **Annexure**

Sl.No.	States	No. of households provided employment		Persondays of employment generated (in lakhs)		Average persondays per household	
		2008-09 (upto October, 2008)	2009-10 (upto October, 2009)	2008-09 (upto October, 2008)	2009-10 (upto October, 2009)	2008-09 (upto October, 2008)	2009-10 (upto October, 2009)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5212455	5363421	1792.95	2552.40	34	48
2.	Assam	106626	1295712	347.61	375.19	33	29
3.	Bihar	2305262	2483631	583.55	647.71	25	26
4.	Himachal Pradesh	308263	322729	84.56	131.88	27	41
5.	Jharkhand	1032917	1082907	463.83	502.93	45	46
6.	Karnataka	424260	1741928	107.04	841.10	25	48
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3662929	2730473	1570.60	1204.33	43	44
8.	Maharashtra	456705	475800	231.88	193.45	51	41
9.	Manipur	282239	374077	106.88	229.32	38	61
10.	Nagaland	289310	297257	138.73	155.02	48	52
11.	Rajasthan	5156370	5507284	2977.26	3296.07	58	60
12.	Uttar Pradesh	291105	2481543	653.38	1136.27	31	46
	Total drought affected States	2371641	2655143	868.80	1464.29	37	55



SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: Madam Speaker, I had asked the Minister whether there had been a decline in opportunities of employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in drought affected regions. Mr. Minister has accepted 12 states as drought affected states in his written reply in which the average number of work days has been 31 and 46 days respectively during 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 in Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Minister has himself accepted that people have got employment for 46 days as against minimum 100 days employment under NREGS. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask your question quickly. Time is running out...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: I want to say that you have provided employment for 46 days out of 100 days. I would like to know whether the number of days for employment is likely to be increased upto 150 or 200 days in the drought affected regions?

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: Madam Speaker, Hon. Member has raised a very good question. This scheme should be implemented effectively in the drought affected states so as to ensure that every family and every person could get employment on demand. I would like to request all the honourable members that NREGA is the most important act of this century. This Act contains only 34 sections. We can provide employment to each and every person in our villages through this Act. Hon. Members must go through this Act.

It is demand oriented. The demand of the village is conveyed to the Government of India via districts and states. We meet the said demand. We try to implement it effectively so as to provide more and more employment. Any of the states has not been able to provide employment in the country till the last year and there were around 65 lakh such families. I think that when people are not getting even 46 days employment, there is no need to increase the number of employment days. 74 per cent of the population of the country lives in the villages. They think that we will formulate scheme for development in this August House. When the Govt. formulated such a big scheme like NREGA, we wanted them to go to villages and get employment through this scheme...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: You ask your supplementary question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: Madam Speaker, Hon. Minister has said that it has not been possible to provide employment for 100 days. I had asked a very simple question as to why such a large amount of funds are lying unspent in various districts...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: You ask your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: Increase the 60:40 ratio of pucca works...*(Interruptions)*. Add sowing and merbandi of fields for small farmers so that all the funds are spent...*(Interruptions)*.

**12.00 hrs.**

MADAM SPEAKER: Sit down please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, give your reply in brief.

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: Hon. Madam Speaker, the whole Act...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: Mr. Minister, give reply to this question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: I would say it is an act. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: I want the Hon. Member to go through this Act and its introduction. It provides employment to unskilled workers...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: You give your reply.

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: The first thing under this Act is that we have to provide employment to those families who are willing to work. It's not necessary to provide for pucca work but to provide for such work in which unskilled workers may get employment. This is that spirit of this Act. There is 40 per cent provision for pucca work...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: The question hour is over now.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

### Tariff Fixation by Telecom Operators

\*341. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom service providers have the flexibility to offer a variety of tariff plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) propose to charge per second basis on landline services;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) exercises any regulatory role in the tariff fixation by telecom operators; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The power to notify the rates at which telecommunication services are to be provided by various telecom operators in the country has been vested in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) vide the TRAI Act of 1997. The TRAI, in exercise of its powers, has notified Telecommunications Tariff Order (TTO), 1999 as amended from time to time. As per the existing provisions of TTO, tariffs for telecom services are under forbearance, except with regard to Fixed Line Service in Rural Areas, National Roaming Service and Leased Line Service. Thus, the telecom service providers have the flexibility to offer variety of tariff plans targeting different categories of subscribers.

(c) No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) to charge on per second basis on landline services.

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

(e) Yes, Madam.

(f) As mentioned above, the telecom service providers have the freedom to offer variety of tariff plans targeting different categories of subscribers. However, they are required to report to the Authority any new tariff for telecommunication services and changes in the tariff within 7 days after its implementation for information and record of the Authority after conducting a self check to ensure that the tariff plans are consistent with the regulatory principles in all respects which, *inter-alia*, include non-discrimination, non-predation and Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) compliance.

### Welfare Schemes for Handicapped Persons

\*343. SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the bodies/agencies engaged in implementing schemes/programmes for empowerment of persons with disabilities;

(b) the allocation, sanction and utilisation of funds by these agencies during the last two years and the current year;

(c) whether any review/social audit of schemes/programmes for persons with disability has been undertaken;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the present status of the scheme of providing incentives to the employers in the private sector employing persons with disabilities?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) The following bodies/agencies working under or being funded by the Ministry are engaged in implementing schemes/programmes for empowerment of persons with disabilities:

#### 1. National Institutes—

- National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun
- National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad
- Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai
- National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata

- Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack
  - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi
  - National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai
2. Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) at Srinagar (J&K), Sundernagar (Himachal Pradesh), Lucknow (U.P.), Bhopal (M.P.), Guwahati (Assam) and Patna (Bihar)
  3. Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)
  4. National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities
  5. National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC)
  6. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)
  7. Non-Governmental Organisations
  8. State Govts., Universities and other academic institutions
  9. Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) & Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)
- (b) Allocation and expenditure under various schemes of the Ministry implemented through the above organizations during the last two years and the current year (till 09.12.2009) is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Scheme/Programme	Implementing Agencies	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10 (as on 9.12.2009)	
		Allocation (BE)	Expenditure	Allocation (BE)	Expenditure	Allocation (BE)	Expenditure
Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP)	NIs, NGOs, ALIMCO	70.00	49.08	79.0	60.22	79.0	15.08
Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	NGOs	70.0	70.3	70.0	64.7	76.0	6.27
National Institutes	-	47.00	43.78	47.0	47.0	46.5	18.72
Scheme for Implementation of PWD Act, 1995	State Govts., Universities & other academic institutions	18.0	9.49	20.0	8.45	20.0	2.58
NHFDC [Equity Participation]	-	7.0	10.0	9.0	18.0	9.0	9.0
RCI	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	1.13
Incentives to the Employers in Private Sector for providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities	EPFO ESIC	Scheme was not in operation		15.0	6.50	15.0	1.0

(c) and (d) The implementation of schemes and programmes for the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is reviewed from time to time. Evaluation studies are also carried out to assess the impact of the Schemes and to identify measures to enhance their effectiveness. Findings and recommendations of these reviews and evaluation studies are kept in view during revision of the schemes. The ADIP scheme has been revised in 2005, and DDRS has been revised with effect from 01.04.2009.

(e) Under the scheme of Incentives to the Private Sector Employers for Employment of Persons with Disabilities, which was launched w.e.f. 01.04.2008, Employers' contribution in respect of EPF and ESI is being claimed for 144 and 261 employees with disabilities respectively as on 30.09.09.

#### **Nirmal Gram Puraskar Scheme**

\*344. SHRI VITTHALBHAI HANSRAJBHAI  
RADADIYA:  
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding improper implementation of the Nirmal Gram Puraskar Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to conduct a review of the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the gap between the targets set and achieved under the scheme during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard for promotion of sanitation in the villages?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) The complaints relate to non-eligibility of Gram Panchayats (GPs) that have been awarded Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) in 2008 and non-selection of eligible GPs for the NGP in 2009. Action has been taken regarding these complaints and review of NGP scheme is not required.

(d) There are no targets for NGP. All the Gram Panchayats are encouraged to meet the criteria of Nirmal Gram in order to be eligible for the award. Details of the number of awardees during the last three years, state wise, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) Total Sanitation Campaign administered by Government of India emphasizes generation of demand for sanitation facilities through Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) and a community led approach, as past experience shows that mere construction of toilets is not sufficient for achieving sanitation coverage. In order to address the needs of areas with high water table, low water availability, very cold regions, coastal and flood prone areas, different design options for toilets are promoted by the Department. In hilly and difficult areas, the central incentive for BPL households for construction of individual household toilets is Rs. 500 higher than for other areas. Convergence is sought to be achieved with other flagship programmes of Government of India such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Rural Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Scheme etc. Extensive school sanitation and hygiene education programme is being implemented. Training and capacity building has been taken up for grassroots workers, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) etc. Also, Information, Education & Communication (IEC), activities are supported under the programme.

#### **Statement**

*Details of the number of awardees under Nirmal Gram Puraskar during last three years*

Sl.No.	Year—→ State	2006			2007			2008		
		GP	BP	ZP	GP	BP	ZP	GP	BP	ZP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	—	—	143	—	—	662	1	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	2	—	—	4	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6					
3.	Assam	1	—	—	3	—	—	14	—	—
4.	Bihar	4	—	—	39	1	—	155	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	12	—	—	90	—	—	300	—	—
6.	Gujarat	4	—	—	576	—	—	739	—	—
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	60	—	—	798	1	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	22	—	—	245	1	—
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	12	—	—	142	—	—
11.	Karnataka	—	—	—	121	—	—	479	1	—
12.	Kerala	6	—	—	220	6	—	600	84	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1	—	—	190	—	—	682	—	—
14.	Maharashtra	380	1	—	1974	—	—	4301	2	—
15.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
16.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—
17.	Mizoram	—	—	—	3	—	—	8	—	—
18.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—
19.	Orissa	8	—	—	33	—	—	94	—	—
20.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—
21.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	23	—	—	141	—	—
22.	Sikkim	—	—	—	27	—	—	137	—	4
23.	Tamil Nadu	119	—	—	296	—	—	1474	5	—
24.	Tripura	36	—	—	46	—	—	30	—	—
25.	Uttar Pradesh	40	—	—	488	—	—	729	—	—
26.	Uttarakhand	13	—	—	109	—	—	160	—	—
27.	West Bengal	126	8	—	468	7	—	328	17	—
	Total	760	9	—	4945	14	—	12276	112	8

GP— Gram Panchayat

BP— Block Panchayat

ZP— Zila Panchayat

*[English]***Pendency of EPF Claims**

\*346. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: 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 the pendency of such a large number of cases;

(d) whether the Government has taken any special effective steps for the 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 STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The position of pending claims with Employees Provident Fund Organisation for the last three years and the current year 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
30.09.2009 (2009-10) Provisional	1163231

The Region-wise details of pending claims for the year 2006-07 to 2008-09 and for the current year upto 30th September, 2009 (Provisional) are given in the enclosed Statements-I and II respectively. 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 frequent change of jobs, 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 Organisation 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. As per provisions of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, claims received complete in all respects, are settled within 30 days.

**Statement I**

*Region-wise details of pending claims in Employees Provident Fund Organisation for the years 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
<b>NORTH ZONE</b>	<b>35194</b>	<b>94998</b>	<b>149320</b>
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
<b>EAST ZONE</b>	<b>15738</b>	<b>50363</b>	<b>36599</b>
Bangalore	31501	61518	150847
Mangalore	485	1347	1059
Guntur	3574	2689	4063
Hyderabad	5952	31039	24326
Kerala	429	1933	2206

1	2	3	4
Chennai	23418	30308	40608
Coimbatore	11348	8581	22080
Madurai	2220	7386	5590
<b>SOUTH ZONE</b>	<b>78927</b>	<b>144801</b>	<b>250779</b>
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
<b>WEST ZONE</b>	<b>78439</b>	<b>137720</b>	<b>214453</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>208298</b>	<b>427882</b>	<b>651151</b>

**Statement II**

*Region-wise details of pending claims in the  
Employees Provident Fund Organisation  
as on 30th September 2009*

REGION	Claims Pending
1	2
Dehradun	4683
Delhi (North)	14222
Delhi (South)	76785
<b>Zonal Office (DL &amp; UK)</b>	<b>95690</b>
Chandigarh	5538
Ludhiana	7465
Shimla	3974
<b>ZONAL OFFICE (PN &amp; HP)</b>	<b>16977</b>
Kanpur	5311

1	2
Meerut	17717
Patna	2396
<b>ZONAL OFFICE (UP &amp; BR)</b>	<b>25424</b>
Faridabad	16755
Gurgaon	79869
Jaipur	12004
<b>ZONAL OFFICE (HR &amp; RJ)</b>	<b>108628</b>
Ahmedabad	16829
Baroda	6491
Indore	5479
Surat	17309
<b>ZONAL OFFICE (GJ &amp; MP)</b>	<b>46108</b>
Kandivili	126182
Mumbai-I Bandra	106708
Mumbai-II Thane	34882
Nagpur	7538
Pune	112041
Raipur	2413
<b>ZONAL OFFICE (MH &amp; CG)</b>	<b>389764</b>
Bangalore	107295
Mangalore	13836
Panaji	2518
Peenya	103733
<b>ZONAL OFFICE (KN &amp; Goa)</b>	<b>227382</b>
Bhubaneshwar	9456
Guntur	9042
Hyderabad	43113
Nizamabad	7897
<b>ZONAL OFFICE (AP &amp; OR)</b>	<b>69508</b>
Chennai	53745
Coimbatore	18900

1	2
Madurai	11953
Tambaram	11317
Thiruvananthapuram	9382
<b>ZONAL OFFICE (TN &amp; KR)</b>	<b>105297</b>
Guwahati (NER)	4840
Jalpaiguri	32553
Kolkata	36039
Ranchi	5021
<b>ZONAL OFFICE (WB, NER &amp; JH)</b>	<b>78453</b>
<b>ALL INDIA</b>	<b>1163231</b>

Foot Note: This Statement is given due to creation of the following seven new Regional Offices of Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

Regional Offices: Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), Gurgaon (Haryana), Surat (Gujarat), Kandivali (Maharashtra), Peeniya (Karnataka), Nizamabad (Andhra Pradesh), Tambaram (Tamil Nadu).

### Implementation of SEZ Projects

\*348. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the provisions for legal/penal action against the developers who fail to develop the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) within the stipulated time-frame;

(b) the names of the developers who have not developed these SEZs within the time limits; and

(c) the action taken/being taken on the developers for hoarding of precious land in the name of developing SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) As per the provisions of the SEZ Act, 2005, if a Developer is unable to discharge the functions or perform the duties reposed in him under the provisions of SEZ Act and Rules or has persistently defaulted in complying with any direction given by the Board of Approval or has violated the terms and conditions of the Letter of Approval or is unable to discharge the duties and obligations due to financial reasons, the Letter of Approval is liable to be suspended.

As per provisions of the SEZ Rules, 2006, an approval is valid for a period of three years within which time effective steps are to be taken by the Developer to implement the approved proposal. On a request received from the Developer, the Board of Approval can extend the validity period by a further period of two years.

Requests for extension of validity period have been received from Developers citing the global economic slowdown/delay in getting requisite clearances etc., as grounds for extension. Having regard to the provisions of the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006 and the grounds cited, the Board of Approval (BOA) has permitted extension of validity of 89 SEZs beyond the initial 3 years subject to the same terms and conditions as envisaged in the original approval. As on date, 346 SEZs stand notified and 101 SEZs are currently exporting.

[*Translation*]

### Employment under NREGA

\*349. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:  
SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of workers registered under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the workers who have been provided employment along with the number of days of their employment during each of the last two years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether certain State Governments have been lagging behind in the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) A household is the basic unit under NREGA. State-wise number of households registered and issued job cards during the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto October, 09) is given in the enclosed Statement-I.



(b) Number of households provided employment and average number of days of employment per household for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto October,09) is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), there are no predetermined targets because NREGA is demand based. Employment is provided to a job card holding household when it demands work. Demand for work varies from State to State and also from district to district within a State. Thus, the pace of implementation of NREGA is different in different States. However, States need to pay more attention towards disposal of complaints, execution of works, social audit and timely reporting.

(d) The Ministry has taken the following corrective steps for proper implementation of NREGA:

- (i) Permissible administrative expenditure limit has been enhanced from 4% to 6% for deployment of dedicated staff for NREGA, strengthening of

management and administrative support structures for social audit, grievance redressal and ICT infrastructure.

- (ii) Payment through institutional accounts of NREGA workers has been made mandatory to infuse transparency in wage disbursement.
- (iii) Instructions have been issued on 7.9.09 directing all States to appoint ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal.
- (iv) Social audit: Modifications have been made in the Act on 31.12.08 for laying down the procedures for social audit.
- (v) Independent appraisal by professional institutions including IITs and IIMs and Agricultural Universities
- (vi) Independent Monitoring by NLM
- (vii) Periodic reviews with State Governments.

**Statement I**

Sl.No.	States	Cumulative No. of Households and Jobcards issued			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto Oct., 09)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5066675	8853413	11347815	11899200
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16926	23647	154957	42836
3.	Assam	916753	1565775	2970522	3333087
4.	Bihar	3562761	7988992	10284009	12290926
5.	Chhattisgarh	1848766	2875796	3354795	3460349
6.	Gujarat	632269	865503	2877792	3181801
7.	Haryana	106772	161445	377568	418142
8.	Himachal Pradesh	99446	393751	849993	916378
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	179133	278891	497175	496354
10.	Jharkhand	2304037	2958788	3375992	3560619
11.	Karnataka	795600	1523091	3420945	4580467
12.	Kerala	213840	479036	1897713	2151922
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4446195	7238784	11229547	10683969

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Maharashtra	2753047	3128352	4814593	5298187
15.	Manipur	18568	91013	385836	386414
16.	Meghalaya	113255	121542	298755	330875
17.	Mizoram	21966	89314	172775	178840
18.	Nagaland	27884	115686	296738	316568
19.	Orissa	2593194	4095075	5267853	5311613
20.	Punjab	37326	97892	524928	640778
21.	Rajasthan	1508223	2869457	8468740	9458245
22.	Sikkim	4498	30907	77112	66797
23.	Tamil Nadu	1157525	2200437	5512827	5906387
24.	Tripura	75067	465779	600615	602670
25.	Uttar Pradesh	4004287	7311973	10652018	10938138
26.	Uttaranchal	199236	358734	817753	865098
27.	West Bengal	5147141	8578073	9556067	9906556
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands			23313	9922
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli			8100	10270
30.	Daman and Diu			NR	NR
31.	Goa			10244	14215
32.	Lakshadweep			3313	5542
33.	Puducheery			15547	14982
34.	Chandigarh			NR	NR
	Total	37850390	64761146	100145950	107278147

**Statement II**

Sl.No.	States	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10 (upto Oct, 09)	
		No. of households provided employment	Average Days Per HH	No. of households provided employment	Average Days per HH	No. of households provided employment	Average Days Per HH
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4803892	42	5699557	48	5182313	46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4490	62	80714	43	12718	12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	1402888	35	1877393	40	1289656	29
4.	Bihar	3859630	22	3822484	26	2454074	26
5.	Chhattisgarh	2284963	58	2270415	55	1272559	47
6.	Gujarat	290691	31	850691	25	1078886	27
7.	Haryana	70869	50	162932	42	95864	33
8.	Himachal Pradesh	271099	36	445713	46	322729	41
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	116800	32	199166	40	107095	32
10.	Jharkhand	1679868	44	1576348	48	1082907	46
11.	Karnataka	549994	36	896212	32	1350855	45
12.	Kerala	185392	33	692015	22	493453	18
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4346916	63	5207665	57	2861505	44
14.	Maharashtra	474695	39	906297	46	473329	40
15.	Manipur	112549	43	381109	75	366893	61
16.	Meghalaya	106042	39	224263	38	227273	23
17.	Mizoram	88940	35	172775	73	178840	42
18.	Nagaland	115331	21	296689	68	297257	51
19.	Orissa	1096711	37	1199006	36	565168	32
20.	Punjab	49690	39	147336	27	134116	23
21.	Rajasthan	2170460	77	6373093	76	5485454	60
22.	Sikkim	19664	44	52006	51	49053	38
23.	Tamil Nadu	1234818	52	3345648	36	2878040	52
24.	Tripura	423724	43	549022	64	491449	33
25.	Uttar Pradesh	4096408	33	4336466	52	3227258	45
26.	Uttaranchal	189263	42	298741	35	292757	29
27.	West Bengal	3843335	25	3025854	26	2879180	23
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands			5975	17	9068	15
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli			1919	25	2314	18
30.	Daman and Diu			NR	NR	NR	NR
31.	Goa			NR	NR	1795	23
32.	Lakshadweep			3024	60	4055	29
33.	Puducherry			12264	13	12067	22
Total		33889122	42	45112792	48	35179980	43

*[English]***Special Central Assistance**

\*352. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:  
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

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

(a) the quantum of Special Central Assistance (SCA) provided and utilised during the Tenth Five Year Plan under the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP);

(b) whether the SCA continues in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

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

(d) whether some States have defaulted in the implementation of the above scheme; and

(e) if so, the action taken against such States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) The amount of Special Central Assistance released during Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07), and its utilization, as reported by State Governments, is given below:

Total Amount Released	:	Rs. 2078.8 Cr.
Total Amount Utilized	:	Rs. 2318.1 Cr.

The amount utilized includes expenditure out of unspent balance remaining with State Governments from before the Tenth Plan period.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Special Central Assistance (SCA) is given to State Governments/UT Administrations as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP), for the following objectives:

- (i) to give a thrust to family oriented schemes of economic development of Scheduled Castes below the poverty line.
- (ii) infrastructure development in villages with more than 50% SC population.

(d) Delhi, Goa, and Manipur could not get any SCA during 2007-08 and 2008-09, and Uttarakhand and Puducherry during 2008-09.

(e) The matter has been taken up with the concerned States Governments/UT Administrations for appropriate action.

**Development Funds for Gram Panchayats**

\*353. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of development funds allocated/paid directly by the Union Government to the gram panchayats;

(b) whether the Government proposes to allocate development funds to the gram panchayats, in order to fill the gap left by the Central and State Rural Development Schemes and for their effective functioning;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj do not allocate/release funds directly to the Gram Panchayats.

(b) to (d) The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) programme implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj provides financial resources to the State Governments for onward transmission to the Panchayats and the Municipalities who are the implementing agencies in 250 identified Backward Districts, so as to bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and other development requirements.

**Fishing Vessels**

\*354. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines/norms prescribed for providing berthing to fishing vessels at major ports including the cyclonic period/forecasting;

(b) whether the Government has banned entry of fishing vessels at major ports during cyclonic weather on the coast;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has fixed punitive rates for berthing of fishing vessels even for short periods;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to review such tariff?

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

(a) The Government has prescribed no guidelines/norms for providing berthing to fishing vessels at major ports.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

#### Implementation of PURA

\*355. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented the Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) scheme from 2004-05 to bridge the gap between rural and urban areas;

(b) if so, the detail of achievements made so far in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to further expand this scheme keeping in view the exodus of rural people to urban areas;

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

(e) the further steps proposed to be taken by the government for generation of employment opportunities in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (e) The PURA scheme was implemented on a pilot basis w.e.f 2004-05 for a period of three years in seven clusters, one each in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. The scheme was based on the concept of bridging the rural urban divide and achieving balanced socio economic development. It was aimed at providing the physical and social infrastructure in the identified rural clusters to further their growth potential. The budget provision for each year of 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was Rs. 10 Crores. Against the release of Rs. 30 crores during the pilot phase, the States have reported an expenditure of Rs. 25.54 crores as on 30.11.2009. A statement indicating the physical and financial progress is annexed. The pilot phase ended in March, 2007.

Based on the experience of pilot projects, inputs received from Ministries/Departments and other sources, the restructured PURA scheme is under consideration of the Government.

#### Statement

*Release and Expenditure under pilot phase of PURA scheme as on 30.11.2009*

(Rs. Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Name of the cluster and district	Amount released during 2004-05 to 2006-07	Cumulative expenditure upto 30.11.09	Achievements
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	Gohpur Dist: Sonitpur	386.00	390.83	A total of 73 works under road connectivity were sanctioned, out of which 45 works related to road improvement whereby small existing roads have been broadened, raised and extended by

1	2	3	4	5	6
					<p>earth-work. 25 R.C.C. culverts have been constructed at vantage points to ensure water drainage throughout the year. 3 road works are for Black Topping.</p> <p>The work relating to construction of 2 science laboratory, 3 knowledge centre, 1 godown for agriculture produce and 1 multi chamber cold storage facility have been completed.</p> <p>The work relating to setting up a marketing centre including a slaughter house, construction of Kisan Ghar and drainage and sewerage have been completed.</p> <p>6 road works for providing BT surface and 6 road works for gravelling were taken. All works have been completed.</p> <p>In case of drinking water, 6 works were sanctioned and all of them have been completed. In case of Aanganwadi centres, 2 works were sanctioned and both have been completed. In case of setting up of Common Facility Centre (CFC), a training hall with a provision of 200 machines is being constructed.</p>
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Rayadurg Dist. Annatpur	328.80	297.10	<p>13 road works were undertaken, out of which 12 works were completed and 1 road work is in progress.</p> <p>In case of market connectivity, the construction of shops and platforms are in progress.</p>
3.	Bihar	Motipur Dist: Muzzafarpur	384.00	344.798	<p>In case of road connectivity, out of 32 road works 19 have been completed, 11 are ongoing and 2 have not been started.</p> <p>In case of drinking water, out of 5 works 1 work has been completed, 4 are in progress.</p> <p>In case of employment generation, 21 groups have been selected and activities like Jaggary Making Unit, Banana Chips, Dall Mill etc. have been identified. Administrative sanctions for 16 activities have been accorded and works are in progress.</p> <p>In case of setting up of library and shopping complex, the work is under progress.</p>
4.	Maharashtra	Basmath Dist: Hingoli	427.30	357.36	<p>13 road works were taken up and all the road works have been completed.</p> <p>In case of market connectivity, construction of 50 shop rooms are in progress at Bhutmundai and Paradeepgada.</p> <p>In case of power connectivity, the work is under progress.</p>
5.	Orissa	Kujanga Dist: Jagat Singhpur	545.00	332.41	

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Rajasthan	Shahpura Dist: Bhilwara	401	297.71	In case of road connectivity, out of 18 road works 7 have been completed and 11 are ongoing. In case of education, 15 class rooms have been constructed. In case of health, construction of Aanganwadi centre in Nimbahera and Aarni villages has been completed. In case of Computer/Internet Connectivity/Rural Capacity Building centre, actual works are yet to be started, though letter of expression of interest has been issued.
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Bharthana Dist: Etawah	527.90	534.06	Work relating to 44.50 km of bricks laying (kharanza), repairing of old kharanza of 15 km and 2.60 Km of road (along both side drain) have been completed. In case of market connectivity, 4 market shops/godown have been constructed. In case of setting up of 3 mini stadiums and wrestling facilities, the work has been completed.
Total			3000.00	2554.26	

### Restructuring of BSNL

\*356. SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the market share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last three years;

(b) whether the market share of the company has come down in the recent past due to managerial reasons apart from the prevailing competitive environment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to rehaul the company and increase the management focus?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The market share of BSNL during the last three years and the current year is given below:

Year	Wireline Market Share	Wireless Market Share	Total Market Share
2006-07	82.75	18.66	31.29
2007-08	80.05	15.64	24.10
2008-09	77.42	13.32	18.98
2009-10 upto 31.10.09	76.03	12.18	16.71

(b) and (c) The market share of the company has come down mainly due to fiercely competitive environment and not due to managerial reasons. In the highly competitive telecom sector, BSNL, being a Central Public Sector Undertaking, has to follow established institutional procedures in its various functions, which is not required in a private company.

(d) BSNL has undertaken organization restructuring with a view to provide end-to-end focus on different

businesses. Under this, separate business units have been created as follows:

- Consumer Fixed Access Unit - Responsible for products such as landline, public call office, broadband and related value added services.
- Consumer Mobility Unit - Responsible for products such as mobile, WiMAX and related value added services.
- Enterprise & Wholesale Unit - To serve medium and large enterprises, carriers and internet service providers.
- New Business Unit - Responsible for new business opportunities in passive infrastructure such as towers, power plant etc.

In each of these business units following measures are taken to improve performance:

- Separate dedicated teams have been set up for Sale and Distribution network.
- Improving customer care, better feedback and after sales service.
- Increasing focus on revenue assurance through more efficient billing and collection of bad debts.

*[Translation]*

#### **Industrial Corridor**

\*357. SHRI NARAYAN SINGH AMLABE: Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the precise advantages envisaged from the proposed Industrial Corridors;

(b) whether funding pattern of the same has been finalized;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of the States in which industries under the Delhi—Mumbai Industrial Corridor scheme are proposed to be set up; and

(e) the progress made thereunder so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) Industrial Corridors aim at creating strong economic base with globally competitive environment and state-of-the-art infrastructure to activate local commerce, enhance foreign investments and attain sustainable development. The Concept Paper on Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project for which Project planning work has already begun envisages that the development of DMIC would result in doubling the employment potential, tripling the industrial output and quadrupling exports from the DMIC region, in the first five years. Another industrial corridor namely, the Chennai-Bengalooru-Mumbai Industrial Corridor [renamed as Peninsular Region Industrial Development (PRIDE) Corridor] Project is currently only at the conceptual stage.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Project Influence Area of DMIC project covers parts of the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

(e) The Government of India accorded '*in-principle*' approval to the project outline of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project in August, 2007 which envisages inter-alia Project Development Work for implementation through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. A Special Purpose Vehicle named DMIC Development Corporation (DMICDC) was incorporated in January, 2008. The project planning work has begun.

*[English]*

#### **Rural Road Development Scheme**

\*358. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rise in prices of steel, cement and bitumen prices may likely derail the ongoing rural roads development scheme under the Bharat Nirman Programme;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?



THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C. P. JOSHI): (a) to (c) Increase in the prices of steel, cement and bitumen does affect the rural roads development schemes under the Bharat Nirman Programme. However, contracts for construction of roads are fixed price contracts and hence changes in the prices of steel, cement and bitumen subsequent to award of contract does not affect the contract value. The Ministry of Rural Development permits States on case to case basis to revise the estimated cost of projects in order to accommodate increase in the prices of steel, cement & bitumen upto 75 days from the date of clearance issued by the Ministry. This revision is allowed only for projects which have not been awarded.

*[Translation]*

#### **Ban on Mobile Sets**

\*359 SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Department of Telecom has decided to ban mobile sets not having International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers with effect from December, 2009;

(b) if so, the number of mobile sets likely to become functionless in this regard;

(c) whether a large number of mobile sets having fake IMEI numbers are being sold in the market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Directions were issued on 27th April, 2009 that calls from mobile handsets without International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) or with all zeroes as IMEI are not processed and rejected with effect from 2400 hours of 30th June, 2009. Further, directions were issued on 3rd September, 2009 that calls from mobile handsets with any IMEI number which is not available in the latest updated IMEI database of GSMA, (Global System for

Mobile Communications Association) along with without IMEI or all zeroes as IMEI are also not processed and rejected with effect from 2400 hours of 30th Nov., 2009. Similar instructions were issued in respect of Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA)-based networks for handsets without Electronic Serial Number (ESN)/Mobile Equipment Identifier (MEID) numbers.

Since imported and indigenously manufactured mobile handsets are freely available in the market from the beginning of liberalization of telecommunications services sector for provisioning of mobile services and the subscriber is free to procure handsets from the market, the number of mobile sets likely to be functionless as a result of above instructions and the number of mobile sets having fake IMEI numbers cannot be estimated.

Further, Ministry of Commerce has already banned import of mobile handsets without IMEI or with all zeroes IMEI as well as CDMA handsets without ESN/MEID or with all zeroes ESN/MEID.

*[English]*

#### **FDI in India**

\*360. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) India's rank amongst the developing countries in terms of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow alongwith the volume and percentage of FDI attracted by India every year during the last five years;

(b) The sectors in which FDI flow was low against the target alongwith the reasons in terms of both the world volume and in comparison without total approved FDI;

(c) Whether the impact of low FDI inflow has affected the growth rate in India during the last year; and

(d) If so, the details thereof, sector-wise and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) India's rank, amongst the developing countries, as per the UNCTAD World Investment Report (WIR) 2009 data, in terms of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows, along with the volume and percentage of FDI attracted by India every year, is as under:

*India's Ranking in terms of FDI Inflows among Developing Countries and its share to Total World Inflows since 2004*

Sl.No.	Year (Jan.-Dec.)	Rank/Position of India Among Developing Countries as per WIR 2009 Data	India's Share to total World inflows (%) (as per WIR Data)
1.	2004	12	00.79
2.	2005	13	00.78
3.	2006	4	1.39
4.	2007	6	1.27
5.	2008	4	2.45

*Volume of FDI Inflows in India, as per international best practices, and their percentage growth over the previous year since 2004-05*

Financial Year	FDI Inflows as per International Practices (US \$ billion)	Percentage growth
2004-05	6.05	(+) 40%
2005-06	8.96	(+) 48%
2006-07	22.83	(+) 146%
2007-08*	34.36	(+)51%
2008-09*	35.17	(+) 2%

\*Provisional

(b) Targets are not fixed for FDI inflows for various sectors. A statement on sector-wise FDI inflows during April 2004 to September 2009, financial year wise, is enclosed.

(c) FDI inflows have shown an increasing trend on year to year basis since the year 2004-05. During the global economic downturn in the financial year 2008-09, FDI inflows grew by only 2% over the previous year, as compared to the growth of 51% evidenced in the financial year 2007-08. However, in the financial year 2009-10, FDI equity inflows for the months of June, July, August and October, 2009, have shown an increasing trend, as compared to the FDI equity inflows received during the same months in the previous financial year (2008-09).

(d) Government has put in place a simple and transparent policy for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), including investments from Non-resident Indians (NRIs), wherein most of the sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis through inter - Ministerial consultations with a view to attract FDI in more industries and sectors.

Government has also announced a number 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 has announced the setting up of 'Invest India', a joint venture company between the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion and FICCI, as a not-for-profit, single window facilitator, for prospective overseas investors and to act as a structured mechanism to attract investment.

The Government of India also undertakes investment promotion activities by organising events such as 'Destination India' and 'Invest India' in various countries with FDI 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 Governments 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**

*Sector-wise FDI Inflows  
from April 2004 to September 2009*

(Amount in million)

Sl.No	Sector	Amount of FDI Inflows		% age of Total Inflows
		(In Rs.)	(In US\$)	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Services Sector	934,541.21	21,061.33	23.87
2.	Computer Software & Hardware	354,583.68	8,048.02	9.06
3.	Housing & Real Estate (Including Cineplex, Multiplex, Integrated Townships & Commercial Complexes Etc.)	328,548.56	7,380.08	8.39
4.	Telecommunications	321,430.89	7,054.95	8.21
5.	Construction Activities	263,831.98	6,049.15	6.74
6.	Power	154,044.32	3,447.44	3.93
7.	Automobile Industry	143,816.39	3,200.77	3.67
8.	Metallurgical Industries	123,917.53	2,903.30	3.17
9.	Petroleum and Natural Gas	96,629.93	2,260.84	2.47
10.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	85,309.47	1,898.04	2.18
11.	Trading	76,380.40	1,762.47	1.95
12.	Electrical Equipments	74,904.94	1,665.79	1.91
13.	Agriculture Services	69,186.15	1,449.28	1.77
14.	Hotel & Tourism	68,907.43	1,546.47	1.76
15.	Information & Broadcasting (Including Print Media)	66,609.75	1,477.85	1.70
16.	Cement and Gypsum Products	63,665.16	1,454.55	1.63
17.	Ports	57,488.88	1,424.93	1.47
18.	Consultancy Services	56,978.17	1,274.17	1.46
19.	Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	56,285.78	1,281.90	1.44
20.	Fermentation Industries	30,858.03	720.24	0.79
21.	Textiles (Including Dyed,Printed)	30,576.16	685.01	0.78
22.	Hospital & Diagnostic Centres	27,102.24	639.76	0.69
23.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering Industries	26,795.64	606.65	0.68
24.	Mining	24,466.98	587.80	0.62

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Food Processing Industries	20,898.43	466.03	0.53
26.	Sea Transport	18,978.51	425.99	0.48
27.	Ceramics	17,243.21	404.91	0.44
28.	Electronics	16,801.59	385.05	0.43
29.	Industrial Machinery	16,338.71	367.05	0.42
30.	Education	15,702.08	336.46	0.40
31.	Paper and Pulp (Including Paper Products)	14,905.94	344.45	0.38
32.	Machine Tools	12,157.81	269.54	0.31
33.	Diamond, Gold Ornaments	10,617.80	238.40	0.27
34.	Air Transport (Including Air Freight)	9,636.23	219.37	0.25
35.	Rubber Goods	9,434.79	205.21	0.24
36.	Non-conventional Energy	9,027.57	196.38	0.23
37.	Printing of Books (Including Litho Printing Industry)	8,512.70	186.42	0.22
38.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	7,480.20	160.99	0.19
39.	Soaps, Cosmetics & Toilet Preparations	6,768.49	150.98	0.17
40.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	5,978.37	128.13	0.15
41.	Agricultural Machinery	5,794.78	130.19	0.15
42.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipments	5,582.18	125.97	0.14
43.	Earth-moving Machinery	5,082.85	120.33	0.13
44.	Railway Related Components	3,400.05	77.49	0.09
45.	Tea and Coffee (Processing & Warehousing Coffee & Rubber)	2,884.88	64.45	0.07
46.	Fertilizers	2,793.72	64.54	0.07
47.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	2,538.35	63.00	0.06
48.	Retail Trading (Single Brand)	2,164.74	47.43	0.06
49.	Glass	1,892.79	43.03	0.05
50.	Sugar	1,643.38	37.55	0.04
51.	Industrial Instruments	1,359.02	28.77	0.03
52.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	977.71	22.24	0.02
53.	Timber Products	659.03	13.50	0.02

1	2	3	4	5
54.	Coal Production	622.81	15.60	0.02
55.	Dye-Stuffs	528.04	11.88	0.01
56.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	236.70	5.35	0.01
57.	Prime Mover (Other than Electrical Generators)	178.30	3.72	0.00
58.	Glue and Gelatin	95.74	2.40	0.00
59.	Coir	53.07	1.18	0.00
60.	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing Instruments	50.30	1.27	0.00
61.	Scientific Instruments	45.00	1.04	0.00
62.	Defence Industries	6.87	0.15	0.00
63.	Miscellaneous Industries	138,838.27	3,181.25	3.55
Grand Total		3,914,770.69	88,428.46	

#### Funds under Swajaldhara Scheme

3770. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:  
SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV:  
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Union Government for release of second instalment of grants under Swajaldhara Scheme 2005-06, in respect of Raichur District in June, 2007;

(b) if so, whether there is an amount of Rs. 63.70 lakhs pending for release of second instalment to the Raichur District;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has sent a reminder letter to the Union Government in April, 2009;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has considered the request of the Karnataka Government; and

(e) if so, the time by which the second instalment of grants is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA):

(a) to (e) Yes, Madam. The proposal for release of 2nd and final installment of Rs. 63.70 lakh for Swajaldhara 2005-06 for Raichur was sent by the State Government in August 2007. No funds were released to the district, as the expenditure reported as per their Utilization Certificate was only 53% of the available funds. The Guidelines prescribed a minimum of 60% expenditure for eligibility of release of 2nd instalment. No further communication has been received from the State Government of Karnataka.

With the implementation of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) from 1.4.2009, no separate funds will be released by the Government of India for ongoing rural water supply projects/schemes taken up under Swajaldhara. All States are now allocated funds at the beginning of the year as per prescribed criteria and funds released accordingly. The Central share of the ongoing Swajaldhara projects can be met out of the NRDWP funds released to the State.

[Translation]

#### Connecting Panchayats with Roads

3771. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:  
SHRI RAMESH RATHOD:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide assistance for connecting Panchayats directly with roads and allocation of funds thereto; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the mode of investment, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) No Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

#### **Pension to ESIC Employees by SBI**

3772. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pension of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Hospitals/Dispensaries proposes to be disbursed through State Bank of India (SBI) has been revised as per the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission and accepted by the Government/ESIC;

(b) if so, the date from which the revised pension has been credited to the pensioners accounts;

(c) If not, the reasons for the delay;

(d) whether any time frame has been fixed by the SBI to complete the outstanding exercise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the rate of interest payable on accruing arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) Yes, Madam. The pension in each individual case has been revised as per recommendation of Sixth Pay Commission as accepted by the Government and adopted by the ESI Corporation. All the pension orders have been issued to the retired medical officers.

Pension in respect of 29 medical officers have been revised and 14 medical officers have opted to draw the pension from State Bank of India (SBI). SBI has been directed to workout the arrears and make payment to the individual pensioners account. The Field Offices of ESIC have been directed to strictly ensure the timely

payment of arrears to the pensioners positively by 30.09.2009.

The relevant instructions of Government of India on payment of arrears of pension do not provide for payment of interest.

[*Translation*]

#### **Lift Water Supply Project**

3773. SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to undertake Barmer Lift water supply project to ensure long-term water supply to defence establishments as well as civilian population in Jaisalmer and Barmer district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the proposed expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the time schedule for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Barmer Lift Water Supply Scheme is a State Government Project and is being implemented by Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Government of Rajasthan. The Project would cater to the drinking water needs of Military and civilian population in Jaisalmer and Barmer Districts. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 845.66 Crore out of which the Defence share has been worked out as Rs. 242.56 Crore on the basis of share of water for Defence. In addition Rs. 39.39 Crore has been estimated for works connected with water supply to Military areas to be executed by Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Government of Rajasthan and Rs. 26.63 Crore is estimated for infrastructure works at Military Stations, to be executed by Military Engineering Service (MES). Thus the Ministry of Defence proposes to incur an expenditure of Rs. 308.58 Crore for the project.

(c) As per information furnished by Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Government of Rajasthan, the project is scheduled to be completed by March, 2011.

#### **Inclusion of Mev Samaj in OBC's list**

3774. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to include Mev Samaj in other Backward Classes (OBCs) list; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Postal Distribution Zones**

3775. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of postal distribution zones in the country including Delhi, State-wise;

(b) the number of colonies fall in each such postal distribution zone, separately, State-wise;

(c) the number of postmen deployed in each postal distribution zone, State-wise;

(d) whether the number of postmen has decreased in comparison to population and zones in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of postmen deployed in the country including Delhi 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) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **SEZs in Gujarat**

3776. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) proposed and approved in Gujarat State during the last three years;

(b) the amount of assistance provided to them during the last three years; and

(c) the details regarding performance in terms of employment and export of the said SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Out of 50 formally approved SEZs in Gujarat, 30 have since been notified. Notification of a SEZ is done only on compliance of requisite statutory requirements. As regards new proposals for setting up of SEZs, including those in Gujarat, the Board of Approval (BOA) considers them only when the concerned State Government recommends and the proposal is found to be complete in all respects.

(b) No financial assistance is provided to private SEZs. However, fiscal benefits in the form of duty concessions and such other facilities as envisaged in the SEZ Act, 2005 and Rules frame thereunder are admissible to SEZs.

(c) SEZs in Gujarat have generated direct employment for 44,025 persons and exports worth Rs. 39,570.48 crore during first two quarter of the current financial year.

*[English]*

#### **Package for Small Scale Industry Exporters**

3777. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering the need for special relief package for Small Scale Industry exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Union Budget 2009-10, provides a number of incentives for the promotion of exports, which include extension of interest subvention of 2% on pre-shipment credit for seven employment oriented export sectors upto 31.03.2010; provision of Rs. 4,000 crores as special fund out of Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF) to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI); extension of Adjustment Assistance Scheme to provide enhanced Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation cover at 95 per cent to badly hit sectors upto March 2010, etc. Foreign Trade Policy (2009-14) also prescribes a number of measures for the promotion of exports. These measures apply to Small Scale Industry exporters also.

### Implementation of Social Justice Acts

3778. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any mechanism to monitor the implementation of the recent Acts pertaining to social justice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether implementation of these Acts requires extended infrastructure and functionaries;

(d) if so, whether the Government has provided adequate funds to the States for the purpose;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, was enacted in 2007. The Act comes into force upon notification by the State Governments/UTs. National Council for Older Persons, which is an Apex National level Consultative body inter-alia also monitors the progress of implementation of the Act.

(c) to (f) The State Governments and UTs are required to notify the Act for implementation. As per the provisions of the Act the existing infrastructure and functionaries of the district like District Social Welfare Officer, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and District Magistrate are required to be notified as Maintenance officers, heads of Maintenance Tribunals and Appellate Tribunals under the Act.

So far 22 States and all UTs have notified the Act and are taking action in this regard.

### Purchase of Items by DGS and D

3779. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government Departments are authorized to purchase items directly on DGS and D on rate-contract without obtaining the prior approval of DGS and D; and

(b) if so, the details of the instructions issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes Madam, As per the rules contained in the General Financial Rules-2005 issued by the Ministry of Finance, the Government Departments are authorized to purchase items directly on DGS&D Rate Contract without obtaining prior approval of DGS&D.

(b) The Rules are as under:-

#### Rule 141. Rate contract:

The Central Purchase Organisation (*e.g.* DGS&D) shall conclude rate contracts with the registered suppliers, for goods and items of standard types, which are identified as common user items and are needed on recurring basis by various Central Government Ministries or Departments. The Central Purchase Organisation will furnish and update all the relevant details of the rate contracts in its web site. The Ministries or Departments shall follow those rate contracts to the maximum extent possible.

#### Rule 147. Purchase of goods directly under rate contract:

(1) In case a Ministry or Department directly procures Central Purchase Organisation (*e.g.*, DGS&D) rate contracted goods from suppliers, the prices to be paid for such goods shall not exceed those stipulated in the rate contract and the other salient terms and conditions of the purchase should be in line with those specified in the rate contract. The Ministry or Department shall make its own arrangements for inspection and testing of such goods where required.

### SEZs in Uttar Pradesh

3780. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) proposed, approved and operational in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of proposals pending for setting up of SEZs in the State; and

(c) the details of exports made, employment generated and performance of operational SEZs in the State?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Out of 34 formally approved SEZs in Uttar Pradesh, 16 have since been notified, besides, the Noida SEZ as set up by the Central Government. A total of 6 SEZs are already exporting.

Notification of a SEZ is done only on compliance of requisite statutory requirements. As regards new proposals for setting up of SEZs, including those in Uttar Pradesh, the Board of Approval (BOA) considers them only when the concerned State Government recommends and the proposals is found to be complete in all respects.

SEZs in Uttar Pradesh, SEZs have generated direct employment for 41,820 persons and exports worth Rs. 7,689.50 crore during first two quarter of the current financial year.

#### **Foreign Exchange Services**

3781. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has tied up with banks to provide foreign exchange services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of locations covered under the scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to expand the services in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; 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) Yes, Madam. Department of Posts has tied up with HDFC Bank Ltd. to provide foreign exchange service in select Post Offices across the country. Department of Posts has been given 'Full Fledged Money Changer's License' by Reserve Bank of India under Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999 to undertake money changing business. Based on the license, Department of Posts is providing foreign exchange services through 122 Post Offices across the country.

State-wise break up of the Post Offices, where India Post Forex Services are provided, is given below:

Sl.No.	State	Number of Post Offices
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9
2.	Delhi	28
3.	Goa	4
4.	Gujarat	8
5.	Haryana	5
6.	Karnataka	6
7.	Kerala	10
8.	Maharashtra	17
9.	Punjab	5
10.	Rajasthan	4
11.	Tamil Nadu	8
12.	Uttar Pradesh	7
13.	West Bengal	11
Total		122

(c) to (e) Expansion of Foreign Exchange services is an ongoing process and it is based on the approval from RBI, customer demand and other business requirements.

#### **Extension of Validity time for SEZs**

3782. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the SEZ developers have been seeking the extension of validity period to develop the SEZs;

(b) if so, the reasons for seeking extension and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has evolved any guidelines for granting extension; 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) Requests for extension of validity

period beyond the initial period of three years have been received from Developers citing the global economic slowdown/delay in getting requisite clearances etc., as grounds for extension. Having regard to the provisions of the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules; 2006 and grounds cited, the Board of Approval (BOA) have permitted extension of validity of 89 SEZs beyond the initial 3 years subject to the same terms and conditions as envisaged in the original approval. Requests for extension are considered on merits.

[*Translation*]

#### Financial Assistance for Cultivation of Jatropha

3783. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:  
SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to Non-Government Organizations and individuals for cultivation of Jatropha during each of the last two years and the current year, State-wise.

(b) the details of area of land under jatropha cultivation as on date, State-wise: and

(c) the mechanism adopted by the Government for procurement of Jatropha seeds for production of bio-fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board (Ministry of Agriculture), has not provided financial assistance to Non-Government Organizations and individuals for cultivation of Jatropha during each of the last two year and the current year.

(b) and (c) NOVOD Board has undertaken the model plantation of Jatropha on government and institutional land over an area of 12678 ha. upto 2008-09 through government & semi government organizations. The state-wise details of Jatropha cultivation on government land are given in the enclosed Statement.

The programme of Jatropha are at Research and Development stage, Initial model plantation have been undertaken on Government and institutional Land and to provide quality seeds and planting material to the farmers in subsequent years.

#### Statement

*Model plantation with superior planting material—Jatropha*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Area (in ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	440
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	185
3.	Bihar	10
4.	Chhattisgarh	724
5.	Gujarat	1822
6.	Haryana	532
7.	Jharkhand	750
8.	Karnataka	404
9.	Kerala	50
10.	Manipur	400
11.	Mizoram	900
12.	Meghalaya	200
13.	Maharashtra	1994
14.	Madhya Pradesh	850
15.	Nagaland	540
16.	Rajasthan	227
17.	Sikkim	100
18.	Tripura	150
19.	Tamil Nadu	557
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1024
21.	Uttarakhand	718
22.	West Bengal	100

Total = 12678 ha. Plantation completed.

[*English*]

#### Trade Between India and France

3784. SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of trade between India and France during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to explore new areas for improving trade with France; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) During the last three years the total trade between India and France was to the tune of US \$ 22.74 billion.

(in US\$ billion)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09*
India's exports	2.09	2.60	2.99
India's imports	4.21	6.25	4.60
Total Trade	6.30	8.85	7.59

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. In order to explore new areas for improving trade with France regularly, government to government bilateral discussions are held regularly through Indo-French Joint Committee and Joint Working Groups in the sectors of mutual interest.

Bilateral Agreements/MOUs have been signed for cooperation in areas of Investment Promotion & Protection, Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Forestry and Food Industries, Small & Medium Sized Enterprises and Intellectual Property Rights.

The Government encourages business to business cooperation and participation of Indian exporters in international exhibitions and fairs. This has resulted in improvement in exports.

#### **Proposal for Introduction of City Survey**

3785. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposal from Karnataka for introduction of city survey in 222 towns and cities with total cost of Rs. 17,000 lakhs to the Government in May, 2006;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in releasing the financial assistance;

(d) the time by which required amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) While it has been reported by Government of Karnataka that the proposal for introduction of city survey in 222 towns and cities was sent to Government of India during May, 2006, the proposal does not appear to have been received.

(b) to (d) During 2006-07, the Department of Land Resources was in the process of formulation of a modified scheme of Comprehensive Modernization of Land Records (CMLR), combining the key components of the then two schemes of Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA&ULR) and Computerization of Land Records (CLR), viz., survey/resurvey by use of modern survey equipments, computerization/digitization of land records, training etc, and with a more comprehensive scope. During May, 2004, the State Government had projected a requirement of Rs. 190.00 crore for carrying out resurvey of all Government lands in Phase-I. Accordingly, the State Government was requested to project their requirement for resurvey operations while formulating proposals for release of funds under the modified scheme. They were also requested that the proposals for resurvey may be framed by the State Government in consultation with the Survey of India. Under the newly introduced modified Scheme of the National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP), resurvey/survey of rural areas are only being considered on priority basis.

#### **Transportation of Ammonia**

3786. SHRI A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to use the waterways for transporting ammonia and other hazardous chemicals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of ammonia being transported through waterways during each of the last three years and the current year, waterways-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) to (c) The Inland Waterways Authority of India is developing three National Waterways 1, 2 & 3 namely Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad, Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri and the West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogmandal and Champakara canals respectively for inland shipping and navigation by providing basic inland water transport infrastructure *i.e.* navigational channel,

navigational aids and terminals. This mode of transport is considered to be most suitable and safe mode for transporting chemicals and hazardous goods. Transportation of liquified Ammonia and other chemicals such as petroleum products, sulphur, phosphoric acid, rock phosphate, furnace oil, zinc ore, etc has been done successfully on National Waterway - 3 in the past. However, no transportation of Ammonia has taken place in the National Waterways during the current year and last three years.

### Export of Processed Fish Products

3787. SHRI K.P. DHANAPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total export of processed fish products in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the measures being taken by the Government to improve export of processed fish products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The details of export of fish products from the port of each of the coastal states are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The Government is operating the following schemes for improving export of processed fish products:

- (i) Assistance to for setting up quality control laboratories by subsidizing 25% of the capital cost towards subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,50,000/-.
- (ii) Assistance to construct/renovate captive/independent pre-processing centres as per EU/HACCP guidelines by subsidizing 50% of the cost incurred. For independent pre-processing centres, the maximum subsidy is Rs. 22 lakh and-for captive pre-processing centres, it is Rs. 15 lakh.
- (iii) An Interest Subsidy scheme for upgrading the processing facilities to achieve equivalency to EU/GOI norms.
- (iv) In addition to above, Government is implementing various technical and financial assistance schemes for the benefit of the seafood industry for establishing infrastructure facility to boost export of marine products, as per details given in the enclosed Statement-II.

### Statement I

#### State-wise Export details of Indian Marine Products

Name of States	2008-09			2007-08			2006-07		
	Quantity in Ton	Value in Rs. Crore	US\$ (Mil)	Quantity in Ton	Value in Rs. Crore	US\$ (Mil)	Quantity in Ton	Value in Rs. Crore	US\$ (Mil)
Gujarat	164,725	1,485.71	325.25	150,727	1,141.97	285.46	188,166	1,264.60	281.30
Maharashtra	129,128	1,662.54	367.83	107,136	1,236.01	308.16	140,029	1,346.18	298.33
Karnataka	33,074	237.87	52.68	26,144	161.99	40.50	26,712	149.26	32.99
Goa	21,146	185.16	42.04	19,297	111.22	27.80	16,152	89.45	19.70
Kerala	100,476	1,551.56	345.65	100,133	1,415.01	352.27	108,440	1,512.59	337.36
Tamil Nadu	66,143	1,711.59	381.11	70,971	1,771.90	440.58	71,135	2,024.98	447.64
Andhra Pradesh	37,756	943.98	210.12	37,663.80	1,032.53	257.16	36,594.34	1,264.75	278.88
West Bengal	46,766	729.74	161.96	27,108	680.20	169.69	22,712	647.27	142.42
Orissa	0	0.00	0.00	6	0.45	0.11	0	0.00	0.00
Assam	186	0.757133	0.16998	17,585	0.568751	0.14262	222.944	0.394637	0.08916
Grand Total	599,401	8,508.94	1,886.81	539,203	7,551.85	1,881.89	610,163	8,299.47	1,838.71

**Statement II***Schemes Operated for Increasing Export of Processed Fish Products*

Sl.No.	Name of the scheme	Objective	Rate of assistance
1	2	3	4
<b>1.</b>	<b>Assistance for processing machinery and equipment for value addition</b>		
A.	Subsidy for acquisition of machinery for tuna cannery/processing of value added tuna product.	To assist seafood processors to set up tuna cannery/processing facilities for value added tuna products	25% of the cost of machinery and equipment subject to a maximum of Rs. 65.25 lakh.
B.	Technology Upgradation Scheme for Marine products (TUSMP).	To encourage seafood processors to set up new facility/expanding/diversifying their existing facilities for exporting value added seafood items	Type of Max. eligible subsidy (Rs. lakh) assistance Cat. I Cat. II Cat. III 1. Interest subsidy 150 125 125 2. Capital subsidy 100 85 85
<b>2.</b>	<b>Cold Chain</b>		
A.	Financial support for acquisition of Refrigerated Truck/ Containers.	To encourage seafood processors to acquire Refrigerated Trucks/ Containers for transportation of raw material/finished products.	25% of the cost of Refrigerated Truck/ Container, subject to a maximum of Rs. 3.50 lakh.
B.	Financial assistance to set up large cold storages.	To encourage individuals to establish cold storages for to keep the surplus sea food.	25% of the cost of the cold storage, subject to a maximum of Rs. 60.00 lakh.
C.	Assistance for the setting up of new/modern ice plants/ renovation of existing ice plants.	For ensuring quality ice for fish preservation	25% of the cost of the setting up ice plant subject to a maximum of Rs. 22 lakh for new units and Rs. 12 lakh for renovation.
D.	Subsidized distribution of insulated fish boxes.	For proper preservation of raw materials in iced condition in insulated fish boxes on board fishing vessel, in shrimp farms, pre-processing plants and processing plants.	Moulded synthetic insulated fish boxes of various capacity are distributed at 50% subsidy ranging from Rupees four thousand to Rupees one lakh.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Assistance to exporters of chilled fish</b>		
	Financial assistance for Creation of Basic Facilities (New) for Chilled Fish/Chilled Tuna for Export	To facilitate creation of adequate facilities necessary and essential for chilled fish export and also to ensure quality product for export markets.	$33\frac{1}{3}$ of the actual cost incurred with a maximum financial assistance of Rs. 35 lakh per beneficiary.

1	2	3	4
4.	<b>Financial Assistance for Creating Basic Facilities for Dried Fish Export</b>		
	There are two schemes:-	To promote effective utilization of low value fish <i>i.e.</i> dried for export hygienically.	Financial assistance for both the schemes is @33 $\frac{1}{3}$ of the actual cost incurred.
	Scheme-A Assistance for the setting up of dried fish handling/curing/solar drying facility (with LPG back up).	To upgrade the quality of dried fish exported and to realize higher value exported.	The maximum eligible subsidy for fish curing, drying facility will be Rs. 23.50 lakh per beneficiary.
	Scheme-B Assistance for the setting up of dried fish packing and storage facility by dried fish exporters registered with MPEDA.	To encourage the dry fish exporters to pack and store the dried fish hygienically.	A dried fish exporter registered with MPEDA will be eligible for a maximum assistance of Rs. 8.25 lakh.

### Setting up of Industries

3788. SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVDANJI GADHVI:  
SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI:

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

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the State Governments to set up industries in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu in the backward/tribal areas of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the norms and mode of investment;

(c) whether the Government has set up a Task Force of Ministers to review the policies and programmes of States for industrial promotion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The State Governments are primarily responsible for industrial development in their respective States. The Union Government supplement the efforts of the State Governments through various incentive schemes launched by it. The Government is implementing a special package of incentives/tax concessions for the special category States *viz.* the North

Eastern States (including Sikkim) and the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in view of the adverse geographical locations and other specificities of these States. Requests have been received from the Government of Gujarat and other VIPs for a special package for Kutch region of Gujarat. But, their request was not agreed as the State does not face similar adversities. No request has been received from Tamil Nadu.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

### Decline in Employment Opportunities

3789. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employment opportunities in rural areas is declining continuously in the country during each of the last three years and the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial surveys

conducted by National Sample Survey organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of surveys, the employment opportunities in rural areas were estimated at 251.22 million in 1999-2000 (55th round) and 278.08 million in 2004-05 (61st round).

Government of India has been implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes in rural areas such as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). Employment opportunities have been continuously increasing under these schemes. A statement showing employment generated in rural areas under these schemes is enclosed.

#### **Statement**

Sl.No.	Year	Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) (Swarozgaris assisted in lakh)	National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)- Persondays of employment generated (in crore)	Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) (Estimated Employment in lakh)
		Achievement	Achievement	Target
1.	2006-07	16.92	90.50	-
2.	2007-08	16.99	143.59	-
3.	2008-09	18.62	216.32	2.76**
4.	2009-10	6.31*	150.02***	6.17

\* till 30th September, 2009.

\*\* PMEGP was started during 2008-09.

\*\*\* till 31st October, 2009.

#### **Construction on Salt Pan Lands**

3790. SHRI SAMEER BHUJBAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal from Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA), Mumbai for making available Salt Pan Lands for the construction of missing link in Construction of Eastern Freeway from Museum to Anik Junction (Start of APLR) and Anik Panjarpole Link Road;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the Project/issues raised therein by MMRDA; and

(c) the steps taken by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion to facilitate the outcome of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) MMRDA had requested for a 'No Objection Certificate' for construction and development of Eastern Freeway & Anik Panjarpole Link Road (APLR) involving 51,440.79 sq meters of saltpan lands in City Survey No. 144 (Hormoz Salt works) and City Survey No. 210 (Dadkhudai Salt Works) of Wadala, Mumbai. These lands are under order of transfer to Ministry of Urban Development for using them for socio-economic purposes.

