

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

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CONTENTS

[Fifteenth Series, Vol. VI, Third Session, 2009/1931 (Saka)]

No. 20, Thursday, December 17, 2009/Agrahayana 26, 1931 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 401, 404, 406 and 407.....	2-32
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 402, 403, 405 and 408 to 420.....	32-53
Unstarred Question Nos. 4397 to 4618.....	53-298
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.....	299-310
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA.....	310-311
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	
4th to 6th Reports.....	311
ESTIMATE COMMITTEE	
Statement.....	312
COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES	
Statement.....	312
STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	
3rd and 4th Reports.....	313
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY	
1st to 3rd Reports.....	313-314
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE	
6th Report.....	314
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION	
2nd and 3rd Reports.....	314-315
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR	
3rd to 7th Reports and Statement.....	315-316
STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT	
1st and 2nd Reports.....	316-317

*The Sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES	
Statement.....	317
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT	
1st to 5th Reports.....	318
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT	
1st to 3rd Reports.....	318-319
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE	
35th and 36th Reports.....	319
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 41st Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on pricing policy for Agricultural Produce, pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture	
Prof. K.V. Thomas.....	319-320
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
10th Report	321-322
GOVERNMENT BILLS — INTRODUCED	
(i) The Coinage Bill, 2009.....	322
(ii) Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2009.....	323
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need for doubling of Madurai-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari railway line	
Shri S.S. Ramasubbu.....	324-325
(ii) Need to undertake inter-linking of rivers in the country	
Shri N.S.V Chitthan.....	325
(iii) Need to make proper arrangements for procurement of paddy from the farmers in Uttar Pradesh	
Shri P.L. Punia.....	325-326
(iv) Need to expedite the disbursal of educational loan to eligible students in Kancheepuram Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu	
Shri P. Viswanathan.....	326-327
(v) Need to open the Railway Gate No. 93 on Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma railway line in Himmat Nagar, Gujarat for the benefit of villagers of the area	
Shri Mahendrasinh P. Chauhan.....	327

(vi)	Need to undertake repair of Railway under-bridge at Utaran in Surat, Gujarat	
	Shrimati Darshana Jardosh.....	328
(vii)	Need to set up Memorials in honour of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other renowned Dalit leaders in various parts of the country	
	Dr. Rajan Sushant.....	328-329
(viii)	Need to spread awareness in the society to check violence against women	
	Dr. Ratna De.....	329
(ix)	Need to undertake the construction of Kollengode-Thrissur railway project and expedite the gauge conversion work from Madurai to Kollengode via Pollachi	
	Shri P.K. Biju.....	329-330
(x)	Need to undertake measures to make Integrated Child Development Services Scheme more effective	
	Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar.....	330-331
(xi)	Need to protect and maintain the wakf properties for the benefit of the socially and economically backward Muslim Community	
	Shri Thol Thirumaavalavan.....	331-332

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Increase in naxalite and maoist activities in the country

Shri Basu Deb Acharia.....	332-336
----------------------------	---------

ANNEXURE – I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions.....	337-338
---	---------

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions.....	337-352
---	---------

ANNEXURE – II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions.....	353-354
---	---------

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions.....	353-356
---	---------

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 17, 2009/Agrahayana 26, 1931
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at eleven of the Clock

[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]

At this stage, Dr. N. Sivaprasad and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question Hour.

Q. 401, Shri Vitthalbhai Hansrajbhai Radadiya — not present

Shri Gorakh Prasad Jaiswal

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please put down these placards.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You are not supposed to show it.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: No, please put down the placards.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: This is against the decorum of the House. The sanctity of the House must be observed.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please put down the placard.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please put down the placard.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: This is against the sanctity of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: You please put down the placard.

...(Interruptions)

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. No. 401.

[Translation]

Cargo Handling by Railways

+

*401. SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI VITTHALBHAI HANSRAJBHAI RADADIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present system of booking/loading cargo for transportation under the Indian Railways;

(b) whether any scheme exists or it is proposed to introduce a scheme to promote rail-road integration in the movement of cargo;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any logistics solution through storage and delivery to the door step of the user both for outward and inward cargo is proposed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Indian Railway carry cargo from one rail head to another in wagon loads and containers. The traffic is booked on the basis of forwarding note executed by the consignor. The loading of cargo is carried out by the consignors.

To promote rail-road integration, railways have schemes/provisions like Rail-side warehousing complexes developed by Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), Container Operators including Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) and incentive scheme for freight forwarder. Further, various schemes for rail-road integration are under examination and few are under consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL: Madam Speaker, one-third revenue of railways is earned from transportation of goods. Eighty per cent of the transported goods is raw material which is transported from mines to industrial units. Less than ten per cent common people send their goods by railways...*(Interruptions)*. It is correct that transportation of raw material by railway is increasing. However, people prefer to send their goods by other means of transportation because the booking and loading of goods is done in an old fashion. No new technique is adopted for the purpose...*(Interruptions)*. If any one goes to book goods, touts approach him and corrupt practices are adopted in the delivery of the consignments....*(Interruptions)* Some consignees keep on waiting for delivery of their goods. The railways do not provide information regarding the status of their consignment....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: You please put down the placard.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: You please ask questions. Please do not make long Statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to know from the Minister of Railways whether any system has been put in place for booking and delivery of goods at the door steps of the consignee? If so, the details thereof...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: You please put down the placard.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Madam, I am thankful to the Hon'ble Member that he has asked an important question. We are going to adopt a new method for ensuring more transparency in booking of goods in railways. Once it is introduced, people will get its benefit...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL: Madam, it is observed that several goods trains run empty for hundreds of kilometers for fresh loading after unloading the goods at the destinations...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to know whether any steps have been taken to ensure that the goods train may not return empty after unloading the goods. What steps the Government have taken to ensure that goods trains do not run empty for hundreds of kilometers after unloading goods at destinations, instead they should carry goods from that point to other destinations. If any steps have been taken, then the outcome there?...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The efforts are being made by us and...*(interruptions)* we are devising new uploading methods....*(Interruptions)* For those trains which run empty after unloading....*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please put down the placard.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: If we will get... (Interruptions) if the freight is transported connecting the surrounding roads and it comes by road... (Interruptions) then we allot a full rack.... (Interruptions) If the entire rack is used then it is profitable.... (Interruptions) Even if the entire rack does not run empty, we lift goods from the booking centre where goods are booked. We want that it should run with full load and this system should be more transparent... (Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shailendra Kumar ji, now it is your turn to ask question. Please ask the question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon'ble Madam Speaker, Bharwari station is located in Kaushambi district which is the district headquarters of newly carved out district Kaushambi. Earlier buffer godown was also located there and railway rack also came there to deliver essential goods and food items. However, presently on account of absence of railway racks and buffer godown the district has to face much difficulties. Through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to put in place any system for availability Railway rack at Bharwari station of Kaushambi and whether the arrangement will be made to set up buffer godown there... (Interruptions)?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Madam Speaker, I will examine the suggestion that has been given by the Hon'ble Member. If possible, we will certainly do this... (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Regarding the booking of cargo in the Railways, I would like to bring it to your attention, Madam, that the Railways are the biggest

smugglers of wild life and cows in this country. They are booked in cargo and we pick up, upto 50,000 wild birds a day which are coming passed off as chicken. The cows are loaded as cargo. They are going to Bangladesh. Every single cow in this country is loaded from Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and other places and arrives in Kolkata. They are unloaded at Howrah. The ones that die are cut below Howrah Bridge and the ones that are alive are taken to Bangladesh. The Railway Protection Force themselves have said that they are smuggling animals. They have said that they are running into loss, each time whenever they load cows because of the damage done to the bogies. During the BJP time, animals engoes were stopped. It was re-started during Shri Lalu Prasad's time. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any move to stop this illegal cargo loading.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am sorry, I respect the hon. Member. But it is most unfortunate to say that the Railways are smuggling. This is not fair on her part. I would appeal to her if she is having any grievance, she can write to us, we can examine the case.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 402 – Shri S.R. Jeyadurai – not present.

Question No. 403 – Shri Tathagata Satpathy – not present.

Handloom Weavers

+

*404. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN:
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom weavers in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the funds released by the Government for the implementation of various schemes for weavers are not being fully utilised;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures being adopted by the Government to ensure optimum utilization of funds released for the benefits of the weavers?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) As per the Joint Census of Handlooms and Powerlooms Report 1995-96, the number of persons engaged in weaving (weavers) and Allied activities are 65,51,354. The State-wise details of number of handloom weavers are given in the enclosed Annexure-I.

(b) and (c) The Government of India is implementing five schemes during the 11th Five Year Plan for the development and welfare of the handloom weavers throughout the country. The funds released by Government of India under four schemes, namely, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme, are being almost fully utilized for the benefits of the weavers. Under the fifth scheme, namely, Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, in all the States, State Government is the Implementing Agency and in some of the States, there is some delay in utilization of funds. The State-wise funds released and its utilization is enclosed as Annexure-II.

(d) The Government of India monitors the implementation of the schemes by calling physical and financial progress reports from State Governments on regular basis. Field visits are made by the officials of Government of India to monitor the actual implementation of schemes in the field. The State Governments being the Implementing Agencies also monitor the implementation of the schemes and proper utilization of funds. At regular interval, meetings for proper utilization of funds are being conducted with the officials of the State Governments.

Annexure-I

State-wise details of number of persons engaged in weaving and associated activities in the Handloom Sector as per Joint Census of Handlooms and Powerlooms Report 1995-96

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of persons engaged in Weaving (Weavers) and Allied Activities
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	490616
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	53473
3.	Assam	2322268
4.	Bihar	110732
5.	Chhattisgarh	28362
6.	Delhi	6708
7.	Goa	25
8.	Gujarat	57936
9.	Haryana	22810
10.	Himachal Pradesh	65099
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	51847
12.	Jharkhand	56975
13.	Karnataka	177562
14.	Kerala	63153
15.	Madhya Pradesh	27744
16.	Maharashtra	80901
17.	Manipur	462087
18.	Meghalaya#	#
19.	Mizoram#	#

1	2	3
20.	Nagaland	126228
21.	Orissa	246782
22.	Puducherry	7369
23.	Punjab	13160
24.	Rajasthan	71915
25.	Sikkim**	1228
26.	Tamil Nadu	607675
27.	Tripura	291761
28.	Uttar Pradesh	401362
29.	Uttarakhand	19322
30.	West Bengal	686254
Total All India		6551354

#Data not received from Meghalaya and Mizoram.

**No separate figures available relating to number of weavers in respect in Sikkim.

Annexure-II

Statement showing State-wise funds released under Cluster Development Component of IHDS during 2007-08 and Utilisation Certificates received from the State Governments

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amount released (2007-08)	UC Received**
1	2	3	4
General			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	390.71600	381.766
2.	Bihar	88.25000	0

1	2	3	
3.	Chhattisgarh	83.64000	83.640
4.	Gujarat	73.57800	0
5.	Himachal Pradesh	23.92500	23.925
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0
7.	Jharkhand	156.24000	156.240
8.	Karnataka	173.05000	50.414
9.	Kerala	314.29500	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	131.59500	126.412
11.	Orissa	228.31500	228.315
12.	Rajasthan	26.15000	0
13.	Tamil Nadu	425.98800	402.890
14.	Uttar Pradesh	235.59700	235.597
15.	Uttarakhand	89.94000	0
16.	West Bengal	290.61000	0
Total		2731.88900	1689.199

NER

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	116.99800	116.998
2.	Assam	150.22000	0
3.	Manipur	336.94000	0
4.	Meghalaya	63.11500	63.115
5.	Nagaland	66.90000	66.900
6.	Sikkim	0	0
7.	Tripura	112.28100	0
Total		846.45400	247.013
Grand Total		3578.34300	1936.21200

**As per General Financial Rules 212, the Utilisation Certificate should be submitted within 12 months of the Closure of the financial year.

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Madam Speaker, I would like to submit that there are large number of weavers, nearly 65,51,354 in the country. The amount allocated for them barring for few States, is very meagre. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not show the placard.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not introduce such things in the House. Do not show the placards. Keep your placards down. Please do not show the placards.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please listen to me. The first thing is, there is certain sanctity of the House. We do not have to show placards in the House. This is a breach of sanctity of the House. All the hon. Members are requested to observe the sanctity of the House. Secondly, whatever you are agitated about, I told you last time and today also I am telling you that I will give you a chance to speak in the 'Zero Hour'. Kindly let the Question Hour go on. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MADAM SPEAKER: Kindly go back. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that in the entire country....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: I am telling you that we are all very concerned and you will be given a chance. Like this if you are shouting, it does not really help.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please listen to me. Please raise all this in the 'Zero Hour'. You will be the first speaker and you will get time to speak. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats. You will get a chance, and you will be able to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.10 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: What is all this? What is he doing?

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Why is he doing this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that the figures given by him are....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. All of you take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, please go back.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Madam Speaker, from the total number of weavers in the country and the budget allocated for them, it appears that the Central Government is not serious towards the welfare of the weavers... (Interruptions). The Government is not concerned about the weavers... (Interruptions). Since, their population is more than 65 lakh... (Interruptions). The figure that has been given indicates that the fund that has been released for the States, barring few States, has been utilized... (Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER: Only whatever is being said by Dara Singh Chauhan ji will go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: They have utilized the entire fund... (Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER : Dara Singh Chauhanji, ask your question a bit briefly.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Madam, I would like to answer through you, that it is not fair to say that the Government has no concern for the interests of the handloom weavers. From time to time, we have been increasing our budgetary support. We have so many development schemes that have come into place. In fact, year after year, the production of handloom fabric has increased consistently. This is because of the continuous support given by the Government of India to the handloom weavers. We have various schemes which are taking care of the handloom weavers in our country... (Interruptions).

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Madam Speaker, the reply given by the hon'ble Minister is not satisfactory... (Interruptions). That is because there is such a small budget for such a big population... (Interruptions) I would like to tell the Minister that 30 per cent subsidy was being given earlier to the weavers for raw material, but it has been discontinued... (Interruptions). That part is ours... (Interruptions). Will the Government restore it and restart the purchase of raw material which has been discontinued?... (Interruptions) They were constantly paid 30%... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Just ask your question without giving a long speech.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Madam, through you, I would like to mention to the hon. Member that it is the responsibility not only of the Centre, but also of the States. Whatever schemes which the Central Government has been doing, we are doing them through the States. There are a large number of weavers who are taken care of this. The hon. Member is not correct when he says that we are not taking care of the interests of the weavers. We have many schemes which give subsidy to the weavers... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11.30 a.m.

11.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Eleven of the clock.

11.30 hrs.

Lok Sabha reassembled at Thirty Minutes past Eleven of the clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Madam, through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the handloom sector is lagging far behind at the present age. The Ministry should launch some schemes through which our weavers could get some relief, some new designs as they are not competent now to compete in today's world market. Though there is APEDA for this purpose, but APEDA should also concentrate over this matter—Our handloom workers should be given new designs and some relief because 65 lakh people are engaged in this sector. Next to agriculture, the maximum number of people are engaged in this occupation in our country.

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Madam, the hon. Member has asked a very interesting question. This is one of the traditionally old industries and it needs constant upgradation in both technology as well as designs. Usually, the weavers are in the clutches of the master weavers and they have been struggling. Basically, the Government of India has brought various schemes to bring the weavers into the groups for a cluster development approach to ensure that we may give relief to these weavers so that they could come out of the clutches of the master weavers.

Recently, Madam, we have announced two NIFTs, National Institute of Fashion Technology of our country. Free designs on the web, also in local languages, have been put up so that these weavers can download them free of cost or if they want the Ministry itself will try to give them free designs. We have given more than 1500 designs, it has just happened yesterday, for the handloom weaver sector. We are trying to do more and more in a variety of ways to give more designs. Definitely, this sector needs to be constantly looked at and upgraded. Through the Ministry we are bringing various schemes like cluster development programmes to help these weavers improve their skills.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN: Madam, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government has formulated or contemplated to formulate any policy to provide world class equipments to the weavers of villages so that they could get benefit of the latest technique and there could be substantial increase in their production capacity leading to an improvement in their economic condition. If so, the details in this regard.

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Madam, under the Handloom Development Cluster Scheme, we have been subscribing and giving the handloom weavers the looms and also giving common facility centres which will make sure that they have a place to share the processing centre. We also have the technology upgradation fund scheme where a lot of incentives and assistance are given to the weavers to upgrade the technology.

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: You have discontinued subsidy, so what sort of incentives is being given now?

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Madam, through you, I would like to say that Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana is applicable for both the handloom and handicraft sectors under which contribution of Rs. 65 is taken from the handloom workers and Rs. 935 is contributed by the Government so that the family of the beneficiary gets a benefit of health insurance scheme of upto Rs. 25,000. Similarly, the handicraft craftsmen have to give Rs. 200 and the Government contributes Rs. 800. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government would consider to provide uniform benefit to both the handloom and the handicraft workers under the Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana.

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Madam, we have two insurance schemes — one is the Health Insurance Scheme and other one is the Life Insurance Scheme called the

Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bhima Yojana. Just to say the kind of reception these Health Insurance Schemes have received, in 2007-08, we had 17.74 lakh weavers registered under the Scheme and we saw an increase in 2008-09 to 18.78 lakh. This means that these schemes are very innovative. It is just not the weaver alone who gets a health insurance, three of his family members are also included in the insurance scheme. We are continuing this scheme and it is giving good response also.

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. 405 — Shri Anant Kumar Hegde — Not present.

[Translation]

Promotion of FPI

+

*406. SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR:

SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA:

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

(a) whether only a small percentage of fruits and vegetables are processed and the rest are perished for want of processing capacities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to augment capacity of the food processing units;

(d) whether any fiscal incentives have been envisaged for the promotion of the food processing units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

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

Statement

The level of processing of fruits and vegetables in the

country is estimated at 2.20%. The low level of fruit and vegetable processing is due to non-availability of processable varieties of raw materials at right quantity and quality, seasonable nature of industry, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc. However, over the last few years, there has been a positive growth in fruit and vegetable processed products such as ready-to-serve beverages, fruit juices and pulps, dehydrated and frozen fruits and vegetable products, tomato products, pickle, convenience veg-spice pastes, processed mushrooms and curried vegetables. As per the data maintained by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the installed capacity of fruits and vegetables processing units (FPO licensed units) has increased from 26.38 lakh tones as on 01.01.08 to 30.89 lakhs tonnes as on 01.01.09.

In order to increase level of processing and to promote food processing industries to exploit both the domestic and international market potential for processed food products, Vision 2015 Document has been finalized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), which envisages tripling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20% value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. An integrated strategy for promotion of agribusiness-Vision, Strategy and Action Plan for the Food Processing sector has also been approved by the Government.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has been implementing various schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries in the country. MFPI through its various schemes for financial assistance and other promotional measures, facilitates creation of food related infrastructure including processing facilities aimed at reducing wastages, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life. The Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries is aimed at creation of new processing capacity and upgradation of existing processing capabilities, modernization of Food Processing Sector to include Milk, Fruit and

Vegetables, Meat, Poultry, fishery, cereal, consumer items, oil seeds, rice milling, flour milling, pulse milling etc.

Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, MFPI extends financial assistance to food processing industries including fruit and vegetable processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh in general area or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakh in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas. In addition, under the Technology Mission for integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States, higher levels of assistance @ 50% upto maximum of Rs. 4.00 crore for setting up and Rs. 1.00 crore for Upgradation of fruit and vegetables processing is available. A National Horticulture Mission (NHM) has been launched with an objective to boost the horticulture sector.

In the 11th Plan, the Ministry has approved new scheme to establish 30 Mega Food Parks with a view to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure for food processing sector in the country on a pre-identified cluster basis with a strong backward and forward linkage and to provide value addition of agricultural commodities including poultry, meat, dairy, fisheries etc. in a demand driven manner. Financial assistance upto 50% of project cost excluding land component in general areas and 75% in difficult areas, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 crore is provided for setting up of Mega Food Parks.

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

technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 crore.

The Government has already taken necessary measures for providing relief and achieving simplification in tax rates to ensure its faster development. 100 percent tax exemption for first five assessment years beginning with the initial assessment year is available under section 80-1B (11A) of Income Tax Act, 1961 to undertakings deriving profit from the business of processing, preserving and packaging of fruits or vegetables and new units in the business of processing, preservation and packaging of meat or meat products or poultry or marine or dairy products. Under sub-section (11A) of section 80-1B of the Income Tax Act, 1961 a deduction from profits upto specified amounts is allowed in the case of an undertaking deriving profit from the business of handling, storage and transportation of food grains subject to specified conditions, if such undertaking begins to operate such business on or after the 1st day of April, 2001. With a view to preserve perishable food items like milk, poultry and meat, the Finance (No. 2) Act 2009 has amended sub - section (11A) of section 80-1B with effect from 01.04.2010 to also provide tax holiday in respect of the business of processing, preserving and packaging of meat and meat products and poultry, marine and dairy products for units which begin to operate such business on or after 1st April, 2009. The amount of deduction in case of an undertaking deriving profit from the business of processing, preservation and packaging of fruits or vegetables or meat and meat products or poultry or marine or dairy products or from the integrated business of handling, storage and transportation of food grains, is hundred percent of the profits and gains derived from such undertaking for five assessment years beginning with the initial assessment year and thereafter, twenty-five percent (or thirty percent where the assessee is a company) of the profits and gains derived from the total period of deduction does not exceed ten consecutive assessment years and subject to fulfillment of the condition that it

begins to operate such business on or after the 1st day of April, 2001. The Finance (No. 2) Bill 2009 proposes to also extend investment linked tax incentive by way of insertion of a new section – 35AD in the Income Tax Act, 1961 to the business of setting up and operating cold chain facilities for specified products and to the business of setting up and operating warehousing facilities for storage of agricultural produce.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: Madam, this is the biggest employment generating sector in the country. Except for apple, lemon and tomatoes, adequate cold storage facility is not available in our country for the fruits and vegetables produced and in proportion to their production. Some new technology should be introduced in the country to make the juice and process the seasonal fruits and vegetables produced in our country. Therefore I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government has pondered over any new policy or technology for processing of agricultural products. This question is important because when the farmers produce fruits and vegetables, they do not get proper prices of the same at that time. That is why, the farmers are suffering losses. Only a few number of applications are received under the mega park or cold chain system put in place for this purpose in our country.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask your supplementary question.

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: I would like to ask the Government whether it wants to get all the seasonal fruits and vegetables processed by introducing a new technology in this regard or not.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam Speaker, basically this is such a sector for which we have done a detailed work. We have examined as to how the processing level could be enhanced in this regard. It was total 6% during the last five year. We have increased it upto 10%. What the hon'ble Member is saying is correct

that the biggest hurdle is that of cold chain and supply chain. With the relief given by the hon'ble Minister of finance in the last budget, investment is likely to increase in this sector. We are setting up integrated cold chain. Till date, mostly cold chains are available for potato and onion in the country. We have taken a decision to give a grant of upto Rs. 10 crore for integrated cold chain with backward and forward integration for different temperature norms. Not only that, we have also taken initiative to set up 30 mega food parks one each for every State. Setting up of mega food park has commenced in some States and we will start setting up more mega food parks in the next financial year. The objective behind it is that the products the farmers produce should be of processing level and quantity so that industrialization in this regard could be carried out and industries could be setup using the material. There are lots of such fruits and vegetables being produced now which we are unable to process. For example, there is a difference between the mango of our area and the Totapuri mango of South India. Totapuri mango is being properly processed because it contains much pulp. There is less pulp in the mangoes of our area. That is why a complete exercise is being done on it. The Prime Minister has discussed this issue after convening a meeting of the Ministers of all the States in this regard. I want the State Governments to be a little bit aware in this regard, because both agriculture and horticulture are State subjects. The State Governments should formulate a separate policy on their own for the perishable industry. Then alone, investment will start flowing in this sector, which is not flowing now.

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the number of applications received so far for mega food park and the number of such applications on which work has commenced alongwith the reasons for non-commencement of timely operation of this scheme due to some losses therein.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam, we had received ten applications for mega food park in the last

financial year, of which work has been commenced completely on six parks and we are conducting expression of interest in four afresh. As I said, we have to take up total 30 parks; we will take up further parks in the next financial year. Mega food park is a concept of backward and forward integration. This is not to be set up in the form of any industrial area, but to be established as a market link with the farmers by setting up a processing hub in between, which will be the food park. It takes time, but I understand one two-mega food parks have already been prepared and we want to do it on priority basis within the time bound plan.

SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA: Madam Speaker, the hon'ble Minister stated that commendable steps had been taken on behalf of the Union Government for the promotion of food and processing industries. Madam Speaker, our experience has been that the farmers produce fruits and vegetables, but they do not get the desired profits as they deserve in respect of transport and processing. In the absence of full-fledged facilities most fruits and vegetables get rotten. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether or not the Government intends to provide any assistance to the farmers and the producers in places where these are produced.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam Speaker, industries, cold storage are not set up by the Union Government. We provide subsidy for the same and the promotional activity is also entrusted to our Ministry. That is why we expect the State Government to formulate a convenient policy to invite investment in this sector so that the people could make investment in perishable industries. It is definitely a rural-based industry; it is not set up in urban areas. Despite this, we are giving a grant of Rs. 50 crore in mega food park, Rs. 10 crore in cold chain, Rs. 10 crore for aridation park and upto 75% grant in hilly States so that the people could be attracted to do this job. We understand that if such a proposal is received from the locality where mostly fruits-flowers-vegetables are produced, it will be in our priority and we are determined to take the processing level upto 20 per cent by the year

2015 so that the fruits-flowers and the vegetables getting rotted could be saved.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether it is a fact that there is no air cargo facility in West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh due to which farmers are suffering losses, whereas he promotes promotional activity. There is a provision of quality control fixation for export under which the export of Sipiya, Dudhiya, Malda and Langda Mangoes from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are not allowed by showing that these have more sugar content; whereas Alfanzo mango does not match with Dudhiya and Malda. What are you doing for this? There is no use of giving only Rs. 5-10 crores.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: My hon'ble colleague and Member had taken a good initiative. The day when he was the Minister of Railways, he tried to introduce cold chain cargo for which I would extend my thanks to him and the present Minister of Railways... in the entire cargo. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I had asked about the air cargo, not the rail cargo. *...(Interruptions)*

Madam, is there any port in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar? Port is situated only in the South. On account of non-operation of cargo, goods in our States get rotted. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat and listen to the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: I want to say that for the sake of increasing shelf life he had started air-conditioned rail cargo service and the present Minister of Railways has also stated something about the conversion of railways into cold storage. The Hon'ble Member has stated about air-cargo. I want to say that we have taken it up. We are working on maintaining perishable cargo at ports, airports and railway stations. There is the facility

of air cargo for perishable items in major cities, but as the hon'ble Member has said, I will make all efforts to provide such a facility in Bihar and other States keeping in view my due regards for the feelings of the hon'ble Member; since I also come from these areas. I will get it established by taking the matter up with the concerned Ministry.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Madam, the announcement of setting up of mega food park in Bihar was made earlier also in the past. Through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that there is a large-scale production of fruits, vegetables and mangoes in Bihar. Lalu Ji did not mention Jardalu mango, which is produced in Bhagalpur. There is production of Jardalu mango, lichi in Muzaffarpur, Naugachhiya as well. There is no industry in Bihar as on date. Is the Union Government formulating any scheme to set up food processing industry in Bihar? What will be the co-operation of the centre in this regard?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Definitely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are the agriculture-based States. If there is industrial revolution likely to take place over there, it will be none other than the food processing industry. We are going to set up mega food park in Bihar in the next financial year and also launch industrialization there by dividing Bihar into three-four zones based on area-wise cluster approach like Koshi and other belts where banana, Makhana and other fruits are grown. If the Government of Bihar motivates the people to make investment in this sector, we will come forward to extend our co-operation.

[English]

Performance of Steel Industry

*407. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently reviewed the performance of Steel Industry in public and private sectors in terms of achievement of physical and financial targets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the major policy decisions taken in the recent past or under the consideration of the Government to boost the sagging performance of the steel sector;

(d) the total investment made during the last three years and the current year for modernization of steel sector PSUs, PSU-wise; and

(e) the progress made by each PSU during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The performance of the Steel Industry in the Public Sector is reviewed in the Ministry of Steel by the Steel Minister and the Secretary (Steel) at periodic intervals. The performance of the Private Sector is not directly reviewed in the Ministry, but an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) headed by the Secretary (Steel) and comprising the concerned Central Ministries and State Governments periodically monitors issues relating to major steel investments.

(c) The Steel Industry is constantly affected by global forces of supply and demand and the Government periodically intervenes to assist the Indian Steel Industry in its pursuit of growth. Despite the global economic downturn, the production of steel in the country has increased by 3% and the consumption of steel has also increased by 8.1% during the period April-November, 2009. Some of the key measures recently taken by the Government to assist the Indian Steel Industry are given in the enclosed Annexure.

(d) The total investment made during the last three years and the current year for modernization of steel PSUs is as follows:—

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the PSU	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)	101	1060	4195	6137
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)	422	1309	2886	1403

(e) SAIL has placed orders for major packages of modernization and expansion of their IISCO Steel Plant and Salem Steel Plant and some packages of Bhilai, Rourkela, Bokaro and Durgapur Steel Plants. These ordered packages are under various stages of execution.

RINL has also placed orders for all major packages and the packages are at various stages of execution.

Annexure

Some of the key measures recently taken by the Government to assist the Indian Steel Industry

- (i) Export Duty on all steel items except melting scrap withdrawn with effect from 31.10.2008;
- (ii) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) on steel items restored with effect from 14.11.2008;
- (iii) Import Duty on iron and non-alloy steel items (except steel melting scrap) re-imposed as 5% with effect from 18.11.2008;
- (iv) Hot Rolled Coil brought into restricted category of import with effect from 21.12.2008;
- (v) Central Value Added Tax (CENVAT) on steel items reduced from 14% to 10% with effect from 7.12.2008; and
- (vi) Countervailing duty (CVD) on Thermo Mechanically Treated (TMT) bars and structural reintroduced with effect from 2.1.2009.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam Speaker, The Government has claimed that despite the global economic downturn, the production of steel in the country has increased by three per cent and the consumption of steel has also increased by eight per cent. When the production in comparison to consumption will be lower, the price will soar and he has stated in his reply that they supervise the public sector only and they have left the private sector free. I would like to say that if the prices of steel increase, steel will not be available and everybody will suffer. What efforts they have put in to increase the production? There is a large potential of foreign investment in steel industry. Therefore, I would like to ask what measures they have taken to invite foreign investment and for increasing production in proportion to the demand?

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Madam Speaker, in reply to the question asked by the hon'ble Member, I would like to say that it is true that despite the global economic downturn, the production of steel in the country has increased by three per cent and the consumption of steel has also increased by 8.1 per cent during the period from April to September. The hon'ble Member has asked as to why the industry is unregulated. Through you, I would like to draw his attention towards the Government of India's Industrial Policy Resolution, 1991 and the Industrial Policy formulated in 2005 whereby the Steel industry has been deregulated. The Government is not having any kind of control over them and they can regulate themselves. But we keep tab on them so that the prices may not increase exorbitantly and we try to ensure this through dialogue so that the consumers may not have to pay more price. I am happy to State that the prices have stabilized during this period, particularly the prices of steel used by the common people have stabilized and as far as increasing the production is concerned, I would like to say that the Government has formulated a scheme to increase production. Today, around 54 million tonnes of steel in total is produced in the country and we have plans that the present production capacity of steel of 54 million tonnes

should be increase upto 124 million tonnes by the year 2012 by completing the ground fields projects in public sector as well as private sector.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam Speaker, recently the foundation stones of three steel plants in Manhar, Bettiah and Gaya have been laid in Bihar and all process has been completed. But, now the work has come to a standstill for the last few months. I would like to know from the hon'ble minister by when the work in regard to already sanctioned three factories, whose foundation stones have been laid, will be restarted and it should be ensure that their work may not get hampered in future and should continue.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Madam Speaker, in the last few years, foundation stone of a steel processing unit was laid in the Parliamentary Constituency of the hon'ble Member. Land for this purpose was also acquired, but that land is in low lying area. Due to this, the land is submerged for many months in a year and...
(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let him reply.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: The delay was caused due to this. There has been no let up in the efforts on behalf of the Ministry.

[English]

We are trying our best to see that this steel processing plant is put up, but due to the physical difficulty on-the-spot.

[Translation]

At this time, we have not been able to take steps in this regard. There is a need to fill the land. The construction work can be undertaken only after the filling of the land. Besides that, steel processing factories have been sanctioned at many places and foundation stones have also been laid, but it has been done in such a large number that it is not possible for the Government to undertake all of them in one go. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: What happened to Bettiah?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA: What happened to Gaya.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Sit down please. He has yet not finished his reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Madam, when foundation stone has been laid, then how is it not possible.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: I have not said it.
...(Interruptions) I have said it in particular case.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

And the hon'ble Member is satisfied with the reply.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is talking about other project. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: As far as other places are concerned, the announcement for setting up of steel processing plants has been made for many places and foundation stone also has been laid for many places.

[English]

We are looking into the matter. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, private sector steel companies are not normally controlled or supervised by the Government. These are controlled by the IMG, but private sector steel companies normally control

the steel sector in the whole world including the Indian steel sector. I want to ask a pertinent question to the hon. Minister. IISCO was proposed to be modernized long back with a through modernization programme along with modernization of Durgapur Steel Plant up to a certain level. I would like to know as to what extent the IISCO Steel Plant of West Bengal and Durgapur Steel Plant have been proposed to be modernized, how much money has been allotted for this programme and whether any time-bound programme has been drawn up to complete these projects.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Madam, I would like to say that IISCO was earlier a sick company and I remember that some years back it was under the Ministry of Industry. When I was the Minister of State for Industry, I used to look after that. Now it has been merged with the Steel Authority of India and after that a massive renovation and capacity addition programme of the plant is under way. Many works have been completed. These have been done on a fast track and I am sure that very soon we will be able to reap the benefit of this. As far as the installed capacity of the IISCO Steel Plant is concerned, in respect of hot metal it used to be 0.85 million tonnes and now it has been proposed to increase it to 2.91 million tonnes and the work to achieve this is under way.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: What about the modernization of Durgapur Steel Plant?

MADAM SPEAKER: You have asked your question. There is no time. Please take your seat. *[Translation]*
Let there be order in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Madam Speaker, in regard to part (a), the hon'ble Minister has replied that the Ministry of Steel had constituted the Ganeshan Committee.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask the question. There is no time. Now, only one minute is left.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: The recommendations of the Ganeshan Committee says that...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask the question.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: I am asking the question. We are exporting iron ore at cheaper rates to Japan and are giving iron ore to Indian steel industry at higher prices. What the hon'ble Minister would like to say about the iron ore being made available at higher prices?

[English]

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Could you please repeat the question?

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Madam, we are exporting long term iron ore to Japan on cheaper rates, whereas we provide iron ore to Indian steel industry at higher rates. Long term linkage is costlier and we are exporting it at cheaper rates to the Japan Government...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The reply is coming. Please take your seat.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Is it about iron ore?...
(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Rationalisation of Manpower in NACIL

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

(a) the present aircraft to employee ratio in the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL);

(b) the aircraft to employees ratio in other major airlines, both domestic and international;

- (c) whether NACIL is overstuffed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to rationalise manpower of the public carrier and put the airlines back on the path of growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The employee Aircraft ratio as on 31.10.2009 of NACIL (including its subsidiaries) is 203:1.

(b) The employee to aircraft ratio which is prevalent in other major airlines (both domestic and other international airlines) is as under:-

Name of the Airline	Employee/Aircraft ratio
British Airways	169:1
Air Canada	82:1
Cathay Pacific	138:1
Egypt Air	146:1
Air France	408:1
Thai Airways	306:1
Singapore Airlines	137:1
Lufthansa	202:1
Kingfisher	106:1
Jet Airways/Jet Lite	116:1
Spicejet	123:1
Go Air	156:1
IndiGo	110:1

(c) to (e) There is no international benchmarking for an ideal aircraft to employee ratio. Aircraft to employee ratio

varies from airline to airline depending upon the nature and extent of functions performed in house. As most of the airlines have outsourced majority of their functions which are still being performed in-house by the NACIL, its aircraft to employee ratio is higher in comparison to many other airlines.

With a view to reduce the aircraft to employee ratio, Government had not only reduced the retirement age in erstwhile Indian Airlines and erstwhile Air India, but had also frozen direct recruitment in both the airlines except in operational categories like Pilots, Cabin Crew, Engineers etc. This freeze in recruitment is still operative.

NACIL had initiated action as part of the Turnaround Plan along with cost reduction/revenue enhancement programme focussing on Fleet Rationalisation, Route Profitability, Manpower Rationalisation and Structural Changes. Fleet Rationalisation is being attempted through reduction of fleet size from 146 aircraft to 105 by March, 2011, which will result in reduction of future requirement of cockpit, cabin crew and engineers.

