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(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA SEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 6, 2010/Vaisakha 16, 1932 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

RE: USE OF LANGUAGE IN THE HOUSE BY MEMBER

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: The Leader of Opposition, speak please.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Madam Speaker, I would like to go into the background of what happened in the House yesterday. I asked for the proceedings and have gone through it. One of my colleagues used some words which are objectionable. Without any ifs and buts, I apologize for the use of those words. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): We forgive you but he should not speak like this in future. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: All right, Lalu ji, please take your seat. Now, this chapter is closed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, I tender apology on behalf of Laluji also for the manner in which he had moved towards him in frenzy. The House should run smoothly because a very important business is listed for today. We should run the House in a peaceful atmosphere and I appeal to the House to discuss those issues.

[English]

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): Please allow us. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): We have been seeking your permission for the past one week. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I am giving you time after Question Hour. In the 'Zero Hour', I will give you time.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. No. 581 Shri Jagdish Thakor.

[Translation]

Supply of Gas to SMEs

*581. SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government supplies gas to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through city gas network;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of such industrial units in various States including Gujarat to whom the gas is being supplied;

(c) the number of applications pending as on date for supply of gas to small and medium enterprises in the country, including Gujarat, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to allocate adequate quantity of gas to SMEs?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) to (c) Government allocates natural gas to authorized City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities for supply to domestic and transport sectors apart from supplies to their industrial and commercial customers. The concerned CGD entity, in turn, decides the supply of natural gas to various customers including commercial and industrial units. The details of customers and applications pending are available with the concerned CGD entities.

(d) Empowered Group of Ministers in its meeting held on 27.10.2009 has decided that allocation of 2 million metric standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd) of KG D6 gas be made on fallback basis to CGD entities for supply to their industrial and commercial customers, whose total consumption of natural gas (including KG D6 gas) does not exceed 50,000 scmd. Accordingly, Government has allocated 2.165 mmscmd of KG D6 gas to various CGD entities in the country for supply to their industrial and commercial customers.

As regards Gujarat State, M/s Gujarat Gas Company Limited, M/s Sabarmati Gas Ltd. & GAIL (India) Ltd., have been allocated 600000 scmd, 150000 scmd and 125000 scmd respectively for supply to their industrial and commercial customers in Surat, Bharuch, Gandhinagar, Mehsana, Sabarkantha and Vadodara. In addition, GGCL is being supplied 2.13 mmscmd and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (GSPCL) is being supplied 1.1 mmscmd from the Panna Mukta Tapti (PMT) field for supply to their City Gas Distribution (CGD) and small commercial & industrial customers.

The CGD entities as well as the small and medium enterprises are free to contract for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supplies for which adequate capacity exists.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: Madam Speaker, I thank you and congratulate the hon. Minister through you that his Ministry has played a major role in the progress of the entire country by producing gas several times more than that produced in the previous years. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government considers that the gas in the isolated fields in Gujarat and other states is of the same quality as in the KG D-6 basin where the pressure of gas is very good while the pressure in an isolated field is very low and irregular. Is the allocation in an isolated field done on the basis of firm or fall back basis? I want to ask you this because people have set up factories in the forests where gas is being extracted from wells for 20-25 years. Presently, gas is being extracted from the KG D-6 basin. The difference in both kinds of gases is that the gas found in isolated fields is of low quality. Water, tar and oil comes out with that gas. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You ask the question please.

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: This gas also harms the machinery. The KG D-6 basin gas is powerful, it has proper pressure and good quality. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You ask the question please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: The hon. Minister should tell us about the difference in both kinds of gases.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, regarding hon. Member's question, I would like to tell the House that the production of gas in India increased by 80 per cent in 2009-10. The production of gas in the isolated wells in Gujarat, as he has mentioned, is very low which is sufficient just for one or two factories. These wells are more than 20-30 years old. The quantity of gas is declining there and the quality has also deteriorated. Later on, when more gas was found, then our Government decided to provide KG D-6 gas. About 2 MMSCMD of this gas has been provided to Gujarat and the small industries sector in the entire country out of which about 0.8 has gone to Gujarat where it is being provided to the small industries. If someone wants to buy some other gas then RLNG gas, which is imported from abroad, can also be procured at market rates. The demand for gas is more than its supply and therefore our Government has created priority sectors. Power and fertilizer sector have been given priority and more of KG D-6 gas is being given to them.

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: Madam, gas is provided from isolated fields and from KG D-6 but there is a difference in the quality of both. I have got information that the prices of all the gases are going to be made uniform. Factories have been set up where there were wells, quality was poor and pressure was low. Good quality gas is going to be obtained from KG D-6. Is the Government considering to increase the prices of natural gas for the small and medium industries due to the difference in the quality of both the said gases? If so, has the Government pondered as to what the condition of the small consumers will be if the Government's order is complied with? Has the Government kept in mind the Tariff Commission's report presented in June, 2006 for the gas consumers in the isolated areas? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now your time is over. You have asked to many question.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as far as prices are concerned, as I had already told that currently more than 160 MMSCMD of gas is being produced out of which the share of APM gas, which is cheaper, is more than 40 MMSCMD. APM gas is produced from those wells which were nominated blocks earlier and which were allocated by the Government. Our PSUs like ONGC, Oil