As per the request of the State Government of Maharashtra, The Government of India (GoI) had issued a notification on 27.1.1962 to close down certain salt works in the Wadala and Chembur areas in Mumbai. Dadkhudai, Rustom and Hormoz Salt works in Wadala Salt Factory Filed Civil Suits in the Mumbai City Civil Court Challenging the above Notification and got Interim orders restraining the Salt Department, GoI from Closing the Salt Works. Appeals filed by the Salt, Department, GoI in the Mumbai High Court have been Dismissed. Thus these Salt Works are Functioning on the said Salt Pan Land under perpetual injunction granted by the Mumbai City Civil Court.

#### **Welfare of Port Labourers/Workers**

3791. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for upliftment and welfare of labourers/workers engaged in major ports; and

(b) the funds allocated and released by the Government for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Major Port Trusts/Dock Labour Boards undertake various welfare measures for their employees/workers and the expenditure on this account is incurred by them from their internal funds and no funds are released directly by the Government for this purpose.

Major Port Trusts/Dock Labour Boards have undertaken various measures for the welfare of their employees/workers and their dependents. Main activities undertaken by them for this purpose are as under:-

- (i) Medical facilities
- (ii) Housing facilities
- (iii) Financial Assistance to members of families of employees dying in harness or invalidated on medical grounds.
- (iv) Educational facilities including vocational training classes.
- (v) Canteen facilities at subsidized rates.

- (vi) Scholarship for children studying in Schools and Colleges.
- (vii) Financial assistance for purchase of text books by the children studying in school/colleges.
- (viii) Set up women employees welfare committee.
- (ix) Sports and Recreational facilities.
- (x) Employees co-operative societies.
- (xi) Transport facilities at subsidized rates.
- (xii) Rest shelters

(b) Details of expenditure incurred by the Major Port Trusts/Dock Labour Boards on welfare activities are given in the enclosed Statement.

### **Statement**

*Details of expenditure incurred by Major Port Trusts/Dock Labour Boards on welfare scheme:*

Major Port Trusts/Dock Labour Boards incur expenditure on various welfare schemes for the benefit of their employees/workers. Details of expenditure incurred on various welfare activities are given below:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Port Trusts/DLB	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (spent so far/estimated)
1.	Chennai Port Trust	485	397	350	400
2.	Cochin Port Trust	775	893	834	1013
3.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust	125	125	230	200
4.	Kandla Port Trust	278	207	226	120
5.	Kolkata Port Trust	1763	3005	2704	1937
6.	Mormugao Port Trust	17	16	36	35
7.	Mumbai Port Trust	172	256	409	34
8.	New Mangalore Port Trust	152	196	169	143
9.	Paradip Port Trust	150	165	190	256
10.	Tuticorin Port Trust	25	25	25	25
11.	Visakhapatnam Port Trust	1484	1571	1576	828
12.	Calcutta Dock Labour Board	136	119	118	108

### **Captive Use Policy at Ports**

3792. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a committee to examine the policy for captive use at the Major Ports;

(b) if so, the details and composition thereof alongwith the term and reference of the said committee;

(c) whether the said committee have submitted their report;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said committee and the action taken by the Government thereon; and



(e) if not, the time by which the said committee is likely to submit their report.

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

(a) Yes, Madam. A committee was constituted in January 2009 to recommend various steps for increasing the efficiency of the ports. In addition to other policies, the Committee considered the policy on Captive Use at the Major Ports.

(b) The Committee was constituted to comprehensively look into the details and recommend various steps for increasing the efficiency of the ports and at the same time, for encouraging the private enterprise to take part in the functioning of the ports with a view to providing efficient and economic end-to-end solutions to the ultimate customers. The composition of the committee is as under:

- |    |  |   |          |
|----|--|---|----------|
| 1. | Shri Vijay Chhibber, AS&FA,<br>Ministry of Shipping      | — | Chairman |
| 2. | Shri Rahul Asthana, Chairman,<br>Mumbai Port Trust       | — | Member   |
| 3. | Shri Ajay Kallam, Chairman,<br>Visakhapatnam Port Trust  | — | Member   |
| 4. | Shri G.J. Rao, Chairman,<br>Tuticorin Port Trust         | — | Member   |
| 5. | Capt. Subhash Kumar, Dy.<br>Chairman, Chennai Port Trust | — | Member   |
| 6. | Shri A. J. Rao, Managing<br>Director, IPA                | — | Member   |

The Committee co-opted Dr. A.K. Chanda, Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust and Shri Rakesh Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Ports), Deptt. of Shipping as its other members. The Committee was assisted by Shri P. Krishnam Raju, Chief Administrative Officer, Indian Ports Association.

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam. The details of the recommendations on captive policy are given in the enclosed Statement. The recommendations have been examined and those found fit are being implemented.

#### **Statement**

##### *Recommendations of the Committee on Captive Policy*

- (i) In case there is no competition for creation of captive facilities, and requests for such captive/dedicated facilities are received from individual units to service for their own needs, the price

discovery shall be determined higher of the following:

50% of the wharfage and handling charges of the port as applicable;

OR

15% of the ROI of the investment made by the private enterprise on captive facilities including berth and handling equipment installed within the port area;

OR

A negotiated rate between the port and the entrepreneur.

- (ii) If a captive facility has been constructed by the captive users and not fully utilised, the port shall have the right to assign the use of the facilities to other users and collect charges such as wharfage, port dues, pilotage etc. from such other users. The berth hire charges shall also be collected by the port and passed on to the captive user. The cargo so handled for other users through such captive facility shall also be counted for the purpose of determining the MGT in that particular year. However, the berth hire charges will accrue to the port in addition to wharfage, port dues and pilotage, if the berth is constructed by the port.
- (iii) The security arrangements in respect of all captive facilities should be compatible with the security of the port where such projects are located.

#### **Skill Development Schemes For SC/ST Students**

3793. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new projects announced by the Union Government for the upliftment of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) students during the current financial year;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted proposals for setting up skill development model schools for SC/ST students; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) No new projects have been announced by the Government in this regard.

(b) Government of Kerala has not submitted any such proposal to this Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Port Blair-Kolkata Passenger Mainland Ship**

3794. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regular berthing of Port Blair-Kolkata

passenger mainland ship at Mayabunder jetty would be made available for embarkation and disembarkation;

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

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

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

(a) to (c) Kolkata bound passenger ships from Port Blair are berthed at Mayabunder port once in every month, both during onward and return journey. Details of berthing of Kolkata bound mainland-island ships at Mayabunder port and passenger traffic from February, 2009 to November, 2009 are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

*Details of berthing of Kolkata bound mainland and island vessel at Mayabunder port and passenger traffic from February, 2009 to November, 2009*

Date of departure	From	To	Voy. No.	Vessel	Via Port	Passenger embarked at Mayabunder	Passenger dis-embarked at Mayabunder
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21.02.2009	Port Blair	Kolkata	427	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	87	—
27.02.2009	Kolkata	Port Blair	428	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	—	44
06.03.2009	Port Blair	Kolkata	429	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	74	—
13.03.2009	Kolkata	Port Blair	430	Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	—	59
20.04.2009	Port Blair	Kolkata	437	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	18	—
25.04.2009	Kolkata	Port Blair	438	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	—	Nil
16.05.2009	Port Blair	Kolkata	441	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	Nil	—
22.05.2009	Kolkata	Port Blair	442	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	—	Nil
20.06.2009	Port Blair	Kolkata	327	MV Akbar	Via Mayabunder	36	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.06.2009	Kolkata	Port Blair	328	MV Akbar	Via Mayabunder	—	29
11.07.2009	Port Blair	Kolkata	450	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	—	01
17.07.2009	Kolkata	Port Blair	451	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	40	—
10.08.2009	Port Blair	Kolkata	455	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	46	—
17.08.2009	Kolkata	Port Blair	456	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	—	35
21.09.2009	Port Blair	Kolkata	461	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	60	—
30.09.2009	Kolkata	Port Blair	462	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	—	27
21.10.2009	Port Blair	Kolkata	465	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	58	—
31.10.2009	Kolkata	Port Blair	466	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	—	29
19.11.2009	Port Blair	Kolkata	469	MV Nicobar	Via Mayabunder	29	—

**SEZs in Haryana**

3795. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) proposed and developed in Haryana so far;

(b) whether any proposals for setting up SEZs in Haryana are pending with the Government; 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) to (c) Out of 45 formally approved SEZs in Haryana, 31 have since been notified. Notification of a SEZ is done only on compliance of requisite statutory requirements. As regards new proposals for setting up of SEZs, including those in Haryana, the Board of Approval (BOA) considers them only when the concerned State Government recommends and the proposal is found to be complete in all respects.

*[Translation]***Tea Expo**

3796. SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to organize 'Tea Expo' on the pattern of 'Auto Expo' in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Tea Expo is likely to be organised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes Madam. Tea Board of India has been organizing Tea Expo termed as the India International Tea Convention (IITC). The IITC is being projected as a regular event in the international tea trade calendar for promotion of Indian Tea. The Convention is aimed at reinforcing the salient and unique features of Indian teas to the tea fraternity across the world and

offers a great opportunity to various buyers in the global tea market. In 2007, the International Tea Convention was held in Guwahati showcasing Assam teas and other Indian teas which are distinct in character and quality. As such, there was wide participation by Indian and foreign delegates. The presentation of Indian teas was done at a single forum that takes into account the diverse cross section of Indian teas that are produced in this country. This gives importers and buyers sufficient exposure to enable them to make informed decisions on purchase. The India International Tea Convention 2009 was held in Kochi, Kerala from the 19th-21st February 2009 in conjunction with the tea industry. The next session of IITC is scheduled in 2010-11.

#### Levy of Charges on Telecom Companies

3797. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:  
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:  
SHRI MAHESHWAR HAZARI:

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

(a) whether the various types of charges levied by the Government on the private mobile telephones companies;

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

(c) the total amount outstanding against the private mobile telephone companies in this regard, company-wise?

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

(b) Details of collection of Entry Fee, Licence Fee and Spectrum Charges for the last three years and current year are given in enclosed Statement—I.

(c) The total outstanding amounts against the private mobile telephone companies are given in the enclosed Statement—II.

#### Statement I

*Company-wise details of Revenue earned by the Government from the Mobile companies for the years from 2006-07 to 2nd quarter of 2009-10*

(Amount in crores of Rupees)

S.No.	Private Telecom Services Providers	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09			2009-10 (upto 2nd Qr.)		
		Entry Fee.	L.Fee	Spectrum Charges	Entry Fee.	L.Fee	Spectrum Charges	Entry Fee.	L.Fee	Spectrum Charges	Entry Fee.	L.Fee	Spectrum Charges
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Aircel Ltd.	0.00	87.82	39.30	0.00	119.44	65.22	0.00	159.36	74.62	0.00	92.11	74.88
2.	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	0.00	1,071.22	497.31	0.00	1,543.55	854.58	0.00	2,246.27	1,355.14	0.00	1193.88	952.35
3.	Vodafone Essar Ltd.	0.00	746.71	407.83	0.00	1,045.74	552.38	0.00	1,424.12	616.78	0.00	732.45	501.83
4.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	0.00	274.79	187.67	684.59	408.91	265.06	0.00	711.60	368.88	0.00	388.00	311.65
5.	Reliance Communications Ltd.	0.00	713.70	172.78	1,649.57	888.54	243.83	0.00	857.27	197.03	0.00	313.34	109.67
6.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	0.00	44.12	112.84	0.00	59.92	56.87	0.00	87.21	68.32	0.00	51.75	44.47
7.	BPL Mobile Comm. Ltd.	0.00	46.42	20.37	0.00	46.91	25.93	0.00	49.10	26.93	0.00	23.94	21.41
8.	Spice Communications Ltd.	0.00	43.86	28.30	484.47	58.56	78.39	0.00	91.46	45.51	0.00	44.09	22.66
9.	HFCL Infotel Ltd.	0.00	16.09	1.66	151.75	13.45	1.04	0.00	9.00	1.28	0.00	6.83	0.7
10.	Shyam Telelink Limited	0.00	7.89	1.41	1,658.57	6.61	2.14	0.00	1.38	1.30	0.00	2.42	4.52
11.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	0.00	80.65	166.86	1,658.57	105.09	205.82	0.00	127.30	147.38	0.00	82.42	170.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd. (DSL)	0.00	42.70	5.31	0.00	51.19	27.29	0.00	54.60	23.02	0.00	19.92	28.90
13.	Essar Spacetel Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.82	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Swan Telecom Ltd. (Etislat)	0.00	0	0.00	1537.01	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.61	2.83	
15.	Unitech Wireless Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.86	1.57
16.	S. Tel Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Loop Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	1454.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Datacom Solution Pvt. Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	1506.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Adinis Properties Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	239.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Asks Properties Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Hudson Properties Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	170.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Nahan Properties Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Azare Properties Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	78.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Unitech Builders & Estate Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	233	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Volga Properties Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	315.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Unitech Infrastructure Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	203.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		0.00	3,175.98	1,641.64	12,470.50	4,347.90	2,378.55	0.00	5,818.67	2,927.01	0.00	2,960.62	2,247.47

\*\*The above figures are based on MIS reports. Revenue is not booked company wise in the accounts of the Department.

### **Statement II**

#### *Amounts outstanding against the Private Mobile Telephone Companies*

(Rs. In Crores)

Sl.No.	Operator	Service	L. Fee Outstanding	Spectrum Charges Outstanding	Total Outstanding
1.	Airtel Ltd.	CMTS	0	0.33	0.33
2.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	UASL	0.75	1.63	2.38
3.	Reliance Comm. Ltd.	UASL	48.55	118.09	166.64
4.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	UASL	17.80	0.05	17.85
5.	M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd.	UASL	17.79	38.52	56.31
6.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	CMTS	-	0.22	0.22
7.	Vodafone Essar Ltd.	UASL	-	0.03	0.03
8.	HFCL	Basic	-	8.15	8.15
9.	Tata Teleservices Ltd. (TTML)	UASL	-	351.62	351.62
Total			84.88	518.64	603.52

*[English]***Funding to Panchayats**

3798. SHRI S. SEMMALAI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether direct funding to Panchayats and Municipalities through local bodies is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to evolve a suitable mechanism to impart training to the elected representatives of local bodies in the realm of Governance and skill development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI):

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the capacity building component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme and the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana (RGSY), the Government of India releases funds for planning and implementation of training programmes by the State Governments through Institutions such as the State Institutes of Rural Development and NGOs.

*[Translation]***Appointments On Compassionate Grounds**

3799. SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL:  
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether appointments on compassionate grounds are being made under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof regarding the number of cases of the deceased employees whose dependants have not been given job during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Government proposes to give some financial assistance as an alternative to the dependants of its deceased employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which employment/financial assistance is likely to be given to the dependants?

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

(b) The number of cases of the deceased employees whose dependants have not been given job during the last three years is 1901 and for the current year is 198.

(c) No, Madam.

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

*[English]***Removal of Mobile Towers**

3800. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH:  
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of illegally installed mobile towers in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to remove these mobile towers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Madam, since no illegal mobile towers have come to notice.

(b) Not applicable, in view of (a) above.

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

**Remunerative Price for Coffee**

3801. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding increase in price of coffee during the last three years;

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

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

(d) if so, the details and outcome 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) The details of prices of coffee during the last three years in the domestic and international market are given below:

(in Rs./kg.)

Year	Domestic price		International price	
	Arabica (Variety Plant 'A')	Robusta (Variety Cherry AB)	Arabica	Robusta
2006	121.33	73.07	111.26	67.14
2007	135.12	85.69	113.94	69.76
2008	131.26	96.86	130.59	95.43

Source: Coffee Board of India

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Cold Storage Facilities At Ports**

3802. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:  
SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge quantities of various types of commodities including perishable food items are spoiled due to inadequate infrastructure for handling of export and import of perishables at ports during each of the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up cold storages at various ports to overcome this difficulty;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose, port-wise; and

(e) the name of ports where cold storage facilities exists alongwith the ports where this facility does not exist?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):  
(a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Cold storage facilities are not available in any of the major ports. However, reefer points are available in all the container terminals to provide electricity to reefer containers.

#### **Import of Pulses**

3803. SHRI RAM SUNDAR DAS:  
SHRI ARJUN MUNDA:  
SHRI P. KUMAR:

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

(a) the details regarding rate of import of pulses vis-a-vis the rate at which they are available in the domestic market during the current year;

(b) whether large amount of pulses imported from foreign countries in 2008-09 are already delayed and or being wasted at the Kolkota port;

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

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

[English]

#### **Employment Information Centres**

3804. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has issued instructions to the States to set up Employment Information Centres (EICs) in each village for job related information;

(b) if so, whether these instructions are being followed by the State Governments;

(c) if so, the names of the villages where EICs have been set up during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) the time by which EICs are likely to be set up in each village; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to set up Bureau for Private Sector in the Employment Exchange of each district for providing job opportunities in private sector?

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

(e) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government. However, the Employment Exchanges, functioning in all States/UTs which provide employment assistance and vocational guidance to the registered job-seekers about job opportunities in both public & private sectors are being modernized in Public Private Partnership so as to facilitate greater and faster interaction between industry and job-seekers.

#### Unemployed Persons

3805. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the growth rate of unemployment of skilled and unskilled persons including women, both of rural and urban areas has increased recently;

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

(c) the steps taken by the, Government to address this phenomenon?

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 the National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such Survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per the results of these surveys, unemployment rate on current daily status basis amongst skilled and unskilled persons including women, both of rural and urban areas has increased in the country from 7.3 per cent in 1999-2000 to 8.3 per cent in 2004-05.

(b) State-wise details of unemployment rates both for males and females in rural and urban areas separately during 1999-2000 and 2004-05 are as per Statement enclosed.

(c) Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at creating 58 million job opportunities and it is expected that there would be reduction in unemployment rate to 4.83% on current daily status towards the end of the Plan period. Government have taken several steps to reduce unemployment rate. The focus is on productive employment at a faster pace in order to raise the incomes of masses of the rural population to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. The job opportunities are likely to be created on account of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), investment in infrastructure development, growth in exports, etc. Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation programmes, such as, Swarana Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).

#### Statement

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	State-wise unemployment rate*											
		1999-2000						2004-05					
		Rural			Urban			Rural			Urban		
		Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.1	8.1	8.1	7.2	8.9	7.6	10.0	12.2	10.9	7.8	8.3	7.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.3	0.1	0.9	2.2	6.5	2.9	1.6	1.1	1.4	2.6	11.9	4.7



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Assam	6.4	12.5	7.4	9.9	21.9	11.9	6.0	8.7	6.5	8.1	14.0	9.0
4.	Bihar	7.2	6.2	7.0	8.7	13.5	9.3	6.9	6.1	6.8	10.2	8.7	10.0
5.	Chhattisgarh	Included in Madhya Pradesh						8.6	7.4	8.2	6.3	10.3	7.1
6.	Delhi	3.9	24.6	4.8	4.0	4.2	4.1	2.0	0.0	1.9	5.8	9.2	6.2
7.	Goa	9.2	26.1	13.3	21.4	44.2	26.1	18.1	21.9	19.2	14.6	16.9	15.2
8.	Gujarat	5.1	4.2	4.8	4.0	5.4	4.2	4.7	2.9	4.1	4.2	7.2	4.7
9.	Haryana	5.3	1.8	4.7	4.5	4.9	4.5	7.2	3.4	6.2	5.8	13.1	6.9
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3.4	0.9	2.4	7.0	11.9	7.8	6.6	4.5	5.7	2.3	13.7	4.9
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.3	3.0	4.9	6.0	13.4	6.6	5.8	4.7	5.6	4.6	15.2	6.0
12.	Jharkhand	Included in Bihar						8.0	2.4	6.6	9.7	4.1	8.8
13.	Karnataka	4.4	4.0	4.3	5.3	5.9	5.4	6.3	7.2	6.7	5.1	9.4	6.0
14.	Kerala	20.0	26.1	21.7	15.5	28.2	19.1	21.1	34.6	25.6	17.4	42.3	25.2
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4.0	3.5	3.8	7.2	5.7	7.0	5.9	4.8	5.6	6.7	5.2	6.4
16.	Maharashtra	6.3	6.9	6.5	7.7	10.0	8.1	9.0	9.9	9.3	8.1	11.2	8.8
17.	Manipur	2.4	2.6	2.5	6.6	7.6	6.9	1.9	1.1	1.6	5.5	8.1	6.3
18.	Meghalaya	0.6	0.5	0.6	3.5	6.9	4.6	0.2	0.7	0.4	3.7	3.9	3.8
19.	Mizoram	1.9	0.5	1.3	3.8	3.1	3.6	0.8	0.3	0.6	1.3	2.2	1.6
20.	Nagaland	2.8	3.1	2.9	9.8	10.4	10.0	4.0	2.2	3.2	4.7	10.4	6.4
21.	Orissa	7.6	5.6	7.1	9.8	8.2	9.5	9.3	12.6	10.2	11.9	27.1	15.0
22.	Punjab	4.2	1.7	3.7	4.8	5.3	4.9	9.5	10.1	9.7	5.4	17.7	7.5
23.	Rajasthan	3.3	1.9	2.8	4.7	3.5	4.5	5.1	3.3	4.4	6.3	5.0	6.1
24.	Sikkim	3.3	2.5	3.1	6.4	10.7	7.5	2.9	2.1	2.7	3.3	5.5	3.7
25.	Tamil Nadu	14.3	12.3	13.5	9.0	8.6	8.9	15.3	14.9	15.1	8.1	9.8	8.6
26.	Tripura	1.7	5.7	2.2	5.7	9.6	6.2	12.2	37.4	16.1	18.9	58.9	30.0
27.	Uttarakhand	Included in Uttar Pradesh						5.7	1.3	4.1	5.3	14.2	6.8
28.	Uttar Pradesh	4.0	2.1	3.6	6.3	5.0	6.2	4.3	1.7	3.7	6.3	5.9	6.3
29.	West Bengal	15.2	25.1	17.0	10.0	13.9	10.6	11.1	11.6	11.2	9.9	13.7	10.5
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3.5	8.1	4.4	5.1	24.0	9.7	11.2	21.0	13.4	10.3	26.8	13.7
31.	Chandigarh	1.9	3.5	1.9	4.4	22.9	8.1	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.6	7.8	5.2
32.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1.2	0.0	0.9	2.1	0.0	1.9	4.8	8.8	6.0	3.4	14.9	5.1
33.	Daman and Diu	2.0	0.8	1.8	1.5	8.2	3.1	1.9	0.0	1.6	3.0	14.5	6.2
34.	Lakshadweep	13.0	53.0	23.6	13.1	26.9	16.5	16.5	70.8	22.5	17.5	51.9	28.2
35.	Puducherry	23.9	31.8	26.2	13.1	10.4	12.5	30.7	21.3	27.4	12.5	30.0	16.8
All India		7.2	7.0	7.1	7.3	9.4	7.7	8.0	8.7	8.2	7.5	11.6	8.3

Source: NSSO Reports, 1999-2000 & 2004-05.

\*As per current daily status approach.

Unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed with reference to Labour Force.

**Bharat Nirman Project**

3806. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:  
SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:  
SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajiv Gandhi Bharat Nirman Seva Kendras across the country are fully equipped with IT-enabled e-governance system in each Panchayat for effective implementation of rural development schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the status of the project; and

(c) the extent to which this project is likely to help to reach the individual Panchayat net-work for effective implementation of Bharat Nirman projects in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) Construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Gram Panchayat level has been included as a permissible activity in para 1 of Schedule I of the Act. A Notification to this effect has been issued on 11.11.2009. Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra is being designed in a way to make them IT enabled.

**Research Projects on Visually Challenged Persons**

3807. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether research projects have been undertaken for launching audio book reader and other technological devises for the visually challenged persons in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds provided to carryout such research projects; and

(c) the achievements made in the said research projects particularly those conducted in collaboration with National Institute for Visually Handicapped (NIVH) and other universities;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D.

NAPOLEON): (a) No such research project has been undertaken by this Ministry during current plan period.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Compliance by Telecom Operators**

3808. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently called a meeting of various private telecom service providers in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the telecom service providers are not following the directives/guidelines issued by the Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Meetings were held with Access Service Licensees, National Long Distance Service Licensees, International Long Distance Service Licensees, Internet Service Providers in the first week of November, 2009. Suggestions of the service providers were invited for the various measures which *inter-alia* include:

(i) Steps to increase tele-density, specifically rural tele-density.

(ii) Measures for more effective utilization of Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund.

(iii) Measures to be taken for faster Internet and Broadband coverage especially in rural areas.

(iv) Incentives for lower tariff for expansion of telecom services.

(c) to (e) While various service providers, generally, follow the directives/guidelines/terms and conditions of the licence, however necessary action is taken as per the provisions of the licences granted to various service providers under section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act in case of any non-compliance.

**Losses to Exchequer**

3809. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:  
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:  
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:  
SHRI C. SIVASAMI:

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

(a) whether the Government has recently allotted 2G spectrum on first-come-first-served basis at a pan India price of Rs. 1658.5701 crores fixed/assessed/agreed upon in November, 2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of losses accrued to the Exchequer in the absence of competitive open bid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The spectrum to the licensed access service providers are allotted on "First-Come-First-Served" basis based on their applications and subject to availability. No upfront charges are levied for allotment of 2G spectrum, only annual spectrum usages charges as a percentage of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is levied as detailed in the enclosed Statement. The recent allotment of 2G spectrum in year 2008 was also done on this basis.

However, based on the recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and decision of Government, the Unified Access Services (UAS) licences are granted on continuous basis since introduction of UAS licensing regime with effect from 11.11.2003 at the entry fee for the 4th Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) licence(s) awarded in 2001 and in service areas where there were no 4th operator, the entry fee of existing Basic Service Operator (BSO) fixed by the Government in 2001 based on TRAI's recommendation. The total entry fee for grant of UAS licences for 22 service areas in the country works out to Rs. 1658.5701 crores. Besides this, the UAS licensee also pays annual licence fee of 6%, 8% and 10% of AGR for category 'C', 'B' and 'A' service areas respectively.

TRAI in its recommendations dated 28.08.2007 has not recommended any change in the entry fee for UAS licence. Accordingly, Government continued with the existing entry fee structure for UAS licences. Further, keeping in view the objective of growth, affordability, penetration of wireless services in semi-urban and rural areas, the TRAI was not in favour of changing the

spectrum fee regime for a new entrant. Opportunity for equal competition has always been one of the prime principles of the TRAI in suggesting a regulatory framework in telecom services. Any differential treatment to a new entrant vis-a-vis incumbents in the wireless sector will go against the principle of level playing field. This is specific and restricted to 2G bands only *i.e.* 800, 900 and 1800 MHz. This approach assumes more significance particularly in the context where subscriber acquisition cost for a new entrant is likely to be much higher than for the incumbent wireless operators. TRAI, therefore recommended that in future all spectrum excluding the spectrum in 800, 900 and 1800 bands should be auctioned so as to ensure efficient utilization of this scarce resource.

TRAI has not recommended any competitive open bid for allocation of 2G spectrum. Accordingly, the 2G spectrum was allocated as per existing procedure as stated above.

(b) In view of the objective of growth, affordability, penetration of wireless services in semi-urban and rural areas, allocation of 2G spectrum without any competitive open bid does not amounts to losses accrued to the Exchequer. The amount of annual license fee and the spectrum charges collected from access services licensees as percentage of AGR are increasing year after year as detailed below for last 3 years:

	Year 2006-07	Year 2007-08	Year 2008-09
Spectrum Charges Collected	Rs. 1957.39 Crore	Rs. 2884.17 Crore	Rs. 3248.57 Crore
Licence fee collected	Rs. 6345.42 Crore	Rs. 7868.27 Crore	Rs. 8751.94 Crore

**Statement***2G (GSM) Spectrum charges*

Sl.No.	Amount of 2G(GSM)	Spectrum charging as percentage Adjusted Gross of Revenue (AGR)
1.	Upto 4.4+4.4 MHz	2
2.	Upto 6.2+6.2 MHz	3
3.	Upto 10+10 MHz	4
4.	Upto 12.5+12.5 MHz	5
5.	Upto 15+15 MHz	6

*2G (GSMA) Spectrum charges*

Sl.No.	Amount of 2G(GSMA) Spectrum	Spectrum charging as percentage of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)
1.	Upto 5.00+5.0 MHz	2
2.	Upto 6.25+6.25 MHz	3
3.	Upto 10+10 MHz	4
4.	Upto 12.5+ 12.5 MHz	5
5.	Upto 15.0+15.0 MHz	6

**Problems of Pharma Companies in EU Markets**

3810. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether pharma companies from India are facing problems in European Union (EU) markets in view of cumbersome quality testing at various ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to non-clarity of taxation and cross-border transaction laws, Indian service providers are also facing problems in EU;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether FICCI has also recently conducted a survey of problems faced by Indian exporters in EU markets; and

(f) if so, the details of the survey 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) Yes, Madam. Undue time delay and the financial implications in getting the approval of Qualified Person (QP) are putting pressure on the Indian pharmaceutical exporters to European countries. However, there is no cumbersome quality testing related issues at the ports.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Difficulties in obtaining work permits, requirement of a separate work permit for personnel moving from one EU constituent to another, different domestic standards followed by EU countries are some of the major problems.

(e) and (f) Yes, Madam. FICCI conducted a Survey aimed at ascertaining the experience of Indian exporters doing business with the EU and the issues they face in their transactions. The findings of the Survey have been taken note of by the Government.

**Training for Coffee Growers**

3811. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up training programme for small coffee growers under the Eleventh Plan period;

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

(c) the amount likely to be spent for the said training programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Various training programmes for growers include knowledge and skill building on different aspects of coffee cultivation, women specific programmes on diversified vocational activities, programmes on production and marketing strategies and on farm training on various aspects of coffee cultivation with focus on production and quality. During 11th Plan period, 35,668 growers are likely to be covered under various training programmes, with an amount of Rs. 6.4 crore.

*[Translation]*

**Gratuity to Employees Engaged in Private Sector**

3812. SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to provide the gratuity at the time of retirement of private sector workers in the country;

(b) if so, the number of employees likely to be benefited therefrom, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide economic, social, health facilities and security to the workers/labourers working in private sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such workers likely to be benefitted therefrom, State-wise; and

(e) the number of factories/units/organisations/ establishments cover under the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) during each of the last three years and current year, separately, State- wise?

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

(a) and (b) Under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 the employees working in factories, mines, oilfields, plantations, ports, railway companies, shops and other establishments employing ten or more employees are entitled to payment of gratuity.

The Central Government is responsible for administration of the Act in relation (a) factories or establishments belonging to or under the control of the Central Government; (b) establishments having branches in more than one State; and (c) major ports, mine oil fields or railway companies. The State Governments are responsible for administration of the Act in all other cases.

Data of employees benefitted under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 Is not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) For organised sector workers, social security in the form of old age/survivor/dlsability pension, health insurance, compensation for employment injury, maternity benefits and gratuity are provided under Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952, Employees' State Insurance Act 1948, Workmen's Compensation Act 1923, Maternity Benefit Act 1961 and Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 respectively. The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 has recently been enacted to provide social security to workers engaged in unorganized sector. Besides these statutory provisions, many other workers' welfare schemes are being Implemented by the Central and State Governments.

(e) The State-wise details of the number of factories/units/organizations/establishments covered with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 during each of the last three years and the current year is given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

*The State-wise details of coverage during each of the last three years and the current year (upto 30.09.2009)*

REGION		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	As on 30.09.2009
1		2	3	4	5
Delhi	Delhi North	32311	34720	20767	20275
	Delhi South			17132	17525
Haryana	Faridabad	23261	25140	27564	17070
	Gurgaon				11996
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	5329	5857	6139	6351
Punjab	Chandigarh	25491	26985	13850	14565
	Ludhiana			14427	15077
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	32134	35326	38098	19923
	Meerut				20098
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	3330	3692	4250	4548
Bihar	Patna	4109	5855	7051	7397
West Bengal	Jalpaiguri	29030	34308	6448	6598
	Kolkata			29351	30170

1	2	3	4	5	
Jharkhand	Ranchi	7456	8607	8427	9088
Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	8647	11593	12508	13084
North Eastern Region	Guwahati	5575	6247	7718	8099
Karnataka	Bangalore	31031	35844	19302	9616
	Mangalore			18758	19517
	Peenya				10677
Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	43591	47251	23958	26000
	Hyderabad			26934	21418
	Nizamabad				6506
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	15053	14896	16134	16680
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	56848	62877	29899	20122
	Coimbatore			23109	24061
	Madurai			13413	14403
	Tambaram				10658
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	4882	6006	6626	6908
Goa	Panaji	2567	2767	2984	3107
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	41182	47548	28272	29449
	Vadodara			22621	6668
	Surat				16905
Maharashtra	Mumbai-I [Bandra]	71896	83913	21443	21500
	Mumbai-II [Thane]			29288	18041
	Nagpur			20723	15193
	Pune			20017	20984
	Kandivali				12385
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	13957	15423	16185	17102
Rajasthan	Jaipur	13998	17847	19667	20542
Total		471678	532702	573063	590306

### Water Conservation Schemes

3813. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of water conservation schemes being run by the Government, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated and spent thereon during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise/UT-wise;

(c) the State-wise details of Government and Non-Governmental Organisations included under this scheme;

(d) whether the Government is aware of such organisations which are exploiting ground water in the name of water conservation which resulted in the declining of level of ground water; and

(e) if so, the action taken against such organisations by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) Water conservation is one of the activities of watershed schemes. The Department of Land Resources has been implementing three watershed schemes namely Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP).

DPAP is under implementation in 972 blocks of 195 districts in 16 States. The States covered under DPAP are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

DDP is in operation in 7 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Karnataka and Rajasthan covering 235 blocks in 40 districts.

The projects under IWDP are sanctioned in areas not covered by DDP and DPAP. The programme is being implemented in 470 districts in 28 States of the country.

Since 26.02.2009 the above three schemes have been consolidated into a single programme called as Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). The coverage of IWMP extends to all the States.

(b) Since watershed schemes are demand driven schemes, no budget allocation has been made. However, State-wise central assistance released under watershed schemes during each of the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The watershed schemes are implemented by releasing the funds to District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zila Panchayats (ZPs).

(d) and (e) No such information has come to the notice of this Ministry.

### Statement

#### *DOLR-Funds Released Under Watershed Programme During Last Three Years & Current Year*

(Rs. in Crore)

State	DPAP					DDP					IWDP				IWMP Funds released in 2009-10 (as on 9.12.09)	
	Funds Released					Funds Released					Funds Released					
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (as on 9.12.09)	Total	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (as on 9.12.09)	Total	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (as on 9.12.09)		Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Andhra Pradesh	41.31	56.24	55.87	29.52	182.94	18	28.3	35.02	8.68	90.0	35.63	37.13	44.43	18.77	135.96	30.68
Bihar	3.03	0.2	0		3.23				0.00	0.00	9.51	2	7.32	5.71	24.54	
Chhattisgarh	8.26	13.92	24.38	10.01	56.57				0.00	0.00	22.96	25.75	30.44	8.04	87.19	9.83
Goa				0.00	0				0.00	0.00		0	0	0.00	0.00	
Gujarat	35.97	16.34	39.33	43.09	134.73	35.04	65.59	75.13	76.85	252.61	27.13	23.57	31.87	17.28	99.85	23.28
Haryana				0.00	0	12.34	28.74	10.26	18.11	69.45	5.48	4.45	4.28	2.63	16.84	16.51
Himachal Pradesh	3.69	8.35	8.59	2.85	23.48	9.25	2.17	6.45	0.00	17.87	17.55	27.86	23.48	8.03	76.92	
Jammu & Kashmir	2.6	0	6.4	3.87	12.87	4.49	7.39	2.76	0.00	14.64	6.62	5.97	4.55	5.62	22.76	
Jharkhand	4.79	0	2.9	0.00	7.69				0.00	0.00	2.33	2.9	8.41	2.43	16.07	
Karnataka	31.76	44.46	57.76	27.62	161.6	29.69	35.07	49.47	25.65	139.88	32.06	22.92	46.2	20.03	121.21	34.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Kerala				0.00	0				0.00	0.00	2.6	2.1	11.46	0.00	16.16	
Madhya Pradesh	53.74	53.16	56.97	27.56	191.43				0.00	0.00	19.68	16.47	28.76	25.58	90.49	
Maharashtra	57.53	54.21	64.03	52.29	228.06				0.00	0.00	31.12	56.97	60.44	30.85	179.38	38.98
Orissa	14.81	23.93	25.13	31.91	95.78				0.00	0.00	20.62	17.94	33.54	18.79	90.89	19.09
Punjab				0.00	0				0.00	0.00	3.51	2.5	3.6	2.30	11.91	2.29
Rajasthan	25.82	13.96	18.1	16.20	74.08	160.25	98.18	216.87	72.04	547.34	42.78	48.45	45.26	16.80	153.27	69.92
Tamil Nadu	30.63	32.01	35.49	11.28	109.41				0.00	0.00	26.92	27.07	34.6	4.40	92.99	
Uttar Pradesh	34.67	49.4	39.72	16.79	140.58				0.00	0.00	47.36	55.82	70.58	29.90	203.66	16.17
Uttarakhand	7.69	14.62	7.07	2.70	32.08				0.00	0.00	11.23	16.67	24.64	3.26	55.80	
West Bengal	2.7	2.68	6.57	0.00	11.95				0.00	0.00	6.27	2.62	7.14	5.45	21.49	
Total	359	383.48	448.31	275.69	1466.48	269.06	265.44	395.96	201.33	1131.79	371.34	399.16	521.00	225.88	1517.38	260.91

## NORTH EASTERN STATES

Arunachal Pradesh											25.84	15.64	32.27	11.92	85.67	5.45
Assam											31.02	27.05	38.93	11.37	108.37	14.81
Manipur											16.35	4.5	11.18	10.54	42.57	
Meghalaya											12.03	5.47	9.42	7.53	34.45	2.43
Mizoram											8.58	31.29	26.5	21.68	88.05	
Nagaland											10.98	29.64	27.53	5.51	73.66	8.57
Sikkim											2.75	3.86	2.6	6.36	15.57	1.17
Tripura											5.38	0	1.58	0.39	7.35	2.45
Total											112.93	117.45	150.01	75.3	455.69	34.88
Grand Total	359.00	383.48	448.31	275.69	1466.48	269.06	265.44	395.96	201.33	1131.79	484.27	516.61	671.01	301.18	1973.07	295.79

*[English]***Agreement with Korea**

3814. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations for Foreign Trade Agreement in goods, services and investment with South Korea has been completed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of goods/services involved in the proposed agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M.

SCINDIA): (a) Yes Madam. A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with South Korea was signed on 7th August, 2009. This Agreement covers not only Trade in Goods but also Investments, Services and bilateral Cooperation in other areas of mutual benefit.

(b) Most of the Agricultural, textile and auto sector items have been kept out of the commitments for reduction of duty. The Agreement covers more than 85% of India's trade and more than 90% Korea's trade & tariff lines. It provides for easier access for contractual service suppliers and independent professional. Further details can be seen from the Agreement available on the website of Department of Commerce (<http://www.commerce.gov.in>).



**Indigenous Development of UAV**

3815. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:  
SHRI M.B. RAJESH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to indigenously develop Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV);
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating joint collaboration, if any, made for the purpose;
- (c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and
- (d) the time schedule for completion of the project and induction thereof in the forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will be taking up indigenous development of Medium Altitude Long Endurance, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) against confirmed Qualitative Requirements (QRs) to meet Tri-Services requirements. The UAV has been named RUSTOM-H. Indian Industry would be the development-cum- production partner for this programme. The project is proposed to be completed in 78 months after formal sanction.

**Enhancement of Dredging Capacity**

3816. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to develop/ upgrade and enhance the dredging capacity of domestic dredging companies to solve the regular complaints on dredging problems from the ports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose; and
- (c) the strategy/plan chalked out by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):  
(a) Yes, madam.

(b) The Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCI) is the only Public Sector Undertaking in dredging sector. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Shipping. DCI is having 10 Nos. Trailer Suction Dredgers,

2 Cutter Suction Dredgers. DCI is presently having a hopper capacity of 54009 Cubic Meter. One Cutter Suction Dredger of 2000 Cub. Mtr capacity is under construction at Mazagon Dock Ltd, Mumbai. The vessel is expected to be ready by end of February, 2010 for delivery upon successful completion of trials. DCI is procuring one Backhole Dredger from Netherlands, which is likely to be delivered in August, 2010. It also has a proposal to procure 3 Nos. Trailer Suction Hopper Dredgers of 5000 cubic meter capacity each through global tender. Regarding allocation of funds no budgetary support is provided to DCI, being a Miniratna Company.

(c) Government of India has formulated a Dredging Policy for protecting Indian Companies. According to this policy Indian companies owning Indian Flag Dredgers, including Dredging Corporation of India Limited, shall have the right of first refusal in a dredging tender if the rate quoted by them is within 10% of the lowest valid offer.

*[Translation]*

**Status of Indian Shipping Industry**

3817. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the place, share and participation of Indian shipping industry in the world shipping industry during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the growth rate of Indian shipping industry in comparison to other foreign shipping industry, country-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to make indigenous shipping industry more competitive with world shipping industry?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):  
(a) The share of Indian Shipping Tonnage as compared to World Shipping Tonnage in term of tonnage (GT) by Flag of Registration stood at 1.19% on 1.1.2006, 1.16% on 1.1.2007 and 1.18% on 1.1.2008 as per data available.

(b) The growth rate of Indian Shipping industry in comparison to other foreign shipping industry as per available data is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Government has introduced tonnage tax regime in India since the year 2004 by which the tax outgo for Indian Shipping companies has been brought in the line with International Practice. Further, the

liberalized policy on ship acquisition has been introduced and acquisition of all types of ships has been brought under Open General Licence (OGL). Besides, 100% FDI has been permitted in ship acquisition and registration formalities of newly acquired ships have been simplified.

The Government of India has further formulated the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP). It is a comprehensive programme aimed at various issues that need to be addressed to bring holistic growth in the Indian Shipping Industry.

**Statement**

Flag of registration	01.01.2006		01.01.2007		01.01.2008	
	Tonnage (min grt)	% of growth	Tonnage (min grt)	% of growth	Tonnage (min grt)	% of growth
Panama	141.80	7.83	154.96	9.28	168.17	8.52
Liberia	59.60	10.58	68.40	14.77	76.57	11.94
Bahamas	38.40	8.47	40.83	6.33	43.74	4.13
Greece	30.70	-4.06	32.05	4.40	35.70	11.39
Malta	23.00	2.68	24.85	8.04	27.75	11.67
Cyprus	19.00	-10.80	19.03	0.16	18.95	-0.42
Singapore	31.00	17.87	32.17	3.77	36.25	12.68
Norway (NIS)	14.20	-7.79	14.80	4.23	14.71	-0.61
Japan	12.80	-3.03	12.80	0.00	12.79	-0.08
China	22.30	9.31	23.49	5.34	24.92	6.09
USA	11.10	3.74	11.22	1.08	11.41	1.69
Russia	8.30	-3.49	-	-	-	-
Germany	11.50	40.24	11.36	-1.22	12.93	13.82
Italy	11.60	5.45	12.57	8.36	12.97	3.18
India	8.10	8.00	8.38	3.46	9.17	9.43
Marshall Islands	29.20	29.78	32.84	12.47	35.96	9.50
Hong Kong	29.80	14.18	32.68	9.66	35.82	9.61
South Korea	9.30	19.23	10.47	12.58	13.1	25.12
Isle of Man	8.40	-	8.63	2.74	-	-
Denmark (Dis)	-	-	-	-	8.97	-
UK	11.20	0.90	12.15	8.48	12.69	4.44
Bermuda	-	-	8.41	-	9.17	9.04
World Total (including other countries)	675.11	6.60	721.86	6.92	774.94	7.35

Note: Vessels of 100 GT and over

*[English]***Implementation of NREGS**

3818. SHRI RAMEN DEKA:  
SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL:  
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:  
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and released by the Union Government for implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), State-wise;

(b) whether some State Governments including Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh are facing financial crisis in meeting the increasing cost of wages under the NREGS;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the financial allocation to these States under NREGS; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) NREGA is demand based and not an allocation based programme. Central Government releases funds to the States based on the labour demand arising at the field level. Funds released to the States during the current year, so far, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Madam. Wages paid under NREGA to the unskilled workers are fully borne by the Central Government to the extent the wage rate has been notified by the Central Government under Section 6(1) of the Act.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) As given in reply to part (a) above, NREGA is demand based. Funds are released based on labour demand in the field as reported by the State Governments.

**Statement**

Sl.No.	States	Funds release by the centre during 2009-10 so far (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	330227.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1159.02
3.	Assam	31314.24
4.	Bihar	50891.17
5.	Chhattisgarh	71219.19
6.	Gujarat	37949.67
7.	Haryana	3941.49
8.	Himachal Pradesh	33177.61
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	6181.25
10.	Jharkhand	56667.42
11.	Karnataka	130466.15
12.	Kerala	23999.58
13.	Madhya Pradesh	192643.47
14.	Maharashtra	21406.54
15.	Manipur	27944.03
16.	Megalaya	7056.72
17.	Mizoram	14511.48
18.	Nagaland	35959.11
19.	Orissa	14769.26
20.	Punjab	5697.36
21.	Rajasthan	422554.49
22.	Sikkim	4447.24
23.	Tamil Nadu	109075.39
24.	Tripura	42688.06
25.	Uttarakhand	17820.46
26.	Uttar Pradesh	275101.95
27.	West Bengal	84620.96
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00

1	2	3
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00
30.	Daman and Diu	0.00
31.	Lakshadweep	0.00
32.	Puducherry	0.00
33.	Chandigarh	0.00
34.	Goa	0.00
Total		2053490.54

#### **Squadron Strength of Air Force**

3819. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has not been provided the sanctioned squadron strength;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor indicating the sanctioned strength vis-a-vis actual strength; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the squadron strength?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Government constantly reviews the security environment to ensure adequate defence preparedness and combat strength of the Indian Air Force (IAF). The IAF is presently in the process of augmenting and modernizing its fleet by development and procurement of various aircraft including Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft, the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, Airborne Warning & Control System Aircraft and Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft. It is also upgrading its existing aircraft to enhance their combat capabilities.

#### **Reservation in Private Companies for Disabled Persons**

3820. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:  
SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:  
SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:  
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring legislation whereby the disabled persons could get reservation in private companies; and

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

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

(b) However, there is a Scheme of Incentives to Employers in the Private Sector for Providing Employment to the Persons with Disabilities which 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 disabled persons employed in the private sector on or after 01.04.2008, with a monthly salary upto Rs. 25,000.

#### **Affiliation of ITIs/ITCs**

3821. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals are pending with Union Government regarding affiliation of Industrial Training Institutes and Centres (ITIs and ITCs) in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) whether the Directorate of Training and Employment of States have recommended these ITIs/ITCs for central affiliation;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Union Government to provide affiliation of such institutes/centres;

(e) whether a number of students who have joined such institutes/centres would not be able to appear for the examination as a result thereof; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Union Government to secure the future of students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Proposals of 346 ITIs/ITCs for affiliation are pending as on 10th Dec., 2009. Year wise and State

wise details are as per statement enclosed. Major reasons for pendency are non-fulfillment of space norms, qualification of instructors, shortage of tools, equipments machinery and non availability of requisite power connection/load.

(c) and (d) The proposals for affiliation are sent by State Governments/UT Administrations after receiving the reports of Standing Committee for inspection consisting of a representative each of Central Government, State Government, Industry expert, Trade Union and Department of Labour. However, on scrutiny at the Central level, many deficiencies are noticed in the proposals which are either rejected or sent back to the concerned State Government for clarification or making up the deficiency. The Union Government convenes

meetings of National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) Sub Committee dealing with affiliation to consider cases every month and decisions are put on the website immediately for information of all concerned. In the last three years and current year 9054 cases were cleared by the NCVT Sub Committee, 2443 New ITIs/ITCs were granted affiliation and addition of 3,92,976 trainees was created.

(e) and (f) Instructions have been issued to the State Governments and institutes to admit students under NCVT trades/Units only after ITI/ITC is affiliated to NCVT. In case it is not affiliated, the State Governments are free to admit the students under State Council for Vocational Training (SCVT), conduct examination and award SCVT certificates.

### **Statement**

Sl.No.	State/UT	Year 2006			Year 2007			Year 2008			Year 2009 (Till November)		
		Proposals received	Proposals cleared	Pending	Proposals received	Proposals cleared	Pending	Proposals received	Proposals cleared	Pending	Proposals received	Proposals cleared	Pending
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	-	0	0	-	0	4	2	2	2	2	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	73	68	5	122	121	1	179	168	11	162	138	24
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	-	0	7	7	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Bihar	24	9	15	66	64	2	110	104	6	141	131	10
6.	Chandigarh	2	2	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	23	10	13	24	24	0	45	20	25	105	84	21
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Delhi	9	9	-	12	12	0	13	12	1	5	5	0
11.	Goa	4	4	0	10	10	0	5	3	2	7	7	0
12.	Gujarat	30	30	0	37	37	0	127	78	49	92	60	32
13.	Himachal Pradesh	54	34	20	29	26	3	134	126	8	147	136	11
14.	Haryana	0	0	-	2	2	0	69	63	6	78	73	5
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	-	-	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
16.	Jharkhand	17	14	3	37	35	2	57	50	7	47	46	1
17.	Karnataka	229	168	61	685	640	45	598	546	52	499	464	35
18.	Kerala	76	76	0	26	24	2	172	137	35	156	153	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	22	2	0	30	30	0	38	36	2	84	82	2
21.	Maharashtra	139	139	0	150	149	1	386	371	15	625	545	80
22.	Manipur	0	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	0	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	0	-	-	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
25.	Nagaland	0	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Orissa	106	98	8	190	190	0	457	424	33	214	181	33
27.	Puducherry	1	1	0	0	-	0	8	3	5	7	4	3
28.	Punjab	39	39	-	73	63	10	82	81	1	126	106	20
29.	Rajasthan	150	76	74	350	334	16	623	613	10	264	224	40
30.	Sikkim	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	1	3
31.	Tamil Nadu	82	82	0	61	61	0	70	65	5	61	56	5
32.	Tripura	4	4	0	6	6	0	5	3	2	2	2	0
33.	Uttar Pradesh	61	53	8	92	91	1	238	236	2	460	447	13
34.	Uttarakhand	10	10	0	11	10	1	27	17	10	15	14	1
35.	West Bengal	12	9	3	15	15	0	5	3	2	19	15	4
Total		1168	958	210	2039	1955	84	3451	3164	291	3323	2977	346

Note: (a) Proposals mean any new proposal relating to affiliation of new ITI/ITC or new unit/additional units in existing ITI/ITC.

(b) Proposals received include the pending proposal of previous year and new proposal received during that year

(c) Proposal cleared includes proposal processed at DGE&T i.e. it includes proposals approved and pending for clarification

### Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs

3822. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Maharashtra for sanction and release of Central Assistance under post matric scholarship for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds released for the purpose?

Government of Maharashtra and the amount released during the last three years under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for OBC students is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount sought	Amount released
2006-07	160.00	0*
2007-08	179.92	19.50
2008-09	230.00	23.07

\*Amount could not be released due to non receipt of utilization certificate of the previous year from the State Government.

### Provision of Homestead Site under IAY

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI. D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) The amount sought by the State

3823. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide rural BPL household homestead sites under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) across the country except Delhi and Chandigarh, under which financial assistance is provided to the rural BPL households for construction of a dwelling unit. Over a period of time, it has been noticed that those rural BPL households who have neither land nor a housesite are left out from getting the benefit under IAY. Accordingly a scheme for providing homestead sites to such rural BPL households has been started from the current year 2009-10 as part of IAY. For this purpose, all the States/UTs were requested to furnish the number of rural households without land or housesites. As per the information received from the State Governments so far, there are 60,14,461 families included in the Permanent IAY Waitlists who have neither land nor a housesite for construction of a dwelling unit. State-wise details of such families are given in the enclosed Statement. Rs. 10,000/- will be provided for a housesite of 100 to 250 sq.mt which will be shared by the Centre and the States in the ratio of 50:50.

#### **Statement**

*No. of rural BPL families included in the Permanent IAY Waitlists who have neither land nor a housesite for construction of dwelling unit*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of BPL families as per Permanent IAY Waitlists who have neither land nor housesite
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8,80,071
2.	Assam	1000
3.	Chhattisgarh	34,029
4.	Goa	1053
5.	Gujarat	1,93,384
6.	Karnataka	10,42,986

1	2	3
7.	Kerala	4,65,177
8.	Maharashtra (13 district)	196332
9.	Meghalaya	77,996
10.	Mizoram	4,211
11.	Punjab (5 districts)	119
12.	Tamil Nadu	26,71,532
13.	Uttarakhand	1,405
14.	West Bengal	4,43,879
15.	Manipur	1287
Total		60,14,461

#### **Protection of Fishermen**

3824. SHRI P. LINGAM:  
SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coast guard provides due protection to Indian fishermen and their boats in Indian Territorial waters;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of cases when the fishermen and their boats have been seized and detained by foreign coast guards;

(c) the number of incidents when foreign fishing boats have entered the Indian Territorial waters; and

(d) the steps taken to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Indian Coast Guard provide assistance to the Indian fishermen at sea while they are in distress. Their aircrafts and ships carry regular patrols to prevent Indian fishing boats crossing the International Maritime Boundary Lines (IMBL) and also conduct 'Community Interaction Programme' to inform the fishermen on the perils of cross border fishing. Indian fishermen are generally apprehended by foreign Navies when they have been engaged in fishing inside their territorial waters. As per records in Navy, 35 Indian fishing boats with 200 fishermen have been apprehended by Pakistani Navy and 31 fishing boats with 123 fishermen

have been apprehended by Sri Lankan Navy this year. 14 Pakistani and 119 Sri Lankan fishing boats were apprehended while fishing in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) since 1st January, 2009. Enhanced aerial and surface surveillance/patrolling off the sea-coast by the security agencies would be continued to deter such incidents.

*[Translation]*

#### **Payment of Salary/Wages by Banks**

3825. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make payment of wages/salary to the workers engaged in private sectors/companies through Banks on the lines of NREGA; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Provision already exists under Section 6 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, wherein the employer may, after obtaining the written authorization of the employed person, pay him the wages either by cheque or by crediting the wages in his bank account.

*[English]*

#### **Export of Coconut Products**

3826. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to give subsidy for export of coconut and other value added products of coconut and coconut oil;

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

(c) whether ASEAN Agreement will cause the import of coconut and coconut oil from outside the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures likely to be taken in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) With an objective to boost export

of coconut products, incentive is being given on export of some coconut products under Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY). Besides this, Government, in general, has been promoting agricultural exports directly and through various agencies. The Government also provides various incentives for infrastructure development, quality control, market development and incentives for promotion, packaging, publicity, information dissemination etc.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Question does not arise. Under the India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement, no tariff concession has been offered for coconut and coconut oil which are included in the Exclusion (Negative) List.

#### **NGREGA Projects in Naxal Areas**

3827. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued any directive to all naxal affected States regarding proper implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the name of States;

(c) whether these States have implemented these directives; and

(d) if so, the number of projects that have been started in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Instructions dated 27.10.2009 have been issued to States for implementation of NREGA in a more meaningful way in Naxal affected areas. The States have been instructed to intensify awareness generation campaign among rural households, issuance of job cards, implementing sufficient number of works and timely payment of wages. Details of the instruction are available at NREGA website [www.nrega.nic.in](http://www.nrega.nic.in). The naxal affected States are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.



(c) and (d) The number of works taken up in these States during the current year, 2009-10 (up to October, 2009) is as under:

Sl.No.	State	Total number of works taken up
1.	Andhra Pradesh	737395
2.	Bihar	117693
3.	Chhattisgarh	62036
4.	Jharkhand	128563
5.	Madhya Pradesh	433928
6.	Maharashtra	16759
7.	Orissa	160049
8.	Uttar Pradesh	294249

*[Translation]*

#### **National Commission For OBCs**

3828. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which objectives of the National Commission for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) have achieved;

(b) the number of castes, sub-castes, communities etc. notified as OBCs till March 31, 2009 on the recommendations of the Commission; and

(c) the comparative jurisdiction of the National Commission for OBCs and National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has been functioning as per its mandate laid down in the NCBC Act, 1993.

(b) 305 entries have been made in the Central List of Other Backward Classes till March 31, 2009, on the basis of advice received from NCBC. An "entry" for this purpose includes caste, its synonyms and sub-castes.

(c) All the three Commissions, in the discharge of their functions, have the powers of a Civil Court trying a suit.

#### **Improvement In PCO Services**

3829. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether PCO services have not been functioning satisfactorily in the country especially in rural and backward areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of PCOs functional especially in the rural and backward area of the country; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the said services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Generally Public Call Offices (PCOs) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are working satisfactorily in rural and backward areas of the country. The number of PCOs of BSNL (excluding Village Panchayat Telephones) in rural and backward areas of the country are 674420.

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

*[English]*

#### **Trade Agreement Between India and EU**

3830. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) the details regarding trade between India and European Union (EU) during the last three years;

(b) the details regarding negotiations for India-EU FTA alongwith the issues discussed therein such as social, environmental, child labour and related matters;

(c) whether the proposed agreement is going to impact public procurement in essential services such as health, water and education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and corrective steps 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) The details regarding trade between India and EU during the last three years is as under:

(US \$ Billion)				
Sl.No.	Period	Export	Import	Total Trade
1.	2006-07	26.78	29.81	56.59
2.	2007-08	34.51	39.43	72.94
3.	2008-09	38.95	42.27	81.22

(b) and (c) The Government of India is negotiating a bilateral Borad-based Trade and Investment Agreement with the European Union (EU).

The negotiations commenced in June 2007 covering areas of Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Remedies, Customs Cooperation & Trade Facilitation, Dispute Settlement, Competition and Intellectual Property Rights. So far, seven rounds of negotiations have been held. The Seventh Round of Negotiations was held in July, 2009. Legal texts of the proposed agreement in all these areas have been exchanged and are being discussed. Tariff liberalization offers have also been exchanged on trade in goods. Non trade issues have not been discussed.

Social, Environmental, Child labour related matters have not been discussed and India has suggested that such non-trade issues cannot be negotiated in the proposed trade and investment agreement. Negotiations are still in progress and no agreement has been made so far.

(d) Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### Schemes for BPL People

3831. SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR:  
DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:  
SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons getting benefits under various welfare schemes and the number of persons living Below Poverty Line among them, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government intends to evolve a mechanism for allotment of exclusive Social Security Number to each individual and prepare a nation-wide database for proper identification and verification and also for making improvement in the targets set for these schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to allot Social Security Number to all the end users in order to ensure that all such persons can avail of all the benefits under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, implements the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) specially for the persons/households living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in all the rural areas of the country. State-wise number of persons/households benefited under these schemes during 2008-09 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has been mandated to issue Unique Identification number to all residents of India. It is for the concerned Ministry to use the Unique Identification (UID) numbers for proper identification and verification and also for making improvement in the targets set for their schemes.

#### Statement

##### *No. of BPL beneficiaries under RD Programmes 2008-09*

Sl. No.	State/UT.s	2008-09				
		TSC No. of IHHL BPL	SGSY No. of Swarozgaries Assisted	IAY No. of Houses Alloted	IGNOAPS No. of beneficiaries	NFBS No. of beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	180860	188837	266654	919230	15067

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3399	774	7236	14500	100
3.	Assam	162328	142728	112706	628949	5894
4.	Bihar	570905	127226	484197	2133678	22421
5.	Chhattisgarh	149460	46542	30023	490120	10343
6.	Goa	1231	592	586	2687	282
7.	Gujarat	483175	41728	122412	79661	7554
8.	Haryana	98862	20639	13302	130306	4481
9.	Himachal Pradesh	71452	11863	4501	85637	2000
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	135858	6990	132211	123557	2689
11.	Jharkhand	330201	83103	56180	643003	19810
12.	Karnataka	206393	99950	87051	821969	19054
13.	Kerala	74297	43784	53133	141956	26360
14.	Madhya Pradesh	452567	99200	74651	931434	44924
15.	Maharashtra	344397	154647	118611	1001636	47484
16.	Manipur	2923	3640	514	72514	1670
17.	Meghalaya	12969	2195	5619	32952	981
18.	Mizoram	6294	8748	5179	23747	614
19.	Nagaland	3713	3205	24717	28053	533
20.	Orissa	260884	126206	62447	643400	33384
21.	Punjab	39989	13109	11700	166689	2461
22.	Rajasthan	159187	58495	52654	494179	
23.	Sikkim	3712	1689	1774	18879	200
24.	Tamil Nadu	370972	113097	94160	988761	17913
25.	Tripura	22007	23847	26389	136592	8438
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1039797	319568	267543	2941120	87118
27.	Uttarakhand	40130	18044	12696	148687	5124
28.	West Bengal	455505	99905	123808	1039041	35261
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	243	124	702	4
30.	Chandigarh				4049	708
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	41	6956	
32.	Daman and Diu	0	24	0	630	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33.	NCT Delhi				121974	400
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	190	36	20
35.	Puducherry	227	1257	52	3356	
Total		5683694	1861875	2134061	15020640	423292

Note: Nos indicated for IGNOAPS and NFBS is for both rural and urban area.