Food Plazas

*403. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have launched food plazas at various Railway Stations in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of stations where these plazas have been set up; and
- (c) the extent to which these plazas have been helpful to the travelling public?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Fifty two Food Plazas have been set up at the following railway stations:—

Patna-First Floor, Patna-Ground Floor, Howrah (New and Old Complex), Vishakapatnam, Ranchi, Bilaspur, Raipur, Mughal Sarai, Sealdah, Jharsuguda, Delhi Main, Nizamuddin, Allahabad, Lucknow, Jaipur,

Varanasi, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Vijayawada-II, Kechehuda, Rajamundry, Secunderabad, Coimbatore, Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Chennai Beach, Chennai Park, Bangalore, Thrissur, Madurai, Tiruchchirappalli, Shoranpur, Ernakulam North, Ernakulam South, Katpadi, Cannanore, pune, Mumbai Central, Mumbai CST-Suburban Concourse, Mumbai SCT-Main line Bldg, Mumbai Churchgate, Mumbai Churchgate-II, Nagpur, Agra, Habibganj, Jabalpur, Ahmedabad, Bhusawal, Akola, Surat and Bhopal.

These food plazas are being managed by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

(c) Food plazas are multi-cuisine food outlets which serve a variety of food and beverage items including Janata meals priced at Rs. 10/- to cater to the requirements of all classes of passengers.

[Translation]

Marketing Margin for Sale of Gas

*405. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has sent a proposal to the Government for realization of marketing margin for the sale of gas under the Administered Price Mechanism (APM);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total marketing margin asked for by GAIL in the said proposal; and

(d) the price of gas being sold under APM?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) GAIL (India) Ltd. has requested the Government to allow levy of Marketing Margin on Administered Price Mechanism (APM) gas customers, as

is being charged for other non-APM gases, viz., Panna Mukta Tapti (PMT) gas, Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (R-LNG), etc. It has been stated that GAIL has to undertake marketing activities, like gas supply management, contract negotiation, market tie up, market survey, dispute resolution, customer relationship management, risks involved in drawal of natural gas by consumers, risk of Take or Pay, expenses in the form of bad debts, inventory carrying costs and maintaining administrative infrastructure all over India. Further, the marketing efforts and associated risks are the same for both APM and non-APM customers. GAIL (India) Ltd. has requested for marketing margin of Rs. 330/thousand SCM on sale of APM gas.

(d) The APM rate of gas, except for North Eastern region, is as follows:—

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. For Fertilizers and Power sector customers | Rs. 3200/thousand SCM |
| 2. For court mandated (CNG/ PNG) and small industries (consuming upto 50,000 SCM per day) | Rs. 3840/thousand SCM |

The price of gas for the North-eastern region is at 60% of the above price and is as follows:—

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. For Fertilizers and Power sector customers | Rs. 1920/thousand SCM |
| 2. For court mandated (CNG/ PNG) and small industries (consuming upto 50,000 SCM per day) | Rs. 2304/thousand SCM |
- (SCM is Standard Cubic metre)

[English]

Innovation Promotion Group

*408. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have set up an Innovation Promotion Group (IPG) to improve the rail system;

(b) if so, the composition of the IPG and its objectives;

(c) the details of interactions so far made by the IPG with different national and international bodies to promote innovations in Indian Railways;

(d) whether the IPG has since come out with any concrete suggestions so far in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (e) Yes, Madam. An Innovation Promotion Group (IPG), consisting of multi-disciplinary team of eight senior officers of Ministry of Railways, was set up on 11.07.2008 with the objective of interacting with national and international Railway organizations, Industries, Universities, etc. to promote innovations for increasing efficiency, passenger satisfaction and productivity of Railways. IPG has interacted with such institutions and has given certain suggestions which are being examined for feasibility and implementation.

White Paper on Functioning of Railways

*409. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made on the organizational, operational and the financial status of the Railways based on the performance during the last five years;

(b) if so, whether the Railways propose to bring out a 'white paper' on the functioning of the Railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the white paper is likely to be brought out;

(e) whether any document on the future vision for Railways has been developed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Railways has decided to bring out a 'White Paper' indicating Railways organizational, operational and financial status based on its performance in last five years. The White Paper is currently under preparation and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(e) and (f) Planning for future of Railways is a continuous and ongoing exercise. However, a "Vision 2020 Document" is being developed and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Automotive Mission Plan

*410. SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY:

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had announced the Automotive Mission Plan (AMP) 2006-16;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the AMP has enabled the industry to attain global standards and move forward; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Automotive Mission Plan (AMP) 2006-16 is a vision document launched by Government of India in January, 2007 with vision to make India to emerge as a destination

of choice in the world for design and manufacture of automobiles and auto components with output reaching a level of US\$ 145 billion and providing additional employment to 25 million people by 2016. A copy of the AMP 2006-16 is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Steps taken by the Government have enabled the automobile sector to grow towards attaining global standards. Today all the major global Original Equipment Manufacturers are set up in India. Automobile safety and emission regulations are being continuously upgraded to match the international standards. The next higher emission level norms i.e. Bharat Stage-IV for 13 major Indian cities and Bharat Stage-III for rest of the country is planned to be rolled out with effect from 1.4.2010. The automobile infrastructure for testing, homologation and Research and Development is being augmented to global standards. Indian automobiles are attaining world class standards thereby finding acceptability in the world market. Therefore, the export of Indian automobiles, especially cars has been growing steadily. As reported by industry, India today is the largest tractor manufacturer, 2nd largest two-wheeler manufacturer, 5th largest commercial vehicle manufacturer and 11th largest car manufacturer in the world.

Exploration of Crude Oil

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

(a) the details of exploration work undertaken by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, other Public Sector Undertakings and the private companies in the Brahmaputra River of Assam and neighbouring parts;

(b) the details of surveys completed by the above companies in this regards;

(c) the details of crude oil extracted from the aforesaid region during the last three years;

(d) the payments made to the State Government of Assam and others on this account; and

(e) the assessment in regard to the oil potential from this sector?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (e) The Public Sector Undertakings Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) and other Private Oil Companies have no exploration acreages in the Brahmaputra river of Assam. However, ONGC and OIL are carrying out crude oil and natural gas exploration related activities on South Banks of Brahmaputra River in the areas awarded to them on nomination basis.

ONGC holds one exploration acreage viz. Sivasagar District PEL on the South Bank of the River Brahmaputra, where they have acquired 454 sq. km. of 3D seismic data and drilled 30 wells in the present regrant cycle as on 1st October, 2009. However, production has not been initiated in the block.

Oil is also carrying out exploration and production activities on South Bank of Brahmaputra River in the areas awarded to OIL on nomination basis. On the South Bank of Brahmaputra River OIL has carried out a 2D survey of 229.19 GLKM and 3D survey of 718.915 SKM in the year 2008-09. The details of the crude oil extracted by OIL in the region in the last three years are 3.061 MMT in 2006-07, 3.06 MMT in 2007-08 and 3.432 MMT in 2008-09 and the royalty paid to the Government of Assam during the period is Rs. 1,237.01 crores for 2006-07, Rs. 1426.71 crores for 2007-08 and Rs. 1300.84 crores for 2008-09.

In so far as ONGC and OIL is concerned, the reserves (3P) of crude oil is 216.68 MMT.

Restructuring of NMDFC

*412. Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE:

SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to restructure the National Minorities Development and

Finance Corporation (NMDFC) in order to make it more effective;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to increase the availability of funds for NMDFC;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is also considering to increase the authorized share capital of the NMDFC; and

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the share of each State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Madam. The Cabinet has accorded in principle approval for restructuring of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC).

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Minority Affairs, has increased the annual allocation towards Central Share Capital for NMDFC over the last four years in order to increase the availability of funds. Details are given below:—

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Allocation of funds
2006-07	Rs 18.29
2007-08	Rs. 70.00
2008-09	Rs. 75.00
2009-10	Rs. 125.00

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. The Government of India has already approved increase in the authorised share capital of NMDFC from Rs. 850.00 crore to Rs. 1,000 crore in the month of September, 2009. As a result of this revision, the share of the States/UTs in the State share equity of NMDFC has gone upto Rs. 260 crores. The details of this are given the enclosed Statement.

Statement

National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation State-wise Equity Share of State Governments

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

As on 30/11/2009

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Equity to be Contributed by States
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	14.88
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1129.79
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	50.93
4.	Assam	1276.50
5.	Bihar	1896.04
6.	Chandigarh	26.03
7.	Chhattisgarh	129.77
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.81
9.	Daman and Diu	2.18
10.	Delhi	320.22
11.	Goa	62.23
12.	Gujarat	678.05
13.	Haryana	333.22
14.	Himachal Pradesh	37.80
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	979.19
16.	Jharkhand	674.43
17.	Karnataka	1081.63
18.	Kerala	1911.31
19.	Lakshadweep	8.02
20.	Madhya Pradesh	600.03

1	2	3
21.	Maharashtra	2385.75
22.	Manipur	127.93
23.	Meghalaya	238.26
24.	Mizoram	117.17
25.	Nagaland	250.87
26.	Orissa	231.56
27.	Puducherry	17.46
28.	Punjab	2101.08
29.	Rajasthan	780.89
30.	Sikkim	27.04
31.	Tamil Nadu	997.88
32.	Tripura	62.73
33.	Uttar Pradesh	4382.69
34.	Uttarakhand	173.44
35.	West Bengal	2891.17
Total		26000.00

Old Railway Bridges

*413. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the century old rail bridges in the country, zone-wise;

(b) whether any shelf-life of the rail bridges has been fixed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways have undertaken any survey to find out the bridges requiring rehabilitation/ rebuilding and strengthening treatment;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Railways to renovate such bridges which have outlived their shelf-life?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (f) As on 1.4.09, there are 1,30,776 bridges on Indian Railways, out of which 36,731 bridges are more than a century old. Zone-wise break up of these century old bridges is as below:—

Rly.	Central Railway	Eastern Railway	East Central Railway	East Coast Railway	Northern Railway	North Central Railway	North Eastern Railway	Northeast Frontier Railway
No. of Bridges	3189	2496	2077	701	4850	3955	1102	861

Rly	North Western Railway	Southern Railway	South Central Railway	South Eastern Railway	South East Central Railway	South Western Railway	Western Railway	West Central Railway
No. of Bridges	793	2929	4457	1528	1278	2054	2264	2197

No shelf life has been specified for the bridges. However, the physical condition of each bridge is systematically monitored by designated field officials.

Certain bridges, which show signs of deterioration of physical condition indicating need for rehabilitation etc., are classified as distressed bridges. Priority is given for

early rehabilitation/rebuilding/ strengthening of such bridges. If required, suitable speed restrictions are imposed on such bridges till rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening is carried out. Sometimes the bridges are strengthened due to the requirement of heavier axle loads and higher tractive effort.

Based on such identification of bridges, allotment of funds is made annually to carry out their rehabilitation/ strengthening/rebuilding, duly prioritizing the works as per requirement.

Number of bridges on Indian Railway which have been rehabilitated/rebuilt/strengthened in last five years are as below:—

Year	No. of bridges
2004-05	1579
2005-06	1431
2006-07	1114
2007-08	1208
2008-09	1388

CAT-III Compliant Flights

*414. SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of non-compliant CAT-III system flights are still operating between 5 AM to 10 AM;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether information with respect to CAT-III non-compliant/compliant flights is available to passengers at the time of booking;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Alliance Air has rescheduled the flights of non-compliant ATR/CRJ aircraft beyond 10.00 hrs. w.e.f 10.12.2009 to 10.02.2010. Jet Airways, JetLite and Kingfisher Airlines have given an undertaking that during foggy conditions, the approved departure/arrival slots of non-compliant ATR/ CRJ aircraft prior to 10.00 hrs shall be shifted beyond 10.00 hrs in coordination with concerned airport operator.

(c) to (e) No, Madam. However, airlines have been asked to inform their passengers of the delay/rescheduling/ cancellation of flights in advance to avoid congestion at the airport. All the airlines have also been asked to provide facilitation in terms of tea/water/ snacks to the passengers in case of delays of flights due to fog.

Audit of Maintenance Procedure

*415. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has initiated an audit of maintenance procedure of major airlines to check whether the projected losses in this fiscal year are leading to a compromise on passenger safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some airlines are not following proper safety measures in view of losses; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to ensure that the airlines are adopting complete safety measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) conducts technical audits of the maintenance procedures of major airlines. During these technical audits, it is checked whether any compromise is made with regard to spare parts,

components etc. and whether it is due to shortage of funds.

- (c) DGCA audit has shown no such compromise.
 (d) Does not arise.

Loss Making Routes

*416. SHRI M.B. RAJESH:
 SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of loss making routes for Air India as on date;
 (b) whether Air India is handing over these routes to private airlines companies;
 (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) the profit/loss of revenue incurred and the total revenue earned by the National Aviation Company of India Limited on such routes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As per Provisional figures for April-October, 2009, 133 flights out of total 192 flights are making cash losses and 59 flights are meeting the cash cost of operations.

- (b) No, Madam.
 (c) Does not arise.

(d) The profit/loss of revenue incurred and the total revenue earned by the NACIL on such routes during the last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Revenue	Surplus/(Deficit)
1	2	3
2007-08	7678.71	(1924.22)

1	2	3
2008-09*	7905.27	(3214.35)
2009-10* (April-October)	3900.08	(1522.34)

*Provisional

[Translation]

Irregularities in Distribution of Fertilizers

*417. SHRI LALJI TANDON:
 SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:

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

- (a) whether the Government has received reports regarding irregularities in the distribution of fertilizers in the recent past;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) whether the Government has received any reports of smuggling of fertilizers from India to neighbouring countries during the last one year;
 (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 (e) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to check such irregularities and make fertilizers available to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. No such reports of any irregularities in distribution of fertilizers have been received from the State Governments.

(c) and (d) There are reports of smuggling of fertilizers from India to neighboring countries. However, these have not been confirmed by the State Governments. The State Governments have been advised by the Department of Fertilizers to keep a vigil and to check smuggling of

fertilizers from India to other neighboring countries through land and sea routes.

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

(e) The State Governments, as the enforcement agencies, are adequately empowered under Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 to take appropriate action against any offender who indulges in any kind of malpractices including black marketing.

Further, the following steps are being taken to make fertilizers available to the farmers:—

- (i) The gap between requirement and indigenous production of fertilizers is met through imports;
- (ii) Department of Fertilizers operates Buffer Stock of Urea, DAP & MOP through State Institutional Agencies/ fertilizer companies in major fertilizer consuming States to the tune of 6.25 LMT, 3.50 LMT and 1.00 LMT respectively;
- (iii) The movement of fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Fertiliser Monitoring System (FMS).

Shortage of Judges in Lower Courts

*418. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of judges in the lower courts in the country;

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

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

(d) whether due to funds crunch the special courts are also not able to function properly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) As per information available there were 2746 vacancies out of a sanctioned strength of 16609 Judicial Posts in the District and Subordinate Courts in the country as on 30.6.2009. (source: Court News-July — September, 2009, Supreme Court website).

Increase in judge strength and filling up of the vacant posts of judges/magistrates in the District and Subordinate Courts and taking necessary action in this regard is the primary responsibility of the respective State Government and the concerned High Court as the administration of these courts is in their domain.

Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process, as vacancies keep arising due to retirement, resignation, elevation of Judges, etc. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgment of March 21, 2002 in All India Judges Association case had directed that the existing vacancies in the Subordinate Courts at all levels should be filled, if possible latest by 31st March, 2003, in all the States. The Central Government had urged upon all the State Governments/Union Territories and the High Courts to accord utmost priority to filling up of vacant posts of judges and magistrates in the subordinate judiciary.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court in its judgment dated 3.4.2006 in C.A. No. 1867 of 2006 (Arising out of SLP(C) No. 22523 of 2005) — in the matter of Malik Mazhar Sultan and Anr. Vs U.P. Public Service Commission and Ors. gave instructions to all the State Governments/UTs and High Courts to provide for time schedule so that every year

vacancies that may occur in the subordinate judiciary are filled up timely. The apex court directed all the States and UTs to strictly adhere to time schedule and ensure timely filling up of vacancies.

The matter of filling up of vacancies in the subordinate courts was taken up by Government at the Joint Conference of the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts held on August 16, 2009 where it was decided that the Chief Justices of the High Courts will take requisite steps to fill up the vacancies in the Subordinate Courts anticipating the occurrence thereof so as to minimize any chance of delay in filling up the said vacancies.

Making available infrastructure and funds for ensuring proper functioning of the courts is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. To augment the resources of the State Governments, the Central Government provides assistance to the State Governments both Plan and Non Plan for facilitation of administration of justice in the States. A provision of Rs. 701 crore for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary and Rs. 740 crore for computerization of the district and subordinate courts and also for enabling these courts with modern tools of Information and Communication Technology have been made in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Separately, a request has also been made to the Thirteenth Finance Commission to make provisions for building capacities in the judiciary, for developing judicial infrastructure, for strengthening alternate dispute resolution mechanisms and to provide for creating additional court working hours through morning/evening courts.

[English]

Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme

419. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the incentives presently available to the small scale pharma units in the country;

(b) whether the Department of Pharmaceuticals has finalized the Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the small and medium pharma enterprises will be benefited therefrom?

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

(a) There is no separate incentive scheme available for the small scale pharma units in the country. However financial assistance in the form of 15% capital subsidy limited to the project cost of upto Rs. 100 lakhs i.e. total capital subsidy limit of Rs. 15 lakh per small scale unit is available under the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) of the Government of India for technology up-gradation.

(b) to (d) The MSME on submission by the Department of Pharmaceuticals regarding the difficulties experienced by the small and medium units in the pharmaceutical sector in respect of the additional financial burden in implementing the mandatory measures under the revised Schedule 'M' Standards relating to Good Manufacturing Practices and requirements of machineries/equipments etc., for pharmaceuticals production, issued revised Guidelines through the Second Supplement dated 13th July, 2009 to the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS). Under the revised guidelines, the benefit of the CLCSS would be available to the small scale pharma units for an increased number of upto 179 equipments/machineries recommended for Drug and Pharmaceuticals Products, Sub-sector-wise for up-gradation to Schedule 'M' Standards as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. It is expected that more than 3000 small scale Pharma units will be benefited from this enhanced scheme.

Petroleum Investment Regions

*420. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has drawn a plan to set up petroleum investment regions along the coastal belt of the country;
- (b) if so, the status of the proposal;
- (c) whether the Government has identified sites for setting up of investment hubs in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) There is no proposal to set up petroleum investment regions along the coastal belt of the country.

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

Production of Heavy Oil

4397. SHRI HARISH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of heavy oil which has been discovered in the country;
- (b) the total number of heavy oil fields which have been developed and started production; and
- (c) the present status of development of the remaining heavy oil fields and the future plans for the development and production of heavy oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has discovered heavy oil in the fields of Lanwa, Balol, Santhal and Bechraji in Mehsana Asset of Gujarat. Total proved Oil Initially in Place (OIIP) as on 01.4.2009 in the

Mehsana belt is 143.45 Million Metric Tonne (MMT). The oil production from the fields of Lanwa, Balol, Santhal and Bechraji was 0.075 MMT, 0.079 MMT, 0.329 MMT and 0.098 MMT respectively for the year 2008-09.

Private/Joint Venture companies have found heavy oil in Shakti Field in the Block RJ-ON-90/1. An In-place heavy oil reserve of 18 Million Barrel (MMBBL) have been found in Shakti Field.

Oil India Limited (OIL) has discovered reserves of heavy oil alongwith bitumen in the Baghwala field located in Jaisalmer-Bikaner district of Rajasthan. The estimated reserves of heavy oil in the above field is 3.75 MMT as on 1.04.2009. OIL has not commenced commercial production of heavy oil from this field.

Prices of Gas

4398. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has increased the prices of gas to be supplied to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken to ensure that the burden of extra price of gas would not be passed on to consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Government has approved price formula for the KG D6 gas and the price based upon the approved formulae varies between US \$ 2.5/mmbtu at US \$ 25/ barrel or less of crude oil to US \$ 4.2/mmbtu for crude oil at US \$ 60/barrel and above. This price of gas to be applicable to all sectors uniformly. 0.24, 0.86, 0.35 and 0.30 (all in mmscmd) KG D-6 gas has been allocated on firm basis to NTPC's existing gas-based plants at Anta, Dadri, Faridabad and Auraiya respectively. Further, an additional quantity of 2.71 mmscmd KG D-6 gas has been allocated on firm basis to these plants.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Investment of Funds in Share Market

4399. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:
SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any rules for investing funds in share market by the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) Government have not allowed Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to invest their funds directly in share market. Instructions were issued vide O.M. dated 1.11.1995 providing inter-alia that there should be no element of speculation on the yield in respect of investments made by CPSEs. Further, Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs have been permitted vide O.M. dated 31.8.2007, subject to conditions contained therein, to invest in Public Sector Mutual Funds regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

[English]

**Allotment of Dealership of Petrol, Diesel/
LPG and Kerosene**

4400. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

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

(a) the number of persons to whom dealership of petrol, diesel, LPG and kerosene allotted during the last

three years along with the list of selected applicants in Himachal Pradesh as per reservation, quota-wise and for war widows, decorated army men;

(b) the details of the policy for processing and or constitution of the Dealers Selection Board (DSB) for the purpose of selecting the applicants and granting of final approval; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) During the last three years, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have allotted 42 Retail Outlets and 4 LPG distributorships in the State of Himachal Pradesh. No Kerosene dealership has been allotted during this period. The Category-wise details of these dealerships/distributorships are available with Director (Marketing) of respective OMCs.

(b) and (c) After dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. 1.04.2002, based on the broad policy guidelines issued by the Ministry, OMCs have framed their own detailed guidelines for selection of dealership/distributorship of petroleum products. As per the guidelines framed by OMCs, selection of the candidates for dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products is done by independent selection committees consisting of senior officers of the concerned OMC. Out of 100 marks, approximately 90% marks are awarded on verifiable objective criteria based on production of documents by the candidate, such as capability to provide land, infrastructure, finance, educational qualification, age, etc. Approximately 10% of marks are awarded on subjective criteria such as personality, knowledge of the petroleum trade, communication skill, etc. The selection is done in a transparent manner and the results including parameter-wise marks obtained by all the candidates are displayed on the notice

board and are also put on the website of the concerned OMCs.

Demographic Data of OBC

4401. SHRI SAMEER BHUJBAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to collect a separate demographic data of OBC; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) As per information received from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, that Ministry has no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Retirement Age of Heads of Tribunals

4402. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present retirement age for the heads of various Tribunals in the country, Tribunal-wise;

(b) whether the Law Commission has recommended uniform retirement age for heads of Tribunals;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) The Law Commission of India in its 232nd Report has recommended that the age of retirement of Chairpersons should be uniformly fixed at 70 years all the Tribunals. It has also been recommended that the age of

retirement of Members of all the Tribunals should be fixed uniformly at 65 years.

(d) The Government is already seized of the matter and a decision on bringing uniformity in the retirement age and other conditions of service of the Chairpersons/ Members of the Tribunals and Statutory authorities is under active consideration.

Production of Bio Diesel

4403. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

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

(a) whether bio-diesel is being produced in large scale in the country;

(b) if so, the number of units engaged in its production alongwith their production capacity;

(c) whether the product of said units is being exported;

(d) if so, the percentage of products being exported out of the total production; and

(e) the percentage of this product being utilized in the country?

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

(a) to (e) In order to promote use of bio-diesel by blending it with High Speed Diesel (HSD), MoPNG framed the Bio-diesel Purchase Policy. Under this, 20 procurement centres were notified, where the PSU OMCs could not get any quantity of bio-diesel so far.

As per the information given by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) the exiting reported production capacities of 10 bio-diesel manufacturing units is about 2120 TPD. Unit-wise production capacity is given in the enclosed Statement.

Sl. No.	Name of Biodiesel Manufacturing Unit	Capacity (TDP)
1.	Natural Bioenergy Ltd. Kakinada, AP	300
2.	Universal, Kakinada, AP	300
3.	Cleancities Biodiesel, Vizag, AP	750
4.	Emani Biotech, Haldia, WB	300
5.	Costal Energy, Falta, WB	200
6.	Garware Polyester Ltd., Nasik, MH	100
7.	Tina Oil, Maharashtra	60
8.	Gujarat Oleochemical Ltd., Ankleswar, GJ	50
9.	Nova Bio fuels, Panipat, HR	30
10.	Gomati Biotech, Uttarakhand	30

Manufacturing of Power Transmission Equipments

4404. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. proposes to enter into a global technology partnership to manufacture power transmission equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal in this regard has been finalized; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) is in the continuous process

of exploring suitable tie-ups with strategic partners/ international Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM), to address business opportunities in power transmission sector having application of new technologies including those for Ultra High Voltage (UHV) equipment.

(c) No, Madam. No proposal in this regard has been finalized as yet.

(d) Does not arise.

Sericulture in Tamil Nadu

4405. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up Reeling units on implementing the latest technology for the benefit of Silk Industry at Udumalpet, Pollachi and Puravipalayam areas of Tamil Nadu famous for high grade Bivoltine, as hybrid variety of Silk-worm and also to create employment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under the Catalytic Development Programme (CDP), Government of India through the Central Silk Board (CSB) is supporting for the establishment of multi-end reeling units and automatic reeling units for the benefit of Silk Industry. Government of India through CSB has so far supported the establishment of 46 multi-end reeling units in Tamil Nadu. With a view to facilitate production of quality raw silk of international standards, support was provided for the establishment of one automatic reeling unit in Gobichettipalayam under the X Plan. The said automatic reeling unit was inaugurated during August, 2008 and has started commercial production. This reeling unit can absorb the cocoon produced in Udumalpet, Pollachi and Puravipalayam areas due to its proximity to Gobichettipalayam.

Under the XI Plan, Government of India through

Central Silk Board (CSB) is extending support for the establishment of two automatic reeling units, one in Udumalpet (Erode District) and the other in Edappadi (Salem District).

Reimbursement of Differential Cost

4406. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAJAI AH SIRICILLA:
SHRI P. BALRAM:

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

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposal for reimbursement of differential cost on downward revision of prices of complex fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

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

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

(a) to (d) The Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) of complex fertilizers under the Concession Scheme were revised downwards by Government of India w.e.f. 18th June, 2008.

It was clarified that all sales which have been made till 17th June, 2008 will be paid subsidy based on pre-revised MRPs and those sales executed by the companies beyond 18th June, 2008 will be paid based on the revised MRPs. Accordingly, the subsidy is being paid to the fertilizer companies.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has referred a case relating to Andhra Pradesh Markfed for reimbursement of differential amount of subsidy on the complex fertilizers. It has been clarified to the Government of Andhra Pradesh that the subsidy is paid by Government to the fertilizer companies, who are required to ensure sale of fertilizers at the notified MRPs. The companies have been paid subsidy as per the policy of the Government and the notification for downward revision of MRPs dated 17th June, 2008.

[Translation]

Production and Export of Steel

4407. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the percentage share of private and public sector companies in production and export of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): The requisite information is given in the following table:—

Percentage share of Private and Public sector companies in Production and Export of total Finished Steel (Alloy + Non-Alloy) during the last three years (upto October, 2009)#

(Unit: '000 tonnes)

Sl. No.	Item	Sector	2009-10 (upto October, 09)	2008-09*	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Production	Public Sector	7273	12673	13521
		Private Sector	26294	43743	42554
		Total	33567	56416	56075

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Share of Public Sector (%)	21.67	22.46	24.11
		Share of Private Sector (%)	77.33	77.54	75.89
2.	Export	Public Sector	160	141	271
		Private Sector	1350	3517	4806
		Total	1510	3658	5077
		Share of Public Sector (%)	10.60	3.85	5.34
		Share of Private Sector (%)	89.40	96.15	94.66

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

Latest available; * Provisional

[English]

Express Trains on Konkan Region

4408. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for attaching general bogies in express/passenger trains;

(b) whether the number of general bogies attached to trains passing through Konkan region are very less in proportion to the passenger traffic on this route; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to increase the number of general bogies on the route to facilitate travelling passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Normally Passenger carrying trains have unreserved general class coaches. From the year 2007-08, the number of general class coaches has been increased from four to six in the newly introduced trains except in trains like Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Garib Rath/Duronto Trains etc. Adequate number of general bogies are attached to trains passing through Konkan region to cater to the present level of traffic. Extra coaches are also attached and special trains

are run during peak seasons to clear extra rush of passengers.

[Translation]

Flights from Satna Airport

4409. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce domestic flights from Satna Airport in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which domestic air services are likely to be introduced from the above airport; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, Satna airport in Madhya Pradesh is non-operational.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Cotton and Man-made Fibre Mills

4410. SHRI JAYARAM PANGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total cotton and man-made fibre mills functioning in public and cooperative sectors in the country, as on date;

(b) the production capacity and actual production of these mills during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government is aware that these mills require modernisation to meet their production target; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government for modernisation of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b)

(i) The total number of functioning cotton and man-made fibre mills (Non-SSI) in Public and Co-operative Sector in the country as on 30.09.2009 are as under:—

Sl. No.	Sector	No. of Mills
1.	Public Sector (NTC + STC)	58
2.	Co-operative Sector	87
Total		145

(ii) The production capacity of functioning of these mills during the last 3 years is as under:—

Sl. No.	Sector	As on 30.09.2009			As on 30.09.2008			As on 30.09.2007		
		Spindles	Rotors	Looms	Spindles	Rotors	Looms	Spindles	Rotors	Looms
1.	Public Sector (NTC + STC)	1516482	2120	4445	1624758	2120	4704	1654026	1400	4704
2.	Co-operative Sector	1928406	8676	0	1924126	8676	0	1952640	11460	0
Total		3444888	10796	4445	3548884	10796	4704	3606666	12860	4704

(iii) The actual production of textile items for the last 3 years is as under:—

Items	Unit	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (Prov.)	(April-October) (Prov.)	
					2009-10	2008-09
Cotton Yarn	Mn. Kg.	2824	2948	2898	1744	1705
Spurn Yarn	Mn. Kg.	3813	4003	3914	2371	2303
Man made filament Yarn	Mn. Kg.	1370	1509	1416	898	794
Fabrics (Mill Sector)	Mn. Sq. mtr	1746	1781	1796	144	152

(c) and (d) (i) Yes, Madam. In order to facilitate modernization, Government of India has launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for textile and jute industries with effect from 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years which was subsequently extended upto 31.03.2007 and further extended during Eleventh Five Year Plan upto 31.03.2012. It is a credit linked scheme and provides interest reimbursement of 5% points on the interest charged by the lending agency on a TUFS compatible machinery/project. The scheme provides an additional option to the powerloom units to avail of 20% Margin Money subsidy in lieu of 5% interest reimbursement on investment in TUF compatible machinery. The scheme also provides 15% Margin Money subsidy for SSI textile and jute sector in lieu of 5% interest reimbursement. The scheme provides 5% interest reimbursement plus 10% capital subsidy for specified processing, technical textile and garmenting machineries. Under TUFS 25893 units with a project cost of Rs. 1,79,856 crore have been sanctioned an amount of Rs. 78,307 crore as on 30.06.2009. Out of this Rs. 66,284 crore have been disbursed to 25777 units as on 30.06.2009. With a view to improve productivity and quality of cotton, Government launched Technology Mission of Cotton (TMC). Government had also initiated Scheme for integrated Textile Parks (SITP) to provide infrastructure support with effect from August, 2005. Under the scheme, 40 projects with total project cost of Rs. 4141.39 crore including an assistance of Rs. 1422.43 crore from Centre Government has been provided. Grant to the tune of Rs. 645.68 crore has been released.

(ii) The scheme for modernization is already in place. It is upto the textile units/ mills to avail the benefits of the scheme. Most of the textile mills have already availed the benefits of TUFS and has installed state-of-art technology. As on 30th June, 2009, 808 units with a project cost of Rs. 33921 crore have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 12857 crore out of Rs. 14817 crore of Central Government Share have been disbursed to 802 units.

(iii) After taking over the sick and closed mills, National Textile Corporation Limited (NTC) has modernised

17 mills and has invested Rs. 768 crore for the said purpose.

Delivery of Coal

4411. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are not permitting delivery of coal purchased by auction through short destination;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways are contemplating to permit the sender to change the name of consignee and also destination;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Movement of coal from Coal India sources is planned after submission of programmes for movement by Coal India Ltd. Since the loading is on the basis of seniority of programmes submitted by Coal India Ltd., short of destination delivery, diversions and rebooking of coal is not permitted for coal procured through auction.

However, consignor of coal can change the destination. This change of destination is permitted before the actual loading of coal take place.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Grants to NGOs

4412. SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:
SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:
SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that were given grants during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the amount and the purpose in each of such case, year-wise;

(c) the criteria on which the grant was given; and

(d) the name of NGOs which did not utilize the grant properly and have been blacklisted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The information is available on the website of this Ministry www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

(c) Only those Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) whose proposals are received duly recommended by the respective State/UT Governments, complete in all respects and fulfilling the eligibility conditions prescribed under the Fee Coaching and Allied Scheme, are considered by the competent authority for selection.

(d) No NGO has been blacklisted by this Ministry.

Protection of Small Investors

4413. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether small investors are being duped due to lack of financial literacy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is urgent need for launching investor awareness programmes involving various stakeholders;

(d) if so, the details of action being taken by the Government to protect the interests of small investors;

(e) the details of money collected, spent and unutilised under Investor Education and Protection Fund during the last three years; and

(f) the reasons for under-utilisation of such funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Investments in equity market are subject to market risk. Investors whether small or big should take informed investment decisions based on their understanding of the market. The loss or gain that accrues to the investors on account of market volatility depends on the composition and size of their portfolio and the cost of acquisition of securities.

(c) and (d) The Government has already taken action to protect the interests of small investors through programmes of awareness creation and education like:—

- Providing simple, user friendly educational and awareness content to all the investors through the website www.iepf.gov.in.
- Providing information about such persons and entities who have been indicted under different economic laws of the country through the website www.watchoutinvestor.com.
- Providing online investor grievance redressal facility through the website www.investorhelpline.com.
- Undertaking investor awareness programmes in partnership with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India (ICWAI), specifically targeting investors in tier-II and tier-III cities.
- Providing technical/financial assistance to voluntary organizations for undertaking investor awareness related activities.

- Undertaking multi-lingual media campaigns through print and electronic media to reach out to investor across the country.

(e) The amounts collected towards Investor Education and protection Fund are credited into the Consolidated Funds of India. The Ministry gets a budgetary allocation for investor protection initiatives every year and expenditure on various activities is being met out of this allocation. The details of expenditure incurred and remaining unutilized during the last three years are as follows:—

(Amount in Rupees)

Financial Year	Budget	Expenditure	Unutilised Budgetary Allocation
2006-07	5,00,00,000	2,61,39,435	2,38,60,565
2007-08	5,00,00,000	3,41,78,777	1,58,21,223
2008-09	5,00,00,000	3,60,98,720	1,39,01,280

(f) The main reason for not fully utilizing the budget allocation is non-receipt of quality proposals from the voluntary organizations for organizing and conducting workshops/programmes on investor education and awareness.

Losses to ONGC

4414. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) produces 40 per cent of the total production of Natural Gas in country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the company is facing heavy economic losses due to sale of gas at a price below the cost of production;

(d) if so, the estimated loss suffered by ONGC during the year 2009-10; and

(e) the average production cost of the gas to the company during the year 2009-10 alongwith the formula adopted for fixing the production cost of gas during the period?

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

(a) and (b) During 2008-09, out of the total gas production of 32847 MMSCM, ONGC produced 22486 MMSCM, which is 68.46% of the total gas production.

(c) and (d) During 2008-09, ONGC incurred a loss of Rs. 2,423 crores in sale of gas. No estimates are available for the year 2009-10.

(e) The average cost of production of gas by ONGC, during 2008-09 is Rs. 4,559/ thousand SCM.

Administrative Pricing Mechanism (APM) gas produced from blocks allotted to ONGC is sold to APM customers at the price fixed by Government of India. The price of APM gas for Power and Fertilizer Sector in Rs. 3200/ thousand SCM for outside the North East and Rs. 1920/ thousand SCM in North-East. Further, the price of gas to court mandated customers, i.e., for City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects and Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ), and small customers, i.e., those consuming upto 50,000 standard cubic meters per day (SCMD), is Rs. 3840/ thousand SCM outside North-East and Rs. 2304/ thousand SCM in North-East.

[Translation]

ROB at Khokhasa

4415. SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PATLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of rail over bridge at Khokhasa near Champa NH 200 East Cabin in South East Central Railways in Bilaspur division of Chhattisgarh, as proposed in the Railway Budget for the year 2009-2010, has commenced; and

(b) if not, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Work of road over bridge between Champa-Naila (Khokhasa Level Crossing No. 342) at Km. 672/11-13 is already sanctioned. General Arrangement Drawing has been approved. Estimate has been sent to State Government for acceptance, who has sought authorization from National Highway Authority of India as location falls on National Highway.

[English]

Investment by NRIS in PSUS

4416. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Non-resident Indians are investing in the Indian Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on 31st March, 2009;

(c) whether there is any policy of the Government to encourage such investment by the NRIs in the public sector enterprises; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to boost up such investment in the Eleventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) In accordance with Foreign Direct Investment Scheme framed by the Government of India, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) can invest in Indian Companies including Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs).

(c) and (d) Further, NRIs can also purchase, without any limit, on repatriation basis, bonds issued by PSEs and shares in PSEs being divested by the Government of India.

Single Platform in NE Railways

4417. SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations having only one platform under Izzat Nagar Division of North Eastern (NE) railways;

(b) whether it is proposed to increase the number of platforms on such railway stations to avoid accidents; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are Fifty eight (58) Stations under Izzat Nagar Division of North Eastern Railway which have one platform only.