India and others are incurring losses worth crores of rupees by selling this gas at these prices as on date. We want that new industries should come up in the country. If the new industries get costly gas and the already existing small industries get cheaper gas, than the new industries will not come up because they will not get a competitive field. Therefore, the intent of the Government of India is to ensure uniform prices of gas so that any new industry also gets equal opportunity.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Madam, I would like to say one thing in this regard. It is a matter of my constituency. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: You may ask when your turn comes.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Madam, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government has any programme to provide gas to the micro and small industries. He has written that sufficient gas is available with the companies. I would like to draw the attention of the Government that coal based small and micro industries, have to procure coal through auction at higher prices due to which many of these industries are on the verge of closure. If the Government provides gas to them, the industries may get a lifeline. Is the Government going to formulate any programme for this?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as far as the question of gas for the micro and small industries is concerned, I have already told that the Government of India is very serious on this matter and an effort has been made that small industries also get the opportunity. But, as the demand for gas is more than its supply in the country, the Government, the empowered group has created priority Sector. Fertilizer sector has been given maximum priority. Power and city gas distribution sectors have been given priority. This also includes petrochemicals, gas for CNG stations in the cities and piped natural gas for households. Small industries have the lowest priority. The Government has made allocation for it also. Earlier, about 19 MMSCMD gas was allocated for small industries but with the availability of KG D-6 gas, the Government has once again the made available 2 MMSCMD gas for the small industries and it is being distributed. And if someone needs more gas than any small industry can take the RNLNG gas, which is imported, from the pipeline near to it.

[*English*]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Madam Speaker, this is an important question. Abundant reserves of coal bed methane gas are available in a vast area in the Eastern Zone. Perhaps a proposal was mooted to tap these reserves and to channelise this gas to the national grid by GAIL.

So, I want to know categorically as to whether this will improve our fuel situation so far as our industry in the medium and small scale sector is concerned, particularly the fertilizers units, power sector, in our rice milling firms. This gas would have a positive effect in our industrial prospects. Hence, I want to know, through you, Madam, from the hon. Minister as to what is the status of tapping these coal-bed methane gas supply to the general grid.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Actually, this does not relate to this question but still as far as coal-bed methane gas is concerned, it is a very relevant point the hon. Member has raised. We have gone ahead with this coal-bed methane gas. I must explain to the House that this gas is that gas when a coal block comes into shape and when we excavate coal, there is some gas strapped within this coal and that comes out. So, the Ministry has taken up the cause of trapping and using this gas for our purposes. Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy, CBM blocks have been given out for bids. Around 26 blocks have already been given out for CBM blocks. In the last round, another eight blocks are in the pipeline. We are very much concerned that this gas is made use of and it is supplied through various areas of the country, wherever possible. Various pipelines are being laid by GAIL, Reliance and other private players and PSUs so that gas from these areas go to every part of the country so that all around development across the country – eastern, western, northern, southern and north-east regions – can have equal development with regard to gas-based industries.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Thank you Madam Speaker, first of all I would like to congratulate hon. Minister, the UPA Government and also our young leader Rahulji ...(*Interruptions*). I think they could not appreciate it. That

is why I am saying that commitment must be honoured. For him election speech is not merely a speech. At that time he had said in Firozabad that industries would be set up and nurtured there ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Hon. Member is wasting the time of Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Not I, it is he who is wasting the Question Hour as he does not want to hear the truth. It is not an election speech. Raj Babbar had no standing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Raj Babbar is saying.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Raj Babbarji please put your question.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Agra and Firozabad came under TTZ due to 1996 under of the hon. Supreme Court. At that time, the Congress Party Government was there and Captain Satish Sharmaji was the Minister of Petroleum. He sanctioned gas supply for that zone but gas could not be made available. That is why I am congratulating the Hon. Minister and our young leader Rahulji who completed this work. I would like to ask hon. Minister that the requirement of gas in our Firozabad area is ten lakh cubic meters but at present only 450 to 650 MNSD gas is made available. I express my gratitude for this. My constituency, Firozabad has biggest bangle industry not only in India or Asia, but in the world. Bangles are manufactured here in large quantities and some people are even forced to wear them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask your question.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Bangle industry is a cottage industry in our area. Each bangle is joined manually. At least ten lakh cubic metres of gas is required in my constituency. Will the Hon. Minister provide it? And as far as achievement is concerned the hon. Minister himself should go there and announce this as it would be an immense achievement for Firozabad this is my demand. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, Hon. Member has raised an issue of his constituency, the Government of India takes full care of the needs of the people of that area. This area falls under the Taj Trapezium zone because industries spreading pollution cannot be allowed here. The people of that area are accorded priority because of the Taj Mahal's location in that area.

Therefore coal based and other such industries cannot be set up there. Keeping in view the pollution in this region, only gas based plants and industries can be set up there. So we have provided 1.1 MMSCMD gas to 450 industrial units there earlier.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what the Minister is saying.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Gas was provided there after KG D-6 basin started production. There are 650 such units in Firozabad which are being provided gas and priority will be accorded to Firozabad area in future also. Efforts are being made to provide gas at the earliest to the small industries located in that region. Our Ministry and the Cabinet Minister and all of us are making such efforts. We will listen to their complaints on the spot, and their difficulties will be resolved on priority basis and work will be done in their interest.

[English]

Under Recoveries by Oil Marketing Companies

+
*582. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:
SHRI P. BALRAM:

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

(a) whether the Government has assessed the continuing trend of under-recoveries by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs);

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

*Not recorded.

(c) whether the Government has taken adequate steps to minimize the under-recoveries of the OMCs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and its impact so far?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) The annual under-recoveries of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on the sale of four sensitive petroleum products i.e. Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG have been estimated to be around Rs. 1,10,000 crore, assuming an average crude oil price at 85 dollar per barrel and at Rupee-Dollar exchange rate of Rs. 45 per dollar for the year 2010-11.

In order to suggest a viable and sustainable system of pricing of petroleum products and address the issues relating to under-recoveries of the OMCs, an Expert Group was constituted by the Government under the chairmanship of Dr. Kirit Parikh, which has submitted its Report on 3rd February, 2010. The Government has recently constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers on 27.4.2010, which will consider issues relating to the under-recoveries of the Oil Marketing Companies on the sale of four sensitive petroleum products in the light of the recommendations of the Kirit Parikh Committee Report and other related issues.