IHHL: Individual house hold latrin.

### Proposed And Approved EOUs

3832. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of Export Oriented Units (EOUs) operating in the country as on date; and

(b) the number of proposals received as well as approved by the Government for setting up of export-oriented units during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY: (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A statement is annexed.

### Statement

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No. of EOUs in operation as on 30.11.2009	No. of proposals received 2006-07	No. of proposals approved 2006-07	No. of proposals received 2007-08	No. of proposals approved 2007-08	No. of proposals received 2008-09	No. of proposals approved 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	243	55	50	49	49	43	36
2.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
3.	West Bengal	71	16	14	12	9	10	6
4.	Bihar	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
5.	Jharkhand	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Orissa	23	5	7	13	12	3	2
7.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Meghalaya	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Gujarat	293	52	47	47	36	26	21
16.	Kerala	72	14	14	9	8	6	6
17.	Karnataka	436	71	69	63	59	50	49
18.	Tamil Nadu	474	78	70	46	40	41	33
19.	Puducherry	19	5	5	4	4	1	1
20.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Maharashtra	400	75	55	39	28	35	33
22.	Goa, Daman and Diu	56	11	7	11	9	7	6
23.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	23	2	3	3	2	2	2
24.	Delhi	44	18	13	8	5	4	1
25.	Haryana	105	18	11	16	10	15	6
26.	Uttar Pradesh	106	13	6	17	11	13	7
27.	Punjab	24	1	1	7	5	2	1
28.	Rajasthan	107	15	10	7	6	4	0
29.	Himachal Pradesh	5	2	2	0	0	2	1
30.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Uttarakhand	3	1	0	3	2	2	1
33.	Madhya Pradesh	19	1	1	3	2	3	3
Total		2512	456	373	345	288	269	173

[English]

### Setting up of Large Shipyard by HSL

3833. SHRI SOMEN MITRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) to build a large shipyard for repairing and building a very large crude carrier vessels with an estimated project cost of Rs. 4000 crore is pending with Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to complete this project with Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode;

(c) if so, the name of companies interested to share the project cost and construction; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):  
(a) to (d) A proposal for setting up of a new shipyard

by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) to cater to the requirements of Merchant Shipping Sector for shiprepair and shipbuilding is under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

#### **Rural Development Projects on Bio-fuel**

3834. SHRI ARJUN MUNDA:  
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is formulating any plan to utilize non-forest land and barren land for growing bio-fuel in the country including Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has got State-wise land survey conducted for the purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for funding of rural development project on bio-diesel to be expected in the next five years; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the funds released and spent so far, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI) : (a) to (d) No Madam, Government is not formulating at present any plan to utilize Non- Forest land and barren land for growing bio-fuel in the country including Jharkhand. No Land survey has been conducted State wise for the purpose however the Funds released by Department of Land Resources durin Financial years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 are given in the enclosed Statement. Further the Status in brief of Bio-diesel Programme under Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) is as under:

- (i) Proposal for launching demonstration phase of the National Mission on Bio-diesel was considered by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and it was referred to Group of Ministers (GoM).
- (ii) The recommendations of GoM were submitted to the Cabinet. The Cabinet in its meeting held

on 11.9.2008 referred the matter to GoM again to sort out the outstanding issues.

- (iii) GoM met on 24.2.2009 and the proposal of the Ministry of Rural Development including establishing a National Mission on Bio-diesel was approved by the GoM, in principle, subject to the following:
  - (a) The demonstration phase can be taken up only after an assessment is carried out of the plantation work already undertaken in the country and positive feed back received, and availability of budget.
  - (b) Research and Development work to be coordinated as proposed under the National Policy on Bio-fuels with allocations for R&D to be made under the budgets of the respective Ministries/Departments and Agencies.
  - (c) The Policy Coordination Committee, as proposed in the proposal of MoRD, need not be set up in view of the policy coordination mechanisms already proposed in the National Policy on Bio-fuels.

Recommendations made by the Group of Ministers on the proposal of the MoRD on Establishment of the National Mission on Bio-diesel and launch of its demonstration phase (phase-I) were included in the Cabinet Note submitted by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy on 9th July, 2009 for approval of Cabinet. The Cabinet considered the above Note of MNRE in its meeting held on 23rd July, 2009 and approved the proposals contained in paragraph above.

As per the Cabinet decision, further necessary steps to carry out the impact assessment study for the plantation work already undertaken in the country is being done by this Ministry.

- (e) and (f) Government of Andhra Pradesh has forwarded a proposal to sanction Research Development Project on Bio-diesel with an estimated cost of Rs. 2745.87 lakhs for five years 2008-09 to 2012-13 and to release year wise funds to Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Central Research Institute for Dry Land Agriculture (CRIDA), National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Directorate of Oil Seeds Research (DOR) and Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT).

However, an amount of Rs. 10.75 cores was sanctioned during financial year 2005-06 to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for raising seedlings of bio-fuel plants. No funds were released after that.

**Statement**

*Amount released in the year 2005-06 for raising of  
Jatropha/Pongamia seedlings (Nursery Plantation)*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.75
2.	Tamil Nadu	10.50
3.	Chhattisgarh	13.50
4.	Gujarat	4.50
5.	Rajasthan	2.25
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1.50
7.	Sikkim	1.50
8.	Tripura	3.00
9.	Assam	1.50
Total		49.00

*Amount released in the year 2006-07 for raising of  
Jatropha/Pongamia seedlings (Nursery Plantation)*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3
1.	Karnataka	2.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh	9.00
3.	Orissa	4.00
4.	Uttarakhand	8.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	8.00
6.	Rajasthan	5.00
7.	Gujarat	4.00
8.	Uttar Pradesh	1.00
9.	Bihar	1.00
10.	Jharkhand	1.00
11.	Maharashtra	1.00

1	2	3
12.	West Bengal	1.00
13.	Assam	2.00
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.00
15.	Tripura	1.50
Total		49.50

**Note:** Funds in year 2005-06 and year 2006-07 were sanctioned/ released to State Governments agencies e.g.. District Rural Development Agencies or State Government's Bio-Fuel Development Authority/Bio-Diesel Boards/Forest Development Corporation/Forest Development and Plantation Corporation.

**Rules for Installation of Mobile Towers**

3835. SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has framed any rule regarding installation of mobile towers in residential areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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 mobile phone service as per their business plan and technical requirements. 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 Telecommunications 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".

(c) No applicable, in view of (a) & (b) above.

(d) Do not arise, in view of (a) & (b) above.

**IAY for Natural Calamity affected Areas**

3836. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase present quota of five per cent under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) in natural calamity affected areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent to which it is proposed to be increased; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) As per guidelines of Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), 5% of the annual IAY funds are permitted to be used for natural calamities. However, the district-wise ceiling is an amount upto 10% of the district's annual allocation under IAY or Rs.70.00 lakh (Including State share), whichever is higher. The ceiling of Rs. 70 lakh was fixed in February 2009 by enhancing it from Rs. 50.00 lakh.

[English]

**Utilisation of Inland Navigation**

3837. SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to utilize the Inland Navigation potential in the country including Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the strategy/plan chalked out by the Government for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) There are 14500 kms of inland water network in the country out of which five stretches have been declared as National Waterways. They are as under:

- (i) National Waterway-1: Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river (1620 km). Declared as National Waterway in 1986. (U.P., Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal).

- (ii) National Waterway-2: Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of the Brahmaputra river (891 km). Declared as National Waterway in 1988 (Assam.).

- (iii) National Waterway-3: Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (205 km). Declared as National Waterway in 1993 (Kerala).

- (iv) National Waterway-4: Kakinada-Puducherry stretch of canals and Kaluvelly tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry stretch of river Godavari and Wazirabad - Vijayawada stretch of river Krishna (1095 km). Declared as National Waterway in 2008 (A.P., Tamil Nadu and Puducherry)

- (v) National Waterway-5: Talcher-Dhamra stretch of rivers, Geonkhali-Charbatia stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia - Dhamra stretch of Matai river and Mahanadi delta rivers (620 km). Declared as National Waterway in 2008 (Orissa and West Bengal).

Out of these, National Waterways 1, 2 & 3 are being developed by Inland Waterways Authority of India for shipping and navigation by providing basic inland water transport infrastructure namely navigational channel, navigational aids and terminals. These waterways are already being utilized for movement of various cargo such as flyash, cement, stone chips, edible oil, petroleum products, iron-dust, foodgrains, coal, project cargo, over dimensional cargo etc.

For National Waterways 4 and 5, which were declared as National Waterways in November 2008 proposals for development of these waterways have been initiated.

**Restriction on Admission of Girls**

3838. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:



(a) whether there is any notification issued by the Directorate-General of Shipping (DGS) that bars admission of girl students in BE marine engineering courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date on which said notification was issued;

(c) the number of maritime training institutes functioning at present in the private and public sectors, State-wise;

(d) the number of girls and boys enrolled by each of these institutes and maritime universities during each of the last three years and the current year, separately, State-wise;

(e) whether any proposals have been received from the private sector for the establishment of more such institutes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision taken by the Government thereon?

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there are 125 Maritime Training Institutes approved by the Government out of which 113 institutes are in private sector and 12 institutes are in public sector. The following table indicates State-wise position:—

Sl.No.	State	Number of Institutes in Private Sector	Number of Institutes in Public Sector	Total number of Training Institutes
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	1	4
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	1	1
3.	Bihar	1	-	1
4.	Daman and Diu	1	-	1
5.	Delhi	5	-	5
6.	Goa	6	-	6
7.	Kerala	6	1	7
8.	Maharashtra	43	4	47
9.	Orissa	1	1	2
10.	Puducherry	2	-	2
11.	Rajasthan	1	-	1
12.	Tamil Nadu	24	2	26
13.	Uttar Pradesh	5	-	5
14.	Uttarakhand	2	-	2
15.	West Bengal	13	2	15
Total		113	12	125

(d) The details of number of girls and boys enrolled by each of the institutes and maritime universities is being compiled.

(e) and (f) Two proposals have been received from the private sector for establishment of more such institutes. The detail of proposals and the status thereof is as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Institute	Name of the Course	Present Status
1.	Late Ram Singh Chhajuma! Education Trust, Vododra	1 year DNS Course and Basic Modular Courses	The proposal of the institute has been examined. The Detailed Project Report submitted by the institute was not satisfactory. The institute has been informed that their request will be processed only on receipt of revised proposal identifying the infrastructure, training facilities etc., which should be segregated from the Royale International School.
2.	U.V. Patel College of Engineering of Ganpat University, Mehsana	4 years BE (ME) Degree Course	Inspection of the institute was carried out on 17.4.2009 by Western Academic Council. Several deficiencies were observed. Another inspection has been ordered. Inspection report is awaited.

[*Translation*]

### **Amenities For SC/ST People**

3839. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of Ministers on Dalit Affairs has recommended to provide basic amenities—electricity, drinking water, education, road, employment etc. in a stipulated manner on the priority basis to such villages where the population of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are 40 per cent or more by naming them as “Prime Minister Model Villages”;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to implement the above recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech, 2009-10, delivered on 6.7.2009, announced launching of a new scheme, namely “Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana”, on pilot basis, to cover 1,000 villages with more than 50% SC population. The relevant para of the speech reads as under:-

*“Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)*

46(v) There are about 44,000 villages in which the population of Scheduled Castes is above 50 percent. A new scheme called Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) is being launched this year on a pilot basis, for the integrated development of 1,000 such villages. I propose an allocation of Rs. 100 crore for this scheme. Each village would be able to avail gap funding of Rs. 10 lakh over and above the allocations under Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Schemes. On successful implementation of the pilot phase, the Yojana would be extended in coming years”.

In pursuance of the above announcement, the pilot scheme is being finalized by the Ministry.

[*English*]

### **Sub-Categorisation of SCs**

3840. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI P. BALRAM:

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

(a) whether any request has been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh for sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes (SCs); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh vide their letter dated 10.01.2005, had inter-alia, informed that the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly held on 10.12.2004, unanimously adopted the following Government Resolution:-

“This House had passed Resolution on 22nd April, 1998, for categorization of Scheduled Castes as recommended by Justice Ramachandra Raju Commission. In view of the recent Supreme Court Judgement, the House resolves to recommend to the Government of India to take up the matter in Parliament.”

No decision has been taken in this regard.

### **Import of Marble**

3841. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity and value of marble imported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the imports have affected local production in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps being taken in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to assist the marble producers in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Quantity and value of marble imported during last three years and the domestic production are given in the Statement enclosed. It would be seen that the quantity of imported marble is not significant in comparison to the domestic production of marble. Import of rough marble, classified under Chapter 25 of ITC(HS) Classification Book, is restricted for import and a limited quantity is permitted by Government against licences. Import of finished marble products, classified under Chapter 68 of ITC(HS) Classification Book, is allowed freely. However, import of marble under both the chapters, are subject to stipulated minimum import price. These restrictions are aimed at providing protection to the domestic marble industry.

**Statement***India's import of Marbles for the last three years*

ITCHS	Description	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		Qty (TON)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)	Qty (TON)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)	Qty (TON)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
25151100	MARBLE & TRAVERTINE CRUDE/ROUGHLY TRIMMD	19002	2823.88	28852	4073.98	26612	4330.62
25151210	BLOCKS MARBLE & TRAVERTINE	119690	16753.52	172625	22812.35	199619	30464.32
25151220	SLABS MARBLE & TRAVERTINE	8970	1359.09	7604	1395.36	3926	677.99
25151290	OTHER MARBLE & TRAVERTINE	419	91.83	485	46.49	155	31.40
68022110	MARBLE BLOCKS/TILES,POLISHED	24453	7504.88	12287	3856.38	13959	5027.23
68022120	MARBLE MONUMENTS	629	279.18	20	2.02	254	16.63
68022190	OTHERS	38603	12948.51	73344	20286.28	63340	23644.52
68029100	OTHER MARBLE TRAVERTINE & ALABASTER	755	510.56	414	151.42	1744	833.82
	<b>Total</b>	<b>212521</b>	<b>42271.45</b>	<b>295632</b>	<b>52624.27</b>	<b>309608</b>	<b>65029.53</b>

[Source: DGCI&amp;S, Kolkata]

*Domestic production of marble*

Year	Production of Marble Blocks* (in '000 MT)
2006-07	7642.73
2007-08	8753.58
2008-09	9569.91

(Source: CDOS, Jaipur)

\*Figures for Rajasthan, which constitutes about 95% of total production of Marble blocks in India

*[Translation]***Rural Development Works**

3842: SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formed a high level Committee to bring comprehensive reforms in the rural development works being undertaken by the Panchayati Raj Institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) No Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

**Employment to Land Owners**

3843. SHRIMATI DARSHANA JARDOSH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to provide job to the children of those families whose land has been acquired by the Government for setting up any industry; and

(b) the number of persons given employment till date in the country, State-wise including Hazira region for setting up public sector or private sector enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources formulated the National Rehabilitation

and Resettlement Policy(NRRP)-2007. The guidelines contained in the Policy envisages that—

“In case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body:-

- (i) the requiring body shall give preference to the affected families- at least one person per nuclear family-in providing employment in the project, subject to the availability of vacancies and suitability of the affected persons for the employment;
- (ii) wherever necessary, the requiring body shall arrange for training of the affected persons, so as to enable such persons to take on suitable jobs;
- (iii) the requiring body shall offer scholarships and other skill development opportunities to the eligible persons from the affected families as per the criteria as may be fixed by the appropriate Government;
- (iv) the requiring body shall give preference to the affected persons or their groups or cooperatives in the allotment of outsourced contracts, shops or other economic opportunities coming up in or around the project site; and

(v) the requiring body shall give preference to willing landless labourers and unemployed affected persons while engaging labour in the project during the construction phase”.

(b) No such information/data is being maintained Centrally/ Department of Public Enterprises.

[English]

### Export of Crops

3844. SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export of crops including cash crops during the last three years; and

(b) the measures being taken by the Government to improve export of crops and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The export of cash crops during the last three years are as given below:

(Quantity in tonnes; value in Rs. crores)

Cash crops	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Tea	185627	1969.51	197393	2034.17	207271	2687.63
Coffee	213650	1969.00	178303	1872.26	174177	2255.76
Tobacco	158254	1685.16	173345	1931.88	207908	3457.79
Cashew	122776	2491.18	111257	2209.60	126147	2900.99
Rubber	56545	513.74	60353	494.31	46926	450.20
Spices	482795	3157.89	614861	4314.86	675408	6338.13
Total	1219647	11786.48	1335512	12857.08	1437837	18090.5

The details of export of other crops are available on the website of the Department of Commerce at [www.commerce.gov.in](http://www.commerce.gov.in).

(b) The Government of India is taking number of steps to improve export of crops, which include financial and technical assistance to the growers and other

stakeholders, under Plan schemes of its autonomous bodies/export promotion councils, like Tea Board, Coffee Board, Spices Board, Tobacco Board, Rubber Board, Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, etc. Government is also doing various export promotion activities, like participation in trade fairs, exhibitions,

buyer-seller meets, brand promotion, public relation campaign etc.

The export of agri and allied products have registered growth in value of 8.6%. Out of these, cash crops have registered a growth of 40.70% in 2008-09 over 2007-08.

*[Translation]*

#### **Film on Dr. Ambedkar**

3845. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any film on Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has been produced with Central assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether the print quality of this film has been found very poor;

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

(e) whether the Union Government has taken/proposes to take steps to improve the print quality of this film; and

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

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

(b) A feature film on Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was produced by the National Film Development Corporation on behalf of the Government of India and Government of Maharashtra. Government of India has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 672.95 lakh in this regard.

(c) Nothing adverse has been brought to the notice of the Government in this regard.

(d) to (f) Does not arise.

#### **Violation of Norms by EOUs**

3846. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of violation of quality control norms for manufacturing of products by the Export Oriented Units (EOUs) which have come to light during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the products rejected for export due to this reason; and

(c) the action 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) According to information received from the Development Commissioners of Special Economic Zones, no report of violation of quality control norms for manufacturing of products by the Export Oriented Units (EOUs) came to their notice. However, Development Commissioner, Falta Special Economic Zone has reported one case during 2007-08 and five cases during 2008-09 where permission was given for re-import of defective manufactured goods for re-export after repairing.

*[English]*

#### **LCA Tejas**

3847. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:  
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) of DRDO has assured to deliver indigenous Kaveri-Snecma engine for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas in a time-bound manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also requested two leading aero engine manufacturers, General Electric (US) and Eurojet (Germany) to submit their bids for supply of 99 engines; and

(d) if so, the response of these companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The proposal on the Kaveri-Snecma engine joint venture is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Yes, Madam. Request for Proposal (RFP) for procuring 99 engines has been sent to two short-listed engine manufactures, namely GE F414 from General Electric Aviation, USA and EJ200 from Eurojet Germany.

(d) The engine houses have responded to the RFP. Both commercial and technical responses have been received for procurement of 99 engines along with Transfer of Technology.

#### **Investment of EPF Fund**

3848. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:  
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (CBTEPFO) has requested to the Government to invest the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) money in the National Saving Certificates and Post Office Term Deposit Receipts (TDRs); 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) Yes, Madam. The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund had recommended to the Government for inclusion of National Savings Certificates and Post Office Term Deposit Receipts in the pattern of investment. The matter was examined in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. Government Savings Banks Act, under which the small savings schemes including the National Savings Certificates and Post Office Time Deposit Schemes are being implemented, has been amended through the Finance Act, 2005 to restrict investment in these Schemes to individuals only. Accordingly, it was found not possible to allow EPF investment in these Schemes.

#### **Task Force on Export of Pharma Products**

3849 DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Task Force on Pharmaceuticals has given report on increasing export of pharma products;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the recommendations in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Task Force made several wide ranging recommendations including.

- (i) Public and private initiative on a mega scale in pharmaceutical sector
- (ii) Treat investments in Quality on par with R&D to enhance Quality and Skilled Scientific Personnel.
- (iii) Revival of Indian Drug Intermediate industry
- (iv) Revival of Fermentation Capabilities of India

(c) Action Plans have been chalked out by the concerned Ministries/Departments for implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force.

#### **Job Cards under NREGS**

3850. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Job Cards issued in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh till October, 2009 under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) since its inception, year-wise; and

(b) the number of people applied for Job Cards and not received the Cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) (a) A job card issued to a rural household under NREGA is valid for a period of 5 years. The cumulative number of job cards issued in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh since inception of NREGA is as under;

State	Cumulative number of job cards issued			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (up to Oct., 09)
Andhra Pradesh	5066675	8853413	11347815	11899200
Uttar Pradesh	4004287	7311973	10652018	10938138

(b) As per para 2 of Schedule-II of NREGA, Gram Panchayats are required to issue job cards to the households who apply for registration after verification of name, age and address of the adult members of a household and affixing their photograph on the job cards. In Andhra Pradesh, all households who applied for job cards have been issued the job card. However, in Uttar Pradesh, as per reports received from the State Government, 218913 registered households have not been issued job cards. In accordance with para 5.3.2 of NREGA Guidelines, the job cards should be issued immediately after verification i.e. within a fortnight of the receipt of the application for registration.

*[Translation]*

#### **Export of Soyabean and Gram**

3851. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of exports of soyabean and gram during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide additional financial assistance for the said purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The details regarding export of soyabean and Gram are as under:

Year	Quantity (in Tons)	
	kabuli Chana	Soyabean
2006-07	61303.9	3527.66
2007-08	161772.4	7459.75
2008-09 (upto Feb. 2009)	107677.5	36232.48

(b) and (c) Madam, Government, in general, has been promoting agricultural exports directly and through various agencies. In order to boost exports, the Government provides various incentives for infrastructure development, quality control, market development and incentives for promotion, packaging, publicity, information dissemination etc.

#### **Regularisation of Contract Labourers**

3852. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contract labourers working in the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in Delhi and Mumbai during the last three years and the current year, work-wise;

(b) the amount/wages paid to the contract labourers during the last three years and the current year, work-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to regularise such labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Information are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House at the earliest.

#### **Katni Ordnance Factory**

3853. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of several important components to other ordnance factories has been affected due to breakdown of Extrusion Press in ordnance factory, Katni;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to procure the said components from other sources and also to repair the Press?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The supply of 15 types of components of copper/brass to other Ordnance Factories has been affected due to major breakdown of Extrusion Press at Ordnance Factory, Katni.

(c) Action has been taken for undertaking urgent repair of Extrusion Press. The assistance of civil sector dealing with similar components is being taken simultaneously.

#### **Procurement of Aircraft from USA**

3854. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of procurement of C-130 J transport aircraft from USA;

(b) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the time by which the said aircraft are likely to be inducted into the Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Letter of Offer and Acceptance for procurement of six C-130J aircraft was signed with the Government of United States of America, on 31st January, 2008. The estimated cost of the procurement is Rs. 3835.38 crores. The production of the aircraft has commenced and is running as per schedule. The aircraft are likely to be delivered to the Indian Air Force during 2011-2012.

*[English]*

#### **Decline in Sale of Computer**

3855. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of computers has registered a sharp decline during the current financial year in comparison with previous years;

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

(c) whether any steps have been taken to boost the sale of computers in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) As per information provided by the Manufacturers Association for Information Technology (MAIT), the consumption of computers recorded a negative growth of 7% in 2008-09 over 2007-08. Sales fell from 7.3 million units to 6.8 million units. However, as per the current data available with MAIT, sales are improving quarter on quarter and are expected to grow by 7-10% in 2009-10. The drop in sales has been a reflection of the global economic downturn which had also impacted the domestic economy and hence the local consumption of IT hardware.

(c) and (d) The fiscal incentive package announced by the Government, especially making Excise duty uniform across the computer Industry value chain has to an extent helped the Industry. Further, spending by the

Government on e-Governance projects has also helped to boost the sale of computers in the country.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Price of Cashew**

3856. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cashew price in the domestic market has increased;

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

(c) the steps taken to ensure adequate availability of cashew in the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The domestic market prices of cashew are always higher than the export prices/international market prices. The current domestic market prices for cashew kernels, W320 grade at Kollam, Kerala is about Rs. 300 to Rs. 310 per kg. The main reason for increase in price of cashew kernels is the shortage of raw cashewnuts due to insufficient domestic production. To maintain the adequate availability, raw cashewnut is imported from African Countries and Indonesia.

#### **Negotiations for FTAs**

3857. SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is currently negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with any of the foreign countries separately;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding the nature of consultations held with the State Government and other stake holders in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. India is currently negotiating Free Trade agreements with the following countries:



Name of the Agreements under	Partner country
India-EU Trade and Investment Agreement	Austria Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.
India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Negotiations on broad based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement	Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland
India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations)	Japan
India-Sri Lanka Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations	Sri Lanka
India-Thailand Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) negotiations	Thailand
India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) negotiations	Malaysia
Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations	Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal
India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations	Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Yemen
India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) negotiations	Mauritius
India-SACU Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) negotiations	South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia

(c) Government gives utmost importance to the consultations with Administrative Ministries, State Governments, Industry Associations and other stake holders. Consultations are held at important centers of trade and industry across the country. Main purpose of such consultations is to identify products to which the domestic industry and farmers are sensitive to imports at reduced rate of duty. On such products limited or no tariff concession is offered to the FTA partner. Consultations also identify products which domestic industry wants to export to the FTA partner.

*[Translation]*

#### **Construction of Rohtang Tunnel**

3858. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:  
SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the technical and commercial bids for construction 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 have been evaluated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the list of firms finalised to which works relating to the tunnel are to be assigned; and

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed?

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d) The contract for construction of Rohtang Tunnel has been awarded to M/s Starbag-Afcon (JV) on 24th September, 2009. Construction work is targeted for completion by the year 2015.

**Irregularities in EPFO**

3859. SHRI VITTHALBHAI HANSRAJBHAI  
RADADIYA:  
SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV:

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

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government regarding irregularities in Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of officials found guilty; and

(d) the steps taken by Government against the erring officials and check such irregularities in future?

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

(a) The number of complaints received during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) Yes, Madam. All the complaints have been dealt with as per Central Vigilance Commission's (CVC) guidelines/instructions and punishment of major penalty and minor penalty has been imposed on 59 and 30 officials respectively. Periodic Joint surprise Inspections are conducted by the Vigilance Directorate of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on its own and also along with Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and suitable action is initiated against delinquent officials.

**Statement**

States	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	As on 31.10.2009
1	2	3	4	5
Delhi	11	6	11	5
Haryana	12	9	10	3
Punjab	7	5	8	2
Himachal Pradesh	1	0	1	0
Uttar Pradesh	10	11	15	6

	1	2	3	4	5
Uttarakhand		6	5	4	2
West Bengal		16	22	15	16
Orissa		8	7	7	3
Jharkhand		4	7	4	3
Bihar		11	6	5	3
North Eastern Region	0	1	0	0	1
Andhra Pradesh		9	9	6	1
Karnataka		5	6	0	0
Tamil Nadu		7	7	3	1
Kerala		4	3	1	0
Gujarat		2	6	4	6
Madhya Pradesh		1	2	2	2
Chhattisgarh		0	3	0	0
Maharashtra		11	18	9	4
Goa		1	0	0	0
Rajasthan		5	2	5	1
Total		131	135	110	59

**SC/ST Beneficiaries under NREGS**

3860. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of beneficiaries from SCs and STs at present under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has received complaints/ reports regarding the violation of ban of machines and contractors and non-fulfillment of basic requirements under the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Data regarding participation of SCs and STs beneficiaries under NREGA is maintained in terms of the persondays of employment generated. State/UT wise details for the year 2009-10 (upto October, 09) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Rural Development has received 85 complaints alleging use of machinery, 13 complaints regarding engagement of contractors and 336 complaints relating to non-fulfillment of basic requirements under NREGA.

(d) The corrective measures taken by the Ministry to minimize the occurrence of such cases are as under:

- (i) Orders dated 7.9.2009 have been issued directing all State Governments for setting up of the office of Ombudsman at district level for redressal of grievances in a time bound manner.
- (ii) A Web enabled Management Information System (MIS) ([www.nrega.nic.in](http://www.nrega.nic.in)) has been made operational which places all critical parameters such as job cards, muster rolls, wage payments, number of days of employment provided and works under execution online for monitoring and easy public access for information. More than 8.4 crore job cards and 2.4 crore muster rolls have been uploaded on the web site.

(iii) Wage disbursement to NREGA workers through Banks/Post Office accounts has been made mandatory to ensure proper disbursement of wages to NREGA workers. 8.13 crore bank/post office accounts have been opened so far.

(iv) The Ministry has accorded utmost importance to the organization of Social Audits by the Gram Panchayats and issued instructions to the States to make necessary arrangements for the purpose. Modifications have been made in para 13 of Schedule-I of the Act to provide for procedures on conducting social audits. The Ministry has issued instructions to the State Governments for enforcement of the new social audit provisions under NREGA.

(v) Independent Monitoring by eminent citizens has been approved.

(vi) District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up for monitoring of rural development programmes including NREGA.

### **Statement**

(2009-10 upto Oct, 09)

Sl.No.	States	Persondays Generated in Lakhs				
		Total	SCs	%age of SC participation	STs	%age of ST participation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2372.20	602.50	25.40	316.50	13.34
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.56	0.00	0.00	1.56	1.00
3.	Assam	375.68	40.57	10.80	129.61	34.50
4.	Bihar	634.61	320.93	50.57	28.65	4.52
5.	Chhattisgarh	598.77	96.98	16.20	214.55	35.83
6.	Gujarat	295.28	53.19	18.01	99.60	33.73
7.	Haryana	31.40	18.12	57.70	0.00	0.01
8.	Himachal Pradesh	131.88	43.99	33.35	11.37	8.62
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	34.60	1.87	5.40	6.75	19.52
10.	Jharkhand	502.93	72.99	14.51	219.61	43.67
11.	Karnataka	602.04	188.25	19.64	59.47	9.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Kerala	89.73	17.18	19.15	7.09	7.90
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1262.42	217.22	17.21	584.50	46.30
14.	Maharashtra	191.54	33.22	17.34	78.74	41.11
15.	Manipur	224.86	53.86	23.95	77.22	34.34
16.	Meghalaya	51.54	0.30	0.58	50.13	97.27
17.	Mizoram	75.51	0.00	0.01	75.37	99.81
18.	Nagaland	152.34	0.00	0.00	152.34	100.00
19.	Orissa	178.65	34.49	19.31	60.53	33.88
20.	Punjab	30.95	22.46	72.57	0.00	0.00
21.	Rajasthan	3278.02	886.32	27.04	770.48	23.50
22.	Sikkim	18.51	1.48	7.98	8.16	44.10
23.	Tamil Nadu	1493.47	841.56	56.35	33.14	2.22
24.	Tripura	161.30	40.48	25.10	68.93	42.74
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1462.70	776.11	53.06	25.20	1.72
26.	Uttarakhand	86.25	23.23	26.93	3.27	3.79
27.	West Bengal	656.82	244.34	37.20	91.89	13.99
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.37	0.00	0.00	0.14	9.93
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.42	100.00
30.	Daman and Diu	0	0	-	0	-
31.	Goa	0.41	0.07	16.02	0.17	40.75
32.	Lakshadweep	1.16	0.00	0.00	1.16	99.91
33.	Puducherry	2.70	1.32	48.89	0.00	0.00
Total		15001.62	4563.02	30.42	3176.54	21.17

[English]

**NOCs issued by DGS**

3861. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) issued by Director General of Shipping (DGS) for registration of various maritime vessels during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(b) the number of applications received and pending with DGS for NOCs during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):  
(a) No Objection Certificates issued by the Director

General of Shipping for registration of fishing vessels during each of the last three years and the current year State-wise is given below—

Name of State	2006	2007	2008	2009
Maharashtra	—	1	1	—
Tamil Nadu	—	10	4	8
West Bengal	4	6	20	12
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	8
Goa	—	—	—	—
Total	4	17	25	28

(b) The number of applications received and pending with the DGS for NOCs during the said period State-wise is as follows:

No. of applications	2006	2007	2008	2009
Received	4	17	25	40
Pending	—	—	—	12
				[Maharashtra 4 and West Bengal 8]

#### **Auction of Spectrum**

3862. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecom has conducted a pre-bid conference for auction of 3G spectrum in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of foreign telecom companies, which were invited but did not participate in the conference alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) the response of the domestic telecom service providers in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to resolve the concerns of both foreign and domestic telecom companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam The pre-bid conference was held on 16.11.2009 in order to reply to the queries of the prospective 3G and BWA spectrum auction participants including foreign and domestic players. No foreign companies were specifically invited for the pre-bid conference.

(d) Response of domestic telecom service providers was reasonably good.

(e) The queries of all the companies who participated in the conference were clarified. The Notice Inviting Application (NIA) shall address all the concerns expressed during the pre-bid conference.

#### **Land Acquisition**

3863. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRI BHASKARRAO BABURAO PATIL  
KHATGAONKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to restrict its role in the acquisition of land for private party in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind this move; and

(c) 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 RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) to (c) Introducing the Rehabilitation & Resettlement Bill, 2009 and the L.A. (Amendment) Bill, 2009 in the Parliament is under consideration. The details of the Bills would become known once they are introduced in the Parliament.

#### **Setting up of Cold Storage Under ASIDE Scheme**

3864. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance provided under ASIDE Scheme for setting up of common cold storage, State-wise;

(b) whether some States particularly Orissa have requested for Special grant under the scheme for setting up cold storage; and

(c) 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) As per information posted by the State Governments on web-enabled monitoring system of ASIDE Scheme, the details of Cold Storage Projects approved by State Level Export Promotion Committee (SLEPC) of the respective States under State Component of ASIDE Scheme are as given in the Table.

**Table**

(Rs. in lac)

Sl.No.	Project	State	Approval Year	Total Cost	Contribution from ASIDE Scheme
1.	Establishment of Common Cold Storage/Freezing Plant at Bhubaneswar	Orissa	2006-07	595	50
2.	Cold Chain Management-cum-Export Mart for Fresh Cut Flower and Exotic Vegetables at Nokari in Nadia	West Bengal	2008-09	380	220
3.	Cold Chain Projects by Fisheries Department in 4 Districts	Tamil Nadu	2004-05	100	90
4.	Cold Storage for storing eggs at Namakkal	Tamil Nadu	2007-08	1000	200

(b) and (c) Department of Commerce has not provided financial assistance to any State under Central Component of ASIDE Scheme for setting up of Common Cold Storage. A proposal seeking assistance upto Rs. 425 lac. for the project at Sl. No. 1 in Table-I above under Central Component of ASIDE Scheme was received from Government of Orissa during 2006-07. The same was considered by the Empowered Committee of ASIDE and financial assistance under Central Component was not approved.

#### **Joint Development of Missiles**

3865. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of missiles developed in joint venture with Israel;

(b) the total project cost of each of them specifying their appropriate deployment in the three forces;

(c) the number of contracts signed after competitive international tender; and

(d) the extent to which these missiles are cheaper in cost and better in quality as compared to other missiles of the world?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Procurement of defence items including missiles is made from various indigenous as well as foreign sources including Israel in accordance

with the well laid down defence procurement procedure. This is a continuous process undertaken for the modernization of the Armed Forces to keep them in a state of readiness to meet any eventuality.

Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) has undertaken joint development of missiles, Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) for Indian Navy and Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) for Indian Air Force with M/s Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), Israel. The cost of project for LRSAM is Rs. 2606.02 crore and cost of project for MRSAM is Rs. 10075 crore.

Both the missiles being developed are comparable in performance and cost to missiles available in their class in the world market.

#### **Investment by Private Sector Companies**

3866. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:  
SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:  
SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:  
SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:  
SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Private Sector and Multinational Telecom Companies have shown interest to make investments for development of telecommunication facilities especially in rural and backward areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Telecommunication facilities in the country are being provided by public and private telecom service providers. The private service providers have made investments as under:

Sl.No.	Year (March ending)	Private Sector (Gross Block Investment Cumulative (in Rs. Crores)
1.	March 2007	105448
2.	March 2008	133851
3.	March 2009	188499

Rural — Urban break-up of private sector investment is not available.

(c) The Government has taken/being taken following steps for increase of telecom facilities especially in rural and backward areas through USOF scheme by.

- (i) Providing subsidy support for installation of Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in 1685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) out of 2647 total SDCAs in the country, where cost of providing telephone is more than the revenue earned. As on 31.10.2009, out of total 67.85 lakh RDELs about 46.34 Lakh RDELs have been provided by private service providers.
- (ii) Providing subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 (revised to 7436) number of infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 states for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. As on 31.10.2009, out of 6648 towers set up under this scheme, 1561 towers have been set up by private service providers.
- (iii) Provision of broadband connectivity to villages in a phased manner.
- (iv) Creation of general infrastructure like optical fibre cable in rural and remote areas.

(v) Induction of new technological developments in the telecom sector on a Pilot Project basis in rural and remote areas.

#### Storage of Commodities at Ports

3867. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to discourage storage of essential commodities in the port area after import; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government has directed to levy penal charges/fee on storage of these commodities to discourage their storage for longer period. Government issued order for increasing the demurrage charges/licence fee in respect of Sugar and Pulses up to four times the rate applicable after 21 days. The order is valid upto 31.3.2010.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of Telephone Exchanges

3868. SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA:  
SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO:  
SHRI ARJUN ROY:

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

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in the country, State-wise and agency-wise;

(b) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) propose to set up new telephone exchanges during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government has received any proposals for setting up any new telephone exchanges from various States; and

(e) if so, the State-wise details thereof alongwith the time by which these exchanges are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Madam, the details

of number of telephone exchanges in the country and planned to be set up in the current financial year, State-wise, by BSNL and MTNL are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) No specific proposal for setting up any new telephone exchanges has been received from any State.

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

### Statement

*Number of telephone exchanges working at present and planned to be set up new telephone exchanges in BSNL and MTNL*

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	No. of telephone exchanges working at present	No. of new telephone exchanges planned for yr. 2009-10
1	2	3	4
<b>BSNL</b>			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	47	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4183	0
3.	Assam	605	2
4.	Bihar	1236	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	610	3
6.	Gujarat	3226	4
7.	Haryana	1035	22
8.	Himachal Pradesh	856	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	368	0
10.	Jharkhand	504	4
11.	Karnataka	2764	40
12.	Kerala	1243	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2560	0
14.	Maharashtra	4933	23
15.	North East-I	245	2
16.	North East-II	224	3

1	2	3	4
17.	Orissa	1167	0
18.	Punjab	1527	0
19.	Rajasthan	2336	34
20.	Tamil Nadu	2027	2
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	2193	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	1059	14
23.	Uttarakhand	458	0
24.	West Bengal	1385	0
25.	Kolkata Telephone District	537	6
26.	Chennai Telephone District	325	9
Total		37653	172

### MTNL

1.	Delhi	343	22
2.	Mumbai	210	16
Total		553	38

### Returning of Awards and Medals

3869. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS* LALAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Ex-servicemen have returned their gallantry awards and service medals to the Union Government recently;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (c) In protest against non-acceptance of their demand of One Rank One Pension, some of the ex-servicemen surrendered their medals. Nine cardboard boxes full of medals have been received.



A Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary to look into the issue of One Rank One Pension and other related issues. After considering all aspects of the issue, the Committee did not find it administratively feasible to recommend One Rank One Pension, as such. However, keeping in mind the spirit of the demand several other recommendations to substantially improve pensionary benefits of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) and Commissioned Officers have been made, which have been accepted by the Government:-

- (i) Bringing parity between pension of pre and post 10.10.1997 PBOR pensioners.
- (ii) Inclusion of Classification Allowance of PBOR from 01.01.2006.
- (iii) Further improving PBOR pensions based on award of GOM, 2006.
- (iv) Removal of linkage of full pension with 33 years from 01.01.2006 in respect of Commissioned Officers.
- (v) Revision of pension of Lt. General pension after carving out a separate Pay scale of Rs. 69000/- - 79000/-.
- (vi) Broadbanding of percentage of disability/war injury pension for pre 01.01.1996 disability/war injury pensioners.
- (vii) Removal of the cap on war injury element of pension in the case of disabled pensioners belonging to Category E, which have also been accepted by the Government.

Two of the recommendations at Sl. No. (ii) and (iv) have since been implemented through a Govt. letter dated 30.10.2009. Other recommendations are at different stages of implementation.

Since the issue on which ex-servicemen have been protesting has been substantially addressed by the Committee, the Government expects them to honour their hard earned medals.

[English]

#### **Impact of Global Recession on Domestic Industry**

3870. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:  
SHRI C. SIVASAMI:  
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:  
SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

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

(a) whether domestic industries have been affected due to global slowdown recession;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of industrial units closed down in the country specially in Gujarat due to global slowdown;

(c) the details of industrial output, sector-wise including manufacturing and consumer durable industry during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to enhance industrial growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes Madam, the global slowdown has affected some of the export oriented industries in India, such as textiles, handicrafts, leather, and gems & jewellery, which led to moderation of industrial growth to 2.8 percent in 2008-09 as compared to 8.5 in 2007-08. No specific information is currently available on the number of industrial units closed in the country, including Gujarat, due to the global slowdown.

(c) The details of sector-wise industrial output during the last three years and the current year are given below.

#### **Index of Industrial Production**

(Growth in percent)

Year	Mining & Quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity	Consumer Durables	Overall industry
2006-07	5.4	12.5	7.2	9.2	11.6
2007-08	5.1	9.0	6.4	-1.0	8.5
2008-09	2.6	2.8	2.8	4.5	2.8
2009-10 (April-Sep)	8.2	6.3	6.8	18.9	6.5

Source: Central Statistical Organisation

(d) Government announced a number of incentives to support domestic industries and enhance industrial growth which *inter-alia* include an across-the-board cut in the ad valorem CENVAT rate.

For the promotion and development of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises and to enhance their competitiveness, measures taken by the Government,

*inter-alia*, include extending the loan limit under Credit Guarantee Scheme; increasing the guarantee cover; grant of need based ad-hoc working capital demand loans, reduction in interest rates for borrowing by micro enterprises, enhanced refinance facility to SIDBI to lend to MSEs and higher allocation for Market Development Assistance scheme.

Further, several measures have been taken to support exporters such as interest subvention of 2% for pre and post shipment export credit for identified labour intensive industries, additional funds to ensure full refund of Terminal Excise duty/Central Sales Tax, additional allocation for export incentive schemes, Government back-up guarantee to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) to enable it to provide guarantees for exports to difficult markets/products and enhancement of duty drawback benefits on specific 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, revers Repo rates, Cash reserve ratio etc.

#### **Status of Upgradation of Employment Exchanges**

3871. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of upgradation and modernization of employment exchanges in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the progress of such works as per the targets fixed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the funds allocated, released and utilized under the said project since its inception, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) National e-Governance Plan has identified modernization and upgradation of Employment Exchanges as one of the Mission Mode Projects (MMP). Implementation of this Project will help job-seekers to register on-line from anywhere and approach any Employment Exchange for employment related assistance. Under th Project, a national web portal with common software will be developed. This will contain all the data regarding availability of skilled persons on the one hand and requirement of skilled persons by the industry on the other. It will help youth get placed and

enable industry to procure required skills on real time basis. National Institute for Smart Government (NISG), has been engaged as Principal Consultant for the Project on Employment Exchanges who have already conducted survey and prepared Detailed Project Report (DPR), which is in process for seeking mandatory approvals of the Government. The project will be implemented in all States/UTs in the country simultaneously.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The year wise details of funds allocated and utilized are as under;

(Rs. in Crores)		
Year	B.E.	Release/Expenditure
2008-09	1.00	0.89
2009-10	1.00	—

No funds have been released to the State Governments so far.

[*Translation*]

#### **Bonus to Contract Workers**

3872. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to provide Bonus to contract labourers engaged in public, private and unorganized sector including construction sector;

(b) if so, the number of contract labourers given bonus during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and sector-wise;

(c) whether certain companies engaged in construction sector are not giving bonus to their contract labourers; and

(d) if so, the number of companies identified alongwith the action taken against them during the said period, State-wise and sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) All contract workers, including those employed through contactors on building operations, are eligible for bonus under the provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

Information relating to payment of bonus by different establishments to contract workers engaged in various sectors, including construction sector is not maintained by the Government.

[English]

### Subsidy Scheme for Shipbuilding Industry

3873. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:  
SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reintroduce/ restart Modified Shipbuilding Subsidy Scheme for shipbuilding industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be reintroduced/ restarted?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):  
(a) to (c) A new shipbuilding subsidy scheme is under consideration of the Ministry of Shipping. It would be necessary to have inter-ministerial consultations and it is therefore difficult to fix time lines for starting the new ship building subsidy scheme.

### Scholarship to Students

3874. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:  
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:  
SHRI R. DHUVANARAYANA:  
SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH:

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

(a) the amount paid as pre-matric and post-matric scholarship to day scholars and hostellers belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) categories alongwith the date on which the same was fixed;

(b) whether the Government proposes to revise the said amount including the amount of scholarship for commercial Pilot license course for OBC students; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the mechanism put in place to monitor the schemes and ensure all the eligible students are benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The existing rates of scholarship/ maintenance allowance under the following Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes of the Ministry are given in the enclosed Statement.

- (i) Pre Matric Scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupation
- (ii) Post Matric Scholarship for SC students
- (iii) Pre Matric Scholarship for OBC students
- (iv) Post Matric Scholarship for OBC students

(b) and (c) The rates of scholarship under the "Pre Matric Scholarship scheme for children of those engaged in unclean occupations" have been revised w.e.f. 1.4.2008. Revision of other schemes is under consideration.

All the above schemes are implemented through the State Governments, who are advised to send proposals in respect of eligible beneficiaries, for release of central assistance. Schemes are monitored through physical and financial progress reported by the State Governments.

### Statement

#### Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme

for children of those engaged in unclean occupations			for OBC students			
Monthly Scholarship rates (in Rs.) w.e.f. 1.4.2008			Monthly Maintenance Allowance (in Rs.) w.e.f. 1.4.1998			
Class	Day	Hostellers	Class	Day Scholars	Class	Hostellers
I-II	100	-	I-V	25	III-VIII	250
III-X	110	700	VI-VIII	40	IX-X	250
			IX-X	50		

*Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme*

for SC students			for OBC students		
Monthly Maintenance Allowance (in Rs.) w.e.f. 1.4.2003			Monthly Maintenance Allowance (in Rs.) w.e.f. 1.4.1998		
Group	Day Scholars	Hostellers	Group	Day Scholars	Hostellers
I	330	740	A	190	425
II	330	510	B	190	290
III	185	355	C	190	290
IV	140	235	D	120	230
			E	90	150

The scholarship/maintenance allowance is payable for 10 months in a year.

In addition to the monthly scholarship/maintenance allowance, beneficiaries are also paid other allowances admissible as per provisions of respective schemes.

**Decline in Revenues of BSNL**

3875. SHRI UDAY SINGH:  
SHRI S. ALAGIRI:  
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY:  
SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI:  
SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA:  
SHRI P. KUMAR:  
SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently called for a meeting to review the performance of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in view of steep fall in revenues;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and details of discussions held in the meeting and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the factors responsible for steep fall in BSNL's revenues has since been ascertained; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to check revenue losses in BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Madam, a

communication from Prime Minister Office has been received, recently, in Department of Telecommunications to review the functioning of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with respect to operational aspects, particularly the financial health and role of BSNL in the current and emerging economic scenario.

(c) and (d) The fall in BSNL's revenue is mainly due to:

- The reduction in tariff due to fierce competition among the existing and new operators.
- Churning of PCO operators to other service providers.
- Reduction in call rates especially in STD call rates in the market.

The steps proposed to check revenue losses in BSNL are given below:

- The tariffs are being rationalized so that there are suitable plans for every segment of society and to increase demand.
- Increase in sale outlets and marketing efforts.
- Broadband services are being provided aggressively even through bundled Broadband plus PCs taking help of PC manufacturers like HCL etc.
- Various Value Added Services on Broadband like IPTV, Games on demand, entertainment portal, web-hosting, web-conferencing, VPN over broadband etc. are being progressively launched and popularized.

- Revenue generation from educational institutions, State Government centres and panchayats are being explored.

To further increase its revenue, BSNL has taken several new initiatives. These are as follows:-

- BSNL has engaged M/s Boston Consulting Group (BCG) for advising and providing handholding support in identifying problems and developing strategy keeping in view the changed market conditions.
- Leasing of BSNL's Passive Infrastructure to other service providers.
- Enterprise Business.
- Commercial utilization of fixed assets.
- Exploring international business.
- Introduction of NGN framework to increase revenue streams.
- Introducing Fixed mobile Convergence to add value to landlines.

*[Translation]*

#### **India's Position in Global Foodgrains Market**

3876. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:  
SHRI S. ALAGIRI:  
SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

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

(a) the share of India in global foodgrains market as on date; and

(b) the measures being taken by the Government to explore new markets for export of agricultural products and foodgrains to face competition in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) India's total food export was about USD 13.6 billion in 2007-08 which is estimated to be 1.4% of the overall food trade of the world.

(b) Government of India is taking various measures to explore new market for export of agriculture products and foodgrains to face competition in this sector, which

include participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, brand promotion, public relation campaign etc. To insulate Indian exports from the decline in demand from developed countries, in Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14, focus is on diversification of Indian exports to other markets, specially those located in Latin America, Africa, parts of Asia and Oceania. To achieve diversification of Indian exports, following initiatives have been taken under this Policy.

- 26 new countries have been included within the ambit of Focus Market Scheme.
- The incentives provided under Focus Market Scheme have been increased from 2.5% to 3%.
- There has been a significant increase in the outlay under 'Market Linked Focus Product Scheme' by inclusion of more markets and products. This ensures support for exports to all countries in Africa and Latin America.

*[English]*

#### **Cash Less Health Care Under ESIC**

3877. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to fine-tune the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for comprehensive cash less advanced health care benefits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The ESIC is providing cashless comprehensive health care services including advance super speciality and tertiary care benefits to ESI beneficiaries. To further fine tune delivery of advance health benefits *i.e.* super speciality and tertiary care, ESIC has taken the following steps:-

1. ESI Corporation is bearing the total expenditure on provisions of super speciality services including diagnostic services directly w.e.f. 01.08.2008.
2. Tie up arrangements for super speciality and advanced tertiary care services are made directly by ESI Corporation in the States with reputed Government and private medical institutions.

3. While making tie up arrangement, it is ensured that all areas where Insured Persons (IPs) are concentrated are covered and they are not required to travel long distances and advanced health facilities are available at the nearest possible location.
4. ESIC has been developing advanced health facilities in its own hospitals as per requirement.

#### Roaming Services

3878. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:  
SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to declare Delhi and some cities falling in NCR as roaming free area in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to declare roaming services free of charges in all the cities in NCR provided by public and private sector telecom companies;

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

(e) whether the Government has also any proposal to provide local call facility between Delhi and Agra; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Madam.

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

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has prescribed ceilings for roaming charges. Service providers are at liberty to offer tariff plans, including zero roaming

charges, to their subscribers according to the prevailing market conditions.

(e) No, Madam. At present there is no such proposal.

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

[*Translation*]

#### Expenditure on Advertisements

3879. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) on advertisements during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the details of the lists of establishments/media/press in which advertisement were given; and

(c) the amount paid on advertisements in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be Laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

#### Projects under NMDP

3880. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the MINISTER OF SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has dropped some development of major ports projects from the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the names of such projects, major port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) The details of the projects dropped from National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) are given below:

Sl.No.	Port	Total No. of Projects	Name of the Project	Reasons
1	2	3	4	5
1.	PARADIP	1.	Mechanized coking coal handling facilities	One project for coal berth already awarded, therefore this project is dropped

1	2	3	4	5
		2.	Acquisition of additional land (1000 acres) for expansion of the port	At this stage, this project is not required. To be taken up later.
	Total:	4		
2.	VISAKHAPATNAM	1.	Relocation of oil mooring facilities	The scheme is proposed to be dropped in view of the plans of HPCL to develop SBM facility to facilitate VLCCs outside break waters. Consultants also indicated not to take up the relocation of oil mooring as it may create hindrance for safe maneuverability for 200000 DWT vessels at outer harbour. In addition to this, major shifting of transshipment traffic to Paradip Port after commissioning SBM facility there.
		2.	Allotment of land for development of ware houses in Phase-II	It is proposed to develop warehoused including operation and maintenance through the private operator by allotment of land.
	Total:	3		
3.	CHENNAI	1.	Replacement of Wagon Tippler	The scheme was dropped, since 1 No. Tippler was already replaced and the other was also revamped during 2005 under another scheme.
		2.	Ship Repair Facility	The location originally earmarked for the project has been reallocated for other developmental works considering the trend of the cargo throughput in the Port and the shortage of land inside the Port.
		3.	Desalination projects of 1000 MT per day	Due to higher cost quoted for the supply of water by the Tenderer, the tender was filed and dropped.
		4.	Port Connectivity - Bridging Gap in Ennore Manali Road Improvement Project (EMRIP)	This scheme was deleted and merged with EMRIP being executed by SPV under 11th Plan.
	Total:	4		
4.	COCHIN	1.	International Ship Repair Complex	No encouraging response after EOI.
		2.	Construction of Breakwaters	Detailed Model technical study prepared by a U.K. firm mentioned that to break water required for tranquility condition at LNG Terminal.
	Total:	2		

1	2	3	4	5
5.	NEW MANGALORE	1.	Deepening of Channel & lagoon area to create a draft of 14 m (In front of DDGB Berth)	As per the Business Plan the necessity of the scheme has been identified in the year 2017-18
		2.	Addl. Rail connectivity to the Port from the existing KRCL railway.	Proposed to be taken up by Ministry of Railways
		3.	Improvement of Draft & Strengthening of Berth No.8 Kudramukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) from 13.0 m to 14.0 m	The proposal was for the requirement of M/s. KIOCL. Firm commitment has not been received from them.
		4.	Outer harbour for development of Addl. Port Facilities	The subject proposal is captive requirement of M/s. MRPL/ONGC. Firm commitment has not been received from them.
	TOTAL	4		
6.	MORMUGAO	1.	Transhippers for Iron ore export	Transhippers are to be brought by private parties. No bidding process required or decision making is required by port in this regard. Charges to be paid to the port by the private parties.
		2.	Construction of cruise-cum-Container berth at Baina	Opposition from the public and State Government.
	TOTAL	2		
7.	KANDLA	1.	Construction of 13th & 14th Cargo Berth at Kandla	Another scheme named as Construction of 13 to 16th Cargo berth has been taken up which is in progress hence this scheme has been dropped.
		2.	Gauge conversion of Bhildi Samdari Segment	It is to be taken up by Railways at later stage.
	TOTAL	2		
	GRAND TOTAL:	21		

#### Rehabilitation of Disabled and Addict Persons

3881. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:  
SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:

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

(a) whether proposals have been received from the Government of West Bengal for grants to voluntary organizations for rehabilitation of disabled persons, integrated programme for the old age people and prevention of alcoholism and misuse of drugs;

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and



(c) the time by which said grants are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) Yes Madam. Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, 101 ongoing proposals have been received. Under the Scheme of Assistance to disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances, 10 proposals have been received. Under the Scheme of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse, 25 proposals (13 ongoing and 12 new cases) have been received. Under the scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons, 84 proposals (52 ongoing and 32 new cases) have been received, out of which, grant-in-aid has been released in 13 proposals. The rest of the above mentioned proposals are at various stages of processing.

#### **Boost to Export of Seafood**

3882. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of seafood exports of India vis-a-vis South-East Asian Nations;

(b) whether Indian seafood sector proposes to join Asian seafood exporters group to give a boost to this sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan of the Government to help the sea-coastal States in building better infrastructure to boost seafood exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M.

SCINDIA): (a) The exports of seafood items available up to the year 2006 of India *vis-a-vis* the South East Asian Nations is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

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

(d) The Government is implementing a number of financial assistance schemes for development of better infrastructure for increasing production and to boost seafood exports world wide. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

#### **Statement I**

*Exports in thousand US\$ as per the FAO Year Book*

Country	2004 \$' 000	2005 \$' 000	2006 \$' 000
Thailand	4,034,590	4,465,767	5,236,272
Vietnam	2,443,850	2,756,139	3,357,960
Indonesia	1,702,742	1,797,948	1,957,068
Malaysia	583,736	634,370	637,590
Philippines	413,716	352,598	389,865
Singapore	393,075	402,130	381,064
Myanmar	318,514	460,057	352,951
Cambodia	39,578	50,346	43,577
Brunei	683	1,053	5,305
Laos	25	21	8
India	1,441,640	1,626,780	1,832,290

#### **Statement**

*Subsidy assistance schemes for development of basic infrastructure for increasing seafood production and boost Export*

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Objectives	Quantum of Subsidy
1	2	3	4
1.	Subsidy for new farm development	For development of new shrimp/scampi farms	@25% of the capital cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50,000/- per ha. WSA and restricted to Rs. 2.5 lakh per beneficiary

1	2	3	4
2.	Subsidy for small-scale hatcheries	For setting up of shrimp/scampi hatchery with a minimum production annum	@25% of the capital cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 3.00 lakh per beneficiary
3.	Subsidy for small-scale hatcheries	For setting up of shrimp/scampi hatchery with a minimum production capacity of 10 million seeds per annum in Gujarat, Maharashtra and scampi hatchery in Orissa	@ 50% of the capital cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 lakh per beneficiary/hatchery limited to 4 hatcheries only
4.	Subsidy for medium-scale hatcheries	For setting up of shrimp/scampi hatchery with a minimum production capacity of 30 million seeds per annum	@5% of the capital cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 6.00 lakh per beneficiary/hatchery
5.	Subsidy for medium-scale hatcheries	For setting up of shrimp/scampi hatchery with a minimum production capacity of 30 million seeds per annum in Gujarat, Maharashtra and scampi hatchery in Orissa	@50% of the capital cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 20.00 lakh per beneficiary/hatchery limited to 6 hatcheries only
6.	Subsidy for setting up of PCR labs in hatcheries /Pvt.Lab	To establish PCR labs in Hatcheries/Pvt. Lab	@50% of capital cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 5.00 lakh per beneficiary/hatchery
7.	Subsidy for effluent treatment system (ETS) in Shrimp Farms	To set up effluent treatment systems attached to shrimp farms	@25% of the capital cost, subject to Rs. 1.50 lakh for shrimp farms with a minimum water area of 5.00 ha. and upto Rs. 6.00 lakh per beneficiary
8.	Registration of Aquaculture Societies	For adoption of BMPs and Code of Practices for sustainable shrimp farming for sector wide management of aquaculture farms	50% of the estimated cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 5.00 lakh for setting up of office, ware house/ auction hall, common facility etc., Laboratory facilities, Hiring technicians, training farmers/technical personnel and methodology for promoting environmentally sound farming. Being operated in a phased manner.
9.	Subsidy assistance for scampi farming in Padasekharams of Kerala	For utilizing the vast stretches of low lying paddy fields known as Padasekharams in Kerala in a collective manner for producing scampi during the off season of 8 months for increasing the production of scampi	Applicable as per the following slab system 1. 0-10 ha - @25% of actual cost limited to Rs. 2.5 lakh. 2. 20-50 ha - @25% of actual cost limited to Rs. 5.0 lakh. 3. 50-100 ha - @25% of actual cost limited to Rs. 7.0 lakh. 4. 100-150 ha - @25% of actual cost limited to Rs. 8.5 lakh.