(b) and (c) Provision of additional platform at stations is made based on traffic requirements including number of trains stopping at the station and is not related to accidents. Work of construction of second platform has accordingly been planned for 17 such railway stations viz. — Araul Makanpur, Khudaganj, Utaripura, Samsabad, Rudain, Ganjdhundhavara, Axauli, Sikandra Rao, Rati Ka Nagla, Hathras City, Musran, Sonai, Raya, Pipalsana, Roshanpur, Aliganj and Gularbhojh.

[English]

Flights from Tiruchirapalli Airport

4418. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to increase the number of flights between Tiruchirapalli-Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal for introducing new direct flights to Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru from Tiruchirapalli; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which these flights are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Air India's subsidiary, Air India Express currently links Tiruchirapalli which Chennai as a part of the routing of their international services. While it operates a daily flight from Chennai to Tiruchirapalli, it operates a daily flight twice from Tiruchirapally to Chennai. Air India do not have any plans to introduce any new service out of Tiruchirapalli.

Centre for Railway Information System

4419. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the problems being faced by the passengers due to frequent late running of trains and inaccurate information about the running of trains;

(b) if so, whether the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) has any proposal to improve and upgrade its technology for providing accurate information to the passengers about the running status of the trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is also a proposal to compensate the passengers in case of trains running late beyond certain hours; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) is integrating train running information system with National Train Enquiry System with forecasting provisions for providing more accurate information.

(d) and (e) While there is no provision for compensation to passengers who have already boarded the train in case of late running, full refund of fare is admissible for those passengers not intending to travel by a train running more than three hours late.

ROB at Mewala Railway Crossing

4420. SHRI RAJENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken any step to construct a rail over bridge (ROB) at Mewala Railway Crossing situated on Meerut-Hapur railway track in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. A work of construction of Road over bridge has been sanctioned in Financial year 2008-09 in lieu of level crossing No. A-55/E-3 on Meerut-Hapur Section. The cost of the work is Rs. 21.36 crores. Preliminary works e.g. preparation of detailed estimate, approval of General Arrangement Drawing etc. are in progress.

[Translation]

Stoppage at Firozpur and Fazilka

4421. SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to provide stoppages of all important trains at Firozpur and Fazilka in Punjab;

(b) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be provided;

(c) whether new passenger train is proposed to be introduced on the said route so that the time of the commuters could be saved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 5 pairs of trains are presently running between Firozpur Cantt Jn. and Fazilka Jn. All these trains are already stopping at Firozpur Cantt Jn., Firozpur City and Fazilka Jn.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal for introduction of additional train on Firozpur Cantt and Fazilka Jn. section.

[English]

Food Processing Industrial Policy

4422. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has directed the State Governments to frame Food Processing Industrial Policy for their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of States that have formulated their own Food Processing Industrial Policy alongwith the financial assistance provided by the Government to each State?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The formulation of State specific food processing policy is the subject matter of the State Governments. This Ministry has urged all the State Governments/Union Territories to frame suitable food processing policies catering to their specific needs. So far, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have formulated food processing policies for their States. No separate financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for the purpose.

Trade in Brass Items

4423. MOHAMMED AZHARUDDIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of import and export trade in brass items during the last three years;

(b) whether the brass exports has witnessed decline in the last three years;

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

(d) whether the Government has initiated or proposes to initiate any scheme to infuse growth in the declining level of international trade in handicrafts in general and brass in particular; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith its impact particularly on trade in brass items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As reported by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), the exports specifically of brass items as well as Artmetalware comprising of brass, copper, aluminium, EPNS etc. for the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Brassware	3458.95	2743.82	1497.35
Other Metal ware	676.11	562.23	292.92
Total	4135.06	3306.05	1790.27

The import figures, however are not maintained in Ministry of Textiles.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. During 2007-08 and 2008-09 brassware exports have declined because of economic slow-down in the target foreign Markets.

(d) and (e) To infuse growth in the declining level of international trade in handicrafts including brass-ware, measures taken include; all handicrafts exports to be treated as Special Focus Products and will be entitled to

Duty Scrip equivalent to 5% of FOB value of export made from 27.8.2009 onwards; reduction in Custom Duty from 3% to 0% on Export Promotion Capital Goods; additional Duty Credit Scrip to status Holders @ 1% of FOB value of the past exports. Participation in Fairs/Exhibitions abroad; organizing Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair twice a year, organizing Thematic exhibition; Organizing programmes for packaging and export procedure; Organization of buyer sellers meet; workshop/seminar and Stand Alone Shows for brand image promotion of Indian Handicrafts abroad; organizing seminars/workshops in important Craft/Centres by Handicraft Export Promotion Council.

[Translation]

LPG Allocation

4424. SHRI KAPIL MUNI KARWARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which Double Bottle Cylinders (DBC) are likely to be provided to consumers after allotting them LPG connections keeping in view of the problems faced by the consumers;

(b) whether purchase of accessories from gas agencies is mandatory for consumers after getting DBC;

(c) if so, whether the Government would do away with mandatory purchase of accessories; and

(d) if so, the time by which and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Except for occasional shortage of equipment at some LPG distributors, Double Bottle Connections (DBC) are being released to the consumers immediately, on demand. Wherever there is waiting list for release of DBC, the same is released as per the waiting list serial number for which sufficient equipments are being made available to liquidate

the waiting list for DBC.

(b) to (d) Consumers are not under any compulsion to purchase accessories from the LPG distributors and are at liberty to buy any accessories from any source of their choice. A message to this effect is displayed in all the show-rooms of the LPG distributors of OMCs and in case of any established complaints in this respect, action as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) is taken against the erring distributors.

Supply of Natural Gas through Pipeline

4425. SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies/undertakings awarded contract by Government to supply natural gas through pipeline to the various cities of the country and the names of the cities;

(b) the details of allocation of funds for the above-mentioned scheme; and

(c) the names of cities alongwith the names of the companies between which contract has been signed to supply natural gas through pipeline and the time by which these pipelines are likely to be completed?

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

(a) The names of City Gas Distribution (CGD) Companies authorized by Government to supply natural gas through pipelines to various cities of the country are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) As none of these are Government Companies, no funds have been allotted to them by the Central Government.

(c) Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has set project milestones for the Companies mentioned in Annex to achieve geographical coverage of their Geographical Areas (GAs).

Statement

Sl. No.	Companies	Area of Operations
1.	Mahanagar Gas Limited	Mumbai and district Thane, including Navi Mumbai and Mira-Bhayender
2.	Indraprastha Gas Limited	Delhi and its suburbs, viz., NOIDA (Gautam-budh Nagar), Gurgaon and Faridabad
3.	Bhagyanagar Gas Limited	Vijaywada and Hyderabad
4.	Tripura Natural Gas Company Limited	Agartala
5.	Maharashtra Natural Gas Limited	Pune, including Pimpri and Chinchward
6.	Aavantika Gas Limited	Indore, Ujjain and Gwalior
7.	Sabarmati Gas Limited	Gandhinagar, Mehsana and Sabharkantha
8.	Green Gas Limited	Lucknow and Agra
9.	Gujarat Gas Company Limited	Surat, Bharuch and Ankleshwar
10.	Central UP Gas Limited	Kanpur and Bareilly
11.	GAIL (India) Limited	Vadodara

Halt at Mairwa Railway Station*[English]*

4426. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received to provide a halt to train number 5707-5708 at Mairwa Station of North- Eastern Railways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Demand for provision of stoppage of 5707/5708 Katihar-Amritsar Express at Mairwa has been received. This has been examined, but not found feasible at present.

Kollam Railway Station

4427. SHRI N. PEETHAMBARA KURUP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for second Terminus of Kollam railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No such survey is sanctioned.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Railway Engine by BHEL

4428. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) operating in the field of engineering and power has ventured into railway engine manufacturing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the BHEL has got proper human resource and technology for railway engine manufacturing;

(d) if so, whether there is any scheme to set up any separate plant, unit of BHEL in wake of its entry into a new sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has been in the field of manufacture and supply of railway engines/ locomotives since mid-1980s. For this, the company has established facilities for manufacture of a range of traction machines, diesel and electric locomotives, rolling stock for Indian Railways, Industrial use and other Urban Transportation applications. These include, mainline electric locomotives upto 5000 Horse Power (HP) for Railways, Diesel Electric Locomotives ranging from 350 HP to 2600 HP for different medium and large industries, Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) coaches, and related electrics/drives/controls.

The Jhansi Unit of BHEL has the main facilities for manufacture of railway locomotives which are presently being enhanced.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. BHEL has the necessary human resources and technology for manufacture of its present range of locomotives and railway engines equipment.

At present there is no proposal under consideration for setting up separate plant/unit of BHEL to manufacture railway engines/locomotives.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Transit Loss on Crude Oil Transportation

4429. SHRI PURNMASI RAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the permissible pipeline losses for oil sectors would be upto maximum 1 per cent of the crude oil production;

(b) if so, whether due to frequent leakages, handling and movement through road tankers coupled with *ad hoc* and partial replacement of pipelines in the absence of regular replacement policy, the transit loss during the years 2004-05 to 2007-08 was in excess of the norms by 0.18 to 3.31 per cent leading to loss of production and loss of revenue to Rs. 73.38 crore;

(c) the reasons for non-compliance of laid down norms and the failure to undertake capital overhauling of major equipment; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that equipments are overhauled regularly and on time?

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

(a) and (b) While there are no standards for permissible loss on crude oil transportation, the oil Public Sector Undertakings have reported that the transit pipeline losses on crude oil transportation during the years 2004-05 to 2007-08 were below 1%.

(c) and (d) All pipelines and associated major equipments are maintained and overhauled according to the prescribed schedule and as per recommendations of the Original Equipment Manufacturers.

[Translation]

**Setting up of Steel Factory in Sirmaur,
Himachal Pradesh**

4430. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had made an announcement to set up a steel factory in District Sirmaur in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the date on which the announcement was made and the action taken thereon so far; and

(c) the current status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) No, Madam. However, there have been demands for setting up Steel Processing Units at various locations, including Sirmaur, and these are under examination.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Allocation of Kerosene

4431. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:
SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA:
SHRI P. BALRAM:

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

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposal for additional allocation of 28432 KLS of kerosene per month for the year 2009-10;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) A request for additional allocation of 28432 KLS

of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene per month was received from Department of Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Andhra Pradesh during January, 2009.

(c) The proposal was examined in this Ministry and was not approved in view of the fact that no reduction in allocation of PDS kerosene to Andhra Pradesh has been made from 2004-05 even though there has been 26% increase in the LPG coverage in the State as on 1st July, 2009, and as such the present level of allocation was considered appropriate. Further, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas considers additional allocations in exceptional circumstances like flood, drought, earthquake etc. In case of Andhra Pradesh an additional allocation of 13000 KL of PDS Kerosene has been made in the month of September, 2009 to meet the flood situation in the State.

Allocation of Natural Gas to Andhra Pradesh

4432. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:
SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA:
SHRI P. BALRAM:

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

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposal for allocation of additional quantum of gas upto 4.16 MMSCMD to mitigate the shortfall in meeting the power requirement of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Requests have been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh from time to time for allocation of KG D6 gas to their various existing gas-based power plants, as also for setting up new gas-based power plants.

(c) It has been decided to allot KG D6 gas on firm basis to existing gas-based power plants in Andhra Pradesh to enable them to operate at 75% Plant Load

Factor (PLF), against 70% for the rest of the country. Out of total allocation of 43.165 mmscmd (million metric standard cubic metre per day) from KG D6 to power sector, the share of Andhra Pradesh is 9.16 mmscmd. This has enabled four stranded power plants in Andhra Pradesh to become operational from April, 2009. Further, existing gas-based power plants, have been allotted additional gas on fallback basic to operate beyond the earmarked PLF of 75%. As regards power projects in the pipeline, it has been decided that, subject to the availability of gas, necessary allocations from KG-D6 fields will be made to them as and when they are ready to commence production.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps

4433. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allotted petrol pumps to the kin of 26/11 victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the persons to whom these petrol pumps have been allotted so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Government of India had introduced, as a special case and as a one time measure, a special scheme for direct allotment of dealership/distributorship of Retail Outlet (RO/Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)/Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) — Light Diesel Oil (LDO)/Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Filling Station to one dependant each of the 18 Government Security personnel killed while defending the terrorist attack on Mumbai during 26-28th November, 2008.

Beneficiaries under the special scheme are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of deceased Government Security Personnel	Name of Beneficiary and relationship with the deceased Government Security Personnel
1	2	3
1.	Shri Hemant Kamlakar Karkare	Shrimati Kavita Hemant Karkare (Wife)
2.	Shri Ashok Marutrao Kamte	Shrimati Vinita Ashok Kamte (Wife)
3.	Shri Vijay Sahdeo Salaskar	Shrimati Smita Vijay Salaskar (Wife)
4.	Shri Tukaram Gopal Ombale	Shrimati Tarabhai Tukaram Ombale (Wife)
5.	Shri Shashank Chandrasen Shinde	Shrimati Manasi S. Shinde (Wife)
6.	Shri Bapurao Sahebrao Dhurgude	Shrimati Aruna B. Dhurgude (Wife)
7.	Shri Arun Raghunath Chitte	Shrimati Manisha A. Chitte (Wife)
8.	Shri Balasaheb Chandrakant Bhosle	Mrs. Sharda. B. Bhosle (Wife)/Mr. Sachin Bhosle (Son)
9.	Shri Vijay Madhukar Khandekar	Shrimati Shraddha V. Khandekar (Wife)
10.	Shri Jaywant Hanumant Patil	Shrimati Pratibha J. Patil (Wife)
11.	Shri Prakash Pandurang More	Shrimati Madhavi Pandurang More (Wife)

1	2	3
12.	Shri Mukesh Jadhav	Shrimati Sulochana Bhikaji Jadhav (Mother)
13.	Shri Ambadas Ramchandra Pawar	Shrimati Kalpana A. Pawar (Wife)
14.	Shri Yogesh Shivaji Patil	Shrimati Sunita S. Patil (Wife)
15.	Shri Murlidhar Laxman Choudhary	Shrimati Snehalata M. Chaudhary (Wife)
16.	Shri Rahul Subhash Shnde	Shri Subhash Vishnu Shinde (Father)/Mrs. Sakharba Subhash Shinde (Mother)
17.	Shri Gajendra Singh Bisht	Shrimati Vineeta Bisht (Wife)
18.	Shri Sandeep Unnikrishnan	Shri K. Unnikrishnan (Father)

(c) In respect of beneficiaries at Sl.No. 1, 6, 8 and 13 above, the dealerships have been commissioned. In respect of beneficiaries at Sl.No. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 and 17, Letter of Appointments have been issued. Beneficiary at Sl.No. 18 has declined the offer.

Concessions to Chemical Companies

4434. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some chemical companies have demanded concessions during the recession period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(a) and (b) Yes. Some chemical companies had demanded concessions during the recession period. These included reduction in Central Excise Duty from 14% — 8%, roll back of Import Duty of 5% on Naptha, levy of crisis duty (10%) on all chemicals, intermediates, dyes, pigments and pesticides, expeditious disposal of Anti Dumping/Safeguard Measures, fiscal reliefs to SMEs and provision of low cost credit to them.

(c) The Government has taken the following decisions in this regard:—

(i) Reduction of Excise Duty from 14%-10% and then from 10%-8%.

(ii) Anti Dumping Duty/Safeguards were imposed in respect of following:—

Soda Ash	Imposition of Safeguard Duty-20%
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Caustic Soda	Imposition of Safeguard Duty-15%
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Carbon Black	Anti Dumping Duty-\$78--\$195 per MT Country specific
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(iii) DEPB rates were restored to March, 2008 level.

(iv) 150% weighted deductions of expenditure on R&D for recognized R&D Units.

(v) Period of credit for exports was increased from 180 days to 270 days.

[Translation]

Handloom Committees

4435. SHRI MURARI LAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up State offices of handloom committees in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Government has not received any proposal to set up State Offices of handloom committees in various States of the country.

Gauge Conversion on Gorakhpur-Nautanwa Section

4436. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of ongoing gauge conversion project on Gorakhpur-Anandnagar-Nautanwa route;

(b) whether the project is running behind schedule;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Gauge conversion of Gorakhpur-Gonda loop with Anandnagar-Nautanwa is an ongoing project. Gorakhpur-Anandnagar-Nautanwa (81.28 km.) section has already been completed and converted line has been commissioned. Gauge conversion in balance section of Anandnagar-Gonda has been taken up. The conversion of this section is likely to be completed in next 3-4 years as per availability of resources.

Outstanding Dues of GAIL

4437. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector company Essar had signed an agreement with the Gas Authority of India Limited in 1996 for procurement of gas according to which Essar company had to pay transportation charges of gas supply by HBJ pipeline and Essar company had agreed to pay the transportation cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the account of transportation charges for transportation of gas outstanding against Essar company as on date;

(c) whether the Essar company has paid the said charges to the GAIL;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether GAIL has taken any steps for early recovery of the said charges from Essar company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. An agreement was executed between GAIL (India) Ltd. and Essar Steel Ltd. on 17.07.1996 for converting gas allocation of 0.35 mmscmd (million metric standard cubic metres per day) on fallback basis into firm allocation, with a commitment from ESSAR to pay Hajira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) transportation charges. As on 30.09.2009, the total amount of transportation charge not paid by Essar Steel Ltd. to GAIL (India) Ltd. is Rs. 100.43 crore.

(c) to (f) M/s Essar Steel Ltd. stopped the payment of transportation charges to GAIL (India) Ltd with effect from February 1999. GAIL gave a demand cum disconnection notice and called upon M/s ESSAR to deposit the outstanding amount along with payable interest in terms of the contract. M/s Essar Steel Ltd. challenged the notice issued by GAIL before the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court. Hon'ble Single Judge of Gujarat High Court allowed the petition holding that Essar Steel Ltd. is not liable to pay transportation charges and quashed and set aside the notice issued by GAIL. GAIL has filed an appeal against

the said order before the Hon'ble Division bench of Gujarat High Court.

[English]

Property Rights Cases

4438. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the litigation in property rights cases is on the rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any proposal for minimizing the property right related litigations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) As the information on litigation in property rights cases is not maintained in the Department of Justice, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Revision of Article 243

4439. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the article 243 in as far as it categories Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under deemed industrial townships, and forbid peoples participation through local authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M.

VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Air Traffic Regulations

4440. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Commercial Aircraft are under the scan of US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in respect of air traffic regulation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction and steps taken by the Government in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rail Link between Port Blair to Diglipur

4441. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for development of rail link between Port Blair to Diglipur in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) A survey for construction of new line from Port Blair to Diglipur was completed in the year 2002. The cost of construction of 250 Km. long line was assessed as Rs. 867.46 crore for broad gauge and Rs. 420.98 crore for meter gauge. The project was not taken up.

Law Institutions

4442. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to upgrade legal education in the country to global standards the Government has proposed to set up four law institutes under the National Law School University; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Government is engaged in the process of improving legal education and has held National consultation with the Vice-Chancellors of all National Law Schools. The 1st National consultation was held on 5th/6th December, 2009.

[Translation]

Construction of Helipads

4443. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrialists, politicians and business establishments in posh areas who have been given permission to construct helipads on the roofs of their houses as well as business establishments despite the protest made by environmentalists in this regard;

(b) the reasons for giving permission to construct such helipads despite the protest against noise pollution made by the environmentalists of the country under the provision of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ban such move and tighten relevant law; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The two rooftop helipads namely Taj Welington Mews Rooftop helipad, Mumbai and ESSAR Rooftop helipad, Mumbai have been given operational authorisation for helicopter operation. While processing these cases, clearances from environment point of view was also taken into consideration.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Acquisition of NTC's Land, Indore

4444. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for acquisition of National Textile Corporation Mills Land in Indore (MP) has been received for the development of the Railways; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Sale of Soft Drink

4445. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have granted any contracts to any organisation for the sale of soft drinks in trains as well as at Railway Stations during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the amount of revenue earned on account of this during the said period, zone-wise;

(c) whether the said soft drink vendors are occupying more area than the area allotted to them and are selling other items as well which are not permitted under the said contract; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Railways against such vendors during each of the last three years, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Vadodara Airport

4446. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of "No Objection Certificate" issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to the builders of Vadodara City for construction of high-rise building in the funnel of Air-routes of Vadodara Airport as on date;

(b) whether a number of builders have not sought NOC and constructed high-rise buildings surrounding of the air-route and funnel at Vadodara;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the DGCA in this regard so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation does not issue any such "No Objection Certificate".

(b) No such case has been reported to this Ministry.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Donations from PSUs

4447. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

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

(a) whether some political parties have informed the Election Commission about donations from private/public sector organizations;

(b) if so, the details of the donations received by the political parties during the last three years;

(c) whether such donations from PSUs are permitted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Issue of Overcharging Notices to Pharma Companies

4448. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had issued over-charging notices to Pharma companies in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) for marketing the schedule formulations without approvals and without following the ceiling prices;

(b) if so, whether the NPPA had also asked the drug controller, Jammu and Kashmir to help in the recovery of overcharged prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the companies, name of the product and the amount overcharged; and

(e) the action being taken by the NPPA for the recovery of overcharged amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) As and when specific cases of sale of formulation packs at a price over and above the ceiling prices notified by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)/ Government are brought to the notice of NPPA, the concerned companies are asked to explain the reasons for not following the ceiling prices and to submit the details of production and sales etc. of the overcharged product for initiating necessary action for recovery of the overcharged amount. The office of Drug Controller, Jammu

and Kashmir was also requested by NPPA to take up the matter with respective companies. Based on the examination of the replies submitted by the companies, NPPA has

issued demand notices for the confirmed overcharging cases to the following Pharma companies, as per details given against each, in the State of Jammu and Kashmir:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Product Name	Demand notices issued for (Rs. in lakh)	Amount recovered (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Parenteral Pharma Pvt. Ltd.	Dexagee Ing. 2ml Vial	1.67	1.67
2.	Pharose Remedies Ltd.	Norfloxin Tab	0.25	0.25

[Translation]

Hindustan Paper Mills

4449. DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh have refused to provide land for proposed Hindustan Paper Mill likely to be set up with the cost of 3500 crore rupees in Jagdishpur, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the further steps taken for selection of land for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) To set up Paper Mill Project at Utelwa Industrial Area under Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC) at Jagdishpur, Dist. Sultanpur, Jagdishpur Paper Mills Limited of Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPC) needs 500 acres of land for plant facilities, housing colony and pulpwood nursery. It was envisaged to take on lease 187.59 acres of land from UPSIDC (inclusive of 125 acres which had been leased to Kamla Nehru Memorial Trust) and the remaining land from private owners. The plant facilities require a minimum contiguous land of 250 acres with the UPSIDC land getting supplemented. UPSIDC had allotted 62.59

acres of land vide order dated 24.09.2007 for depositing Rs. 77.51 lakh towards 25% reservation money latest by 24.10.2007 which had been deposited on 06.12.2007 immediately after the approval of the project by the Government. The money which was received by UPSIDC authorities was subsequently returned to HPC after 6 months vide letter dated 06.06.2008. While returning the reservation money, UPSIDC cited delay in submission as the reason. The matter has been pursued thereafter repeatedly with UPSIDC but no positive response has been forthcoming.

(c) The requisite environmental clearance after the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the mandatory Public Hearing (on 10.04.2006) was obtained from Ministry of Environment and Forests with respect to the site of Utelwa Industrial Area. Any relocation will necessarily involve fresh EIA and Public Hearing. Hence, Government of India is constantly pursuing with the Government of UP for early allotment of the identified land.

[English]

Delay in Implementation of Steel Projects

4450. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of projects in steel sector are getting delayed due to non-allotment of mines;

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

(c) whether his Ministry has interacted with Ministry of Mines to find out the factors/reasons behind it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (d) Steel being a deregulated sector, decisions related to setting up of steel plants are taken essentially by the concerned companies. A number of investors have signed MoUs with various State Governments for setting up steel plants in respective States. However, the actual implementation of the projects depend upon a number of factors including availability and possession of land, receiving all the statutory clearances, availability of raw material through linkage/allocation of captive mines etc.

It is mentioned that the State Governments are the owners of minerals and grant mining leases of various minerals in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. For minerals specified in Schedule 1 to the MMDR Act, 1957, e.g. iron ore, manganese ore etc., prior approval of Central Government is required before grant of mineral concessions by the concerned State Government.

To streamline the procedure of grant of mineral concessions, Government has approved National Mineral Policy, 2008 along-with amended recommendations of the Hoda Committee. Ministry of Mines is in the process of bringing a new legislation to replace the existing Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to give effect to the intent of the National Mineral Policy, 2008 and recommendations of the Hoda Committee as approved by the Government. Ministry of Steel has been continuously interacting with Ministry of Mines on the subject and has already conveyed its views on the Draft MMDR Act to Ministry of Mines, keeping in view the concerns of domestic steel industry and to promote long term growth and development of the steel industry in the country.

[Translation]

Tenders for Transportation of Fertilizers

4451. SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Will the Minister

of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tender system is in place for transportation of the produce of the chemical producing factories in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any corruption/irregularities have been committed in the tender rules regarding transportation at the Phoolpur unit of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. (IFFCO) in Uttar Pradesh during 2008-09 and 2009-10;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. All the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Cooperatives producing fertilizers follow tender system for transportation of fertilizers and other chemicals produced by them.

(c) to (e) No, Madam. M/s Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO) Phulpur unit strictly adheres to the laid down procedures given in Procurement and Contracting Procedure (P&CP) of IFFCO and approved by the Board of Directors that also includes Transportation of finished Chemical products (Urea). There has been no case of any corruption/irregularities in the tender rules deviating from laid down procedure at any time including the said period 2008-09 and 2009-10

[English]

Creation of Indian Wakf Service

4452. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sachar Committee has shown with

statistical support that there is absolute dearth of Muslim Officers at every level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether keeping in view the acute shortage of Muslim Officer in State as well as Central Wakf Boards, Sachar Committee strongly recommended the creation of new cadre as Indian Wakf Service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Sachar Committee has observed that a very small proportion of Government/ Public Sector employees are Muslims and on average they are concentrated in lower level positions. Chapter 9 of Sachar Committee report contains the details on Government employment and programmes, and the report is available on Ministry's website www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

(c) and (d) The Sachar Committee had observed that there is a strong case to create a new cadre of officers to manage the affairs of State Wakf Boards and Central Wakf Council. The recommendation was not found acceptable. Department of Personal and Training, has issued guidelines on 8th January, 2007 to give special consideration to minorities in recruitment of police personnel, central police forces, railways, nationalized banks and public sector enterprises.

[Translation]

Adulteration in Petroleum Products

4453. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of adulteration of petroleum products came to light in East Champaran area of Bihar during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons/officials?

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

(a) Three cases of adulteration in petrol and diesel came to light during the inspections carried out by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies in East Champaran, Bihar during the last three years.

(b) Action has been taken in line with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines against the Retail Outlet dealers found indulging in adulteration.

Amendment in Court Fee and Indian Stamp Act

4454. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended to the Government to bring about an amendment in the Court Fees Act and the Indian Stamp Act in order to check revenue loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Law Commission in its 231st Report on "Amendments in Indian Stamp Act, 1899 and Court-Fee Act, 1870 permitting different modes of payment." has recommended that in order to save the Government huge costs of printing judicial and non-judicial stamps and commission to stamp vendors as also to prevent fraud and avoidable hassles to the public, the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 and the Court-fees Act, 1870 need suitable amendments to provide for payment of stamp duty on instruments and court-fee on documents to be filed in courts through alternative modes of payment, namely, demand draft, banker's cheque, pay order, money order, postal order, challan, cash. Stamp duty and court-fee account should be in round figures.

(c) The Parliamentary Standing Committee while

deliberating upon the Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 drew the attention of the executive and the judiciary to arrive at a decision regarding differential court fees for the Commercial/corporate matter immediately; and to amend the Supreme Court Rules, High Court Rules and other Court fees Acts accordingly. The Law Commission has accordingly been requested to consider this and submit its recommendations. With regard to the amendment in the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, the report has been forwarded to all the States/UTs for seeking their views as the matter falls within purview of State Governments.

[English]

Elimination of 'Uncle Judges'

4455. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether to the Law Commission in its 230th Report, had recommended to eliminate 'Uncle Judges' Syndrome;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

[Translation]

LPG Connections in Bihar

4456. DR. BHOLA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of people applied for the LPG connections in Bihar during each of the last three years, district-wise;
- (b) the details of LPG connections provided in the State during each of the last three years and the persons remaining in waiting list, date-wise, agency-wise and district-wise; and

(c) the time by which the waiting list for LPG connections is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) New LPG connections are made available as soon as possible and in any case, within a period of sixty days. During the Year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, OMCs have released 1.39 lakh, 1.81 lakh and 1.37 lakh new LPG connections in the State of Bihar respectively. The district-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

While Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have nil waiting list in the State of Bihar, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that there is a waiting list of 4904 as on 01.12.2009 for release of new connections with their LPG distributors in the State of Bihar. The district-wise and distributor-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

The present waiting list for release of new connection is expected to be liquidated by the end of December, 2009.

[English]

Height of Platform

4457. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Western Railways have any plans to raise the heights of platforms in Mumbai; and
- (b) if so, the names of such stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Western Railway has plan to raise the height of identified platforms at the following stations:—

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Grant Road | 2. Mahalakshmi |
| 3. Elphinstone Road | 4. Lower Parel |
| 5. Dadar | 6. Mahim |
| 7. Khar Road | 8. Bandra Terminus |

9. Santacruz 10. Vile Parle
 11. Andheri 12. Goregaon
 13. Malad 14. Kandivali
 15. Borivali 16. Dahisar
 17. Bhayander 18. Naigaon
 19. Vasai Road and 20. Nalia Sophara.

Review Committee for Textile Workers

4458. SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVDANJI GADHVI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to set up a Review Committee for Textile Workers of closed National Textile Corporation Mills;

(b) if so, the time by which this will be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, because there is no proposal to set up a Review Committee for the Textile Workers of closed National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills.

Recruitment in PSUs

4459. SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN:
 SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC

ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many director level posts in various Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are lying vacant for over more than a year;

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

(c) whether the Government would resort to campus recruitment of suitable candidates from the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) as private sector companies do and train them for director level position in due course; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per available information, only 13 Board level Posts in various Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are vacant for more than one year. The details of these 13 posts are given in enclosed Statement. The reasons for delay in Board level appointments include resignation/death/non-extension of tenure of existing Board level incumbent, selection of existing Board level incumbent to other or higher post, scrapping of panels by the competent authority, creation of new Board level posts, delay in obtaining vigilance clearance/approval of competent authority, etc.

(c) and (d) The Government has already issued guidelines that all CPSEs, if necessary, should have provisions for recruitment of Management Trainees from reputed institutions such as Indian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Management, etc.

Statement

Details of Board level posts in Central Public Sector Enterprises Vacant for more than one year

S.No.	Name of the post	Name of CPSE
1	2	3
1.	Chairman and Managing Director	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited

1	2	3
2.	Director (Finance)	Burn Standard Company Limited
3.	Director (Technical)	Central Coalfields Limited
4.	Director (Infrastructure)	Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited
5.	Director (Operations)	Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited
6.	Managing Director	HMT Bearings Limited
7.	Director (Finance)	Jute Corporation of India Limited
8.	Director (Finance)	MSTC Limited
9.	Director (Commercial)	MSTC Limited
10.	Director (Finance)	National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Limited
11.	Director (HR)	NTC Limited
12.	Chairman and Managing Director	Tyre Corporation of India Limited
13.	Director (Production)	Tyre Corporation of India Limited

[Translation]

Transportation Charges to Dealers

4460. SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dealers of chemical fertilizers are not paid transportation charges for carrying fertilizers to far-flung villages of the country from the place of stockists and the rake points due to which the cost of fertilizers increase;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide them transportation charges or increase their rate of commission;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d) The transportation charges for transportation of fertilizers from plant/port to the blocks in various parts of the country is paid by the Government under the Uniform Freight Subsidy Regime. The rail freight is paid on actuals. The road freight for direct dispatch of fertilizers from plant/port by road is paid based on normative district lead and the per tonne per KM rate notified by the Government. The district leads are based upon the average of the block leads from the plant/port.

Similarly, for transportation of fertilizers from rail rake point to various districts is paid based on a normative district lead and the per tonne per KM rate notified by the Government. The normative district lead in this case is also based upon the average of block leads from its nearest rail rake point.

[English]

100 Days Programme

4461. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had prepared an agenda for 100 days programme for the welfare of minorities;

(b) if so, the salient features of that agenda; and

(c) the current status and outcome of that agenda?

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

(b) The salient features of the 100 days programme were moving the proposal for the establishment of Equal Opportunity Commission, amendment of Central Wakf Act, 1995, and computerization of all State Wakf Boards in the country.

(c) Significant progress has been made in this regard. The programme has helped the Ministry in focusing on these important work areas during the current year.

Overloading of Wagons

4462. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are resorting to overloading of wagons beyond the designed capacities so as to earn more revenues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are aware that the continued uninterrupted overloading in the long run may

have an impact on the rail safety and also would affect the bridges, axles and tracks;

(d) whether any steps are being taken to address the issue of increasing hazard levels;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Construction of Greenfield Airports

4463. SHRI NINONG ERING: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Greenfield Airports in Itanagar, Pasighat, Tezu, Anini, Hayuliang and Vijay Nagar in Arunachal Pradesh were to be constructed last year;

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

(c) the time by which these Airports are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Madam. However, there is a proposal to construct a Greenfield Airport at Itanagar, for which Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared and on the observation of public Investment Board (PIB), Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study has been completed and draft report has been submitted to Arunachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board for conducting the public hearing.

[Translation]

ROBs in Uttar Pradesh

4464. SHRI RAMKISHUN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received for the

construction of road over bridges on railway lines passing through Districts of Chandauli and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details of proposals accepted and those rejected or lying pending out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) One proposal was received in 2003 for construction of Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing (LC) No. 4 at Manduadih yard, in Varanasi Distt. of U.P.

(b) The work was sanctioned during Works Programme of 2003-04. General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) and Estimate for the work have been approved. Delay was caused on account of late submission of GAD and Estimate by the State Government.

Rail Link from Khalilabad to Balrampur

4465. SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR ALIAS KUSHAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for rail linking of Khalilabad and Balrampur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Railway propose to provide rail connectivity to Khalilabad-Balrampur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) A survey for construction of new line between Khalilabad and Balrampur via Bansi, Dumariaganj and Utarola was completed in 1979-80. The construction of proposed new line was not taken up.

Production Cost of Steel

4466. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the production cost of steel in the country *vis-à-vis* the production cost in other countries during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) The cost of steel production is commercial information for the steel companies and data for the same is not maintained by the Ministry.

Cost of steel production varies depending on the raw material and its quality, domestic/import price of coal and iron ore, size/shape of product etc.

Domestic steel companies are continuously engaged in Research and Development (R&D) activities for improving their performance parameters including reduction in cost of production. The Government has also been supporting R&D.

Surveys for Projects in Rajasthan

4467. SHRI BHARAT RAM MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey in regard to construction of overbridges at level crossings in Ganganagar, Suratgarh and Sangaria cities of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the location where these Railway Over Bridges (ROB) are proposed to be constructed in future; and

(c) the details of the action plan in regard to conducting survey in the entire Rajasthan in view of the inconvenience caused to the people due to the closure of level crossings for longer period of time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. However, census of traffic at level crossings is conducted after every 3 years to ascertain eligibility/qualification for replacement by Road Over/Under Bridges.

(b) and (c) At present 94 level crossings falling in Rajasthan State are qualifying for replacement by Road over/under bridges on cost sharing basis. State Government has been requested to sponsor firm proposals duly fulfilling the preliminary prerequisites required under extant rules. However, no firm proposal has been received from State Government.

Shortage of Trained and Skilled Personnel

4468. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of the oil drilling and production projects is continuously increasing due to dearth of drilling rigs;

(b) if so, whether the completion of the projects are delayed due to acute shortage of trained and skilled personnel to meet the current demand;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for making them trained and skilled; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The drilling programme has been affected in several deep water blocks undertaken by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Private/Joint Venture companies due to global shortage of deep water drilling rigs. ONGC has reported increasing trend in drilling cost.

(b) and (c) The projects have not been delayed due to shortage of trained and skilled personnel.

(d) and (e) The personnel required in Exploration and Production (E&P) sector are recruited and deployed by the Public Sector undertakings (PSU) i.e. ONGC and Oil India limited (OIL) in their installations for Exploration and Production business. These companies regularly train their employees to upgrade their skill and to keep them abreast with the latest technology development and upgradation in E&P business.

[English]

Railway Projects in Southern Railway Zone

4469. SHRI S. SEMMALAI:

SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON:

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI M. KRISHNASSWAMY:

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH:

SHRI N. PEETHAMBARA KURUP:

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of new, ongoing/pending railway projects in the Southern Railway Zone alongwith target fixed for their completion;

(b) the amount allocated and spent thereon till date, project-wise;

(c) whether some of these projects are behind the schedule; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Details of the new, ongoing/pending railway projects under Southern Railway Zone, outlay provided during 2009-10 and outlay provided upto March, 2009 are available in the Budget Document for the year 2009-10. The status of ongoing new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects with target date for completion, wherever fixed, is given in the enclosed Statement.

On-going projects are being progressed as per availability of resources. A number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through non-budgetary measures like public/private partnership, funding by State Governments and other beneficiaries to expedite progress of these projects. Land acquisition for the various projects in the State of Kerala is taking longer time due to resistance by the local people. Regular meetings are being held with State Government Authorities to expedite land acquisition and to sort out other issues.