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Madam Speaker, despite heavy odds of escalating prices of crude oil, the Ministry is supplying petroleum products like petrol, diesel, LPG, kerosene, etc. at subsidized prices to the *aam aadmi* of the country by incurring losses and under-recoveries in the process...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down, we have gone taken up the next question.

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: The hon. Minister has stated that the under-recoveries are about Rs. 1.10 lakh crore in the current fiscal year. The oil companies are supplying oil to large scale organizations like public sector road transport undertakings, railways and airlines. The under-recoveries from them are directly

affecting the common people of the country.

In this connection, I would like to know whether the Empowered Group of Ministers has submitted its report about the issues relating to the under recoveries and whether the Government is considering giving cash cover to these oil companies to make good those losses.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as far as this question is concerned, I must compliment the hon. Member for actually having raised an issue with regard to oil marketing companies and their health. Usually, what happens is that all the questions in this House are raised regarding the consumers. But this is one of the first rare occasions where the health of the oil companies is being enquired into.

It is our endeavour that consumers are not burdened with the price rise and at the same time the health of the oil marketing companies is maintained. That is why, the empowered groups and various committees have also been formed for various reforms in the petroleum sector. An empowered group has been constituted only last month and it is under the Government and the decision making bodies. It is being looked into as to what decisions will be made with regard to the health of the oil marketing companies.

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Madam, it seems the Ministry of Finance has given Rs. 12000 crore in this year as cash cover which is far less than the actual need. So, what are the measures the Ministry of Petroleum is taking to recover huge dues from the Airlines, the Railways and other organizations?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, there is a burden sharing mechanism as far as under recoveries are concerned. As I have already said, the priority of this Government is that the consumer is least burdened. We do not want to put pressure of the price rise on the consumers. As a result of this, the Government bears the majority of the burden. In the last year and also in the previous years, it has been giving oil bonds to the oil marketing companies or pure cash for subsidizing these products.

The second step is that our upstream companies – ONGC and Oil India – which gain heavily as crude prices rise, they also contribute towards the under recoveries. Thirdly, the oil marketing companies – IOC, HPCL, BPCL – themselves make a little bit of profits and they also contribute towards the under recoveries and whatever is left after this, that burden is put on the consumer.

MADAM SPEAKER: He is a new Member.

(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI P. BALRAM: Andhra Pradesh is under tremendous pressure due to the difference in petrol and gas. I would like information from the hon. Minister in this regard.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, it is in our priority sector. Gas is being made available there. The plant load factor is 70 per cent across the country and an equivalent quantity of gas is provided. But in Andhra Pradesh, gas is being supplied to the industries at 75 per cent plant load factor. Hon. Chief Minister of that state had also come here and contacted the Minister of Petroleum. All the power plants set up in Andhra Pradesh are being supplied gas as on date and all the plants are functioning properly.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Madam Speaker, I, through you, would like to get information from the Hon. Minister regarding district Bokaro in Jharkhand where ONGC was engaged in extracting methane gas five years ago. I belong to that very district. Methane gas is going waste there. The entire village is being deserted. A coal block has also been found there due to which the work related to gas has come to standstill. Hand pumps and wells there are spewing gas and coal mines one burning there. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the volume of gas extracted from there and the reasons for allocating coal blocks there when ONGC was extracting gas at this place.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, the issue of under recovery by the oil marketing companies has been raised. Though this question is related to the previous question on gas. Nevertheless, I am again explaining it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister has understood the question. Let him speak.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: If the people there are facing any problem, Ministry of Petroleum and its PSUs take

*Not recorded.

care of them, and, if anyone's life or crops or property is being affected then after consulting the concerned State Governments, they are duly compensated. If they have any problem they may come, have a cup of coffee with our Minister and he will solve their problem.

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: Madam, we have seen that gas agencies have been opened in each Mohallah of the town and not much difficulty is faced by anyone in getting gas. Contrary to this, we have seen, that there is not a single gas agency in villages having population of ten thousand or twenty thousand. During my election campaign I have seen that people have to carry gas cylinders from thirty-fourty mile away in jeep and other vehicles especially for marriage or religious ceremonies and they get these cylinders at double or triple price in black market.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to open gas agencies even in the villages having ten or twenty thousand population.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, though this question is not related to the original question, hon. Member has asked a good question related to common man and small villages. He is saying that gas is not available to the people in villages or there is shortage of gas, the Government is fully aware of this fact. To solve this problem, the Government has implemented the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitruk Yojana for the rural areas. Two thousand distributorships have been authorized under it and allotment has started. Under it, those areas have been covered first where penetration of LPG was less than fifty percent. Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and eastern region are included in the scheme on priority. Rajasthan is also included in it.

Regarding Hon. Members question about LPG, I would like to tell the House that the Government incurs a loss of about Rs. 300 on each cylinder. The Government is bearing this loss so that the common man gets this facility. If there is any shortage or blackmarketing of LPG somewhere then it should be brought to the notice and prompt action will be taken. There are guidelines to meet shortages, if any.

Oil Refineries

*583. SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of crude oil and oil refinery capacity in the country;

(b) the capacity utilization of oil refineries in the public and private sectors during the Tenth Plan Period and the first three years of the Eleventh Plan Period, sector and year-wise;

(c) the number of oil refineries set up during the above period;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up new oil refineries in the public and private sectors including Barmer to augment refining capacity;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the oil refineries are likely to be commissioned?