1	2	3	4												
10.	Providing of financial assistance for farmers for undertaking organic farming of shrimp and scampi	<p>To develop new export opportunities with special focus on premium seafood markets in EU and Switzerland.</p> <p>To promote the development of eco-friendly, socially responsible organic farming and to build up a strong economical production center.</p> <p>To implement the organic production of shrimp/scampi seed, feed and to process the organic produce. Inspection and Certification of organically produced material by reputed agencies.</p>	Extending financial assistance @ Rs. 25,000/- per ha of WSA or 50% of the total cost of certification and feed cost which ever is the less to the farmers for undertaking organic for individual farmers is maximum of 6 ha and above or Rs. 1.5 lakh which ever is lowest and for padasekharams/groups/clusters/societies the ceiling is 30 ha and above or Rs. 7.5 lakh.												
11.	Assistance for processing machinery & equipment for value addition.														
A.	Subsidy for acquisition of machinery for tuna cannery/ processing of value added tuna product.	To assist seafood processors to set up tuna cannery/processing facilities for value added tuna products	25% of the cost of machinery & equipment subject to a maximum of Rs. 65.25 lakh.												
B.	Technology Upgradation Scheme for Marine Products (TUSMP)	To encourage seafood processors to set up new facility/expanding/diversifying their existing facilities for exporting value added seafood items	<p>Type of Max. eligible subsidy (Rs. lakh)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Cat. I</th> <th>Cat. II</th> <th>Cat. III</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Interest subsidy</td> <td>150</td> <td>125</td> <td>125</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Capital subsidy</td> <td>100</td> <td>85</td> <td>85</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Cat. I	Cat. II	Cat. III	1. Interest subsidy	150	125	125	2. Capital subsidy	100	85	85
	Cat. I	Cat. II	Cat. III												
1. Interest subsidy	150	125	125												
2. Capital subsidy	100	85	85												
12.	Cold chain														
A.	Financial support for acquisition of Refrigerated Truck/ Containers.	To encourage seafood processors to acquire Refrigerated Trucks/Contrainers for transportation of raw material/ finished products.	25% of the cost of Refrigerated Truck/ Container, subject to a maximum of Rs. 3.50 lakh.												
B.	Financial assistance to set up large cold storages.	To encourage individuals to establish cold storages for to keep the surplus sea food.	25% of the cost of the cold storage, subject to a maximum of Rs. 60.00 lakh.												
C.	Assistance for the setting up of new/modern ice plants/ renovation of existing ice plants.	For ensuring quality be for fish preservation	25% of the cost of the setting up ice plant subject to a maximum of Rs. 22 lakh for new units and Rs. 12 lakh for												

1	2	3	4
D.	Subsidized distribution of insulated fish boxes.	For proper preservation of raw materials in iced condition in insulated fish boxes on board fishing vessel, in shrimp farms, pre-processing plants and processing plants.	<p>Moulded synthetic insulated fish boxes of various capacity are distributed at 50% subsidy.</p> <p>Maximum eligible subsidy under the scheme is:—</p> <p>(a) Pre-processing plant: Rs. 0.50 lakh</p> <p>(b) Processing plant: Rs. 1.00 lakh</p> <p>(c) Fresh hilled fish handling centre: Rs. 1.00 lakh</p> <p>(d) Mechanized boat owners: Rs. 0.15 lakh</p> <p>(e) Small mechanized boat owners: Rs. 0.045 lakh</p> <p>(f) shrimp farmers above 5 ha: Rs. 0.50 lakh</p> <p>(g) Shrimp farmers 5 ha and less: Rs. 0.35 lakh</p>
13.	<p>Assistance to exporters of chilled fish</p> <p>Financial Assistance for Creation of Basic Facilities (NEW) Fish/ Chilled tuna for Export</p>	To facilitate creation of adequate facilities necessary and essential for chilled fish export and also to ensure quality product for export markets.	33 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of the actual cost incurred with a maximum financial assistance of Rs. 35 lakh per beneficiary.
14.	<p>Financial Assistance for Creating Basic Facilities for Dried Fish Export</p> <p>There are two schemes: -</p> <p>Scheme - A Assistance for the setting up of dried fish handling/curing/ solar drying facility (with LPG back up).</p> <p>Scheme - B Assistance for the setting up of dried fish packing and storage facility by dried fish exporters registered with MPEDA.</p>	<p>To promote effective utilization of low value fish <i>i.e.</i> dried for export hygienically.</p> <p>To upgrade the quality of dried fish exported and to realize higher value exported.</p> <p>To encourage the dry fish exporters to pack and store the dried fish hygienically.</p>	<p>Financial assistance for both the schemes is @33<math>\frac{1}{3}</math>% of the actual cost incurred.</p> <p>The maximum eligible subsidy for fish curing, drying facility will be Rs. 23.50 lakh per beneficiary.</p> <p>A dried fish exporter registered with MPEDA will be eligible for a maximum assistance of Rs. 8.25 lakh</p>

**Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations**

3883. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing financial assistance to voluntary organizations for the rehabilitation and education of mentally retarded children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of applications pending before the Government for financial assistance 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) Yes, Madam.

(b) (i) Under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, funds are provided to non-Governmental organizations to run various projects including Special Schools for mentally retarded children, Vocational Training Centres, Project for Pre-School and Early Intervention & Training etc.

(ii) Under the Scheme of Assistance to disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances, the needy disabled persons including mentally retarded children are assisted in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured standard aids and appliances to promote their social and psychological rehabilitation.

(c) State-wise details of the number of applications pending before the Government for financial assistance during each of the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of number of proposals of rehabilitation of Mentally Retarded children pending consideration after recommendation of the concerned State Governments during last three years*

Sl.No.	State	No. of proposals pending
1	2	3
2006-07	—	NIL

1	2	3
<b>2007-08</b>		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6
2.	Goa	2
3.	Haryana	3
4.	Karnataka	5
5.	Kerala	23
6.	Punjab	1
7.	Rajasthan	5
8.	Uttar Pradesh	1
9.	West Bengal	7
Total		65
<b>2008-09</b>		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23
2.	Bihar	1
3.	Chhattisgarh	1
4.	Delhi	0
5.	Goa	2
6.	Gujarat	2
7.	Haryana	7
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
9.	Karnataka	14
10.	Kerala	38
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2
12.	Punjab	2
13.	Rajasthan	12
14.	Uttar Pradesh	2
15.	Uttarakhand	1
16.	West Bengal	16
Total		124

### Panel on Coastal Security

3884. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up panel on coastal security;

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

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help for sharing information about traffic, port and issue related to ship and coastal security?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):  
(a) to (c) The Government has constituted a 'National Committee on Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security against threats from the Sea' in August, 2009 with the Cabinet Secretary as the Chairman. The Committee includes Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all the coastal States/UTs as well as following representatives from all the concerned Ministries/Departments/Organisations in Government of India:

1. Chief of Naval Staff
2. Foreign Secretary
3. Defence Secretary
4. Home Secretary
5. Secretary (Boarder Management), Ministry of Home Affairs
6. Secretary, Department of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways
7. Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture
8. Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
9. Deputy NSA cum Secretary, NSCS
10. Secretary(R), Cabinet Secretariat.
11. Director, Intelligence Bureau
12. Director General, Indian Coast Guard, Ministry of Defence
13. Chief Secretaries/Administrators of coastal States and Union Territories.

The Committee will help in monitoring timely implementation of proposals relating to Maritime and

Coastal Security. It will also help in ensuring effective coordination among various Central Ministries and Agencies and the Coastal State Governments/Union Territories.

### Recruitment of Sports Persons

3885. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has fulfilled their sports quota;

(b) if so, the number of sportspersons of various disciplines particularly hockey recruited by BSNL since its inception till date;

(c) whether the BSNL has not given proper representation to national game hockey while recruiting sportspersons;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action plan to recruit hockey players under the sports quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) There is no sports quota mandated in BSNL. However, BSNL has taken initiative to recruit outstanding sportspersons to promote sports.

(b) BSNL has recruited 330 sportspersons in various disciplines including 11 sportsmen in Hockey.

(c) BSNL has given proper representation to national game hockey while recruiting sportspersons in 13 disciplines.

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

(e) 11 hockey players have already been recruited. More hockey qualified players can be considered for recruitment in future also.

*[Translation]*

### Hand Pumps under Rural Drinking Water Scheme

3886. SHRI R. K. SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for installation of hand pumps under the rural drinking water scheme;

(b) whether the Government proposes to consider relaxing the said norms for installation of hand pumps in certain region including the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and remote hilly regions in view of the geographical conditions prevalent in the said regions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA):

(a) No norms have been prescribed by the Central Government for installation of hand pumps under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Commodities in CPI**

3887. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names and category of the commodities included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI);

(b) the year in which the last commodities were included in this index; and

(c) the details of increase and decrease in the CPI during each of the last three years and the current year?

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

(a) All-India Group/Sub-group wise list of the items included in Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers on base 2001=100 is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) The Labour Bureau has released the existing Series of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (with base 2001=100) with effect from January, 2006. While the number of items included in the basket of commodities for compiling the index varies from centre to centre, it has increased to 393 in 2001 Series from 280 in the 1982 Series. The basket for 2001 Series has been decided on the basis of the Working Class Family Income & Expenditure Survey conducted during the year 1999-2000.

(c) Statement-II giving month-wise All-India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers on base 2001 =100 during the last 3 years with point-to-point rate of inflation is enclosed.

#### **Statement**

*List of Commodities/Items for Price reporting under Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers on base 2001=100*

Sl.No.	Group/Sub-Group/Items
1	2
<b>I. Food</b>	
<b>(A) Cereals and Products</b>	
1.	Rice
2.	Wheat
3.	Maida
4.	Suji
5.	Bread
6.	Sewai
7.	Maije Atta
8.	Wheat Atta
9.	Grinding Charges
10.	Tapioca
11.	Jowar
12.	Sago
13.	Ragi
14.	Bajra
15.	Maije
16.	Sattu
17.	Chira, Muri, Khoi, Lawa
<b>(B) Pulses and Products</b>	
18.	Black Gram (Gram whole)
19.	Arhar Dal
20.	Gram Dal

1	2
21.	Moong Whole
22.	Masur Whole
23.	Urd Whole
24.	Peas Dal
25.	White Gram (Kabli Chana)
26.	Rajmah
27.	Nutri Nugget
28.	Besan
29.	Fried Gram
30.	Urd Dal
31.	Papad
32.	Raungi
33.	Masur Dal
34.	Barbati Dal
35.	Moth
36.	Horse Gram (Kulthi)
37.	Moong Dal
<b>(C) Oils and Fats</b>	
38.	Mustard Oil
39.	Groundnut Oil
40.	Vanaspati Ghee
41.	Palm Oil
42.	Sunflower Oil
43.	Coconut Oil
44.	Cotton Seed Oil
45.	Rice Bran Oil
46.	Gingelly Oil (Til Oil)
47.	Soyabean Oil
48.	Kardi Oil
49.	Linseed Oil (Asli Oil)

1	2
<b>(D) Meat, Fish and Eggs</b>	
50.	Goat Meat
51.	Pork
52.	Poultry (Chicken)
53.	Fish Fresh
54.	Eggs-Hen
55.	Beef
56.	Buffalo Meat
57.	Fish Dry
58.	Mutton
59.	Egg-Duck
<b>(E) Milk and Milk Products</b>	
60.	Fresh Milk
61.	Dairy Milk
62.	Curd
63.	Powered Milk
64.	Lassi
65.	Pure Ghee
66.	Butter
67.	Cheese
68.	Milk-Cow
69.	Milk-Buffalo
70.	Baby Food
<b>(F) Condiments and Spices</b>	
71.	Salt
72.	Zeera
73.	Pepper
74.	Turmeric Powder
75.	Methi
76.	Mixed Spices
77.	Coriander



1	2	1	2
78.	Cardamom—Small	108.	Tinda
79.	Hing (Asafoetoda)	109.	Pumpkin (Kaddu)
80.	Clove	110.	Parval/Parmal/Pattal
81.	Onion	111.	Palak
82.	Garlic	112.	Methi
83.	Ginger	113.	Green Coriander leaves
84.	Chillies-Green	114.	Orange
85.	Mustard Seeds	115.	Apple
86.	Tamarind	116.	Lemon
87.	Curry leaves	117.	Grapes
88.	Cardamom-Big	118.	Mango (Ripe)
89.	Poppy Seed/Posto Dana/Khaskhas	119.	Watermelon
90.	Chillies Dry	120.	Kharbooza
<b>(G) Vegetables and Fruits</b>		121.	Chiku
91.	Potato	122.	Pappaya
92.	Radish	123.	Guava
93.	Carrot	124.	Onion with leaves (Hari Piaz)
94.	Arum (Arbi)	125.	Zimikand
95.	Turnip	126.	Beet Root
96.	Brinjal	127.	Mango green
97.	Cabbage	128.	Snake Gourd
98.	Tomato	129.	Banana Green
99.	Ledy's Finger	130.	Barbati Phali
100.	Torai	131.	Mosambi
101.	French Bean	132.	Cashewnut
102.	Gourd (Louki)	133.	Gower Phali
103.	Cauliflower	134.	Coconut
104.	Bitter Gourd (Karela)	135.	Banana
105.	Peas	136.	Dates
106.	Capsicum (Shimla Mirch)	137.	Drum Stick
107.	Cucumber (Kheera)	138.	Kundru

1	2	1	2
139.	Gangura	169.	Toffee/chocolate
140.	Cholai Sag	170.	Ice cream
141.	Pineapple	171.	Squashes & Syrups
142.	Bathua Sag	172.	Hot Drink - Coffee
143.	Almond	173.	Pastry
144.	Mustard Leaves/Sarson—Sag	174.	Green Coconut
145.	Jack fruit	175.	Cake
146.	Copra	<b>(I) Pan, Supari, Tobacco &amp; Intoxicants</b>	
147.	Kishmis	176.	Pan finished
148.	Totakura	177.	Bidi
149.	Pickles	178.	Cigarette
150.	Sirukeerai, fresh	179.	Chewing Tobacco
151.	Arakeerai fresh	180.	Country liquor
152.	Mulai (Keerai/Leaf)	181.	Refined liquor (IMFL)
153.	Jack fruit (Ripe)	182.	Beer
154.	Mango-green	183.	Supari
155.	Poi Sag/Lal Sag/Khora/Bhaji Sag	184.	Lime
156.	Beans	185.	Katha
<b>(H) Other Food</b>		186.	Pan Masala
157.	Sugar	187.	Leaf Tobacco
158.	Gur	188.	Snuff
159.	Snack Saltish	189.	Pan - leaf
160.	Snack Sweet	190.	Handia
161.	Tea - leaf	191.	Cigar
162.	Coffee Powder	192.	Toddy, Madi, Neera
163.	Hot Drink - tea (Readymade)	193.	Sounf
164.	Cold Drink (Aerated)	194.	Hukka Tobacco
165.	Biscuit	195.	Gutka
166.	Groundnut (Roasted)	196.	Smoking Tobacco
167.	Parched gram (Bhuna hua Chana)	197.	Zarda /Kimam/Surti
168.	Cocoa Product		

1	2	1	2
<b>II. Fuel &amp; Light</b>		226.	Lungi (Cotton)
198.	Fire Wood	227.	Handkerchief
199.	Kerosene Oil	228.	Ganji/Banyan
200.	Cooking gas	229.	Sweter
201.	Candle	230.	Shirting (Woollen)
202.	Match box	231.	Dhoti (Cotton)
203.	Electric bulb	232.	Gamachha
204.	Fluorescent Tube	233.	Shoes Gents
205.	Electricity Charges	234.	Slippers
206.	Soft Coke	235.	Socks
207.	Gul Koila/Briquettee	236.	Durrie
208.	Charcoal	237.	Brassier
209.	Coconut Shells	238.	Mosquito net
210.	Saw Dust	239.	Under Garments
<b>III. Housing</b>		240.	Sandal
211.	Housing	241.	Saree Silk
<b>IV. Clothing, Bedding and Footwear</b>		242.	Chappals
212.	Dhoti (Synthetic)	243.	Cap Cotton
213.	Saree (Cotton)	244.	Dupatta/Orni (Cotton)
214.	Saree (Synthetic)	245.	Quilt
215.	Trouser Cloth (Synthetic)	246.	Shawl Woollen (Ladies)
216.	Trouser Cloth (Cotton)	247.	Pillow Case (Readymade)
217.	Trouser Cloth (Wollen Terrywool)	248.	Pillow Cover
218.	Shirting Cloth (Cotton)	249.	Mattress
219.	Shirting Cloth (Synthetic)	250.	Lungi (Synthetic)
220.	Long Cloth	251.	Blouse Cloth (Synthetic)
221.	Ladies Dress Mtrl (Cotton)	252.	Dupatta/Orni (Synthetic)
222.	Ladies Dress Material (Synthetic)	253.	Blouse Cloth (Cotton)
223.	Pillow Ruber Foam	254.	Pyjama (Synthetic)
224.	Blanket	255.	Towel
225.	Turban Cloth	256.	Rain Coat

1	2
257.	Chaddar/Angabastram (Cotton)
258.	Bed Sheet
259.	Shawl/Wrapper/Scarf (Cotton)
260.	Shawl/Wrapper/Scarf (Synthetic)
261.	Bodice Brassieres (Synthetic)
262.	Undergarments (Synthetic)
263.	Suiting (Woollen)
264.	Chaddar/Angabastram (Synthetic)

**(V) Miscellaneous Sub-Group****(A) Medical Care**

265.	Doctors' fee
266.	Medicine-Allopathic
267.	ESI Contribution
268.	Medicine - Homeopathic
269.	Medicine - Ayurvedic
270.	X-ray Charges
271.	Ultrasound Charges
272.	Testing Charges

**(B) Education, Recreation and Amusement**

273.	Newspaper
274.	Periodical
275.	Stationery
276.	Television
277.	Cable Charges
278.	Toys
279.	Cassette (Audio)
280.	College - Fee
281.	College - Books
282.	Cinema - Balcony
283.	Cinema - Rear Hall
284.	Cinema - Front Hall

1	2
285.	Photographic Expenses
286.	Tape Recorder
287.	Radio/Transistor
288.	Secondary school - books
289.	Secondary school - fee
290.	Primary school - fee
291.	Primary school - books
292.	Battery cell
293.	Private Tuition fee

**(C) Transport & Communication**

294.	Bus Fare
295.	Rail fare
296.	Auto rickshaw fare
297.	Cycle Rickshaw fare
298.	Petrol
299.	Scooter
300.	Bicycle
301.	Repair Charges
302.	Postage
303.	Taxi fare
304.	Tram fare
305.	Telephone Charges
306.	Bicycle Hire

**(D) Personal Care and Effects**

307.	Barber Charges
308.	Hair Oil
309.	Toilet Shop
310.	Talcum Powder
311.	Tooth Paste
312.	Tooth Brush
313.	Shaving Cream

1	2
314.	Comb
315.	Blade
316.	Bangless Glass
317.	Umbrella
318.	Mirror
319.	Mosquito Coil
320.	Face Powder/Talcum Powder
321.	Tooth Powder
322.	Neem Stick
323.	Hair lotion/Shampoo
324.	Face cream
325.	Lipstick
326.	Perfume
327.	Ornament Iron
328.	Ladies Purse
329.	Gents Purse
330.	Wrist Watch
331.	Ornaments Glass
332.	Agarbati/dhoop
333.	Family Planning Equipment
334.	Soap nut
335.	Ornaments Plastic
336.	Flowers/Flower Garlands
337.	Nail Polish
338.	Bindi Sticker
339.	After shave lotion
340.	Hand Bag/Brief Case
341.	Ornaments other than precious
<b>(E) Other Miscellaneous Items</b>	
342.	Chair
343.	Table

1	2
344.	Almirah (Steel)
345.	Trunk
346.	Utensil Stainless Steel
347.	China ware
348.	Utensil Melloware
349.	Pressure Cooker
350.	Plastic Ware (Bucket)
351.	Earthen ware
352.	Broom
353.	Washing Soap
354.	Detergent Powder
355.	Washing/Ironing Charges
356.	Tailoring Charges
357.	Boot Polish
358.	Kerosene stove
359.	Gas stove
360.	Refrigerator
361.	Washing Machine
362.	Sewing Machine
363.	Neel
364.	Glass ware
365.	Washing Soda
366.	Mat
367.	Attache Case/Suitcase
368.	Cleansing Soap/Powder
369.	Utensil Aluminium
370.	Electric Fan
371.	Laundry Charges
372.	Utensils Iron
373.	Detergent Soap
374.	Soap Chips & Soap Powder
375.	Utensils Copper

1	2	1	2
376.	Utensils Brass	385.	Chair Plastic
377.	Mixer-Grinder	386.	Dressing Table
378.	Chair Wood	387.	Dry Cleaning
379.	Electric Iron	388.	Water Filter
380.	Cooler	389.	Acid Phenyl
381.	Lock	390.	T.V. Stand/Trolley
382.	Almirah (Wood)	391.	Takhat-chauki (wooden)
383.	Sofa Couch	392.	Dining Table
384.	Stool	393.	Cot/Bed Stead

**Statement-II**

*Month-wise All India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers  
(Base 2001=100) during the last three year:*

Months	All-India Index on base 2001=100				Rate of Inflation*		
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
January	119	127	134	148	6.72	5.51	10.45
February	119	128	135	148	7.56	5.47	9.63
March	119	127	137	148	6.72	7.87	8.03
April	120	128	138	150	6.67	7.81	8.70
May	121	129	139	151	6.61	7.75	8.63
June	123	130	140	153	5.69	7.69	9.29
July	124	132	143	160	6.45	8.33	11.89
August	124	133	145	162	7.26	9.02	11.72
September	125	133	146	163	6.40	9.77	11.64
October	127	134	148	165	5.51	10.45	11.49
November	127	134	148		5.51	10.45	
December	127	134	147		5.51	9.70	

\*The rate of inflation is the percentage increase in the all India Consumer Price Index Numbers for industrial Workers over the corresponding month of the previous year.

*[English]***Setting up of NINI**

3888. SHRI A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the name and number of courses offered by National Inland Navigational Institute (NINI) in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more NINI in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the location identified for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the present male-female intake capacity of each NINI in the country, State-wise and course-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) There is only one National Inland Navigation Institute (NINI) in the country and it is located at Patna, Bihar. Following courses are being conducted in this institute:

(1) Preparatory courses;

(i) Serang	-2 months
(ii) 2nd Class Master of Inland Vessel	-2 months
(iii) 1st Class Master of Inland Vessel	-2 months
(iv) 2nd Class Driver of Inland Vessel	-2 months
(v) 1st Class Driver of Inland Vessel	-2 months
(vi) Licensed Engine Driver of Inland Vessel	-2 months

(2) Induction Training for

(i) Deck Ratings	-3 months
(ii) Engine Ratings	-3 months

(b) No Madam.

(c) Does not arise

(d) In the National Inland Navigation Institute mentioned above, only male candidates have been trained so far. The institute has the classroom capacity of training 160 persons at a time while in its hostel 80 trainees can stay.

**Cashew Board**

3889. SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether policy decision for establishing Cashew Board has been taken by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) A policy decision for establishing Cashew Board has not been taken due to lack of consensus between the key stakeholder departments.

*[Translation]***Telegraph Offices in Rented Buildings**

3890. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telegraph offices functioning in rented buildings in the country, especially in backward and rural areas, State-wise;

(b) the number of telegraph offices likely to be opened during the current financial year and the projections likely to be made during the next financial year; and

(c) the number of residential colonies of postal and telegraph employees in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The number of Telegraph Offices functioning in rented buildings in the country especially in backward and rural areas, Circle-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) There is no proposal to open any Telegraph Office during the current financial year and there is also no proposal to open any Telegraph Office in the next financial year.

(c) The number of residential colonies of Telegraph/ Telecom employees in the country, Circle-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement I**

*No. of Telegraph Offices functioning in rented buildings Circle-wise*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of Telegraph Offices functioning in rented building	No. of Telegraph Offices functioning in rented buildings in backward and rural areas
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	21	Nil
4.	Bihar	04	Nil
5.	Chennai Telephones	19	Nil
6.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil
7.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil
8.	Haryana	Nil	Nil
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	05	Nil
11.	Jharkhand	03	Nil
12.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil
13.	Kerala	12	03
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil
15.	Maharashtra (Maharashtra + Goa)	Nil	Nil
16.	N.E.-I (Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram)	Nil	Nil
17.	N.E.-II (Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh)	Nil	Nil
18.	Orissa	03	02
19.	Punjab	02	Nil
20.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4
21.	Tamil Nadu (TN+Puducherry)	Nil	Nil
22.	Uttarakhand	06	Nil
23.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Nil	Nil
24.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	02	Nil
25.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil
26.	Delhi (NTR)	09	Nil
Total		86	05

**Statement-II**

*No. of residential colonies of Telegraph/Telecom employee*

**Circle-wise**

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	No. of Colonies
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	312
3.	Assam	31
4.	Bihar	24
5.	Chennai Telephone	04
6.	Chhattisgarh	26
7.	Gujarat	173
8.	Haryana	83
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	24
11.	Jharkhand	17
12.	Karnataka	42
13.	Kerala	47
14.	Madhya Pradesh	250
15.	Maharashtra (MH. + Goa)	308+04=312
16.	N.E.-I (Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram)	20+8+26=54



1	2	3
17.	N.E.-II (Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh)	5+1+8=14
18.	Orissa	89
19.	Punjab	149
20.	Rajasthan	114
21.	Tamil Nadu (TN+Puducherry)	230+08=238
22.	Uttanchal	46
23.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	226
24.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	73
25.	West Bengal	46
26.	Delhi (NTR)	06
Total		2427

[English]

### Speed Post Services

3891. SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has introduced One India One Rate in respect of Speed Post services in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Department of posts has introduced One India One Rate of Rs. 25/- per article in respect of Speed Post articles weighing upto 50 gms, which includes service tax and education cess with effect from June 11, 2007. The rate for local Speed Post article weighing upto 50gms, however, is Rs. 12/- only per article inclusive of service tax and education cess.

[Translation]

### Harassment of Subscribers

3892. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the mobile service provider companies are misleading the subscribers in the name of providing facility of free incoming calls for life time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) The subscribers in the lifetime validity plans are entitled to incoming free calls subject to terms and conditions as conveyed at the time of their enrolment of such plans.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has prescribed regulatory guidelines to bring clarity in the lifetime offering and to protect the interest of the subscribers vide Telecommunication Tariff (Forty Third Amendment) Order dated 21st March, 2006 which inter-alia mandated:

(i) Tariff plans offered as having lifetime validity in lieu of an upfront payment shall continue to be available to the subscriber as long as the service provider is permitted to provide such telecom service under the current license or renewed license.

(ii) Hike in any item in a lifetime tariff plan during the specified lifetime validity period is prohibited; and

(iii) The service provider shall inform the subscribers of the month and year of expiry of his current license.

Further, in order to prevent the practice of service providers prescribing too frequent recharges as a condition to continue lifetime validity, TRAI, vide its Telecommunication Tariff (Forty Eight Amendment) Order has mandated that such recharge conditions, if prescribed, shall in no case be less than six months.

### Cases Against Dredging Companies

3893. SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of cases against domestic dredging companies are pending with the Union Government for decision;

(b) if so, the details and nature of cases alongwith the date from which these cases are lying pending, company-wise;

(c) whether delay in decisions has caused domestic companies to suffer losses and paved way for the foreign dredging companies to earn profits;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to investigate the causes of delay and the action taken against the guilty; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken for speedy disposal of cases?

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b) to (e) Do not arise

[*English*]

**Offset Agreements under Defence Procurement Policy**

3894. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:  
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed offset agreements with foreign companies under the new defence procurement policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the companies with which the said agreements have been signed; and

(d) the benefits likely to be gained as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) About 10 offset contracts have been signed so far under the extant Defence Procurement Procedure. The companies with whom the offset contracts have been signed include M/s Rosoboron export Russia, M/s RAC MiG Russia, M/s Fincantieri Italy, M/s Lockheed Martin USA, M/s Boeing USA, M/s Elta Israel, M/s Israel Aerospace Industries Israel and M/s Rafael Israel. The estimated value of the offsets involved in these contracts is over Rs. 8909 crores.

(d) Implementation of the offsets is expected to result in expanding and enhancing the manufacturing

infrastructure and technical knowledge necessary for indigenous manufacture of weapon systems required by the Armed Forces. The benefits of offsets accrue to both Defence Public Sector Undertaking as well as to private Indian Industry engaged in the manufacture of defence systems and equipment.

**CBI Raid on Officials of EPFO**

3895. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has raided the certain officers/employees of Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) during the last two years and the current year;

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

(c) the number of officials of EPFO found guilty in this raid; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such officials?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The State-wise and year-wise raids conducted by CBI are given as per statement annexed.

(c) No officials have yet been proved guilty on the basis of raids conducted by CBI in the last two years and current year. Trials of cases filed by CBI are at different stages In the Court of Law.

(d) Regular Departmental Action (RDA) for Major Penalty is initiated on the recommendation of CBI and such officials are assigned non-sensitive tasks.

**Statement**

*Raids Conducted by CBI*

State	2007	2008	2009
1	2	3	4
Delhi	0	0	1
Haryana	0	1	0
Uttar Pradesh	0	1	0

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	2	4	0
Rajasthan	0	0	1
Andhra Pradesh	3	2	0
Tamil Nadu	0	4	0
Karnataka	1	0	0
West Bengal	1	3	0
Orissa	0	1	0
Jharkhand	0	1	0
Bihar	0	0	2
Total	7	17	4

#### Assistance under Welfare Schemes

3896. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for financial assistance under various welfare schemes to Scheduled Castes (SCs) people; and

(b) if so, the details and the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The State Government has submitted proposals under the following schemes:

- (i) Pre-matric scholarship for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations.
- (ii) Post-matric scholarship for SC students
- (iii) Implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act and the SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.
- (iv) Babu Jagjivan Chhatrawas Yojana.
- (v) Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP).

An amount of Rs. 6.11 lakhs has been sanctioned under the pre-matric scholarship scheme. An amount of Rs. 6.08 crores has been released under the SCA to SCSP scheme. Proposals received under other schemes are being examined.

[Translation]

#### IPTV Services

3897. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) services being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is not popular in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of subscribers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Madam, BSNL has already introduced IPTV services in 62 cities and has planned to cover 100 cities by March 2010. Since IPTV service is a new service, it will take some time to grow. However, a total of 24560 IPTV connections are already working in BSNL as on 30.11.09. Circle wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### Statement

##### Status of IPTV on 30.11.2009

Sl.No.	Circle	City	IPTV Connections
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	813
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Rajahmundry	4
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Tirupati	1
4.	Bihar	Patna	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	25
6.	Chennai	Chennai	1171
7.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	865
8.	Gujarat	Rajkot	37
9.	Gujarat	Surat	14
10.	Gujarat	Vadodara	156
11.	Haryana	Ambala	732
12.	Haryana	Faridabad	210

1	2	3	4
13.	Haryana	Gurgaon	512
14.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	384
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu	327
16.	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur	2
17.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	1
18.	Karnataka	Bangalore	2076
19.	Karnataka	Belgaum	1
20.	Karnataka	Hubli	1
21.	Karnataka	Mangalore	1
22.	Karnataka	Mysore	5
23.	Kerala	Calicut	5
24.	Kerala	Ernaculam	187
25.	Kerala	Tiruvananthapuram	180
26.	Kerala	Trichur	3
27.	Kolkata	Kolkata	943
28.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad	7
29.	Maharashtra	Kalyan	5
30.	Maharashtra	Kolhapur	25
31.	Maharashtra	Nagpur	40
32.	Maharashtra	Nasik	93
33.	Maharashtra	Pune	1043
34.	Maharashtra	Solapur	15
35.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	245
36.	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior	14
37.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore	79
38.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	20
39.	Orissa	Bhubneswar	1
40.	Punjab	Amritsar	431
41.	Punjab	Chandigarh	1892
42.	Punjab	Ferozpur	325
43.	Punjab	Jalandhar	861

1	2	3	4
44.	Punjab	Ludhiana	391
45.	Punjab	Patiala	442
46.	Rajasthan	Ajmer	564
47.	Rajasthan	Alwar	439
48.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	3321
49.	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	1645
50.	Rajasthan	Kota	1040
51.	Rajasthan	Udaipur	551
52.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	8
53.	Tamil Nadu	Puducherry	288
54.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Allahabad	161
55.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Kanpur	235
56.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Lucknow	509
57.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Varanasi	211
58.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Ghaziabad	199
59.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Meerut	228
60.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Noida	184
61.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Agra	110
62.	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	201
Total Connection			24560

[English]

#### Supply of Drinking Water in Hill Regions

3898. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mountainous areas of Uttarakhand are suffering from an acute water shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide drinking water in these remote hilly regions of the country;

(d) whether the Government proposes to adopt small scale methods of water management as large hydro projects have only aggravated the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Uttarakhand has reported that some areas are having acute water shortage. Out of 39180 habitations, 2823 habitations do not have adequate water supply system or having a system supplying less than 10 liters per capita per day (lpcd) and 9096 habitations have a system supplying between 10 and 40 lpcd. To enhance the water supply to these habitations, schemes are under implementation and targeted for completion by 2012.

(d) There is no such situation in Uttarakhand.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Foreign Direct Investment Through Mauritius**

3899. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the companies are routing of their investment through Mauritius in India was substantial high in comparison to other World Countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to review/ amendment to the controversial India Mauritius double taxation avoidance treaty; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The details of Foreign Direct Investment from various countries, (including FDI inflows from Mauritius), during August 1991 to September 2009 are given in the enclosed Statement. During this period, Mauritius accounted for 39.07% of the total FDI inflows.

(c) and (d) Amendment to the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention with Mauritius to prevent its misuse and enhance exchange of information, including banking information, is being pursued through the Joint Working Group constituted for this purpose. Since such amendments require an agreement between the two countries, no time frame can be given.

#### **Statement**

##### *Country-wise FDI Inflows From August 1991 To September 2009*

(Amount in million)

Sl.No.	Country	Amount of Foreign Direct Investment Inflows (In Rs.)	(In US\$)	%age with total FDI Inflows
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Afghanistan	1.08	0.03	0.00
2.	Australia	15,109.36	347.50	0.29
3.	Austria	3,767.87	88.34	0.07
4.	Bahamas	1,130.48	28.00	0.02
5.	Bahrain	1,862.84	43.54	0.04
6.	Argentina	0.38	0.01	0.00
7.	Belgium	16,501.54	378.09	0.31

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Belorussia	497.84	12.42	0.01
9.	Bermuda	23,395.09	527.31	0.44
10.	Bhutan	19.00	0.61	0.00
11.	Brazil	92.41	2.43	0.00
12.	Bahamas	1.00	0.02	0.00
13.	Bulgaria	6.43	0.14	0.00
14.	Canada	13,669.34	316.53	0.26
15.	Cayman Island	27,488.84	665.91	0.52
16.	Channel Island	485.03	11.22	0.01
17.	China	2,443.15	51.00	0.05
18.	Croatia	22.94	0.52	0.00
19.	Czech Republic	910.52	21.37	0.02
20.	Cyprus	140,187.12	3,092.53	2.65
21.	Denmark	8,520.72	203.00	0.16
22.	Estonia	44.76	1.32	0.00
23.	Finland	7,948.15	172.87	0.15
24.	Chile	1,979.19	41.31	0.04
25.	France	73,749.00	1,691.99	1.40
26.	Greece	132.78	3.43	0.00
27.	Germany	136,998.99	3,219.42	2.59
28.	Hongkong	31,575.38	776.51	0.60
29.	Hungary	13.74	0.35	0.00
30.	Indonesia	3,674.62	78.91	0.07
31.	Ireland	3,453.18	83.14	0.07
32.	Isle of Man	249.16	5.83	0.00
33.	Israel	2,362.57	61.85	0.04
34.	Italy	42,619.60	1,015.62	0.81
35.	Liechtenstein	247.35	5.78	0.00
36.	Japan	183,953.91	4,221.84	3.48
37.	Kazakhstan	811.05	17.42	0.02
38.	Korea (North)	584.46	14.09	0.01

1	2	3	4	5
39.	Lebanon	11.16	0.24	0.00
40.	Korea (South)	43,148.04	1,074.46	0.82
41.	Kuwait	767.18	16.67	0.01
42.	Latvia	2.60	0.06	0.00
43.	Luxembourg	6,227.88	142.43	0.12
44.	Malaysia	12,302.64	276.54	0.23
45.	Mauritius	2,063,060.89	46,992.48	39.07
46.	Mexico	3.71	0.08	0.00
47.	Maldives	144.40	3.24	0.00
48.	NRI	192,366.05	4,471.22	3.64
49.	Nepal	73.17	1.57	0.00
50.	Netherlands	208,740.17	4,788.82	3.95
51.	Nevis	1,458.77	33.11	0.03
52.	New Zealand	770.21	18.49	0.01
53.	Nigeria	302.23	6.39	0.01
54.	Norway	1,592.44	37.46	0.03
55.	Oman	2,813.29	66.56	0.05
56.	Panama	1,333.64	30.73	0.03
57.	Phillipines	1,896.07	52.63	0.04
58.	Poland	1,002.17	21.04	0.02
59.	Portugal	384.05	9.36	0.01
60.	Qatar	4.95	0.11	0.00
61.	Romania	0.76	0.02	0.00
62.	Russia	21,119.52	450.67	0.40
63.	Saudi Arabia	1,745.49	40.06	0.03
64.	Singapore	408,585.64	9,341.70	7.74
65.	Scotland	119.10	2.69	0.00
66.	South Africa	4,507.22	98.13	0.09
67.	Slovakia	190.88	4.43	0.00
68.	Spain	22,482.56	517.54	0.43
69.	Sri Lanka	694.75	16.09	0.01

1	2	3	4	5
70.	Sweden	39,212.84	896.90	0.74
71.	Slovenia	390.74	8.24	0.01
72.	Switzerland	50,024.45	1,176.73	0.95
73.	Syria	0.22	0.01	0.00
74.	Taiwan	1,656.17	39.64	0.03
75.	Tatarstan	0.40	0.01	0.00
76.	Thailand	4,136.81	104.31	0.08
77.	Turkey	38.67	0.89	0.00
78.	U.A.E.	63,894.27	1,415.14	1.21
79.	U.K.	265,539.23	6,178.79	5.03
80.	U.S.A.	429,062.66	10,028.72	8.12
81.	Ukraine	35.95	0.84	0.00
82.	Venezuela	0.01	0.00	0.00
83.	Uruguay	160.54	3.63	0.00
84.	British Virginia	23,274.35	531.69	0.44
85.	West Indies	2,723.86	62.28	0.05
86.	Yugoslavia	11.31	0.24	0.00
87.	Unindicated Country	245,644.50	5,628.57	4.67
88.	Malta	290.44	6.59	0.01
89.	Iran	626.29	19.67	0.01
90.	Tanzania	32.55	0.78	0.00
91.	Georgia	0.10	0.00	0.00
92.	Gibraltar	827.28	19.33	0.02
93.	Sudan	2.41	0.05	0.00
94.	Jordon	49.45	1.01	0.00
95.	Vietnam	5.53	0.13	0.00
96.	Jamica	10.00	0.22	0.00
97.	Ice Land	917.62	20.81	0.02
98.	Kenya	566.80	12.28	0.01
99.	Egypt	20.37	0.54	0.00
100.	Yaman	77.40	1.87	0.00
101.	Cuba	47.32	1.04	0.00
102.	Liberia	578.42	13.09	0.01
103.	Costa Rica	0.10	0.00	0.00
104.	St. Vincent	348.64	8.05	0.01



1	2	3	4	5
105.	Mayanmar	357.49	8.96	0.01
106.	Zambia	6.70	0.15	0.00
107.	Moracco	699.77	15.21	0.01
108.	Columbia	41.24	0.94	0.00
109.	British Isles	619.95	13.57	0.01
110.	Vanuatu	40.75	0.87	0.00
111.	Aruba	19.65	0.43	0.00
112.	Virgin Islands	145.71	3.12	0.00
113.	Peru	2.01	0.04	0.00
114.	Tunisia	198.40	4.31	0.00
115.	Uganda	36.87	0.84	0.00
116.	Seychelles	762.05	16.00	0.01
117.	West Africa	4.56	0.11	0.00
118.	Fii's	2.46	0.06	0.00
119.	Fiji Islands	222.98	5.07	0.00
120.	East Africa	0.06	0.00	0.00
121.	Ghana	135.61	3.08	0.00
122.	Libya	2.56	0.06	0.00
123.	Dgibouti	0.03	0.00	0.00
124.	Congo (Dr)	4.40	0.11	0.00
125.	Nicosia	0.30	0.01	0.00
126.	Kyrgyzstan	0.10	0.00	0.00
127.	Mangolia	2.70	0.06	0.00
128.	Island JE 24WA	50.00	1.03	0.00
	Sub-Total	4,877,926.55	111,973.34	92.36
129.	Acquisition of Share	72,780.18	1,848.86	1.38
130.	Advance of Inflow	98,689.96	2,178.72	1.87
131.	Stock Swapped	147,418.99	3,341.35	2.79
132.	NRI RBI Schemes	84,269.48	2,509.86	1.60
	Grand Total	5,281,085.16	121,852.13	1.00.00

Note: Amount includes the Inflows received through SIA/FIPB route, acquisition or existing shares and RBI's automatic route only.

*[Translation]***Watershed Projects**

3900. SHRI VITTHALBHAI HANSRAJBHAI  
RADADIYA:  
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints from public representatives received in regard to ongoing construction of the watershed projects in the country including Gujarat;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon as on date; and

(d) the outcome of the action report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) Under Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP), two complaints one each from the States of Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh were received from public representatives. No complaint was received from Gujarat.

(b) **1. Uttarakhand:** One complaint was received from Hon'ble Shri Bachchi Singh Rawat, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) against the appointment of Zila Panchayat as a Project Implementing Agency (PIA) in project Pithoragarh -III, Kanalichina blocks of Pithoragarh District.

**2. Arunachal Pradesh:** One complaint was received from Hon'ble Shri Tapir Gao, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) regarding misuse of funds sanctioned under IWDP Project-IV in West Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) 1. In Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, the PIA was changed from Zila Panchayat, Pithoragarh to Regional Panchayat in Pithoragarh -III project.

2. In Arunachal Pradesh, West Siang district's IWDP project-IV, an enquiry was conducted by the National Level Monitor (NLM) and also by the State Government. NLM physically verified some of the assets created under the project. The State Government found that the complaint against the project implementation was unfounded and the funds have been gainfully utilized.

**Amendment in Rules of USO Fund**

3901. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:  
SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) No, Madam. The existing Rules of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) already have the provisions to provide subsidy support for public telecom and information services in rural and remote areas of the country. These Rules are being amended from time to time to expand the scope of rural telecom connectivity.

Last such amendments were carried out in 17.11.2006 and 18.7.2008 to enable support for mobile services & broadband connectivity in rural & remote areas and for providing subsidy support to eligible operators for operational sustainability of Rural wire line Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) installed prior to 01-04-2002.

Various schemes being undertaken/considered for expansion of telecom network in rural and remote areas are provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the uncovered villages, replacement of Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) based VPTs, support for RDELs, setting up of shared mobile towers, provision of wire line/wireless broadband connectivity in rural areas, creation of general infrastructure in rural areas etc.

*[English]***Restructuring of Port Trusts**

3902. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:  
SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI:  
SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:  
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the ongoing projects under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) for development of major ports, which are overloaded;

(b) whether the Government proposes to restructure the Port Trusts to make them more professional and management savvy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) (1). The overall status of NMDP projects for the periods up to 31.10.2009 is as follows:-

Project completed	47 amounting to Rs. 5495.78 crores
Work in progress	71 amounting to Rs. 16487.95 crores
Approved but work yet to be awarded	15 amounting to Rs. 2595.15 crores
Firmed up and under process for approval	33 amounting to Rs. 12268.37 crores
Under preliminary planning stage	88 amounting to Rs. 22684.20 crores
Dropped	21 amounting to Rs. 3121.14 crores.

(2) Capacity of the Ports *viz-a-viz* the traffic handled by them is given in the enclosed Statement, according to which the traffic is more than the capacity in only four ports *i.e.* Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Mormugao and Mumbai.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal for restructuring the Major Ports. However, a bill introduced in the 13th Lok Sabha for corporatisation of the Major Ports lapsed as the 13th Lok Sabha was dissolved. The final decision in the matter would depend upon the evaluation of the performance of Ennore Port Limited which is the only corporatised Port under the Ministry.

#### **Statement**

##### *Cargo Handling Capacity vis-a-vis Traffic*

(In million Tonnes)

Port	Capacity as on 31.03.2009	Traffic During 2008-09
1	2	3
Kolkata	15.76	12.43
Haldia	46.70	41.79

1	2	3
Paradip	71.00	46.41
Visakhapatnam	62.23	63.91
Ennore	16.00	11.50
Chennai	55.75	57.49
Tuticorin	22.81	22.01
Cochin	28.37	15.23
New Mangalore	44.20	36.69
Mormugao	33.05	41.68
Mumbai	43.70	51.88
Jawaharlal Nehru	57.96	57.29
Kandla	77.24	72.22
Total	574.77	530.53

#### **Software Technology Parks**

3903. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the physical as well as the financial targets fixed and achieved by the Software Technology Parks in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the reasons, if any, for under performance therein;

(c) the targets fixed, both physical as well as financial under the Eleventh Five Year Plan to set up more Software Technology Parks in the country State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to fulfill these targets without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (d) As per the policy for setting up a Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) centre, the State Government has to provide 3 acres of land, 10,000 sq. ft. of built up space and Grant-in-aid of Rs. 1 Crore to STPI, after the feasibility study report, which is conducted by STPI jointly with the State Government concerned. Therefore, it is not feasible for

STPI to set targets for setting up of new STPI Centres. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, STPI set up 13 new Centres and a total of 48 STPI Centres were operational in the country by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan. Exports through STP units increased to Rs. 144,214 Crores in the Financial Year 2006-07 (Terminal year of the Tenth Five Year Plan) from Rs. 37,176 Crores in the Financial Year 2002-03, registering a CAGR of 37.33 percent.

During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, 3 new STPI Centres have been set up and as of now a total of 51 STPI centres are operational in the country. List of the STPI Centres is enclosed as Statement. The exports through STP units has increased from Rs. 1,80,155 crores in 2007-08 to Rs. 207358 crores in 2008-09, with a year on year growth of 15.1 percent.

**Statement**

*List of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Centres*

Sl.No.	States	STPI Centres
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2.		Tirupati
3.		Vijayawada
4.		Vizag
5.		Warangal
6.		Kakinada
7.	Assam	Guwahati
8.	Chhattisgarh	Bhilai
9.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
12.		Jammu
13.	Jharkhand	Ranchi
14.		Bangalore
15.		Hubli
16.	Karnataka	Mangalore
17.		Manipal

1	2	3
18.		Mysore
19.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
21.		Aurangabad
22.		Nagpur
23.	Maharashtra	Nasik
24.		Navi Mumbai
25.		Kolhapur
26.		Pune
27.	Manipur	Imphal
28.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar
29.		Rourkela
30.	Puducherry	Puducherry
31.	Punjab	Mohali
32.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
33.		Jodhpur
34.	Sikkim	Gangtok
35.		Chennai
36.		Coimbatore
37.	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
38.		Thirunavelli
39.		Trichy
40.		Kanpur
41.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
42.		Noida
43.		Allahabad
44.	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
45.		Kolkata
46.		Durgapur
47.	West Bengal	Khargapur
48.		Siliguri
49.		Haldia
50.	Bihar	Patna
51.	Meghalaya	Shilong

[Translation]

**Inclusion of Castes in SC List**

3904. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:  
SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR:  
SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN:

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

(a) whether some backward castes included in the central list of Scheduled Castes (SCs) have not been accorded the same status in some States;

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

(c) whether proposals have been received from the States for inclusion of some castes in SC list;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for inclusion of all the backward castes recognized as SCs by the Union Government in the SC list of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) In accordance with Article 341 (1) of the Constitution, specification of a caste as a Scheduled Caste is in relation to a particular State/Union Territory.

The criterion followed in this regard is extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of traditional practice of untouchability.

(c) and (d) A Statement indicating the State/UT wise number of complete proposals received for inclusion of some castes in the list of Scheduled Castes, is Annexed. Such proposals received from concerned State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, are processed as per approved modalities.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) & (b) of the Question.

**Statement***"Inclusion of castes in SC list"*

Sl.No.	States/Union Territory	No. of proposals
1	2	3
<b>States</b>		
1.	Chhattisgarh	1
2.	Haryana	1

1	2	3
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	3
4.	Karnataka	1
5.	Kerala	3
6.	Madhya Pradesh	2
7.	Manipur	1
8.	Orissa	19
9.	Tripura	3
10.	Uttarakhand	1
<b>Union Territory</b>		
11.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>36</b>

**Non-Payment of Minimum Wages**

3905. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:  
DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ:  
SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:  
SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:

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

(a) whether the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, prescribes some punitive action against those contract employers who indulge into alleged underpayment activities and exploitation of their employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government against such defaulters 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) and (b) So far as the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is concerned, Section 12 prevents the employers engaged in scheduled employment from paying them any rate less than the prescribed minimum wage. The wages shall be without any deduction except as authorized. Section 13 provides for fixation of number of hours in a working day and a rest day after a week. Under Section 22, an employer is punishable with imprisonment for a term of six months and/or fine upto Rs. 500/- for contravention of any provision of the act.

The enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is secured at two levels. In the Central sphere, the enforcement is secured through the Inspecting Officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). The compliance in the State sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery. They conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment

or under-payment of minimum wages, they advise the employer to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions against the defaulting employers are invoked. Details regarding enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 during 2005-06 to 2007-08, as available in respect of all employments, are given in the enclosed Statements-I to III.

**Statement I**

*Details Regarding Enforcement of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 during 2005-06*

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Inspections made	Irregularities		Claims		Prosecution cases			Amount of Compensation Awarded (Rs. '000)	Amount of Fine (Rs. '000)	
			Detected	Rectified	Filed	Settled	Pending	Filed	Decided		Imposed	Recovered
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<b>Central Sphere</b>	12392	—	—	2543	3434	—	4620	4643	36417	—	—
	<b>State Sphere</b>											
1.	Andhra Pradesh	51104	6841	6487	10402	10449	644	69	86	29962	51	51
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	26706	12667	8478	232	144	27	16	—	452	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	271206	52846	56342	20159	16225	1136	16	1	10778	103	—
5.	Chhattisgarh*	5214	2678	782	367	337	9394	1222	919	1369	233	300
6.	Goa	442	766	296	1	—	5	4	—	1	1	—
7.	Gujarat	114327	74554	60714	14	4	30744	3538	2032	1616	2350	2189
8.	Haryana	1483	49	49	412	387	6168	179	682	758	192	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3028	3028	2829	54	17	51	199	148	37	126	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2087	728	483	8	7	1329	381	157	—	35	—
11.	Jharkhand	60738	7758	7265	1736	1438	1063	23	45	3368	9	8
12.	Karnataka	23324	7062	6330	1618	1280	1032	857	344	702	459	316
13.	Kerala	25472	41202	22403	49	219	529	687	740	1156	649	137
14.	Madhya Pradesh	31384	3566	1796	761	297	6000	1770	684	892	332	332
15.	Maharashtra	80042	62021	53319	3	—	1163	274	101	533	120	—
16.	Manipur	431	24	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Meghalaya	299	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Orissa	18501	16583	8833	98	—	8926	469	687	—	131	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
20.	Punjab	12944	289	181	291	193	649	121	727	895	80	—
21.	Rajasthan	8707	1436	1093	203	163	384	195	146	9002	47	35
22.	Tamil Nadu	122059	1147	126	2259	1497	6521	1458	620	21741	223	223
23.	Tripura	8639	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
24.	Uttarakhand	3190	1091	682	223	171	25	201	121	203	37	37
25.	Uttar Pradesh	12313	9488	—	1241	1479	8848	647	589	360	1	—
26.	West Bengal	26983	7709	7217	—	—	613	196	101	—	16	—
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	123	615	615	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	147	—	—
28.	Chandigarh	222	144	85	—	—	70	39	24	10	13	—
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	78	27	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	7884	5406	6335	1028	503	478	1459	230	470	313	237
31.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Puducherry	11895	740	740	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Note: The information from Nagaland, Sikkim and Daman & Diu are awaited.

\*Relates to the Calendar Year *i.e.* 2005

### Statement II

#### Details Regarding Enforcement of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 during 2006-07

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Inspections made	Irregularities		Claims		Prosecution cases			Amount of Compensation Awarded (Rs. '000)	Amount of Fine (Rs. '000)	
			Detected	Rectified	Filed	Settled	Pending	Filed	Decided		Imposed	Recovered
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<b>Central Sphere</b>	15147	—	—	1706	1860	—	5692	4942	20421	—	—
	<b>State Sphere</b>											
1.	Andhra Pradesh	88957	12389	10458	19952	14847	661	389	394	5683	67	51
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	187	10	6	1	Nil	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	36257	17963	9429	300	233	102	293	40	495	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	278336	54700	51253	20763	19177	1152	122	35	11738	696	—
5.	Goa	582	2319	513	5	—	13	20	10	—	6	—
6.	Gujarat	115428	78024	49699	1	69	55291	3828	5267	45019	13207	4146
7.	Haryana	2320	389	45	218	277	990	93	155	2090	70	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2676	2676	2436	57	29	16	240	224	12	147	—
9.	Jharkhand	69460	9882	9212	1514	1337	1274	25	7	4474	11	10
10.	Kerala	28744	48962	22085	117	42	523	808	794	544	532	532
11.	Madhya Pradesh	29483	2845	1458	643	414	8711	1387	485	162	314	314
12.	Maharashtra	64714	54739	45748	3	—	1402	156	90	1677	59	—
13.	Manipur	319	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
14.	Meghalaya	425	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Rajasthan	8393	195	42	229	216	864	123	217	5798	68	68
16.	Tamil Nadu	94488	1154	91	1996	1298	4627	713	638	18479	221	221
17.	Tripura	6803	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Uttarakhand	3238	1337	663	335	255	105	508	351	2888	168	157
19.	Uttar Pradesh	16990	12836	5208	3639	2933	8906	1066	883	96861	188	—
20.	West Bengal	25467	7004	6753	—	—	708	73	68	—	33	33
21.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	115	456	456	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Chandigarh	271	196	—	126	86	94	84	132	96	110	—
23.	Daman and Diu	511	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Delhi	8575	7002	6333	451	513	11382	1060	612	1373	459	252
25.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Note: The information from Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Puducherry are awaited.

### Statement III

#### Details Regarding Enforcement of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 during 2007-08

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Inspections made	Irregularities		Claims		Prosecution cases			Amount of Compensation Awarded (Rs. '000)	Amount of Fine (Rs. '000)	
			Detected	Rectified	Filed	Settled	Pending	Filed	Decided		Imposed	Recovered
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<b>Central Sphere</b>	14039	132496	140913	2005	2697	44389	2486	—	7960	—	—
	<b>State Sphere</b>											
1.	Andhra Pradesh	77683	17829	12505	27071	23051	1057	328	458	152	86	83
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	37905	16464	4936	476	247	307	148	66	570	Nil	Nil



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
4.	Bihar	217682	44534	41225	18134	14596	1160	85	25	14282	541	—
5.	Chhattisgarh*	5380	2159	605	146	95	9579	1245	866	1280	0.1	573
6.	Delhi	8992	6279	6086	481	452	1432	993	210	2106	334	211
7.	Goa*	1195	7172	6159	6	6	1	6	5	—	28	—
8.	Gujarat	140381	119143	81790	—	81	49763	6146	4015	5586	3268	172
9.	Haryana	2433	531	531	238	262	1029	189	76	4160	44	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2595	2595	2217	2	1	31	378	347	2	284	—
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	2041	330	227	3	—	447	105	135	—	0.3	0.3
12.	Jharkhand	80839	9237	8971	1364	1623	898	17	44	7802	6	0
13.	Karnataka	27482	9638	8291	1085	659	685	1368	578	13198	783	738
14.	Kerala	29160	60850	19634	179	90	537	807	847	992	866	866
15.	Madhya Pradesh	22831	1629	158	627	993	5337	1471	719	278	156	156
16.	Maharashtra	87459	79921	68386	—	—	6079	317	1162	—	495	—
17.	Manipur	595	30	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Meghalaya	384	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Nagaland	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Orissa	23962	18903	11538	197	—	9674	675	145	Nil	39	—
22.	Punjab	15301	1295	1188	88	120	306	317	202	479	86	—
23.	Rajasthan	9527	307	112	385	282	770	197	137	5275	52	—
24.	Sikkim	7003	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	105906	746	98	644	1134	7969	616	295	39349	176	122
26.	Tripura	5989	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
27.	Uttarakhand	3804	1136	374	251	295	107	233	243	5904	90	88
28.	Uttar Pradesh	37022	19227	842	4996	4716	7494	1225	909	2690000	247	—
29.	West Bengal	16188	3838	3715	—	—	713	61	51	—	22	—
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands*	272	1088	1088	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
31.	Chandigarh	222	145	—	47	164	201	55	73	13	53	—
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	28	7	7	1	1	—	2	—	41	—	—
33.	Daman and Diu*	397	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
35.	Puducherry	9225	185	185	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.7	0.7

\*Relates to the Calendar Year *i.e.* 2007

**Dr. Arjun Sengupta Commission**

3906. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dr. Arjun Sengupta Commission constituted for the welfare of unorganised sector workers has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details and main features thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps as per the recommendations of the said commission; 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) to (d) National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) under the chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sengupta submitted its report on social security for unorganised workers in May, 2006. The Commission recommended a Central Legislation for providing social security to these workers. The Government examined the proposal regarding enactment of Central Legislation for unorganized workers in consultation with Central Trade Unions, NGOs, and other stakeholders. Thereafter, the 'Unorganised Workers' Social Security Bill 2007 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 10.9.2007 which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. On careful examination of the recommendations of the Standing Committee and suggestions of stakeholders, the Government moved official amendments in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill was passed by both Houses of Parliament with amendments and the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 was enacted and notified in Gazette of India on 31.12.2008. The Act has come into force with effect from 16th May, 2009.

In the meantime the Government took following initiatives:

- (1) With a view to providing death and disability cover to rural landless households, the 'Aam Admi Bima Yojana' (AABY) was launched on 2nd October, 2007.
- (2) The 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' for BPL families (a unit of five) providing for smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum on a family floater basis is in operation from 1st April, 2008.

(3) 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.

(4) As provided in the Act, National Social Security Board has been constituted which shall recommend social security schemes viz life and disability cover, health maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefits as may be determined by the Government for unorganized workers. The first meeting of the National Board was held on 23.09.2009. In its first meeting, the Board decided to constitute a Sub-Committee to consider the extension of RSBY to other occupational Groups in the unorganised sector (Non-BPL) and formulation of other social security schemes for unorganised workers. The Sub-Committee has already met twice.

*[English]*

**Disinvestment of MMTC**

3907. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to sell the Government equity in MMTC Limited;

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

(c) the details regarding current status of the proposal for disinvestment prepared in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Policy on disinvestment was articulated in the President's Address to the Joint Session of Parliament on 4th June, 2009 and reiterated in Finance Minister's Budget Speech on 6th July, 2009. It has been articulated that the citizens should own a part of the shares of public sector undertakings. While retaining at least 51% Government equity in the enterprises, people's participation would be encouraged. Presently, Government of India shareholding in MMTC is 99.34%. It has been decided to divest 10% of Government's equity of MMTC. The decision has been informed to Department of Disinvestment who are preparing roadmap for divesture for the year 2009-10.

**Demand and Supply of Cement**

3908. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:  
SHRI SAMEER BHUJBAL:

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

(a) whether there is demand and supply mismatch in the cement industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total capacity created/consumption during the current year;

(c) whether the companies are artificially increasing the prices of cement;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any international seminar on cement and building material held in New Delhi; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. The details of the total capacity, production and consumption for the last three years are as under:-

(in Million MT)			
Year	Capacity	Production	Consumption
2007-08	178.77	168.32	164.03
2008-09	205.63	181.61	177.98
2009-10 (Apr.-Sep.)	113.41	96.73	94.76

It will be noted that cement consumption for all the periods has been lower than the production.

(c) and (d) Cement is a decontrolled commodity and its prices are governed by market forces depending upon factors like demand and supply, cost of production, distance from manufacturing centres, local taxes imposed by the State Government etc. The average all India retail price of cement has decreased from Rs. 253 per bag in April, 2009 to Rs. 245 per bag in October, 2009.

(e) and (f) The National Council for Cement and Building Materials organized its 11th International Seminar on Cement and Building Materials on 17-20 November,

2009, New Delhi. More than 600 delegates from India and abroad participated in the Seminar. The Seminar provided a comprehensive update of cement and construction technologies. It focused on latest developments in energy conservation, environmental protection, utilization of Waste Derived Fuels, application of Nano-technology for sustainable development of cement industry. In the concluding session of the Seminar, the NCB National Awards for Energy efficiency, Environmental and Quality excellence in cement industry were presented for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09.