Statement**Ongoing Projects**

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Status and target date for completion, wherever fixed
1	2	3

New Line

1. Tindivanam-Gingee-Tiruvannamalai (70 Km.) State Government is yet to hand over required land. Work on 04 major bridges has been taken up wherever land is available.
2. Tindivanam-Nagari (179.2 Km.) State Government is yet to hand over required land. Work on major bridge across Palar river taken up. Tenders for earthwork, minor bridges and road bridges awarded.
3. Attipattu-Puttur (88.30 Km.) Work entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) for execution. Final location survey completed.
4. Erode-Palani (91.05 Km.) Final location survey taken up.
5. Chennai-Cuddalore via Mahabalipuram (179.28 Km.) Final location survey taken up.
6. Karur-Salem (85 Km.) Earthwork, bridges etc. taken up.
7. Tirunavaya-Guruvayur (35 Km.) Local people are objecting to the alignment being fixed for this new line. Final location survey held up due to public protest.
8. Angamali-Sabarimala (116 Km.) State Government is yet to hand over required land to Railways. Hon'ble High Court of Kerala has directed Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment and Forest to examine the representations received from local people.

Gauge Conversion

1. Villupuram-Katpadi (161 Km.) Katpadi-Vellore (10 Km.) section completed. Vellore-Villupuram (151 Km.) is targeted for 2009-10 which is nearing completion.
2. Manamadurai-Virudhunagar (66.5 Km.) Earthwork, bridgeworks, etc. taken up.
3. Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat and Podanur-Coimbatore (224.88 Km.) Work on Podanur-Coimbatore (6 Km.) section has been completed and work on Pollachi-Palghat (58 Km.) and Dindigul- Pollachi (141 Km.) sections have also been taken up.

1	2	3
4.	Mayiladuturai-Tiruvarur-Karaikudi and Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampalli (224 Km.)	Earthwork, bridges, in Mayiladuturai-Tiruvarur section have been taken up. Final Location survey for Tiruvarur-Karaikudi section (149 Km.) has been taken up.
5.	Madurai-Bodinayakkanur (90.41 Km.)	Tenders for some bridges and Final Location Survey have been processed.
6.	Tiruchchirappalli-Nagore-Karaikal (200 Km.) with extension of Nagapattinam-Velankanni-Tiruturaipundi via Tirukuvalai (43 Km.)	Tiruchchirappalli-Thanjavur-Tiruvarur-Nagore section has already been commissioned. Nagapattinam-Velankanni new line is targeted for completion during 2009-10. Work on Nagore-Karaikal and Nagapattinam-Tiruturaipundi new line sections have also been taken up.
7.	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (357 Km.)	Virudhunagar-Tenkasi-Sengottai (131 Km.) and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur (61 Km.) sections have been commissioned. Work on Quilon-Punalur (45 Km.) section is targeted for completion during 2009-10. Work on balance portion also taken up.
8.	Thanjavur-Villupuram (192 Km.)	Completed. Section is awaiting inspection of Commissioner of Railway Safety.

Doubling

1.	Chennai Beach-Korukkupet 3rd line (4.1 Km.)	The work involves exchange of railway land at Royapuram with Chennai Port Trust and the same has been processed.
2.	Chennai Beach-Attipattu 4th line (22.1 Km.)	The work involves exchange of railway land at Royapuram with Chennai Port Trust and the same has been processed.
3.	Chengalpattu-Villupuram (103 Km.)	Earthwork, bridge works and ballast collection have been taken up.
4.	Villupuram-Dindigul with electrification (273 Km.)	This work has been transferred to RVNL for execution. Final location survey has been taken up.
5.	Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 4th line (26.83 Km.)	This work has been transferred to RVNL for execution. Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers have been processed.
6.	Attipattu-Korukkupettai 3rd line (18 Km.)	Korukkupet-Ennore (12 Km.) section has already been commissioned. Work on Ennore-Attipattu (6 Km.) has also been taken up and this work is likely to be completed during 2009-10.

1	2	3
7.	Mulanturutti-Kuruppantara (24 Km.)	State Government is yet to hand over required land to Railways. Bridge works taken up.
8.	Kuruppantara-Chingavanam (26.54 Km.)	Final location survey completed. Requisition for 30 hectare of land has been submitted to State Government. No land is handed over.
9.	Chengannur-Chingavanam (26.5 Km.)	Requisition for 18.88 hectare of land has been submitted to State Government. No land is handed over. Bridge works taken up.
10.	Mavelikara-Chengannur (12.3 Km.)	Work is slow due to frequent stoppage of earthmoving vehicles by local people and State Authorities. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
11.	Cheppad-Kayankulam (7.76)	Contracts for all works have been finalised. Work is affected due to frequent interruption by local people. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
12.	Cheppad-Haripad (5.28 Km.)	Work is slow due to frequent stoppage of earth moving vehicles by locals and failure of contracts. New contracts have been processed. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
13.	Ambalapuzha-Haripad (18.13 Km.)	Requisition for 16 hectare of land has been submitted to State Government. No land is handed over.
14.	Kankanadi-Panamburu (19 Km.)	Tender for final location survey processed.
15.	Calicut-Mangalore (221 Km.)	Work on 218 Km. completed and Netravathi-Kankanadi (3 Km.) is likely to be completed during 2009-10.

[Translation]

Sambhal-Gajraula Railway Line

4470. DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have sanctioned the Sambhal-Gajraula via Hasanpur railway line under Muradabad railway division;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have received any

proposal to connect it with a line from Bihar;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for not starting the work on this route even after completion of survey for this purpose; and

(f) the time by which the work is likely to be started by the Railways on this route?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Madam.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) and (f) The project is not yet sanctioned.

[English]

Reward Points

4471. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to introduce a new scheme for its frequent travelling passengers, similar to the airlines operators by offering reward points to enable them free travel by train against points accumulated over a certain period of time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the passengers to such scheme since its launching?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) With a view to encourage passengers of higher class to undertake journey by rail, a Scheme for Frequent Travellers (SOFT) was launched in 2006. Under this scheme, the frequent traveller earns reward point for the journeys undertaken by him/her. These reward points when accumulated, can be exchanged for a complimentary trip by train. This scheme is available in all Air Conditioned Classes except 3AC class.

(c) 108290 members have registered under this scheme till October, 2009, out of which 60729 are active users.

[Translation]

Private Sector in Construction of Airports

4472. SHRI LAL CHAND KATARIA:
SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to develop infrastructure facilities at airports through public-private participation;

(b) if so, the details of airports handed over to private companies for their development indicating the names of the companies to which these have been handed over, State-wise;

(c) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been ignored in allocating the task of non-metro airport terminal work;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective steps the Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The details of airports handed over to private companies for their development indicating the names of the companies to which these have been handed over, are given State-Wise as under:—

- (i) NCT of Delhi (IGI Airport) — Delhi International Airport Pvt. Ltd
- (ii) Maharashtra (CSI Airport)- Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd.
- (iii) Karnataka (Greenfield airport at Devanhalli near Bangalore) — Bangalore International Airport Ltd.
- (iv) Andhra Pradesh (Greenfield airport at Shamshabad near Hyderabad) — Hyderabad International Airport Ltd.
- (v) Kerala (Cochin) — Cochin International Airport Ltd.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Setting up of New Fertilizer Plants

4473. SHRI ARJUN MUNDA:

SHRI MAHESHWAR HAZARI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up new units/plants of chemical fertilizers in the country including Jharkhand and Bihar during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the said units/plants are likely to become operational, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up any such plant with the foreign assistance in the country including Jharkhand;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the domestic production of fertilizers?

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

(a) to (d) The Government has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) including Barauni unit in Bihar and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) including Sindri Unit in Jharkhand, subject to assured availability of natural gas, to meet the emerging demand production gap of urea in the country. The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) with the mandate to evaluate all investment options for revival of the closed units of FCIL/ HFCL and to make suitable recommendations for consideration of the Government. ECOS has already considered various possible investment options for revival of each of the closed units and have finalized its recommendations regarding the suitable financing option. The recommendations of ECOS are under consideration of the Government.

(e) The Government has announced a New Investment Policy for urea sector on 4th September, 2008.

The policy is expected to attract investments in urea sector subject to availability of gas. The policy also aims at creation of additional production capacity through revamp, expansion and revival of existing urea units in the country and new Green fields projects in the country.

The Government has also announced on 6th March, 2009, policy for conversion of FO/LSHS urea units to Natural Gas, restart of existing urea units and resumption of urea production of RCF-Trombay to increase indigenous production.

The indigenous production of phosphatic fertilizers is largely dependant on imported raw material and intermediates, the Government has been encouraging fertilizer industry to actively pursue joint ventures abroad in order to secure future supplies of fertilizer inputs and finished fertilizers.

[English]

Ahmedabad Airport

4474. DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI:

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any development work is going on at Ahmedabad airport;

(b) if so, the status thereof;

(c) the total amount sanctioned for the purpose and the time schedule of completion of project;

(d) whether passengers are getting difficulties due to lack of facilities at the airport; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Various development works like construction of new international terminal building (Phase-I), expansion of new international terminal building (Phase-II) and extension of existing apron for domestic terminal building have been taken up with an

estimated cost of Rs. 291 crores. Out of these development works, extension of existing apron for domestic terminal has been completed and rest of the works are expected to be completed by 31.03.2010.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sale of Scraps

4475. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the details of the profit/ loss of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) and each of their subsidiary especially Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) on selling of scraps during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): Scrap is generated as 'arisings' in the various stages of production of iron and steel in any steel plant. Scrap so generated is either internally consumed or sold at the prevailing market price. There is no separate manufacturing cost of scrap and the profit on the sale of scrap in SAIL and RINL is not separately computed.

[English]

Printing of Tickets

4476. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the printing of railway reservation tickets are being printed in railway press or printed by outsourcing agency;

(b) if so, the details of volume of such work allotted to each Government Press and outsourced agency, amount-wise, during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether some Press have been blacklisted for inferior or substandard supply of printed tickets;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the ticket printing is being done centrally or on divisional basis; and

(f) if done on divisional basis, then the percentage difference in cost of procurement among various divisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. Only Card ticket are being printed at Railway printing presses and reservation tickets (blank rolls) are printed by out sourcing agencies.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Tickets are being printed centrally by zonal Railway for all Divisions.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

(fig. in lakhs)

Firms Name	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10 (Upto November, 09)	
	Tickets	Value	Tickets	Value	Tickets	Value	Tickets	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Northern Railway	210.00	—	281.00	—	27.00	—	14.08	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
M/s Hindon Engg. Noida, UP	52.00	4.62	147.00	15.58	80.00	9.22	—	—
M/s Rational Business, Delhi	929.68	80.33	401.91	42.24	196.95	16.35	330.71	34.41
M/s Orient Press, Mumbai	22.00	2.82	20.00	2.08	186.00	1.83	—	—
M/s Axis Ad Print Media, Mumbai	—	—	598.60	62.36	1300.54	115.08	—	—
M/s Vairam firms, Delhi	—	—	90.00	8.69	—	—	—	—
M/s Ebenezer Hi-tech, Delhi	—	—	116.86	10.63	214.52	20.17	—	—
M/s Lucky Firms, Mumbai	20.00	1.79	—	—	—	—	78.00	8.88
M/s Mehra Computer Systems, Chennai	—	—	—	—	145.70	—	—	—
M/s K.L. High tech Security System, Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	70.00	12.92
M/s Atlanta Firms, Mumbai	335.62	29.40	—	—	13.77	13.61	—	—
M/s Gate way Firms, Delhi	196.30	18.91	—	—	91.86	9.23	—	—
M/s Rajeswari hitech, Akola, Maharashtra	—	—	85.94	7.26	—	—	—	—
Total	1765.6	137.87	1741.31	148.84	2256.34	185.49	492.79**	56.21

Year 2009-10

- ** (i) Northern Railway has ordered nil as against 586 lakh in the year 2008-09 which is about 2 years requirement for Northern Railway.
- (ii) Some Railways are yet to finalize contract year 2009-10 as stocks are available.
- (iii) Figure for 2009-10 are up to end of November, 2009 as against full year in 2008-09.

Setting up of Paper Plants

4477. SHRI SIDHANT MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up new paper plants in the country;

(b) if so, the States where these paper plants are proposed to be set up;

(c) whether Hindustan Paper Corporation has identified places for the establishment of such plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) Yes, Madam. Government of India has approved setting up of a new paper mill with 300000 tpa capacity as a subsidiary of Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) with HPC holding 51% share.

(b) New paper plant will be set up in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The proposed paper mill will be set up at Jagdishpur, district Sultanpur of Uttar Pradesh. However, the project activities could not commence as the land identified for the plant facilities is yet to be handed over by Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC).

Security of Offshore Oil and Gas Installation

4478. SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

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

(a) whether the Government is planning to extend "safety zone" around the installations upto 5 nautical miles

from the existing 500 metres to strengthen security of country's offshore oil and gas installations and prevent sabotage and terrorists attacks on them;

(b) if so, whether the Home Ministry has submitted a draft proposal on India's security incorporating this aspect of declaring larger area around offshore installations a 'no vessel zone'; and

(c) if so, whether the Cabinet has approved such proposal and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The need to extend the safety zone around petroleum installations beyond 500 meters is under discussion with the concerned authorities (Coast Guard, Navy, OISD, ODAG etc.)

(b) No, Madam. There is no such proposal initiated by Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c) In view of above, does not arise.

Budgetary Provision

4479. SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 46 dated July 2, 2009 regarding budgetary provision for gauge conversion and to state:

(a) whether required budgetary provision has been included in the Railway Budget 2009-10;

(b) if so, the details of the provision approved for conversion/upgradation of each line; and

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The details of ongoing gauge conversion projects falling full/partly in Gujarat alongwith outlay provided during 2009-10 is as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Outlay 2009-10 (Rs. in crore)
1.	Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur	30
2.	Bharuch-Samni-Dahej	45.65
3.	Bhildi-Samdari	70
4.	Bhildi-Viramgam	40
5.	Bhuj-Naliya with extension to Vayor	30
6.	Pratapnagar-Chhotaudepur	35
7.	Rajkot-Veraval, Wansjalua to Jetalsar with new line from Veraval to Somnath	27.20
8.	Ankleshwar-Rajpipla	60
9.	Surendranagar-Bhavnagar-Mahuva with extn. to Pipavav and Surendranagar-Dhrangadhra	24

The above projects are in various stages of progress and will be completed as per availability of resources.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh

4480. SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Fertilizer Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) manufactures fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Madam. There are four units of Indian Farmers

Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. (IFFCO) manufacturing fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh. The details of plants run by IFFCO are given below:—

Sl. No.	Product	Unit	Location
1.	Urea	Phulpur-I	Allahabad
2.	Urea	Phulpur-II	Allahabad
3.	Urea	Aonla-I	Bareilly
4.	Urea	Aonla-II	Bareilly

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Fast Track Court

4481. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

SHRI M. ANANDAN:

SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR:

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

(a) whether Fast Track Courts scheme is coming to an end by March, 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government will implement the recommendation made in this regard by the Nachiappan Committee;

(d) if so, the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented;

(e) whether any proposal for strengthening and bringing transparency to judicial institutions is under consideration of the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The term of the scheme recommended by the 11th Finance Commission came to an end on 31st March, 2005. The scheme was extended for a further period of 5 years i.e. upto 31st March, 2010.

(c) and (d) The Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice headed by Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan has made a number of recommendations on 'Fast Track Courts (FTCs)'. It has inter-alia recommended for monitoring the performance of FTCs, providing financial support and augmenting the number of FTCs, ensuring that the FTCs resort more to fair trial and judgements, regularizing the adhoc judges, making sitting judges rather than adhoc judges preside over FTCs, ensuring that all the non-functional FTCs start working, pursuing with the respective State Governments and High Courts to ensure that FTCs not only expedite disposal of cases but also ensure fair trial.

The recommendations of the Committee have been partly accepted. Government is committed to providing financial support to FTCs upto March, 2010 and also to facilitate improvement in court efficiency through application of information and communication technology. The recommendations of the Committee on the issue of fair trial and judgement in FTCs have been brought to the notice of the Chief Justices of the High Courts. State Governments have also been requested to make all the non-functional FTCs functional on priority basis.

(e) and (f) The Government is considering to bring in a comprehensive Bill on Judicial Standards and Accountability before the Parliament. Details are being worked out.

Financial Assistance to FPI

4482. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing grant-in-aid to the implementing agencies for Infrastructure

Development of Food Processing Industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount of grant-in-aid provided to each State during the last three years;

(c) the manner in which the Government is disbursing the approved amount to various Food Processing Industries for this purpose;

(d) whether a special package has been worked out for the upliftment of Tribal areas of Orissa under this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes. Government is providing financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to the implementing agencies for infrastructure development of food processing industries in the country. Regarding Establishing/Modernization of Abattoirs in country, Ministry extends financial assistance with the involvement of local bodies (Municipal Corporations and Panchayats) and this will have the flexibility for the involvement of private Investors/Exporters/FDI on a Built-Operate-Own (BOO)/Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT)/Joint Venture (JV) basis.

(b) (i) Mega Food Park Scheme:

This is one of the Scheme under infrastructure development schemes for 11th Plan Period. Financial assistance upto 50% of project cost excluding land component in general areas and 75% in difficult areas (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, North East including Sikkim and ITDP notified areas of the States), subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 crore is provided for setting up of Mega Food Parks.

Amount of Grant-in-aid provided to different States:

Sl.No	State	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.00	—

1	2	3	4
2.	Jharkhand	5.00	—
3.	Uttarakhand	5.00	—
4.	Assam	4.46	0.54

- Mega Food Park Scheme has been approved only on 11.09.2008.

(ii) Food Park Scheme:

The Scheme provided for a grant upto 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 4 crore in general areas. Higher scale of assistance @ 33.33% was admissible for difficult areas. The Scheme was in operation during 8th to 10th Plan periods.

Amount of Grant-in-aid provided to different States

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10*
1.	West Bengal	3.63	—	—
2.	Kerala	1.97	0.97	—
3.	Uttar Pradesh	0.81	1.00	—
4.	Karnataka	1.00	1.00	—
5.	Rajasthan	0.88	—	—
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1.00	—	—
7.	Manipur	—	0.40	—
8.	Maharashtra	1.00	—	—

*Food Park Scheme has been discontinued in the 11th Five Year Plan.

(iii) Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation:

Financial Assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil

works in general areas and 75% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs, 10.00 crore is provided in this scheme.

Amount of grant-in-aid provided to different States:

Sl. No.	State	Grant released (Rs. in crore)		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	2.44	4.88
2.	Maharashtra	1.08	2.59	7.50
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.60	0.60	0.00
4.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	1.51	3.02
5.	Uttarakhand	0.00	2.45	0.00
6.	West Bengal	3.55	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	5.39
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	2.46
9.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	3.66
10.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	2.50

(iii) Scheme for Modernization of abattoirs:

This scheme envisages a grant of 50% of the cost of the plant and machinery and technical civil works and other eligible items in general areas and 75 in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 15.00 crores.

Amount of grant-in-aid provided to different states:

Sl. No.	State	Grant released (Rs. in lakh)		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	300.00	—	—
2.	West Bengal	—	128.73	—

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Nagaland	—	143.75	—
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	150.00	—
5.	Andhra Pradesh	—	147.90	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	114.20	—
7.	Bihar	—	109.72	—
8.	Meghalaya	—	—	150.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	141.00

(c) The manner of disbursing grants under various schemes for Infrastructure Development is as under:—

(i) **Mega Food Park:**

Grant is to be released in 4 instalments of 30%, 30%, 30%, and 10%. The 1st instalment of 30% is further divided into 2 phases of 10% and 20%. 10% is released on fulfillment of the conditions like incorporation of Special Project Vehicles (SPV), possession of land, execution of shareholder's agreement and establishment of Trust and Retention Account (TRA) and 20% is released after utilization of grant released, financial closure, award of contracts, sanction of loan component etc. Second, third and fourth instalments are released subject to the condition of utilization of grant already released and incurring of proportionate expenditure by the SPV and submission of utilization certificates.

(ii) **Food Park**

Grant is to be released in 4 instalments of 25%, 25%, 25% and 25%. For release of each instalment, proportionate expenditure by promoter, physical verification by State Nodal Agency and submission of utilization certificate are required.

(iii) **Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation**

- 1st instalment of 25% of the total grant

under the scheme is released after ensuring that 25% of the promoters contribution and 25% of the term loan has been spent on the project.

- 2nd instalment of another 50% of the total grant under the scheme is released after ensuring the utilization of first instalment of grant and 50% of promoters contribution and 50% of term loan have been spent on the project.
- 3rd and final instalment of remaining 25% of the grant assistance is released after ensuring the utilization of the second instalment and 100% of term loan has been invested on the project and the project has achieved completion and commercial operation has started.

(iv) **Scheme for Modernization of abattoirs:**

The grant is disbursed in four instalments in the following manner:—

Percent of approved grant to be released	Condition to be fulfilled
1	2
10%	On submission of —
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of possession of land • NOC from local body, • Surety Bond, • Letter of Scheduled bank in which Escrow account is maintained by Project Promoter • Affidavit in compliance of GFR 209(1) • NOC from State Pollution Control Board.

1	2
30%	On submission of UC of 1st instalment, Chartered Accountants Certificate certifying that 40% of equity and term loan utilized, Progress reports of project duly signed by PIA and Promoter, Submission of copy of purchase order of Main Plant and Machineries, Chartered Engineer Certificate of 50% Completion of Civil work out of total civil work, Inspection cum Verification report of PMA with recommendation for release of 2nd instalment.
40%	On submission of UC of 2nd instalment, Chartered Accounts Certificate certifying that 80% of equity and term loan utilized, Progress reports of project duly signed by PIA and Promoter, Details of receipt of main P/M/s- on the site, Chartered Engineer Certificate of 100% completion of Civil work Inspection cum Verification report of PMA with recommendation for release of 3rd instalment. Clearance certificate from Environmental Agency.
20%	On submission of UC of 3rd instalment, Completion and declaration of start of commercial production.

(d) and (e) Infrastructure Development Scheme is for the entire country and not area or State specific. However, for difficult areas like Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, North East including Sikkim and ITDP notified areas of the States, a higher level of assistance i.e. 75% of eligible component of project cost is provided under 11th Plan.

[Translation]

Role of BRPSE

4483. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether delay in investigation of cases by Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) leads to closure of sick Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

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

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to close BRPSE completely; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Madam.

(c) and (d) Government have not taken any decision to close BRPSE.

[English]

Cases of Blasts in Railways

4484. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of blast in trains and Railway premises took place during each of the last three years and the current year, zone-wise;

(b) the number of deaths that took place due to such blasts during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith number of people becoming full disabled in each of such case;

(c) whether the Railways are taking concrete steps to prevent such incidences; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A zone-wise statement showing the number of cases of blast in

trains and railway premises and number of deaths with number of people becoming disabled in such incidents for the last three years and current year i.e. 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (upto October) is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railways and Village Police) is a State subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as in running trains are, therefore the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State concerned. The security of track, bridges and tunnels is also ensured by Local Police.

The following measure are being taken by the Railways:—

1. Close liaison is maintained with State Police and Government Railway Police for taking suitable

preventive measures in vulnerable sections of affected States are taken to avert incidents of anti social activities.

2. Periodical meetings with State Administrations and police authorities are being held regularly by Railway Administration to formulate effective joint strategy to combat the problem of anti social elements attack over Railway system.
3. Sharing of intelligence between Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police and Intelligence Bureau of affected States have been given priority to combat terrorist attacks on Railways.
4. Gangmen patrolling of track is intensified during specific threats.
5. Railway is providing all necessary assistance to the State Governments to provide security to Railways, property and passenger.

Statement

(a) and (b) Details of number of cases of blast in trains and Railway premises and number of deaths with number of people becoming disabled in such incidents for the last three years and current year i.e. 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (upto October) are as under:

Rly.	Years	Number of cases					
		Number of incidents reported		Number of persons dead		Number of persons disabled	
		In Trains	In Railway premises	In Trains	In Railway premises	In Trains	In Railway premises
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ER	2006	—	3	—	—	—	—
	2007	—	4	—	—	—	—
	2008	—	4	—	—	—	—
	2009 (Upto Oct.)	—	2	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ECR	2006	1	10	-	-	-	-
	2007	-	15	-	-	-	-
	2008	1	5	-	6	-	-
	2009 (Upto Oct.)	-	11	-	-	-	-
ECoR	2006	1	-	-	-	-	-
	2007	1	4	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	1	-	-	-	-
	2009 (Upto Oct.)	-	1	-	-	-	-
NR	2006	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2007	1	-	68	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2009 (Upto Oct.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
NER	2006	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2007	-	1	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	1	-	-	-	-
	2009 (Upto Oct.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
NFR	2006	1	13	8	11	-	-
	2007	1	9	5	1	-	-
	2008	1	6	2	2	-	-
	2009 (Upto Oct.)	-	8	-	3	-	-
SR	2006	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2007	-	1	-	1	-	2
	2008	-	1	-	-	-	-
	2009 (Upto Oct.)	-	2	-	2	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SCR	2006	-	2	-	-	-	-
	2007	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2009 (Upto Oct.)	1	-	-	-	-	-
SER	2006	-	4	-	-	-	-
	2007	-	1	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	2	-	-	-	-
	2009 (Upto Oct.)	-	7	-	-	-	-
WR	2006	7	1	187	-	-	-
	2007	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2009 (Upto Oct.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2006	10	35	195	17	-	-
	2007	3	35	73	2	-	2
	2008	2	19	2	8	-	-
	2009 (Upto Oct.)	1	31	-	5	-	-

Note: In other Six Zonal Railways, no such incident has been reported during the last three years.

[Translation]

Passenger Train from Balia to New Delhi

4485. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to run a new passenger train from New Delhi to Balia, Uttar Pradesh in the name of great freedom fighters, Mangal Pandey and Chittu Pandey;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is not a fact that people of Balia and Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh have to travel to Buxar (Bihar) and Varanasi to catch a train; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Railways to ameliorate the problems faced by the people of Balia in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) and (d) Balia is connected with Delhi by 7 pairs

of trains and Ghazipur is connected to Delhi by 4 pairs of trains.

[English]

Recovery of Capital Cost

4486. SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provisions have been made by the Government to recover the capital cost from the contractor under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) scheme, in case the contractor abandons the project midway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the remedies available to the Government to penalize the contractor for his failure to execute the contract within the time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, Government does not make any investment. Hence, the question of recovery of capital cost by the Government from the Contractor does not arise. The Contractor invests money in exploration activities and can recover his investment from the sale of petroleum produced and saved from that Block. In case, there is no discovery, the Contractor loses his investment in the Block.

(c) For the exploration blocks under the PSC regime, Provisions exist for recovery of Cost of Unfinished Work Programme as committed by the Contractor for Exploration at the time of bidding. Further, PSC provides for submission of Financial cum Performance guarantee by the Parent Company or by the bidding company itself, which can be invoked by the Government in case Contractor does not fulfill his commitment made under the PSC.

[Translation]

Gaya Airport

4487. SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gaya Airport in Bihar is an International Airport and various International flights land/take off from there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above Airport is not connected with any domestic airport in the country;

(d) whether the foreign tourists visiting there are facing a lot of difficulties as there is no air connectivity from other parts of the country;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to connect Gaya Airport with Delhi-Banaras-Nepal-Khajuraho air routes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PTAEL): (a) Gaya airport in Bihar is a Custom airport where scheduled as well as chartered international flights operate.

(b) to (f) At present, Air India, Jet Airways, Thai Airways, Druk Airways, Mihin Lanka and Myanmar Airways operate scheduled flights connecting Gaya airport with various domestic and international destinations like Kolkata, Varanasi, Bangkok, Colombo, Paro and Yangoon. In addition, unlimited access has been granted to designated airlines of SAARC countries including Nepal (excluding Pakistan) to/from 18 tourist destinations in India including Gaya, Varanasi and Khajuraho. However, actual operations by any airlines to/ from any point of call is always guided by its commercial judgment.

[English]

Conflict of Interest

4488. SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Senior Judges have recently opted out of cases citing conflict of interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there is any necessity to bring a law or set guidelines to define conflict of interest; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) No such information has been received by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) In the "Restatement of Values of Judicial Life" adopted in the Full Court meeting of the Supreme Court of India on 7th May, 1997 and in the Chief Justices' Conference in 1992, it has been, inter-alia, stated as below:—

"A Judge shall not hear and decide a matter in which a member of his family, a close relation or a friend is concerned."

"A Judge shall not hear and decide a matter in which a company in which he holds share is concerned unless he has disclosed his interest and no objection to his hearing and deciding the matter is raised."

Fast Track Courts in Uttar Pradesh

4489. PROF. RAMSHANKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of fast track courts working in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) at present;
- (b) whether there is any proposal pending with the Government to increase the number of such courts in U.P.;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the total amount spent by the Government for the functioning/establishment of such courts in U.P. during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) As per the latest information

received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, 232 Fast Track Courts were functional in the State in September, 2009;

(b) and (c) A proposal was received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in the year 2008 for providing financial assistance of Rs. 41.52 crore per year (recurring) and Rs. 26.18 crore (non-recurring) for setting up 308 additional Fast Track Courts in 69 districts of the state.

Central Government accorded its approval for the continuation of 1562 Fast Track Courts in the country including 242 Fast Track Courts in Uttar Pradesh for a further period of 5 years upto 31st March, 2010. Central assistance under the scheme is limited to the number of Fast Track Courts approved as mentioned above.

(d) The amount of central grant released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the Fast Track Courts during the last three years is given below:—

Year	Grant released
2006-07	Rs. 3075.69 lakhs
2007-08	Rs. 495.52 lakhs
2008-09	Rs. 1161.60 lakhs

Competition Commission of India

4490. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI R. DHUVANARAYANA:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has examined possibility of keeping, banking and shipping sector out of the purview of Competition Commission of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has notified section

5 and 6 of CCI Act that will empower the Commission to vet mergers and acquisitions that have a bearing on competition in a particular sector;

(d) if so, the time by which decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to strictly enforce the security aspects in the matter of all mergers and acquisitions in sensitive sectors like Defence, Telecom, Space and Atomic Energy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Government has not granted exemption from application of the provisions of Competition Act to any sector so far.

(c) and (d) Section 5 and 6 of the Competition Act, 2002 have not been notified till date. A decision in this regard will be taken at appropriate time.

(e) and (f) The matter relating to security aspect in the context of mergers and acquisitions is under examination.

[Translation]

Level Crossing at Chittora Block

4491. SHRI KAMAL KISHOR "COMMANDO": Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to install level crossing at the Gonda-Bahraich road leading to Chittora block in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be installed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal at present.

Derailment of Tata Bilaspur Passenger Train

4492. SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several bogies of the Tata-Bilaspur passenger train derailed after Maoists blew up the railway tracks near Ghaghra halt in Western Singhbhum district of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the number of persons injured and died, separately, in this accident; and

(c) the measures taken to check such incidents and to ensure the safety of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) On 19.11.2009 at about 21.20 hrs., train No. 321 Up (Tata-Bilaspur passenger) derailed at Kilometer No. 365/29 -366/7 between Posoita and Manoharpur Railway stations over Chakradharpur Division of South Eastern Railway in the State of Jharkhand due to bomb blast on Railway track. Due to this incident, 02 persons died and 24 suffered injuries, out of which 07 persons were grievously injured and 17 had simple injuries.

(c) Policing on Railways is the duty of the State Police which they discharge through Government Railway Police. The concerned State Governments have been requested to take effective steps to control such incidents and regular coordination is being maintained by the Railway administration with the State Governments concerned. Police authorities have also been requested for deployment of police/para-military forces on either side of the railway track in sensitive and vulnerable sections for security of railway tracks, bridges/tunnels, etc.

[English]

Railway Gate at Angamaly-Manjaly, Kerala

4493. SHRI K.P. DHANAPALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received representations regarding the stopping of work of Angamaly-Manjaly Railway Gate in Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There is a manned level crossing at km. 76/700-800 LC no. 59-A in Angamaly — Masnjali section. No construction work is being carried out by Railways at this level crossing. No representation regarding the stopping of work at the above gate has been received.

[Translation]

Setting up of Airport at Bikaner

4494. SHRI ARJUN MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct an airport at Bikaner; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PTAEL): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal for construction of a new airport at Bikaner. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a plan to develop a Civil Enclave at Bikaner airport which belongs to Indian Air Force (IAF), Ministry of Defence.

[English]

Review of Companies Act

4495. SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), countries are reforming the company law in the economic context particularly to promote entrepreneurship, ensure better

corporate competitiveness and more productive resource allocation;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to review the Companies Act to address the economic issues; and

(c) the details of action being initiated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The Governments of the 30 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries have approved a revised version of the OECD's Principles of Corporate Governance adding new recommendations for good practice in corporate behaviour with a view to rebuilding and maintaining public trust in companies and stock markets.

(b) and (c) The Government has revised the Companies Act, 1956 comprehensively in the form of Companies Bill, 2009 to enable the corporate legal framework to be more effective in the emerging economic environment and encourage good corporate governance. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3.8.2009 and has been referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance for its examination and report.

Drilling of Oil Wells by ONGC

4496. SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the target depth of CPAA drilling site under ONGC, Cachar Forward Base during the year 2008;

(b) the total area in which drilling was actually done;

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon including civil work;

(d) whether the drilling was terminated before reaching the target depth and the work of the well was abandoned;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken to restart the drilling upto the target depth?

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

(a) The target depth of CPAA drilling site was 4500 meters.

(b) The location CPAA was identified to probe the hydrocarbon potential of lower Bhuban and Renji and shallower formations over a prospect area of 1.5 sq km. in the Hailakandi District PEL in Cachar.

(c) Total Expenditure incurred in CPAA is as follows:—

(Rs. in crore)

Expenditure	Depreciation	Total
34.57	3.95	38.52

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. Drilling could not be carried out due to drilling complications in the well after depth of 3914 meters. After making several attempts to retrieve the fish and also sidetrack the well, drilling was terminated.

As per the prospectively analysis, four zones were expected in the Upper Bhubhan and Bokabil formations. However, after drilling of well these zones were found to be having very high water saturation and considered as water bearing. Hence, the well CPAA was abandoned.

(f) Since no lead or discovery could be established in the area, Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) for sixth and seventh year extension has not been granted and PEL was surrendered on 12.05.2009.

Food Processing Development Plan for NER

4497. SHRI PREM DAS RAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared a separate plan for the North Eastern States for the development of food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, North Eastern Region-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose to each State, so far?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grants-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh in general area and 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakh in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas. In addition, under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States, higher levels of assistance @ 50% upto Rs. 4.00 crore for setting up and Rs. 1.00 crore for Upgradation of fruits and vegetables processing is available. 10% of total budget allocated to the Ministry is earmarked for North Eastern States including Sikkim.

Cold Chains and Food Parks in Assam

4498. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Government of Assam for setting up of cold chains in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of food parks sanctioned for Assam till date; and

(d) the details of employment generated and revenues earned therefrom so far?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has not received any proposal from the State Government of Assam for setting up cold chain in Assam.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has approved one Food Park at Chaygaon, District Kamrup during 2000-01. The implementing agency of this Food Park is Assam Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd. In addition, MFPI has also sanctioned one Mega Food Park at Nalbari District Guwahati during 2008-09. The Food Park at Kamrup and Mega Food Park at Nalbari are presently under progress and therefore, has not reached the stage of employment and revenue generation.

Food Processing Facilities

4499. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government evaluated the loss due to poor food processing facilities in the industry during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the fund allocated for improving or upgrading the facilities during the last three years; and

(d) the details of the funds spent and unspent for the development of food processing industries during the

period?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has not conducted any study in respect of evaluation of loss due to the poor food processing facilities in the industry. However, the level of wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs. 30,000 crores occurring at various stages of handling due to fragmented farming, provisions of Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, lack of cold chain facilities, poor transportation, lack of proper storage and processing facilities etc. Vision Document 2015 finalized by the Ministry envisages tripling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20% value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant and machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries.

Funds allocated and spent for improving or upgrading the facilities during last three years under the Plan Scheme implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries are as under:—

Name of Scheme	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	Fund allocated	Fund released	Fund allocated	Fund released	Fund allocated (BE)	Fund released (as on 10.12.09)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Scheme for Infrastructure Development	15.00	14.79	42.20	48.28#	135.00	36.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries	113.50	119.36	91.50	96.87	60.00	51.38
Quality Assurance, Codex Standards and Research and Development and Promotional Activities	19.30	15.12	19.00	17.37	30.00	8.74
Human Resources Development	4.50	4.21	5.70	5.96#	9.00	5.06
Upgradation of Quality of Street Food	0.90	0.72	5.40	1.93	8.00	0.00
Strengthening of Institutions	26.10	26.51#	53.50	52.71	64.00	43.08
Lump sum provision for NER	20.00	4.11	24.20	13.42	34.00	6.94

#additional fund were allocated subsequently during supplementary grants (in February) that were higher than Revised Estimate approved.