[English]

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

Statement

- (a) (i) The domestic production of crude oil during 2009-10 was 33.71 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT).
 (ii) The refining capacity as on 1.4.2010 is 184.4 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA).
 (b) The capacity utilization of oil refineries in the Public and Private Sector during the Xth Plan and the first three years of XIth Plan is as under:

Refinery Capacity Utilization(%)

	Xth Plan Period				XIth Plan Period			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Public Sector Refineries	92	98	98	101	107	107	106	105
Private Sector Refineries	106	104	95	92	91	88	95	101

(c) The number of new refineries commissioned during the above period is as under:-

- (i) Essar Oil Refinery at Vadinar, Gujarat in 2006-07.
 (ii) Reliance SEZ Refinery at Jamnagar, Gujarat in 2008-09.

(d) to (f) Consequent on de-licensing of refinery

sector since June, 1998, a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public Sector Enterprise depending on its techno-commercial viability. The refining capacity of the oil refineries in the country has undergone nearly a three fold increase from 62 MMTPA in April, 1998 to 184 MMTPA in April, 2010. Based on the information available, the details of the Greenfield refineries being set up in Public Sector and Private Sector are as under:

Location of the Refinery	Set up by	Capacity (MMTPA)	Anticipated date of commissioning
Bina, Madhya Pradesh	Joint Venture of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Oman Oil Company	6.0	September, 2010
Bathinda, Punjab	Joint Venture of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Mittal Energy Investments Pvt. Ltd.	9.0	September, 2011
Paradip, Orissa	Indian Oil Corporation Limited	15.0	First unit in March, 2012 and full stabilized operation in November, 2012.
Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu	Nagarjuna Oil Corporation Limited	6.0	Last quarter of 2011-12

After the completion of the new refineries and the capacity expansion in the existing refineries, the refining capacity in the country is expected to go up to 255.832 MMTPA by December, 2012.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY: Sir, Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh himself had come for the inauguration of the Mangla Oil field in Barmer on 29th August, 2009. Mangla Oilfield is that area which is estimated to have a potential of producing and catering to the 25 per cent of domestic oil requirement. About 14 million metric tonnes of domestic oil is being produced from the Mangla Oilfield. During the function, the Hon. Minister had mentioned in his speech that even the Prime Minister had told him that it was a fit case for setting up of a refinery and he was considering it seriously. He had constituted the Tripathi Committee and the Committee's report has also been received. Even this report has justified the setting up of a refinery in Barmer district. Issues like, water, land and tax exemption were talked about. Our Chief Minister of Rajasthan has assured US and is also making efforts to provide land, water and tax exemption - all three things are being done. I have not received a written reply to my original question 'd' and am repeating the same. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government is considering to set up a refinery under ONGC, IOC or the private sector in Barmer or not? Refinery is our right ful demand as our area is the most backward area.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: The discussion regarding setting up of a refinery in Barmer started when oil was found there in partnership between Cairn Energy and ONGC, and, we increased the production by 25 percent. Many committees were constituted and the matter was investigated thoroughly. It was found that the rate of return from the proposed refinery would be lower. The oil found in Barmer is not going to last for many years as it is a very declining field. Though oil has been found but it is not known how long it can be extracted. This is the latest information. Various committees were formed on the matter and they have said refinery can be set up there if it is viable and profitable. This can happen only when the Rajasthan Government will give incentives, tax sops and many other concessions. According to the figures given in a study, the State Government is willing to provide grant of more than Rs. 1300 crore. All efforts are being made that this refinery is set up in Rajasthan. Rajasthan has formed a committee under the

Chairmanship of former Petroleum Secretary Shri Tripathi Ji which has submitted its report to the Government. I will immediately issue orders to ONGC, which has made this proposal for refinery, to obtain information about this report from the State Government and discuss the matter and remove any obstacles in this regard so that the path is cleared. Whether refinery will be set up there or not, I can say only after the report. But, all efforts will be made that the refinery is set up in Rajasthan.

SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY: Madam Speaker, UNP Honeywell is a Chicago based company which has given its presentation before the Tripathi Committee. Hon. Minister is referring to oil but 95 per cent refining can be done and this has been stated in the report. The fact that there is less oil and its quality is low has been mentioned in all the reports. ONGC is a Government company and a stakeholder in the oilfield with Cairn company which has said in its official declaration that 14 million tonnes is quite a huge quantity. Only 184 million tonnes of oil is available in the entire country and in its comparison 14 million tonnes of oil is available there. It is a very backward area. The UPA Chairperson, Sonia Gandhi has visited and seen the conditions as to how the people are living there without water, road and education during the famine. I request that our rights should be respected by keeping in mind the social aspect for the development of this area.

My second supplementary question is about the provision of spending two percent for the people in a block by the ONGC as community relief. Is it being done there?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, the Hon. Member has presented some figures regarding production. But, it would be wrong to say anything in this regard until these figures are certified by the Director General of Hydrocarbons under the Petroleum Ministry. As far as Tripathi Committee is concerned, this committee has been formed by the State Government and not by the Petroleum Ministry. About this report and the committee, I would like to tell that this report has been submitted to the State Government but it has not reached the Petroleum Ministry so far. This report was submitted last month and it will be discussed. I am saying that all efforts would be made to set up this refinery. I am not rejecting the proposal. As far as possible, a refinery would be set up in Rajasthan for the people so that employment could be made available.

As far as CSR i.e. corporate social responsibility is considered, I would like to inform that Cairn Energy, a private company is engaged in Barmer and it has fulfilled its corporate social responsibility and the PSU ONGC has spent lakhs of rupees on this account. Oil India has spent about Rs. 60 lakh on CSR activities in Rajasthan.