*[Translation]*

**Right to Work as Fundamental Right**

3909. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:  
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to include the right to work in the fundamental rights of the Constitution in order to provide employment to unemployed youths;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal under consideration. However, a provision under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 has been made to provide assured work for a minimum of 100 days in a year to each card holder with a minimum wage of Rs. 100 per day. Government is fully aware of the unemployment problem in the country. The 11th Five Year Plan provides a framework to restructure policies to achieve a new vision based on faster, more broad-based and inclusive growth. It aims at making employment generation an integral part of the growth process and devise strategies to accelerate not only growth of employment but also of wages of the poorly paid. The 11th Plan document approved by National Development Council has projected that 58 million job opportunities on Current Daily Status are likely to be created during the 11th Plan period. Besides, Government of India is implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes in both rural and urban areas to increase employment opportunities. Some of the important ones are: Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY),

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). Budget allocation under these schemes has been increased substantially and it is expected that higher investment in these schemes will lead to generation of higher employment opportunities. Government have also taken steps to identify and implement systemic reforms in administration of Industrial Training Institutes so as to facilitate closer interaction with the industry in order to improve quality of training, make the graduates better employable and help them earn decent wages.

[*English*]

#### **Mergers and Allocation by TRAI**

3910. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has floated a consultation paper to discuss spectrum allocation for 2G mobile services and issues related thereto, mergers and allocation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the Government and mobile service providers thereto;

(d) whether the MTNL and BSNL are in favour of open bidding rather than trading on the basis of first-come-first serve; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (e) Madam, on 16.10.2009, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Consultation Paper on "Overall Spectrum Management and review of license terms and conditions". The issues raised in the consultation paper for deliberation include spectrum requirement & availability, licensing issues, merger & acquisition issues, spectrum trading, spectrum sharing, perpetuity of licences, uniform licence fee, spectrum assignment, spectrum pricing and structure for spectrum management.

TRAI's recommendations to the Government on above issues, taking into consideration of the responses

of all the stake holders including mobile service providers and BSNL/MTNL, is awaited. Government will take decision on the recommendations of TRAI keeping all aspects in mind. Being a policy matter, no time frame can be fixed for decision of Government in the matter.

[*Translation*]

#### **Agri Export Zones**

3911. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding performance of Agri-Export Zones (AEZs) during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to review the policy regarding setting up of AEZs; 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) The Government of India has sanctioned 60 Agri-Export Zones (AEZs) in 20 States. The actual investments in these AEZs is Rs. 1162.37 crores and the actual exports is about Rs. 10738 crores.

(b) and (c) A peer evaluation of the existing AEZs was carried out with a view to ascertain the reasons for shortfall in their performance and to suggest a remedial action plan. The review revealed that the AEZ were not able to make headway, mainly, owing to lack of:

- (i) Project orientation in their conceptual design;
- (ii) Awareness amongst the field functionaries about the concept of AEZs;
- (iii) Effective agency to coordinate with other implementing agencies and monitor the performance of the AEZs; and
- (iv) Effective public participation.

The main elements of the remedial action plan are setting up of institutional administrative mechanism for coordinating and monitoring the progress of implementation of AEZs and short listing of a few AEZs for special focus for their revival as well as to make them model AEZs.

*[English]***Setting up of Centres for Flower Export**

3912. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:  
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

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

(a) the quantity and value of export of flowers during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether various centres such as Market Facilitation Centres, Wholesale Market Auction Centres and Agri-Export Zones for floriculture products and Centre

for Perishable Cargo etc. been set up;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up more such centres in the country; and

(e) the time which all the centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The details of export of flowers, both in quantity and value, country-wise for the last three years is as under:

(Qty:MTs, Value:Rs Lakhs)

Country	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
USA	126.33	90.53	51.67	134.1	1457.83	1256.25
Netherland	911.15	482.92	998.51	194.9	1229.53	1130.95
Germany	69.36	51.31	9.39	18.41	1121.2	1084.08
UK	132.28	166.57	244.06	199.21	653.38	649.43
Italy	163.07	54.19	121.45	39.66	572.83	627.8
Canada	2.14	3.07	2.08	4.24	263.07	239.22
U arab EMTS	465.31	457.45	356.85	350.53	219.95	234.11
Belgium	0.2	0.18	0.44	0.65	245.78	214.56
Poland	5.5	6.21	0	0	157.23	160.35
Spain	5.07	8.62	0	0	89.71	86.73
Thailand	11.5	3.48	0.11	0.21	110.44	72.06
Taiwan	0	0	0.01	0.01	35.1	70.95
Malaysia	6.17	11.59	20.02	47.57	68.74	65.38
France	38.51	37.32	29.56	25.49	43.43	63.76
Sweden	3.81	3.52	1.77	4.33	58.19	60.43
Australia	87.48	185.21	182.35	138.56	41.48	56.22
Others	9876.05	32652.21	2497.56	3717.4	604.15	490.59
Total	11903.93	34214.38	4515.83	4875.27	6972.04	6562.87

Source: APEDA

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. The Government, through APEDA, has setup wholesale market cum flower Auction Centres at Bangalore, Mumbai, Noida and Kolkatta. The Agri-Export zones for floriculture products have been setup in the states of Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Sikkim while the Centres for perishable Cargo are at major airports of New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Cochin, Nashik, Goa, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Thiruvanthapuram, Baghdogra and Amritsar.

(d) and (e) APEDA would consider setting up perishable cargo centres at other potential exit ports on receipt of proposals from the States or Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs).

*[Translation]*

#### **Cargo Vessels/Ships**

3913. SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign cargo vessels/ships arrived at major ports in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, port-wise;

(b) the quantity and type of cargo carried by foreign and domestic cargo vessels/ ships during the said period separately, port-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of domestic and foreign ships detained for alleged irregularities during the said period, port-wise, company-wise and year-wise;

(d) the action taken by the Government against such ship/cargo companies during the said period, company-wise and year-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide special assistance to promote domestic cargo companies vis-a-vis foreign cargo companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the plan chalked out in this regard indicating the funds allocated for the purpose?

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

(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

(e) and (f) Concessional tariff is already prescribed for coastal cargo/containers. It is prescribed that the cargo/container related charges for all coastal cargo/containers,

other than thermal coal and POL including crude oil, iron ore and iron ore pellets should not exceed 60% of the normal cargo/container related, charges. Similarly, in case of coastal vessels the vessel related charges should not exceed 60% of the corresponding charges for other vessels. Further, these charges should be denominated and collected in Indian Rupees only and restatement of coastal rates with reference to prevailing exchange rate at the time of each general revision of Scales of Rates will not be resorted to.

*[English]*

#### **Tripartite Labour Committees**

3914. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and functions of the tripartite labour committees functioning at present in the country;

(b) the details of representation received by such committees from various trade unions and employers during each of the last three years and the current year, committee-wise;

(c) whether the representation of the tripartite labour committees is given to central trade unions as per their verified membership;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government proposes to give due representation to the central trade union as per verified membership; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) There are a total of 28 tripartite labour committees functioning under the Ministry. The functions of these committees are to concerned in order to bring about a better understanding of the problems among the parties, to render advice in solving the problems and to reach at consensus of views. The Committees also advise the Government in the evolution of principles and policies in the Labour field.

(b) The information will be collected and laid on the table of the House.

(c) to (g) The representation to various Central Trade Union Organizations is given pro-rata on the basis of their latest verified membership in the particular industry as notified by the Ministry of Labour & Employment from time to time.

#### **Implementation of RSBY**

3915. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take steps for community involvement in the implementation and monitoring of the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, the community involvement in implementation of RSBY is envisaged through the intermediary, including Panchayati Raj institutions for the purposes of ensuring effective outreach to beneficiaries and to facilitate usage by beneficiaries of benefits covered under the scheme. The role of intermediaries, inter-alia, include: undertaking campaigns in villages to increase awareness of the RSBY scheme and its key features; mobilizing BPL households in participating districts for enrolment in the scheme and facilitating their enrolment and subsequent re-enrolment as the case may be; providing advice to beneficiary households wishing to avail of benefits covered under the scheme and facilitating their access to such services as needed.

*[Translation]*

#### **Capacity Utilisation**

3916. SHRI VITTHALBHAI HANSRAJBHAI  
RADADIYA:  
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:  
SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

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

(a) the present availability of capacity network of mobile telephone connections with the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) the status of utilised capacity in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure optimum utilization of the existing available capacity of these two public sector companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The present capacity network of Mobile Telephone connections with Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited are 54, 42, 230 and 5, 15, 35, 314 respectively.

(b) Utilised capacity of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited are 48, 19, 430 and 5, 40, 10, 043 respectively.

(c) In Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the capacity is already optimally utilized. The specific measures taken in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) to improve the market share is given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

##### *Details of Measures taken in MTNL to improve Market Share*

- (i) Addition of BTS for GSM & CDMA.
- (ii) Competitive, Flexible and Affordable Tariffs in comparison to other competitors.
- (iii) Improved customer service through CSCs. S.
- (iv) Online complaint system and self care website.
- (v) Provision of various value added service on Landline, BB, GSM and CDMA.
- (vi) The commercial procedures have been simplified.
- (vii) Bill payment facility has been expanded.
- (viii) Introduction of convergent Billing.
- (ix) For Corporate customers, a core group has been formed under a GM to give special attention and treatment.

#### **Development of New Waterways**

3917. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop new waterways for promotion of water tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the waterways sites identified for the purpose State- wise; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

### **Refuelling Aircraft for Air Force**

3918. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to purchase mid-air refuelling aircraft to meet its urgent requirement;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether the matter is pending with the Finance Ministry;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in clearance to purchase these aircraft; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The Indian Air Force (IAF) had proposed the procurement of six Flight Refueller Aircraft to meet the growing Air-To-Air Refueling tasks in the IAF and Indian Navy. The procurement proposal had been progressed in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure-2006 and thereafter referred to the Ministry of Finance who has expressed certain reservations relating to the competitiveness of the bids and the reasonableness of the price. The Defence Procurement Procedure envisages a time line of up to two and a half years from the date of issue of Request for Proposal to signing of the contract in multi-vendor cases. Every effort is made to adhere to these time lines.

### **Setting up of ICT Academy**

3919. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests from various State Governments especially from Kerala for setting up of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Academies in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Project proposals were received from State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala for setting up of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Academy in their respective States.

(b) and (c) Both the projects have been approved, and they at various stages of implementation.

[*Translation*]

### **Violation of Labour Laws by Pesticide Companies**

3920. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pesticides manufacturing companies are violating the existing Labour Laws and safety measures in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the companies against whom action has been taken for violation of such laws during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any review of the procedures being adopted by these companies so as to ensure proper implementation of the existing Labour Laws and safety measures; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Madam. Some of the Factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948 have been observed to be violating the Labour Laws.

(b) State-wise list of Factories who have been found to be violating the provisions under the Factories Act, 1948 is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) State Governments are the appropriate Governments for pesticide companies. The proper implementation of existing labour laws and safety measures are implemented by the State Governments



through Chief Inspector of Factories in the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The occupiers of the Factories are required to ensure health, safety and welfare of all workers while they are at work. The procedure and compliance with the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 are checked by inspector of Factories during inspections. In order to ensure compliance in this regard instructions have been issued by the Directorate General, Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes to all the Chief Inspectors of Factories.

### Statement

*The Names of Factories, State-wise, against which the actions have been initiated for violation of the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 during the last three years*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Name of The Factory
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	M/s Mega Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. East Godavari
2.	Chhattisgarh	Aero Agro Chemicals Industries, Raipur
3.	Gujarat	1. Gujarat Insecticides Ltd., Ankleshwar 2. Baroda Minerals Grinding Industries, Ahmedabad 3. Cheminova India Ltd. Panoli 4. Excel Crop. Care Ltd., Gazode 5. Pestimade Gujarat 6. Sabero Organics Gujarat Ltd., Sarigam (Violation detected 3 times) 7. United Phosphorus Ltd., Ankleshwar 8. Agro Park. Panoli
4.	Haryana	1. M/s Chrystal Phosphorus Ltd., Sonapat 2. M/s Safex Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. Bahadurgarh 3. M/s Darrick Insecticides, Bahadurgarh 4. M/s Amsons India, Panipat 5. M/s Hafed Pesticides, Karnal 6. M/s Delta Insecticides, Bahadurgarh 7. M/s Star India Agro Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Ambala

1	2	3
		8. M/s Dhanuka Pesticides Ltd., Gurgaon 9. M/s Dhanuka Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	1. M/s Ravi Corpn. Science, Jammu 2. M/s Pioneer Pesticides, Jammu 3. M/s Shivalik Pesticides, Jammu 4. M/s Hindustan Pesticides, Jammu 5. M/s Jaishree Rasayan, Jammu 6. M/s Sudharshan Concolidation Ltd., Jammu
6.	Karnataka	1. M/s Makam Agro Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore 2. M/s Agro Chem. Industries, Bangalore
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Sagar mineral and chemicals Chanatoriya, Distt. Sagar 2. Saurabh Agro Industries, Industrial Estate Vidisha 3. Shine Metal Industries, Industrial Estate Vidisha 4. Agro Ad Pesticides, Industrial Area, Vidisha 5. Med Chemicals, Industrial Estate Vidisha 6. Rajasthan Insecticides and fertilizers Co. Pvt. Ltd., Mandideep Distt. Raisen 7. Ambika Pesticides, Mandideep Distt. Raisen 8. Mexican Agro Chemicals Ltd., Sector-3 Pithampur Distt. Dhar
8.	Maharashtra	1. M/s Spectrum Eathers Ltd., Nasik 2. M/s AIMCO Pesticides Ltd., Ratnagiri 3. M/s Gharda Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Ratnagiri
9.	Tamil Nadu	1. M/s S.L. Industries. Selam 2. Tagros Chemicals India Ltd., Cuddalore
10.	Uttar Pradesh	M/s Ravi Agronicks, Muzzafarnagar
11.	West Bengal	1. M/s Kundu Agro Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. Bodai Industrial Estate, 24 Pargana Distt. 2. Rajco Pesticides & Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Bandipur 24 Parganas

**Guidelines by TRAI**

3921. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued guidelines to do away the different in call rates on intra-networks and inter-networks to ensure equal call rates on every network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the compliance by private telecom companies about the guidelines of TRAI as on date, separately;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take action which are following the guidelines of TRAI; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Madam.

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

(c) and (d) As per the currently prevailing tariff framework it is permissible for operators to provide differential call charges for off-net (inter network) and on-net (intra network) calls. Therefore, there is no violation of guidelines issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in case a service provider offers differential call rates in respect of intra network and inter network calls.

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

*[English]*

**Amendments in Selection Criteria**

3922. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to make amendments in criteria for selecting the Chairperson and Members of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI);

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

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) The TRAI (Amendment) Bill, 2008 to amend the qualifications for appointment of Chairperson and other members of TRAI was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 15.12.2008. The Bill was referred to Standing Committee on IT. The Committee presented its Report on the Bill in February, 2009. The report of the Committee was examined and it has been decided to withdraw the Bill.

**Claim Rates Under RSBY**

3923. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to address the problem of low claim rates amongst poorer sections of society and women beneficiaries under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY); and

(b) the reaction of the Government over the possibility of male- biased allocation of health insurance benefits, since the present policy of RSBY allows for five family members to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), it is mandatory to include spouse in smart card for enrolment under of RSBY. It is the discretion of the head of the family to include other 3 members of the family. With the objective to provide maternity benefit, the insurance cover for normal and caesarean delivery is available. The new born child (male or female) is covered under the scheme for remaining policy period even if five members are already enrolled. Hence, there is no gender bias against women beneficiaries under the scheme.

*[Translation]*

**Maritime Security**

3924. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS:  
SHRI UMASHANKAR SINGH:  
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI S. SEMMALAI:  
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:  
 SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:  
 SHRI C. SIVASAMI:  
 SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently undertaken review of coastal security system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of setting up of Maritime Security Advisory Board as recommended by the Kargil Review Committee to coordinate with security agencies; and

(d) the status of integration of maritime agencies in coastal security mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
 (a) to (d): Government has accorded top priority to coastal security and for this purpose continuous review and monitoring mechanism has been established including reviews by Raksha Mantri. A high level committee under the Cabinet Secretary has also been constituted comprising of officers from various Central Ministries and agencies and the Chief Secretaries of the Coastal State Governments/Union Territories. For effective Coastal Security an integrated approach has been put in place. The intelligence-sharing mechanism has been streamlined through the creation of Joint Operation Centres and multi agency coordination mechanism. The coastal surveillance and patrolling has been enhanced both by Navy and Coast Guard. Joint and operational exercises are taking place on regular basis between Navy, Coast Guard, Coastal Police, Customs and others in order to check the effectiveness of the new systems.

[English]

#### **Integrated Wasteland Development Programme**

3925. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Atlas has been prepared by National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad about the waste land in the country after 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the steps taken by the Government to utilize the waste, barren and degraded lands and service land has shown any encouraging results;

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

(e) the details of proposals received under Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) and number of projects sanctioned during 2008-09 and 2009-10 under this scheme; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to release more funds to cover more such land for development purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) No. Madam.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Yes. Madam.

(d) The impact assessment studies conducted have shown overall improvement in land use and ground water table, decrease in soil run-off, expansion in irrigated area, increase in cropping intensity and agricultural productivity, greater fuel wood and fodder availability.

(e) and (f) New projects were not sanctioned during 2008-09. A new set of guidelines called 'Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects, 2008' came into force w.e.f. 01.04.2008. Based on the Common Guidelines, a comprehensive programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) was developed by merging the erstwhile Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP). The number of projects sanctioned, area covered and Central funds released under Integrated Watershed Management Programme during 2009-10 is given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

*Projects sanctioned under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) during 2009-10*

(As on 08.12.09)

State	No. of projects	Area (lakh ha)	Central funds released (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	110	4.73	30.68
Chhattisgarh	29	1.52	9.83

1	2	3	4
Gujarat	68	3.30	23.28
Himachal Pradesh	36	2.04	16.51
Karnataka	119	4.91	34.16
Madhya Pradesh	103	6.01	38.98
Orissa	57	2.95	19.09
Punjab	6	0.35	2.29
Rajasthan	162	9.26	69.92
Tamil Nadu	50	2.50	16.17
NNE Total	740	37.57	260.91
<b>Northeastern States</b>			
Arunachal Pradesh	13	0.68	5.45
Assam	57	2.21	14.81
Meghalaya	18	0.30	2.43
Nagaland	22	1.06	8.57
Sikkim	3	0.14	1.17
Tripura	10	0.30	2.45
NE Total	123	4.69	34.88
Grand Total	863	42.26	295.79

[*Translation*]

#### **Recruitment of Rural Women in Army**

3926. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:  
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government encourages rural women including those of Maharashtra to join army;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any recruitment drive for women has been undertaken in rural areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) to (e) Women are inducted as officers in the Army.

They are selected on All Indian Merit basis. No State-wise quota exists for selection of candidates in officers cadre in the Army.

[*English*]

#### **Increase in Wages under NREGS**

3927. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA:  
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to increase the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) wage to Rs. 100, linking it to the price index in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide minimum wages to workers under NREGS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (d) Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 2009-10 had announced to pay a real wage of Rs. 100 per day under NREGS. The policy decided in this regard is as follows:

(i) Wage rate would be revised under Section 6(1) of NREG Act subject to a ceiling of Rs. 100. In respect of States with higher wages, amount exceeding Rs. 100 would be paid by the State Governments from their own resources.

(ii) For all other States wages notified on 1.1.2009 will be the same.

(iii) The new wage rates will be effective from 1.4.2009 or from the date of actual disbursement which ever is later.

(iv) A separate index for NREGA wages would be created.

#### **Funds/Financial Assistance to NGOs**

3928. DR. G. VIVEKANAND:  
SHRI P. BALRAM:

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

(a) the details regarding the quantum of grants-in-aid to be provided to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for the welfare of poor people during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of NGOs, State-wise presently engaged in the welfare activities and getting grants-in-aid in the country;

(c) the number of NGOs blacklisted so far and the quantum of funds recovered from them during the last five years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper utilization of these grant-in-aid provided to NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The mandate of the Ministry is to implement the schemes/programmes for educational, economic and social empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Persons with Disability, Senior Citizens and Victims of substance abuse. An outlay of Rs. 1730 crore has been allocated for providing grants-in-aid to the Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) under various schemes/programmes to be implemented by them for the welfare of these target groups during the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12).

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Seventy Four NGOs have been blacklisted so far and appropriate action is taken in such cases including requesting the State Governments to recover the grants.

(d) The Ministry ensures proper utilization of grants-in-aid released to NGOs in the following ways:

(i) Fresh/subsequent releases of grants to NGOs during a year are made only on receipt of audited accounts and Utilization Certificates in respect of previous grants sanctioned which have become due.

(ii) Review of schemes/programmes implemented through NGOs by the officers of the Ministry during their tours to States.

(iii) Nodal Officer has been appointed for each State to regularly interact with State Governments/NGOs to review the progress of programmes.

(iv) The schemes/programmes implemented through NGOs are also expected to be monitored by respective State Governments/UT Administrations.

(v) In the event of proven misappropriation of funds by an NGO, the Ministry initiates action to blacklist the NGOs.

#### **Statement**

*State-wise number of NGOs Received Grants-in-Aid during 2008-09 under Various Schemes for Welfare Activities for the Target Groups of the Ministry*

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Number of NGOs
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	243
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
4.	Assam	55
5.	Bihar	39
6.	Chandigarh	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	16
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
9.	Daman and Diu	0
10.	Delhi	77
11.	Goa	2
12.	Gujarat	51
13.	Haryana	42
14.	Himachal Pradesh	10
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	9
16.	Jharkhand	5
17.	Karnataka	146
18.	Kerala	66
19.	Lakshadweep	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	86
21.	Maharashtra	127
22.	Manipur	97
23.	Meghalaya	6
24.	Mizoram	13

1	2	3
25.	Nagaland	5
26.	Orissa	134
27.	Puducherry	1
28.	Punjab	27
29.	Rajasthan	98
30.	Sikkim	1
31.	Tamil Nadu	116
32.	Tripura	4
33.	Uttar Pradesh	174
34.	Uttarakhand	18
35.	West Bengal	103
Total		1774

### Employment Opportunities

3929. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the details of the employment opportunities created under new economic reforms during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise and sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): The estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained on the basis of quinquennial surveys conducted by national Sample Survey Organisation. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of surveys, the employment opportunities were estimated at 338.19 million in 1999-2000 (55th round) and 384.91 million in 2004-05 (61th round). The next round of survey for 2009-10 by National Sample Survey Organization is in progress and the data is expected to be released in 2011 on the basis of this survey.

The 11th Plan document approved by National Development Council has projected that 58 million job opportunities on Current Daily Status are likely to be created during the 11th Plan period.

Government of India has been implementing various employment generation programmes such as Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (NREGS).

Budget allocation under these schemes has been increased substantially and it is expected that higher investment in these schemes will lead to generation of higher employment opportunities.

### Amendments in Land Acquisition ACT

3930. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:  
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized the draft amendments in the Land Acquisition Act, 1894;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be amended and implemented in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) to (d) Introducing the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2009 in the Parliament is under consideration. The details of the Bills would become known once they are introduced in the Parliament.

### Norms under PMGSY

3931. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering rationalization of the prescribed norms that govern the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the minimum width of rural roads varies in different parts of the country depending on terrain benchmark that only roads of a certain width qualify for development under PMGSY is a case of one size fits all;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to leave the roads to be covered under PMGSY to the wisdom of the District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at the District level chaired by the local Member of Parliament;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) the details regarding processes, guidelines, benchmarks and parameters for different schemes that are conceived and funded by the Ministry evolved;

(h) whether any independent ground level expert inputs factored in while evolving the criterion; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) (a) and (b) PMGSY is being implemented as per the programme guidelines. NRRDA has constituted an Expert Committee to review the standards, specifications and design of Rural Roads for achieving economy in the cost of construction under PMGSY. The final report is due shortly and will be circulated to the states. The interim report of the committee on Geometrics in Plain & rolling terrain and hills states were circulated already. The details are given in the enclosed Statements-I and II.

(c) and (d) As per Rural Roads Manual IRC SP 20 2002, the normal carriageway width is 3.75 m, road way width is 7.5 m and road land width recommended is 12 m and above based on the terrain. However, as per the code, when the traffic expected to ply on the road is less than 100 motorized vehicles per day, the carriageway width and road way width will be 3m and 6m respectively. Road Land Width may accordingly be changed. It implies that the minimum width of PMGSY roads shall not be less than 3 m carriageway width irrespective of the terrain. Any road less than the minimum width of 3 m carriageway and less than 5.5 m

roadway width cannot permit 2 way operations, even with one standard vehicle and other normal vehicle.

(e) and (f) The Online Management & Monitoring System (OMMS) is the chief mechanism for monitoring the programme as per the PMGSY Guidelines. In addition to above, there is also a provision in the PMGSY Guidelines that at the district level, a District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee set up by the Ministry of Rural Development is also to monitor the progress and exercise vigilance in respect of PMGSY road works.

(g) The process involved in the selection of the roads and their sanction under PMGSY is depicted as per the enclosed Statement-III. The standards for construction are as per Indian Roads Congress (IRC) standards for Rural Roads. Full text of the PMGSY programme guidelines is available on the PMGSY website: www.pmgysy.nic.in. The details regarding the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Drinking Water Supply (DWS), Indra Awaas Yojana (IAY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) are given in Statement-IV.

(h) and (i) The expert inputs factored into PMGSY programme implementation include third party scrutiny of DPRs by State Technical Agencies (Institutes of Technology such as I.I.T.s, N.I.T.s and Government Engineering Colleges) before project clearance and during implementation, quality of ongoing and completed works will be audited by independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs), who grade the work inspected and indicate deficiencies, if found, for suitable action to be taken by the Executing Agency.

### Statement I

#### *Review of Geometric Design Standards for Rural Roads in Plains*

Sl.No.	Item	As per IRC:SP:20 (Rural Roads Manual)	Amendments proposed	
			New Construction	Existing Roads (Tolerances that can be considered)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Classification	(a) Other District Roads (b) Village Roads	Same system as defined in NRRDA guidelines	Same system as defined in NRRDA guidelines
2.	Carriageway width	3.75m but can be reduced to 3.00m where traffic less than 100 motorised vehicle per day.	Through Roads: 3.75 m  Link Roads*: 3.00 m *If a link road carries traffic more than 100 motorised vehicles per day, the carriageway width will be 3.75 m.	<b>Through Roads</b> Existing roads with carriageway 3.0 m or more can wait unless evidence of safety hazard. <b>Link Roads</b> As for new construction. (no tolerance for existing road)

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Roadway width minimum	ODR and VR: 7.5 m for traffic more than 100 motorised vehicles per day  : 6.0 m for traffic less than 100 motorised vehicles per day	(a) Through Roads: 7.5 m (b) Link Roads: 6.0 m Notes (i) The widths indicated are for roads in straight. These are to be increased on horizontal curves.	(a) <b>Through Roads</b> Existing roads with formation upto 6.0 m may wait. However, if the traffic is more than 50 motorised vehicles per day, widening of formation to 7.5 m may be provided. (b) <b>Link Roads</b> Existing roads with formation upto 5.0 m may wait. Notes: (i) For curves see item 4 below. (iii) Provide passing places at suitable locations on link roads if formation 5.0 m or less.

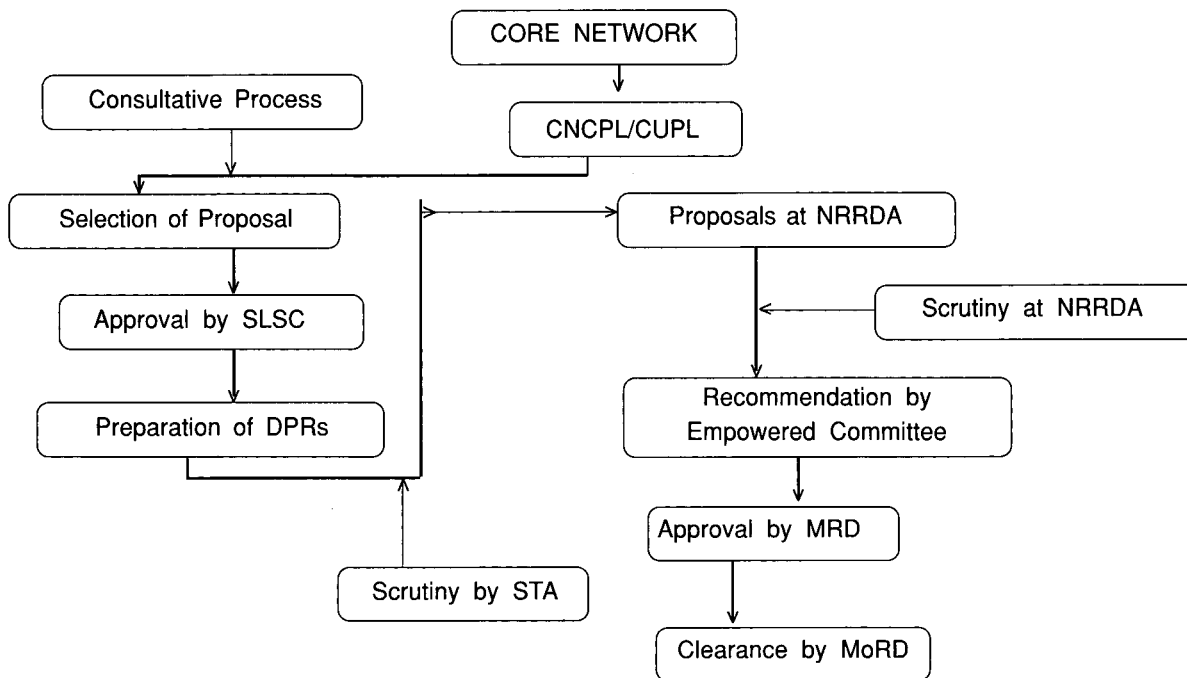
**Statement II***Review of Geometric Design Standards for Rural Roads in Hill Areas*

Sl.No.	Item	As per IRC:SP:20 (Rural Roads Manual) Hill Road Manual IRC:SP:48	Amendments proposed	
			New Construction	Existing Roads (Tolerances that can be considered)
1.	Classification	(a) Other District Roads (b) Village Roads	Same system as defined in NRRDA guidelines	Same system as defined in NRRDA guidelines
2.	Carriageway width	3.75m but can be reduced to 3.00m where traffic less than 100 motorised vehicle per day.	Through Roads - 3.75 m Link Roads* - 3.00 m *If a link road carries traffic more than 100 motorised vehicles per day, the carriageway width will be 3.75 m.	<b>Through Roads</b> Existing roads with carriageway 3.0 m or more can wait unless evidence of safety hazard. <b>Link Roads</b> As for new construction.
3.	Roadway width minimum	6m in SP:20 (virtually 6.7 m including parapet and drain) 5.95m in Hill Road Manual for ODR 5.20 m in Hill Road manual for VR	(a) Through Roads: 5.5 m (including parapet and drain) (b) Link Roads: 5.5 m (including parapet and drain) Notes (i) In hard rock stretches, roadway width may be reduced by 0.5 m (ii) The width indicated are for roads in straight. These are to be increased on horizontal curves.	Existing roads with formation upto 5.0 m may wait. Notes: (i) In hard rock stretches, an additional tolerance of 0.5 m can be considered. (ii) For curves see item 4 below. (iii) Provide passing places at suitable locations.



**Statement III**

*Process Involved in the Selection of Projects, Project Preparation and their Clearance under PMGSY*

**Statement IV***Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana(SGSY)*

The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a major self-employment programme for the rural poor under implementation since 1.4.1999. The objective of SGSY is to assist the rural poor (Swarozgaris) in ensuring an appreciable increase in income level over a period of time. It is designed as a holistic programme covering all aspects of self-employment such as organization of the poor into Self Help Groups (SHG), training, credit linked subsidy, technology inputs, infrastructure and marketing support.

SGSY provides for special focus on vulnerable groups among the rural poor. Accordingly, the SC/STs will account for 50% of the swarozgaris assisted in a year women for 40%, differently abled for 3% and minorities for 15%. 50% of the self - help groups formed in each block should be exclusively for the women.

The assisted families, the swarozgaris, are either individuals or groups (Self Help Groups). However, the emphasis is on the group approach. Economic assistance to the beneficiaries is given under SGSY in the form of

Revolving Funds (RF) to SHGs and credit linked subsidy for taking up any micro enterprise. RF is provided to eligible SHGs at the rate of Rs. 10,000 per SHG up to a maximum of Rs. 20,000. Capital Subsidy under the SGSY to individuals is uniform at 30% of the Project Cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 7500/-. In respect of SCs/STs and disabled persons, the subsidy is 50% of the Project Cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/-. For groups of Swarozgaris (SHGs), the subsidy is 50% of the cost of the scheme, subject to per capita subsidy of Rs. 10,000/- or Rs. 1.25 lakh whichever is less. There is no monetary limit on subsidy for Irrigation Projects. Subsidy is back ended. The guidelines also provide for a support of Rs. 10,000 per SHG to be given to NGOs/facilitators for formation of SHGs.

The criterion for SGSY was zeroed in after extensive consultations with all the stakeholders including concerned Ministries/Departments, Planning Commission, NGOs, Banks, State Rural Development Departments, District Rural Development Agencies (ORDAs) and the National Institute for Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad and after considering all the evaluation reports and study reports on SGSY.

### Drinking Water Mission

The guidelines of Nation Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme have evolved from the erstwhile Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme guidelines, after due consultation with States, representatives of the civil society and inputs from parliamentarians in the form of Consultative Committee and Standing Committee for Rural Development. The proposals are then placed for comments by related Ministries like Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Panchayati Raj etc. They are then approved by the Cabinet, before being released for implementation. This is an ongoing process and the last meeting of all stakeholders was held on 21.10.2009 for Rural Water Supply & Sanitation.

### Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

Indira Awaas Yojana (IA Y) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented in the rural areas of all States/UTs. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers, physically handicapped persons, minorities and other below the poverty line non- SC/ST rural households for construction/upgradation of dwelling units. The ceiling on construction assistance under IAY is Rs. 35,000 per unit in the plain areas and Rs. 38,500 in hilly/difficult areas and Rs. 15,000 for upgradation of a house. The funding pattern of IAY is shared between the Centre and State in the ratio of 75:25. The criteria for allocation of IAY funds to the States & UTs involve assigning 75% weightage to housing shortage and 25% to poverty ratio. This is an allocation based scheme not a project based scheme. The houses under IAY are constructed by the beneficiaries themselves by putting her own family labour, as far as possible.

### Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)

Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing three Area Development Programmes namely Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) on watershed basis. These three programmes have now been consolidated into a single programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP).

2. The following points of modified scheme of IWMP have been approved by the Government on 26th February 2009:

- (i) The integration and modification of the existing schemes of the Department of Land Resources

*viz.* Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) into the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP).

- (ii) To enhance the existing cost norm of Rs. 6000 per ha. to Rs. 12,000 per ha. in the plains and Rs. 15,000 per ha in difficult and hilly areas.
- (iii) To adopt a uniform pattern of 90:10 (Central Share: State Share) under IWMP against the existing funding pattern of 92:8 for IWDP and 75:25 for DPAP and DDP.
- (iv) To set up State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA) with Data Cell at State level and Watershed Cell cum Data Centre in the DRDAs in all programme districts.
- (v) To strengthen DRDA Cell cum Data Centres in districts implementing large number of watersheds with more than 25,000 ha with professional support.
- (vi) To strengthen internal monitoring system in the Department of Land Resources with staff on contractual basis funded from the Plan Head of "Professional Support".
- (vii) To retain capacity building component at 5% of the project cost as provided in the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development, 2008.
- (viii) Issue of coordination, convergence and providing guidance on scientific inputs to the programme will be mandate of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA).
- (ix) Till the NRAA is transferred to DoLR, the DoLR may engage 4 Technical Experts for the Cell proposed to be created in the Department.

3. Coverage under IWMP extends to all States. So far State Level Nodal Agencies (SLNAs) have been formed in 26 States. The formats for preparation of State Level Perspective and Strategic Plan, Annual Action Plan, Preliminary Project Report and Management Information System (MIS) have been prepared and circulated to State Governments for preparation of documents.

4. An outlay of Rs. 1911 Crores has been provided for implementation of IWMP and ongoing projects of pre-IWMP during 2009-10. New projects under IWMP are being sanctioned in current financial year as per the Common Guidelines for Watershed Projects, 2008 issued by NRAA and cost norms indicated above.

**Process:**

- State Level Perspective and Strategic Plan and Preliminary Project Reports of the State are submitted to DoLR by the State Level Nodal Agencies (SLNA).
- State Level Perspective and Strategic Plan and Preliminary Project Reports are appraised and cleared by the Steering Committee on IWMP constituted in the DoLR for administering the programme of IWMP.
- SLNA sanctions the projects in the State as per the appraisal of Steering Committee and send sanction to DoLR for release of funds.
- DoLR releases funds as per the sanction of SLNA.
- Grampanchayat/Gram Sabha have crucial role in constitution of Watershed Committee (WC) which looks after implementation of project at field level with the support of Project Implementation Agency.
- Evaluation of the work of the project by independent agency is mandatory before release of 2nd installment.
- SLNA is responsible for effective implementation of the programme in the State.

**Progress:**

During 2009-10, the target to sanction new projects under IWMP is 5.41 Million hectare. As on 9.12.09, 863 projects covering 4.22 Million hectare have been sanctioned. The State-wise details are as below:

State	No. of projects	Area (lakh ha)	Central funds released (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	110	4.73	30.68
Chhattisgarh	29	1.52	9.83
Gujarat	68	3.30	23.28
Himachal Pradesh	36	2.04	16.51
Karnataka	119	4.91	34.16
Madhya Pradesh	103	6.01	38.98

1	2	3	4
Orissa	57	2.95	19.09
Punjab	6	0.35	2.29
Rajasthan	162	9.26	69.92
Tamil Nadu	50	2.50	16.17
<b>NNE Total</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>37.57</b>	<b>260.91</b>

**North-eastern States**

Arunachal Pradesh	13	0.68	5.45
Assam	57	2.21	14.81
Meghalaya	18	0.30	2.43
Nagaland	22	1.06	8.57
Sikkim	3	0.14	1.17
Tripura	10	0.30	2.45
<b>NE Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>4.69</b>	<b>34.88</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>42.26</b>	<b>295.79</b>

**National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)**

"The Preamble to National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 reads as under:-

"An Act to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work"

The other salient features of NREGA which describe the process, benchmark and parameters of NREGA are as under:-

- Adult members of a rural household may apply for employment if they are willing to do unskilled manual work.
- Such a household will have to apply for registration to the local Gram Panchayat, in writing, or orally.
- The Gram Panchayat after due verification will issue a Job Card to the household as a whole.

The Job Card will bear the photograph of all adult members of the household willing to work under NREGA. The Job Card with photograph is free of cost.

- (iv) A job card holding household may submit a written application for employment to the Gram Panchayat, stating the time and duration when work is sought. The minimum days of employment have to be fourteen.
- (v) The Gram Panchayat will issue a dated receipt of the written application for employment, against which the guarantee of providing employment within fifteen day operates.
- (vi) Employment will be given within 15 days of application for work by an employment seeker.
- (vii) If employment is not provided within 15 days, daily unemployment allowance, in cash has to be paid. Liability of payment of unemployment allowance is of the States.
- (viii) Wages are to be paid according to minimum wages as prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers in the State, unless the Centre notifies a wage rate which will not be less than Rs 60.00 per day.
- (ix) On 151 January, 2009, Central Government has notified wage rate for payment to unskilled workers working on various Schemes under NREGA.
- (x) Equal wages to be provided to both men and women.
- (xi) At last one-third beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested work under the programme.
- (xii) Disbursement of wages has to be done on weekly basis and not beyond a fortnight.
- (xiii) Panchayat Raj Institutions [PRIs] have a principal role in planning and implementation.
- (xiv) Social Audit has to be done by the Gram Sabha.
- (xv) Grievance redressal mechanisms have to be put in place for ensuring a responsive implementation process.
- (xvi) All accounts and records relating to the Scheme are to be made available to any person desirous of obtaining a copy of such records on demand and after paying specified fee.

[*Translation*]

### **Employment Generation in Drought Affected Areas**

3932. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has prepared any plan/scheme to generate employment opportunities for the drought affected persons including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes in the country;

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

(c) the funds allocated by the union Government for the purpose, State-wise?

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

(a) and (b) There is no specific plan/ scheme to generate employment opportunities for the drought affected persons. However, Government of India is implementing National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) as wage employment programme and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yozna (SGSY) as self employment programme in the rural areas including drought affected areas of the country, for poverty alleviation and employment generation. The target groups under these schemes include SCs/ STs, women, physically challenged and others. The Government of India has also constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), which has been mandated to take decisions on policy and schemes required for effective management of drought/deficit rainfall and related issues.

Schemes in the agricultural sector aim at increasing production and productivity and in the process create additional employment in agriculture. Several development programmes such as National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Macro Management of Agriculture covering Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Micro Irrigation, Rural Credit, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) are being implemented.

(c) A statement giving details of financial assistance granted to the States Governments to deal with the drought under National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) is annexed.

**Statement***Financial assistance approved by the Central Government*

Sl. No.	State	Assistance approved by the Government from NCCF (Rs. in Crores)
1.	Bihar	1163.64
2.	Himachal Pradesh	88.93
3.	Jharkhand	200.955
		7.00 (from special component of ARWSP for repair of damage infrastructure relating to Drinking Water Supply works.
4.	Karnataka	116.49
5.	Madhya Pradesh	246.31
6.	Maharashtra	671.88
7.	Manipur	14.57
8.	Nagaland	21.12
9.	Rajasthan	1034.84
10.	Uttar Pradesh	515.05

**Pending Industrial Disputes**

3933. KUMARI MEENAKSHI NATRAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industrial disputes received, resolved and 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 pending 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 pending 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 received, resolved and pending in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts, including the CGIT-cum-LCs at Mumbai and Delhi, for the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statements-I to IV.

(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 the speedy disposal of the industrial disputes in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts.

**Statement I***Year-wise Pendency Statement during the Financial-Year 2006-07 in CGIT-cum LCs*

Sl. No.	Name of CGIT	CASES			APPLICATION				
		B/F from previous year	Received	Disposed	Pending	B/F from previous year	Received	Disposed	Pending
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Mumbai I	213	55	75	193	64	9	38	35

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Mumbai II	456	51	97	410	438	94	26	506
3.	Dhanbad I	1820	74	73	1821	360	8	17	351
4.	Dhanbad II	929	65	45	949	33	3	0	36
5.	Asansol	558	103	64	597	79	0	17	62
6.	Kolkata	263	27	9	281	100	3	8	95
7.	Chandigarh I	911	83	148	846	212	9	123	98
8.	Chandigarh II	1178	43	275	946	144	35	67	112
9.	New Delhi I	492	120	72	540	451	47	29	469
10.	New Delhi II	493	82	242	333	57	63	38	82
11.	Kanpur	663	55	158	560	184	25	55	154
12.	Jabalpur	1454	91	107	1438	597	7	115	489
13.	Chennai	585	87	379	293	15	19	4	30
14.	Bangalore	352	49	113	288	82	32	19	95
15.	Hyderabad	780	232	156	856	631	124	556	199
16.	Nagpur	912	102	178	836	15	6	3	18
17.	Bhubneshwar	424	29	41	412	99	73	36	136
18.	Lucknow	408	31	60	379	36	10	8	38
19.	Jaipur	210	58	51	217	20	15	0	35
20.	Guwahati	33	12	8	37	7	1	1	7
21.	Ernakulam	22	347	122	247	58	67	96	29
22.	Ahmedabad	1883	113	49	1947	1490	23	40	1473
Total		15039	1909	2522	14426	5172	673	1296	4549

**Statement II***Year-wise Pendensy Statement during the Financial-Year 2007-08 in CGIT-cum LCs*

Sl. No.	Name of CGIT	CASES				APPLICATION			
		B/F from previous year	Received	Disposed	Pending	B/F from previous year	Received	Disposed	Pending
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Mumbai I	193	58	14	237	35	17	14	38
2.	Mumbai II	410	86	69	427	506	126	102	530

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Dhanbad I	1821	67	11	1877	351	6	1	356
4.	Dhanbad II	949	87	60	976	36	1	2	35
5.	Asansol	597	104	40	661	62	12	5	69
6.	Kolkata	286	45	28	303	98	7	2	103
7.	Chandigarh I	846	72	77	841	98	28	23	103
8.	Chandigarh II	946	68	134	880	112	38	6	144
9.	New Delhi I*	540	34	354	220	469	9	36	442
10.	New Delhi II	333	424	189	568	82	15	54	43
11.	Kanpur	560	74	108	526	154	23	16	161
12.	Jabalpur	1438	145	111	1472	489	3	106	386
13.	Chennai	293	101	89	305	30	15	3	42
14.	Bangalore	288	185	105	368	86	9	15	80
15.	Hyderabad	856	176	39	993	199	13	5	207
16.	Nagpur	836	97	33	900	18	7	0	25
17.	Bhubneshwar	412	60	67	405	136	28	37	127
18.	Lucknow	379	85	70	394	38	3	12	29
19.	Jaipur	217	73	0	290	35	6	0	41
20.	Guwahati	37	10	20	27	7	0	1	6
21.	Ernakulam	247	45	117	175	29	44	48	25
22.	Ahmedabad	1947	23	1665	305	1473	165	11	1627
	Total	14431	2119	3400	13150	4543	575	499	4619
	Mumbai National	6	0	1	5	103	7	18	92
	Kolkata National	10	1	0	11	0	0	0	0
	Total+National	14447	2120	3401	13166	4646	582	517	4711

\*318 cases and 26 applications transferred to CGIT-II, New Delhi

### Statement III

*Year-wise Pendency Statement during the Financial-Year 2008-09 in CGIT-cum LCs*

Sl. No.	Name of CGIT	CASES				APPLICATION			
		B/F from previous year	Received	Disposed	Pending	B/F from previous year	Received	Disposed	Pending
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Mumbai I	237	10	5	242	38	23	3	58
2.	Mumbai II	427	87	81	433	530	49	43	536

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Dhanbad I	1877	62	139	1800	356	8	15	349
4.	Dhanbad II	976	17	40	953	35	0	0	35
5.	Asansol	661	55	9	707	68	4	0	72
6.	Kolkata	303	23	33	293	103	6	2	107
7.	Chandigarh I	841	28	467	402	103	111	143	71
8.	New Delhi I	220	0	0	220	342	0	0	342
9.	Kanpur	526	65	48	543	150	256	79	327
10.	Jabalpur*	2146	65	46	2165	167	3	5	165
11.	Chennai	305	53	50	308	42	8	26	24
12.	Bangalore	368	94	13	449	80	10	1	89
13.	Hyderabad	993	87	265	815	207	534	134	607
14.	Nagpur	898	40	44	894	25	5	1	29
15.	Bhubneshwar	405	100	74	431	127	263	12	378
16.	Lucknow	394	41	47	388	29	2	0	31
17.	Jaipur	290	63	0	353	41	1	0	42
18.	New Delhi II	568	84	236	416	43	16	1	58
19.	Guwahati	27	12	9	30	6	0	0	6
20.	Ernakulam	175	51	116	110	25	21	15	31
21.	Ahmedabad^	305	12	310	7	1627	32	88	1571
22.	Chandigarh II	867	207	88	986	140	38	2	176
Total		13809	1256	2120	12945	4284	1390	570	5104
Mumbai-I National		5	1	0	6	92	23	0	155
Kolkata National		11	0	1	10	0	0	0	0
Total+National		13825	1257	2121	12961	4376	1413	570	5219

\*figures have been revised w.e.f. July 2008 after physical verification of cases and applications.

^219 cases and 74 applications transferred to State Industrial Tribunal.

#### **Statement IV**

*Year-wise Pendency Statement during the Financial-Year 2009-10 (upto 31.10.2009) in CGIT-cum LCs*

Sl. No.	Name of CGIT	CASES				APPLICATION			
		B/F from previous year	Received	Disposed	Pending	B/F from previous year	Received	Disposed	Pending
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Mumbai I	242	0	2	240	58	1	0	59
2.	Mumbai II	433	50	46	437	536	18	43	511



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Dhanbad I	1800	45	136	1709	349	0	14	335
4.	Dhanbad II	953	1	0	954	35	0	0	35
5.	Asansol	707	11	55	663	72	1	16	57
6.	Kolkata	293	0	0	293	107	0	0	107
7.	Chandigarh I*	402	1184	359	1227	71	92	83	80
8.	New Delhi I	220	46	106	160	342	16	337	21
9.	Kanpur	543	24	9	558	327	18	1	344
10.	Jabalpur	2165	43	68	2140	165	2	1	166
11.	Chennai	308	49	62	295	24	0	11	13
12.	Bangalore	449	40	0	489	89	2	0	91
13.	Hyderabad	815	127	40	902	607	11	17	601
14.	Nagpur	894	27	34	887	29	0	0	29
15.	Bhubneshwar	431	18	29	420	378	0	0	378
16.	Lucknow	388	38	51	375	31	4	7	28
17.	Jaipur	353	17	0	370	42	1	0	43
18.	New Delhi II	416	40	3	453	58	2	0	60
19.	Guwahati	30	2	6	26	6	1	0	7
20.	Ernakulam	110	27	46	91	31	20	23	28
21.	Ahmedabad	7	3	0	10	1571	15	5	1581
22.	Chandigarh II^	986	12	986	12	176	0	176	0
Total		12945	1804	2038	12711	5104	204	734	4574
Mumbai-I National		6	0	0	6	115	0	0	115
Kolkata National		10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
Total+National		12961	1804	2038	12727	5219	204	734	4689

\*1140 cases transferred from CGIT-II Chandigarh to CGIT-I, Chandigarh.

^All cases and applications transferred to CGIT-I, Chandigarh.

### Damages of Telephone Cables

3934. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the cases of damages of telephone cables of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the losses incurred in this regard during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has inquired into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the 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) In case of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited there is no spurt in the number of incidence of damages of telephone cables. In case of MTNL, total incidence of cable damage during this period is 72567.

(b) Total loss incurred in MTNL is Rs. 126,93,44,104. The details of loss year-wise & State-wise are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The main reason for damages to cables is the massive infrastructure development and digging activities carried by various utility services in the country.

(e) Various steps have been taken/being taken to reduce the damage of cables. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

##### *Detail of Action taken/being taken to reduce the damage of cables*

- (i) Emphasis on more coordination with Municipal Authorities, National Highway Authorities and other services provides.
- (ii) Round the clock petrolling on major routes and in the areas where frequent diggings are observed.
- (iii) Lodging FIRs with concerned Polices Station in case of theft of cables.
- (iv) Posting Security Gaurds and cable dumps.
- (v) Warning letters are being sent to concerned agencies to take care of Cable Network.
- (vi) Monitoring of interruption report of services.
- (vii) New cables are laid on service road portion and footpath.

[*English*]

#### **Meeting on NREGA**

3935. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:  
SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 43 Regional parties invited by the Ministry of Rural Development to attend a meeting on National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), only seven parties sent their representatives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the view points expressed by the State level parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Rural Development had convened a meeting with leaders of State Level Political Parties on 6.10.2009 to discuss NREGA and invitations had been sent to 43 regional parties. Leaders/representatives of 7 parties however, participated in the meeting.

(c) The main views/suggestions made by the participants are as under:

- (i) Need for strict monitoring of the implementation of the Act.
- (ii) Revision in the wage rates notified by the Centre.
- (iii) Creation of durable assets under NREGA
- (iv) Awareness generation among rural households about NREGA.
- (v) Expansion of the scope of permissible works
- (vi) Revision of existing wage and material ratio

#### **Employment for Skilled Persons**

3936. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA:  
Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the specially abled individuals are not provided employment under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in some States;

(b) if so, the steps taken/propose to be taken by the Government to provide employment to the specially abled individuals; and

(c) the details of the number of specially abled individuals provided employment under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) NREGA is demand based. All rural households whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work are eligible to apply for work as per provisions of the Act. Para 5.5.10 of Operational guidelines for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) reads as under:

"If a rural disabled person applies for work, work suitable to his/her ability and qualifications will have to be given. This may also be in the form of services

that are identified as integral to the programme. Provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 will be kept in view and implemented."

(c) Specially abled persons have been provided employment under NREGA. State-wise details of number of disabled persons provided employment during the last three years and the current year (up to October, 09) are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

Sl.No.	States	No. of Disabled beneficiaries during 2006-07	No. of Disabled beneficiaries during 2007-08	No. of Disabled beneficiaries during 2008-09	No. of Disabled beneficiaries during 2009-10 (upto Oct., 09)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23096	46967	61496	55716
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	0	0	2
3.	Assam	995	2865	2945	1641
4.	Bihar	2231	89502	16537	17517
5.	Chhattisgarh	8873	8722	6477	4579
6.	Gujarat	9	16	239	4459
7.	Haryana	2	4	3966	42
8.	Himachal Pradesh	14999	4079	2196	524
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	209	274	248	65
10.	Jharkhand	71	53844	11431	3204
11.	Karnataka	1000	75	1308	4606
12.	Kerala	34	717	1072	1341
13.	Madhya Pradesh	24822	30684	16344	12967
14.	Maharashtra	549	129	422	60
15.	Manipur	0	40	111	211
16.	Meghalaya	343	212	341	1332
17.	Mizoram	5000	839	996	165
18.	Nagaland	980	3280	628	127
19.	Orissa	803	0	3318	1940
20.	Punjab	0	1	78	61
21.	Rajasthan	0	15268	18362	8924

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Sikkim	0	17	45	25
23.	Tamil Nadu	601	2195	4009	1528
24.	Tripura	1477	3351	2199	2137
25.	Uttar Pradesh	14691	21309	16666	10110
26.	Uttarakhand	448	249	412	68
27.	West Bengal	45158	52059	32763	23820
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	-	-	20	2
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	2	0
30.	Daman and Diu	-	-	0	0
31.	Goa	-	-	0	2
32.	Lakshadweep	-	-	73	0
33.	Puducherry	-	-	68	0
34.	Chandigarh	-	-	0	0
Total		146401	336698	204772	157175

12.01 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid.

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

Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Erstwhile-Bombay Dock Labour Board, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Erstwhile-Bombay Dock Labour Board, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1270/15/09]

(2)

- (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board, Hyderabad, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board, Hyderabad, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1271/15/09]

(3)

- (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1272/15/09]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust, Mangalore, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the New Mangalore Port Trust, Mangalore, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1273/15/09]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1274/15/09]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1275/15/09]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1276/15/09]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1277/15/09]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1278/15/09]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Mormugao, for the year 2008-2009 alongwith Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mormugao Port Trust, Mormugao, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1279/15/09]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1280/15/09]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tuticorin Port Trust, Tuticorin, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tuticorin Port Trust, Tuticorin, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1281/15/09]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1282/15/09]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Annual Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1276/15/09]
- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Annual Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1278/15/09]
- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Mormugao, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Annual Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust, Mormugao, for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1279/15/09]
- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust, Mangalore, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Annual Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust, Mangalore, for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1273/15/09]
- (18) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Annual Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1280/15/09]
- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Annual Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1275/15/09]
- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Annual Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1277/15/09]
- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust (Pension Fund Trust), Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Annual Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust (Pension Fund Trust), Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1283/15/09]
- (22) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Annual Accounts of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1284/15/09]

- (23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1285/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Madam, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the EEPC India (formerly Engineering Export Promotion Council), Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the EEPC India (formerly Engineering Export Promotion Council), Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1286/15/09]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board India, Cochin, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Spices Board India, Cochin, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1287/15/09]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1288/15/09]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1289/15/09]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1290/15/09]

- (4) A copy of the Newsprint Control (Amendment) Order, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 2957(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2009 under Section 18G of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1291/15/09]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1292/15/09]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1293/15/09]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1294/15/09]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1295/15/09]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Footwear Design and Development Institute, Noida, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Footwear Design and Development Institute, Noida, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1296/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1297/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1298/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): Madam, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Gurudas Kamat, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1299/15/09]

- (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 ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2008-2009.



- (ii) Annual Report of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1300/15/09]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the ITI Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1301/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):  
Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Apprenticeship (Third Amendment) Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 736 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2009 under sub-section (3) of Section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1302/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 737 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2009, specifying the State Council for Technical Education, mentioned therein, in respect of the Trade Test or Examination with the Trades or subjects mentioned in the notification, issued under Section 2 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1303/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):  
Madam, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Mukul Roy, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.
- (2) Annual Report of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1304/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Madam, on behalf of my colleague, Shri D. Napoleon, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, for the year 2007, under Section 15A of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1305/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, for the year 2007, under Section 21 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1306/15/09]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1307/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Software Technology Parks of India, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Software Technology Parks of India, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1308/15/09]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the SAMEER (Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research), Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the SAMEER (Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research), Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1309/15/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1310/15/09]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of the Section 87 of the Information Technology Act, 2000:—

- (i) The Cyber Regulations Appellate Tribunal (Salary, Allowances and other terms and conditions of service of Presiding Officer) Amendment Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 95(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2009.
- (ii) The Cyber Appellate Tribunal (Salary, Allowances and Other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 778(E) Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 2009.
- (iii) The Cyber Appellate Tribunal (Procedure for Investigation of Misbehaviour or Incapacity of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 779(E) Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 2009.

- (iv) The Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 780(E) Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 2009.

- (v) The Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 781(E) Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 2009.

- (vi) The Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Monitoring and Collecting Traffic Data or Information) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 782(E) Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1311/15/09]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2689 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 2009 appointing the 27th day of October, 2009 as the date on which the provisions of the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 shall come into force issued under sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1312/15/09]

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12.03 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

### **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 33rd Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'Indigenisation of Defence Production – Public and Private Partnership' pertaining to the Ministry of Defence**

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
With your permission, Madam, I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 33rd Report of the Standing Committee

on Defence on 'Indigenisation of Defence Production—Public Private Partnership', pertaining to the Ministry of Defence.

Hon. Speaker Madam, the 33rd Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) relates to 'Indigenisation of Defence Production—Public Private Partnership'. The 33rd Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 24.02.2009.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the 33rd Report were sent to the Standing Committee on Defence on 30.10.2009.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee in their 33rd Report is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of the Annexure. I would request that these may be considered as read.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1313/15/09]

12.03½ hrs.

## ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

### **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority**

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Madam, I beg to move the following:

"That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (4) of Section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, 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 Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (4) of Section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food

Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, 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 Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

*The motion was adopted.*

12.04 hrs.

## CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

### **Situation arising out of rapid increase in cases of Encephalitis in the country particularly in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and steps taken by the Government in this regard**

[*English*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Madam, I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of rapid increase in cases of Encephalitis in the country, particularly in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, it is a long statement. Would you like to read out or would you like to lay it on the Table?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Madam, I leave it to the House and your instructions.

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Yogi Aditya Nath Ji, hon. Minister will lay his statement on the Table.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): It is alright.

[*English*]

\*SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Brain fever due to Japanese Encephalitis (JE) is an outbreak-prone viral infection

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

having cyclic trends with seasonal phenomenon. Mostly, children below 15 years are affected. JE is reported mainly from the areas where paddy cultivation and pig rearing are being practised because the vector (mosquito) breeds in paddy fields and the virus of Japanese Encephalitis maintains its natural cycle in pigs or birds. Man is an accidental host and does not play a role in JE transmission. The outbreaks occur where there is close interaction between these animals and human beings. The mosquitoes are outdoor resters and, therefore, vector control measures such as indoor residual spray are not very effective and hence not recommended.

During 2009, up to 7th December, 4,185 Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) cases including Japanese Encephalitis (JE) cases and 666 deaths have been reported from 11 JE endemic States in the country. Out of these cases and deaths, 2,996 cases and 545 deaths have been reported from Uttar Pradesh alone. In Uttar Pradesh, circulation on non JE viruses like enteroviruses also account for occurrence of a large number of encephalitis cases and deaths.

While there is no specific treatment for the disease, early symptomatic management is important. In case of JE and other viral encephalitis, the management of the critically ill children is directed at minimizing risk of deaths and complications. However, for prevention of the disease, various public health measures such as better sanitation & hygiene, protective clothing and keeping away the reservoirs of JE (especially pigs) from human dwellings are advocated.