Pending Court Cases

4500. SHRI SOMEN MITRA:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI MAHESHWAR HAZARI:

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH:

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

(a) whether despite various steps taken by the Government like establishment of Fast Track Courts and Gram Nyayalayas, a large number of cases are still pending;

(b) if so, the number of pending cases disposed of by the Fast Track Courts and Gram Nyayalayas since their establishment and the number of cases pending till date;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up

more courts and appoint more Judges in the existing courts for early disposal of the pending cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in liquidating the pending cases in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) As per the information available, 3,11,39,022 cases were pending in the courts in the country as on 30.6.09. Since their establishment, the Fast Track Courts have disposed of 25.07 lakh cases out of 31.01 lakh cases transferred to them. The Gram Nyayalaya Act, 2008 providing for setting up Gram Nyayalayas has come into force only on 2nd October, 2009. Information on cases disposed of and pending in Gram Nyayalayas is not maintained centrally.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) The following steps have been taken to facilitate speedy disposal of cases in courts:—

- (1) Increasing the strength of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts.
- (2) Introduction of some legislative measures for improvement in judicial procedure and for expediting disposal of civil and criminal cases in courts. The Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code have been amended and the concept of 'Plea-Bargaining' has been introduced.
- (3) Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, conciliation and arbitration have been encouraged.
- (4) Other measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, setting up of special courts and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals have also been taken.
- (5) Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts.

Separately, the Government has decided, in principle, to set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms which proposes to undertake several strategic initiatives to (i) outline policy changes (ii) re-engineer procedures (iii) focus on Human Resource Development and (iv) leverage Information and Communication Technology and tools for better justice delivery.

Higher Price for Liquefied Natural Gas

4501. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is willing to pay

higher price than the one agreed in June, 2005 to buy five million tonnes of liquefied natural gas from Iran;

(b) if so, whether final negotiation has been reached between the two countries to settle the pricing issue;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(d) the extra burden likely to be borne as a result thereof?

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Delay in Supply of Steel by SAIL

4502. SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "MES Builders Association of India (Regd.)", represents more than 5000 contractors and millions of construction workers spread all over the country;

(b) if so, whether various projects undertaken by this said association suffered delay due to non-supply/delay in supply of steel by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL);

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) As intimated by the Ministry of Defence, the Military Engineering Services (MES) Builders Association of India has a membership of around 4700 contractors who employ workers on a requirement basis.

(b) to (d) Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has informed that there has been no delay in the supply of steel requisitioned by the contractors who have been nominated by the MES Builders Association.

Voting Right of Undertrial Prisoners

4503. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR

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

- (a) whether at present undertrial prisoners can contest elections but cannot vote;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to allow voting right to undertrial prisoners;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Sub-section (5) of section 62 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides that no person shall vote at any election if he is confined in a prison, whether under a sentence of imprisonment or transportation or otherwise, or is in the lawful custody of the police. However, the said sub-section will not apply to a person subjected to preventive detention under any law for the time being in force. But there is no similar provision for candidates contesting an election.

(c) and (d) At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Death Penalty for Dowry Cases

4504. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Law Commission has recommended death penalty in the cases of deaths due to dowry and rape of minor girls;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Investment by ONGC in Iranian Gas Projects

4505. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has decided to make billion dollar investment in Iranian gas projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the estimated oil and gas that will be extracted from these investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is examining the viability of investment in Iranian Gas Projects. The investment decision would depend on the viability of the projects as established through detailed due diligence exercise to be carried out which includes aspect of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Pricing.

ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) led consortia consisting of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) has submitted a Feasibility Report for the oil discovery in Farsi Block, Iran based on techno-economic considerations to National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on 26th November, 2008.

Commerciality of the gas find of Fazad-B gas field of Farsi Block established by the OVL led consortia has been accepted by NIOC. The Gas Initial In-Place (GIIP) is estimated to be 12.5 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF). Master Development Plan (MDP) to develop the field is under finalization in consultation with NIOC. Preliminary estimated Investment as per MDP would be about USD 5.5 billion for sales gas option wherein Gas production is contemplated for a period of 30 years.

Jet Airways Flight Incident

4506. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a crew member of Flight No. 9W332 of Boeing Jet Airways pulled the circuit-breaker during the flight recently;

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

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

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken to prevent occurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. M/s. Jet Airways Boeing aircraft VT-JGC was involved in an incident of pulling the circuit breakers while approaching to land at Mumbai on 20.10.2009. The incident is under investigation by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Action will be taken on the recommendations emanating from the investigation. However, the

involved crewmembers have been de-rostered from flying activities pending finalization of the investigation.

Incentives to FPI

4507. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether wastage of food production is as high as 30 percent to 35 percent and losses are estimated to the tune of over Rs. 30,000 crores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the plan of the Government to encourage and incentive-wise food processing industry?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The level of wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs. 30,000 crores occurring at various stages of handling due to fragmented farming, provisions of Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, lack of cold chain facilities, poor transportation, lack of proper storage and processing facilities etc. Vision Document 2015 finalized by the Ministry envisages tripling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20% value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015.

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries.

Apart from this, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing various plan schemes for promotion and development of food processing sector including rural areas i.e. (i) Scheme for Infrastructure Development with major components i.e. Mega Food Park, Cold Chain, Modernization of Abattoirs and Value Added Centres, (ii) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex

Standards and R and D (iii) Scheme for Human Resource Development, (iv) Scheme for Strengthening of Institution and (v) Scheme for Upgradation of Quality of Street Food.

Financial assistance to exporters, producers, growers, cooperative organizations and towards setting up of infrastructure facilities in horticulture sector like integrated pack houses and vapour heat treatment plants is provided by Agricultural and Processed Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry under its plan scheme.

[Translation]

Introduction of New Engines

4508. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have introduced new railway engines in West Central Railway Zone, Jabalpur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any technical defect in these engines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) (i) 32 nos. new generation 'state-of-the-art' WAG-9 electric engines are homed at Electric Loco Shed, Tughlakabad, West Central Railway. The first engine of this class was introduced in West Central Railway on 01.09.08.

(ii) 22 nos. WAP-4 electric engines are homed at Electric Loco Shed, Itarsi, West Central Railway. The first engine of this class was introduced in West Central Railway on 26.06.08.

- (c) No, Madam.
- (d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Raids on LPG Distributors

4509. SHRI VITTHALBHAI HANSRAJBHAI RADADIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted surprise raids on LPG distributors in various areas of Gujarat including Porbander, Rajkot and Junagarh;
- (b) if so, the details of the last three years, area-wise;
- (c) whether owing to the connivance between the concerned LPG companies and the corrupt LPG distributors, tip off of the raids is given prior to conducting raids and the raid is only in name;
- (d) if so, the provisions made by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to enforce these provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) During the Year 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09, 3881 surprise raids were conducted on LPG distributors by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) including 607 on LPG distributors of Porbander, Rajkot and Junagarh area. The year-wise and area-wise details are available with Directors (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

Action against the erring distributors was taken as per provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/ Distributorship Agreement.

Surprise inspections are carried out without intimation and no such instances where the distributors were given tip off have come to notice.

(d) and (e) Government have formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provides for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in various irregularities.

MDG provides for following action against the distributor:—

- Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
- Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence.
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against erring distributors.

Connectivity to Bhopal

4510. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made for introducing air services to Chennai and Hyderabad to connect Bhopal with Southern parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the time by which consent is likely to be given by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) It is up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

However, Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country.

Gas/Oil Wells Allotted to GSPC

4511. SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of gas/oil wells have been allotted to Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (GSPCL)

for joint operation in Gujarat by the Union Government alongwith the conditions and period thereof; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) A total of 12 small sized producing fields in Gujarat were contracted to Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPC), either as Operator (1 field) or as Consortium Partner (11 fields), under the Bid Round for Small Sized Fields. These producing fields were earlier operated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and were offered subsequently for bidding with a view to obtain optimal development of resources and reserves. The Contracts are governed by the terms and conditions of the respective Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) of these fields.

[English]

Profit of Private Oil Companies

4512. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private Oil Companies are making more profit as global crude oil prices are increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make them share a part of the huge subsidy burden of the public sector oil companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to impose a windfall profit tax on the private oil companies in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas does not monitor the Profit and Loss of Private oil companies.

(c) to (f) At present, no such proposals are under consideration.

CAT-III B Facilities

4513. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has directed the airlines for training a substantial number of their pilots on CAT-III B landing system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of airports where advanced CAT-III B instrument landing system has been installed/proposed to be installed; and

(d) the number of pilots trained for operating the flights in CAT III B conditions, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed the scheduled domestic airlines having CAT-III non-compliance aircraft in their fleet to file separate fog schedule for these aircraft for the period 10.12.2009 to 10.02.2010, failing which during foggy conditions the approved departure/arrival slots of these aircraft prior to 1000 hours shall be shifted beyond 1000 hours in coordination with the concerned airport operator.

(c) CAT-III B Instrument landing system has been installed at IGI Airport, New Delhi. There is no proposal for installation of CAT-III B facility at any other airport in the country.

(d) 1278 pilots have been trained for operating the flights in CAT III B conditions as on 17.11.2009.

[Translation]

Duranto Train

4514. SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether newly started Duranto trains are running with full capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of additional facilities available in Duranto trains as compared to other express trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The overall utilisation of Duranto Express trains since their date of introduction till 30-11-2009 has been between 62% and 95%.

(c) As compared to other Mail/Express trains, Duranto Trains, do not have any commercial stoppage enroute and have catering, bed roll and other facilities on the lines available in Rajdhani Express trains.

[English]

Cargo Facility at Tiruchirapalli Airport

4515. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop cargo facility at Tiruchirapalli airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has come forward to amend the customs notification No. 61/94 (NT) in respect of Tiruchirapalli with regard to unloading of imported goods; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c)

Presently, portion of the old Terminal Building is being utilized for handling import and export cargo. Development of cargo facility is proposed to be undertaken as part of city side development.

(d) and (e) Information is being collected.

Cost Accounting Standards

4516. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Group constituted to review the Cost Accounting Standards has submitted its Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring in flexibility and to reduce Compliance Cost for companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) The Expert Group has submitted its report. The report of the expert group was placed on the web site of the Ministry for public comments. The report is under examination.

Forging Industry

4517. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forging industry is witnessing a turbulent period with the spiralling steel costs coupled with the continuing slump in the commercial vehicles sector; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) The main iron and steel inputs for the "forging industry" are billets, blooms, pencil ingots and rounds. The table given below indicates there has been no spiralling rise in prices of these items during the past one year.

Domestic Price at Mumbai Region

(Rs/tonne)

Period	Billets	Blooms Ingots	Pencil	Rounds
March 2008	41550	41075	39825	44975
March 2009	30948	29260	25300	34182
June 2008	38775	38775	38175	40950
June 2009	28184	26548	26600	33168
September 2008	38721	37241	35000	43299
September 2009	25804	24088	24600	31466
November 2008	29167	28550	22540	39244
November 2009	27190	24600	23500	31280

Source: JPC

Setting up of Refinery in Karnataka

4518. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is contemplating to set up a refinery at Raichur in Karnataka with an investment of around Rs. 20,000 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of this proposal; and

(d) the time by which this refinery is likely to be set up?

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Reduction in Prices of Fertilizers

4519. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received representations to reduce the prices of fertilizers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Law Suits of Senior Citizens

4520. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a provision under which Law Suits involving senior citizens are eligible to get priority in disposal of their cases by the Lower and High Courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of Law Suits relating to senior citizens pending in various High Courts in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) Government of India has adopted the National Policy for older persons to protect their interests. In this context, Shri A.S. Anand, the then Chief Justice of India and during the year 1999, requested the Chief Justices of High Courts to evolve a system which may ensure timely disposal of the matters of older persons pending in the courts and requested all the High Courts to identify and dispose of matters in which persons above 65 years of age are involved, on priority basis.

Government is also committed to continued implementation of the National Policy for Older Persons. In this context, all the State Governments were requested to make

the following arrangements in consultation with the respective High Courts:—

- (i) Wherever there are more than one Fast Track Court (FTC), one of them may be earmarked to deal exclusively with cases involving senior citizens;
- (ii) Wherever there is only one FTC, instructions may be issued to that court to deal with all cases involving senior citizens on priority;
- (iii) All pending sessions cases involving senior citizens regardless of the period of pendency may be transferred to the nearest FTC for disposal;
- (iv) All civil matters involving property, inheritance, recovery of money, service matters and pension as well as rent and tenancy matters involving senior citizens and pending with District Judge may also be transferred to the FTC earmarked for senior citizens.

Information on the number of law suits relating to senior citizens pending for disposal in the High Courts is not maintained in the Department of Justice. However, Registrar Generals of all the High Courts have been requested to give continued emphasis to cases involving senior citizens in High Courts as well as the courts subordinate to the High Courts.

[Translation]

Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Bairi Broad Gauge Railway line

4521. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of survey work for construction of Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Bairi broad gauge railway line;
- (b) whether the Railways have constituted any joint committee with the Himachal Pradesh Government and private sector for construction of the said rail line;

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) the status of the said rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The survey for Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri new line was completed in 2007-08. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this 63.1 Km. long rail line was assessed as Rs 1047 crore. The work was sanctioned in the year 2008-2009.

- (b) No, Madam.
 (c) Does not arise.
 (d) Final location survey has been completed. Part Detailed Estimate for Bhanupalli-Dharot section (20 Km.) has been sanctioned. Land acquisition has been taken up and contract for earthwork and minor bridges for the first 3 Km. has been awarded.

**Bids Invited under the Open Area
 Licensing Policy**

4522. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any scheme to invite bids under the open area licensing policy for oil and gas exploration in the country;
 (b) if so, the intention of the Government behind implementing Open Area Licensing Policy (OALP);
 (c) whether the Government has initiated National Data Depository for making available the information about oil and gas blocks to the bidders;
 (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 (e) the details of benefits likely to be accrued as a result of the new policies in the field of oil and gas exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Government has not firmed up guidelines to invite bids under Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam. A Global Tender has been floated by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) on 13.11.2009 to build, populate and operate a National Data Repository (NDR) in India. The bid closing date is 18th January, 2010.

NDR is meant for storing and maintaining hydrocarbon exploration and production data in a safe and reusable manner, in perpetuity and make them available for all the stakeholders in the field of oil and gas exploration.

[English]

**Setting up of Wind Power Plants
 by ONGC**

4523. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) proposes to set up some more wind power plants in the country;
 (b) if so, whether the feasibility study for setting them has so far been completed;
 (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) the expenditure likely to be incurred in setting up of each such unit and the estimated quantity of the wind power is likely to be generated from each of such unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has already set up a wind farm power project of 50 Mega Watt (MW) at Bhuj in Gujarat at a cost of Rs. 307 crore. Based on the pre-feasibility in-house study, four states viz. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have been identified by ONGC for setting up more wind power plants.

Company Law Board

4524. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases pending before the Company Law Board for settlement till date;
- (b) the reasons for such pendency; and
- (c) the steps taken to clear the backlog of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Total number of cases pending before Company Law Board (CLB) is 4006.

(b) and (c) The number of pending cases depends on the filing of fresh cases as well as the disposal of cases. The new Chairman of CLB has joined on 27-11-2009. Steps have been taken to fill up the vacancies in CLB.

Railway Projects in Maharashtra

4525. SHRI SAMEER BHUJBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Solapur-Gadag-Bijapur broad gauge rail line;
- (b) the details of Basavana-Bagewadi-Bagalkot railway line;
- (c) the funds allocated for the completion of these projects; and
- (d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Work on entire Solapur (Hotgi)-Gadag gauge conversion project via Bijapur-Basavana Bagewadi-Bagalkot has been completed and the converted line has been commissioned.

An expenditure of Rs. 472.78 crore has been incurred on this project upto March, 2009.

Skidding of Aircraft on Runways

4526. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there have been cases of aircraft skidded off the runway when the runway was wet at the Mumbai airport during the last two months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the guidelines of the Mumbai International Airport Ltd. (MIAL), the airport developer, regarding operating on a wet and short runway were not followed;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether any action has been taken against the airlines/pilots for violating the guidelines; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. An incident of M/s. Kingfisher Airlines ATR-72 aircraft VT — KAC skidding off wet runway at Mumbai airport was reported on 10.11.2009, which is being investigated as per the provision contained in the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

(c) All the scheduled operators were informed on 09.11.2009 about the precautions to be observed while using Runway 27A under wet condition, followed by issuance of circular dated 10.11.2009.

(d) to (f) The incident is under investigation and follow up action will be taken based on the recommendations made in the investigation report. Meanwhile, the privileges of licences held by operating crew have been suspended pending investigation under Aircraft Rules.

Foreign Assistance to Fertilizer Companies

4527. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some fertilizer companies are taking foreign assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Depending upon commercial prudence, various fertilizer companies seek foreign collaboration and assistance for financing, investment, securing fertilizer resources, obtaining technology and skills, preferential pricing and participation in fertilizer projects from time to time.

Survey for Food Processing Potential

4528. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct any survey to assess the food processing potential of the country particularly Konkan region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken towards development of processing of foods and beverages?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Under the scheme of Promotional Activities, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has a provision to make need based financial support available for surveys/studies to be undertaken by State Governments in their respective State for development of food processing sector. Surveys/studies have been conducted by the Government as a measure for development of Food Processing Industries in different States of the country like Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Jharkhand etc. However, the Ministry has currently no proposal to conduct any specific survey to assess the food processing potential of the country as a whole and/or Konkan region particularly.

(c) For the development of the food-processing

sector, the Government has taken various initiatives to strengthen the Food Processing Infrastructure. Government has approved a scheme for Mega Food Parks, Cold Chain, value Added Centres and Modernization of Abattoirs. The Infrastructure scheme envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with supporting infrastructure and well established supply chain. It aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages.

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

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

Further, the Ministry has several other schemes for promotion of the food processing industry. The Scheme for Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries is aimed at creation of

new processing capacity and up-gradation of existing processing capabilities, modernization of Food Processing Sector to include Milk, Fruit and Vegetables, Meat, Poultry, fishery, cereal, consumer items, oil seeds, rice milling, flour milling, pulse etc.

Losses to ONGC due to Leakage of Oil

4529. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) had suffered a huge losses from blowing out leakage from Well Number 33 situated at Village Raipura, Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether because lack of casual approach/ efforts made by the ONGC technocrats, many villagers/ families were severally affected from the leakage of gas in and around surrounded of this well;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total losses suffered by ONGC, the number of days suspension of work alongwith the details of villagers/families affected therefrom and their rehabilitation measures taken by the ONGC; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) ONGC has incurred only Rs. 1.27 lakhs of total financial loss apart from compensation in the blow out of well No. 33 of village Raipura, Gujarat.

The leakage of gas was controlled within 43 hours and the well was normalized. The Crisis Management team acted immediately after the leakage of gas from the well.

Immediate necessary action was initiated to control the leakage by ONGC. All required resources/equipments were mobilized immediately for containment of the leakage so

that the same would not affect the nearby villagers. This was accomplished by fire tenders continuously spraying water and completely cordoning off the area to avoid the leakage catching fire.

The total financial loss suffered by ONGC is approximately Rs. 1.27 lakhs. The work was suspended for only 43 hours.

An amount to the tune of Rs. 18 lakhs was paid as compensation to the affected farmers and as an immediate adhoc relief to the affected 35 families. ONGC, organized medical camp at site and counseling of the villagers was done by the Mahila Samiti of ONGC.

[Translation]

New Rail Lines in North-Eastern Region

4530. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has received any request from the North Eastern Railway for laying new railway line in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds allocated for the said projects; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Judicial Impact

4531. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal to formulate a judicial impact assessment to ascertain the number of civil and criminal cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Government had set-up a Task Force for examining the feasibility of Judicial Impact Assessment in India as follow up action on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Salem Advocates Bar Association Vs. Union of India. The Task Force had presented its Report on 18.06.2008. The Report of the Task Force on Judicial Impact Assessment was forwarded to all State Governments/ High Courts for their views on the recommendations of the Task Force. While replies of some States/High Courts have been received, the replies of many States/High Courts are awaited.

[Translation]

Names of Foreigners in Voter List

4532. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court has directed the Election Commission of India not to include the name of foreigners in voters lists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Election Commission has directed the State Governments for strict compliance of orders issued by Delhi High Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the instances of inclusion of foreigners names in the voters lists has come up during the last three years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) In CWP No. 2925/99

(Shri Ram Bilas and another Vs. Union of India and others) and CWP No. 3170/2001 (Shri Chetan Dutt Vs. Union of India and others) the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, *inter-alia*, passed an Order dated 28th September, 2005 that 'it is constitutional obligation of the Election Commission of India to see that electoral rolls reflect the names of only those people who are citizen of this country and that power is with the Election Commission of India under 'Representation of People Act'. In the Order it was also directed to submit methodology whereby in the electoral roll the names of Indian Citizens appear.

(c) and (d) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated the 6th February 1995 in Writ Petitions (Civil) No. 731 of 1994 (Lal Babu Hussein and Others – Vs. – Electoral Registration Officer and Others) and 56 of 1995 (P.U.C.L and Others – Vs. – Electoral Registration Officer and Others) under article 32 of the Constitution and Civil Appeal No. 1319 of 1995 [Hussein Dalwal and Others – Vs. – Union of India and Others (arising out of SLP (civil) No. 21961 of 1994)] under article 136 of the Constitution had raised certain vital issues regarding inclusion or deletion of names in/from the electoral rolls. The Observations of the Apex Court also included cases where the issue of citizenship of the applicant in case of a claim for inclusion and that of an elector who is already registered in the electoral roll for deletion arises for consideration of the Electoral Registration Officer. A copy of the said judgment was forwarded to Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union territories with instructions to comply with the orders of the Supreme Court. Based on the Judgment dated 6th February, 1995, guidelines for Electoral Registration Officers about determination of citizenship of doubtful applicants for inclusion of name in the Electoral Rolls are issued before every revision of electoral rolls whether summary or intensive.

In view of the position explained above, the Election Commission did not issue any specific directions in pursuance of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court's order dated 28th September, 2005.

(e) and (f) As per the information obtained from the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, there

is a monitoring cell for identifying foreign nationals which meets once every month and gives the names of the identified foreign nationals to the election department of National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Election Department in turn checks the electoral rolls and deletes the names of these foreign nationals, if their names appear in the electoral rolls. As per the latest report, till date, 240 names of foreign nationals, which appeared in the electoral rolls, have been deleted.

Raw Material Status to Amla

4533. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has given raw material status to Amla;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of subsidy given for raw material Amla?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) As per the information provided by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, no formal decision has been taken to accord raw material status to Amla. However, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has been implementing various schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries including Amla processing in the country. Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, MFPI extends financial assistance to food processing units including Amla processing in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh in general area or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakh in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas. In addition, under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States, higher levels of assistance @ 50% upto

Rs. 4.00 crore for setting up and Rs. 1.00 crore for Upgradation of fruit and vegetables processing including Amla processing is available.

[English]

Construction of New Hangers

4534. SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY:
SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA:
SHRI P. BALRAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received requests from the various State Governments for construction of new hangers for parking of State Government Helicopters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government on each proposal so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) From time to time, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has received requests from various State Governments for allotment of land for construction of hanger for housing/parking/maintenance of State Government's aircrafts/helicopters. So far, AAI has allotted land at Bhopal airport to Government of Madhya Pradesh, Ahmedabad Airport to Government of Gujarat, Begumpet airport to Government of Andhra Pradesh and Lucknow airport to Government of Uttar Pradesh. The request for allotment of land at Chennai airport from Government of Tamil Nadu and Amritsar from Government of Punjab has also been received.

[Translation]

Fire in ONGC Platform at Bombay High

4535. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of incidents of fire occurred

in the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation platform at Bombay High in the Arabian Ocean near the Mumbai during the last three years; and

(b) the losses suffered by ONGC as a result thereof?

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

(a) In the last three years there was no incident of any ONGC platform at Bombay High in the Arabian Ocean near the Mumbai coast catching fire.

(b) In view of above, does not arise.

[English]

Property Rights

4536. Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a law for joint matrimonial property rights is being formulated; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Norms for Airlines

4537. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether International carriers operating to India have eligibility norms relaxed as compared to Indian carriers who seek to operate on international sectors;

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

(c) whether private airlines operators of India have represented to the Government for a level playing field in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The operation of scheduled international air services is governed by the provisions of the bilateral Air Services Agreements between India and the respective country. Under the bilateral agreement, the respective country has the right to designate an airline(s) for operation of services to the territory of the other country. While designating a carrier for operations, the Government of India follows its own criteria. Other countries follow criteria stipulated by their authorities.

(c) and (d) No, Madam.

[English]

Contract Workers Employed in SAIL

4538. SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of contract workers employed in the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL);

(b) whether a decision was taken to increase the wages of contract workers in the steel sector during 2008;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for not implementing that decision in SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The total number of Contract Workers in SAIL (including subsidiaries) as on 01.12.2009 is 37173.

(b) to (d) Contract Workers are employed by Contractors engaged in various contracts. Their wages etc. are also decided by the Contractor. As a Principal Employer under the Contract Labour Regulation and

Abolition Act (CLRA Act), SAIL's responsibility is to ensure that the contract labourers are not paid less than the prevailing minimum wages.

**Reservation for Women in Urban
Local Bodies**

4539. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI RAMESH RATHOD:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase 50 per cent reservations for women in urban local bodies; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A Bill, namely, the Constitution (One Hundred and Twelfth Amendment) Bill, 2009 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 24th November, 2009 for enhancing reservation for women in Urban Local Bodies from one-third to fifty percent.

Allotment of Duty Free Shops

4540. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has revised the procedures for allotment of duty-free shops at various airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which these revised procedures differ from the old one; and

(d) the duty-free shops that have been allotted after the revised procedures, airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b)

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has not revised the procedure for allotment of duty free shops.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Prices of Ethanol

4541. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for fixing the purchase price of ethanol at Rs. 23/- per litre and the oil marketing companies be directed to purchase ethanol from the ethanol producing units adjacent to their depots so as to cut down the transportation cost; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

Road Map for Railway Reform

4542. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is preparing road map to reform Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the road map is likely to be prepared; and

(d) the extent to which the people of the country would be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) No separate document or road map for railway reforms is under preparation. However, operational improvements, technological up-gradation, modernization and infrastructure augmentation go on continuously on Indian Railways.

[Translation]

Payment of Perks to Officials of SAIL

4543. DR. BHOLA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether perks of the officials of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) are to be raised in the wake of their pay-revision;

(b) if so, whether payment of the perks to the officials of the other PSUs is being made since 26th November, 2008 while payment to the officials of SAIL is being made from 5th October, 2009;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to do away with the said anomaly and make the said payment to the officials of SAIL from 26th November, 2008; and

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

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

(b) to (e) In terms of the Government pay revision orders, the effective date for revised allowances would be 26.11.08 in the event of the Presidential Directives being issued by the respective Ministries within the cut-off date of 2.5.09. In the instance of the Presidential Directives being issued beyond the cut-off date, the revised allowances would be effective only from the date of issue of the Presidential Directive. In the case of SAIL, the proposal for salary revision with effect from 1.1.2007 was submitted to Government in June, 2009 and therefore, in terms of the Government directives, the effective date for revised allowances would be the date of issue of the Presidential Directive in respect of SAIL which was 5.10.09. Meanwhile, SAIL has given a representation for the effective date for allowances to be 26.11.08; which is under examination.

[English]

Performance of Chemicals and Fertilizers Sector

4544. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of PSUs under Chemicals and Fertilizers sector during the current year in terms of the target set and achieved during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been finalized for revival of sick/closed PSUs in Chemicals and Fertilizers segments;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) Yes. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) Government has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) subject to assured availability of natural gas, to meet the emerging demand production gap of urea in the country. The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) with the mandate to evaluate all investment options for revival of the closed units on FCIL/HFCL and to make suitable recommendation for consideration of the Government. ECOS has already considered various possible investment options for revival of the each of the closed units and have finalized its recommendation regarding the suitable financing option. Recommendations of the ECOS are under consideration of the Government.

Statement

Name of the PSU	Particulars	2007-08		2008-09		
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
PSUs under Chemicals Sector	HIL	Sales (Rs./crore)	191.61	210.19	201.57	215.35
		Profit (Rs./crore)	1.81	6.52	2.00	2.71
	HOCL	Sales (Rs./crore)	674.67	666.59	693.12	620.90
		Profit (Rs./crore)	30.56	13.61	20.23	(25.27)
PSUs under Fertilizers Sector	NFL	Sales (Rs./crore)	3644.04	4141	3628	5127
		Profit (Rs./crore)	69.99	109	72.71	97
	MFL	Sales (Rs./crore)	947.73	1140.06	1217.39	1123.59
		Profit (Rs./crore)	(165.58)	(134.85)	(152.71)	(145.38)
	PDIL	Sales (Rs./crore)	47.50	54.72	50.26	73.00
		Profit (Rs./crore)	6.68	7.80	9.21	14.82
	BVFCL	Sales (Rs./crore)	292.72	253.74	311	164.68
		Profit (Rs./crore)	(60.14)	(104.49)	(62.64)	(215.04)
	RCF	Sales (Rs./crore)	3023	5325.06	4561	8538.43

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Profit (Rs./crore)	100.26	158.15	98.96	211.58
FACT	Sales (Rs./crore)	1480.64	877.14	1203.67	2147.48
	Profit (Rs./crore)	(125.95)	8.97	(119.15)	42.95
FAG	Sales (Rs./crore)	38.72	36.81	36.85	42.47
MIL	Profit (Rs./crore)	9.28	7.54	6.98	9.03

Provision of Standard Ramps at Railway Stations

4545. SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway Stations which have been provided with the sloping or inclined type of stairs/standard ramps for elders and ailing people to cross over to other platforms, zone-wise;

(b) whether the Railways are aware of the common distress caused to the public, wherever this facility is not available; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to provide standard ramps of non-slippery walkways at all the Railway Stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Setting up of New Steel Plants

4546. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steel plants functioning in Uttar Pradesh as on date;

(b) whether the Government has set up any new steel plants in the State during the last three years and the current year;

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

(d) whether the Government has received any proposal for setting up of new steel plants in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) As per the survey conducted by Joint Plant Committee, there are 309 steel production units of various types functioning in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The detailed break-up of these are; 2 Electric Arc Furnaces, 131 Induction Furnaces and 176 Re-rolling mills.

(b) and (c) Government has no proposal to set up any steel unit in Uttar Pradesh. However, Steel Authority of India Limited, a Public Sector, has procured the erstwhile Malvika Steel Company located at Jagdishpur, through auction conducted by Debt Recovery Tribunal.

(d) and (e) Since, steel sector is deregulated, approval of Central Government is not required for setting up of steel unit anywhere in India, except under certain locational restrictions.

[Translation]

Supply of Natural Gas

4547. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the investment in Fertilizer plants of the country has stopped due to absence of assured supply of gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to ensure supply of gas to the above plants?

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

(a) to (c) Government has decided to give the highest priority to existing gas-based urea plants in allocation of KG D6 gas. In compliance of the decision, 15.33 million metric standard cubic metre per day (mmscmd) gas was allocated to existing gas-based urea plants to meet their existing shortfall to enable their full capacity utilization. Subsequently, allocation of 0.178 mmscmd gas has been made to the existing gas-based plant producing subsidized fertilizers other than urea.

Regarding demand emanating from de-bottlenecking of and expansion of fertilizer plants, conversion of Naphtha based and fuel oil based fertilizer plants and revival of closed fertilizer plants, it has been decided that it would be given the highest priority and will be met from production in subsequent years. Further, it has been decided that such plants would be supplied natural gas as and when they are ready to utilize the gas.

Licences for Importing Chemicals

4548. SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies/drug companies which were given licences to import chemicals alongwith the type of chemicals they were authorised to import;

(b) whether requisitions of these companies regarding import of chemicals had been analysed before awarding licences to them;

(c) if so, the details and the names of such companies and quantum of chemicals imported by them during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith the value thereof;

(d) whether any complaints have been received by the Government against these companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(f) whether these companies were given any concession; and

(g) if so, the names of these companies alongwith the criteria fixed for giving such concession to them?

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

(a) and (b) Drug Industry are broadly spelt out under Chapter 29 and 30 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items. Most of these items are free and therefore, no licence is required. However, for few Chemicals which are under Restricted List the cases are decided by Export Facilitation Committee which comprises of representatives of various Departments.

For export purposes the Companies are given licenses under Duty Exemption Scheme for import of required Chemicals for export of drugs. Chemicals allowed for import are linked to the export product i.e. those Chemicals which are necessary for the export of particular drugs are allowed under Duty Exemption Scheme.

(c) The information is available on DGFT website (dgft.gov.in).

(d) and (e) This Department has not received any such

specific complaint. However, as and when any complaint is received against any importer action is taken by the Customs under Customs Act, 1962 and by the licensing authority under Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

(f) and (g) The exemption from duties on imported item is given to the import as per the Foreign Trade Policy and Custom and Excise Act.

[English]

Production of Steel by SAIL

4549. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the production of steel by Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) during July-September of the current financial year;

(b) whether SAIL proposes to adopt a strategy of gradually increasing the proportion of special steel in its product; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) Production of saleable steel by Steel Authority of India (SAIL) during 2009-10 (July-September) was 3.14 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) SAIL has in place a strategy of gradually increasing the proportion of special steel in its product mix with a view to increasing its earnings. The proportion of special steel production in saleable steel production by SAIL during July-September '09 has increased to 37% from 33% achieved during the same period of last year.

[Translation]

Bio-diesel Procurement Policy

4550. DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no progress has been made inspite of the Government's announcement in 2005 to establish

bio-diesel procurement centres in 20 cities across the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified the reasons for non-implementation of the bio-diesel procurement policy so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the said scheme to promote environment friendly vehicle fuel?

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

(a) to (c) To encourage production of bio-diesel in the country, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has announced a Bio-diesel Purchase Policy, in October, 2005, which became effective from 1.1.2006. Under this scheme, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) will purchase bio-diesel at a uniform landed price which is to be reviewed every six months. At present the purchase price of bio-diesel is Rs. 24.50 per litre which is valid upto 31.03.2010.

However, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have not been able to purchase any bio-diesel at the identified purchase Centres so far, as the parties who have expressed interest are not willing to supply at the declared price. As such the bio-diesel programme has not yet taken off.

(d) The steps taken by MoPNG for effective implementation of the above scheme are as under:—

20 purchases centres have been opened by OMCs all over the country. The OMCs would purchase bio-diesel meeting the standards prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), from those bio-diesel manufacturers who register with them after satisfying the technical specifications, at a specified delivered price. Depending upon felt need and preparedness, the OMCs could also open more purchase Centres.

Production of Bio-fuel

4551. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has held talks with the Ministry of Agriculture for the cultivation of non-edible oil seeds for the production of bio-fuel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of such talks till date; and

(c) the strategy chalked out by the Government on the basis of the outcome?

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

(a) to (c) Ministry of Agriculture is a part of the Government and is working with Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Deptt. of Land Resources and Deptt. of Rural Development amongst others to frame a policy for cultivation of non-edible oil seeds for production of bio-fuel in the country.

[English]

Use of Eco-friendly Cars

4552. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to promote use of eco-friendly cars and help car makers introduce more such vehicles in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to reduce import duty on hybrid vehicles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including any recommendations made in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government is looking at promoting and developing eco-

friendly vehicles in the country. In this direction, the Government has reduced excise duty on electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles. Currently the excise duty on hybrid vehicles is 8% and the excise duty on electric vehicles is nil.

(c) and (d) At present, no proposal for reduction in import duty on hybrid vehicles is under consideration of the Government.

Theft of Oil from ONGC Pipeline

4553. DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware the thefts of oil from ONGC pipeline has been increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the actual assessment of theft of oil from ONGC pipeline in different parts of the country;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the erring officials; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) 192 cases of oil theft/pilferage from pipelines during the last 5 years have been reported by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC).

(b) The amount involved in theft/pilferage during last 5 years reported by ONGC are as follows:—

Year	Amount Involved (Rs.)
2005	9,25,158
2006	15,57,967
2007	18,10,375
2008	19,41,240
2009 (upto October)	12,84,700

(c) In two cases, involvement of officials was suspected. Departmental Enquiry Committee could not establish the involvement due to lack of evidence. The officials were transferred by ONGC as an administrative measure.

(d) A number of steps have been taken by ONGC to prevent theft/pilferage of crude oil from pipelines which are as under:—

- (i) Line walker system instituted for surveillance of the vulnerable area.
- (ii) Conducting mobile nakabandi/patrolling by joint team of local police and ONGC security personnel.
- (iii) Involvement of local community by sensitizing them.
- (iv) Effective liaison and coordination with district and state level police authorities.
- (v) Rewards for the police units/officers for their outstanding contributions.
- (vi) Obtaining actionable intelligence through sources.
- (vii) Government has constituted Onshore Security Coordination Committees (OSCC) headed by DGPs of concerned States and representatives from Civil Administrations/Jurisdictional Police Authorities for strengthening security of ONGC assets.
- (viii) Deployment of state Reserve/Armed Police in the operational areas.
- (ix) Efforts are on to acquire State-of-the-art pipeline monitoring system.

Railway Lines in Gujarat

4554. SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given

to Unstarred Question No. 130 dated July 02, 2009 regarding New railway lines in Gujarat and state:

(a) whether survey of all the ten railway lines in Gujarat has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof including budgetary support for the anticipated cost; and

(c) the status of these railway lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The status of the proposed 10 new lines is as under:—

Sl. No.	Proposal	Status
1	2	3
1.	Viramgam-Sankheshwar	No Survey for these lines have been taken up.
2.	Daman-Nasik	No Survey for these lines have been taken up.
3.	Nadiad-Tarapur-Khoda-Matar	No Survey for these lines have been taken up.
4.	Godhra-Dahod-Indore-Devas	There is already a rail line between Indore-Devas and Dahod-Godhra. Construction of new line Dahod-Indore has been included in the Budget 2007-08 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 948.80 crore. Land acquisition, Final Location Survey, etc. are in different stages of progress. Work taken up where land is available. An outlay of Rs. 40 crore has been provided for this project for the year 2009-10.
5.	Tarapur-Mahemdavad	No survey has been taken up.