[English]

Overseas Offices of NACIL

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*584. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) which is running through a phase of financial crisis is maintaining a number of overseas offices in cities where it does not fly;

(b) if so, the details of such overseas offices;

(c) the expenditure incurred in running such overseas offices vis-a-vis the revenue generated from such stations/offices for the last ten years;

(d) whether the Government has directed the National Carrier to close down all such offices as part of the rescue operation to bail out NACIL; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Air India has offices in 13 cities where it does not have its own flights. These are Los Angeles, Amsterdam, Milan, Vienna, Copenhagen, Zurich, Brussels, Moscow, Cairo, Tehran, Nairobi, Sydney and Chittagong.

These offices have been established on account of code sharing with other airlines and for revenue generation.

(c) The annualised revenue and expenditure for 2008-09 are Rs. 19847.00 lakhs and Rs. 1683.46 lakhs respectively. Information for the remaining period is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) The commercial viability of all such offices is in the process of review by Air India and appropriate action is being taken to close all offices in cities where alternative arrangements can be made to ensure revenue generation.

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: Madam, in the year 2007, the merger of both Indian Airlines and Air India took place and the National Aviation Company of India Limited was formed. At the time of the merger it was estimated that with the operational synergies alone there would be a saving of Rs. 832 crore in the first three months.

Madam, I have the letter of the Common Action Group, which is the largest group of unions, which says that some people within the organization, some people in the higher management, had sabotaged the merger and that is why till date from one airport there are two airlines functioning; that there are two types of operational staff; two types of commercial staff; and there are two types of ground support staff, one-fourth erstwhile Air India and one-fourth erstwhile Indian Airlines.

Air India has already incurred a loss of Rs. 18,000 crore in the last three years.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask your question now.

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: Please give me a minute, Madam.

Now, some people are trumpeting the rhetoric of de-merger. This again is going to cause a further loss. According to the Common Action Group of Air India, if not checked today, it would cause a loss of Rs. 36,000 crore in the next three years. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Minister would bring in an element of accountability and fix accountability on those persons who are a part of the management and are trying to sabotage the merger for their personal gains. I would also like to ask the hon. Minister as to when he would take against those persons, or does he wish the Airlines to suffer further losses?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Madam, the hon. Member has rightly pointed out that post-merger of the erstwhile Indian Airlines and Air India, there have been some issues which have dogged the merger of the carriers. It certainly requires a greater degree of careful and skillful handling to make sure that the over all benefits of the merger...*(Interruptions)* Madam, the hon. Member has rightly asked the question that post-merger of erstwhile Indian Airlines and Air India there have certainly been some issues which have been dogging the airlines in terms of getting the fullest synergy out of the merger proposal.

I would not like to go into the question of sabotage and other issues that have been raised by the hon. Member, but certainly the merger idea was with a great

degree of, I would say, thought behind it. Mergers are not something which are unusual. Even yesterday, the hon. Members would have read in the newspapers that the two largest carriers in the United States are also being merged. In India also, we have seen it. Across the world many mergers have taken place. At the same time certainly there have been some issues which have not been to the best advantage of the carriers. I certainly feel that over a period of time everybody in the organization will have to put more and more degree of, I would say, emphasis to make sure that the synergy of the merger do accrue to the Airlines.

Madam, another issue which the hon. Member has raised is about the issue of merger and de-merger. These are all issues published in the Press. Let us not go by that. I would like to say with a great degree of confidence that while there have been problems in the past, these problems are now being gradually resolved and the extent of losses, what the hon. Member has estimated, will not be there. In fact, losses of the carriers have started coming down and there is much more synergy. The main import of the question which has been asked by the hon. Member is that synergy meant that you have to reduce overlapping and duplication costs. These are now being done.

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: Madam, firstly the merger was to take place in three months time but it has already taken more than three years and on account of that the nation had to bear the loss. The hon. Minister has already replied to this part.

My second question is about the company's annual bill which is at Rs. 3100 crore for roughly about 32000 employees that they have. Going by this logic the average salary per employee should be Rs. 85,000. But contrary to this, the average salary of 80 per cent of the employees is Rs. 22,000 which makes it Rs. 675 crore. But the average salary of 20 per cent of the employees is Rs. 2500. There are huge productivity linked incentives being given to the employees in the management category. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would try to correct the imbalance in payment of salaries and productivity linked incentives and make it more equitable.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Salaries of employees are decided by Airlines in conjunction with the Unions. I am sure these are on-going historical costs which are being incurred by the Airlines. This is not something new. Employees are not being employed as of today. They have been there with the company for many years. These have arisen out of various contractual agreements

with the Unions. I do agree that on some counts there may be some higher costs, but at the same time, I would say, that employee's costs are not the only reason. I repeat this that though there have been a lot of media reports that employees would be first to be on the receiving end, I do not wish to share that sentiment. In fact, I would like to state that the employees' cost is not the only cost which is sought to be trimmed. In fact, there could be synergies and other benefits which will accrue from a better organisation, and the employees would be a great factor in contributing to the welfare and the turnaround of the Airlines.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Madam Speaker, I thank you. It is a very important question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Lalu ji, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please, let the question hour run smoothly.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Madam Speaker, a person of minority community is speaking even then Lalu Ji is protesting. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Shahnawaz Hussain is saying.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Madam Speaker, when a person of minority community rises to speak, Lalu ji should not protest. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please ask the question.