The main components of strategy under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme towards prevention and control of Japanese Encephalitis in the country are:

- (a) Vaccination
- (b) Case management
- (c) Disease and vector surveillance
- (d) Laboratory diagnosis through sentinel sites
- (e) Capacity building

Under Universal Immunization Programme of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, JE vaccination campaign was started in 2006 to vaccinate the children between 1-15 years of age in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Assam,

Karnataka and West Bengal. Since then, 80 districts in 11 States, including 34 districts of Uttar Pradesh have been covered under vaccination campaigns in Uttar Pradesh are given in enclosed Statement. Vaccination campaign is currently Government of India in 10 more districts of the country, and 19 more districts are planned to be covered in 2010. JE vaccination has been incorporated in the routine immunization programme in those districts where the vaccination campaigns were completed during 2006 to 2008 – including 27 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Government of India, is according high priority to prevention and control of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)/Japanese Encephalitis (JE). AES/JE situation is being closely monitored at a senior level by Special Director General of Health Services and Director, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). Comprehensive guidelines to deal with JE and AES (enteroviruses) have been prepared and circulated to the States.

Further, for proper surveillance and laboratory diagnosis of JE, a total of 51 sentinel surveillance sites have been identified in the JE endemic states. 109 JE test kits during 2008, and 113 JE kits in 2009 have been provided to all the JE endemic States for lab diagnosis, by Directorate of NVBDCP for surveillance purposes. Out of 113 test kits provided in 2009, 66 have been provided to Uttar Pradesh. In addition, 13 apex referral laboratories have been identified across the country to assist in finding out etiological (disease causing) agents.

Funds to the tune of Rs. 4.37 crore and Rs. 2.90 crore were allocated during 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively, within overall budget of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) for various activities under JE.

Under JE immunization programme, an amount of Rs. 43.54 crore was spent in 2008-09 and Rs. 51.61 crore has been allocated in 2009-10.

As Uttar Pradesh contributes 80% of AES/JE cases as well as deaths, the following additional inputs have been provided in the State:

- (i) A field unit of National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune at Gorakhpur has been set up for laboratory diagnosis of AES for viral etiology and for developing guidelines and strategies for control of JE/AES agents in the area and a total expenditure of about Rs. 10 crore has been incurred.

- (ii) A Sub-office of the Regional Office of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has been set up at Gorakhpur to coordinate with districts and State health authorities for surveillance, field visits and improvement of prevention and control of the disease and close monitoring at Gorakhpur itself for Japanese Encephalitis.
- (iii) For the creation of additional facilities for the

diagnosis and management of JE/AES cases, Government of India, has provided an amount of Rs. 5.88 crore to BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur, for upgradation of JE epidemic ward in the College. Besides, a Vector Borne Disease Surveillance Unit (VBDSU) has been set up at BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur, for carrying out sero epidemiological and entomological studies in the field and for close coordination with district authorities.

**Statement**

*JE Vaccination in Uttar Pradesh*

Year	District	Target Children (1-15 yrs)	Children Immunized	% Coverage
1	2	3	4	5
<b>2006</b>				
1.	Gorakhpur	1390307	1349047	97.03
2.	Deoria	1074219	1072683	99.86
3.	Kushinagar	1095877	1085055	99.01
4.	Maharajganj	776500	806996	103.93
5.	Kheri	1183481	1218364	102.95
6.	Sant Kabir Nagar	542062	511417	94.35
7.	Siddharth Nagar	775934	792944	102.19
<b>2007</b>				
1.	Ambedkar Nagar	764068	741354	97.03
2.	Behraich	990327	992254	100.19
3.	Balrampur	623020	622963	99.99
4.	Barabanki	1074154	1063815	99.04
5.	Basti	774322	750262	96.89
6.	Gonda	1040501	1045957	100.52
7.	Mau	719800	691341	96.05
8.	Raibareilly	1058987	1029154	97.18
9.	Saharanpur	1056185	923246	87.41
10.	Sitapur	1385606	1312326	94.71
11.	Sravasti	331903	326485	98.37

1	2	3	4	5
<b>2008</b>				
1.	Azamgarh	1400000	1329471	94.96
2.	Balia	1067337	1040948	97.53
3.	Bareilly	1337392	1399552	104.65
4.	Faizabad	649634	641736	98.78
5.	Hardoi	1270372	1296593	102.06
6.	Lucknow	1506695	1477852	98.09
7.	Muzzafarnagar	1340232	1243694	92.80
8.	Sultanpur	1234068	1229295	99.61
9.	Unnao	1030843	1049252	101.79
<b>2009</b>				
1.	Allahabad	1953904	1673687	85.66
2.	Pratapgarh	1028331	984230	95.71
3.	Kanpur Nagar	1660800	1227209	73.89
4.	Shahjahanpur	953078	887267	93.09
5.	Fatehpur	913749	681420	74.57
6.	Jaunpur	1546931	1370141	88.57
7.	Ghazipur	1202355	1007125	83.76

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Yogi Aditya Nathji, now you can speak.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Madam, I have regularly been drawing attention of this House for the last 11 years to an epidemic in the country especially in eastern Uttar Pradesh. The last truth about eradication of encephalitis is like the elephant of a king which has died but no one dares to say so for fear that the king may get annoyed. Do the children of eastern U.P. have a right to lead a healthy life or not? The number of deaths of children year after year in eastern U.P. reflect the negligent attitude of state as well as the centre. For the last 31 years, every year 2000 children have been dying of encephalitis in U.P., be it JE, BE or AES. So far no concrete long term programme has been launched by the government

for its eradication. During the last 31 years, more than 50,000 children have died of the said disease and equal number of children have been physically or mentally disabled. This disease has spread in five districts, namely Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Sidharthanagar and Deoriya in eastern U.P. and also in 5-7 adjoining districts. The hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare has admitted that upto 7 December, 2009, 4185 cases of the said disease have been reported and out of it, there have been deaths in 666 cases. This has happened not only this year. I have details of death caused by the disease during the last 31 years, Deaths have occurred every year. There have been 1500 deaths in the year 2005. The reply of the hon. Minister is with me, wherein, he has stated that 6061 patients got admitted in 2005 and out of these 1500 patients died, 2320 patients got admitted in 2006 and out of those 528 died. 3024 patients got admitted in the year 2007 and out of those 645 patients

died. 3012 patients got admitted in 2008 and out of whom 537 patients died. The figures provided by BRD Medical College indicate that 2516 patients have got admitted till yesterday and 516 patients have died.

There is not a single Lok Sabha session wherein I have not raised this issue in the House. When Sushmaji was Minister of Health and Family Welfare in NDA's regime, I had personally met her and requested her and then vaccinations were sanctioned for the said area. This programme stopped after the NDA was out of power. The hon. Minister in his statement, has stated that the vaccination had been done, but what is the actual condition. The company manufacturing the vaccine says that the children in the age group of 1-15 years should be administered at least two or three vaccines to tackle the said disease.

The vaccines ordered in the year 2005 reached here in the 2006. The said vaccines reached here in the month of May, whereas, these should have been administered in the month of January or February as it takes 3-4 months to get these vaccines activated. Only one vaccine was given in May or June and the second dose was never given. The hon. Minister has, in his reply, stated that these vaccines have been administered in 34 districts in U.P. But it was administered only once. These vaccines were administered to the children in Gorakhpur district and also in adjoining 5-6 districts in the year 2006. That time there were fewer patients of Japanese encephalitis, and more deaths of patients due to encephalitis caused by coxsackis virus were reported. That time 72 cases tested positive for J.E. But because of not administering the second dose of the vaccine, 226 patients of J.E. were reported positive in 2007, 156 in 2008 and 345 patients of positive J.E. have been detected in Gorakhpur so far in 2009. The cases of Japanese encephalitis have been increased there constantly. The efforts of the governments so far, have been focused only on treatment of the said disease and no honest efforts have been made for its eradication. The Government of India itself has admitted under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme that the said disease has spread in 21 states in the country. But, so far, encephalitis has not been covered under the said programme. No arrangements have been made in this regard so far. People have been dying of the said disease in Eastern UP for the last 31 years. Ghenga and Filaria have been covered under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, but encephalitis has not been covered under it so far. Not only this, funds were provided to U.P. under NRHM. I have witnessed that the patients were not provided

medicines in BRD Medical College. There the patients died for want of medicines. An amount of Rs. 800 crore provided under NRHM was surrendered. Had even a part of this sum been utilised for eradication of the said disease, the situation would have been different.

Madam, not only this, the Allahabad High Court gave a direction in 2007 to the central as well as the State Government to set up a Centre of Excellence for Japanese Encephalitis in Gorakhpur in view of the deaths being reported there. A virology center was set up there in 2005 but its function got confined to a pathology clinic only. Even today, this kind of research is not being conducted there. It is quite surprising that neither NIV Pune nor Gorakhpur based Virology Centre has been able to find out as to what disease it is JE, VE, AES or coxsackie which has been taking the lives of large number of children in that area for the last 31 years. The saying that 'What is obvious is not always the ultimate truth' proves correct on this centre. Gorakhpur Centre has not proved beneficial for the people in any manner. The Centre of Excellence for J.E. was proposed to be set up at Gorakhpur in Eastern U.P. as the number of patients are maximum in this area. However, instead of Gorakhpur it was set up in SGPGI, Lucknow even though on 27th December, 2007 the Allahabad High Court had also directed the Centre and State Governments to set up a World Class research Centre in Gorakhpur. It is the contempt of court also.

I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Health whether the Centre of Excellence for J.E. would be set up in Gorakhpur? Whether the Government propose to formulate any action-plan for identification of the virus causing this disease and to save the Eastern Uttar Pradesh from its epidemic? A team from CDC Atlanta had visited Gorakhpur in the year 2008. That team had taken water, blood, CSF and serum samples from Gorakhpur but even after the expiry of a year it is still unknown as to what happened to those samples. No information has been made public so far. The mysterious disease causing deaths of innocent people is yet to be identified.

Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to submit that the Government made large scale efforts to create awareness among the people in respect of bird flue and swine flue. However, the death count due to swine flue or bird flue would not be more than 10% of the death toll in eastern Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country due to Japanese encephalitis. The awareness for the disease, which should have been created through media,

has not been made so far. The mortality rate due to Japanese encephalitis is 30-50% whereas it is 0.2-0.5% in case of swine flue. However, the Government has not launched any programme or drive to create awareness among the people about the disease. No arrangements have been made there for the treatment of the disease. The Government has provided some information in the statement it has submitted. They have accepted that out of the total deaths in the country, 80% are alone from Eastern Uttar Pradesh. A laboratory has been set up in Gorakhpur on the lines of the National Institute of Virology, Pune but it is merely working as a Pathology lab. A virologist has been appointed there but staff and resources are not available.

The Minister has mentioned that a regional office has been set up in Gorakhpur but we are not aware whether the office is actually working there. I visit the patients in BDR Medical College every week but no such office is situated there. The Minister has also mentioned that a vector borne disease surveillance unit has been set up in Gorakhpur but I would like to know whether that unit is located. I would like to know whether it is in Gorakhpur or it has been set up at some other place. Our demand is that all such types of centres/units should be established in Gorakhpur. Therefore, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that are the children of Eastern Uttar Pradesh guinea pigs who will continue to be treated as test animals or the Governments would work on any action plan to eradicate this fatal disease. The hon'ble High Court had given a very clear cut order regarding Gorakhpur. I have a copy of that order in which they had directed to open a centre of Excellence for J.E. in Gorakhpur which would be funded and operated by centre and State Government both. It should be either under PGI or work as an autonomous body in Gorakhpur. 90% of the patients are either from Gorakhpur and 5-7 districts of nearby or from Bihar and Nepal. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the steps being taken to set up centre of Excellence for JE in Gorakhpur and for the children who become disable due to this disease.

Madam, I had met you when you were the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment and had requested you a couple of times to make arrangements for the rehabilitation of such children. More than 50,000 children have either become physically or mentally disabled due to this disease during the past 31 years or they have faced untimely deaths. The disease has crippled the human life there. They have not been rehabilitated till date. As these poor children belong to the families of

Jhuggi dwellers and farmers, they should be given medical treatment free of cost alongwith their rehabilitation. This disease mainly spreads in backward areas. They are paying for being poor. They are poor, therefore, they do not have any access to the Government and national & international media to raise their concern. Such a large number of deaths are taking place there due to this disease. What steps are being taken by the Government to provide free medical treatment to these people and for the eradication of this disease and what steps are being taken to upgrade the virology centre as the centre of excellence? What are the efforts made by the Government for paying compensation and rehabilitation of the children who become disabled due to this disease?

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Madam, the hon'ble member has mentioned about Japanese Encephalitis, acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Cocksacki in a very elaborate manner. I would not like to repeat them. Through this House, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that in Gorakhpur alone 516 children have died in a medical college currently due to Japanese Encephalitis. You might understand the gravity of this disease. The Health Ministry has reported 500 deaths across the country due to Swine flue though 516 children have reportedly died in a medical college in Eastern Uttar Pradesh due to this dreadful disease. I would also like to draw the attention of the House towards those 7-8 districts in Eastern Uttar Pradesh where this disease has become an endemic. These districts are Barabanki, Behraich, Balrampur, Sidharth Nagar, Basti, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Deoriya and Padrauna where thousands of children are dying. Even if their lives are saved after treatment, they become mentally or physically challenged. Being poor in itself is a curse in a village and then if a child in a family becomes handicapped, his life becomes a burden for them. We can imagine the plight of a poor family having a disabled child.

In this regard, I would like to state to the Hon'ble Minister of Health that he might have allocated 43.53 crores to Gorakhpur for vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis or Rs. 10 crore to open a NIV Centre there. However, the reality is that the real virus has not been detected during the last 31 years and till date. The only thing which is being stated is that the disease is acute in the villeges during paddy cultivation or in the places where piggeries are located within the area of human habitation. Due to this, thousands of people are dying. A number of deaths have been reported from Baba Raghavdas Medical College. Similarly two, three children are dying everyday in all the district hospitals in Eastern



U.P. The Hon'ble Minister of Health himself has accepted that mostly children upto the age of 15 years are becoming victims of this disease. The lives of the children who have to support their parents in their old age and who can contribute to nation building and can reach the top, is falling prey to this disease. No arrangements have been made for the treatment of this disease in those districts. Vaccination or immunization is just a preventive measure. There is no effective treatment for this disease. The Hon'ble Minister has replied that immunization has been undertaken in 34 districts from where outbreak of JE, AES or Coxsackie is reported every year. Immunization was undertaken in Gorakhpur, Deoria, Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Khiri, Sant Kabir Nagar and Sidharth Nagar during 2006. Thereafter it has not been done there during the last four years. The effect of the preventive vaccination lasts upto one year or at the maximum for two years. We have failed to check this epidemic till now....*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask your question and conclude.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Madam, I just want to ask a question related to what the Hon'ble Member has just stated that the disease has affected almost all the states in the country and I think it has affected Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka and West Bengal also, but in Uttar Pradesh, 34 districts are in the grip of this disease. I do not want to go into the figures of death count but 95% cases of JE and AES have been reported from 34 districts of Uttar Pradesh. He himself has accepted that out of 655 deaths due to JE or AES, 544 have been reported from Eastern UP in a year. Therefore, in my view, the Centre of Excellence for JEs or AES should be set up in Gorakhpur Medical College only. In view of the High Court's order, will the Central Government propose to establish an International Research Institute to find out the virus and to conduct a thorough research for the treatment of the disease? What steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure regular immunization of the poor innocent children of that area? I just want to know from the Hon'ble Minister.

*[English]*

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I am extremely grateful to hon. Members for bringing to this august House this serious problem. I have gone through the various deliberations in the House. Very rightly, Yogi Aditya Nath has said about it. This is not for the first time that he has raised it. Shri

Jagadambika Pal has also been raising this serious issue. Today, very elaborately, he has not only talked about the various aspects of the disease but - I am grateful to him- he has also talked about what could be the solutions.

To begin with, let me accept that this situation where children are dying is just not acceptable to us. I also must add that these are not just verbal statements which I am making, which are vague statements, that if it is not acceptable then what are we going to do about it. That is the question. The question is, we have a responsibility. If this country can deal with such a disease like H1N1, we are fighting with polio and we have seen lot of such diseases, Madam, in this country, the question here again is - if we have been able to deal with lot of other diseases in this country, why can we not deal with this menace where children are suffering and dying and lot of children who have become *apaheez*, who have become mentally also ill? It just cannot be acceptable in this modern society and in this modern India.

I can tell you very proudly that when I was going through the entire research to prepare myself for this Calling Attention, I myself was absolutely - and I have no hesitation in accepting in this House— quite surprised and sad as well. To begin with, I must tell you that we are duty-bound here to not only reduce but eradicate this dreadful disease from this country.

Madam, since this has been talked, discussed and deliberated so many times in this august House, I do not think I should be taking the precious time of the House going through lot of historical details. I have got so many papers with me.

Instead of that, because everybody is aware of it, if I tell you that it started in 1871, what the genesis is, how it came from Japan etc., I think I will be taking of lot of time of the House which, I personally feel, will not serve any purpose. All these details are there with me. Any hon. Member who would want, I will be very happy to give it to him. But let me answer the specific details which have been enquired here, with your permission, Madam.

One specific question was on what kind of dosage we are talking about. There were discussions between multiple doses *versus* single dose. The ICMR has recommended for single dose and they have done, I am sure, with lot of research. The vaccination is followed by incorporating it in the routine immunisation programme of

the children. Earlier, it was not a part of the routine programme. So, this is one more addition that we have done. We are yet to see what is going to be the result.

Another very specific question was asked about the NIV, Pune as to whether they are going to have a branch in Gorakhpur. I am very happy to make a statement here that NIV, Pune's branch at Gorakhpur has already been set up in compliance with the order of the hon. High Court of Allahabad and Rs. 10 crore have already been spent on this and BRD Medical College is also being upgraded by spending Rs. 5.8 crore.

As we know that this disease is coming on from 1871, it is not a new disease. But it takes years together to find out an antidote to a virus. Although our scientists are working day and night, but it takes years to find an antidote to any virus. The same was the case with even H1N1 virus when it came. The vaccine has already come, but scientists all over the world are perplexed as to how this virus is going to mutate.

As far as this JE is concerned, we have a problem because there are some other diseases which are coming into being, as rightly mentioned by the hon. Member, which have the same symptoms, but may not be JE. It could be some other disease, but the symptoms could be the same. Unfortunately, here the host of this disease is a pig and human beings just become the target of it. It is not being transmitted from human to human; it just comes as the mosquitoes are bred during paddy cultivation. We have no choice. The paddy has to be there. When paddy is there, it is bound to have water and when water collection is there, mosquitoes are going to be there. Now, we had a choice of pesticides. Then, excess use of pesticides is also bad for health. So, we have to deal with a very complex problem.

Now added to that complex problem, these mosquitoes go and obviously, they do not see who is an animal and who is a human being. It comes by biting a pig and the disease, as the research says, is in the pig and it spreads from there. When the mosquitoes also bite the bird, they can get the virus from them. Again, once they go and bite human beings, especially the children because immunity in children is very low, the disease spreads. Once this happens, the disease spreads not from human to human but, as rightly mentioned, from pig or bird to the children. This disease is not inside the house in the sense that mosquitoes are usually found outside and the kids obviously go out to play. All I am trying to suggest here is that there is a huge component of hygiene.

Hygiene is directly related to the standard of living. We had done our research as to why this disease is so prevalent in this particular area of Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, and we found that there is a cluster of villages where piggery is very popular. They have to live; that is the way of life; and that is their livelihood. But the problem is that the pigs and the human beings live together almost in the same house. There is hardly any distance between the piggery and where the villagers live. In other words, they are almost neighbours or sometimes they live in the same house. Therefore, we have to give a two-fold treatment. Firstly, we have got to see as to how we can clean the area. We were looking at the figures, and I was pleasantly surprised that in Andhra Pradesh also they had similar problem. So, in addition to vaccination, they also ensured cleanliness.

This again is poverty-borne, and the hon. Member has rightly said.

*[Translation]*

Poverty has become a curse for them. The poor people cannot shift their houses on the pretext that the area they are living in has become unhygienic as the people in urban areas often do. Pig farming is the only means of livelihood for the poor of that area. They have to live their life with them. Our responsibility is to ensure cleanliness and hygienic there and to see how we can do it. It is a social problem.

*[English]*

In this regard I will seek the help of all the hon. Members in this House because if we have to go out there and we have got to do whatever is required, then again the role of the Centre and the role of the States also comes in. As far as the Centre is concerned and by no means I am trying to shirk the responsibility to the States, but the fact is that the States definitely have a role to play. I have with me the details as to who plays what role, but again I think that it is not going to serve any purpose by my talking elaborately on whose role is what because everybody is enlightened here and everybody understands it. The fact is that this disease needs to be, as I said, eradicated.

I have a pleasant duty to perform here by announcing in reaction to the hon. Member's comments, observations and suggestions. I am very pleased, and I had a choice in front of me while I was doing the research and the choice was to rattle off a lot of figures and take a lot of

time of the House or face the problem head-on; seek the cooperation of all the hon. Members of the House; take their suggestions; and announce a few concrete steps, which the hon. Members would also be pleased to listen. I have three concrete steps, which I would like to announce in this august House. Firstly, an Encephalitis Research Group will be established under ICMR to carry out more intensified research on non-Japanese Encephalitis (JE) virus contributing to the problems in eastern Uttar Pradesh. This is my first announcement. Why did I come to this conclusion? It is because the hon. Members have rightly mentioned that we do not even know whether it is JE or whether it is some water-borne virus. So, if we are going to give vaccine related to JE and at the end of the day we realise that children are not dying of JE, but they are dying of some other virus that shows symptoms similar to that of JE, then we would be totally misled. Hence, I felt it important, and the hon. Members have also suggested that we must have a thorough research.

We must find out what is the real virus. I am absolutely certain that our scientists are capable of finding out which is this virus so that the treatment can be given accordingly. That is why this Special Research Group is going to be established. The job of this Special Research Group is going to be finding out which is this virus. Once we find out the virus, the remedy would be much more easier and would be direct.

Madam, announcement two that I would like to share with the House, with your permission, is that a Department of Physical, Medical Rehabilitation, which both the hon. Members of Parliament have just now mentioned, will be set up at BRD Medical College at Gorakhpur to address the problems of disabilities among children affected by AES and JE. As rightly mentioned, there are a lot of children, Madam, who are not treated after they are affected physically. Some of them become physically challenged. They also become mentally challenged. So, it is very important to have a separate area or wing, whatever name we want to give – we are calling it a separate Department— to deal with such children, which we are duty bound. I am very happy to announce that we are going to take that up immediately.

Announcement three, which is very rightly mentioned, if this is a social problem, it needs social solutions as well. What are the social solutions? It is making people aware. Illiteracy and poverty are two very hard couples, but they are couples. Wherever there is illiteracy, there is poverty; and wherever there is poverty, the diseases are

the most. It is very important that we make people aware of it. So, the third thing which I am going to do, Madam, is that a special campaign for creating awareness about the importance of hygiene and sanitation in prevention and control of AES and JE in Eastern Uttar Pradesh will be launched. Here, Madam, I seek the support of all the Members of Parliament that we literally go house to house and take this up on a war-footing. During the elections, we have seen that we go house to house, then why can we not do it on this issue? I am not at all shirking our responsibility, but alone we cannot do much. We need the support of everybody – of the hon. Members of Parliament, of the people in different areas of public service, be it NGOs or Governmental Departments. Here again, I would seek the support. Whatever we need to, we are going to do.

In conclusion, I will tell you that we are absolutely committed in the Government, and I give you my word here that I am going to visit personally to these areas and ensure that this disease is eradicated from the surface of Uttar Pradesh at the earliest. I thank once again both the hon. Members of Parliament for giving me this opportunity.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, hon. Minister.

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): I feel that the admissibility of Calling Attention Motion by you today and raising of this issue by two Members of Parliament and the reply of the Hon'ble Minister has highlighted the importance of the said question. I am totally astonished that scattered incidents of detection of Swine flue, H1N1 in recent past in India becomes a big news that one person died of the said disease there. The Parliament has, for the first time, taken notice of deaths of children below 15 years of age in a state, especially in a particular area. But today, the Hon'ble Minister has also taken this issue equally seriously through a Calling Attention Motion. But the follow up action on it should be taken up with equal seriousness. At the same time, I would like to say that the Hon'ble Member wants a clarification. The Hon'ble Member has done a very great service, so let him ask it.

MADAM SPEAKER: You ask the question.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Madam Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister says that so far as the vaccines, which have been brought, are concerned, only one dose of vaccine

is required to be administered. I have wrapper of the company with me. It is indicated on the wrapper that at least 2 or 3 vaccine should be administered. I would like to hand it over to the Hon'ble Minister and let he himself read it. Until and unless the said vaccines are administered on the lines of Pulse Polio the said disease cannot be checked. He has said about Virology Centre at Gorakhpur, I have already said that a lab on the lines of NIV, Pune has been set up in Gorakhpur but it is only higher pathological lab. The lab is not able to diagnose about the said virus as is being done in NIV, Pune.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has already spoken on it. Please do not repeat it.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Madam, I am making it more clear. So far as the direction of the Hon'ble High Court with regard to setting up Centre of Excellence for Japanese Encephalitis is concerned, why it will be set up in SGPGI and why not in Gorakhpur. Since 80 per cent patients are from Gorakhpur and its adjoining areas then it should be set up in Gorakhpur and not in SGPGI, Lucknow.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister if you want to say something in this regard, you may say.

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: I welcome the suggestion. I had told initially also that this is one problem we have to solve collectively. Any such suggestions which are going to be beneficial to get the disease eradicated, I welcome the hon. Members of Parliament to come to my office or wherever they want, I am willing to discuss and take appropriate action.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please call them to your office and discuss.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—1314/15/09]

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12.46 hrs.

NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI  
LAWS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) SECOND  
BILL, 2009\*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI  
S. JAIPAL REDDY): Madam, I beg to move for leave to

introduce a Bill to make special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi for a further period of up to the 31st Day of December, 2010 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi for a further period up to the 31st Day of December, 2010 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

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[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now we shall take up Special Mentions.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Darjeeling): Madam Speaker, I am grateful that you have accepted my notice. This enabled me to raise the issue of *Bundh* and hunger strike in the Darjeeling district and adjoining areas. I have three appeals to make. The first is obviously to the Government. The second is to the larger collectivity of the House. And the third, of course, will be to the Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha. But, I will before that, make a very short preamble. My short preamble is: I agree with the distinguished and hon. Leader of the House, the Minister of Finance, that small States is not a matter of principle. It is administrative efficiency that is obtained by the separation of a larger entity into smaller entity. But the guiding principle is, of course, not just the smallness but the emotional oneness, the geographical unity, and separation that is inherent, if the emotional unity is not there. So far as Darjeeling district is concerned, even though I might be stating the obvious, to the hon. Leader of the House because to mention this to as experienced a Minister who has many years of service to the country, but the reality is that Darjeeling is the one district in the whole country that adjoins three international boundaries and is near contiguous to the fourth.

I do not have to list them. It sits cheek by jowl with Sikkim. It is close to Chumbi Valley. It is sitting atop the Chicken's Neck. It is barely a few kilometres from Tin Bigha. It is the guardian, Madam. The people of the Hill

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 14.12.2009.

District of Darjeeling have been our soldiers for many centuries. They are valiant nationalists. They have given up their lives for India. They are currently, emotionally separated from the rest of the State of West Bengal. Geographically they are distanced.

The appeal, therefore, that I am making to the Government is to please issue an appeal to the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha to withdraw their *bandh* and to give up the hunger strike; to continue with the talks which are due on the 21st of December. I commend and am grateful to the efficient and energetic the Home Minister who was good enough to give them time and met the delegation. This much to the Government, Madam.

My second appeal is to the larger collectivity of the middle of the House. Please recognise that what is needed is not passion. What is required is compassion and understanding. This is not a separation from the State of West Bengal. If the people are separated, do whatever is necessary to bring them together.

I also appeal to the distinguished Leader of the Opposition, my former colleague with whom I have had the pleasure and benefit of sitting for three decades; I appeal to my former colleagues with whom I used to sit. I do not have to cite to you the manifesto that was in the party's programme, what the manifesto says. Please at least join in the appeal the House were to make. Give up the *bandh*, give up the hunger strike, join the talks on the 21st purposefully, and do not do anything to stop Highway No.31A which leads into Sikkim.

I have no doubt in my mind that an appeal of this kind, if it went out from the House, will have signal effect and the agitational mode of the demand will be set aside. This is the appeal I make, Madam. The substance of it is:

*[Translation]*

Listen to the voice of a man and then act on that.

*[English]*

They are the guardians of our borders. Do not keep them apart do not keep them apart emotionally. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition wants to say something. Please sit down....*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Madam, as my colleague Jaswant ji has mentioned me, therefore I would like to tell him whatever has been mentioned in our manifesto, the delegation which has come from there is likely to meet me in the evening. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Madam, I am from the State. Please listen to me for a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: I do not have your notice. You should have given your notice.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Madam, just one minute. I have no objection in making an appeal to the people there in Darjeeling to withdraw their agitation. I agree with that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: If you want to associate yourself, say yes.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am not associating. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You have not given your notice. Please take your seat. You know whenever you give a notice I allow you to speak. But how do I allow you to speak, if you do not give a notice?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No indirect encouragement should be given for a separate State of Gorkhaland. I accept the appeal.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the 'Zero Hour' go on.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)...\**

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri M.B. Rajesh.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (Palakkad): I would like to draw the attention of this House and also the Government to a very important issue relating to the national security of our country. David Headley, who now appears to be the prime conspirator and the perpetrator of the heinous crime of 26/11, is in the custody of FBI in the United States. Since he is the one who conspired and guided 26/11 attack, India has every right to interrogate him. But the United States authorities have strangely denied our request to interrogate this prime accused in the 26/11 attack on Mumbai. At the same time, we should remember that the Government of India had no hesitation in allowing the FBI to interrogate Kasab, the only remaining link in the 26/11 attack.

This is the case and it has now become clear that the United States does not want to allow the Indian investigators to interrogate Headley because it has appeared in the newspapers that this Headley is having close links with the American Drug Enforcement Agency. And he may possibly have links with the CIA also. So, it is now clear that in the past, even after the 9/11 incident, this Headley had traveled frequently and freely in and out of Pakistan and also other countries, which the US consider to be the hotbeds of terrorism. It has come in the Press that the new name, Headley, was given to him by the United States Intelligence Agencies. The episode also exposed the subservient character of the Government of India's alliance with the United States. It is unfortunate that the Government of India is not bold enough to demand the integration of Headley. Hence, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to ensure that Headley will be interrogated by the Indian Intelligence Agencies.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (North East Delhi): Madam, large number of agents of LIC in Delhi are on strike today and their total strength is approximately one crore. Over 50 lakh families are affected by it. Perhaps, the Government wants that their commission should be stopped and they should be deregistered.

I think these agents demand no office or administrative expenses from the Government. They have no permanent office or employment. They go from door to door and give policies to the people and in return they get commission and thereby they feed their families. Their average commission works out to 4-5 thousand

rupees a month and it is almost half of the salary of a Government employee. My submission is that the Government should protect them, their families which is just one per cent of our total population...*(Interruptions)*.

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi, Shri N.S.V. Chitthan, Shrimati Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi, Shri Datta Meghe, Shri Vinay Pandey, Shri Harish Chaudhary, Shri Ijyaraj Singh, Shri Kabir Suman, Shrimati Jayaprada, Shri K.L. Punia, Dr. Tarun Mandal, and Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Madam Speaker, there is no assembly in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The State Government or the Government of India is all the same in this island. Tenth pass angawadi workers or helpers get an honorarium of Rs. 2,000/- after 20-25 years of service and under matriculates get Rs. 1800/- and helpers only Rs. 990/-. There is no provision for bonus, pension or gratuity. Just imagine about their plight. They have to give Rs. 700-800 as house rent. Prices of foodgrains have sky-rocketed. They have to dole out Rs. 600 as bus fare for coming for duty, then what is left in their hands for sending their children to school.

**13.00 hrs.**

Madam Speaker, how will Aganwadi workers and helpers, who are working like the Yashoda Maiyya, be able to raise their children? I would like that the Andaman Administration should also follow the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Governments which have done the good job in this regard by giving them pay scales. But, the Government listens when people go to the court. The Government accepted the demands of the Chowkidars, who had worked for more than 20 years in Andaman, only when they went to court. The Tamil Nadu Government gave pay scale, house rent allowance and city allowance to the Anganwadi workers. Puducherry Government has done the same thing. I am demanding from the Central Government in this connection itself that the Anganwadi workers and helpers in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands should also be given a pay-scale. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Bishnu Pada Ray ji. Your matter is over. Take your seat now.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Madam Speaker, minimum wages i.e. skilled wages to the 10th pass workers, semi-skilled wages to those having passed lower classes than that and unskilled wages to the helpers should be provided till the pay scale is not given.

Madam Speaker, my last demand is regarding the snacks distributed in the Anganwadi that in the year 2006....*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Madam Speaker, I am going to conclude within a minute. In 2006, the prices of the snacks items were given in the list of the snacks to be provided at the Anganwadi Centres. But, no item is available at those prices in the market today. As per that list, the price of an egg in the Andaman has been mentioned as Rs. 1.25 while it costs between Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 there. I, therefore, urge the Central Government through you that the rate of Anganwadi snacks should be made atleast Rs. 10 per day. This is my only demand.

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: The rest of the matters will be taken up at the end of the day.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1400 hours.

13.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

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14.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Two  
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to withdraw the decision to acquire land of marginal farmers of Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh for construction of residential and official complexes of Sashastra Seema Bal**

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARSH VARDHAN (Maharajganj, U.P.): Sir, about 184 acres of fertile agricultural land is being

acquired in the bordering villages of Jugauli, Sukrauli, Dhaurhara (Tola, Tilhawa), Fareni, Kewatolia of Nauntanwa Tehsil under Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh for the office and residence of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

About 218 farmers are being affected by this land acquisition and it also includes such farmers in large numbers whose entire agricultural land is being acquired. These farmers will become landless in this situation and small holdings of other farmers will become even more smaller.

The Maharajganj district officials say that this action is being taken by them for acquisition of that land only which has been intimated to them by the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) after earmarking it.

In such a situation, I urge the Government of India to ensure that instead of acquiring the fertile agricultural land of the marginal farmers in the border areas of the Maharajganj district on the initiative of the SSB, land of the farmers having large holdings should be acquired.

- (ii) **Need to take steps to increase literacy rate of Muslim minority for their socio-economic development in Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country**

*[English]*

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (Nizamabad): India has a large number of Muslim population. Justice Rajinder Sachar Committee Report recommended upliftment of the downtrodden Muslim minority in India. In each and every city in the country, most of the Muslim minority live in slums and also undeveloped areas because they cannot afford to pay for higher cost of living.

Twenty five per cent of the Muslim children in the age group of 6-14 years have either never attended school or have dropped out. The percentage of graduates is only 3.6 per cent which is very low compared to other communities and in Andhra Pradesh it is still less.

Students belonging to Muslim minority are discontinuing their studies mostly after Middle School and settling down in self-employment schemes like tailoring, motor cycle repairing, welding works and petty business such as running pan shops, fruits and flowers besides working as labourers. This is mainly because of their inability to pay for education.

Education is the only way to increase the living standards of our Muslim community and also education will equip them with the skills to earn their livelihood. Education among Muslim women is very less. If a mother is properly educated, she will guide her children in their career.

I, therefore, urge the Union Government to provide financial help for opening of special schools, colleges, engineering colleges, professional colleges and hostels for Muslim students considering their social and religious sentiments and also provide infrastructure, health care facilities, *pucca* roads for the areas where Muslims are living because most of the Muslims are living in slum areas of Nizamabad, Krishna, Guntur, Kurnool and West Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradesh. I also request to change the criteria recommended by Sachar Committee for funding Schemes meant for Muslim minorities from 25% to 15%.

**(iii) Need to withhold the decision of conversion of Government Medical Colleges into self-financed colleges in Gujarat**

DR. PRABHA KISHOR TAVIAD (Dahod): The conversion of Government Medical colleges into Self finance Medical colleges by Gujarat Government is affecting the people of Gujarat. Health and Education are primary responsibilities of Government. At present tuition fees for all Government aided medical colleges are affordable to middle class and others. The level of education in many medical colleges is of world class standard. The facility for diagnosis and treatment in all medical colleges is very good.

If Government Medical colleges are converted in self finance colleges, there will be huge rise of tuition fees which will not be affordable to middle class and poor students. Though intelligent but poor, these students will be out of reach of medical education and there will be monopoly of rich people. In self finance colleges and hospitals, medical treatment will become costlier.

So I request the Central Government not to permit conversion of Government Medical Colleges into self-financing colleges and to instruct the Indian Medical Council for the same.

**(iv) Need to revive the Ramagundam Fertilizer Factory in Karim Nagar District of Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (Karimnagar): I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House

towards the need for revival of Fertilizer Corporation of India Unit in Ramagundam, Karim Nagar district, Andhra Pradesh, which falls in my Constituency.

During the last four consecutive years in Andhra Pradesh, the area under cultivation has increased many-fold and accordingly, the fertilizer consumption has increased from 36.30 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMTs) during 2002-2003 to 62.14 LMTs during 2008-09. Consequently, the consumption of urea has increased from 17.55 LMTs in 2003-04 to 27.4 LMTs during 2008-09.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh is implementing the prestigious "Jala Yagnam" - a massive and a unique programme in the country with the aim to bring every acre of area under irrigation. So, keeping in view the current increasing trend of fertilizer consumption in Andhra Pradesh and for "Jala Yagnam" programmes, the fertilizer consumption is expected to be increased manifold in the coming years in Andhra Pradesh.

Hence, I request the concerned hon. Minister that there is an urgent need to revive the Ramagundam Fertilizer Factory in Karim Nagar district to meet the increasing future fertilizer requirements of the farmers in Andhra Pradesh.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri R. Dhruvanarayana—  
Absent.

**(v) Need to give status of a full-fledged State to Delhi**

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (North East Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, there has been a constant demand for giving status of a full-fledged state to Delhi for a long time. But Delhi has not been given the said status so far as a result of which all round development of Delhi has not been possible.

Though Delhi has got its Legislative Assembly and it has a Government. But the Delhi State Government has not got those rights which a full-fledged State Government enjoys and that is why the development of Delhi has not been as fast as it should have been.

The principal responsibility of an elected government of a state is to establish a welfare state while maintaining law and order therein. But whole responsibility of law and order, which is a state matter, has been vested in the Union Government. When a legislative assembly has



been set up in Delhi and a democratic government is functioning, the State Government should be given the responsibility of maintaining law and order. But it is not so in Delhi.

I, therefore, request the Union Government through the House to give status of full-fledged state to Delhi and give all powers to the State Government as are enjoyed by other states.

**(vi) Need to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Hoshiarpur district, Punjab**

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the children of my Parliamentary Constituency, Hoshiarpur are deprived of quality education today even after 63 years of independence. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has set up 977 Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country and out of which 38 KVAs are in Punjab. Surprisingly, there are seven Kendriya Vidyalayas in several districts but no such Vidyalaya has been set up in the district Hoshiarpur so far. Most of the people living there are poor and belong to the families of defence personnel.

It is, therefore, requested to the Union Government to open a Central School in Hoshiarpur so that children of the families of retired defence personnel could get good education.

**(vii) Need to create a National Rural Bank and redress the grievances of Regional Rural Banks in Andhra Pradesh**

*[English]*

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): Sir, as per the plan of Union Government the Rural Banks are on a massive expansion in the next two years. They have been asked to open no frill accounts of all people associated with National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) and other welfare schemes. The Government also intends to introduce core banking in Rural Banks by 2011. Accordingly, the officers and employees of RRB are appealing for need-based manpower planning to ensure recruitment and promotions to all staff. They are also demanding formation of 'National Rural Bank' for effective implementation of all rural banking plans. The RRBs in the State of Andhra Pradesh are facing acute shortage of staff which is affecting the smooth functioning of the RRBs and lack of promotions for decades is demoralizing the staff.

I, therefore request the Finance Minister, through this august House, to initiate a large scale recruitment of the educated rural unemployed youth from local areas to augment flow of credit besides effective implementation of all the welfare schemes initiated by the Government. I request the Government to create National Rural Bank at the earliest.

**(viii) Need to expedite setting up of a Steel Plant in Gwalior Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA (Gwalior): Sir, the former Union Minister of Steel, Government of India laid foundation stone of steel processing unit worth Rs. 100 crore on 26/8/2008 to provide employment to the local unemployed workers in Bilauma village of Dabra Tehsil in Gwalior district of Gwalior Parliamentary Constituency. Funds have been already allocated by the Ministry of Steel, Government of India and sufficient area of land has also been made in setting up of this unit even after one year of laying its foundation stone.

If the construction of this steel processing unit had been started, the workers of this area would have got employment and the business would have got a boost in this area and the area would have developed. But the residents of this area are now apprehensive about the construction of this unit.

Since Chhattisgarh has become a separate state there is no steel plant in the state of Madhya Pradesh. I urge upon the Government to initiate setting up this steel processing unit at the earliest in order to develop Madhya Pradesh, particularly Gwalior region and to provide employment to the unemployed people of the area.

**(ix) Need to make available seeds of wheat through National Seeds Corporation in Madhubani and Darbhanga districts of Bihar**

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhubani): Sir, the farmers are facing problems because of floods and drought in the country. The farmers want to grow more and more wheat. The time limit for sowing wheat is fixed. National Seeds Corporation is the biggest seeds seller in the country but seeds are not available in its outlets. The farmers in Bihar want to grow maximum wheat this year. Bihar Government is also providing subsidy on seeds but seeds are not available. National

Seeds Corporation has an outlet of sale of seeds in Madhubani of Bihar but the seeds of early variety (Agaiti) or later variety (Pichhaiti) are not available there. The farmers are forced to sow uncertified seeds for want of improved variety of seeds. It is, therefore, requested to make adequate quantity of seeds available by National Seeds Corporation across the country, particularly in Madhubani, Darbhanga regions of Mithilanchal in Bihar and the Central Government should provide a subsidy of Rs. 1000 per acre to the farmers for growing wheat.

**(x) Need to improve telephone services in Himachal Pradesh**

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (Shimla): Sir, B.S.N.L. has set up its network across the country for telecommunication purposes but its efficiency in the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh is being questioned as it is unable to provide its services through landline. In rural areas of Himachal Pradesh, telephone exchanges remain dysfunctional for months. At various places, cables are lying open which are often cut and stolen by anti-social elements leading to complete failure of telecommunication services in the area.

Mobile network towers have been set up in Shimla, Solan and Sirmour districts of my Lok Sabha constituency for the last one year but these towers have not been made operational. Due to this, on one hand, the people of the region are not getting telecommunication services, and on the other hand, BSNL is also losing revenue. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology to improve BSNL's services throughout Himachal Pradesh, to make the already installed towers operational and to urgently repair dysfunctional exchanges and to address public grievances at the earliest.

**(xi) Need to include unaided schools of Uttar Pradesh in National Literacy Mission**

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL (Banda): Sir, there is clear provision to provide grants to the unaided schools and to include them in the National Literacy Mission under the guidelines of the Government of India, but the Government of Uttar Pradesh is not including unaided Secondary Schools in the said scheme and is instead proposing to upgrade the Parishad Schools. The objective of the Government of India to develop and universalize education cannot be achieved until unaided schools are included in the National Literacy Mission.

I, therefore, drawing the attention of the House towards this matter of urgent public importance, urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps in this regard at the earliest.

**(xii) Need to check the menace of Neel Gai in eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): Sir, I, through this House, would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the wild animal Neel Gai which damages the crops reared by the farmers with hard labour.

The crops cultivated in thousands of acres in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in various districts of Bhadohi, Mirzapur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Jaunpur and other districts in the eastern region are being damaged every year by Neel Gais. Farmers are leaving farming. Farmers there are facing the problem of starvation.

Therefore, to stop damage of farmers' crops in eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, the Government should capture these Neel Gais through a drive and make arrangement to rehabilitate them to wildlife sanctuaries so that farmers' crops are secured and farmers could be saved from starvation.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mahabali Singh—not present.

Shri Ambica Banerjee—not present.

Shri R. Thamaraiselvan—not present.

Shri Mahendra Kumar Roy—not present.

**(xiii) Need to fix the price of iron ore and other minerals on *ad-valorem* basis for the State of Orissa**

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Of all the major minerals, it is only coal, chromite and bauxite that enjoy *ad-valorem* basis of royalty and all other minerals including iron ore continue to be subject to specific rates of royalty regimes. On account of this, States like Orissa, a leading iron ore producer of the country, is losing hundreds of crore of rupees as mining royalty. It is only the mine owners and traders who are garnering all the benefits from these finite resources. Therefore, it is of critical importance that the Union Government should effect

necessary amendments and bring in ad-valorem linked royalty regime in respect of all the other minerals also.

The existing system of compilation and publication of sales price by IBM which forms the basis of calculation of ad-valorem leaves much to be desired. The issue, therefore, needs to be addressed suitably. A delay of more than two years in case of last change effected in respect of coal has deprived Orissa of substantive sums of legitimate revenues. The revision that was due after 15th August, 2005 was notified only on 1st August, 2007. Though 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 State should be entitled to compensation. But no steps have been taken so far in this regard.

It is indeed an irony that instead of revising the royalty, the Government has levied an export duty on minerals which accrues to the Union Government of India. It is but fair and rational for the Government to share the revenue that accrues to it from the export duty levied on chrome and iron ores entirely with the States of origin.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Rathod – not present.

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14.24 hrs.

## COMPETITION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up item no. 15.

Shri Salman Khursheed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Competition Act, 2002, be taken into consideration.”

This is a very short Bill. This is only on procedural matters. It was to convert the Ordinance passed during the interregnum between the two Sessions of Parliament, essentially for the reason that when the Competition Commission Act was passed in 2007, it was expected

that the MRTP under Section 66, although abolished, the pending cases before the MRTP would be continued to be handled by the MRTP Commission. However, we found that our attempts to bring about the selection of a Chairperson, a post that was lying vacant, could not find fruition for the simple reason that the best person picked for the job was already assigned as the head of another Tribunal. We were left with two members to finish all the pending work of the MRTPC during the sunset period of two years. However, it so transpired that both those members also retired. As a result, we were left with no personnel on the MRTPC. Our attempts to find replacement personnel, only for the limited period of less than two years, was obviously not very successful and suitable personnel were not available. We, therefore, brought the Ordinance to diminish the two year period, the sunset period, and transfer all the matters from the MRTPC to the Competition Appellate Tribunal which would normally have happened at the end of two years. So all, in effect, that we have done is that we have taken away the two-year period in which the pending matters would have been disposed of by the MRTP Commission itself.

Sir, we were also conscious of the fact that since the coming of the Competition Act, the work has just begun before the Competition Commission. There are still no cases in which appeals have been filed to the Competition Appellate Tribunal. Therefore, the Competition Appellate Tribunal, headed by a retired hon. Judge of the Supreme Court, also had no work. It had the competence and it had the available infrastructure, but it had no work. Therefore, it was convenient that the pending work of the MRTPC be shifted to the Appellate Tribunal for the Appellate Tribunal to be able to dispose it of expeditiously.

As the figures will show, the pendency before the MRTPC from 2006 to 2009 was of the following nature. The pendency at the end of the year 2006 was 1,110 cases, at the end of 2007 was 1127 cases; at the end of 2008 was 1,136 cases; and finally in 2009, it went up to 1,186 cases. So, all these cases would now be shifted to the Tribunal. There will be some minor matters of investigation and so. That will go before the Commission as intended in the Act itself.

So, all we have done is that we have taken away the two-year sunset period simply because we have inter-structured personnel available in the Appellate Tribunal and we have nobody to look after this work in the MRTPC.

Sir, with these words, I commend the Bill to the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Competition Act, 2002, be taken into consideration."

[*Translation*]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, though this bill has been introduced to carry out small modifications but there are two three points towards which I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister and the House through you. The Competition Bill was first proposed in 1999. It was one of the historic steps taken by the Vajpayeeji's Government to promote Globalization, Liberalization, WTO Policy and to protect industry. In 1999, the then Hon'ble Finance Minister had presented this bill and as the Hon'ble Minister was saying. I do not know whether it is the gimmick of figures or words or the effect of some planetary conditions, but the period of two years is very important for this bill. It has been reviewed after every two years. The then Finance Minister made an announcement in 1999, after which Chakarvarty Committee was constituted to study as to what should be our trade and competition in WTO delegation, what should be the terms of TRIPS? Then, after the Singapore Ministerial Conference, this Bill was introduced in 2001.

Sir, after 1999, the bill was introduced in 2001. Thereafter, Raghvan Committee was constituted and the bill was referred to the Standing Committee of Finance. Then, in December 2002, the bill was introduced in Parliament and took a final shape in October 2003. So the bill introduced in 2001 comes into effect in 2003 *i.e.* after two years. Several issues were raised at that time about the role of judges and judiciary. Then, a case was filed in Supreme Court which gave its verdict in 2005. Again, it is after two years of passing of this bill that they suggested to constitute a separate Competition Commission and judicial body in this regard. Then, in 2007 again, after the gap of two years the Government awakes and brings an amendment in this Act. Surprisingly, the Competition Bill was enacted in 2003 but its Chairman was appointed for the first time in 2008 only *i.e.* after 5 years of passing of this bill. We can understand how the Government works. Nowafter carrying out the amendment in 2007, it has been brought again in 2009. As per the Act, the cases under MRTP were to be expedited within two years. Unfortunately, that provision

of period of two years could not come into force because Chairman was not there and members had resigned. Now, the Government has brought this bill, I hope it would not take two years to pass it. In 2002, the bill was presented in the House during inauspicious period of 'Kharma's' which has a special importance in Hindu religion. The current bill also has been presented in the same period of 'Kharma's', however, it should not take two years to pass it. Through you, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to expedite the case.

The present Competition Bill is in tune with provisions of Articles 301-307 of the Constitution. Article 307 empowers the Government that:

[*English*]

"Parliament may by law appoint such authority as it considers appropriate for carrying out the purposes of articles 301, 302, 303 and 304, and confer on the authority so appointed such powers and such duties as it thinks necessary."

[*Translation*]

Such power has been given to the Government but some bindings are also on it. There are many issues like Centre-State relations, price rise, Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan etc. but the Central Government tries to put the entire responsibility on State Governments. That is why Competition Commission Bill has been formulated which is like a weapon to deal with such issues. The most important of this bill is to protect the interests of producers, traders and consumers. A producer can set up its company anywhere and a trader supplies its good from where it gets benefit, but protecting the interests of consumers is most important in a country like ours where poor people elect us to Parliament. However, I observe some loopholes or the lack of will power in this bill. Only a country like America can dare to close down the company like Microsoft. I would like to know as to what steps have been taken since the enactment of MRPT Act till the passing of Competition Commission Bill. We have to fight at two fronts. One is there are big multinational companies which want to enter our country due to WTO obligation and Globalization. Such big companies are taking over the small companies. How the Competition Commission Bill would protect them? I want to know this. I hail from the area which houses silk industry, power loom and handloom industry. Bhagalpuri, Bhagaiya and Sahabganj Silks are very famous. Big companies are trying to enter this silk industry. Their

production cost is lower than the small companies. I have an apprehension in my mind whether the Competition Bill would be able to effect the production costs of these companies. I would like to know this from the Hon'ble Minister through you.

Automobile is another sector in which multinational companies are entering but are the prices being reduced? Are we able to do something on the basis of Competition Law? Similarly, there is Steel Sector where also the multinational companies are trying to enter. A few multinational companies will take over the small ones. How the Competition Bill will protect them? The consumer is forced to purchase steel at higher rates. How will the Government deal with cartelization? Do we have enough will power for this purpose?

Third one is cement sector which does not act upon the orders of even the Government. Cement companies always act on their own, they increase the prices on their own and they say that there is no competition in it. In Japanese competition means killing. You can see that the poor people, small consumers and even small companies are being killed in one or the other way. Japanese term 'killing' for competition is in vogue in our country. Take the case of two aviation sector companies, Boeing and Airbus. There is competition between these two companies. Taking it in Indian context, suppose our two aviation companies are merged. Earlier there was a case under MRTP Act and it was referred to the Competition Commission. But what happened in that case whole benefit was given to the consumers? Are they travelling at cheaper fares now? If one wants to go to Malaysia or Singapore, one has to pay less. On the other hand, one has to pay comparatively more fare for going to Trivenduram or Madras. What the Competition Commission doing in this regard? My submission is that enacting a law is not enough, it is not a solution to the problem. The problems are still there. Vary large companies are now in petro-chemical sector and small companies are no where in existence. Can we do something in petro-chemical sector on the lines of Microsoft. Have we given so much powers to the Competition Commission? If so, why are we still not able to rein in several sectors? Similar is the position of Coca Cola and Pepsi. Perhaps he remembers that there were domestic players in this field and those companies have been acquired by those two giants. Now Coca Cola and Pepsi are increasing the rates. They find no competition in it. That day, my friend Sanjay Nirupam was taking of TV, Radio and Newspapers. They are all the same while one party is having recourse to the TV programme, others

are using print media and FM Radio for this purpose. Do you think the Competition Commission is well-equipped to tackle it.

My third point is that various Government agencies as to what is their responsibility. Serious thought investigation organizations is under the Government and the Competition Commission gathers most of the inputs through it. Still fraud like Satyam takes place. We have a number of agencies like CBI, EIU, DREI, still, what a serious incident took place in Taj Hotel. I would like to say that the politicians have the greatest responsibilities in this regard whereas, the public is losing faith in them. The terrorists strike suddenly. I want to ask what our military, intelligence agencies are doing? What IB, RAW are doing? What SFIO was doing when Satyam fiasco took place? Take the case of Madhu Koda, he amassed huge money. We have ED and other investigation agencies, what were they doing. What CAG was doing? What Income Tax Department or DRI was doing? When any agency is created we have to decide as to who is to be given what type of power, etc. But so far we have not decided it. It is the only reason that the whole nation is laughing at the politician today. We are losing our credibility. Now Hasan Ali's case comes into light. What were our agencies doing when the transaction was taking place, money was going from here? Did our agencies tried to catch him? The question arises—we have SFIO still Satyam fiasco takes place, even bigger scams are taking place. The Government has to give a reply in this regard.

Fourthly, we have constituted the Competition Commission of India and gave abundant powers to it. But RBI is questioning its powers. RBI says how can CCI encroach upon their domain as the Government has placed merger and acquisitions in CCI's domain. It is a serious technical issue as RBI has raised question about the know-how of CCI about banking sector. TRAI says that there should be no tussle with regard to our domain as it is TRAI which protects the interests of subscribers. The call rates have gone so down just because of TRAI. The subscribers are enjoying lower call rates. But what has the Governments done for bureaucrats. Different petroleum regulators have been created and they are trying to affect CCI's domain in one or the other way. The Government has no answer to it. If the Government has created CCI as a super regulator *i.e.* regulator over power sector, petroleum sector or even over RBI, then I would like to quote a Shloka of Geeta from its 18th Chapter. When Arjun was not able to understand anything, Lord Krishna said,

“Sarv Dharman Parityajya Mamekam Sarnam Vraj Aham twam Sarvpapebhyo Mokshayishyami Maa Shuchah”.

It means, if regulator is not functioning, no consumer is working. You come to CCI, the Competition Commission of India, an Appellate Tribunal and we will redress all of your grievances. It will take up merger and acquisition issues relating to banking, petroleum, telecom, etc. And finally the Government will have to curtail CCI's powers. Since an amendment has been brought, so these aspects, too would have to be taken into account. If the law is good enough, but the law enforcement agencies are not good, the law can't meet its objective and if the law is not good enough, but the enforcement agencies are good, the law can meet its objective. There should be some kind of transparency. In the era of globalization, the Government has constituted a very good body, the CCI, which has its obligation towards WTO. I would say that it is a small amendment to CCI Act. The Hon. Minister has himself said that there are even 1000 cases pending for the last 25-30 years. How long it will take the Tribunal to expedite the said cases? By when these will be disposed of? How the interests of people will be protected, how the interests of consumers will be protected? It will be better if the Hon. Minister tries to make it clear.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM (Mumbai North): Sir, Hon. Minister Shri Salman Khursheed ji has brought the amendment. Though it is very small but its implication is very wide. Competition Law came in the year 2002 when NDA Government was in power. This law was passed unanimously at that time. Later on, this matter reached the Supreme Court. After fighting a legal battle for 4-5 years in Supreme Court, the UPA Government got permission that amendments can be made in the laws under the new system. The present Competition Law, which is before us, was prepared only after that system. An ordinance was promulgated on 14 October, 2009 and the Hon'ble Minister has brought the Bill to convert the Ordinance into a law. There was sunset clause for both MRTP and MRTPC under that system under which MRTP would be wound up completely within 2 years and responsibility to look after such cases would not fall on the Competition Commission. Under this, all the cases of the National Commission for Consumer Protection, which had the investigating authority, were also proposed to be shifted/transferred here. A provision to set up a tribunal under it was also received. The present Bill, is before us only on these two main points. Hon.

Minister has explained very clearly that as MRTP was to be wound up within 2 years and no good officials could be found and the officials found were about to join some other tribunal. MRTP was almost working without officers because the other 2 members of the Commission had got retired. This ordinance has been brought with the good objective of handing over of all the cases in such situation to the Competition Commission and Tribunal and we are here to convert it into a law. Broadly this matter relates to Competition law. After 1991 our country accepted a liberalization system. Through globalization we became a part of the global economy and thus all the trade barriers in the world were removed. Now one can go to any country and do whatever business one wants to do at that time. The Government concern was that the consumers' protection and their interests were above all and thus attention should be paid to the consumers. So, we have to see that no monopoly and cartelization takes place in the capitalist economy taking shape on account of this rat race. This law had been brought keeping in mind the interests of the consumers. I remember that a law was made in 2002. Fortunately, I was a member of Rajya Sabha at that time. One of the main objectives of that law was stated to be as follows:

*[English]*

“The Competition Act, 2002 was enacted in 2002 keeping in view the economic developments that resulted in opening up of Indian economy, removal of controls and consequent economic liberalization which required that Indian economy be enabled to allow competition in the market from within the country and outside.”

*[Translation]*

This is was our main objective and I think that we have reached this stage while meeting that objective. Basically, there is an amendment in section 66 and we have implemented it last year and work on Competition Commission started. A proposal to set up a Tribunal on the order of Supreme Court under that amendment itself was received. I have 2-3 questions and suggestions for the Hon. Minister like, first of all, what will be the mode of functioning of this commission because MRTP was to check monopoly and the aim of the Competition Commission is to promote the competition. Fundamentally, there is one difference between the two institutions. One is controlling while the other is encouraging or promoting. Competition should increase in our country and when it will happen it will benefit the consumers directly. We are

working with this aim and the telecom sector is the biggest example of this. An unprecedented revolution has taken place in the telecom sector. I remember that when mobile phones were introduced here, the call rate was Rs. 16/min but it has come down to paise 25/min today and at many places incoming calls are free for life time. This miracle today has taken place solely due to competition. Earlier, there were two players in each circle and this number, I think, went up to six during the NDA regime. Today, there are so many players in different circles in Mumbai and Delhi and there is great competition among them which is benefitting the consumers directly. In this scenario, we will have to be cautious not to allow any kind of monopoly to be created in future. FDI has been liberalized and the whole of the economy has been liberalized. Large companies are coming and they have interest in India because it is the largest market with largest number of consumers. Even more bigger companies will enter India. Therefore, I have 2-3 suggestions like what will be the compositions of the commission. The objection of the Supreme Court was that there should be retired judges, retired bureaucrats. I am not talking about Tribunal whether it is right. It can have legal experts like retired judges. But, as far as Commission is concerned, I don't think that the decision to always have only retired judges or retired bureaucrats there is good.