1	2	3
6.	Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma-Ambaji	A metre gauge line already exists from Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur. Gauge conversion of this line has been taken up. The survey for gauge conversion of Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma with extension to Abu Road via Ambaji has been taken up.
7.	Mahesana-Harij-Radhanpur	Survey completed. Proposal could not be considered due to un-remunerative nature, heavy throw forwarded of going projects and constraint of resources.
8.	Vejalpur-Botad	No such survey has been taken up.
9.	Rajkot-Jaipur-Marwar	There is already a railway line connecting Rajkot, Marwar and Jaipur.
10.	Porbandar-Porbandar Port	Survey completed.

[Translation]

Flying Clubs

4555. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI:
SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- the details of Flying Clubs, public as well as private, in the country including Delhi and the number of aircraft with each flying club, State-wise and the date of establishment of each;
- the amount of subsidies provided to them during the last three years;
- whether serious corruption charges have been leveled against some of the officers of these Flying Clubs;
- if so, the details thereof and the action taken against these officers; and
- the steps taken to ensure that these Flying Clubs adhere to the laid down provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Subsidy to flying clubs have been discontinued with effect from 01.04.2001.

(c) The Ministry of Civil Aviation has no information regarding corruption charges against officers of flying clubs.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) carries out annual inspection before renewing the approval given to the flying clubs. During these inspections it is ensured that the flying clubs are adhering to the laid down provisions for operation of flying clubs in the country.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Flying Club	Category	No. of aircraft	State	Date/Year of establishment
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh Aviation Academy, Hyderabad	Government	04	Andhra Pradesh	1965

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Amritsar Aviation Club, Amritsar	Government	08	Punjab	1962
3.	Bihar Flying Institute, Patna	Government	05	Bihar	1940, Government flying club since 1974
4.	Bombay Flying Club, Mumbai	Government	04	Maharashtra	1929
5.	Gujarat Aviation Training Institute, Vadodara	Government	03	Gujarat	1958-59
6.	Government Aviation Training Institute, Directorate of Aviation, Orissa, Bhubaneswar	Government	03	Orissa	16.12.1974
7.	Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation, Karnal Branch, Karnal	Government	09	Haryana	01.04.1999
8.	Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation, Hissar Branch, Hissar	Government		Haryana	1963/1.4.99 merged with Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation
9.	Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation, Pinjore Branch, Pinjore	Government		Haryana	May 1980/1.4.99 merged with Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation
10.	Madhya Pradesh Flying Club, Indore	Government	08	Madhya Pradesh	9.10.1951
11.	Madhya Pradesh Flying Club, Bhopal	Government		Madhya Pradesh	1951
12.	Madras Flying Club, Chennai	Government	06	Tamil Nadu	4.3.1930
13.	Patiala Aviation Club, Patiala	Government	02	Punjab	1962
14.	Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology, Thiruvantapuram	Government	03	Kerala	1.6.2006
15.	Banasthali Vidyapith Gliding and Flying Club, Banasthali	Government	03	Rajasthan	11.8.1961
16.	Nagpur Flying Club, Nagpur	Government	04	Maharashtra	1994
17.	Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareilly, (Autonomous Body)	Government	28	Uttar Pradesh	22.10.1986
18.	Ahmedabad Aviation and Aeronautics Ltd. Ahmedabad	Private	07	Gujarat	1994

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Academy of Carver Aviation, Pune	Private	19	Maharashtra	7.8.1997
20.	Flytech Aviation Academy, Secunderabad	Private	07	Andhra Pradesh	1996
21.	Garg Aviation Ltd. Kanpur	Private	04	Uttar Pradesh	1995
22.	HAL Rotary Wing Academy, Bangalore	Private	05 (helicopter)	Karnataka	February 2000
23.	Orient Flight School, Puducherry	Private	11	Puducherry (UT)	16.12.1994
24.	Wings Aviation Pvt. Ltd. Secunderabad	Private	10	Andhra Pradesh	30.06.1995
25.	M/s. Yash Air Ltd. Ujjain	Private	16	Madhya Pradesh	3.11.2003
26.	M/s. Amber Aviation, Pant Nagar	Private	07	Uttarakhand	16.05.2007
27.	Alchemist Aviation Pvt. Ltd. Jamshedpur	Private	04	Jharkhand	18.07.2005
28.	Multiple Manpower Development Pvt. Ltd. Kolkata	Private	02	West Bengal	22.05.2007
29.	Sai Flytech Aviation Pvt. Ltd. Bilaspur	Private	05	Chhattisgarh	6.2.2008
30.	M/s. Chimes Aviation, Sagar	Private	10	Madhya Pradesh	21.4.2008
31.	Birmi Flying Academy Pvt. Ltd., Patiala	Private	03	Punjab	5.5.2009
32.	Chetak Aviation Academy, Aligarh	Private	04	Uttar Pradesh	12.9.2008
33.	Ambitious Flying Club Pvt. Ltd. Aligarh	Private	03	Uttar Pradesh	12.9.2008
34.	Pionner Flying Club, Aligarh	Private	04	Uttar Pradesh	12.9.2008
35.	Sha-sahib Flying Academy, Guna	Private	05	Madhya Pradesh	3.6.2009
36.	Harshita Aeronautical Foundation, Khargaon	Private	-	Madhya Pradesh	6.2.2009
37.	Saraswati Aviation Academy, Sultanpur	Private	05	Uttar Pradesh	10.2.2009
38.	National Flying Training Institute, Gondia	Private	07	Maharashtra	19.1.2009
39.	SVKM's NMYMS University, Academy of Aviation, Shirpur	Private	03	Maharashtra	29.5.2009
40.	Rainbow Flying Academy, Surat	Private	03	Gujarat	27.8.2009

Allotment of Kiosks

4556. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present criteria alongwith the terms and conditions fixed by the Railways for allotment of kiosks on railway stations;

(b) whether the Railways have received complaints regarding kiosks allotment on different railway stations during the last three years;

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

(d) the action taken against the kiosks owners for violating the terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Zonal Railways follow transparent procedure for awarding kiosks like catering stall and trolleys at railway stations. While IRCTC follows two packet tender system for awarding all contracts, zonal railways follow the method of selection by a committee of three officers. The catering policy of Indian Railways is under review.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Various steps e.g. counselling, warning, imposition of penalty, temporary closure of kiosk, termination of licence, etc., are taken whenever complaints regarding violation of terms and conditions of licence are substantiated.

Goods Wagons of Indian Railways

4557. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some goods wagons of Indian Railways are lying with the Pakistan Railways;

(b) if so, the total number of such wagons;

(c) whether the Railways have asked the Government of Pakistan to return these wagons;

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

(e) whether the Government of Pakistan have sent the wagons of Pakistan Railways instead of Indian Railways back to India;

(f) if so, the number thereof; and

(g) the manner in which these are different from the wagons of Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. There is regular exchange of goods traffic between India and Pakistan. With the result, some wagons of Indian Railways are with the Pakistan Railways and some wagons of Pakistan Railways are with the Indian Railways at any given point of time. Number of wagons of one country available in the other country on any given day depends on the level of traffic between the two countries and keeps changing on a daily basis.

(c) to (f) Indian Railways wagons are returned by Pakistan as a matter of routine. In accordance with existing agreement governing rail traffic between the two countries, each country tries to maintain zero balance of net holding of wagons belonging to each other. Presently, the periodicity of 30 days is being followed. In case it is not achieved, hire charges are leviable against the railway holding wagons in excess.

(g) Pakistan Railway wagons used by Pakistan for Indo — Pakistan rail traffic generally have four wheels each whereas Indian Railway wagons have eight wheels each.

[English]

Selection of Central Notary

4558. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the tenure of the Central Notary, Vadodara (Gujarat) and the power delegated to it under Notary Act;

(b) the criteria adopted for selection of Central Notary for the State Government of Gujarat with actual sanctioned numbers in each calendar year;

(c) the number of sanctioned quota of Central Notary for Vadodara; and

(d) the details of powers delegated to the Central Notary and tenure of the services fixed as per the Notary Act?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) As per Section 5(1)(b) of the Notaries Act, 1952, the tenure of the Notary appointed by Central Government is for a period of five years from the date on which the certificate of practice is issued to him. Section 8 of the Notaries Act, 1952 provides functions of a Notary which reads as under:—

- (a) verify, authenticate, certify or attest the execution of any instrument;
- (b) present any promissory note, *hundi* or bill of exchange for acceptance or payment or demand better security;
- (c) note or protest the dishonour by non-acceptance or non-payment of any promissory note, *hundi* or bill of exchange or protest for better security or prepare acts of honour under the Negotiable instruments Act, 1881 (XXVI of 1881) or serve notice of such note or protest;
- (d) note and draw up ship's protest, boat's protest or protest relating to demurrage and other commercial matters;
- (e) administer oath to, or take affidavit from, any person;
- (f) prepare bottomry and respondentia bonds, charter parties and other mercantile documents;
- (g) prepare, attest or authenticate any instrument

intended to take effect in any country or place outside India in such form and language as may conform to the law of the place where such deed is entitled to operate;

(h) translate, and verify the translation of, any document, from one language into another;

(ha) act as a Commissioner to record evidence in any civil or criminal trial if so directed by any court or authority.

(hb) act as an arbitrator, mediator or conciliator, if so required;

(i) any other act which may be prescribed.

(2) No act specified in such-section (1) shall be demand to be a notarial act except when it is done by a notary under his signature and official seal.

(b) The Notaries are appointed strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956. No other specific criteria has been adopted for selection of Central Notaries for the State Government of Gujarat. Notaries are appointed by Central Government on the basis of State-wise quota of Notaries fixed.

(c) The maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the Central Government in the State Government of Gujarat, including Vadodara, is 938.

Equal Opportunity Commission

4559. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the advent of Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) there is likely to be overlapping of jurisdiction of this Commission with the existing Commissions;

(b) if so, the rules framed by the Government to resolve this issue;

(c) whether the EOC Bill is being opposed by various Ministries and hence has been referred to the Law Ministry to redraft the proposed Bill;

(d) if so, the main points of opposition put forward by various Ministries; and

(e) the strategy adopted by the Government to remove such opposition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (e) The proposal to set up Equal Opportunity Commission went through the process of inter-ministerial consultation with various Ministries/Departments and the proposed Bill has been prepared in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice. The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Railway Heritage Committee

4560. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have constituted Railway Heritage Committee; and

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the Committee?

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

(b) The composition of the Committee is as below:—

1. Ms. Saoli Mitra, Chairperson.

2. Shri Bibhas Chakraborty, Member.

3. Ms. Arpita Ghosh, Member.

4. Shri Ratan Thyiam, Member.

5. Dr. G.S. Rautela, Member.

6. Ustad Rashid Khan, Member.

7. Shri Joy Goswami, Member.

8. Dr. S.S. Biswas, Member.

9. Shri Rituparno Ghosh, Member.

Main functions of the Committee are:—

(i) To review the existing cultural activities, organizations and related matters on Indian Railways;

(ii) To review the developments and promote India's rich rail heritage;

(iii) To give recommendations for setting up of professional institutions, Cultural Centers, Film Cities and Studios etc., through PPP; at locations identified by the Committee for imparting training to wards of deserving Railway employees;

(iv) The Committee will also develop an 'Annual Cultural Events Calendar' for Indian Railways;

(v) To suggest and provide directions for holding cultural seminars, talk shows, TV programmes and making and showing of documentary films on various aspects of Indian Railways and Indian Culture and Heritage;

(vi) To promote and showcase Indian Railways heritage and culture through exclusive exhibitions; and

(vii) To promote development of Art Galleries and

Handicraft Centers at Railway Stations in major cities and moving libraries on trains.

Expenditure on Social Welfare

4561. SHRI KAMAL KISHOR "COMMANDO": Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of social welfare activities undertaken by public sector oil companies in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the amount of funds spent by oil companies on social welfare activities in Uttar Pradesh during the said period?

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

(a) The details of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities undertaken by major oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years i.e., 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The amount spent by major oil PSUs on CSR activities in Uttar Pradesh during the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities undertaken by major oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL): IOCL has undertaken the following major activities in different districts of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years:—

1. Installation of hand pumps in Allahabad, Mathura and Chandauli districts;
2. Water filter and water tank in Mathura district;
3. Contribution to blind school in Agra district;

4. Furniture and bags for schools in Mathura, Najibabad and Allahabad districts;
5. Sports items for school in Lucknow district;
6. Ambulance to fire service department in Gautambudh Nagar;
7. Construction of waiting sheds and crematorium in Mathura district;
8. Contribution to R.K. Mission Hospital in Varindavan;
9. Construction of pathway, providing computer, UPS and printer along with aqua guard and digital camera in Lucknow district;
10. Skill development training programme on mobile phone repairing for poor and unemployed youth of safai karamchari in Mathura district.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL):

HPCL has undertaken the following major activities in different districts of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years:—

- (a) Scholarships for SC/ST/OBC/Physically Handicapped Disabled students from various colleges from Lucknow;
- (b) Basic infrastructure for Schools such as benches, desks, water cooler, computers, etc. in Allahabad and Lucknow;
- (c) Lab room and community hall at backward area in Azamgarh and Chandauli districts;
- (d) Medicines, sewing machines, hand pumps, etc. in Lucknow district and hospital equipments, ambulances, etc. in Noida and Barabanki districts;
- (e) Various items for disabled persons through Kiran Society, Varansi;

- (f) Auto roti making machine with capacity of 10 thousand rotis per hour for Akshaya Patra Foundation at Vrindavan and mid day meal for children in Mathura and Agra districts;
- (g) Mobile medicare unit, medicines for helpage India in Mathura District;
- (h) Corrective surgical treatment for leprosy patients through The Leprosy Mission (TLM) Hospital at Sitapur District.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL):

BPCL has undertaken the following activities in the Babukheda Village (Near Lucknow) and Chawri Village (District — Gorakhpur) in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years:—

- (a) Educational support for children for class I to IV;
- (b) Vocational training in Chikan Karigari;
- (c) Medical and ophthalmic assistance;
- (d) Mid day meal for all the children supported with a medical van;
- (e) Collaboration with Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), training in Chikankari and linking them to market through formation of Self Help Group (SHG) for 100 economical backward women in and around village of Babukheda District in Uttar Pradesh.

Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL): GAIL has undertaken the following CSR activities in Auriya (Pata), Agra, Gautambudh Nagar (Noida) and Lucknow districts of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years:—

- (a) Environment Protection/Horticulture — like tree plantation, solar lighting in the villages, adoption of rare animals and species of zoo etc.;
- (b) Infrastructure — construction activities like boundary walls of schools, roads etc.;

- (c) Drinking water/Sanitation — installation of hand pumps, overhead tanks, construction of nalas etc.;
- (d) Healthcare/ Medical facility — like providing medical equipments, mobile health units, telemedicine centres, family planning & health awareness camps etc.;
- (e) Community development — like providing of mobile vans for mid day meals, providing of bus shelter, construction of community centres, barat ghars etc.;
- (f) Educational aid — E-shiksha (mobile computer aided learning centre), providing of schools, furniture, books in Government schools, construction of class rooms, library, labs, etc.;
- (g) Literacy enhancement/ Empowerment — like vocational trainings, library automation, setting of computer centres, etc.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC):

ONGC has undertaken the following major activities in various districts of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years:—

- (a) Community Development/Entrepreneurship: Financial support towards setting up of Mahila Griha Udyog for ladies from backward class and support for Old Age Home;
- (b) 1st, 2nd and 3rd installment of endowment fund to Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, an institute of the stature of IIT, to impart education on Petroleum Engineering and related subject;
- (c) Support for transportation of mentally and physically challenged for their education.

Oil India Limited (OIL): During the last three years, OIL has contributed towards setting-up of Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology at Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh.

Statement-II

*Expenditure on social welfare by major oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in
Uttar Pradesh during the last three years*

(Rupees in lakh)

Oil PSUs	Expenditure		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	279.18	325.52	224.77
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	61.93	39.08	21.41
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	10.20	8.18	9.21
Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)	328.94	92.46	177.95
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)	2904.88*	7854.70*	2659.50*
Oil India Limited (OIL)	324.00**	725.00**	250.00**

*The major expenditure incurred on release of endowment fund to Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, an institute of the stature of IIT, to impart education on Petroleum Engineering and related subject.

**Contribution to Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology at Rae Bareilly.

Death of Worker in IFFCO

4562. SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one worker died in Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. (IFFCO), Phoolpur, Uttar Pradesh due to negligence of the authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to conduct an inquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No worker died in IFFCO Phoolpur due to negligence

of the authority during the last several years.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Railway Pension Fund

4563. SHRI R. DHYUVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Pension Fund constituted in 1964 for meeting the expenditure on pensionary benefits to retiring employees was to be financed on the basis of actuarial calculation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an actuarial assessment done in 2005 reckoned the accrued liability of pension to Rs. 5,41,947 crores; and

(d) if so, the arrangements made by the Railways for the provision of such liability?

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

(b) According to actuarial assessment of 1964, an annual contribution of about Rs. 29 crore was to be made to the Pension fund.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Since Railways, as a part of Government of India follows Government accounting principles, actuarial assessment, which is based on accrual accounting, was not considered for implementation. Provisioning of such magnitude was also not considered feasible by the Railways. The Railways have continued with the existing system of appropriation to Pension Fund based on the trend of withdrawals.

Recognition of Political Parties

4564. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) whether student wings of some of the political parties have been recognized as part of political parties;

(b) if so, the details of the status of the student political wings;

(c) whether the student wings have been registered and recognized with Election Commission of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the student wings of political parties are authorized for donations from public sector organisations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Election Commission

of India has intimated that in the case of some of the political parties, their Constitutions/Bye-laws of the Party contain reference to student wings of those parties. The Commission is not aware of the status of other student wings that are not mentioned in the Constitution of political parties.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. The student wings are not required to be registered/recognized separately as political parties with the Election Commission. The question of registration will arise only if an application seeking such registration under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 is made by them to the Election Commission.

(e) and (f) The Election Commission has intimated that it has no views to give regarding the eligibility of students organizations to receive donations.

Processed Opium

4565. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the processed opium assists the pharmaceutical industry; and

(b) the future prospect of processed opium in the pharma companies?

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

(a) Processed opium assists the Pharma industries, as opiate alkaloids viz. morphine, codeine, the baine, noscapine and papaverine are extracted from opium and they have pharmaceutical use. The salts and derivatives of the above alkaloids have varied medicinal uses.

(b) The Directorate General of Health Services is receiving estimates of opium every year for the next year from various State Drugs Controllers. The State Drugs Controllers are furnishing estimates for every year on the basis of demands received from the various manufacturers of opium formulations licensed by them. After receiving the demands of opium, the said Directorate is sending the same to the Narcotics Commissioner of India for taking

necessary action in the matter. The Office of the Chief Controller, Government Opium and Alkaloid Factories has informed that they have no plans to increase or decrease the quantity of processed opium.

**Marketing of Atorvastatin and
Asprin Combinations**

4566 DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of companies are marketing Atorvastatin and Asprin combinations without price approval;

(b) if so, whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has served notices of overcharging to these companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of the companies to which the notices have been served; and

(e) the names of the products and the amount overcharged alongwith the amount likely to be recovered from these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) to (e) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has sent notices to the following companies, as per details mentioned against each, where they have been found to be marketing Atorvastatin + Aspirin combinations formulations over and above the ceiling price notified by NPPA:—

S. No.	Name of the Company	Product Name	Amount demanded (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount recovered (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Swiss Garnier Lifesciences Ltd./ Lupin Ltd.	Tonact - ASP 75	226.9	42.69

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Sidmak Laboratories India Pvt. Ltd.	ASP Atorva	64.97	—
3.	Tristar Formulation Pvt. Ltd.	Ecospin AV	518.15	125.00

All the above three cases are sub-judice in various courts and the recovery of the amount depends on the outcome of the court cases.

[Translation]

Safety of Workers of Bharat-Oman Refinery

4567. SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 80 workers lost their lives and 125 workers became disabled as the facilities/equipments of safety provided to the workers of Bharat-Oman Refinery, Agasaud, Bina, Madhya Pradesh was not upto the mark;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the safety of workers working on that project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) It has been informed by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited that there has been 9 (nine) fatal accidents so far at Bharat Oman Refinery site. In addition, there are two cases of disabilities on the site. However, none of the cases of fatality or disability is attributable to negligence of safety and security norms at the refinery site.

(c) Bharat Oman Refineries Limited (BORL) is committed to provide safety oriented working environment at site which includes safety training to the workers. Prior to undertaking work, safety action plan and tool room talk with workmen is carried out. All contractors working at

BORL site are providing basic personnel protective equipments i.e. safety shoes, helmets, gloves, goggles etc. to the workers for working at ground. For working at height, safety net, fall arrester and safety belts are provided. For medical facilities at work location, first aid center is in operation wherein medicine is given free of cost to the workers along with consultation/treatment by a certified doctor. Ambulance facilities are also available at BORL project site. All contractors have made arrangements of doctors at their respective labour colonies and BORL is also conducting medical camps for all labourers frequently.

[English]

Opening of Kendriya Vidyalaya

4568. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC is planning to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Lunej near Khambhat (Cambay) in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Madam.

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

Urdu Teachers

4569. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Urdu teachers are being appointed in the country including the State of Assam under 15-Point Programme;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Venture Schools in Assam are also being covered under the said programme;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the amount sanctioned and grant utilized in Assam under 15-Point Programme during last two years, district-wise and scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (c) Number of Urdu teachers sanctioned along with amount sanctioned State-wise for 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of financial assistance for appointment of language teachers is at given in the enclosed Statement-I. No financial assistance was sanctioned to any State for appointment of Urdu teachers in 2008-09. The figures of appointment of Urdu teachers is not maintained district-wise under the scheme.

(d) and (e) The scheme is applicable to Government schools and schools run by Government agencies.

(f) No financial assistance has been sanctioned to the Government of Assam for appointment of Urdu teachers from 2004-05 to date, under the scheme. The scheme-wise details of target and achievements of schemes amenable to earmarking in the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities for Assam for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

The amount sanctioned to various States for appointment of Urdu teachers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of financial assistance for appointment of Urdu teachers during the last 5 years

2004-05

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of Urdu teachers sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Karnataka	6.60	55

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	51.12	290	15.	Bihar	43.20	360
3.	Kerala	10.20	85	Total		325.26	3289
4.	Tamil Nadu	1.20	10	2005-06			
5.	Uttar Pradesh	34.80	290	1.	Madhya Pradesh	27.48	229
6.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0.60	5	2.	Uttarakhand	31.56	263
7.	Rajasthan	5.40	45	Total		59.04	492
8.	Haryana	1.20	10	2006-07			
9.	Delhi	0.60	5	1.	Andhra Pradesh	54.34	78
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1.80	15	2007-08			
11.	Maharashtra	88.74	1454	1.	Andhra Pradesh	175	1400
12.	West Bengal	63.60	530	2.	Himachal Pradesh	25	100
13.	Gujarat	8.40	70	3.	Chhattisgarh	106	426
14.	Jharkhand	7.80	65	Total		306	1926

Statement-II

Physical Target and Financial outlay and achievements for 2007-08 and 2008-09 for Schemes Amenable to Earmarking under the Prime Minister's new 15 point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities for the State of Assam

Schemes	2007-08		2008-09	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5

Financial

Priority Sector Lending	1859.91 (Rs. in crore)	718.68 (Rs. in crore)	1063.08 (Rs. in crore)	751.46 (Rs. in crore)
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1	2	3	4	5
IAY	6170.73 (Rs. in Lakhs)	7243.74 (Rs. in Lakhs)	8645.13 (Rs. in Lakhs)	10413 (Rs. in Lakhs)
SJSRY	15.31 (Rs. in Lakhs)	2.01 (Rs. in Lakhs)	10.39 (Rs. in Lakhs)	0
ITI	170 (Rs. in Lakhs)	518.9 (Rs. in Lakhs)	207 (Rs. in Lakhs)	0

Physical

SJSRY (micro-ent).	55	39	55	0
IAY	22439	26165	22455	31556
SGSY	15444	31923	19031	31938
SJSRY (skill training)	68	31	68	31
SSA: Addl. Classroom	0	0	6257	6257
SSA: KGBV	0	0	9	9

Golden Rock Workshop

4570. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether scrap is generated by Golden Rock workshop in Tiruchirapalli;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of scrap generated alongwith income earned from the sale of scrap during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Railways have any proposal to modernize the said workshop;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Railways propose to set up a new coach factory at Golden Rock in Tiruchirapalli; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b)

Sl. No.	Year	Ferrous in Metric Tonnes	Non-Ferrous in Metric Tonnes	Estimated Sale value Rs. in crores
1.	2006-07	6979	668	27.70
2.	2007-08	7567	583	24.06
3.	2008-09	7254	992	22.07

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Modernization of the said workshop is sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 90.27 Crores. This will also

enable the workshop to increase its POH capacity of AC coaches and diesel locomotives.

- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) No, Madam.
- (g) Does not arise.

Setting up of Steel Financial Corporation

4571. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to accord steel as a priority sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also proposed to set up a Steel Financial Corporation for easy availability of credit to steel purchase; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Government has no proposal to accord steel as a priority sector. However, National Steel Policy 2005 has set the long term goal of India steel sector to have a modern and efficient steel industry of world standards, capacity to diversified steel demand.

(c) and (d) Government has no proposal to set up a Steel Financial Corporation for easy availability of credit to steel purchase.

Optimum Use of Natural Gas

4572. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL India Ltd. and Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) have entered into swap arrangement to facilitate optimum use of available natural gas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of other swap arrangements made by RIL with other oil/gas companies;

(d) whether these arrangements have the approval of the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (e) KG D6 gas has been allocated, inter alia, for existing gas based LPG plants of GAIL and ONGC. As gas from KG D6 is lean and LPG cannot be extracted from this gas, GAIL has been asked to make necessary swapping arrangements, whereby lean gas from KG D6 gas will be supplied to GAIL's existing customers as a make up for the shrinkage in rich gas used by the existing gas-based LPG plants towards recovery of C3 and C4 as LPG. Currently GAIL is purchasing around 1.9 million metric standard cubic metre per day (mmscmd) from KG D6 field under the said arrangement.

Similarly, KG D6 gas has been allocated for petrochemicals plants. As KG D6 gas is lean, ONGC, GAIL and RIL have been directed to make appropriate swapping arrangements. Currently, no KG D6 gas is being supplied to petrochemicals plants, as ONGC, GAIL, and RIL are yet to arrive at the swapping arrangement.

Agreement between India and Saudi Arabia

4573. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Saudi Arabia have made amendments to the Air Services Agreement (ASA);

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the number of Indians have gone to Saudi Arabia during the last two years making use of the Saudi Arabia carrier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government of India initialled an Air Services Agreement with the Government of Saudi Arabia on 23 January, 2008 and also signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The salient features of the Memorandum of Understanding include the multiple designation of airlines, capacity entitlements, points of call and unlimited cargo operations between each other's territory.

(c) During the period 01 January, 2008 to 31st August, 2009, a total of 5,75,424 passengers have travelled from India to Saudi Arabia by Saudi Arabian Airlines. Nationality-wise break of the passengers is not maintained by the Government.

ONGC Dispute against M/s. Electro-Steel Casting

4574. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any dispute is pending with the Government regarding Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for discovery of natural gas in Telgaria-Parbatpur basin in the State of Jharkhand by allotment of overlapping coal blocks with M/s. Electro-Steel Casting Limited;

(b) if so, the quantum of natural gas discovered and total estimated cost likely to be spent by the ONGC therein alongwith the present status of this project;

(c) whether commissioning of Telgaria- Parbatpur basin is constantly delayed by ONGC because of their ineffective approach to settle dispute with M/s. Electro-Steel Casting Limited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the approximate date of commissioning of the project and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) There is an issue of overlapping of mining block

allocated to M/s Electro Steel Castings Ltd. (ECL) and Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Block (Jharia) allocated to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC-CIL).

(b) The Initially Inplace (IIP) CBM gas in the Parbatpur sector of Jharia Block is estimated at 17.72 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) by ONGC as on 01.04.2009.

ONGC had submitted Development Plan to DGH for production of 4-5 BCM per day CBM for a period of 20 years from Parbatpur area with an estimated Capital expenditure of Rs. 875 Crore. The evaluation of Development Plan is underway.

(c) and (d) A team has been constituted comprising of concerned stakeholders for harmonious exploitation of both the resources i.e. coal and CBM effectively. The team is constantly monitoring the progress of the work in the overlapping area. Development work would commence upon approval of Development plan and conversion of Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) to Mining Lease (ML).

Weavers in Tribal Areas of Karnataka

4575. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there exists any special scheme for assisting weavers particularly in tribal areas of Karnataka for promoting traditional arts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any monetary assistance has been provided to the weavers of traditional attires in Karnataka during each of the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether the Government would consider introducing such scheme for the traditional weavers in predominant tribal States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No, Madam. There is no special scheme for assisting weavers particularly in tribal areas of the country including Karnataka for promoting traditional arts. However, Government of India is implementing Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme for the overall development of the handloom sector and welfare of the handloom weavers.

(e) Schemes of the Government for handloom sector/weavers are formulated in consultation with the State Governments. Such scheme on the recommendation of the State Government(s) can be considered depending upon the merit.

Supply of Infrastructure Logistics for Natural Gas

4576. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to prop up supply of infrastructure logistics for natural gas and promote transparency and stability in gas production;

(b) whether the Government proposes to allow/has allowed incentives to the producers to increase the output level; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Government has finalized Gas Utilization Policy for commercial utilization of gas under Production Sharing Contract (PSC). Government has also issued authorizations to trunk natural gas pipelines to transport natural gas to various parts of the country. Further, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has been set up to provide a regulatory framework for development of gas transportation infrastructure.

(b) and (c) Government has announced Tax Holiday benefit for commercial production of gas for a period of seven years in respect of contracts to be signed under fourth round of Coal Bed Methane (CBM-IV) and eighth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII).

Judicial Panels

4577. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up judicial panels during 2008-09 and 2009-10 in the country;

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

(c) the number out of them submitted their reports to the Government;

(d) the details of the action taken by the Government on the reports submitted by each of such panels; and

(e) the details of panels yet to submit their report and the time by which they will submit their reports?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Special Textile Zone

4578. DR. NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal regarding setting up of Special Textile Zone in the country including at Sawantwadi Sindhudurg in Maharashtra State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No proposal regarding setting up of Special Textile Zone in the country is presently under consideration. However, under the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP), assistance is provided to set up Textiles Park with

appropriate support infrastructure. Industry Associations/ Groups of Entrepreneurs are main promoters of Textiles Park by forming a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). So far 40 projects have been sanctioned under the SITP. State-wise sanction of projects is as under:—

State	Number of projects sanctioned under SITP
Andhra Pradesh	5
Gujarat	7
Karnataka	1
Madhya Pradesh	1
Maharashtra	9
Punjab	3
Rajasthan	6
Tamil Nadu	7
West Bengal	1

No proposal for establishment of Textiles Park at Sawantwadi, Sindhudurg in Maharashtra State has been received so far.

Duty Drawback Amount

4579. SHRI C. SIVASAMI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the amount of duty drawback provided for the raw material cotton during the last two years;

(b) the number of beneficiaries during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether any massive irregularity has come to the notice of the Government regarding duty drawback

reimbursement amount during the said period; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No duty drawback has been provided for raw material cotton from 8th July, 2008. However, the details of the amount of duty drawback provided for the purpose during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (upto 7th July, 2008) are being collected.

(c) and (d) Information is not readily available and is being gathered.

Instructions to General Managers

4580. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in September, 2005 an instruction was issued directing the General Managers of all Railway Zones to make foolproof arrangements to totally improve the overall condition of trains and railway stations as well as redressal of public complaint within the stipulated time period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken against those officials who did not follow the said directions, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Instructions were issue in September, 2005 directing the General Managers to effect improvement in amenities and facilities provided to the passengers in trains and at stations. These include improvement in cleanliness standard, lighting, circulating area, signages, announcement system, quality of food and bed roll, upgradation of waiting rooms, waiting halls, retiring room, booking and enquiry offices etc. Redressal of public complaints speedily on priority basis was also instructed.

The officials in the Zonal Railways have been taking necessary corrective action with respect to the deficiencies noticed to avoid inconvenience to the travelling public. The progress on these fronts is monitored and reviewed at various levels. No instance of any railway official disregarding these instructions has come to notice.

[Translation]

Vacancies in PSUs

4581. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a large number of vacancies lying vacant in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any

comprehensive plan to fill these vacancies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b): As per available information, presently there are 64 vacant Board level posts in various Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The details of these 64 posts are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has already sent recommendations in respect of 37 vacant posts and initiated selection process in respect of 26 vacant posts. The Government has recently prescribed revised procedure for obtaining vigilance clearance in favour of candidates recommended by PESB for Board level appointments in CPSEs so as to reduce delays.

Statement

Details of Vacant Board level posts in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)

As on 30.11.2009

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Name of CPSE
1	2	3
1.	Member (Planning)	Airport Authority of India
2.	Director (Production)	Bharat Dynamics Limited
3.	Director (OU)	Bharat Electronics Limited
4.	Director (IS&P)	Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited
5.	Director (ER&D)	Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited
6.	Chairman and Managing Director	Bharat Refractories Limited
7.	Director (Finance)	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

1	2	3
8.	Director (Finance)	Brahamputra Crackers and Polymers Limited
9.	Chairman and Managing Director	Brahamputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited
10.	Director (Finance)	Burn Standard Company Limited
11.	Chairman and Managing Director	Cement Corporation of India Limited
12.	Director (HR)	Cement Corporation of India Limited
13.	Director (Technical)	Central Coalfields Limited
14.	Director (Finance)	Central Coalfields Limited
15.	Director (Technical)	Cochin Shipyard Limited
16.	Managing Director	Container Corporation of India Limited
17.	Director (Finance)	Cotton Corporation of India Limited
18.	Director (Infrastructure)	Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited
19.	Director (Technical)	Electronics Corporation of India Limited
20.	Director (Personnel)	Electronics Corporation of India Limited
21.	Director (Finance)	Engineers India Limited
22.	Director (BD)	GAIL (India) Limited
23.	Director (Marketing)	GAIL India Limited
24.	Director (CP, Proj and BD)	Goa Shipyard Limited
25.	Chairman and Managing Director	Goa Shipyard Limited
26.	Managing Director (BC)	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
27.	Director (Finance)	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited
28.	Director (Finance)	Hindustan Copper Limited
29.	Director (Finance)	Hindustan Insecticides Limited
30.	Director (Marketing)	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited
31.	Director (Finance)	Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited

1	2	3
32.	Director (Marketing)	Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited
33.	Director (Operations)	Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited
34.	Managing Director	HMT Bearings Limited
35.	Managing Director	HMT Chinara Watches Limited
36.	Director (CP)	Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited
37.	Director (Marketing)	Indian Rare Earths Limited
38.	Chairman and Managing Director	Indian Rare Earths Limited
39.	Director (Projects)	IRCON International Limited
40.	Director (Finance)	Jute Corporation of India Limited
41.	Director (W&W)	Konkan Railway Corporation Limited
42.	Managing Director	Konkan Railway Corporation Limited
43.	Director (Commercial)	Kudremukh Iron Ore Corporation Limited
44.	Director (Finance)	MSTC Limited
45.	Director (Commercial)	MSTC Limited
46.	Director (Personnel)	NMDC Limited
47.	Director (Technical)	National Fertilizers Limited
48.	Director (Marketing)	National Fertilizers Limited
49.	Director (Finance)	National Film Development Corporation Limited
50.	Director (Finance)	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited
51.	Chairman and Managing Director	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited
52.	Managing Director	National Pulp and Paper Company Limited
53.	Chairman and Managing Director	North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited
54.	Director (HR)	NTC Limited
55.	Director (Operation)	Rail Vikas Nigam Limited

1	2	3
56.	Managing Director	Rail Vikas Nigam Limited
57.	Director (Technical)	RITES Limited
58.	Director (Civil)	Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited
59.	Director (Marketing)	State Trading Corporation of India Limited
60.	Chairman and Managing Director	Tyre Corporation of India Limited
61.	Director (Production)	Tyre Corporation of India Limited
62.	Director (Finance)	Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited
63.	Director (C&HR)	Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited
64.	Chairman and Managing Director	Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited

[English]

Periodic Overhauling Facilities

4582. SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request or proposal to establish Periodic Overhauling (POH) facilities at Kazipet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A reference was received from Late Shri Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in this regard.

(c) The existing facilities for Periodic Overhauling (POH) over Indian Railways are adequate to meet the railways needs. As such, presently, there is no requirement for establishing new POH facilities at Kazipet.

[Translation]

NBFC under Companies Act

4583. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring Non-Banking Financial Companies under the purview of Companies Act so as to monitor their operation and working; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Compensation for Acquisition of Land

4584. SHRI VITTHALBHAI HANSRAJBHAI RADADIYA: SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) the amount of compensation paid to the farmers whose land was acquired by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and oil PSUs during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding non-adherence of land acquisition rules for providing the compensation by these companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

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

(a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has paid an amount of Rs. 176 Crores since 2001-02 as compensation to farmers whose lands are acquired by ONGC.