*Not recorded.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Madam Speaker, this is a very serious matter. Today, all the MPs wonder why is it that the condition of Indian Airlines and Air India, which were considered as green airlines and *ex-prime* minister was also a former pilot of Air India who was also fond of Congress, has deteriorated sharply during the UPA regime. These airlines had earned profit during NDA regime. A do not wish to go into details but would like to know from the hon. Minister the extent to which the government policy has contributed to the fact. Is the Government responsible for this loss or not? As per the policy of the Minister, merger of Air India and Indian Airlines has been completed on paper but both these airlines have different symbols. Both these airlines are displaying different symbols and logos. What is the total expenditure incurred by the Government thereon alongwith the money wasted in the merger. Whether it is not correct that the Air India and the Indian Airlines are being operated separately after merge? Then why the merger was carried out and why the Air India is suffering losses even now. The extent to which the Government has contributed to the said situation?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Madam Speaker, the airlines industries is passing through a critical phase since the year 2008-09 and the consequences are being reflected even today. Therefore, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that since he has been the Aviation Minister in the past, he should be self aware of the complexities of aviation industries than me. I would like to remind him that whether these airlines earn profit or suffer loss, the Government is committed to operate the Air India as national carrier and with continue to do so in future. I would like to tell him that during his and NDA's regime the Government had invited tender for me sale of Air India and Indian Airlines, he should remember. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: When they had already invited the tenders. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, address the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: The Hon. Member is showing sympathy for the Air India and Indian Airlines, whereas the tender to sell these companies was signed in his presence. Therefore, he should stop showing sympathy and shedding crocodile tears. Hence he should desist such comments. Whatever has happened it is a reality which you cannot change. ...(*Interruptions*) Whatever has happened it is a reality.

[*English*]

That cannot be changed. How can that be changed, Madam?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHANWAZ HUSSAIN: Madam, due to policy of the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Leave that, if you want to listen I will give the reply. I know everything, look, no fact has been concealed, every one knows the truth. ...(*Interruptions*) therefore, there is no need to say false things.

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please address the Chair.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Madam, I am addressing you only but I have to inform the House the reality at least. The hon. Member is trying to paint a scenario. I have to at least respond to a situation which he has tried to raise here. I can only assure the hon. Members that irrespective of the situation, the Government is committed. In fact, the Government has given equity support to Air India for the first time. Contrary to impression which is being generated around by the media, I would like to state that in the history of Air India and Indian Airlines the Government had only so far contributed Rs. 245 crore of equity. It is, for the first time, ever since the inception of these carriers that this UPA Government has infused Rs. 800 crore of equity in the last fiscal year, and has committed Rs. 1200 crore of equity in this current Budget.

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please maintain silence. Sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let him ask the question. Sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You ask the question.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Chaudhary Lal Singh ji please sit down. Please take your seat. You ask the question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS* LALAN SINGH: Madam, N.A.C.I.L. is suffering losses and this fact should be accepted. It should not be blamed on NDA or UPA. Air India and Indian Airlines were merged and N.A.C.I.L. was formed after merger. But the advance preparations required for the merger were not made. The wages to be given to the staff of Air India and Indian Airlines were not decided. The said merger was carried out in haste and as a result, today, N.A.C.I.L. is suffering losses. Besides, Air India and Indian Airlines are being forced to fly on non-profitable routes in the name of social responsibility instead of profitable routes.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS* LALAN SINGH: The Committee on Public Undertaking has also presented its report to the House after reviewing the situation. The modalities required to be worked out and preparations required to be made before the constitution of N.A.C.I.L. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister were not taken case of the steps likely to be taken by the Government to rectify the problems.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Madam, I fully agree with the question asked by the hon. Member. What he has said is correct but the common opinion the positive entry of the merger should be immediately seen which is not possible. The Committee of secretaries and group of ministers have gone through the report prepared in this regard.

[English]

Merger is not a one-day process. Merger was planned to be an integrated process spread over a period of two to three years.

[Translation]

Hence, if you want that the entire cadre should be integrated in a single day. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS* LALAN SINGH: Please Speak the truth. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I am speaking truth. ...(Interruptions) Shahnawaz Ji, you should not say more otherwise some more facts will emerge. ...(Interruptions)

I would like to submit that this is the reality that.

[English]

merger integration process was proposed to be completed over a period of two to three years.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 585—Dr. Bhola Singh.

[Translation]

Corporate Frauds

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*585. DR. BHOLA SINGH:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases of corporate frauds brought to light during the last two years;

(b) the outcome of investigations, if any, instituted in those cases;

(c) whether the corporate frauds are on the rise in the country;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb the rising trend in corporate frauds;

(e) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to "Fraud Survey Report 2010 for India" by a consultancy firm Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (KPMG);

(f) if so, the details of the facts brought out in the report; and

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

[English]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) This Ministry has referred cases of 22 companies to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) for investigation during last two years. Out of these 22 cases, investigation reports in respect of two companies were submitted by SFIO. Necessary instructions for action in respect of violation of various provisions of the companies Act, 1956 have been issued to SFIO.

(c) and (d) No verified information is available which indicates that the cases of corporate frauds are constantly increasing in the corporate sector in the country. However, an elaborate regulatory framework is already in place under the Companies Act, 1956 as well as the regulations of other agencies like Securities and Exchange Board of India, Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation, etc. to deal with corporate frauds. The Government is empowered to inspect the books of accounts of the companies and also to investigate their affairs under the Companies Act, 1956. This Ministry has implemented MCA-21, e-Governance project which has increased the transparency as the data available in the public domain can be viewed by any person.

(e) to (g) The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has not sponsored any survey relating to frauds, through KPMG.

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Madam Speaker, I, through the Chair, would like to point out that the hon. Minister in his reply has said that the cases of serious fraud committed by 22 companies have been referred to the SFIO for inquiry. Out of these, the inquiry reports of only two companies have been submitted, reports of remaining 20 companies are still awaited. It proves that the said office is not functioning properly. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has made any review or given any statement about the companies whose inquiry report has not been submitted and asked them to explain the reasons for not submitting the inquiry report so far?