The competition commission will have to work with great expertise in the days to come as it will have to deal, at some places, with the monopoly of the telecom sector and at other places the petroleum sector. Already there is monopoly in the television sector, media sector, and in the banking sector. Alright, TRAI, RBI and IRDA are there to regulate it. Secondly, so far we have no regulatory authority for the information and broadcasting sector. That day the Hon. Minister was saying that the government is considering it. In such a situation, as and when members are appointed in the said competition commission, the government should ensure that only experts in fields concerned should be considered for appointment. Appointment of retired bureaucrats has become a tradition, but, I am of the view that this tradition should not be followed in respect of appointments in the competition commission. With due regards to the bureaucrats, I would like to say it is quite strange with the bureaucrats, if they are in the education ministry for two years, they become educationists, and if they are transferred to the ministry of agriculture they become specialists in agriculture. Further, if they are transferred to the department of telecom, they become experts in

the telecommunications sector. My submission is that at least CCI should be saved from this years old tradition. It is my request to the Hon.Minister and I urge that efforts should be made to bring young people in it. In most of the cases, aged people are appointed at such places. I have proper regards for the aged and it is not that I am against them. What I mean is that now a new age is opening up new issues will come up in the wake of globalization of economy. Therefore, we need to have experts on such commission. And it is not necessary that only retired or aged persons are experts in such fields, even young people can be. The Government can hire experts from the telecom sector, petroleum sector or even an engineer, a doctor can be appointed as a member of the said commission. Today MBAs are working in the banking sector and such people should be appointed therein. It is my major suggestion with regard to composition of the said commission.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon.Minister has made a mention of approximately one thousand cases relating to unfair trade practices. If all the cases are taken together it works out to 2685 pending cases. Even otherwise MRTP Act was just for namesake and it was not a tough law. It was grossly misused. A total of 2685 cases have lying pending for the last several years and only 2-3 cases are being disposed every year. All such cases, be it relating to consumer protection or unfair trade practices, have been lying pending. I do not think the commission has adequate infrastructure to dispose all the pending cases. However, merger and acquisition are two major issues. My submission is that apart from merger and acquisition, demerger should also be one of the major issues. A large company gets divided into two parts. Both the brothers holding stake in pre-demerged company enter into agreement that they will not enter into each others business. In such cases, alongwith the merger agreements demerger arguments should also be sent to the commission for approval. In case of acquisition of equity, whatsoever it may be, the said commission should take a final decision. I think threshold limit should be fixed. If the acquisition is of more than 20% equity stake then the commission should see the case, as in European law, it is prescribed as 25-26 per cent. If any individual or a company acquires more than that then only the matter should be referred to the commission. A period of seven months is permitted for approval of merger agreements in respect of large companies. In my view, it is too much. It should be reduced to 2-2 1/2 months. In the present era of privatization when companies are increasing so rapidly and acquisition, merger are taking

places so quickly then how one can wait for 6-7 months. Therefore, there is a need to reduce the said period, rather frequent approval should be made time bound.

A fee of Rs. 50,000 has been prescribed for this purpose in respect of large corporate houses. It is alright for corporate sector as they approach competition commissions tribunal, but where will a common consumer go? Such a system should not be applicable to common consumers. Earlier, there existed a national consumer commission which is no more now, therefore, all the cases of that common commission will now be transferred to the competition commission of India. A full fledged mechanism should be set up on the lines of RTI Act wherein an individual can seek any information by paying a fee of Rs. 10, to protect the interests of consumers. Different sectors have different regulators. For example TRAI has telecom sector very nicely but it does not mean that the CCI can not interfere in it. No such condition should be there. Perhaps, RBI has suggested that the banking sector should be kept out of CCI's purview. I am not in its favour. Everybody is aware of what is happening in the banking sector in the presence of like RBI like a watch dog like large banks are getting merged and consolidation is taking place. Under this scenario the interest rates of all the banks are almost at par. Since we are in an age of open market, the banks should compete with each other. You take the case of home loans.

Home loan is offered on two kinds of interest rates- Fixed interest rate and Floating interest rate which is almost same in all banks on an average. The role of Competition Commission becomes very important in such a scenario. The aim of the Competition Commission is to see that the people have a lot of alternatives before them and costs are kept at minimum. The same thing should be there in the Banking Sector.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, conclude your speech.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Sir, I will conclude within a minute of two. After that, we have energy sector or power sector. Here, I would like to tell a story from Mumbai in 2003 during the NDA regime.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your story might take long time. So, do not tell a story.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Sir, we made separate circles and have provided separate operators. Earlier,

power supply was under public sector but now private sector has also been given opportunity in it. Today, only one Company has all the rights in the Mumbai suburban area and it, increase the tariff arbitrarily. The biggest concern of the consumers in the entire Mumbai suburban area is that the power bills, which used to be upto Rs. 1,500, Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 earlier are now Rs. 15,000, Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000. The Government is not able to do anything in this regard. The role of the Competition Commission becomes important in such situation. There should be competition in the power sector because even the section 60 of the Electricity Act, 2003 says that competition should be promoted. That competition is not being promoted today. There is provision for one player only. I would like that efforts should be made than 100 years old legislation in the US known as Anti Trust Law which is working very effectively. There is a provision of Cross Media Holding under this law to check if the same person is publishing a newspaper, running a Television channel, Radio channel and even internet and thus creating a monopoly in the entire Media sector. I had demanded this earlier also and today I will urge the hon. Minister again that he is responsible for Corporate Governance. In such situation, in case no new legislation is being enacted, there should be a provision to empower the Competition Commission to check any monopoly being created in the media sector. If a person is given full monopoly to provide opinion, information, dialogue in a democracy then it will be an undemocratic system. I urge that keeping in view the interests of the consumers there should be competition in the entire economy and to achieve this goal, the Competition Commission should become more powerful in the coming days and it should work in a better way. We have set up a Super Regulator and this Super Regulator should get full power. However, it should be ensured that action is taken not just to harass the big companies. I do not favour this too. I want that there should be a healthy competition and everyone should get its benefit. I support the Amendment Bill presented by the hon. Minister and requested you to pass it.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak on the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2009. Hon. Minister has brought the Amendment of 2002 this year. He is a great scholar and hails from my State Uttar Pradesh. In the last Commission, Mr. Chatterjee was the Commerce Secretary and there was one more member, who had very little interest in the Commission due to which it was being felt for a long time to bring this Amendment. Our previous Minister was willing to introduce this amendment



soon before the House but it got a bit delayed. It is a good thing that in the current composition of Commission, Dhanendra Kumar ji has been appointed as the Chairman and S.C. Gupta, a member. I think that there will definitely be some improvement in the Commission after the appointment of new Chairman of the Competition Commission of India about which the hon. Members had expressed their concern just now. The work of the Commission would be to provide the best possible international level facilities to our consumers along with their protection so that everything would be available to them at good prices. It will have to work keeping in mind only the consumer's interest. Just now a discussion was held on the Airlines. It is a fact that all the Airlines Companies collude and work arbitrarily. Sometimes, offers are announced but they vanish quickly. Somewhere, there is collusion of some people in it and we will have to remain very vigilant. In such a matter, we have Consumers Protection Act where there are many facilities for the consumers.

#### 15.00 hrs.

Similarly, we will have to see this Commission too. I was just going through this Bill. Two per cent entry tax is levied in Madhya Pradesh but other States do not have the entry tax. Hon. Minister should also see this. Similarly, the sea freight has been increased by 90 per cent but it has been reduced a little after interference by the Competition Commission of India. A mention has also been made about the CCI. The Commission should keep its control over the monopolistic companies which raise prices. CCI was constituted in 2003. The main aim behind its constitution is to rein in the practice of creating monopoly in the market. To prepare the guidelines for mergers and cartelization is the priority of the Commission. The Commission should be given more powers and Airlines and pharmaceutical industry should also be brought under its purview. We should see that the life saving drugs should be available to us at fair prices. Several companies try to avoid price fixation and we should try to not let them become a monopoly. Hon. Members have expressed their views about various other industries besides pharmaceutical industry. No company should have its monopoly in pharma sector. We should protect the interests of the consumers. Foreign companies are entering the country and besides we have our own public sector and private companies. We will have to see that the consumers are not burdened in this scenario of competition. Supporting this Bill, I conclude.

*[English]*

DR. ANUP KUMAR SAHA (Bardhaman East): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, thank you for allowing me to speak on this Bill.

Though it is declared by the Government of India that we promote competition, monopoly is emerging everywhere. It is seen that the number of millionaires and billionaires are increasing in great numbers day by day. On the contrary, we also notice that the poor are becoming poorer and their number is increasing in leaps and bounds.

Whatever the Government may say, monopoly and unfair trade practices are rampant in our country. Monopolies are swallowing smaller companies. Since 1991, after the so called liberalization, corporate giants are controlling the Indian economy more than ever. So, concentration of economic power is a threat to the political power of the common people. The growth of cottage and small industries was a dream of the Father of the Nation, but with the present policies, they are facing extinction. This means lakhs of people are becoming jobless and social security measures are going down. In medical fields also, corporatisation of hospitals has made the cost of medical care sky rocketing, thus, making healthcare for the common people beyond their reach.

We also have reservations against the Bill for the following reasons. Independence of the Commission is under threat as it is required to adhere to the policy guidelines by the Central Government from time to time. The purpose or objective should be in the main body of the Bill rather than provided as the preamble. The Bill appears soft on serious competition abuses like hardcore cartels. Despite the increasing importance of the intellectual property rights issues, the Bill does not adequately deal with them. There is no provision for the regulation of mergers and acquisition that do not fall within the meaning of combination. Yet it has the potential to effect competition.

Appointing retired judges and civil servants as the Member or Chairperson of the Commission is undesirable for two reasons. Firstly it leads to corruption among the judges and civil servants who may succumb to the establishment to get sinecures after retirement and secondly most of them are ill-equipped to deal with economic issues.

There is no scope for the Commission to cooperate with and seek cooperation from the counterparts in other

countries in case of cross-border competition. Merely having an extra-territorial clause may not be enough.

By making the Commission depending on its grants, the Government is taking away the much needed financial autonomy. The Commission should be funded by the Consolidated Fund of India.

The power of exemption from the purview of the Bill has been left upon the Government without any proper guidelines, having a potential to be misused. The exemption should be well-debated.

Transfer of the subject area of the 'unfair trade practices' from competition law to the consumer protection law is welcome; but cases pertaining to unfair trade practices in a commercial transaction should be retained under the Competition Act.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA (Puri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to place my views on the floor of this House. The hon. Minister in his preface said that this is a very innocuous piece of legislation sought to be brought in and is really procedural in nature. I do not want the House to misunderstand me. I do not hold the hon. Minister responsible in entirety for all that has gone wrong till date. But, I think, it is trite to say, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, that if anything, any Ministry has been symptomatic of the kind of adhocism, indolence, non-functionality of the first UPA Government, then this Ministry and this Commission, I think, is an example of that.

Hon. Member Shri Dubey has already said in some detail as to how the delays were occasioned up to January, 2005 because there was a matter pending in the Supreme Court. I think the Government could have had some refuge, a fig leaf of justification for not acting till then. But thereafter, from January, 2005 till date, very little has been done and I find that the Statement of Objects and Reasons as well as the Statement which has been placed before this House, Statement under Rule 71 – both of them are identical – contain quite honestly a bizarre explanation for why this ordinance and this Bill has been necessitated.

I quote from both these documents, "Efforts were made to fill up the posts but were of no avail. The MRTPC became non-functional and a gap was created for the disposal of cases pending with the Commission.

On the other hand, the Appellate Tribunal was not having adequate work at all." And then, kindly see, Clause 7 of the Objects and Reasons. Kindly see this. This is very important. I hope the House understands what we are doing here. It says:

"Since the National Commission expressed its inability to accept the transfer of cases and also the investigations or proceedings as many of the cases were not covered by the definition of 'Consumer' under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, and due to lack of investigating machinery with them, further amendments are proposed to Section 66."

So, the National Commission says that 'we have a lack of investigative machinery; we cannot handle these cases.' I ask, with great respect, how is the Appellate Tribunal going to function then. How is the Appellate Tribunal going to look into these cases? Where does the Appellate Tribunal have the investigating machinery? Is anybody looking into these aspects? Is this the kind of adhocism with which Government legislation is going to be piloted in this House? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, kindly see this.

After four years, we have a competition Commission today with seven Members and with 15 employees and there are only 14 complaints now before this Commission. There are hundreds and thousands of cases. I commend hon. Minister Mr. Khursheed – at least he has managed, after all these years, to bring in a notification. Kindly see how the will of the House is being frustrated. Cartels and abuse of dominance today has been notified in May; mergers and acquisitions are still not notified. Hon. Member Mr. Sanjay Nirupam was waxing eloquent about how this Act is going to help obstruct iniquitous mergers which are against national interest or against the interest of consumers.

In respect of mergers, I ask Shri Nirupam how this Act is going to function when mergers are still not notified. It is only cartels and abuse of dominance which have been notified. Why are mergers not being notified? Mr. Deputy-Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister why mergers have not been notified yet. I will tell you the reason. It is because there are large mergers which are still in the pipeline. They do not wish to come before the Government or before the Commission in order to get sanctions.

We know what is happening in the market out there. The market place has a great deal of under-hand free

play which is going on and that is the reason why these large corporations are operating as cartels in any case. Sir, there is a very large merger which is taking place today of two gigantic Australian corporations – Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton. Now, ArcelorMittal in Europe is able to challenge it and obstruct it. But today if we do not notify in respect of mergers under this Act, there will be no obstruction possible in India. That international merger will continue to obtain here as far as India is concerned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, frankly I say with great respect that the manner in which this Ministry and the three arms of this Ministry have functioned is not satisfactory at all. The first arm is the Serious Fraud Investigation Office and we have already found out what has happened in the Serious Fraud Investigation Office and how serious this Office is. We have already seen in the Satyam Scam what its position is. As far as the second limb of this Ministry, the Company Law Board is concerned, one member of the Company Law Board today has found residence in Tihar Jail. He is there today and we do not know when the next member will go to Tihar Jail. There are supposed to be at least eight members while only three are functioning. This is the kind of *ad hescim* that unfortunately this Government has become symptomatic of.

I say with respect that when you bring a piece of legislation to the House, please do not bring it saying 'The Government is helpless. We cannot find officers and therefore, what we are going to do? It would make the Competition Appellate Tribunal as a dustbin. Basically, you cannot find officers to man these cases anywhere else and therefore, you come and dump them on this institution. How are they going to function and investigate 1,200 cases which are going to be dumped over their heads today?

I say with great respect that while Shri Khursheed may not be largely responsible for what has happened during the five years between 2004 and 2009, the manner in which this Ministry has functioned, the manner in which these very importance institutions continue to function is not up to the mark. The issue of Company Law Appellate Tribunal is till today pending adjudication before the Courts. I ask the Government why the Government does not move the Courts, why the Attorney General does not go to the Court and mention the matter and say that 'we need this judgement fast'. Would you like to have your Company Law Board members in jail today or would you rather like to have a flourishing and bustling Company Law Appellate Tribunal? I ask this with great respect.

I say with respect that the Government and this Ministry needs to seriously shape up or frankly, it should ship out.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, according to the Competition Bill of 2007, on 14th October 2003, the Competition Commission of India was constituted. The prime objective of Competition Commission was to ban monopoly trade practices. Another objective was to give a boost to trade and commerce in the country; to create a healthy environment for competition, so that the Indian businessmen get a fair playing field and grew with dignity. After a long hiatus, this Bill has been reintroduced. It has already been referred to the Standing Committee and thus I feel that it needs to be scrutinized properly. So far as my knowledge goes, this kind of a Bill was first introduced in America and the Government of India was inspired by its tenets to import it to our country. In the USA, the Bill led to the bifurcation of such a big organization of Bill Gates and it was also held guilty. This was the strength of the American version of the Bill.

In case of India, we find that the Competition Commission practically has no teeth. For two years, the cases remain pending and they are sent to the National Commission which says that it does not have enough time to go through the cases and the cases are redirected to the Competition Commission again. Therefore Hon. Minister may enumerate the cases which have been already disposed off and which are still pending. There is no doubt that in this age of globalisation, in this age of fierce competition, big foreign companies are pouring in with their business ventures. It will be very difficult for the relatively smaller Indian companies to fight these big players – this issue should not be forgotten.

There are several other issues like the cement industry, media industry etc. which are not getting their due and the consumers are also being deprived of the right deal. A time may come when all the companies in India will be owned by foreign entrepreneurs and not a single business house or factory will be in the hands of Indian businessmen. Thus my proposal would be to take good care of this Bill because already there has been a delay and after a long gap the Bill has seen the light of the day. All the privileges should not be handed over to the big industrial houses. Keeping this in mind, the Bill

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

needs to be scrutinized meticulously. What do we find the SOR – it is said that the Competition Appellate Tribunal is in existence but actually it has no work like the Competition Commission – this is very surprising. Then what is the need of such toothless organizations? This question looms large. The only reason is that the Commission does not function properly and does not do what is expected from it.

**15.14 hrs.**

[SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI *in the Chair*]

Not a single violator in our country has been punished till date whereas punitive action was taken in USA against the biggest entrepreneur there. The law is not at all stringent in India. Therefore I would say that you should not be in a hurry to pass this Bill. Though there has already been much delay, yet all the nitty – gritty should have been checked properly first. Everything should be done keeping the interest of the citizens and the nation as a whole in mind.

One more thing is that the bureaucrats must not be involved in this Commission as it would serve no purpose. Also the stipulated time frame must be followed, otherwise there will be unnecessary delay. The life saving drugs should also be given topmost priority along with other perishables. This is my request to Hon. Minister.

With these words I thank you and conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN:- Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please wind up within five minutes.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, competition will be over within five minutes.

There are three things— the first is production from an industry and then comes trading and thereafter comes purchase and sale of the goods. With the world over liberalization, the restriction on the movement of goods and items has been done away with. As such, the importance and relevance of having such a Commission has become all the more necessary because now there various players in this field — big industrialists, multinational companies and small industrialists, big traders, small traders and the consumers. The big players are organized but today the buyers and the consumers are the most unorganized people. Under such circumstances if the markets are left open without any restriction, there will be monopolies. M.R.T.P.C. was

already in force and then competition Bill was brought and passed and Competition Commission was set up. But it was said that M.R.T.P.C. would look into the pending cases during the transition phase. Who will board a sinking boat? None of the officers wanted to work in M.R.T.P.C. and in such a situation M.R.T.P.C. became defunct and thereafter an ordinance was brought. The ordinance provided that the tribunal of competition Commission would look into all these cases. This is what I could make out of this Bill.

Sir, you can see that the consumers are the most unprotected lot. If there is monopoly and there is no restriction on the producers and traders, they would charge exorbitant prices. We talk of consumer protection here and expect that they should get goods and services at reasonable prices and of good quality. The consumer wants only produced by only one company, which is a big player, then that company would charge exorbitant price for its goods. This practice is going on at present. It is rightly said that this Competition Commission does not have teeth. Then how will it be able to protect the interests of the consumers? The small traders are also at the received end. Therefore this Bill is being criticized rightly that it is a kind of adhocism. Where were you, one has retired? Now nobody wants to work on that post. Work has come to standstill and a large number of cases are pending. Who will dispose these cases? Now it has been said that the Appellate Authority of the Competition Commission would look into those case. This Bill provides for this only.

Sir, the House as well as all the honourable Members will agree that with the world over liberalization and globalization all the boundaries have disappeared. Big players were already here but the later entries *i.e.* multinationals are bigger players. The multinationals would charge exorbitant process. If Competition Commission functions properly and there is a healthy competition, the consumers will be protected and they will get goods at reasonable price. You can see that the things or services relating to telephones, which cost 100 rupees earlier, are now available at Rs. 2. What is the reason? There was a healthy and fair competition in the telecom sector. The consumers are being exploited in those sectors in which there is no healthy competition. It is for the Government to ensure healthy competition in every sector. People say that the government is helpless and the market forces are driving the prices. What is a market force? The big players, capitalists, industrialists and the multinationals are called the market forces. It is the duty of the Government to strike a balance among these forces. This is the objective and the basic theory of competition that there

would be healthy competition. The consumers will be protected and there will be regulations for the market. But where are those regulations? Who is regulating? Has the government regulated anything? There is no restriction, everyone is free to charge exorbitant prices. Everyone is free to produce or not to produce anything at one's will. But the things needed by the consumers are not being supplied. When there is life, the production, purchase and sale are bound to go on. The trading has not started today. The goods of our country were exported via Himalayan, Khaibar and Bolan valleys. Now the government has allowed foreigners to enter into the country. Now WTO has come into existence. Now the main question is how the consumers can be protected. As the consumers are unorganized, they are compelled to purchase goods and services at the prevalent market prices. If anything is available at lesser price at another place, the consumer will go there to buy that thing. But when there is monopoly, the big players will fix the prices. The price of cement is one example. What is the price of iron bars? Is anyone taking care of these things? Where is the restriction on monopoly? We would like to know the reason for increase in the prices of cement and iron bars. Can anybody tell me that the prices of cement and iron bars increased due to increase in the price of other things? There is nothing so — They are the sole owners and free to fix the prices of their goods and we are helpless. Is this due to market force?

People request for bringing down the prices. Will they listen to these requests? There should be a stringent law in this regard. As we have been witnessing a healthy competition in the telecom sector, we want similar competition in other sectors of the economy. You can see villages are the worst affected. The price of cement has increased from 6 to 10 and then to Rs. 120 and now it is Rs. 325...*(Interruptions)*. It should be analysed as to what the actual cost of cement is and what the amount of profit on it is? It is a kind of monopoly. Where is the competition Commission? Where is the restriction on monopoly? There is no restriction. Everything is one-sided. Today the consumer is helpless because if he is really in need of something he has to purchase irrespective of its price. When the consumer says that the prices of anything was Rs. 120, they are told that now that costs Rs. 200. What can they do? ...*(Interruptions)*. You are Minister of Corporate Affairs. Today the Corporate sector is having a field day, and you, being the Minister, need to have a check on it. You are there to check it not to free them...*(Interruptions)*.

I would like to request the Government that there should be regular control and healthy completion so that

the big players could not rob the poor and the consumers. Unfair practices are harmful for trading. Small traders are reeling. Therefore, there is a need to implement this legislation properly.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important issue. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to certain small but important points and would take 2-3 minutes with regard to the Competition (Amendment) Bill 2009, I would like to say that the prices of petrol and diesel are different in various States. Does this matter come under the domain of the Competition Commission of India. Petrol priced is different in Rajasthan, Punjab or elsewhere say in Gujarat...*(Interruptions)*. There is a need to check this system. The price of petrol has been linked with its transportation cost, the States are levying sales tax on it. It is against the interests of petrol pump owners as well as against the interests of consumers. A tractor owner from Rajasthan has to go to Punjab to purchase petrol. The Competition Commission should look into this aspect.

Certain items, such as handicrafts should be outside the domain of the said Commission. If the handicraft items are made by the artisans, then their activity should not be within the domain of the CCI as these items are outcome of labour and personal skill of the artisans. A provision to this effect should be incorporated in the Act. Otherwise, it will put the handicrafts items and the people associated with them in trouble.

It is alright that it is era of open market consequent upon economic liberalization and reform and the role of WTO. However, when we go to any retail shop or a mall, we find abnormal retail prices of items. Though the maximum retail price of a product is stucked on the items, but, at the same time, we find another sticker showing the price of product fixed by the shopkeeper. It is so in case of pulses also. Will it come under the purview of CCI?

These 2-3 small issues I have brought to the notice of the Hon. Minister.

*[English]*

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED: I am very grateful to all the hon. Members who made very valuable suggestions and also expressed, what I believe, very honest and genuine concerns about the area of competition law.

May I just preface it, before I take up the respective suggestions that have been made, by simply saying that the hon. Members must appreciate that the competition policy and the competition law in our country is still in its infancy. We still have a great deal to do and develop in terms of our own requirements, our own inputs and our own ideas of growth with equity and justice.

We have obviously learnt from examples of the United States of America; one of the hon. Members mentioned the anti-trust legislation that has been there for many years; we have looked at Europe, we have looked at South East Asia; and we have looked at Australia. We do believe that we have a very good legislation in place. But I do want to add that this legislation is not a panacea for every problem that exists in our system and our structure.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make it clear that neither every problem of our system comes under the purview of CCI nor every problem can be solved under the provisions of the Competition Commission of India Act, 2002. Our problems include the problem of consumers also. A number of our problems will be death with by the Department of Consumer Affairs and not by the CCI. The said Department proposes to set up a regulatory authority soon.

National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, a national Commission constituted under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

The Government wanted that such type of work being looked after by MRTP commission should be assigned to the said National Commission. But that time the said Commission said that they did not have the required infrastructure. Accepting the Commission's contention if we tell the consumers that they should wait till proper infrastructure is made available to the Commission, it will not be good. In view of it, we handed over the said issues to the Appellate Tribunal. It is not that the said tribunal has no work. But, the Commission will have work only if appeals are filed with it. Once appeals are filed with the Commission, it will start hearing them. A large number of cases are at the stage of hearing with the Commission. Parties not satisfied with the judgement of the Commission shall go to Appellate Tribunal. It is not apt to say what Supreme Court is doing if the High Court fails to pronounce judgement. First, the High Courts decides the cases, then only, one can move Supreme

Court against the judgement of High Court. My friend Pinaki Mishra knows and understands the matter well. He used some words in connection with the ad-hocism and said "symptomatic of ad-hocism". So far as, the words he used for the present Government are concerned in this regard, I would say that the foundation of the said ad-hocism was laid by the government led by the party to which he himself belongs. Perhaps, the case was pending in the Supreme Court for 2-4 years. I do agree that the Supreme Court decided it in 2005, but, still why it took time. It takes time as our system is such. Apart from the issue of Competition Commission, Companies (Amendment) Bill is in the Parliament and I can't say whether it will take six months or a year to get it passed as Parliament has its own system of working. The Parliament looks into every aspect in details. The matter is referred to the Standing Committee, it considers the matter, then we prepare draft afresh and send to the Ministry of Law to the Cabinet and then, it is brought in the Parliament.

Pinaki Ji, I would welcome if you suggest us as to how the Parliament can take decisions promptly and get the laws passed soon. Therefore, it won't be appropriate to say that final results would not be achieved, not only the whole country, the whole world is watching it. Our concern was loss of so much time taken by the Supreme Court in deciding the matter. Enough could have been done in respect of the CCI during this period of time. As everything was pending because of the said decision of the Court, therefore, the Government could not appoint the required persons. And no sooner Appellate Tribunal was set up, it immediately started functioning. Now we are moving very fast in this direction. The Government desires that no inconvenience should be caused to any consumer and whatsoever cases were pending before MRTP Courts, should be disposed of expeditiously.

I am happy to apprise the House that since this Ordinance has been promulgated, at least, 30-40 cases have been disposed of by the Appellate Tribunal. I am sure that the Tribunal will be able to dispose of most of the cases, if not all, within a period of 2 years stated by us earlier. Subsequently, the Tribunal will function in its routine manner. Till the said Appellate Tribunal is not in a position to dispose of all the pending cases, entire staff, infrastructure of MRTP Commission, all its officers, Director-General, investigation staff including all others will keep working with the CCI so that there is no chance of any kind of criticism....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI PINAKI MISRA: Sir, the Hon. Minister has not given reply to the issue of merger.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: I will reply to that in English as you have asked about 'merger'.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA: Why parliament is being frustrated like this?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: No, no. I will not frustrate it, I will give a detailed reply on it.

Hon. Member Shri Majumdar ji has said that this Bill should be referred to the standing committee. I would like to tell that it is the decision of the parliament that this Bill does not require to be referred to the standing committee. As I said, it is just procedural. Only two years' period, which was given to the MRTP, has been shifted from there to the Appellate Tribunal... *(Interruptions)*.

I would like to tell the hon. Member Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji that I will convey the point raised by him in regard to consumer to the Department of Consumer Affairs and the hon. Minister. But, as far as the cost or prices are concerned, we all remain concerned that the consumers should not be exploited through unrestricted prices. But, the competition commission is not related directly to the prices, which are regulated through various departments.

*[English]*

May I just also say in this context that the issue of multiple regulators is a matter of serious consideration. We have seen different models in the world where separate prudential sectoral regulators control even competition in their own respective areas and the Competition Authority is denied jurisdiction in such cases. There are other models in which there is an overlap between the Competition Commission or the Competition Authority and the concerned sectoral regulator. There are rules of engagement. We are trying ourselves also through consultations amongst all the sectoral regulators to see what kind of accommodation, rules of engagement can be provided so that there is no multiplicity of proceedings, no clash of interest or conflict and I can assure the House that this will not be seen as a point of view of turf battles but will be seen as providing maximum facility and convenience to those people who come for justice before the Competition Commission. Of course, the Competition Commission will be necessarily concerned with issues relating to competition in specific sectors as well. Those sectors in some cases have already provision to ensure that competition is taken care of. In some cases, they do not have that facility. We will be able to

supplement and complement through the Competition Commission.

My learned friend and the hon. Member, Shri Pinaki Misra is concerned essentially about the notifications still pending Sections 5 and 6, essentially about mergers and acquisitions. I must take the House into confidence that this is an Act under which consciously and deliberately, the House ensured that provisions would be notified separately knowing fully well that a new regime was being put in place. I might explain the difference between the MRTP and this Act, as essentially like looking at a glass of water. Earlier, we used to think that the glass of water is half full. Now, we are looking at the glass of water as half empty. It could be *vice versa*. If I might briefly read out the purpose of the Act, which is in the Preamble of the Act itself, it says:

"An Act to provide, keeping in view the economic development of the country, for the establishment of a Commission, to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in the markets in India and for matters connecter therewith or incidental thereto."

So, the purpose now is not only to prohibit and restrict; but also to encourage and to regulate. The expression that we like to use now is 'enlightened regulation', so that the purpose of growth is served – that is, the Indian companies continue to grow and enhance their coverage, not only in the country, but abroad as well, across the borders as well. However, not at the cost of curtailing competition. This fundamental issue has to be understood – competition must not be curtailed; it must not be curtailed by mergers and acquisitions; it must not be curtailed by agreements between separate entities for cartelization or for controlling prices and the expression used in the Act is 'abuse of dominant position'. The issue is not whether a dominant industrial unit or a business house is actually dominating the market; the issue really is whether that dominant position is being abused in the market place.

Obviously, the presumption is that de-mergers do not automatically bring about more competition, but that mergers can be adverse to competition. This is the basic assumption under the Act.

But irrespective of whether there are mergers or there are no mergers, there would be intervention under

sections 3 and 4, if it is found that the dominant position is abused – it could be abused by cartelization, and therefore there is an effect on prices; it could be abused by bid rigging. We see bid rigging even in rural areas. Even when a road is to be built or a building is to be built under AMGSY or under any other scheme, we find that wherever there is a bid for supply of materials or services, there can be and is a real and eminent of cartelization. This Act will prevent bid rigging and cartelization.

We will take a view on mergers and acquisitions. I want to assure the hon. Member and my learned friends Shri Pinaki Mishra and Shri Nishikant Dubey. We will take a view on mergers and acquisitions. There are three issues involved in mergers and acquisition, notification. One is the concern of our industry that this might be a major set back in their efforts to grow larger. Understandably, Indian industry, in front of global multinationals is still relatively small. And therefore, we need to encourage growth. But mergers and acquisitions, *per se*, must not be assumed to be anti-competitive. Mergers and acquisitions would well be seen as enhancing competition through consolidation. Certainly there are some sectors like banking, as learned friend Shri Nishikant Dubey pointed out, where there are feelers to us saying that consolidation of banking would suffer a set back if banking is not given an exemption from the competition Act.

As you know, exemption to any sector can be given by the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PINAKI MISRA: We have the case of petroleum sector. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: We have not had any feelers from petroleum. But as I said we have had feelers from banking because that has come from the Reserve Bank – it is also a much respected regulator; for us, it is a very important regulator. We certainly have not had any feelers from petroleum, unless this is the first feeler that we are getting from petroleum. ...(*Interruptions*) Let me assure the House that even without merger and acquisition notifications under section 5 and section 6 – if there is a case of misuse or abuse of dominant position, then the law will kick in with section 3 and section 4. That would not be a problem at all.

But there are some genuine concerns, and we want to address those concerns. Those concerns come not only from people amongst the industry and business, but

also from people who are experienced in economic affairs, who give to us wisdom in the Government on how to respond to emerging modern economic trends. It is important that when we get ready to take a position on this; it must of course be a position that does not impact adversely India's growth profile in the world as an emerging economic power.'

I think that is also very essential.

I must stand corrected if I am wrong on the figures that I have given. The figures that I have officially of the pending cases are not the figures that my hon. colleague on this side of the House, Shri Sanjay Nirupam has given. He says that the figure has gone beyond 2000, to be specific 2685, but the figure which I have is much lower than that. As I said, it is about 1186 but the fact is that they are now being looked at. Hopefully, pendency will continue to drop every month as we go along.

There were issues raised about automobile, steel, cement and textile sectors. I assure the House that as the Competition Commission continues to take these cases *suo motu* or on whenever complaints come before the Competition Commission, we will get much better accountability in this country as far as competition impact is concerned.

I mentioned the models that are available on mergers and acquisitions; there are models that allow for voluntary disclosure rather than mandatory or compulsory pre-merger disclosure. That is another issue that we are looking at. At present, we believe that the better view is that there should be mandatory disclosure. We will of course, address the concern that one hon. Member mentioned about seven months being too long. We will address that concern that there should be a limited period and total confidentiality should be observed during that period. I hope that the 210 days limit would be taken care of in due course.

Hon. Member, Shri Saha said that millions of poor people are getting poorer and a small number of people are becoming millionaires. Let me just say that the Competition Commission is only one aspect of social, economic and political policy that this House approves. It comes in the form of the Budget. It comes in the form of the Prime Minister's speech regarding the state of the nation and it is the totality of our Government's approach that we speak of growth with it, growth which is of inclusive nature. We do believe that what we are doing here is itself a part of that very commitment.



Hon. Member, Shri Pinaki Misra had said that the National Commission had its investigative agency and how will the Appellate Tribunal continue to work without an investigative agency. As I said, the MRTP provisions will remain intact till such time as these cases are disposed of and all the facilities and infrastructure that was available to MRTP will also be available to the Appellate Tribunal.

Shri Majumdar has said that we have no teeth, no power. That is not the case. If we have no teeth, no power as far as the CCI is concerned, people would not be so concerned about coming under the purview of CCI. That is why efforts are obviously being made for exemptions. Our view is, let us get every sector in the purview of CCI for the present. Let us see, as we go along with experience, whether it becomes important to make an exemption. It could be on a case to case basis. It could be when we do a review some months, or years down the road. But our present view is that it is best if everybody comes under one single law rather than have exemptions that give an indication, as the hon. Member said, that the will of Parliament is being undermined. The will hon. Members may please be assured that the of Parliament will never be undermined. We just want Parliament to stand with us in this nascent stage as we provide to this country an institution that will form an invaluable part of economic growth storey and economic policy in the years to come.

There was one last question and that was about the preponderance of bureaucrats, civil servants and judges as far as tribunalisation of law is concerned. This is something that my colleague, the Law Minister would answer better. But there is a general view that the High Courts have been overburdened. The hon. Law Minister is now working on a very enlightened grid on arrears and finding ways and means through which over the next three to five years, we will become a much better adjudicated country. Nevertheless, there is a view and the Supreme Court has accepted this view that tribunalisation of justice in some specific areas of expertise and the emerging areas of economic management is advisable. That is the reason why several new tribunals have come into existence.

The selection process involves the Supreme Court as it would be a judge of the Supreme Court nominated by the Chief Justice or the Chief Justice himself. It is certainly true that we have a preponderance of civil servants but that is for the reason that the requirement for the Competition Commission is 15 years experience

in allied fields of competition, economics and administration. For the Tribunal, it is 25 years of experience. So, 15 years and 25 years of experience respectively are to be conveniently found only amongst bureaucrats. Let us not think that bureaucrats in this country are in any way less determined and committed to national welfare. We can have the best amongst all of us and we can have not the best amongst all of us. It is the purpose of the Act and the Government to ensure the best minds are available.

We do realise that whenever new legislations are introduced and whenever a reform is initiated there are doubts about the implication and the impact. I promise the House that it is our intention that over the next few months we will see this Commission not only grow but also glow and give the message to the world that India not only means business but means business in a manner which is respectable, transparent and effective in terms of translating the will of the people and the will of Parliament into something substantial and concrete.

With these words, I commend the Bill to the House for passing.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Sir, I would like to say that the number of cases stated by me is based on the information received from the Ministry. There are 211 cases under section 10A (1) of the MRTP. There are 259 cases under section 8 (3) of the MRTP. When I started counting then there were more than 2000 cases. The total number of cases under MRTP commission, which will include the cases transferred to it from the National Commission under the Consumer Protection Act, would be more than 2000 in all.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED: I would like to clarify that National Commission is not related to us as it falls under another Ministry. I will give the figures which are with me, to the hon. Member.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Competition Act, 2002, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

“That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

*The motion was adopted.*

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15.55 hrs.

**STATE BANK OF SAURASHTRA (REPEAL)  
AND THE STATE BANK OF INDIA  
(SUBSIDIARY BANKS) AMENDMENT  
BILL, 2009**

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House would now take up item no. 16 – State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State-Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I, on behalf of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, beg to move:

“That the Bill to repeal the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950 and further to amend the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, the State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 4th December, 2009 to repeal the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950 and to make consequential amendments in the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959. All shares of the State Bank of Saurashtra rests in the State Bank of India.

In view of the recent developments in the international banking scenario and for the better functioning, the State Bank of India, with the sanction of the Central Government and in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, entered into negotiations of acquiring business including the assets and liabilities of the State Bank of Saurashtra. Accordingly, the acquisition of the State Bank of Saurashtra Order 2008 was published in the Gazette of India on 13th August, 2008. After the acquisition of the State Bank of Saurashtra by the State Bank of India, the State Bank of Saurashtra ceases to exist and therefore it is necessary to repeal the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950 and to make consequential amendments in the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to repeal the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950 and further to amend the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, be taken into consideration.”

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are taking into consideration the Bill to repeal the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950 which also speaks about its merger into the State Bank of India. This is an example of big fish eating the small fish. I cannot understand this thing and I am not an expert on economic matters. In 1955, it was seen that the presence of the private banks in the rural areas was very little. And keeping this fact in mind, this Act came into force in 1959 with a view to making the local banks associate banks of the State Bank of India or bring them under its umbrella. There was a need for expansion of branches of the banks in rural areas to make the rural people or the farmers free from the grip of the private moneylenders, and nationalization had not taken place that time. But, as far as I remember, even after the Imperial Bank was made the State Bank of India, the imbalance in the development of both the rural and urban areas kept on increasing. I would like to say that in the rural areas the expansion of the banks was not taking place at the desired pace from the viewpoint of the development of the people at small places in their own states. SBI was also in the picture and then one thing emerged as how to remove this imbalance. With a view to removing this imbalance it was considered to seek the assistance of the banks having their own regional identity and the banks set up by various Riyasats in their own respective areas— be it the Bank of Travancore, Bank of Indore or State Bank of Mysore.

**16.00 hrs.**

These separate Banks used to have local interest too. There were banks which were related to the nature of the local people and their identity and they used to become partner in the local development. These banks used to take more interest in the development of their own area and the State and that is why their assistance was sought.

**16.0<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.**

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA *in the Chair*]

I think that the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Bill was introduced in the year 1959 with an objective to attach all these banks with SBI and provide them an enhanced status so that these banks could function in a better way. It was a matter of bringing these banks under SBI and there was no issue of merger at that time. It was an approach for national development and State Bank of India was functioning accordingly. This policy of national development should continue. The Act of 1959 provided for the same but not for merger. These banks were called subsidiary banks. Though the State Bank of India had an upper hand, as there were several such provisions like there would be an ex-officio chairman, these subsidiary banks would have to follow the instructions and advice of the State Bank of India, and the Reserve Bank of India would be the Supreme body. It seemed as if these subsidiary banks would have to function under the SBI, so far so good. But in my State, these six or seven banks have performed very well.

I have seen it myself and that's why I am speaking in detail because the next target is State Bank of Indore in our State. I am speaking from my heart that this bank was an identity of the State and the culture of the State. This bank was functioning under the State Bank of India and it was already decided that there would be no merger. I am speaking this because a Bill was brought in the year 2007 and was passed by the Parliament. The Bill was an amendment Bill and it provided for several things for the subsidiary banks. Now they could appoint a separate chairman and raise capital. The Bill also provided for autonomy for Board of Directors. All these provisions were made in amendment Bill. I am drawing your kind attention towards the Amendment Bill of 2007, as there was no talk of merger even at that time. On the country, provisions were made to allow these banks to flow in full measure and they were given autonomy to have their own chairman and Board of Directors for every bank.

They were also allowed to expand their business. This Bill was passed by the Parliament. I am putting stress on the fact that this Bill was passed by the Parliament, as this issue would come up further. Even here it amply proves the fact that these banks are functioning well. It is the reality. We easily identify ourselves with State Bank of Indore. I am not talking about Indore only but about the whole of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Since, once Chhattisgarh was a part of Madhya Pradesh, the people of Chhattisgarh consider State Bank of Indore as their own bank. The people do all the transactions like making investment, depositing money, taking loan from the bank and repaying the loan in this bank with a sense of attachment with this bank. These banks were expected to increase their capital investment in the rural areas. Even in this case, the credit deposit ratio of the State Bank of Indore is 115 percent, i.e. if this bank got Rs. 100, it invested Rs. 115.

On the other hand, even State Bank of India has not done so much. The percentage of SBI has been 80 percent in this regard. Apart from this, it has paid attention towards development works in several sectors. This is the story of the year 2007 and, immediately thereafter, I do not know which global factor has compelled us to think that we should have a large bank. It is alright that the global scenario has changed and we should have a big capital in our hand for giving it to big foreign industries coming to our country. But does it make any sense in merging small banks with big one for the purpose. These subsidiary banks have been engaged in promoting the rural sector and development of the State. These banks represent their respective States. This is what is expected from them. Now I would like to ask after taking all these things into consideration whether it is proper to merge these banks. What is the global standing of State Bank of India? If I am not wrong, we rank at 64th place in the world. I had heard that a meeting was held to discuss the merger of all the big banks. After this meeting it was concluded that even after merging all the banks, we can go to 50th place maximum but not to the 1st place. I have got the figures but you have also got the figures, so I am not submitting those figures here. You may compare yourself with any bank, be it Standard Chartered or Citibank. Even after merger of all the subsidiary banks, you cannot achieve your goal. The second thing, which I would like to ask, is even if the desired goal is achieved, what is the ultimate goal? If you really want to be big, you should try to merge or acquire foreign banks. But I fail to understand why are we doing so? I am unhappy about one thing as I come across a statement that no mergers would be done in

future. You have merged five banks and perhaps proposed for merger of State Bank of Indore through backdoor as happened in the case of Bank of Saurashtra. I do not know what benefit is likely to accrue to the employees as a result of the merger. I am not sure what will be the seniority of the employees of subsidiary banks after their merger with SBI and how the seniority will be decided.

I have glanced through the reports of State Bank of Saurashtra. It has under performed for the last three years rather it has been unable to perform constantly. It is not going to benefit the employees a lot. Even otherwise, the Government is not so much concerned about the welfare of employees. As of now, the Government is not envisioning the betterment of employees nor it is doing anything for the betterment of poor rural folk or farmers. It would have been better if the bank was wanting the Government to infuse more working capital for granting loans to the farmers or to small scale industries in rural areas. It was an objective behind setting up subsidiary banks. Today the bank wants to become a global player. I fail to understand if the bank does not want to become a global player then what for this all exercise. Then why the Government is doing all these exercises? In which manner it will increase bank's risk taking capacity or it will gain any kind of popularity as the hon. Minister has made a mention of creating its global presence. Just to show to the world, first they want to end up with the locals and the government is going to bring the relevance of small banks to an end. We had our own identity. I want to say about State Bank of Indore. Maharaja of Indore had set up the said bank. People were feeling that it is their own bank and the person sitting as a manager in the bank will help us in our developmental work and the bank will open a number of branches in the villages. Not only people of Madhya Pradesh, but people of Chhattisgarh also used to consider it as their own bank and they were of the view that the bank is working for their development. This sense of belongingness will come to an end now.

The employees who have the spirit of belongingness will be transferred after merger of the bank. As per the policy of the bank an employee is transferred from one place on the completion of three years tenure. Everyone is ready to move as they are expecting their transfer. The Government is not only displacing but destabilising the people of Gujarat. Employees working mentality will be adversely affected. It will not have required stability. If it is likely to affect the values then the Government should reconsider the issue of merger. The Government carried out an amendment in 2007 and now it is taking a

U turn. The basic objective of merger is not proving successful as the government has already said that it is not going to merge the remaining five banks. This kind of statement indicates that the issue of merger has been deferred and through the said merger the Government can't give a global look to its banks. And it is not going to be beneficial as many large banks in the world have fallen prey to bankruptcy and very large entities can't handle themselves so easily. If the Government does not want to merge the remaining five banks then I think it a deviation from earlier stand. If it is so, then since the said legislation was enacted by the Parliament, therefore, the proposal of merger of banks also should have been brought before the Parliament for consideration, but it was not brought. He said that entire formalities have been completed and the word 'Bank of Saurashtra' will no longer be used, therefore, the amendment bill has been brought. This law was enacted in 1959 by the Parliament and merger has been done through the Act of 2007. In view of it, the amendment also should have been carried out by the Parliament itself. Why the Government is taking a wrong step and in disguised manner? Such step should not be taken. A proposal for merger should have been brought to the Parliament for consideration but it was not done so. Therefore, I oppose it.

Secondly, the Government could not achieve the desired objective through merger. The Government could not achieve the capital adequacy of SBI, in which it was proposed to be merged. The Minister is not able to understand this aspect. If it is so, then the government won't go in for merger of remaining five banks. Then why merger of State Bank of Indore and State Bank of Saurashtra only? The Government should seriously ponder over it. What I mean is that this style of functioning is dictatorial with regard to State Bank of Indore, I have observed that without any prior information, one fine morning a proposal for merger is put before executives and it gets the nod straightaway. The merger proposal gets passed so simply. At the same time similarly proposal is put for merger of State Bank of Indore. The proposal is cleared by the RBI and SBI. There seems to be something messy in it. My submission is that our banking system should not have such flaws. The local people have their own sentiments and they maintain a cultural identity. Banking is not merely transaction of money. If the Minister thinks that it is a system of banking only then it can never prosper. The banks must have intimacy with the people. If banks are merely money transaction machines like ATMs, then put ATMs everywhere. But it is not so. There are banks which have their regional identity

and the society or culture of that particular region is linked with such banks in one or the other way. The Government expects the banks to reach each village and to get the banks associated with the development of that region. The Government chalks out schemes for the development and the regional banks are doing the same development work. My submission is that the Government should reconsider these all aspects afresh. If you have brought this matter to the House just for namesake then I feel it is disregard to the House. I beg your pardon, the word. I am using because I feel the issue of merger of banks, should have come up for debate before the House before the merger took place. I feel so and tell me if I am wrong. The said bill has been passed by the Parliament. The said Act of 1959 was enacted by the Parliament and the amendment of 2007 was also carried out by the Parliament. Why that amendment was carried out them? After everything is over, merger has taken place, they come to the Parliament which is absolutely wrong. My submission is that I have made these 2-3 points, further I do not want to make a lengthy speech. To sum up, the proposal the Minister has brought is inappropriate. I do not know, but so far as my information is concerned, even the employees of State Bank of Saurashtra had opposed it. So far as the State Banks of Indore's merger is concerned, I opposed it also. My further submission is that at least the Government should take note of it and not bring such proposals in future.

*[English]*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Thrissur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you forgiving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. I rise to support the State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill moved by the Hon. Minister Shri Meena.

While supporting this Bill, I would like to mention certain things related to this Bill. I have been listening with great interest to understand what Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan was trying to make out. I probably thought that this being, as it was said in the earlier discussion by Shri Pinaki Misra – an innocuous piece of legislation, so this will receive the attention or support of the different sections of the House. Even though I failed to grasp what exactly was the difference that Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan was trying to make out, yet I am happy that they are now seems to be concerned about the rural areas, farmers and the poor people. Normally, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan's Party is concerned about the *Mandir* and *Masjid* only....*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: That is what you always feel and not we. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: At least now, they are showing concern about the rural areas and the poor people. I think I must appreciate Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: You make the poor the poorest! ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: This Bill has come before this House. Maybe, any hon. member in this House has got the opportunity or the right to say that this should have been presented in the House first before the ordinance was issued.

We have to understand how this merger has taken place. The fact is that the merger has taken place. How did this merger take place? The State Bank of Saurashtra was formed under the State Bank of Saurashtra Act of 1950. Subsequently, in 1959, the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act was also passed. Both these Acts were passed by this Parliament only. But now acquisitions and mergers are the order of the day. We know that not only in banking companies, but generally in all companies acquisitions and mergers are taking place. Sumitrajai will also agree that all these acquisitions and mergers are happening because of the changed scenario in the whole world. Science and Technology has developed to a stage that today the world is a global village. It is not that we are ignoring the poor and it is not that we are not concerned about the rural people or the farmers. The technological explosion has made the whole world into a global village. So, competition is important now. What do you mean by 'competition'? There is a competitive atmosphere in the whole world. We cannot shy away from that. We have to compete with all the big banks in the world, not with the big banks in India. We have a very good set up in the banking sector. We should compliment the Indian banking system and the control imposed by the Reserve Bank of India.

Sir, the beauty of our democracy is that when there is nationalisation, then there is opposition and when there is denationalisation then also there is opposition. It is good also because unlike in many other countries, in our democracy we have the maximum freedom and so everybody can criticise.

Coming to the subject, I would like to say that when banks are competing in the international field, we should

also have a State Bank of India which is as big or as competitive as that of any big bank in the world. Should we not have a big bank of international size? There are some apprehensions. Sumitraji also mentioned about the issue of the failure of some of the big banks in the world. This is there in the back of my mind also. Banks like Lehman Brothers, AIG, Merrill Lynch etc., have failed. Too big does not give any guarantee that it will not fail. How a bank is functioning, under what control, under what guidance, that is more important.

There is a background, there is a history to the banking sector in this country. We remember the days when all the banks in this country belonged to the business groups. Bank of India was Tata's Bank, United Commercial Bank was Birla's Bank etc. belonged to big business groups. There was a time when all the big banks were owned by the big business houses in the country. How did they become national banks? How did they become people's banks? I remember the days as a student activist in 1969 when Indiraji nationalised the banks in India. We all took out torch light processions in the streets supporting it. In those days also, some parties looked at it with an element of doubt and said that it is a populist measure. So there were some criticisms. But the nationalised banks, as a whole, in the country were made people's banks and this was done by Indiraji in 1969. That is the greatest achievement of the Congress Party.

What happened after that? The banks have started growing. Today, as mentioned, banks are spreading into rural areas. Today, there is a bank branch for every 10,000 people. This is has to be expanded further. I am sure that most of the Members of this House, by the grace of God, will have the privilege to see the India after 15 years. What are we envisaging? We want that every Indian should have a bank account. We should reach that level. I know that there is poverty in the rural areas. Keeping that in mind, I think, social transformation is required. Nobody can stop that. A day will come when every Indian will have a bank account and above poverty line.

So, banks are spreading in such a way that today, after nationalisation, banking services are available throughout the country. State Bank of Saurashtra, State Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Mysore, all these are subsidiary banks. Even in the instant case, the Board of Directors of the State Bank of Saurashtra met and considered the offer made by the State Bank of India. The State Bank of India in its Board decided to make a

negotiation. They obtained the order from the Government of India; they had the sanction of the Reserve Bank of India. I do not understand what was circumvented, what was overtaken, what was by-passed. For the sake of difference, you can make a difference, but I know whether they have observed the rules of the game. They observed the permission from Reserve Bank, then the Government of India, then they negotiated and they made an offer. The State of Saurashtra could have very well rejected that. Nobody was forcing them saying that you should accept this. The Government of India did not say that. The Reserve Bank did not say that. The Bank of Saurashtra, in its wisdom, in its Board of Directors, has decided that here is an offer we will accept it.

I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon'ble members that today any service conditions in the State Bank of India are far better than any other subsidiary banks. We are all living in the same country. I would request everyone not to get unnecessarily worried about this kind of organisational arrangement which is going to take place. Why should we see this with a pinch of salt? Is it really necessary, when it is strengthened, when this country is going to have a bank which can compete with any big bank of the world?

Today big business people or investors are coming to this country. Their requirement or even the requirement of the poorest of the poor in the village or the ordinary farmer, all this can be catered to. It depends on the size. Our capacity to compete with big banks does not mean that we are ignoring the rural people, we are ignoring the villagers or ignoring the farmers. The fact remains that this was done after observing all the rules.

Today, what is the necessity? As said by the hon. Minister, the Bank of Saurashtra is no more there. On the 13th of August 2008, as per the order issued by the Government of India, the Bank of Saurashtra is merged with SBI. Still, Sumitra Ji is saying that this should be withdrawn. I would like to bring to her notice that it is not there. So, the Bill is to be passed.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: That is why I have said beeb brought before merger.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Yes, there is a logic in that. It should have been done earlier. I agree with that.

But the point is that, it is with the full understanding and full discussion, full consent that both banks come together, they obtained the permission of the Government

and they come together in the larger interest of the country, in the larger interest of the banking industry as a whole and today they are emerging as a bigger bank, stronger bank capable to cater to the ordinary man and capable to cater to the international business as well and to take care of the interest of this country's future. So, in that kind of a situation this Bill is essential and to be accepted. Since the State Bank of Saurashtra is not there, the repeal of the Bill is one part of that.

The twin objectives are one is to repeal and the other is amendment. Amendment is because the subsidiary Bank of Saurashtra does not exist so whatever was referred to in terms of Bank of Saurashtra is to be deleted. Probably, with all the differences in approaches and ideology, this is something where we can give and lend our support together.

But at the same time, there are certain apprehensions. I want to, of course, share with some of the apprehensions expressed by my hon. colleagues. The question is that merely becoming big in size does not mean that it is stable because in the international scenario we see certain things. Certain dangers are lurking. So, here there is a system where the Central Bank of India, that is, the Reserve Bank of India has got a very effective control on the banking system in this country. Whether it is an ordinary scheduled bank in a village or the State Bank of India, every bank is guided by the rules, regulations, restrictions, etc. of the Central Bank of India, that is, the Reserve Bank of India. Today, nobody's money is at risk.

Lehman Bank had a crisis or Merrill Lynch had a crisis. But what is the difference of the Indian banking system? One thing is certain that a single penny of any Indian which is in any bank in India is hundred per cent safe and guaranteed. No bank in India will be a flop. It is because of the control of the Reserve Bank of India. So, it is under the guidance of the Reserve Bank of India that these banks have come together and they are now merging and coming together and these kinds of mergers may become necessary, for other general banks also.

What are we attaining and what are we achieving? Definitely it is more competency and more capability to survive in the given situation. But, at the same time, international monetary crisis and international financial crisis have happened. It is a rare occurrence of the recent past. That should always be a reminder to us. If the system of control is not effective and not proper and if

everything is left to the market forces or the private sector or whatever it is, as many people are advocating, then probably which has happened to many of the international banks would be lost, and it is an example before us. I am sure that this will not happen in India because effective control is available in this country. But, at the same time, Sir, today three trillion US dollars were extended by international community to salvage the international banking system after they had collapsed. It is almost three times of India's GDP. It is a huge amount of money which was pumped to save the international banks which had. That shows that in the banking system, the controls and restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India and the controls by the Government are giving the protection to Indian banks as never before, and these are not seen in many other countries.

The fact is that when we are strengthening the banks, we should also be very much aware of our social responsibilities. When the banks are growing bigger and stronger, it does not mean that it is for catering to the big business people and forgetting the common man. Even today, whether it is the ordinary farmer's loan or whether it is the education loan extended to meritorious students or whether it is the loan to the trader or anything for that matter, the Indian banks are capable of catering to these sections because of the resources available to them and because the resources that are available in this country are utilized in a very judicious manner. So, Sir, here we are strengthening the banks to cater to the poor. If that is the slogan, then where is the doubt? We need not have any apprehension on this score.

So, I think, probably there is nothing reasonable or logical to oppose this Bill being passed here. This kind of a situation gives us an opportunity to look a little deeper into the banking scenario, and also see whether the requirements of the people or whether the services as desired by the Government or whether the policies declared by the Government are available to the people.

Sir, the other day, in this august House, there was a question asked about the facilities or the services available to the people from the banks, and also the review being done by the Government. The fact remains that those who are at the helm should think that every pie that is available in the Indian banks belongs to the people of this country. If their welfare is not taken care of by the banks as a whole, then they do not have the legal right to exist.

Sir, probably, our banks are now developing as a model for the whole world. When the banking industry all over the world is failing, the Indian banking system is faring well, and it is proving as a model and an inspiration to the whole world.

The State Bank of Saurashtra has been merged. There is one thing, that is, about the sentiment. It is said that the State Bank of Saurashtra is a sentiment for some Member; the State Bank of Indore is a sentiment for Sumitra ji; the State Bank of Travancore is a sentiment for me; and the State Bank of Mysore is a sentiment for some Member. So, the sentiment is important. But, at the same time, the State Bank of India is a sentiment for the whole of India, and as a member of the biggest Opposition Party, she should rise up to that level. When it is the sentiment of Saurashtra, it is the sentiment of India also...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: There is the Bank of Tranvancore also...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: I feel proud when I hear Tranvancore. But at the same time I can be equally proud when hear India also.

Sir, the point is that every inch of this country belongs to India. There is a Tranvancore, there is an Indore, there is a Saurashtra, and there is an India as a whole. That India is more important to us. Today, we are getting a bank, a bigger bank, a competent bank, a capable bank, which can cater to the growing economy of our country. Look at our rate of growth today. Even in a crisis situation all over the world, India has achieved almost 6.8 per cent rate of growth. The rate at which we are growing today, it is another 10 years time – whatever may be the prophesy of the prophets of Doom – that India is going to emerge as a big economy, a powerful economy. For that kind of a situation, we need a supporting mechanism.

Therefore, to help the growth of this economy, a strong and vibrant banking system is necessary. What had happened in the past is history. But, we are looking for the future, now. There are so many banks, like the Scheduled Banks, Commercial Banks, nationalized banks and foreign banks. Hundreds of banks are there. Banks are doing very well in India. Even the small banks are also doing very well. Take for example, the growth of deposits, the case of Non Performing Assets. In all these

parameters, Indian banks are emerging as a model in the whole world. Forget the subsidiaries of the State Banks, the profitability of even the smaller banks is increasing. Their NPA is coming down. Their deposit is increasing. They are catering to the poorer sections of the society.

But the fact remains that mergers and amalgamations cannot be ruled out because that is all part of the present day scenario. It is a fact that the banks, even though the smaller banks, are working well because of the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India. But at the same time, with the same guidelines and same control remaining there, the smaller banks are coming together. That is why the Government of India is now encouraging amalgamations and acquisitions. This all has got a very clear roadmap. There is no ambiguity about it. It is not that anybody is doing things at the back of somebody and after doing everything, they are coming to the Parliament. It is all very transparent. It is all according to the norms and guidelines that all these things are being done.

Sir, today, probably, it is another historic moment. In 1969, banks were nationalized. Now, people are asking that earlier we got nationalization of banks; and now it is all privatization. It is continuity in a chain. It is because the world is changing. You cannot remain where you were, like our Communist friends are doing. They are still living in the past; they are still living 50 years back or 100 years back. We cannot remain like that. The whole society is moving; the whole world is moving. So, we have to move with the world. In that kind of a situation, probably, this is an unavoidable reform, which this Parliament has to give consent to.

Probably, the place we are coming from, a bank with that local name, always gives some kind of an identity or inspiration. But seeing the growth of this country, seeing the growth of this economy, and seeing the way our banks are propelling this growth, we need big banks. That kind of a situation is needed. It is a welcome thing that these kinds of mergers are taking place.

Now, both the repeal of the Saurashtra Bank Act and the Amendment in the State Bank of India Subsidiary Act are done. So, instead of taking a negative and pessimistic approach to the whole question whenever it is coming, let us, with optimism, wait and see, how it is going to emerge. It should not be our approach: "Let us all oppose it because it is brought from the Government side."



So, with optimism, with confidence and with great vision for our future, let us hope an India without poverty, an India where the entire population is above poverty line, An India of the dreams of Rajiv Gandhi. Those days are going to come. In that kind of a situation, this merger will help to have social transformation in a big way.

Therefore, Sir, I wholeheartedly support this Bill and I feel that this is a necessity. In spite of minor or technical opposition, I hope that the entire House would support this Bill. I congratulate the hon. Minister, Shri Meena ji, for brining forward this Bill for consideration of the House.

With these few words, I conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity of speaking on the State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009. The hon. Minister started a few things before placing this Bill. As Chacko Saheb just said, we were very young, we were still in school in 1969 when the nationalization of banks was done. When nationalisation of banks was done by late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, it indeed was a revolutionary step geared to empower the poor who would get help from these banks. It was thought that the poor would be able to get help from these banks and advance themselves. I think this must have been the thought behind the nationalization of banks by the late Prime Minister. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta had put across his opinion regarding the merger of banks in great detail in the House during the calling attention motion last week. I had also listened to him in the House. While replying the leader of the House, hon. Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said that the government had nothing to do with either the merger or the acquisition of banks. RBI and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) together take the decisions regarding merger or acquisition of banks face same problem. Bank officers and staff have also been known to have gone on strike against such mergers quite a few times. Statewide strikes have been initiated against such a step in Patna, Orissa, Rourkela etc.