(b) to (d) As and when any complaint is received, the same is forwarded to ONGC for appropriate action. However, ONGC has reported that the payment of compensation in ONGC is transparent and compensation is being paid to the land owners as per the rates fixed by the Revenue Authorities of respective State Governments.

As all the land acquisition exercise in ONGC is done in association with District Revenue Authorities or mutual agreement between the landowners and ONGC, no irregularities have been reported.

In case of any dispute during the process of land acquisition, the same is sorted out in association with the Revenue Authorities of the concerned State Government

Export of Petroleum Products

4585. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of various petroleum products imported and exported during 2008-2009 and 2009-10 so far;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the export of petroleum products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total foreign exchange earned by the Government from such export during the said period?

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

(a) The quantity of various petroleum products imported and exported during 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April-September'09) are given as under:—

Period	Import (TMT*)	Export (TMT)
2008-09 (Prov.)	20327	38572
April-September (Prov.) 2009-10	7167	20505

*TMT — Thousand Metric Tonne

(b) and (c) As against a projected domestic demand of 138 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) during 2009-10, the current refining capacity of the country is 179.97 Million Metric Tonne Per Annum (MMTPA). Our refineries are exporting petroleum products which are surplus, after meeting the domestic demand. Export of petroleum products in future will, inter-alia, depend on global supply-demand, domestic demand growth, etc.

(d) Details of the total foreign exchange earned from such export during the said period, are given below:—

Period	Value in US\$ Million
2008-09 (Prov.)	26,421
April-September (Prov.) 2009-10	6,070*

*Figure does not include RIL (SEZ) Refinery's export earnings.

Construction of Cold Rolling Mill-3 in BSP

4586. DR. BHOLA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the firms to which work order has been awarded for construction of cold rolling mill-3 in Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) alongwith the cost of the project;

(b) the names of the firms to which the original firms getting the work order have subletted the said work order alongwith the rates of subletting and loss suffered by the said plants;

(c) whether the process of expansion and modernization of the coolant tower and blast furnace of the Bokaro Steel Plant under the said modernization scheme is at its last leg;

(d) if so, whether the feed coil could not be made available for the coolant tower-3 after its construction thus resulting in wasteful expenditure;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Installation of New Cold Rolling Mill (CRM) Complex at Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) is envisaged to be implemented through various packages. The details of the firms and the cost of the projects to which various work orders of new CRM complex has been awarded so far are given below:—

Sl. No.	Project/Package Name	Name of the Firm	Value of the package (Rs. in crores)
1.	Continuous pickling line-Tandem Cold Mill	M/S. SEIMENS-VAI	694.31
2.	Skin Pass Mill	M/S. DANIELI	107.23
3.	Bell annealing Furnace	M/S. RAD-CON	132.94
4.	HDGL and ECL	M/S. SEIMENS-VAI	486.29
5.	Coil packaging line	M/S. ITW-HYD.	18.98
6.	Acid Regeneration Plant	M/S. ISSI	60.03
7.	Hydrogen Generation Plant	M/S. AIROX	20.42
8.	Civil work for new CRM main shop	M/S. LARSEN & TUBRO	260.90
9.	Structural works for new CRM main shop	M/S. ERA INFRA	126.29

(b) Since there is no subletting of the work order, the question of loss does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) to (f) In view of the reply in part (c) above, question

does not arise.

Amravati-Mumbai Express Train

4587. SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request to add two additional sleepers, two general and one AC-III tier coaches in the Amravati-Mumbai Express train from the Bhusawal Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Railways propose to introduce an independent Bhusawal-Mumbai Express train; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The request was examined, but attaching of additional coaches was not found operationally feasible at present.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present.

Notary Public

4588. DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ:

SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI:

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

(a) the number of Notary Public appointed by the Government during the last three years till date, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether a number of files in regard to the appointment of notary public are lying pending for more than two years, State-wise;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said pending files are likely to be disposed of by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Yes, Madam. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) A large number of applications for appointment of Notary from all over the country have been received. These applications require administrative actions such as scrutiny, call for NOC from respective Bar Councils, etc. which took time. Apart from this, these pending files could not be processed due to imposition of Code of Conduct at the time of Lok Sabha General Election 2009 and also due to recent amendment in Notaries Rules, 1956 by Notaries (Amendment) Rules, 2009 by which procedure for appointment of notaries has been amended.

(d) No time limit can be prescribed to dispose of these pending files. However, applicants will be called for interview shortly as per the amended Notary Rules, 2009.

Statement

States/UTs	2007	2008	2009
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	31	97	39
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Assam	—	—	—
Bihar	4	5	2
Chandigarh	10	15	1
Chhattisgarh	3	2	—
Delhi	29	45	14
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—
Goa	—	3	1
Gujarat	47	267	44

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh	2	-	-
Haryana	75	137	31
Jharkhand	2	2	1
Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-
Kerala	56	259	27
Karnataka	57	160	35
Lakshadweep	-	-	-
Meghalaya	-	-	-
Maharashtra	204	521	114
Manipur	-	-	-
Mizoram	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	13	11	3
Nagaland	-	-	-
Orissa	2	2	2
Punjab	65	127	22
Puducherry	1	62	10
Rajasthan	41	101	25
Sikkim	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	50	211	63
Tripura	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	132	261	50
Uttarakhand	1	2	1
West Bengal	3	12	-

Statement-II

State/U.T. Admns.	No. of pending files
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-
Andhra Pradesh	105
Arunachal Pradesh	-
Assam	-
Bihar	10
Chandigarh	21
Chhattisgarh	2
Delhi	68
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-
Daman and Diu	-
Goa	7
Gujarat	173
Himachal Pradesh	4
Haryana	138
Jharkhand	5
Jammu and Kashmir	-
Kerala	150
Karnataka	118
Lakshadweep	-
Meghalaya	-
Maharashtra	393

1	2
Manipur	—
Mizoram	—
Madhya Pradesh	17
Nagaland	—
Orissa	8
Punjab	112
Puducherry	26
Rajasthan	77
Sikkim	—
Tamil Nadu	205
Tripura	—
Uttar Pradesh	234
Uttarakhand	2
West Bengal	36

[English]

Supply of Natural Gas

4589. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1220 MW gas based expansion units at Gas Turbine Power Station (GTPS), Uran is now ready to be launched but held up due to absence of long-term gas supply tie-up;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has received any requests from the State Government of Maharashtra to

source/supply 5.4 MMSCMD of Natural Gas for GTPS, Uran from M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. from their KG Basin; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Ltd. (MAHAGENCO) has planned to set up 1220 MW gas-based expansion unit at the Uran Gas Turbine Power Station (GTPS). Government of Maharashtra has requested for allotment of 5.4 mmscmd (million metric standard cubic metres per day) natural gas from KG D6 field for the said project.

As regards supply of KG D6 gas to power projects which are in the pipeline, including inter alia the said project, Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on issues related to pricing and commercial utilization of gas under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) has decided that, subject to the availability of gas, necessary allocations from KG D6 fields will be made to these projects as and when they are ready to commence production.

Punctuality of Trains

4590. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated a plan for making special arrangements to ensure safe movement and punctuality of trains during foggy season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this would ensure safe movement and punctuality of trains during foggy season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) During foggy season, the punctuality of trains does get affected

depending on the intensity of fog. The following steps are taken to ensure safety and punctuality of trains:-

- (1) Availability of adequate number of detonators at stations.
- (2) Placement of detonators during foggy weather to warn the Loco pilot of the signal ahead as per stipulations in the General Rules.
- (3) Line marking across the track near the location of signal warning Boards.
- (4) Instructions to Loco Pilots to whistle frequently ahead of level crossing to warn road users.
- (5) Reduction in speed during foggy weather based on loco pilot's assessment of brake power, load and visibility, etc.

[Translation]

Air Fare

4591. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether air tickets of public sector airlines are much costlier than that of the private sectors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether air passengers are more attracted towards the private airlines than that of public sector airlines due to much difference in the rates of the air-tickets;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to attract more passengers towards public airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Fare charged by Air india are generally lower than the fares offered by other Full Service Carriers and are only marginally higher than Low Cost Carriers.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Air India offers promotional fares/discounts from time to time to cater to the various market segments viz. Government officials (LTC fares in Economy and Business class), Corporate Travel, Senior Citizens, Students, Individuals with special needs (Locomotor Disability, Blindness and Cancer patients etc.). Also all Central Government officials shall travel only by Air India.

[English]

Consultation with Booz Allen and Company

4592. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Air India has reported huge losses during 2008-09 even as the airline appointed consulting firm Booz Allen to formulate a plan to cut costs and enhance revenues;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the factors attributed to the rise in losses of Air India has been examined; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to adopt cost cutting measures in Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India is expected to incur a loss of Rs. 5,000 approximately (Prov.) during the year 2008-09. The consulting firm Booz and Allen has not yet been appointed by Air India.

(c) and (d) The reasons for losses are mainly due to prevalent economic recession and low yields and load factors. NACIL has taken several initiatives to turnaround the performance of the company focussing on Cost Reduction and Revenue Enhancement.

[Translation]

Dividend paid by PSUs

4593. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether dividend has been paid by the large enterprises operating in public sector during the financial year 2009-10;

(b) if so, the number of enterprises which have paid this dividend; and

(c) the minimum and the maximum dividend paid by the enterprises, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per available information, 98 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have declared dividend for the year 2008-09. The Cognate group-wise details of these CPSEs are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

*Dividend Declared for 2008-09 by CPSEs —
Cognate Group-wise*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Dividend Declared
1	2	3
Agro based industries		
1.	National Seeds Corporation Ltd.	186
Coal and Lignite		
2.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	19597
3.	Coal India Ltd.	170542

1	2	3
4.	Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.	33554
5.	Northern Coalfields Ltd.	117656
6.	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	61868
7.	Western Coalfields Ltd.	20126

Crude Oil

8.	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	684439
9.	Oil India Ltd.	65271

Other Minerals and Metals

10.	FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals (India) Ltd.	181
11.	Indian Rare Earths Ltd.	1727
12.	Kiocl Ltd.	634
13.	Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.	13300
14.	National Aluminium Company Ltd.	32216
15.	National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.	87620

Steel

16.	Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd.	45
17.	Maharashtra Elektros melt Ltd.	840
18.	Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.	821
19.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	33918
20.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	107390

Petroleum (Refinery and Marketing)

21.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	25308
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1	2	3
22.	Gail (India) Ltd.	88793
23.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	17778
24.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	91048
25.	Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd.	21035
26.	Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.	11034
Fertilizers		
27.	National Fertilizers Ltd.	2943
28.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.	6620
Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals		
29.	Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	37
30.	Projects and Development India Ltd.	346
Heavy Engineering		
31.	Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.	5
32.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	83218
Medium and Light Engineering		
33.	Antrix Corporation Ltd.	3010
34.	Balmer Lawrie and Co. Ltd.	3257
35.	Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	2300
36.	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	14960
37.	Electronics Corporation of India Ltd.	472
38.	Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Ltd.	36
39.	Vignyan Industries Ltd.	21

1	2	3
Transportation Equipment		
40.	BEML Ltd.	4997
41.	Cochin Shipyard Ltd.	1967
42.	Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd.	2477
43.	Goa Shipyard Ltd.	1659
44.	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.	34798
45.	Mazagon Dock Ltd.	5387
Consumer Goods		
46.	Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.	1000
47.	Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	1296
48.	HLL Lifecare Ltd.	155
Textiles		
Generation		
49.	Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Ltd.	4592
50.	NPHC Ltd.	32500
51.	North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.	8910
52.	NTPC Ltd.	296836
53.	Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.	13239
54.	REC Power Distribution Co. Ltd.	5
55.	Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.	32000
56.	Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd.	9800
Transmission		
57.	NTPC Electric Supply Company Ltd.	250

1	2	3
58.	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.	50508
Trading and Marketing		
59.	Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd.	4
60.	Central Warehousing Corporation	2039
61.	Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.	1341
62.	HMT (International) Ltd.	15
63.	MSTC Ltd.	1705
64.	National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.	80
65.	NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd.	1000
66.	PEC Ltd.	1500
67.	State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	2850
Transportation Services		
68.	Airports Authority of India Ltd.	13740
69.	Container Corporation of India Ltd.	18198
70.	Dredging Corporation of India Ltd.	1400
71.	Ennore Port Ltd.	622
72.	Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.	1138
73.	Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.	27524
Contract and Construction Services		
74.	Bridge and Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	55
75.	Iron International Ltd.	2969
76.	National Bldg. Constn. Corpn. Ltd.	3183
77.	Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.	800

1	2	3
Industrial Development and Technology Consultancy Services		
78.	Broadcast Engg. Consultants India Ltd.	100
79.	Certification Engineers International Ltd.	300
80.	Educational Consultants (India) Ltd.	128
81.	Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.	708
82.	Engineers India Ltd.	10389
83.	HSCC (India) Ltd.	208
84.	MECON Ltd.	315
85.	National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.	120
86.	Rites Ltd.	2000
87.	Telecommunications Consultants (India) Ltd.	324
88.	WAPCOS Ltd.	350
Tourist Services		
89.	Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd.	931
Financial Services		
90.	Balmer Lawrie Investments Ltd.	1421
91.	Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.	18000
92.	Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd.	4524
93.	Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.	10000
94.	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd.	1125

1	2	3
95.	Power Finance Corporation	45911
96.	Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd.	38640
Telecommunication Services		
97.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	6300
98.	Railtel Corporation India Ltd.	800

[English]

Minority Schools

4594. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open schools with special emphasis on the education of minorities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount of fund likely to be incurred on the said programme and the number of such schools proposed to be opened during the next two years, State-wise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Haj Travel by Government Airlines

4595. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Haj pilgrims are allowed to travel only by Government airlines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) The air travel arrangements for Haj Pilgrims going for Haj only through the Haj Committee of India are made by Ministry of Civil Aviation. The arrangements for Haj 2009 have been made through Air India, Saudi Arabian Airlines (SAA) and National Private Air Services Company Limited (National Air Services) NAS.

[Translation]

Passenger Amenities at Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh

4596. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that there is lack of passenger amenities at various railway stations of Uttar Pradesh particularly at Azamgarh, Mau, Jaunpur City, Shahganj, Mubarakpur etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken/likely to be taken by the Railways to provide quality passenger amenities at the said stations and also the time by which those amenities shall be provided; and

(c) the quantum of funds made or likely to be made available for this purpose during the next three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Minimum Essential Passenger Amenities (MEA) have already been provided for all railway station including those in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Further, Azamgarh, Mau Jn., Jaunpur City and Shahganj railway stations have been identified for development under various modernization/developmental schemes. Status of the work of modernization at these stations is as under:—

(1) **Azamgarh:** This station has been identified for development under Model, Modern and Adarsh station scheme. Provision of raising of platforms

and foot over bridge (FOB) and Extension of platform to accommodate longer trains is also envisaged. Modernization/upgradation works under Model Station Scheme, Modern Station Scheme and Extension of platform have been completed at this station. Work relating to provision of foot over bridge and raising of platform is planned for completion by December, 2010.

- (2) **Mau Jn:** This station has been identified for development under Model and Modern Station Scheme. Extension of platform to accommodate longer trains is also envisaged. Modernization/upgradation works under Model Station Scheme, Modern Station Scheme and Extension of platform have been completed. This station has also been identified for development as Adarsh Station which is planned for completion by March, 2010.
- (3) **Jaunpur City:** Work relating to extension of platforms to accommodate longer trains and facilities for physically handicapped persons has already been completed. This station has been identified for provision of raising of platforms and additional platform shelter which is planned for completion by March, 2010.
- (4) **Shahganj:** Work relating to extension of platforms to accommodate longer trains has already been completed. This station has been identified for development as Model Station which is planned for completion by March, 2010.

No station by the name Mubarakpur exists on Indian Railways.

(c) Allocation of funds is not maintained State-wise or station-wise. Allocation of funds for modernization/developmental/improvement works at railway stations including those in the State of Uttar Pradesh are undertaken under Plan Head-Passenger Amenities. Allocation of funds for Zonal Railways which cover railway stations

in the State of Uttar Pradesh under Plan Head-Passenger Amenities during 2009-10 is as under:—

(1)	North Eastern Railway	Rs. 2578.05 lakh
(2)	Northern Railway	Rs. 17760.25 lakh
(3)	East Central Railway	Rs. 3763.35 lakh
(4)	North Central Railway	Rs. 4247.63 lakh
(5)	West Central Railway	Rs. 2959.62 lakh

Allocation of funds for the next three years under this Plan Head have yet not been decided.

[English]

National Fellowship Scheme for Minorities

4597. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made allocations for the new scheme of National Fellowship for students of the minority community;
- (b) if so, the details of the amount allocated during each of the last three years, State-wise and district-wise;
- (c) the amount spent during the said period, State-wise and district-wise;
- (d) the details of pending requests from various States in this regard; and
- (e) the time by which sanction would be granted to each of such proposal?

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

During the Financial Year 2009-10, a Budget allocation of Rs. 15 crore has been made for the new Scheme of

National Fellowship for students belonging to the minority communities. The National Fellowship Scheme is being implemented by the University Grants Commission on behalf of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

(b) The State-wise allocation of National Fellowship during the first year is given in the enclosed Statement.

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

Statement

MoMA National Fellowship Scheme

Sl. No.	State/UT	Physical Allocation	Financial Allocation (Rs. in Lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31	61.51
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	7.94
3.	Assam	33	65.48
4.	Bihar	50	99.21
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	11.90
6.	Goa	4	7.94
7.	Gujarat	21	41.67
8.	Haryana	12	23.81
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	7.94
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	27	53.57
11.	Jharkhand	21	41.67
12.	Karnataka	31	61.51
13.	Kerala	50	99.21
14.	Madhya Pradesh	15	29.76
15.	Maharashtra	67	132.94

1	2	3	4
16.	Manipur	4	7.94
17.	Meghalaya	6	11.90
18.	Mizoram	4	7.94
19.	Nagaland	6	11.90
20.	Orissa	6	11.90
21.	Punjab	59	117.06
22.	Rajasthan	21	41.67
23.	Sikkim	4	7.94
24.	Tamil Nadu	28	55.56
25.	Tripura	4	7.94
26.	Uttar Pradesh	120	238.10
27.	Uttarakhand	4	7.94
28.	West Bengal	81	160.71
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	7.94
30.	Chandigarh	4	7.94
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	7.94
32.	Daman and Diu	4	7.94
33.	Delhi	9	17.86
34.	Lakshadweep	4	7.94
35.	Puducherry	4	7.94
Total		756	1500.00

CRC at Tiruchirapalli Railway Station

4598. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to open a Computerized Reservation Centre (CRC) at Golden Rock Railway Station in Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to increase the reservation quota in all the super fast trains passing through Tiruchirapalli and Srirangam, Tamil Nadu in view of religious importance of these places; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) and (d) Computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) facility is available at Tiruchirapalli and Srirangam stations, from where the passengers can book berths in any class and in any train on first come first served basis. In 6107 and 6108 Chennai-Egmore-Mangalore Express, reservation quota of 108 and 217 berths respectively has been defined at Tiruchirapalli locations, whose utilization reveals that the same is adequate to cater to present level of traffic.

Nilgiri Mountain Railway

4599. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to heavy rain and landslides the world heritage Nilgiri Mountain has suffered extensive damage and its services stopped several times;

(b) if so, its impact on the visiting tourists and the amount of loss incurred as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Due to unprecedented rainfall of about 1200 mm within 48 hours between 5.11.09 to 8.11.09 in the Nilgiri

Mountain region, extensive damages have taken place in the form of land slips, boulder falling and blocking the railway track, heavy breaches and washing away of bridges. Boulders had fallen over the track at 116 locations and breaches occurred at two locations. Train services were stopped from 8.11.09. Approximate cost of damage is Rs. 12.64 crore.

(c) Restoration work is in progress. Restoration of traffic in Coonoor — Udagamandalam section is targeted by January, 2010 and Mettupalayam — Coonoor section is targeted for restoration by May, 2010.

Air Routes in the Country

4600. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the air routes in the country which are not covered on radars or Air Traffic Control;

(b) the reasons for not having radars or Air Traffic Control on these routes; and

(c) the steps taken to have radars or Air Traffic Control on these routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) All major Air Routes are under RADAR surveillance or covered by Air Traffic Services.

Sale of Essential Medicines at Higher Prices

4601. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:
CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH:

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

(a) whether a proposal is pending with the Government to prevent manufacturers and distributors of non-essential medicines by adopting medicines as listed by World Health Organisation (WHO) under essential drugs;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a huge number of medicines does not fall under the list of National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) and all these medicines are being sold at very high rates in different parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the total number of medicines which do not fall under the list of NLEM;
- (f) the time-frame, if any, fixed for discontinuing sale/distribution of non-essential drugs/medicines and following NLEM/WHO list; and
- (g) the details of steps proposed for controlling over-pricing of medicines sold by different Pharma companies?

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

(a) and (b) As reported by the Drugs Controller General (India) (DCGI)/Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, there is no such proposal pending with them to prevent manufacturers and distributors of non-essential medicines by adopting medicines as listed by World Health Organization (WHO) under essential drugs.

(c) to (g) As informed by DCGI/Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, various formulations of 354 medicines are included in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2003 which are of various categories including anti-cancer, anti-diabetics, anti-pyretics, anti-allergics, anti-epileptics, cardiovascular drugs etc. Medicines are imported under import registration and licence granted by Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). However manufacture of medicines for sale in the country is undertaken under licence obtained from State Licencing Authorities appointed by State Governments. Currently there is no centralised data base of actual number of drugs formulations available in the country. Hence total numbers of medicines which do not fall under the list of NLEM are not available. Further, DCGI/Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare have mentioned that there is no such proposal for discontinuing sale/distribution of non-essential drugs/medicines and following NLEM/WHO list by the office of DCGI.

So far as controlling prices of medicines is concerned, under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulation containing any of these Scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA)/Government fixes or revises prices of Scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any Scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA/Government. NPPA has fixed/revised the prices of Scheduled bulk drugs in 470 cases and 10253 formulation packs since its inception in August, 1997. Of these, the prices of 18 Scheduled bulk drugs and derivatives and 1737 formulations were fixed/revised during the period from 01.4.2009 to 30.11.2009.

In respect of drugs — not covered under the DPCO, 1995 i.e. non-Scheduled drugs, manufacturers are at liberty to fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities/packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc. However, as a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-Scheduled formulations. Whenever a price increase beyond 10% per annum w.e.f. 1.4.2007 (this was 20% prior to 1.4.2007) is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process. Based on monitoring of prices of non-Scheduled formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 formulation

packs under para 10(b) and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 64 formulation packs. Thus in all, prices of 91 packs of non-Scheduled drugs have got reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA.

Societies Registration Act

4602. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to review the Societies Registration Act to make the functioning of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) more transparent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for the societies to go for e-filing of their statement;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) There is no proposal at present to review the Societies Registration Act.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Madam.
- (d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Drugs

4603. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Drugs are highly demanded in foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the value of drugs exported during the last

three years and the current year, country-wise and drug-wise; and

- (c) the steps taken by the Government to maintain quality, efficacy and standard of drugs to be exported?

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

(a) Drugs manufactured in India are exported to both developed and developing countries.

(b) The value of drugs exported during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Exports (Rs. in crores)
2006-2007	24942
2007-2008	30760
2008-2009	38433

(c) The manufacturers of drugs are required to comply with the GMP requirements and the drugs are tested by the manufacturer before the release of the same in the domestic market or for export.

Passenger Amenities

4604. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken or propose to take steps for providing basic facilities of drinking water, rest room, toilet etc. at the Railway Stations of Manmad, Kopargaon and Shirdi to develop these stations as model railway stations;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Manmad has been identified as Model Station as well as Modern station for the purpose of providing upgraded passenger

amenities. Various amenities provided at the station include Retiring Room, Waiting Room with bathing facility for upper class, second class and separate waiting room for ladies, cloak room, renovated water booths, Passenger Guidance System, Touch Screen Enquiry System etc.

As regards Kopargaon, Minimum Essential Passenger Amenities and other important amenities have been provided at this station. Besides, the following works (costing Rs. 123.20 lakh) have been taken in hand and planned for completion by March, 2010:—

- (i) Provision of ramp, toilet, water tap for physically challenged persons;
- (ii) Provision of pathway for inter-platform transfer for physically challenged persons; and
- (iii) Provision of pipeline connection from the network of Kopargaon Nagar Parishad.

Sainagar Shirdi station is an important tourist station and has been opened in February, 2009. Minimum Essential Amenities as per norms have been provided at this station. Further, upgradation of the passenger amenities commensurate with increase in passenger traffic is a continuous process and the same is taken up under Annual Works Programme as per feasibility, relative priority and availability of funds.

- (c) Does not arise.

Production Capacity of Cold Rolling Mill of BSP

4605. DR. BHOLA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual production capacity of cold rolling mill of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP);
- (b) the actual production realised during the last two years as against the targeted output;
- (c) whether the production of said rolling mill has fallen substantially during the period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The annual production capacity of the Cold rolling mill of Bokaro Steel Plant is 1660 thousand tonnes.

(b) Actual production of Cold Rolling Mill (CRM) of Bokaro Steel Plant during last two years as against the target is as follows:—

Unit: '000 tonnes		
Year	2007-08	2008-09
Target	1100	1000
Actual Production	778	648

(c) and (d) Although, the installed capacity of Cold Rolling Mill at Bokaro Steel Plant is 1660 tonnes, the production of hot rolled and cold rolling products is adjusted as per the market demand. The production of the Cold Rolling Mill has fallen in 2008-09 due to slowdown in market demand.

[English]

Special Trains for South Central Railway

4606. SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to operate additional and special trains from various places of the country to Kottaya for Sabarimala pilgrims;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce special trains from Nalgonda and Miryalaguda stations of South Central Railway;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 368 trips of special trains have been planned from various places of the country to clear extra rush of passengers during Sabarimala festival.

(c) to (e) Due to operational constraints, it is not feasible to start special trains from Nalgonda and Miryalaguda. However, six pairs of Sabarimala specials have been planned via Nalgonda and Miryalaguda and halts are provided at these stations.

LPG Connections

4607. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large number of applications are in the waiting list for LPG connections in the country including Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The enrolment of new LPG customers and release of new LPG connections is a continuous process. New LPG connections are made available as soon as possible and in any case, within a period of sixty days.

While Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has nil waiting list in the country including Maharashtra, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have together reported a waiting list of 1,03,501 as on 01.12.2009 with their LPG distributors in the country including 30,000 in the State of Maharashtra.

The present waiting list for release of new connection is expected to be liquidated within sixty days.

Clearance from AAI

4608. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any clearance pending from Airports Authority of India for construction of Chimneys for Koradi Thermal Power Station in Maharashtra; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. NoC has been issued to Koradi Thermal Power Station for construction of a Chimney.

Fall in Production of FACT

4609. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:
SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH:

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

(a) whether the production capacity of Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) has gone down during the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the total fall in production capacity;

(c) whether the Government has sanctioned a one time grant-in-aid to FACT to sustain its operations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the company has examined and implemented the recommendations of the consultant suggested for enhancing operational efficiency and cost cutting measures;

(f) if so, the details of the recommendations so far implemented and performance improved as a result thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons for delay in finalization of the recommendations and the time by which the action will be finalized by the company; and

(h) the time by which a final decision for providing the financial package for the revival of FACT is likely to

be taken?

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

(a) and (b) Production capacity of FACT Plants and the actual production for the last 5 years is given below:—

Production (MT)	Capacity	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Ammonium Sulphate	225000	128845	30478	183490	172986	200564
Factamphos 20:20	633500	605047	425530	721202	745902	560788
Caprolactam	50000	13548	6759	41327	38666	44932

There has been no dip in production capacity in past few years. However, there was a dip in production during financial year 2007-08, due to non-availability of sufficient quantity of raw material an unprecedented rise in the costs of inputs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. In March, 2008, The Government had sanctioned a one-time grant-in-aid of Rs. 200 crore to Fertilizers and Chemicals and Travancore Limited (FACT) to sustain the operations of the company.

(e) to (h) M/s Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd. had been entrusted with the work of formulating a revival plan for enhancing operational efficiency including cost cutting measures. Major recommendations of M/s Deloitte have been implemented. The Tariff Commission recommendations with regard to complex fertilizers have been implemented w.e.f. April, 2008. Price concession for ammonium sulphate had been restored w.e.f. 1st July, 2008. In respect of provision of additional working capital, a letter of Comfort to MMTC of Rs. 100 Crore for 2009-10 has been given for procurement of raw material and intermediates for FACT. Plan funds are being allocated annually and subsidy is being released on monthly basis. The scheme of utilization of waste steam to reduce energy costs has been implemented in both Udyogmandal and Cochin Division of FACT. Successful trial to reduce sulphur content of NP 20:20 from 15% to 13% and use of

ammonium sulphate directly for NP production have been made. The surplus staff is being utilized in the marketing Department of FACT. The use of imported ammonia is also being done based on economics.

[Translation]

Stainless Steel Gas Cylinder

4610. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Stainless Steel Development Association has submitted any proposal in regards to manufacturing stainless steel gas cylinders;

(b) if so, whether any test in regards to utility of stainless steel gas cylinders as per the proposal submitted by Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) has been conducted; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these cylinders are likely to be manufactured?

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

(a) No, Madam. No proposal from Indian Stainless Steel Development Association in regards to manufacturing stainless steel LPG cylinders has been received.

(b) and (c) Do ~~not~~ arise.

[English]

Bio-Metric Survey

4611. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted a bio-metric survey of handloom weavers through the Office of Development Commissioner, Handloom and also proposes to issue identity cards to the weavers after the survey;

(b) if so, the time by which these identity cards would be provided to the weavers; and

(c) the time by which a direct grant under handloom schemes through the accounts of Core Banking Solutions (CBS) would be made to the weavers after the bio-metric survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, the work of 3rd National Handloom Census and issue of photo identity cards to the eligible Handloom Weavers and allied workers is being carried out for the present. The work is in progress.

(c) Not applicable as no bio-metric survey is being conducted.

Construction of Airports in Tamil Nadu

4612. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of a new airport in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, on the request of Government of Tamil Nadu, Airports Authority of India has conducted a pre-

feasibility study for development of a new Greenfield Airport at Sriperumbudur near Chennai and submitted its report to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Removal of Toxic Wastes

4613. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the twenty-seven members of the US Congress have recently appealed to Dow Chemicals to pay to clean up the site of the world's worst industrial disaster in Bhopal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to step up pressure on Dow Jones in this regard; and

(d) the other steps being taken by the Government to provide relief to the affected families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) This Department is not in possession of any such information. However, the Government of India has filed an affidavit in an ongoing Writ Petition in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, requesting that the polluter be identified and liabilities for clean up be fixed from amongst the respondents, namely, Dow Chemicals, Union Carbide Corporation and Eveready Industries (India) Ltd. It was also requested that the respondents be asked to deposit a sum of Rs. 100 crore as an advance towards remediation cost.

(d) An amount of Rs. 1549.06 crore has been disbursed as original compensation to 5,73,887 claimants of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster, and an amount of Rs. 1509.66 crore has been disbursed as pro-rata compensation on 1:1 basis among 5,62,571 claimants till 31st October, 2009. Government of India had approved a 5 year Action Plan of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in 1990 with a total outlay of Rs. 258.00 crores for Medical, Economic, Social and Environmental rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims. The Central Government

released Rs. 193.50 crore towards the said scheme. The various rehabilitation measures undertaken for Bhopal Gas Victims over the years include setting up of 6 Gas Relief Hospitals, construction of a Super Speciality Hospital by Bhopal Memorial Hospital Trust, construction of 2486 houses for family members of deceased gas victims, setting up of an Industrial Training Institute where 10513 gas affected children have been trained, construction of 152 industrial sheds and 42 worksheds for employment opportunities for gas victims, training and skill upgradation of gas victims in traditional crafts under a scheme with an outlay of Rs. 4.00 crore and imparting vocational training to 600 gas victim women.

Appointments in PSUs

4614. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether while appointing top level executives in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and autonomous bodies, vigilance clearance is required only in case of PSUs and not in the case of statutory bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for keeping the autonomous bodies outside the purview of vigilance clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) Vigilance clearance is required before appointing, through the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC), top level executives in Public Sector Undertakings, statutory bodies and autonomous organizations.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Employees in BPCL

4615. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:

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

(a) the total number of officers and employees working in Bharat Petroleum Limited at national level alongwith the number of officers and employees belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and OBCs;

(b) whether all the reserved posts have been filled;

(c) if so, the total number of appointments made during the last three years alongwith the number of people appointed from Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and OBCs;

(d) whether there is still a backlog in reserved posts; and

(e) if so, the time by which these reserved posts are likely to be filled up?

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

(a) to (e) (i) The total number of officers (management staff) and other employees working in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) at national level alongwith the number of officers and employees belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Castes (OBCs) are as follows (as on 1.10.2009):—

Group	Total No. of officers/ employees	Category		
		SC	ST	OBC
Officers	4765	784	271	412
Others	9223	1562	545	834
Total	13988	2346	816	1246

(ii) The total number of appointments made during the last three years from the year 2006 to year 2008 (category-wise) are as follows:—

Group	Total No. of appointments	Category		
		SC	ST	OBC
Officers	899	137	61	166
Others	246	31	6	77
Total	1145	168	67	243

(iii) All the reserved posts for SCs and STs have been filled up. However, there is a backlog of reserved posts for OBCs and the same is likely to be filled up by February, 2010. A special recruitment drive is underway for filling the backlog vacancies for OBCs.

Purchase of Ferro-Alloy by SAIL

4616. DR. BHOLA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) purchase its ferro-alloy centrally through Durgapur Steel Plant under an open tender price on quarterly basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the firms located in Bihar and Jharkhand are not allowed to participate in the tenders under the existing set of laid down criteria which have pushed them on the verge of the closure of their units;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) purchases Ferro-Alloys centrally through Durgapur Steel Plant on a quarterly basis through open tender. Depending upon market conditions, in some cases, price bids have been taken every 45 days.

(c) to (e) The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) formulates its eligibility criteria from time to time keeping in view their quantum of requirement and prevailing market conditions. All firms fulfilling eligibility criteria irrespective of the geographical location, are considered. All eligible parties are allowed to participate in the tendering process.

Corruption in Judiciary

4617. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI:

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

(a) whether conduct of Judges of various courts is reviewed/monitored regularly to avoid corruption from the judiciary;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of corrupt High Court/ District Court Judges were removed/given compulsory retirement during the last one year, State-wise;

(d) whether any enquiry was held before removal of any Judges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) The issue of Judicial Accountability was discussed at the Conference of Chief Justices held in 1990 and on the basis of the broad consensus emerging out of the deliberations, the Chief Justice of India summed up the position as follows:—

"The Chief Justice of the High Court has the competence to receive complaint against the conduct of the Judges of his Court and when he receives any, he would look into it for finding out if it deserves to

be closely looked into. Where he is satisfied that the matter requires to be examined, he shall have facts ascertained in such manner as he consider appropriate keeping the nature of allegation in view and if he is of the opinion that the matter is such that it should be reported to the Chief Justice of India, he shall do so.

The Chief Justice of India shall act in a similar manner in regard to complaints relating to conduct of Judges of the Supreme Court and in regard to conduct of Chief Justice of the High Courts. On the basis of the facts ascertained, the Chief Justice of the High Court or the Supreme Court, as the case may be, shall take such appropriate action as may be considered proper, keeping the interests of the judiciary as the paramount consideration."

The complaints received against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are, at present, dealt with in the manner indicated above.

No Judge of any High Court has been removed from office so far.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court and the State Government. The officers of the subordinate judiciary are guided by the set of rules framed by the respective State Governments.

[English]

**Ticket Booking Rush at Major
Railway Stations**

4618. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

SHRI M.B. RAJESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the huge rush at the ticket windows of Sub Urban Railway Stations during the peak hours at Chennai and other metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have any proposal to open more ticket windows so as to reduce this rush;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount of penalties recovered by the Railways for ticketless travelling/travelling on other tickets during each of the last three years and the current year, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) In order to cater to rush during holidays and festival seasons and during peak rush hours, additional counters are opened to the extent feasible. Besides, various other steps have been taken to facilitate passengers in getting tickets, which are as under:—

(i) Proliferation of Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS);

(ii) Installation of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM);

(iii) Appointment of Jan Sadharan Ticket Booking Sewaks (JTBS);

(iv) Proliferation of Internet ticketing; and

(v) Issuing of reserved tickets through computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) terminals provided in Post offices.

(d) Zone-wise details of the amount of penalties recovered by the Railways for ticketless/irregular travelling and travelling on other's ticket during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Railway	Amount realised from ticketless/ irregular travelling (Rs. in crore)				Amount realised from travelling on other's ticket (transfer of ticket) (Rs. in lakh)			
	2006- 07	2007- 08	2008- 09	2009-10 (upto October, 2009)	2006- 07	2007- 08	2008- 09	2009-10 (upto October, 2009)
Central	26.75	32.36	38.65	27.23	39.65	46.36	20.31	13.26
Eastern	10.30	11.96	12.19	7.90	1.67	0.78	0.67	1.19
East Central	9.70	11.15	12.96	9.53	0	0	0	0
East Coast	3.33	3.60	4.71	3.41	0.42	0.43	0.20	0.14
Northern	44.45	48.71	54.52	38.53	1.29	1.69	2.83	1.31
North Central	17.78	19.49	25.02	17.97	0.81	0.83	0.99	0.51
North Eastern	10.02	12.08	14.82	11.80	0.004	0.02	0	0
Northeast Frontier	5.76	6.61	8.53	6.06	0.20	1.03	0.92	1.10
North Western	8.57	9.44	10.54	7.42	1.25	1.26	1.02	1.10
Southern	10.68	12.44	16.57	11.36	5.21	6.20	7.30	64.30
South Central	20.85	24.53	29.28	20.05	3.34	3.64	4.94	2.74
South Eastern	4.79	5.63	7.05	5.40	11.21	8.42	3.05	1.12
Southeast Central	3.47	4.09	5.37	3.76	0.02	0.05	0.06	0
South Western	4.23	5.67	6.97	4.83	37.67	41.20	43.21	23.99
Western	24.20	27.89	34.17	23.70	32.58	17.89	18.21	10.20
West Central	10.84	11.48	11.84	8.49	8.27	13.72	11.06	4.19

12.00 hrs.