SHRI SALAMAN KHURSHEED: Madam Speaker in this regard I would like to inform the hon. Member that we continuously keep an eye on this. List of last two years was asked for. In the last two years was asked for. In the last two years, an incident *i.e.* Satyam Scam, took place. We had to send all our personnel to

Hyderabad and other places and an inquiry was conducted and after that SFIO submitted its detailed report. After submitting the report, they filed their complaint in the court. In this regard we in the Ministry came to this conclusion that we should have to provide more resources to the SFIO. Keeping this in view, we sanctioned new posts for the SFIO and advertised them for recruitment. We think that after recruitment to the newly created posts, the SFIO will be able to function expeditiously.

DR. BHOLA SINGH: I, through, the Chair, would like to know from the hon. Minister in the light of the reply given by him that despite several instructions issued by him, the said office is not implementing them and such cases also come under the purview of the CBI and whether the Minister of his stature does not feel that this office is not conducting inquiries properly and the corruption and scams are rampant in the cooperative sector? Does he not feel that all these cases should be referred to the CBI for conducting proper inquiry into them?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Hon. Speaker, Madam, all the cases which come before the SFIO are not necessarily related to IPC or the CBI. Many of such cases are related to company law in which intervention of the CBI will not be very useful. But it is correct, and as I said, that it was necessary to expedite the work and after the creation of 84 posts no such difficulty will be faced in near future. The problem is not conducting inquiry. Inquiry will be completed. The biggest problem is that unless we have the provision of special courts, the cases will remain pending in courts for a long time. Constitution of new courts would facilitate over task.

[English]

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Madam Speaker, one report says that only 10 per cent of the corporate fraud is normally detected. It is disturbing to note that one of the world's reputed consultancy agency, KPMG, says that the corporate fraud in India is rising.

Madam Speaker, when an individual commits crime, it is only the individual, the victim's family is affected but a corporate fraud affects the entire society, which we call normally as white collar crime. Most of the times, these financial institutions work in tandem with the fraudulent corporate companies and are giving away crores of rupees by way of waiving interests and other terms.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: It is first time in the history, my leader, the UPA Chairperson, and the UPA Government have come to the rescue of the farmers by waiving Rs. 70,000 crores loan while helping the financial institutions. The Ministry says that in the last two years, 22 companies, which committed fraud, were detected through the Serious Fraud Investigation Office. I would like to ask this question to the Minister. How many thousands of crores *prima facie* were detected in these 22 companies which committed fraud; and (b) the Ministry also says, various investigation agencies are in place to detect and deal with corporate fraud.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: One is CBI and another is Securities and Exchange Board of India. Does the Ministry consider making a concerted effort to combine and investigate the corporate fraud?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam Speaker, I am grateful to my hon. Member friend to have brought this very important question to the notice of the House. I would like, just in continuation of my previous answer, to say that the total number of companies that have been investigated are 73. The investigations that have been completed are 49. Madam, 22, as I said earlier, are pending. Investigations that have been quashed by courts are two. We have filed prosecution cases against 32 companies and the total number of prosecution cases that have been filed is 774. The difficulty in these cases is the general difficulty of criminal courts taking much longer than one would expect in our society for giving verdicts in these matters.

As far as the SFIO is concerned, SFIO is the multi-disciplinary organization. It coordinates and liaises with all other agencies. Whenever, as in Satyam case, it is necessary to reach out to any other agency, we provide all the assistance, information and then let them do whatever is necessary.

[Translation]

DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Hon. Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister has given the reply in detail a through you, I would like to know from him whether he knows that the number of shareholders in such companies runs into lakhs who have invested huge sums of money? There

are a number of companies in the country and the people are investing in them. They do not know what future holds for them. No time frame has been given to take action against them. I would like to request the hon. Minister to declare the time limit that action will be taken against them in one year. I would like to know as to what the Government is likely to do in this regard?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam Speaker, we try to take immediate and early action. At present it is not possible to state the time within which action will be taken because, as I said, prosecution go to the courts. How much time the court will take, it is not possible for us to say tell. But we have done one thing. We have decided to organize 3000 workshops during this year for investor education. We would get this work done through all the agencies which come under the Ministry and all the national stock exchanges. The proposed law contains a new provision under which the shareholders can form a group and may go the court to claim damages if they are affected by the fraud.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: ...*(Interruptions)*. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that this ministry has detected 149 companies under the early warning system, out of them 11 are PSUs. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please be quick. Question Hour is coming to an end.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: This is the report of the standing committee in which your ministry has mentioned about 149 companies. ...*(Interruptions)*. Has his ministry referred the case to the investigation office by giving it a serious thought.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam Speaker, I would reply this in writing.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

[English]

Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[Translation]***Revival of Fertilizer Units**

*586. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:
SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

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

(a) the number of fertilizer manufacturing units in the public, private and cooperative sectors in the country, sector-wise;

(b) the details of capacity utilization of such units for the last three years, year and sector-wise;

(c) whether a number of fertilizer units have been closed down;

(d) if so, the reasons for the closure;

(e) the loss in the production of fertilizers as a result of closure during the above period; and

(f) the revival plan envisaged for the purpose?

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

(a) Details regarding number of major fertilizer manufacturing units in Public, Private and Cooperative Sector in the country, sector-wise are given as enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Details of production and capacity utilization of Urea, DAP and Complex Fertilizers for the last three years, sector-wise are at enclosed Statement-IIA, B and C. The installed capacities of DAP & Complex Fertilizers in many fertilizer manufacturing units are interchangeable.