I clearly remember touring various states as a member of the Committee of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice. Public and private banks, both had been inspected and statements taken from them. We had taken steps to identify the banks which were giving the best performance. We were checking whether

the banks and adopted the reservation policy properly, whether information was being provided under RTI, whether the welfare works related to these banks were being carried out properly as well as the extent to which the banks were customer-friendly. I think Geeteji is well aware of this fact.

My sister Sumitra Mahajanji has discussed this topic in great detail. She apprehends that it is Saurashtra's turn today, it will be followed by Indore and Travancore and Mysore Banks. There are a number of banks which are in a very good position individually. As she said, customers feel an emotional attachment and get a feeling of ownership regarding regional banks especially if the bank carries the name of their state. They feel that the bank is offering them better services and they can get loans easily from these banks. They don't face any problems there. They get all these facilities in these banks. Then what is the problem? Only the officers of these banks can tell why the need for merger has arisen or why they want a merger.

It has been envisioned at the time of nationalization of banks that it would prove to be helpful for the common man, ensure participation of general public and that if the public invested in the banks, it would help in raising its standard of living. There are a number of industries, small enterprises which take loans from these banks to run their business. They not only earn their livelihood from these business but also provide employment opportunities to the local populace. All these things matter. As far as the issue of functioning of banks and their merger is concerned, the Finance Minister had started in the course of the Calling Attention Motion in the House that the government is not concerned with these issues. RBI, SEBI or the management of the bank concerned would know the reasons behind taking the decision. The government is merely an onlooker. But he cannot shrug-off responsibility in this manner. In my view, the government has a huge responsibility. A Finance Minister has RBI, SEBI and all the banks under his control. The banks which are registered and also work under semi-government agencies are connected with the government in every manner. Hence, it is also the responsibility of the government to ensure that the very existence of banks which had provided facilities to people in small places by opening their branches is not endangered. The public should not feel that it is being deprived of the services being provided by banks earlier. Such things crop up. We also discuss customer care in the House some-times. We also talk about farmers and the ordinary consumers. Every Member of Parliament talks about safeguarding the

interests of these people and the government have to take the initiative in this regard. That is why it will have to intervene in this matter. Today it is the turn of Saurashtra, tomorrow it could be another bank. If this happens then any step should be taken in consultation with the employees of the bank and the local populace.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to conclude here. I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): Hon. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the State bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009. A bank is the most reliable institution for people for monetary transactions and loans. Consumers or customers form a kind of relationship with their banks. The development and expansion of banking services in rural areas from where we hail, has benefits provided directly to the people and it is definitely an achievement for the society and the country. But there is another side to this issue.

Sumitra Mahajanji presented her views a short while ago. Chacko Saheb had also given his opinion. We listened to them carefully. The State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill put up in the House after the merger should have been brought before the said step was taken. It is true that ours is a very big country. We are connected to our State and regional area. The banks were constituted in the name of the regions where they are situated and people get emotionally attached to them. I belong to Bhadohi situated between Varanasi and Allahabad. The bank there is Allahabad Bank. It used to be called the Benaras State bank earlier. It was merged due to certain reasons. But the consumers had emotional attachment to these banks and were much more confident about depositing their money or taking loans from these banks. In those days, there were a number of small banks which some times failed or went bankrupt. At that time, when the erstwhile Prime Minister late Indira Gandhiji nationalized the bank in 1969, it sent a positive message to the country and people were reassured about the banks which had gone bankrupt or failed. But there is a certain mechanism that comes into play after such a proposal. As Sumitra Mahajan ji said that when smaller banks are absorbed into a bigger entity, that entity should make itself invulnerable otherwise the loss would be of a much greater magnitude. In fact the Bill should have been brought before the merger. There should be a proper mechanism to ensure this.

I support the Bill brought by you.

[*English*]

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Chennai North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill.

Madam spoke about the difficulties faced by the customers of the banks, and the sentiments attached to the name of the bank. Our hon. colleague, Shri P. C. Chacko, took us down the memory lane regarding 1969, and showed us how they were celebrating the event of nationalization of the banks. Last week, the hon. Finance Minister while replying to a Calling Attention Motion said that the Government has no role to play in the merger of any bank, and it is for the management of the bank to decide on the issue of merger.

The State Bank of Saurashtra has decided to merge with the State Bank of India. The question now before us is this. The State Bank of India is a Government bank and it is not a nationalised bank, and the State Bank of Saurashtra is also a Government bank and not a nationalised bank or a private bank. A nationalised bank is merging with a nationalised bank. Why should it choose to merge? Is it the failure of the management or do they any other reason for doing it? I can understand if a private bank is merged with a nationalised bank or a private bank is nationalised by the Government. The question now is that the management decided about the merger, but the role of the employees and the role of the customers were not taken into account. Hence, the interest of the employees may not be protected in this.

As Shri P. C. Chacko also mentioned earlier that it is over now as the State Bank of Saurashtra is merged with the State Bank of India, but in future, if a question of merger comes before the Government, then the first step of the Government — if it is a nationalised bank or a Government bank — is not to accept the proposal. You can change the management as it may be because of the failure of the management, and it may be because of the mis-management that the management wants to merge with another bank. How can the management decide to merge with some other bank without taking into consideration the employees of the bank; without taking into consideration the customers, who are going to the bank; and who are used to go to that bank? How can the management decide to merge with some other bank? It is not fair. It is not a private bank, it is a Government bank.

While I support the Bill because it is already over, I wish to state that when a bank decides to merge with another bank, the Government of India should take utmost care. As a first step, I would suggest that the management should be changed and somebody else should take over so that at least the new group tries to stabilize the bank. Merger is not always welcome; merger is not in the interest of the employees; and merger is not always in the interest of the customers.

My friend, Mr. P.C. Chacko, was talking about the banks in other countries which had failed. Those banks failed because they were not Government banks; they were private banks. Here, the Reserve Bank of India has a number of controls, like the SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio), which has to be maintained by the commercial banks in India. It is the Government, and I appreciate the Government, for controlling the banks, for ensuring that the public money is safe, and for having provisions to protect the public money.

At the same time, a merger may lead to many apprehensions. A merger may create doubts in the minds of the people, that too particularly when a Government bank is merged with some other bank. It may create many doubts in the minds of the people. Having all these things in mind, I request the hon. Minister to see that when a question of merger comes, the Government takes utmost care.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Attingal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I oppose the State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009. With due respect to late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi Ji, I oppose the Bill. Some of my colleagues senior to me, I understand, think that some of the banks failed just because they are small. Many of the banks even in the United States failed. We know their names – the Lehman Brothers, AIG, Merrill Lynch, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Bear Stearns – and they were not small banks. They were very big banks. They had a very long history. This Bill which has been introduced in this august House has a hidden agenda, I fear. That hidden agenda is to consolidate the public sector banks into a monolith, and that monolith or that monopoly is being created with the sole purpose of privatization of the whole banking industry in India. I have a genuine fear that this has such a hidden agenda and hence I oppose this Bill.

The State Bank of India has seven associate banks in its fold. If this Bill is being passed, then the remaining banks will be six. Bank of Saurashtra had more than 460 branches, deposits worth Rs. 15,804 crore, and as per the latest accounts, the 2006-07 figures, it had given advances to the tune of Rs. 11,081 crore. Now, some other banks are in the queue. What will be the fate of the State Bank of Mysore? What will be the fate of the State Bank of Indore? What will be the fate of the State Bank of Travancore, the very Bank of the State of Kerala from where hon. Chacko, myself and some of my colleagues, both in the Treasury Benches as well as in the Opposition, come? It is our Bank. Now, there is a tendency to snatch away that Bank, just like these other banks are being snatched away.

My humble request to the Government of India, through you, Sir, is do not touch the butcher's knife to cut these banks, our banks, which have the local flavour.

**17.00 hrs.**

They are the States' entity; they are the States' icon. Do not touch them. Let it be there. These banks are working in profits; these banks are working very efficiently. For whose purpose, for whose benefit these are being merged into? Now, there is an urge for merger and for whom? Is it for the benefit of the employees? No, Sir. Is it for the benefit of the shareholders? No, Sir. Is it for the benefit of the customers? No, Sir.

Let me tell you a sad story. Quite recently, we had heard and even in this august House there was a discussion regarding the State Bank of India, who showed some discrimination towards women. That has happened in the State Bank of India itself. I do not take much time. These banks have a social responsibility. These social responsibilities should be fulfilled to create a large bank. Some of my friends, I feel, are under the impression that what we, at present, need is a large bank so that we can put it in a show-case to the world. They think that globalization is the medicine. No, Sir. We are standing on this land. The Father of the Nation had worked for the benefit of the man of the lowest strata. Now the banks' branches in the rural areas are going to be closed down. Un-banked areas are going to remain un-banked. We know the history of one private bank in India called the ICICI Bank. That Bank was saved just because a public sector bank called the State Bank of India was here and the Government of India also intervened for its rescue. My humble submission is that do not go after some Western countries that have followed wrong policies

and their banking systems crumbled. So, here this Bill deserves strong opposition not only from the Members of Parliament but also from the general public.

I would conclude my speech by giving one or two examples. On this December 16, a section of the bank employees are going on a strike. They are against the merger and so they are going on a strike on 16th December. Before concluding, I would like to invite the attention, through you, of the hon. Minister to please revive the Banking Service Recruitment Board, which was abolished after 1990s. Now the banks have the freedom to recruit their staff according to their whims and fancies. It lacks the transparency. Even the Federal Bank has shown that out of the 647 people selected after interview, only 80 people were from the women folk. That is the discrimination the banks, from the private sector as well as the public sector have shown towards the women folk. With this, I oppose the Bill.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I stand here today to deliberate on the State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009. It was in the month of November on 19th, a news item appeared in a newspaper published from Hyderabad. It categorically stated that the Union Finance Ministry has gone into a huddle with the leading public sector undertaking bankers to explore the possibility of creating a few large banks through mergers and acquisitions. It also further said that the heads of five State run major banks, that is, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Union Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce attended the meeting called by Additional Secretary, on Wednesday night.

While going through the statement which the Finance Minister had very categorically made around six months back, the Finance Minister has put weight behind consolidation of banks stating that this may be necessary to improve the state of competitiveness of Indian banks globally and also to reduce the risk to financial stability. And what happened after this statement? The stock markets cheered the Finance Minister's talk on consolidation with many public sector banks' stock recording a surge and closing the day with more than three per cent gains over the previous day's close.

17.06 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

As my colleague before me was questioning here, who feels elated when consolidation of banks takes place?

It is not the people who man the bank! It is not the customers for whom actually the banks function! It is the stock exchanges and those who invest in them that feel very elated. That is why the stock markets cheered the Finance Minister's decision or deliberation.

How did all this happen? Who initiated this? I remember that some years back when Mr. Leeladhar was heading the Indian Banks' Association'— it is an 'association of bankers - a Committee was formed. That Committee first initiated this idea saying that now is the time that consolidation of a number of banks occurred in the country. The basic question is why is it necessary? Does it help our financial mechanism in the country, help our customers, our people, and our finances?

Very recently Dr. K.C. Chakrabarty, who was Chairman & Managing Director of a bank, has become a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. What did he say? He has very categorically stated very recently, last month, that time is not ripe for mergers. What should we understand from this? I would like to get an answer to this from the Minister. Does the RBI differ with the Government on the issue of merger of banks? When a Deputy Governor of the RBI, with many years of banking experience, comes out with a statement like that, should we say that the RBI is not in favour of mergers. "We have very few dominant players and consolidation will enhance the problem. Financial inclusion is more important than consolidation". That was what Dr. Chakrabarty had said.

What do we understand by financial inclusion? We have heard about the bank nationalisation of 1969. Banks have merged before nationalisation of banks. Banks have merged after nationalisation of banks. As has been very rightly stated by a DMK Member, when a bank is sinking the bonus lies with the Government to help that bank out. So, the national bank is provided support to take over that bank to help the customers and the people at large of that area. When a bank is sinking, this type of support is necessary and merger takes place as it has happened relating to one Bank in Punjab when Global Trust Bank merged with it. Mergers have taken place between two or some private banks with nationalised banks, but here the merger is taking place between the subsidiary with the State Bank of India. Both these banks – SBI is a national bank and State Bank of Saurashtra is a subsidiary of SBI – are running in profit.

As I understand, banks are merged since 1959. There was a Bank of Bihar which merged with State Bank of

India in 1959; National Bank of Lahore merged with State Bank of India in 1970. It is not that this is the first bank which is merging with SBI. There were a number of banks which merged with SBI. These banks, subsidiary banks, have a history of their own. These banks were created when feudal States were there and now, we do not have a State called Saurashtra; we do not have a State called Indore but Indore is there and it has its own history behind it.

There is a Bank of Cochin which has merged with State Bank of India; New Bank of India also merged with Punjab National Bank in 1993; Punjab Cooperative Bank merged with Oriental Bank of Commerce in 1997; Sikkim Bank Limited merged with Union Bank in 1999. So also the bank about which I was mentioning, Global Trust Bank merged with Oriental Bank of Commerce in 2004.

When this idea was floated it was during the UPA regime in the earlier *avatar* in 2004, as far as I remember, in August, the then Finance Minister very categorically stated that public sector banks would be encouraged to merge. I would like to understand: Is this the policy of the present Government that you will encourage the public sector banks to merge? At that time, the Finance Minister had stated that the Government would provide tax incentives for profitable public sector banks that merge. Mr. Chidambaram had said: "It was important that the public sector banks should grow in scale and muscle."

A number of banks are in the pipeline to be merged. Very recently, I remember, one of the Chairmen saying specially the IDBI Chairman that I am in the look out for two banks whom we are in the process of merging them. I am not going to state which are those banks. That is what the Chairman said. But it is in the pipeline and it may be taken up for merger. This only reminds us or we should remember as to what the Deputy Governor of RBI has said that is not the right time to have a merge. But I have certain questions here. At one point of time, I think the last year, the Chairman of SBI has very categorically said that we are in the process of merging SBI of Saurashtra, SBI of Hyderabad, SBI of Indore, SBI of Patiala and SBI of Mysore with SBI. We know that SBI is a very big bank for us in our country. In the global situation, it has its own position. It is a national bank, but by merging these banks with the SBI, a question needs to be answered – are you going to maintain the same branches and expand those branches in those areas as SBI? Already consolidation has taken place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: When in SBI, the Government is lowering its stake, what would be the position of stakes of these subsidiary banks? I do not know whether SBI Saurashtra is listed; SBI is listed; if SBI Saurashtra is not listed, how it is going to help consolidation and merger?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would say that I am not against merger of banks *per se*. But I would only remind the Government that when two organizations merge, a lot of activities have to take place so that both the personnel and the clients get the same service which they were getting in a smaller bank. That is very much required. I am not aware, whether SBI Saurashtra's interest has been taken care of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. The next speaker is Shri Jagdanand Singh.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would conclude by saying this – merger as such is not a bad idea; going in a very big way in a global scale, is not at all a bad idea, but at the same time, I would also remind the Government that when a merger takes place, let us not carry a weaker-link with another one – of course, SBI Saurashtra is not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jagdanand Singh.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: But my question still remains – what is going to happen to other four subsidiaries? Do you have a time-frame for the mergers of those banks?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only Shri Jagdanand Singh's speech will go on record. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)...\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before Shri Jagdanand Singh starts, I want to tell all the hon. Members not to take more than five minutes. There are seven more Members to participate in this.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and State Bank of India subsidiary (Amendment) Bill 2009. I do not want to go into technical aspects of the issue. Bihar is an example of the way in which

country's large size banks are creating regional imbalance. The Minister of Finance says that the government has no concern with the said merger. On the contrary, Additional Secretary, the Department of Finance, convened a meeting of all the large banks and not tried to create opinion in favour of merger but also tried to pressurize them. I want to say that the Narsinghman Committee has recommended that large Indian banks should be merged and only 3-4 large players should operate in the country. I would like to remind that the banks were nationalized with a view to ensure social responsibilities of these financial institutions. Now why the question of merger arises? The intention behind the merge is for rapid growth in GDP and to make these merged entities capable of competing with other large banks the world over and so that these banks can grant huge amount of loan to big corporate houses. The question is: whether all the policies in the country will be framed to benefit only 1000-2000 corporate houses? Will the government expand our financial institutions for them? Will the government also ever think of common men facing a number of difficulties in various parts of our country?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to put a question in the form of an example before you. The nationalized banks of Bihar have plenty of cash deposited with them and their main objective was to protect the people from old money laundering system. But what is CD ratio in Bihar today? If these large banks provide loans to big shots and large corporate houses then what shall be the plight of common men, comprising 90 per cent of our population, who need small amount of loans and total amount of loans granted has not swelled because of small loans but because of hefty amount of loans granted to large corporate houses. We are in perplexity as there is nothing new in the said bill. The bill has been brought to put a seal on what has already been done, say, for example the State Bank of Saurashtra ceases to exist as it has been merged into State Bank of India. However, it may become a large entity in this way. But what shall be its consequence, as a regional bank, which was subsidiary of SBI, where local people used to deposit their money and take loans, does not exist and the new entity will only think of big. The said bank is no more concerned about our backward areas, where people are quite poor. If the government keeps on expanding the size of the banks through merger mode, keeping commercial aspects in mind and overlooking their social responsibility, then I feel it creates more regional imbalances, for these banks mobilize deposits from elsewhere and provide loans to rich people or large

corporate houses. Now question arises whether these financial institutions should be expanded so that they could collect small deposits and provide money thus collected as loan to large corporate houses and create more regional imbalances? There is no purpose in merging banks so that they could compete with other banks in the world.

Sir, the banks, which were small earlier have grown into large banks, now, in our country. And these banks have become larger by dint of their hard work, good business and management and not by virtue of merger. If the banks want to grow bigger they will have to create their good reputation and bankability and should not depend on merger. I would like to make one point. Ulterior motive behind this move is that since there is corruption in all the banks, no matter how larger they become in size after merger, Corruption will gradually erode the transparency in their working because the larger size of the banks will hide the corruption and mis-management prevailing in them.

In the end, I would say that since the bill has been brought and as we support the government technically we ought to support the bill. However, the government has decided to adopt the policy of merger and create big banks, whereas, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had resorted to nationalization of banks in the interests of common man as those day also banks were soft in granting loans to the rich people and common man were not getting loans from these banks for carrying out commercial activities. In view of it, the government took control of the said banks through nationalization so that the money deposited by the public is made available for use by them. With this objective the government resorted to nationalization. Now in exact contrast to it, it is being done to benefit large commercial establishment and to boost GTP growth and not for making a common man economically better. The government will have to make our banks realize their social obligations. We cannot project something big before the public only by enacting rules or laws for merger of banks. I think our policy of nationalization is moving in reverse direction. It should be checked and the government should pay attention for narrowing the widening gap in our credit and deposit ratio resulting in regional imbalances.

The amount deposited in Banks in Bihar which is a poor state with quite low GDP growth, is granted as loan elsewhere to the large corporate houses, which means non-fulfillment of social obligation towards the common man by these banks.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I support the bill.

*[English]*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I stand not to support but to oppose the State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009.

Sir, I can just recollect the speech of the hon. Prime Minister in this august House. He made a statement with regard to the global economic recession and he made a comment that the banking system of our country is not weak and that we are proud of our banking system. He also said that the Indian banking system is very strong. At that time, I understood that he is certifying the banking system of our country. But all of a sudden, on 10th June, it appeared in the newspapers that our hon. Finance Minister made a statement in favour of consolidation of banks. He said that it is necessary and that it is urgently needed to consolidate all the banks to improve the standard of competitiveness of Indian banks globally and also to reduce the risk to financial stability. It seems that it is a quiet following of globalization and the reforms policy. It is the quiet shifting of the old stand of our country.

The State Bank of India is the largest commercial bank of our country as far as Government banks are concerned. Initially, it had seven associates and now if we leave the Indore Bank and the Saurashtra Bank, there are five remaining banks. They are State Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore and State Bank of Hyderabad. I do not know what is there in the mind of the Government. Are they going for merger of these subsidiaries? If so, its mind should be clear. So an agenda regarding discussion of the reforms of banks should be placed before the House. It is understood that private banks are taking consolidation route in a big way. But we do not know whether the Government will follow the same line or not. This is not merely the subject of the executives or the Cabinet. This is a fundamental thing. This should be discussed in Parliament itself. So, this is my first point. This has not been done so far.

Now what is the position so far as the global situation is concerned? The banking system at the global level has faced a severe crisis. But we are not facing such crisis and it is because the State sector banks and the public sector banks are doing well. We have 30 public

sector banks. They seem to be in better health position. They are scattered in every nook and corner of our country. They are rendering services to a large scale of our people including farmers, poor people and the people at large. They have to be encouraged to extend maximum help to the small borrowers. They cannot be of any help to them after the merger. How will the banks that are being merged be able to extend more facilities to the borrowers? This aspect is not understandable.

What had been the realisation of the United States of America? It is worthwhile to mention here that the United States of America realised that, after the fall of the big banks and the financial institutions last year, the management of the big banks was a very difficult task as compared to managing the management of the smaller banks. Is it not being possible for our Government to understand what the US authorities have understood? The present international situation of an economic recession has been created out of that effect of merger. It is not only that merger would result in transforming human resources into a homogenous unit. What would happen to the management? What would happen to the employees? What would happen to the borrowers? All these aspects are involved in the case of a merger.

Sir, I would only like to request the Government not to take this matter in a piecemeal manner. The total idea of merger should be subject to a discussion and without such a discussion being held, this sort of legislation should not be brought forward. It is worthwhile to mention here that thousands of employees of the banks are demonstrating in the streets against this move. They are protesting such an action. They are against this sort of a merger and even then, why is the Government going forward with this kind of legislation? I oppose this.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NARANBHAI KACCHADIA (Amreli): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this occasion. I belong to Saurashtra itself and have been given the chance to speak on the issue of Saurashtra Bank. I request you to give careful consideration to the points that I wish to raise today.

Sir, today I am speaking on behalf of the people of Saurashtra and Kutch on the Bill relating to repeal of the State Bank of Saurashtra Act 1950 and further amendment of the State Bank of India Act 1959.

Sir, as you must be aware, the State Bank of Saurashtra, an associate bank of the State Bank of India

group, was functioning as a leading bank in Saurashtra-Kutch region for more than five decades. Popular as 'mera apna' (my own) bank among the rural and tribal population of Saurashtra-Kutch region it is running the maximum number of branches in eight districts of the area and has been playing a leading role in grant of loans to farmers, revenue transactions of government, payment of pensions and financial assistance for self employment ventures.

Sir, it was merged with the State Bank of India a few years ago which had an adverse effect on this entity. The image of 'mera apna' grameen bank it had amongst the rural population was demolished completely. This bank perhaps has the maximum number of branches and the highest amount of deposits in comparison to other financial institutions in the country, which is a matter of pride.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon Finance Minister towards the news item under the caption 'SBI bankon ke vilaya par break' published in the Delhi Edition of 'Dainik Jagran' on 21 November 2009. It was reported there under that the government had put a break on the merger of other five banks under the aegis of the State Bank of India namely, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore and the State Bank of Travancore.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very important to give thought to the reasons due to which the merger of the said five banks had to be deferred, keeping in view the fact that the State Bank of Saurashtra had always been the most important amongst them. It also had the maximum amount of deposits, the largest number of buildings for branches of the bank and the maximum number of customers. It also gave the highest dividend amongst other nationalized banks besides the said State Banks. Then why has this injustice been done only to the State Bank of Saurashtra? I would like to draw your attention towards the news item, published in the New Delhi edition of the English newspaper 'Indian Express' on 20 June 2009, wherein government's approval for merger of State Bank of Indore with the State Bank of India was reported. Is it true that the source of this news was the Chairman of State Bank of India, OP Bhatt? Is the government carrying out the merger of these banks under some compulsion or pressure and the direct benefit of which is being enjoyed by the private banks? Has the government given any consideration to safeguarding the interests of the bank employees and the serious negative effects of such an action apart from the issue of profit and loss in the bank?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the State Bank of India is discriminating against the customers of the State Bank of Saurashtra after this merger because the SBI is a rich man's bank whereas the SBS had the tag of a bank for the poor. This bank had played a major role in assisting self employment in the agricultural sector and taking government schemes to the common man and the development of the Saurashtra-Kutch region. The name and the entity of the State Bank of Saurashtra should be restored to retain the confidence of the farmers, the unemployed, pensioners and widows and for carrying out financial transactions on behalf of the government. The Finance Ministry should make more efforts to open more branches so that the process of grant of loans for development of agricultural sector and payments by the government could become streamlined and efficient.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the State Bank of India is behaving in a discriminatory manner towards the employees and management of the State Bank of Saurashtra. The State Bank of India has a negative attitude towards their service matters, promotions and other financial perks. Their future has become uncertain. The total merger of the State Bank of Saurashtra into the State Bank of India is not justifiable. The very identity of the bank is based on the faith placed in it by the poor and rural population of the region for whom the State Bank of Saurashtra is like a family member who they entrust with all their financial transactions. The name of State Bank of Saurashtra should be restored so that the confidence of its customers could be regained.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the allocation of financial assistance being provided by the jila udyog kendras to the unemployed under self employment schemes in districts such as Jamnagar, Bhavnagar, Junagarh, Amreli, Porbandar, Surendranagar and Bhuj besides the capital of Saurashtra-Kutch, Rajkot, is also being done by the State Bank of Saurashtra. Revenue paper and stamp paper is also being distributed through the said bank. The simple and clear terminology adopted by the State Bank of Saurashtra to help illiterate, semi literate persons, widows and other socially backward persons to open accounts and encourage them to operate them regularly is a unique initiative of the bank. Besides Saurashtra-Kutch the branches of the bank operating in other parts of the country are also a blessing for the Gujarati people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to request the hon Finance Minister to reconsider the Bill for carrying out the aforesaid amendment and restore the original status of the State Bank of Saurashtra and give it back



its identity so that the saurashtra-Kutch region is able to retain its self-respect.

\*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat):  
Hon. Chairman Sir, I take the floor to oppose the proposed merger of Bank of Saurashtra with State Bank of India. Since 1992, the year when the Government of India adopted the policy of liberalization, we have been watching that the profit-making Navaratna companies are being gradually captured by the big industrial honchos. They are having monopoly over those companies. It is seen that in Saurashtra, almost all the financial institutions are in the hands of the private players whereas the Government is only looking after the law and order situation. It seems that it has lost control over the market. The private industrialists are thus trying to influence the economic policy of the country. A day may come when the law of Diminishing Returns will operate. We have to think of this aspect and decide accordingly.

Bank of Saurashtra is similar to State Bank of India. It provides credit facilities to small and marginal farmers, small traders etc. Both the banks are giving such loans. There are more than 500 or 600 branches of the Bank of Saurashtra. SBI too has numerous branches. It always so happens that people are encouraged to take loans from the banks which are known to them, which they can relate to. As SBI or Bank of Saurashtra are nationalized banks, there is no risk of failure too. Reserve Bank of India is at the helm to regulate the entire banking system. Then why are you insisting on merger?

Secondly, whether the employees of Bank of Saurashtra receive more salaries when it is merged with SBI? Will their allowances increase after merger? Or whether the higher level officers get matching remuneration in SBI? Many employees are attached with various other institutions and are earning lots of money. The question is whether that income will also be added or not. Whether the entire responsibility will be borne by the State Bank of India. It needs to be ascertained and the financial liability also needs to be gauged. All these issues must be taken into consideration. During the Indira Gandhi regime, most of the lending institutions were owned by kings and wealthy persons. They used to protect the interests of the rich and overlooked the needs and aspirations of the common people of the country. But the situation has changed now. The question of privatization and nationalization is no more the core issue. What is the problem in having many banks as long as

they do not fail? We have to resolve the minor problems that crop up between the employees and the management.

There is a need to pump in huge funds in the economy but that capital should never be foreign capital; that should be indigenous capital. I hear that even Life Insurance is going to foreign hands. 26% is already with them – now about 49% share will be controlled by private players. All the profit-making organizations are being privatized surreptitiously. This should not be allowed.

With these words I once again vehemently oppose this Bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the subject.

*[English]*

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (Tirunelveli): Sir, I strongly support this Bill. The State Bank of Saurashtra was constituted under the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950 as amended by the State bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959. Now, the State Bank of Saurashtra will come under the purview of the SBI.

After the nationalisation of fourteen banks in our country by our beloved leader, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, our financial system and monetary system have become strong. Most of the capitalist countries, like America and England, and even some communist countries are suffering because of lack of strong monetary and financial system. But our system is strong. Even during the recession our system was strong. Our country's monetary system is big, famed and a strong one. That is why in the global-world competition, we have strong financial system and our country is growing all the way.

Sir, our Communist friends are telling that these subsidiary banks, like the State Bank of Saurashtra and also the State Bank of Indore, the State Bank of Travancore, the State Bank of Patiala, the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, the State Bank of Mysore and the State Bank of Hyderabad are the subsidiary banks of the State Bank of India. The State Bank of India is a nationalised bank and it is an apex bank in our country. It is doing a number of functions. Now, we have to face the competition of the world-level great banks. That is why our Government took the decision – not only our Government, but all the managements of the subsidiary banks – took the decision to merge with the State Bank of India. These subsidiary banks will come directly under the State Bank of India. It is a correct notion and it is

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

a very strong notion of the subsidiary banks to merge with the State Bank of India.

Sir, the State Bank of India is very strong. It will be very beneficial to compete with the ICICI Bank which is a private, world-level bank. In the global scenario, most of the private banks come to our Indian banking system. Then, we have to compete with each other and we have to consolidate our banking system. We have to make the banking system a strong one. Our State Bank is there in all the places where poor people are given credit by the State Bank of India. Most of the employees of the State Bank are taking advantage and they are taking it as their privilege that they are working in the State Bank and not in the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur or any other subsidiary bank. If it is a subsidiary bank, then there may not be some benefits and when they are merged with the State Bank, there is a strategy for us.

Sir, I would like to point out here that our Communist friends have completely forgotten the employees. Our UPA Government is giving more importance to employees who are working in the banks. The employees of the State Bank of India are getting the status also. Here, I would like to point out one thing that when subsidiary banks are merged with the State Bank of India, there is some apprehension among the employees whether the status will be given to them or not and whether promotions will be given to them according to the State Bank of India rules. They require all these things. I would like to mention here that we are giving equal importance to all the employees.

Secondly, most of the hon. Members have told that five or six subsidiary banks are now going to be merged with the State Bank of India. I want to say here one thing that it is not the privatisation of the bank. They are going to be merged with the State Bank of India which is the nationalised bank. These nationalised banks are going to be merged with the other nationalised bank.

I want to tell here one thing that it is not a privatisation. These five or six banks will survive as per the rule of the bank. They will survive in all the places and they are not going to be affected. This is the *status quo* they are going to maintain. At the same time, I would like to mention here that in the rural areas, the State Bank of India is having branches in all the places.

I would also say that the strength of the employees also must be improved and then only we can compete with the foreign banks.

Our Communist friends are forgetting all these employees. It is only the Congress Government which is giving more importance to the employees. So, we have to give more powers to the employees of these nationalised banks. This is my humble request to the hon. Minister.

Sir, with these few words, I support this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister to reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (North East Delhi):  
Sir, I asked for only two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I called your name. You were absent. Now, if you want, you can take two minutes. Hon. Minister, let him take two minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Sir, I will conclude my point in two minutes. I support the Bill brought by the hon. Minister and also associate myself to what he has said. Ours is a strong country with a strong economic policy and our banks are renowned all over the world today. People look at the State Bank of India with respect and whatever be our economic policies, the SBI works towards furthering them. It also fulfils our social obligations. I would like to draw your attention towards 2-3 issues in this regard.

Firstly, nationalization of the banks took place during the regime of Indiraji and, thereafter, the doors of the banks were opened for the poor. Perhaps, there is some downfall in that. Today, small businessmen who need money or our exporters who earn foreign exchange face problem. Today, a lot of paperwork is involved in taking loan from the banks which creates problem for them. I hope that the hon. Minister is present here and he will pay attention to it. There is so much paperwork that it is beyond the capacity of the small businessmen to take loan from a bank. They feel difficulty there today. There are many such minority areas and our Minority Affairs Minister Salman Khursheedji said that bank branches will be opened in the minority areas. But I regret to say that no bank is ready to go there and open its branches. These banks say that is a C- category area and they will not open their branch there. This creates problem for the people and those who live there.

Sir, where will the poor women, pensioners or small businessmen living in poor areas go to open a bank account? They will not go to Delhi to open their bank account. They face a lot of difficulty in this. I hope that he will provide some guidelines which will benefit them.

He should visit the bank branches sometime. It's been ages but the banks are running in the same old rooms for more than fifty years. Today, the volume has increased, bank accounts have increased but the environment of the bank branches is very bad. I hope that he will pay attention towards this also.

One of the social obligations of the banks was that they will pay attention towards sports and sportspersons too. But, I do not think if its happening. Perhaps, the Government has fixed some percentage which the public sector banks should spend on the sports or sportspersons. An audit should be done so as to know who is spending or not and how much and where? We are moving towards the Common Wealth Games and one year is left. I hope that he will pay attention to this and get it done.

Sir, one last point which I could not understand. There is mention of statement of objects and reasons. I am sorry but one can read it fully. Reasons are not mentioned anywhere. Statement of Objects are mentioned, subjects are also mentioned if reasons are not mentioned. I hope that he will tell something to the House about this and the reasons behind bringing this Bill. I fully support it.

*[English]*

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that 12 hon. Members have participated in the debate. I thank them all. Some hon. Members have supported it; some have some concerns and some have some apprehensions about this Bill. I will try to answer their queries and satisfy them.

First of all, I would like to inform the hon. Members that the Indian banking sector is no stranger to the phenomenon of mergers and acquisitions across the banks. Since 1961 till date, there have been as many as 79 bank amalgamations in the Indian banking system. Out of that, 46 amalgamations took place before the nationalisation of banks in 1969 while the remaining 33 occurred in the post-nationalisation era.

Several hon. Members raised the question about the policy of consolidation. There was a Calling Attention discussion also on this subject raised by Shri Gurudas

Dasgupta and the hon. Finance Minister gave a detailed reply. However, I would like to inform hon. Members that the current policy of the Government on consolidation leaves the initiative for consolidation to come from the management of the bank with Government playing a supportive role as the common share holder. No directive on consolidation is being issued either by the Government or by the Reserve Bank of India. The Boards of the banks themselves have to take a decision in this regard based on the synergy levels of merging the entities. Therefore, it is the decision of the Boards of the banks whether to merge or not to merge. Since the Government is the share holder, it comes to us for approval and then it goes to the Reserve Bank of India again for approval. This decision was taken by the Boards of the two banks and it was approved by us.

I would like to state as to what are the advantages of the merger. Smaller banks have their limitations whereas bigger banks have certain advantages. Customers in the bigger banks get better banking services with larger geographical coverage of branches, ATMs, network, improved systems and procedures, technological advantage, cross cultural human resources and banking services. Mergers have been going on and bigger banks have a large area of network in the entire country they have their branches outside the country also.

Another issue was raised that the Government is pressing hard for the merger. That there was a meeting in Delhi and in that meeting, among other issues, the views of some of the CMDs on consolidation were taken by the Additional Secretary, but no decision on consolidation or merger was taken. Certain committees have looked into this matter. Even in 2004, the Indian Banks Association appointed a Working Group to examine legal, regulatory and other related issues for consolidation in the banking industry. The Working Group submitted its suggestions to the Government in October, 2004, *inter alia*, supporting the idea of consolidation in the sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, please take your seat for a minute.

Hon. Members, it is 6 o'clock now. If the House agrees, we may extend the time for sitting of the House till the passing of this Bill and few 'Zero Hour' submissions are made. I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, you may continue now.

18.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sumitra ji has raised many questions emotionally. I would like to inform you that we have no intention to merge something forcibly. She had raised a legal point that it should have been brought to the Parliament first. In this regard, I would like to tell you that

[*English*]

'Section 35 of the State Bank of India Act 1955 provides the legal framework for acquisition of banking institutions, including a public sector bank by the State Bank of India. Though the provisions of the State Bank of India Act 1955 do not expressly so require the scheme of acquisition of the State Bank of Saurashtra by the State Bank of India, it was laid in both the House of Parliament, post-merger. There is no legal infirmity under the law

[*Translation*]

that it should have been brought to the parliament first. We have brought it later but there is nothing wrong in that legally.

[*English*]

Several Members have raised questions about the service conditions of the employees of State Bank of Saurashtra. Here I would like to tell them that suitable clauses have been incorporated in the acquisition of State Bank of Saurashtra Order 2008 so that the pay and allowances or the compensation to the employees of merging entity are not altered to their disadvantage. They will not be put to disadvantage as far as their service conditions are concerned.

One apprehension was raised by certain Members that the rural branches of the Bank of Saurashtra will be closed. As you know, our Government believes in financial inclusion. Financial inclusion is being accorded highest priority by the Government. All efforts are being made to cover every section of the population after merger. No rural branches are being closed after the merger. There should be no apprehension at all on this count.

I would like to give you certain figures about this merger. At the time of Independence, there were only 5,277 bank branches in the country. At the time of

nationalisation in 1969, there were 8,262 branches. Now, there are 82,252 branches. Our Government has a policy of expansion. We have asked the banks to go to rural areas, find out the possibilities and more and more banks should be opened in the rural areas. In the next two years, roughly 2000 banks branches are being planned to be opened. Therefore, we believe that more and more population of the country should be linked with the banks. That is our policy.

Broadly, the employees, the shareholders and the customers constitute stakeholders of the bank. While examining the merger proposal, Government will keep in view the interest of all the stakeholders, including employees and merging banks also.

In the end, I assure all the Members that I have noted down their apprehensions, their suggestions and I would request the House to approve this Bill.

Sir, I would, therefore, commend that the State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009 may be passed by this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Sampath, you can put only one question.

SHRI A. SAMPATH: Will the hon. Minister give an assurance to this august House that the other associate banks of the State Bank of India will not be merged? Or is it the policy of the Government to make all these associate banks merged with the State Bank of India and to make it as a monolith and an adjunct of the Government of India like the Income-Tax Department?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, if you want to reply, you can reply; otherwise you need not reply to him.

Shri Sampath, you can write to the Minister or the Minister will send you the reply personally.

SHRI A. SAMPATH: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up motion for consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950 and further to amend the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 11 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 11 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

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[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up 'Zero Hour'.

Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar.

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Sir, good infrastructure, good transport facilities and good connectivity are required to develop the Eastern India along with North Bengal and Bihar.

The Eastern India along with North Bengal and the northern part of Bihar are mostly underdeveloped due to lack of infrastructure. There is no other road to go to Guwahati except by one route, that is, through Dalkhola, either by train or by road. You have to go to the Eastern India through Dalkhola. So, I would request the Union Government to declare the corridor of Dalkhola to connect the Eastern India. If this corridor is declared, then it will be better.

Dalkhola is a business place. A lot of jute growers are there. If you declare the corridor of Dalkhola, then many industries will come up there. There will be a lot of beneficiaries. The income of people in that area will

grow, and because of this infrastructure, people will be benefited and they will earn more and more money. That is why, I am asking the Union Government to immediately declare the corridor of Dalkhola to connect the Eastern India. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. Please take your seat.

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: In view of the security situation, a quick decision to declare this corridor is to be taken, and there should be a flyover in Dalkhola.

**18.08 hrs.**

## SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

### (i) Re: Difficulties being faced by Telephone and Mobile consumers in the country

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhamour): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission and with deep regret I want to say this thing in the House. The Telecommunication Department of the Union Government is a very big department. Just sometime ago we, the 5-7 Members from different parties, were talking. All the hon. Members were stressing on one point that it would be very good if the SIM cards provided to the Members for their mobile phones are taken back. I also had the same feeling. The SIM card provided to us is from the BSNL. This SIM card is available with you and all of us. If I call from my mobile through that SIM card then it is sure that it is not possible to speak on the first chance. The question does not arise to make effort for the second time and then there is no chance for the third attempt and the fourth attempt is at the mercy of God. All this is happening under a conspiracy from the BSNL side whenever towers are to be set up, then the towers of Airtel, Vodafone, Aircel, Reliance etc. are set up first and only then the BSNL's turn comes. We are provided the SIM cards of BSNL after all the SIM cards of the private companies get sold. After that, the question of frequency is there and the BSNL has the weakest frequency which is being done under a big conspiracy. Views of the Members are not sought in this regard. As far as frequency is concerned then it is a scientific technology and here is also some drama in it. Besides, this, I would like to say one more thing. Whenever some tower is to be set up somewhere, the private operators and the Government too buy the

farmer's land for peanuts. They erect towers on that land, keep their employees and a watchman. Thus, a farmer is not given anything while his land is acquired almost for free.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you might remember that when call rate of Rs. 30-34 per minute was charged by the Airtel, at that time, BSNL came and offered the call rates at Rs. 1-2 per minute which made all the private mobile service providers to lower their call rates. But, our Ministry wants....(*Interruptions*) that this Department should be closed down so that all the private operators can have a field day and fix the call rates arbitrarily. We have 5,93,601 villages in the country which are inhabited. According to the hon. Minister 5,62,152 villages have been covered. I would like to quote an example from my constituency. Dr. Farouq Abdullah is present here and he is our leader and he also knows how much coverage has been provided to Narban, Barban, Dakshan, Satari, Gandhari, Padar, Dudu, Vasantgarh, Lati and Gunda under my parliamentary constituency. I am speaking about these remote areas. Thousands of villages have not been connected so far. If they have not been covered then from where has this data emerged?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member that as soon as the House is over, I will request the hon. Minister of IT to go to these areas with the hon. Member of Parliament, to see himself what the conditions are; and we in the Government of India, will try to help all these backward areas to get telephone connections.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Now, Shri Mahendrasinh Chauhan.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: It is my last submission. I am concluding my point....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Lal Singhji, very unusually, you got a reply also in between your submission. You should be satisfied, now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mahendrasinh Chauhan, I have called your name. You continue, please.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, listen me. Hon. Minister's assurance....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lal Singh, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I am happy with the hon. Minister's statement....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lal Singh, this is not going on record. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)...\*

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[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN (Sabarkantha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am obliged to you for giving me an opportunity to speak during zero hour. Some areas such as Khedbrahma, Vijaynagar, Bhiloda, Meghrej etc. within my constituency, Sabarkantha, in Gujarat are part of the Aravalli jungles where people belonging to tribal communities and extremely backward classes reside in small villages. These people have to use makeshift roads which pass through jungles to commute in the villages. The condition of these roads becomes deplorable during the monsoon and the villagers find these roads very difficult to navigate during emergencies or when travelling is a necessity. These roads are under protection of forest department, hence these kutch roads could not be metalled even if the state government wants to do so. Whenever the workforce arrives to metal the roads the forest guards come with their guns and turn them away. I request the Environment and Forest Minister, through you, to take early action to transfer the maintenance of

these roads over to the roads over to the load and Housing department/public works department of the Gujarat Government so that the villagers living in these jungles are able to avail the benefit of metalled roads.

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (Shimla): Sir, I have stood up to speak about the problems faced by farmers. Mandi boards have been constituted in all the states in the country to safeguard the interests of the farmers. A provision of levying one percent fee from the procurers has been made to increase the activities of these boards. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Union Agriculture Minister towards Azadpur Mandi in Delhi where most of the fruits, vegetables and other farm produce from North India are brought for sale. This rule is being openly flouted there. 80 percent of apples, tomatoes, capsicum, peas and other fruits and vegetables grown in Himachal Pradesh are brought to Azadpur Mandi for sale. I have to say most regretfully, that the wholesalers in the Azadpur Mandi sell the produce of farmers and horticulturists at arbitrary prices and exploit them in open violation of rules and laws.

Sir, according to the rules the procurer has to pay one percent as market fees. However, the wholesalers in the Azadpur Mandi are charging the farmers 6 to 8 percent as Commission. This system has been in place for a number of years and is a matter of distress for the farmers and horticulturists. The Chief Minister and horticulture Minister of Himachal Pradesh had placed the issue of one percent market fees before the Delhi Government. I am sorry to say that there has been no further progress in the matter. The exploitation of farmers and horticulturists by Azadpur Market wholesalers is still going on. I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the hon. Union Agriculture Minister towards this issue, and request him to take steps to stop the exploitation of farmers and horticulturists who come to Delhi from different states to sell their produce and orders regarding recovery of fess and commission in adherence to the rules be issue immediately so that exploitation of farmers and horticulturists may be stopped.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGARWAL (Meerut): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are total 62 cantonment boards in the country. Elections to all Cantonment Boards took place by May, 2008 but elections in Meerut Cantonment Board have not yet taken place. Elections are being avoided by raking of trivial issues and getting stays on their basis. I would like to request the Union Government, hon. Defence Minister, through you, to intervene so that Meerut Cantonment board is able to get an elected board as

soon as possible as it has already been delayed by one and a half years. Thank you.

*[English]*

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Silchar): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for this opportunity. At the same time, I would request you to give me at least a little more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: At least five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Sir. A lot of people are waiting.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: In the national map of Railways, Badarpur is a very prominent place because Badarpur is situated just in the centre of the area, Barak Valley. This railway junction, Badarpur, is catering to the needs of not only of Barak Valley, but it has also got connection with Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and other parts of the State of Assam. So, there is a longstanding demand that Badarpur should be made the divisional headquarters making it a railway division. For that, for the last two-three decades, people are agitating and there are different committees and NGOs who are fighting for this cause.

It is so important and so necessary because it has got geographical importance also. It is just on the border of Bangladesh. So, covering the Bangladesh border this is the area, where, if a railway division is set up, we are very much hopeful that the railway works may run very well.

I have to make another point. There is a railway junction which is more than a hundred years old. There is an old loco shed which is being constructed as a diesel shed. But this diesel shed is half constructed and now that has been stopped. It is now being said that this diesel shed is going away somewhere else. The people of this area have raised a very strong resentment and also a movement against the Railway Department. At the moment, the diesel shed which was to be constructed there, is going to be shifted.

I would request the Government two things. First of all, Badarpur should be declared as a division and it should be the centre of the division and secondly the diesel shed, which is half constructed and being shifted, should be stopped and this diesel shed should be at Badarpur.

18.22 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS – *Contd.*

(ii) **Re: Need to look into the encroachments in cremation grounds and in lands of villagers in Uttar Pradesh**

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that some areas in Uttar Pradesh had witnessed the devastation caused by floods some time back. I had also got caught in those floods but was save by God's grace but some poor people from my constituency, Rampur and the neighbouring ares of Moradabad who were affected by the floods, left their villages, crops, houses and property and fled to their relatives houses...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not the subject you wanted to raise. Please confine your submission to the subject.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: This is very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot go into all these details. The subject you wanted to raise is different. You confine your submission to that only.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: This is the subject that I wanted to raise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is important. But you gave notice for a different subject.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: For this subject only I have given notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 'Encroachment into the cremation ground' is the notice you have given.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Yes Sir. This is what I want to tell. This is what I am speaking. How will say suddenly how they have encroached?

[*Translation*]

They had left their houses and went to their relatives and now since the water has receded they have returned

to their houses. Very poor people, belonging to ghosi community live here. Predominately it is a Muslim area. They took shelter in the houses of their relatives. Now they have returned to their houses but nothing is left there. They have neither their houses, nor crops nor their fields. Not only this, the land mafia has illegally occupied their burial ground and now they are cultivating wheat crops over there. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the plight. Of the poor people in this area who do not own even a bigha of land and if they own it is a big thing as both the person owning one bigha or the one owning 100 bigha are farmers. They have neither land nor the houses and land mafia has occupied their land and they are using it for cultivation. Where can these poor people go for help? Since, as an M.P., I represent that area. Therefore, they would come to me. Some part of land comes under Moradabad thus they have also approached Moradabad administration for help and they came to me also.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Member that if you could give me this paper, I will discuss it with the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and he will have to take it up with your State Chief Minister because that being the State problem. But I will request Shri Chidambaram to take this up with them so that justice is done to the people.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, thank you so much. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhudeo Choudhary to speak now.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, let me conclude this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made the point. The answer is also given. Now you have to take the seat.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: I just want to thank him. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is okay.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, I request the government to take notice of it and help then in getting justice.



[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jayapradaji, this is not allowed during the 'Zero hour'. You should please understand what is the notice you have given. Please confine to that please.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: I have told it.

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[Translation]

SHRI BHUDEO CHOUDHARY (Jamui): Sir, I am greatly thankful to you for permitting me to speak during zero hour. There is a train running between Kiul and Gaya via Shekhpura. In the morning its departure time is, 5.45 AM, 6.30 AM and 7.30 AM respectively. But for the whole day after that, there is not a single train. The hon. Minister of Railways, has, in her last years budget speech announced that Intercity Express will be introduced on Jamalpur-Bhagalpur-Gaya route. The said train is yet to be introduced. I urge the hon. Minister of Railways to introduce an intercity between Bhagalpur and Gaya. There is no train from Kiul after 7 O'clock. Therefore train should make at least one trip during daytime. I would like to remind the hon. Minister of Railways that the Delhi-Howrah train running via Varanasi, Kiul, Jhajha, Jamui has been discontinued. I request the hon. Minister to introduce a Delhi-Howrah train, via Varanasi, Gaya, Kiul, Jamui and Jhajha.

[English]

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, firstly, please allow me to speak from here.

Thank you hon. Chairman. This is regarding release of funds for drinking water scheme in parts of Andhra Pradesh under UIDSSMT Scheme. Thank you for permitting me to raise this matter of urgent public importance. As the House knows, Vizianagaram district is a very historical place as well as a very backward place also. The urban area is consisting of only three lakh population. It is facing acute drinking water problem. People of this district are exposed to hazardous diseases due to non-availability of safe and pure drinking water.

As per the recommendations of the Planning Commission, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal for improvement of water supply scheme in Vizianagaram Municipality under UIDSSMT Scheme for Rs. 38 crore under Phase-I. The same was approved by the CPHEEO and has been submitted to the Ministry of Urban Development. The Minutes of the Fifth SLSC dated 22nd February, 2009 were also sent to the Ministry.

In addition to this, under Phase-II, a further amount of Rs. 31 crore more is required to fulfil the water supply needs of the people of Vizianagaram Municipality. I request the Ministry, through this august House, to release Rs. 38 crore immediately and to issue sanction letter for Rs. 31 crore. The total amount works out to Rs. 69 crore. This matter is pending in the Ministry for nearly one year.

I once again request the Ministry to expedite the financial sanction for this project. Thank you so much.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (Pathanamathitta): Sir, I would like to raise an issue of urgent public importance and request the Government to take urgent measures to stop nurses' strike in Batra Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Tughlakabad, Delhi.

I strongly condemn the hospital management's aversion to the genuine causes of the nurses. Their legitimate demand for a revision of salary and service benefits should be met immediately and the pathetic plight of patients should be ceased.

First of all, I would like to bring to the attention of the House the present ratio of nurses to patients in Delhi. It should be noted that the expected ratio is 1:5, but the present ratio in Batra Hospital is 1:12. In some hospitals, this ratio is 1:20. This causes heavy workload and intense mental strain on the nurses. The greed for exorbitant profits bridles the hospital authorities from appointing the requisite number of nurses. They even force the nurses to bear the burden of double duty due to shortage of nurses, consequently creating deep distress in the family life of the nurses.

The medical or sickness benefits available to nurses are marginal and in some cases absolutely nil. Their lives seem to be in peril due to the negligence of hospital administration in providing adequate precautionary measures *vis-à-vis* treatment of highly chronic and infectious diseases.

If any nurse, out of agony, decides to stop her service to a particular hospital, again she will be in deep trouble as her certificates will not be returned, thereby, she is placed under perpetual serfdom and servitude. This practice of withholding certificates due to premature termination of contract between employer and nurses should be stopped.

I would like to end with a quote of our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi:

“A nurse is not merely an aid and assistant to a doctor, she has an independent part to play in many areas where doctors need not necessarily be present.”

I would request that the Government should immediately constitute a committee consisting of parliamentarians to study the working of hospitals, fees charged by them from the patients and the service conditions of nurses in Delhi.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kottayam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very serious problem and requires the Government to intervene.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jose K. Mani, if you want to associate, you can send your name.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): Sir, I also associate. ... (Interruptions) It is a very serious matter. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (Mavelikkara): Sir, I would also like to associate. ... (Interruptions) Hon. Minister is sitting here. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jose K. Mani, Shri P.T. Thomas and Shri Kodikkunnil Suresh are associating with this matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can send your names.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Anup Kumar Saha and Shri Charles Dias are also associated with this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am greatly thankful to you for having given me an opportunity

to speak during Zero Hour. I would like to apprise you of a problem being faced in Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh. Some private companies have been licensed to set up thermal power plants in various districts in the country. On these lines, Reliance company has been given licence to set up a thermal power plant Roja under my parliamentary constituency Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh. The said company has started power generation in the plant set up in Roja.

My submission is that Reliance Power should be directed to provide 24 hour power supply to district Shahjahanpur from Roja Thermal Power Plant.

Secondly, the nominal compensation was given to the farmers whose land was acquired for setting up the said plant. My submission is that enhanced compensation be given to the said farmers and employment should be provided at least one person from each family.

Thirdly, the excessive pollution being cause by ash and smoke from the chimney of the power plant in nearby areas should be checked, otherwise it may spread cancer like diseases. Failing it, it may cast darkness in place of light over Shahjahanpur.

Lastly, I would like to say that the farmers whose entire land has been acquired are on the verge of starvation. In view of this I would like the said company to open at least one Inter College in the said area so that the children of the affected families can study free of cost there.

Sir, I would like the government to fulfill my these demands.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Bolpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government and this House to a really urgent matter of national concern.

Mining is an important economic activity in various parts of our country, especially, in the areas dominated by the tribals who usually reside in hilly and forest areas. These days, illegal mining is going on in various parts of the country defying the existing set of rules, particularly, for major and minor minerals like granites, coal, etc. In a way, this is damaging the topography and on the other hand, hundreds and thousands of dwellers and owners of land are getting alienated — directly or indirectly — from the ownership of land thereby depriving them of

their livelihood as a result of illegal mining and crushing. Health hazards like silicosis — originating from the dust produced by this sort of crushing and mining — and pneumoconiosis is really creating an impediment to their normal healthy life by spreading respiratory diseases, Tuberculosis, etc. and cutting short their life span. Further, these activities are going on without the help of any medical aid. Hence, I urge upon the Government, through you, to look into this problem and stringently bring a legislation to control this sort of illegal mining. The Government should take necessary action to prevent diseases like silicosis, pneumoconiosis, etc., and save the lives of hundreds and thousands of our tribal people and protect their land and forest rights.

I urge, through you, to the Government to take appropriate action regarding this issue, and I am sure that the Government will take necessary steps on this issue.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an urgent matter of public importance. I would like Dr. Farooq Abdullah to reply to my question also in the same way as he has replied to the matter raised by two honorable Members.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today a conspiracy is being hatched to divide the entire country into smaller states. First Telangana issue cropped up. You much have noticed that after Telangana the issues of carving out of more than a dozen states have been raised. At present this issue has stuck in the throat of UPA and Congress government. Even Rahulji has said that formation of small states can facilities comprehensive development. By making such statement he has added fuel to fire. Today the public issues like price-rise, etc have become so much prominent that both the central government as well as Uttar Pradesh state government are trying to divert the attention of the public from these issues.. The Chief minister of Uttar Pradesh has asked for formation of four states...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt him. This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)...\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILEDRA KUMAR: A demand has been made to divide Uttar Pradesh into four parts- Harit Pradesh, Bundelkhand, Poorvanchal and Central Part. Now what will be the situation? Presently we say that we are Members of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh and we are proud of it. In future some would come from Poorvanchal, and others would represent other parts. Our Samajwadi Party oppose this demand and if at all this has to be done, I would like a State reorganization Commission to be constituted. The second thing is that UPA government should have a clear policy in regard to reorganization of states. The report of National commission For Scheduled Castes for Uttar Pradesh....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you have made your point. Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I will conclude after making one more point...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot interrupt like this.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)...\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumar, please address the Chair. You have made your point very well. Now, please take your seat.

*...(interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, as per the report of SC Commission Uttar Pradesh leads all the states in regard to number of cases of atrocities against the dalits and exploitation of dalits...*(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

\*Not recorded.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not the point on which you have given the notice. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I would like the government to make its stand clear on this policy. Shri Farooq Abdullah may please give a reply.

(Interruptions)...\*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not go on record. Shri Shailendra Kumar, what you are speaking will not go on record.

(Interruptions)...\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumar, what you are speaking has not been mentioned in the notice, so that will not be on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. You are not allowed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, I want to associate with what the hon. Member said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, I just want to associate with what the hon. Member said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can send your name to the Table. Shrimati Jayaprada is permitted to associate with what the hon. Member said.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (Mahesana): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to copper utensils industry. The government of India has taken several steps for upliftment of the

handicraftmen such as providing financial assistance, organizing exhibitions etc. But the workers engaged in copper industry have not been benefited properly and they are not getting proper incentives either. They are still working with old techniques. They are deprived of benefit of new technological innovations and are not getting benefits from various schemes of the government. There is a large copper industry in my constituency Bisnagar in Mahesana district and Sihor and Badhwan in Saurashtra. I want development of tourism in all the states. Therefore, permanent exhibitions should be set up for copper utensils.

Sir, now even in Ayurvedic system of medicine maximum use of copper utensils is advised for good health. Even today manufacturing of copper utensils or copper industry is going on in about 50 big cities of the country.

Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the government to the fact that the copper utensils industry is almost dying. The workers are losing their employment. The workers, small shopkeepers and trading companies engaged in this industry are affected. The shopkeepers and workers are gradually losing their employment.

Sir, today this industry has become a source of earning more and more profit for big industrialists. These industrialists mix brass and zinc while manufacturing copper sheets due to which the workers manufacturing copper spare parts and copper utensils have to face a lot of problems. Their production becomes almost half. As a result less production creates less employment and the consumers are also not willing to buy copper utensils due to lack of purity. I, therefore, would like to request Tourism Ministry and Commerce and Industry ministry to take effective steps in this direction like organizing permanent exhibition and providing technical training to the workers engaged in the copper industry.

18.42 hrs.

## SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS—*Contd.*

### (iii) **Re: Need to review the decision to ban pre-paid mobile phone services in Jammu and Kashmir**

[*English*]

DR. MIRZA MEHBOOB BEG (Anantnag): Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government and the attention of the entire House to a very important

issue confronting the people of Jammu and Kashmir. I hope Dr. Farooq Abdullah and other Ministers will attend to me.

We are the only State, perhaps, in the country where mobile services were launched last of all. That is one point. Very recently, here I want your intervention and I hope the Government and hon. Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah will take it up very seriously, we are the only State in the country where pre-paid mobile phones have been stopped altogether. There has been a blanket ban. No pre-paid mobile phones can be used in the State of Jammu and Kashmir now.

I want to tell you that 92 per cent of the mobile phone users used to use these pre-paid mobile phones in Jammu and Kashmir. Not only that, over 2,000 young men of the Jammu and Kashmir have been rendered jobless; they have no jobs now. Not only that. The most important thing is that the majority of the security forces in the State of Jammu and Kashmir posted from different parts of the country were using pre-paid mobile phones and they have lost contacts with their homes. They no more can contact their own family members. The only source of contact they had with their families was this pre-paid mobile phones, and it has been stopped altogether. I want to draw your attention to this. It was done when the peace process has been initiated in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. This gives a very negative signal. I am sure over a period of two decades now, when the Kashmir is on boil, a vested interest has developed in the abnormal Kashmir. The Government of India has to break this nexus and has to punish providers of those pre-paid mobile phones. The providers of those phones have not been punished but the users have been punished for no fault of theirs. There are post-paid mobile phones; there are pre-paid mobile phones; and there is no ban on post-paid mobile phones. This is nobody's

point. We do not want to compromise insofar as the security of the State is concerned. This is nobody's argument or nobody's point. Hon. Home Minister is on record to have said that the worst kind of terrorism that the country is facing is from naxalites. But these pre-paid mobile phones are in use there. But unfortunately, the State of Jammu and Kashmir is the only State in the country where the use of pre-paid mobile phone has been stopped. I would like Government's intervention in this.

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): There is no doubt about it that people have been hurt by the ban of these pre-paid mobile phones. But, I am sure the Government of India is already aware of it. The Chief Minister of the State has taken this up with the Home Minister of India. I am sure, they are looking into this. All gamuts of these are being seen. As soon as everything is sorted out, I am sure the Government of India is very eager that none of them should be left out of what is possible in the rest of the country. But looking at everything, I am sure and I can assure the Member that we are already aware of it and we will take steps which are necessary to see that the people who are affected by this get some relief as soon as we are able to get over this whole tragedy of finding out where mistakes have been made in the past.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow the 15th December, 2009 at 11.00 a.m.

**18.48 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 15, 2009/Agrahayana 24, 1931 (Saka).*

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