At this stage, Shri K. Narayan Rao and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be laid.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): Madam, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri A.K. Antony, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1427/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the 5th Annual Statement (Hindi and English versions) on the Pending Law Commission Reports-December, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1428/15/09]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1429/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1430/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): 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:—
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2008-2009.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1431/15/09]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Insecticides

Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Insecticides 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-1432/15/09]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers 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-1433/15/09]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Fertilizers Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Fertilizers 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-1434/15/09]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan

Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1435/15/09]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1436/15/09]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited, Jodhpur, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited, Jodhpur, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1437/15/09]

- (h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited

[Shri Srikant Jena]

Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1438/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): Madam, on behalf of my colleague, Shri E. Ahamed, 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 Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (2) Annual Report of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1439/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : Madam, on behalf of my colleague, Shri K.H. Muniyappa, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 127(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2009 under sub-section (3) of Section 21 of the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1440/15/09]

- (3) A copy of the Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Amendment) Rules, 2009 (Hindi and

English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 848(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 2009 under Section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1441/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1442/15/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool Research Association, Thane, 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 Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1443/15/09]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, 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 Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1444/15/09]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-section (1) of section 16 of the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987:—

(i) S.O. 859(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 2009, providing relaxation upto the extent of 20% of the production of Sugar can be packed in packaging material other than jute to prevalent disruption in Sugar procurement.

(ii) S.O. 653(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th March, 2009, providing relaxation upto the extent of total quantity of 0.75 lakh bales for the Rabi Marketing Season 2009-2010 to prevent disruption in Foodgrain procurement.

(iii) S.O. 363(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2009, providing relaxation upto the extent of total quantity of 2 lakh bales for the Rabi Marketing Season 2009-2010 to prevent disruption in Foodgrain procurement.

(iv) S.O. 2409(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2009, mandating 100% packaging of Foodgrain and Sugar in jute packaging material.

(6) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) to (iii) of (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1445/15/09]

(7) 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 Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports 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-1446/15/09]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad, 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 Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1447/15/09]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

[Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi]

working of the Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1448/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): 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 Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1449/15/09]

(2) A copy of the First Statutes of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 149 in weekly Gazette of India dated the 24th October, 2009 under sub-section (1) of Section 30(1) of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology Act, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1450/15/09]

(3) A copy of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Technical) Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards for Natural Gas pipelines) Regulations, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 808(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 2009 under Section 62 of the

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1451/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): 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:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Cement 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-1452/15/09]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1453/15/09]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the HMT 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-1454/15/09]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1455/15/09]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1456/15/09]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ootacamund, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ootacamund, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1457/15/09]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam 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-1458/15/09]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 2009 agreed without any amendment to Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th December, 2009."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to

inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 2009 agreed without any amendment to the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2009 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th December, 2009.”

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Let there be order in the House please.

...(Interruptions)

12.02½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

4th to 6th Reports

[English]

DR K.S. RAO (Eluru): Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2009-10):—

- (1) Fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Sixty-first Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Project Management Practices in Gauge Conversion and New Line Project relating to the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board).
- (2) Fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Sixty-seventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- (3) Sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Sixty-ninth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Injudicious Release

of Grants relating to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education).

12.03 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Statement

[English]

SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA (South Goa) : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table statement (Hindi and English versions) of action taken or proposed to be taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report of Estimates Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).

12.03½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Statements

[English]

SHRI GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR (Bangaon): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Final Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter-I of the Thirty-second Report (14th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in North Eastern Railway (NER)'.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

3rd and 4th Reports

[English]

SHRI MILIND DEORA (Mumbai South): Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (2009-10):—

- (1) Third Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology).
- (2) Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications).

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

12.04½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

[Translation]

1st to 3rd Reports

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2009-2010):—

- (1) First Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Power for the year 2009-10.

- (2) Second Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the year 2009-10.

- (3) Third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 31st Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)'.

12.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

6th Report

[English]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi): I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance on "Inflation and Price Rise".

...(Interruptions)

12.05½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER
AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

2nd and 3rd Reports

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution:—

- (1) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Department of Food and Public Distribution (Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution).

[Shri Vilas Muttemwar]

- (2) Third Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Department of Consumer Affairs (Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution).

...(Interruptions)

12.07 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

12.07¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

3rd to 7th Reports

[English]

SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL (Sundargarh) : I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour:—

- (1) Third Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on the Demands for Grants for the year 2009-2010 of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- (2) Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on the Demands for Grants for the year 2009-2010 of the Ministry of Textiles.
- (3) Fifth Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirtieth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Labour on the 'Functioning of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation'.
- (4) Sixth Report on the action taken by the

Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirty-third Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Labour on the 'Development Schemes for Handicrafts Sector'.

- (5) Seventh Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Labour on 'General conditions of weavers in the country — A case study of Sircilla concentration zone of weavers'.

...(Interruptions)

12.08 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

Statement

[English]

SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL (Sundargarh): I beg to lay a Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in Thirty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour (2008-2009) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in Twenty-seventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Sickness/Closure of Textile Mills' pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.

12.08¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1st and 2nd Reports

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam, I beg to

present following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2009-2010):—

- (1) First Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2009-2010) of the Ministry of Urban Development.
- (2) Second Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2009-2010) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

...(Interruptions)

12.08½ hrs.

At this stage, Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

12.09 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

Statement

[English]

SHRIMATI ANNU TANDON (Unnao): I beg to lay a Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in Tenth Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2008-09) on the recommendations contained in Ninth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2008-09.

...(Interruptions)

12.09½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1st to 5th Reports

[English]

SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Rural Development:—

- (1) First Report on Demands for Grants (2009-2010) of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2009-2010) of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (3) Third Report on Demands for Grants (2009-2010) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (4) Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2009-2010) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj;
- (5) Fifth Report on Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Forty-first Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2008-09).

...(Interruptions)

12.10 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

1st to 3rd Reports

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English

[Shri Dara Singh Chauhan]

versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2009-2010):—

- (1) First Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- (2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (3) Third Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

12.10¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC
GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

35th and 36th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur):
Madam, I beg to lay the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice:—

- (1) 35th Report on the Action Taken Replies of the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 29th Report of the Committee on "Public Grievances Redressal Mechanism".
- (2) 36th Report on "The Constitution (One Hundred and Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2008".

12.10½ hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations
contained in the 41st Report of the Standing

Committee on Agriculture on pricing policy for
Agricultural Produce, pertaining to the
Ministry of Agriculture.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, item no. 27. Prof. K.V. Thomas.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): Madam, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri Sharad Pawar, I am making this statement on the status of the recommendations contained in the Forty First Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2008) on Pricing Policy of Agricultural Produce in pursuance of the Direction 73-A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture examined the Pricing Policy of Agricultural Produce and presented its Report to the Lok Sabha on 22nd July, 2008. The Report contained 12 recommendations. The Action Taken replies of the Government were sent to the Committee on 16th July, 2009. The status of the recommendations of PSCA is indicated in the statement enclosed.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.11 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen
of the Clock.*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen
of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, may I seek your kind indulgence for one small matter?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Firstly, I would seek your permission to move that the House do agree with the Tenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 16th December, 2009.

14.0½ hrs.

At this stage, Shri K. Narayan Rao and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you asking about Item No. 29?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay.

14.01 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10th Report

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the House do agree with the Tenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 16th December, 2009."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the House do agree with the Tenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 16th December, 2009."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, there are just two Bills to be introduced; and the Matters under Rule 377 may be laid on the Table of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Item No. 30 — Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

...(Interruptions)

14.02 hrs.

COINAGE BILL, 2009*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, with your permission, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate the laws relating to coinage and the Mints, the protection of coinage and to provide for the prohibition of melting or destruction of coins and prohibit the making or the possession thereof for issue and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate the laws relating to coinage and the Mints, the protection of coinage and to provide for the prohibition of melting or destruction of coins and prohibit the making or the possession thereof for issue and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 17.12.09.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

14.02½ hrs.

**SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF MINISTERS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009***

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 31 — Shri P. Chidambaram.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952. "

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, Matters under Rule 377 may be laid on the Table of the House.

14.03 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise Matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them, may personally handover slips at the Table of the House within

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 17.12.09.

**Treated as laid on the Table.

20 minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid of which slips have been received at the Table within stipulated time, and the rest will be treated as lapsed.

...(Interruptions)

(i) Need for doubling of Madurai-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari railway line

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (Tirunelveli): Tamil Nadu is lagging behind in the development of railway network in the country. Various railway works like gauge conversion, electrification and new lines pertaining to the State are running much behind the schedule due to inadequate fund allocation and cost escalation.

One of the important projects is doubling of Madurai-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari Section. Madurai, Tirunelveli, Courtalam, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari are important tourist places of attraction in southern Tamil Nadu. Large number of people from within the State and abroad are visiting these places throughout the year. There is a heavy traffic on this route and people going to Rameshwaram and Trivandrum are also using this route.

Presently doubling of railway line has been sanctioned for Villupuram-Dindigul section. Ongoing doubling work between Dindigul-Madurai is likely to be completed shortly. Hence, doubling of line between Madurai-Kanyakumari via Tirunelveli should be taken up on priority. At present, there is a single line on this route. People visiting various tourist places of importance are facing lot of difficulties, because of capacity reduction, railways cannot introduce more number of trains to meet the increasing demand of passengers. If double line is laid, the people residing at Maniyachi, Virudhunagar, Kovilpatti will also be benefited as it will open connectivity to those places. There is also simultaneous demand from Kerala for doubling of Nagercoil/Kanyakumari-Trivandrum Section. This will facilitate large number of tourists visiting both the States. Number of trains which were running up to Madurai earlier have been extended upto Tirunelveli in the recent years. If the doubling of Madurai-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari be-

comes a reality, it will facilitate large number of people from all parts of the country visiting Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to take up the work of doubling of Madurai-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari railway line on priority basis and allocate adequate funds for the project.

(ii) Need to undertake inter-linking of rivers in the country

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Floods are caused by extensive deforestation, leading to increase in the height of the river bed due to silting. During rains, the absence of top soils repels water seepage into the ground, thereby renders the area dry during non-monsoon periods.

India has seven major river systems and hundreds of associated rivers and tributaries. While some like the Brahmaputra and Krishna River Systems are causing destruction of life and property through floods, others like the Cauvery are almost dry causing panic and alarm to those dependent solely on it. The paradox of the country languishing due to the excess and deficit of water at the same time, led to the birth of the Plan for Inter linking of Rivers.

The two major components of the plan are the Himalayan and Peninsular components. The aim is to link 37 rivers in the country through 30 links, 14 in the Himalayan component and 16 in the Peninsular. By routing surplus water to water deficit areas, flood and drought situations are expected to be alleviated and a host of other benefits such as increased water for irrigation and drinking, generation of hydro power and other garnered.

It is high time that our Government should focus its attention in the most needed project of inter-linking of rivers which is the need of the hour.

(iii) Need to make proper arrangements for procurement of paddy from the farmers in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): Sir, the Government of

India has fixed a minimum support price of Rs. 950 to 1050 for procurement of paddy in order to ensure a remunerative price for the same to the farmers. No procurement of paddy is being done in Uttar Pradesh and particularly in Barabanki district of the State. Post dated coupons of three months ahead are being given to the farmers for procurement of their paddy in future and that too, only for about one fourth of their produce. The farmers are constrained to sell their paddy at low prices either in market or to the middlemen.

My demand is that there should be arrangements for immediate procurement of whole paddy at the time when the farmers reach the procurement centre. I would like that the Union Government may intervene in this matter and make proper arrangement for procurement of paddy from the farmers.

(iv) Need to expedite the disbursement of educational loan to eligible students in Kancheepuram Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI P. VISWANATHAN (Kancheepuram): On August 27, 2009 the Union Cabinet approved a scheme to waive interest on educational loans given by banks to economically weaker students for higher education.

On 31 August, 2009 an educational loan mela was held in my constituency Kancheepuram and 32 participating banks received over 4500 applications from the students.

Now, even after 3 months, the banks have not disbursed the loans to most of the eligible students.

The academic session has already started in the educational institutions but the students are not able to pay their fee, as they are awaiting loan from the banks.

Many of them are seeking loans from private lending agencies to overcome the problem.

The interest waiver scheme covers the entire nation and the very purpose of the scheme will be defeated if

[Shri P. Viswanathan]

the loan does not reach the students in time when it is most needed.

I request the Ministry of Finance to implement the following suggestions immediately:—

- (i) To direct the banks to disburse the loans to all eligible students within a specific time period of 60 days to 90 days.
- (ii) To put up a dedicated website of Finance Ministry where students from all over the country can access information, register their queries and make complaints regarding the scheme.
- (iii) To have a toll free interactive contact number to receive and attend the complaints and comments from the students.
- (v) **Need to open the Railway Gate No. 93 on Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma railway line in Himmat Nagar, Gujarat for the benefit of villagers of the area.**

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN (Sabarkantha): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railways towards the railway gate no. 93 set up on the Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma railway line crossing through Himmat Nagar in my parliamentary constituency Sabarkantha (Gujarat) which has been closed totally and on account of pits dug by the department on both sides of the crossings around twenty thousand farmers and other villagers are facing hardships in leading their lives. There will be much benefit to many villages like Waktpur, Lolasan, Kanai, Garha etc. around Himmat Nagar if the gate no. 93 is properly opened and pits are filled up. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to issue proper instructions to get this work done as early as possible.

[English]

(vi) Need to undertake repair of Railway under-bridge at Utaran in Surat, Gujarat.

SHRIMATI DARSHANA JARDOSH (Surat): Sir, under the Western Railways, the Utaran railway under bridge in Surat city is lying in a dilapidated condition for the last several months and traffic movement under the bridge has been closed by fixing a notice board displaying 'traffic movement under this bridge is prohibited'. However, all kinds of trains are passing through the overbridge. How can this bridge be safe for passing of trains while it is not safe for traffic movement thereunder. This is like playing with the lives of the people. No action has been initiated to get the same repaired even after the elapse of three months since its closure. Are we waiting for the occurrence of any accident? My demand is that the repair of Utaran railway bridge should be carried out at the earliest so that the trains as well as the people could be saved from accidents.

[English]

(vii) Need to set up Memorials in honour of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other renowned Dalit leaders in various parts of the country.

[Translation]

DR. RAJAN SUSHANT (Kangra): Sir, after independence, the nation has gone ahead on the path of social harmony and in order to strengthen the path of this harmony further, there is a need to set up memorials in the country upto block levels in all the States in the honour of all the Dalit leaders, including that of the founder of the constitution Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, who have made immense contribution in country's freedom struggle, social, political and other fields on the lines of the 'Samadhi' set up for Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation and much importance be attached to the already built up memorials and samadhis so that the present and future generations of the country take inspiration from them and

strengthen this harmony further in India. At the same time I would like to make a special request to the Government of India that special honour should be accorded to the 'Nirvan sthal' of Dr. Ambedkar situated at the Alipur Road in Delhi, Government functions be organized there and the Delhi residence of Dr. Ambedkar, the Centre of faith and inspiration for crores of people of the country, be developed quickly.

(viii) Need to spread awareness in the society to check violence against women.

[English]

DR. RATNA DE (Hooghly): Violence against women is a global phenomena. It knows no bound with regards to age, ethnicity and social status. The victims of domestic violence suffer physically, mentally and psychologically. The rising incidence of domestic violence is a cause for great concern. In our country the total number of crimes reportedly committed against women were 1,55,553 in 2005. It has increased to 1,85,312 Nos. in the year 2007. The crimes committed against women are (1) rape (2) Kidnapping and abducting (3) Dowry death (4) Torture (5) Molestation (6) Sexual harassment, (7) Throwing of acid and (8) International trafficking. It must be noted that the best legislation, without the resultant change in the attitude to the issue of domestic violence, will fail to produce the desired result. Awareness of the male dominated society and change of attitude as a whole, can only solve the problem. Therefore, adequate steps should be taken to create awareness in the society to tackle the situation.

(ix) Need to undertake the construction of Kollengode-Thrissur railway project and expedite the gauge conversion work from Madurai to Kollengode via Pollachi

SHRI P.K. BIJU (Alathur): Kollengode-Thrissur railway project was finalized nearly 70 years ago. But construction of the line was not taken up due to unknown reasons. Kollengode and Thrissur are important railway stations and, therefore, connecting these two stations by a short route

through Alathur and Vadakkencherry, may facilitate much convenience, benefits and income is expected. The completion of such a railway route will give easy access to many tourist places in Alathur constituency like Nelliampathi, Parambikulam, Mangalam Dam, Pothundi Dam and Peechi Dam and more importantly to pilgrim places like Guruvayoor, Palani, Rameshwaram and Madurai. This railway line will be a boon to pilgrims and an excellent trade route connecting Tamil Nadu and Kerala. At Present the passengers reaching Thrissur have to travel 86 Kms through Palakkad to reach Kollengode and there from to Pazhani-Dindugal, Madurai and other important places. If the proposed route is constructed, more than 30 Kms can be saved for travelling to the above mentioned places and money and time can be saved to a considerable extent. Moreover, the expenses of railway can also be reduced to much extent. The gauge conversion work from Madurai-Kollengode via Pollachi has been much delayed and it is requested to complete this project at the earliest. I, therefore, urge the Government to materialize this important project and also to complete the ongoing gauge conversion work from Madurai to Kollengode via Pollachi at the earliest.

(x) Need to undertake measures to make Integrated Child Development Services Scheme more effective

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Baturghat): Integrated Child Development Services Project, which is working for giving various health and nutritional care services to the mother and child in our country, is very much effective. But, still it is very much lagging behind from its needs to serve the increasing number of cases related to mother and child. Besides, its per capita expenditure is very low. There are various needs of these centres for which the services have been hampering. My proposals are (i) The number of centres should be increased corresponding to the increase in number of mother and child case in the respective areas. (ii) The per capita expenditure towards feeding and other services should be increased corresponding to the present hike in prices of

[Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar]

essential commodities (iii) Immediate steps should be taken for the constitution of centres for running the Project from its own building (iv) A health unit each may be constituted for at least 10 centres.

(xi) Need to protect and maintain the wakf properties for the benefit of the socially and economically backward Muslim Community.

SHRI THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN (Chidambaram): Wakf properties in the country have got a traditional history of about 800 years and they were granted by the Islamic rulers of yesteryears to benefit the poor and the deprived sections of the society. Wakf Boards have got huge assets next only to Defence and Railways. More than 70 per cent of those properties have either been encroached or taken away by unscrupulous people over the years. Many of the problems like poverty, unemployment and educational opportunities of the minority community could have been solved even with the 30 per cent of available Wakf properties. Guided by the Wakf Board Act of 1954 and 1995, 35 Wakf Boards have been constituted throughout the country of which many are defunct. Now, there is a need to have a re-look at the management of these properties throughout the country so that the Islamic minority community will be really benefited. This is urgent and necessary in the wake of poor management by certain Wakf Boards in some States. For instance, in Bangalore, a hotel worth Rs. 500 crore is paying a meagre sum of Rs. 12,000 to the Wakf Board as monthly rent for the 5 acres of land on which that star hotel has been raised. In Mumbai, a prime land measuring 4,532 sq. ft. has been sold by the Wakf Board for a meagre Rs. 16 lakh to a mega corporate body. In Andhra Pradesh, the State Government itself has taken over about 6,000 acres of Wakf land giving away a considerable size of land to NTPC.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take effective steps to protect and maintain these properties for

the benefit of the socially and economically backward people from this minority community.

14.03½ hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Increase in Naxalite and Maoist activities in the Country

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Item No. 37, discussion under Rule 193 — Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, widespread violence by the Maoist and the characterization as the biggest threat to internal security by the Government of India, has brought the issue of Left wing extremism to the fore...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What we have been witnessing is that since 2004, the incidents of violence by the Maoists are increasing year after year. During five years, from 2004 to 2009, 3,336 persons have been killed in 7,036 incidents in 14 States...(Interruptions)

14.05 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Discussion is being held here on a very important subject. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the speech of Basu Deb Acharia will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This year, 1,976 lives were lost. Out of which, till November, 2009, 876 persons were killed because of Maoist violence....(Interruptions) If we add the figure of the persons killed during the month of December, the figure will reach 900. Since 2004, from 587, the number increased to almost 1,000....(Interruptions) Who are the targets of these Maoists?...(Interruptions) Who are being killed by the Maoists?...(Interruptions)

14.07 hrs.

At this stage, Shri K. Narayan Rao and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary went back to his seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Telangana as well as the unified Andhra Pradesh are feeling uneasy. Today, the situation prevailing there does not seem to be good. Today, some persons have been killed in police firing. I would like to submit that the debate initiated by Shri Basu Deb Acharia should run in a proper and smooth manner. One of the Members from the Telugu Desam Party should be given

*Not recorded.

a chance to speak so that he may be able to make his point. Nobody is understanding, the way they are speaking the country is also not getting the chance to know their views and the House is also not being run properly. ...(Interruptions) Please sit down. I am speaking on your behalf.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that please give five minutes time to the hon'ble Member from Andhra Pradesh and two minutes time to hon'ble Member, who want to speak for Bodoland....(Interruptions) The issue is that the House should run....(Interruptions) I would like to submit that the issues being raised by Basu Deb Acharia ji are important. Whatever you want to express, speak it out and then, let the House function. We are sitting here since morning.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to you that give them five minutes time to speak. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you to give five minutes to Members from Andhra Pradesh and two minutes to them....(Interruptions) If you agree with this, then allow it. ...(Interruptions) It is not appropriate that the four Members do not let the entire House run. If you want to make your points, express it. I would like to request you to give them time to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As per hon'ble Member's request, I allow Shri K. Narayanrao to speak. But, only one person will speak. You may speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The situation is very volatile. The Government should also come forward with a statement.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Let us work out a way in which we can run the House.

[Translation]

If they want to speak, let them speak, after that one person should speak from this side and one person from

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

the other side and if any other hon'ble Member also wants to speak on this issue, he can also speak but if everybody expresses his views in polite manner, then only the House will run. It should not be so that for making the point, the person rushes to the well of the House. It should not be so. Therefore, please first discuss it with them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. You may speak.

[English]

SHRI K. NARAYAN RAO (Machilipatnam): I request everybody to hear a few words from me.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if they are allowed to speak, then why we should not speak. We also want to express our views.(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are talking about giving permission to Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary of Kokrajhar and people from two States, this is not appropriate. Sir, this is a fatal disease which has spread in every State of the country. This matter is not confined to three States only. These people have spread it to all States. This problem is in Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal....(Interruptions) If this matter has to be discussed, then set one date for it, the Members of all areas, wherever these issues are being raised should be allowed to participate in this debate. The separate States are being demanded in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Seemanchal from Meethanchal to Uttaranchal and stop....(Interruptions) Listen. Therefore, decide one date and the Members who want a discussion on this issue should be allowed to speak on that date. First decide the date....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As you people are not

unanimous on this issue, I adjourn this issue and invite Shri Basu Deb Acharia to express his views.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Now they should come forward with a solution. They announced creation of Telangana without consulting anybody....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Basu Deb Acharia ji, please start your speech....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the one way to run House at present is to start discussion on this subject and after that decide any date, on which the hon'ble Members who want to express their views, may be able to do so....(Interruptions) At present, it is essential for running the House that the Members who want to speak on this subject, may be allowed to speak....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I was referring to the persons who have been killed by Maoists. Most of these persons are....(Interruptions)

14.14 hrs.

At this stage, Shri M. Venugopala Reddy and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow the 18th December, 2009 at 11 a.m.

14.15 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 18, 2009/
Agrahayana 27, 1931 (Saka).*

ANNEXURE-I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Abdul Rahman	414
2.	Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivaji	420
3.	Shri Adsul Anandrao	420
4.	Shri Agarwal, Jai Prakash	418
5.	Shri Anant Kumar, Hegde	405
6.	Shri Bavalia Kunvarjibhai Mohanbhai	406
7.	Shri Chauhan, Dara Singh	404
8.	Shri Haque, Sk. Saidul	412
9.	Shri Jaiswal, Gorakh Prasad	401
10.	Shri Jindal Naveen	408
11.	Dr. Joshi, Murlī Manohar	409
12.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	410
13.	Shri Majhi Pradeep	419
14.	Shri Naik Shripad Yesso	417

1	2	3
15.	Shri Radadiya Vitthalbhai Hansrajbhai	401
16.	Shri Rajesh, M.B.	416
17.	Shri Reddy Gutha Sukhender	410
18.	Shri Reddy M. Raja Mohan	415
19.	Shri S.R. Jeyadurai	402
20.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	403
21.	Shri Singh Dushyant	416
22.	Dr. Singh Raghuvansh Prasad	407
23.	Shri Singh Rakesh	413
24.	Shri Singh Uday	415
25.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan Alias Lalan Singh	409
26.	Rajkumari Singh, Ratna	404
27.	Shri Tandon, Lalji	417
28.	Shri Thakor Jagdish	406
29.	Shri Toppo Joseph	411
30.	Shri Wakchaure, Bhausaheb Rajaram	412

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shrimati Shantha, J.	4422, 4519
2.	Shri Abdul Rahman	4545

1	2	3
3.	Shri Adsul Anandrao	4505
4.	Shri Agarwal Jai Prakash	4532, 4580, 4603, 4617
5.	Shri Agrawal, Rajendra	4420
6.	Shri Ahir Hansraj G.	4403, 4428, 4522, 4581, 4610
7.	Shri Ajmal Badruddin	4498, 4569
8.	Shri Anandan M.	4481
9.	Shri Ananth Kumar	4537
10.	Shri Anant Kumar, Hegde	4537, 4593
11.	Shri Babar Gajanan D.	4501
12.	Shri Bajwa Partap Singh	4478
13.	Dr. Baliram	4448, 4566, 4596
14.	Dr. Barq, Shafiqur, Rahman	4470, 4588
15.	Shrimati Bauri, Susmita	4484
16.	Shri Bhujbal Sameer	4401, 4525
17.	Shrimati Botcha, Jhansi Lakshmi	4481
18.	Shri C., Sivasami	4405, 4517, 4579
19.	Shri Choudhary Harish	4397
20.	Shri Chauhan Mahendrasinh P.	4479, 4554
21.	Shri Chitthan N.S.V.	4469
22.	Shri Das Bhakta Charan	4482
23.	Shrimati Dasmunsi, Deepa	4445, 4555, 4591
24.	Shrimati Davidson J. Helen	4469, 4502
25.	Shri Deora Milind	4526, 4573
26.	Shri Dhanapalan K.P.	4493

1	2	3
27.	Shri Dhruvanarayana, R.	4442, 4490, 4563
28.	Shri Dubey Nishikant	4450
29.	Shri Ering Ninong	4463
30.	Shri Gaddigoudar, P.C.	4575
31.	Shri Gadhvi Mukesh Bhairavdanji	4458, 4568, 458
32.	Shri Gaikwad Eknath Mahadeo	4438, 4503, 4513
33.	Shri Gandhi, Varun	4439, 4531, 4576, 4602, 4613
34.	Shri Gandhi, Dilipkumar Mansukhlal	4481
35.	Shri Ghubaya Sher Singh	4421
36.	Shri Gopal, L. Raja	4461
37.	Shri Gowda Chandre D.B.	4447
38.	Shri Haque, Sk. Saidul	4536
39.	Shri Hazari Maheshwar	4473, 4500
40.	Dr. Jagannath Manda	4471
41.	Shri Jaiswal, Gorakh Prasad	4551
42.	Shri Jawale Haribhau	4514, 4587
43.	Shrimati Jayaprada	4447, 4564, 4595, 4597, 4611
44.	Dr. Joshi, Murli Manohar	4593
45.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	4454
46.	Shri Judev, Dilip Singh	4407
47.	Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba'	4417
48.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	4552
49.	Shri Karwaria, Kapil Muni	4424
50.	Shri Kashyap Virender	4400, 4430, 4521, 4556

1	2	3
51.	Shri Kataria Lalchand	4472
52.	Shri Khaire Chandrakant	4506
53.	Shri Kishor, Kamal "Commando"	4491, 4561
54.	Shri Kumar Mithilesh	4481
55.	Shri Kumar, P.	4418, 4515, 4570, 4598, 4612
56.	Shri Kumar, Shailendra	4443, 4533
57.	Shri Kurup Peethambara	4427, 4469
58.	Shri Laguri Yashbant	4399, 4483
59.	Shri M. Krishnasswamy	4469
60.	Shri Madam Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	4411, 4474, 4540, 4590
61.	Shrimati Mahajan, Sumitra	4444
62.	Shri Mahato, Narahari	4412, 4461
63.	Shri Majhi Pradeep	4523, 4577, 4585, 4609
64.	Shri Majumdar, Prasanta Kumar	4412
65.	Shri Meghwal Arjun	4494
66.	Shri Meghwal Bharat Ram	4467
67.	Shri Mitra, Somen	4500
68.	Shri Mohammed Azharuddin	4423
69.	Shri Mohapatra Sidhant	4477
70.	Shri Munda Arjun	4473
71.	Shri Muttemwar Vilas	4404, 4490
72.	Shri P. Balram	4406, 4431, 4432, 4433, 4534
73.	Shri Nama, Nageswara Rao	4462
74.	Shri Namdhari Inder Singh	4617

1	2	3
75.	Shri Naranbhai, Kachhadia	4446
76.	Shri Narayanrao Sonawane Pratap	4495
77.	Shri Nirupam Sanjay	4457, 4541, 4589, 4608
78.	Shri Owaisi Asaduddin	4452
79.	Shri P.R. Natarajan	4459
80.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	4484
81.	Shri Pandey, Ravindra Kumar	4475, 4476
82.	Shri Pandey, Gorakhnath	4451, 4562
83.	Dr. Pandey, Vinay Kumar	4449, 4550
84.	Shri Pangi Jayaram	4410
85.	Shri Paranipe Anand Prakash	4440
86.	Shri Patel Devji M.	4506
87.	Shri Patel R.K. Singh	4480
88.	Shri Patil Raosaheb Danve	4466
89.	Shri Patil, Bhaskarrao Bapurao Khatgaonkar	4438, 4503, 4513
90.	Shrimati Patle, Kamla Devi	4415
91.	Shri Prabhakar, Ponnarn	4432, 4469, 4529, 4574, 4601
92.	Shri Purkayastha Kabindra	4496
93.	Shri Radadiya Vitthalbhai Hansrajbhai	4509, 4584
94.	Shri Rai, Prem Das	4497
95.	Shri Rajesh, M.B.	4538, 4618
96.	Shri Ram Purnmasi	4429
97.	Prof. Ramshankar	4489
98.	Shri Ramkishun	4464

1	2	3
99	Shri Rane, Nilesh Narayan	4408, 4528, 4578, 4607
100	Shri Rao, Sambasiva Rayapati	4499
101.	Shri Rathod, Ramesh	4434, 4539
102.	Shri Rathwa Ramsinh	4446, 4459, 4558
103.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	4437
104.	Shri Ray, Bishnu Pada	4441
105.	Shri Ray, Rudramadhab	4398, 4478, 4507, 4572
106.	Shri Reddy Gutha Sukhender	4534, 4582, 4606
107.	Shri Reddy M. Raja Mohan	4539
108.	Shri Reddy, Anantha Venkatarami	4406, 4416, 4549
109.	Shri Roy Nripendra Nath	4412, 4452
110.	Shri S. Semmalai	4469
111.	Shri S., Pakkappa	4403, 4518, 4575
112.	Shri S.R. Jeyadurai	4524, 4555, 4600, 4614
113.	Shri S.S. Ramasubbu	4419, 4516, 4571, 4599, 4618
114.	Shrimati Saroj, Sushila	4501
115.	Shri Saroj, Tufani	4485, 4557
116.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	4542, 4617
117.	Shri Shekhar, Neeraj	4413, 4447, 4546, 4564, 4595
118.	Shri Shetkar, Suresh Kumar	4431, 4527
119.	Shri Siddeshwara, G.M.	4414, 4512
120.	Dr. Singh Bhola	4456, 4543, 4586, 4605, 4616
121.	Shri Singh Bhoopendra	4425, 4567
122.	Shri Singh Dushyant	4565, 4594

1	2	3
123.	Shri Singh Ganesh	4409, 4510
124.	Shri Singh Jagdanand	4487
125.	Shrimati Singh Meena	4492, 4560
126.	Shri Singh Murari Lal	4435
127.	Shri Singh Radha Mohan	4453, 4560
128.	Dr. Singh Raghuvansh Prasad	4544
129.	Shri Singh Rakesh	4508
130.	Shri Singh Uday	4500, 4520, 4592
131.	Shri Singh, Lal Chaudhary	4601
132.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan Alias Lalan Singh	4537
133.	Rajkumari Singh, Ratna	4551
134.	Shri Siricilla Rajaiah	4406, 4431, 4432, 4488, 4534
135.	Dr. Solanki Kirit Premjibhai	4474, 4553
136.	Shri Sudhakaran K.	4486
137.	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	4402
138.	Shrimati Sule, Supriya	4478, 4490, 4559
139.	Shri Suresh Kodikkunnil	4469, 4500, 4609
140.	Shri Swamy N. Cheluvarayana	4472
141.	Shrimati Swaraj Sushma	4468, 4547
142.	Shri Thakor Jagdish	4511
143.	Shri Thakur Anurag Singh	4400, 4521, 4556
144.	Dr. Thambidurai, M.	4455
145.	Shri Tirkey, Manohar	4412, 4559
146.	Shri Tiwari, Bhisma Shankar Alias Kushal	4465

1	2	3
147.	Shri Vardhan, Harsh	4436, 4530
148.	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	4483, 4584
149.	Shri Venugopal K.C.	4472
150.	Shri Verma Sajjan	4504
151.	Shri Wakchaure, Bhausahab Rajaram	4535, 4583, 4604, 4615
152.	Shri Yadav Anjankumar M.	4399
153.	Shri Yadav Om Prakash	4426
154.	Prof. Yadav Ranjan Prasad	4503, 4513
155.	Shri Yadav, Hukmadeo Narayan	4460, 4548
156.	Shri Yaskhi Madhu Goud	4503, 4513

ANNEXURE-II

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions

Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	417, 419
Civil Aviation	:	402, 414, 415, 416
Corporate Affairs	:	
Food Processing Industries	:	406
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	:	410
Law and Justice	:	418
Minority Affairs	:	412
Petroleum and Natural Gas	:	405, 411, 420
Railways	:	401, 403, 408, 409, 413
Steel	:	407
Textiles	:	404.

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	4406, 4434, 4448, 4451, 4460, 4473, 4480, 4519, 4527, 4544, 4548, 4562, 4565, 4566, 4601, 4603, 4609, 4613
Civil Aviation	:	4409, 4418, 4440, 4443, 4446, 4463, 4472, 4474, 4487, 4494, 4506, 4510, 4513, 4515, 4526, 4534, 4537, 4540, 4555, 4573, 4591, 4592, 4595, 4600, 4608, 4612
Corporate Affairs	:	4413, 4490, 4495, 4516, 4524, 4583, 4602
Food Processing Industries	:	4422, 4482, 4497, 4498, 4499, 4507, 4528, 4533
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	:	4399, 4404, 4416, 4428, 4449, 4459, 4477, 4483, 4552, 4581, 4593, 4614
Law and Justice	:	4401, 4402, 4438, 4439, 4442, 4447, 4454, 4455, 4481, 4488, 4489, 4500, 4503, 4504, 4520, 4531, 4532, 4536, 4539, 4558, 4564, 4577, 4588, 4617

Minority Affairs	:	4412, 4452, 4461, 4559, 4594, 4597
Petroleum and Natural Gas	:	4397, 4398, 4400, 4403, 4414, 4424, 4425, 4429, 4431, 4432, 4433, 4437, 4453, 4456, 4468, 4478, 4486, 4496, 4501, 4505, 4509, 4511, 4512, 4518, 4522, 4523, 4529, 4535, 4541, 4547, 4550, 4551, 4553, 4561, 4567, 4568, 4572, 4574, 4576, 4584, 4585, 4589, 4607, 4610, 4615
Railways	:	4408, 4411, 4415, 4417, 4419, 4420, 4421, 4426, 4427, 4436, 4441, 4444, 4445, 4457, 4462, 4464, 4465, 4467, 4469, 4470, 4471, 4476, 4479, 4484, 4485, 4491, 4492, 4493, 4508, 4514, 4521, 4525, 4530, 4542, 4545, 4554, 4556, 4557, 4560, 4563, 4570, 4580, 4582, 4587, 4590, 4596, 4598, 4599, 4604, 4606, 4618
Steel	:	4407, 4430, 4450, 4466, 4475, 4502, 4517, 4538, 4543, 4546, 4549, 4571, 4580, 4605, 4616
Textiles	:	4405, 4410, 4423, 4435, 4458, 4575, 4578, 4579, 4611.

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