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam. Five Units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and three Units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) in the public sector have been closed down. Following are the Unit-wise details:

(i) FCIL

Name of unit	Date of commissioning	Date of shutdown	Date of Govt. decision to close down
Sindri	1979	March, 2002	5.9.2002
Gorakhpur	1969	1990	18.7.2002
Talcher	1980	1.4.1999	18.7.2002
Ramagundam	1980	1.4.1999	18.7.2002
Korba	Never commissioned	Not applicable	30.7.2002

(ii) HFCL

Name of unit	Date of commissioning	Date of shutdown	Date of Govt. decision to close down
Barauni	1976	1999	5.9.2002
Durgapur	1974	1997	5.9.2002
Haldia	Never commissioned	Not applicable	18.7.2002

The closed units of HFCL & FCIL had been consistently incurring losses due to a variety of reasons

including obsolete technology, design and equipment deficiencies, power shortages, problems in industrial

relations, surplus manpower and resource constraints. The non-availability of natural gas further limited the ability of the units to undergo modernisation and improve energy efficiencies which were low at 15 to 21 Gcal/MT of Urea. The above factors combined with sharp increase in price of naphtha and FO/LSHS made the cost of production of urea from these units economically unviable, resulting in closure of the units.

In addition, two urea units in the private sector viz. Duncan Industries Ltd, (DIL) Kanpur and Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Limited (SPIC), Tuticorin are currently closed due to financial constraints as reported by the companies. Further, the urea unit of Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore (FACT), Cochin is also shutdown as it is uneconomical to operate. The installed capacity of these closed units is altogether 22.80 LMT.

(f) Pursuant to the Cabinet decision dated 30.10.2008, it has been decided to explore the feasibility of closed fertilizer units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (HFCL). The Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) has

been constituted with the mandate to evolve all investment options for revival of closed units of FCIL/HFCL to make suitable recommendations for consideration of the government. While recommending the revenue sharing model for revival, as per the decision of ECOS, the professional consultant M/s Delloite has submitted report suggesting proposed eligibility and evaluation criteria of the proposed bid documents and the process therein. In the meantime, a proposal has been received in the Government via consortium of PSUs formed by Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF) wherein the companies have expressed their intent to put up a fertilizer plant on coal based technology at Talcher (unit of FCIL). In the proposal, CIL has assured an uninterrupted coal supply. A proposal has also been received from Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) for putting up an integrated steel plant alongwith a fertilizer plant at Sindri.

The recommendations submitted by Delloite, alongwith proposal of RCF, GAIL, CIL consortium, SAIL is under consideration of ECOS to enable Department of Fertilizers to seek final approval of the competent authority.

Statement I

State-wise and Sector-wise no. of major Fertilizer units operating in the Country

Sl.No.	Name of States	No of Units Operating	Sector			Total
			Public	Co-operative	Private	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4			4	4
2.	Assam	2	2			2
3.	Bihar					
4.	Chhattisgarh					
5.	Goa	1			1	1
6.	Gujarat	8		3	5	8
7.	Haryana	1	1			1
8.	Jharkhand					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Karnataka	1			1	1
10.	Kerala	2	2			2
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2	2			2
12.	Maharashtra	5	4		1	5
13.	Odisha	2		1	1	2
14.	Punjab	2	2			2
15.	Rajsthan	3			3	3
16.	Tamil Nadu	4	1		3	4
17.	Uttar Pradesh	7		5	2	7
18.	West Bengal	1			1	1
Total		45	14	9	22	45

Statement IIA

Plant-wise annual installed capacity, production and %age capacity utilization of Urea from 2007-08 to 2009-10

NAME OF PLANTS	Installed Cap. as on 1.04.09	---Production (in '000' MTs)---			---%age Capacity Utilisation---		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Public Sector							
NFL:Nangal-II	478.5	478.7	514.5	474.0	100.0	107.5	99.1
NFL:Bhatinda	511.5	511.4	537.5	514.7	100.0	105.1	100.6
NFL:Panipat	511.5	511.6	488.3	512.9	100.0	95.5	100.3
NFL:Vijaipur-I	864.6	899.9	865.9	878.5	104.1	100.2	101.6
NFL:Vijaipur-II	864.6	866.6	937.9	949.6	100.2	108.5	109.8
TOTAL (NFL):	3230.7	3268.2	3344.1	3329.7	101.2	103.5	103.1
BVFCL:Namrup-II	240.0	77.6	60.7	79.2	32.3	25.3	33.0
BVFCL:Namrup-III	315.0	251.7	128.5	230.4	79.9	40.8	73.1
TOTAL(BVFCL):	555.0	329.3	189.2	309.6	59.3	34.1	55.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
RCF:Trombay-V	330.0	0.0	0.0	306.9	0.0	0.0	93.0
RCF:Thal	1706.8	1832.3	1903.5	1782.2	107.4	111.5	104.4
TOTAL (RCF):	2036.8	1832.3	1903.5	2089.1	107.4	93.5	102.6
MFL:Chennai	486.8	440.5	405.7	435.9	90.5	83.3	89.5
Total (Public Sector)	6309.3	5870.3	5842.5	6164.3	93.0	92.6	97.7
Cooperative Sector							
IFFCO:Kalol	544.5	544.5	559.7	601.2	100.0	102.8	110.4
IFFCO:Phulpur	551.1	629.9	662.6	722.6	114.3	120.2	131.1
IFFCO:Phulpur Expn.	864.6	924.3	840.5	1000.1	106.9	97.2	115.7
IFFCO:Aonla-I	864.6	875.7	986.8	1000.3	101.3	114.1	115.7
IFFCO:Aonla-II	864.6	989.3	1018.1	1000.3	114.4	117.8	115.7
TOTAL (IFFCO):	3689.4	3963.7	4067.7	4324.5	107.4	110.3	117.2
KRIBHCO:Hazira	1729.2	1739.7	1743.2	1779.6	100.6	100.8	102.9
TOTAL(CO-OP.):	5418.6	5703.4	5810.9	6104.1	105.3	107.2	112.7
Total (Public+Co-op.)	11727.9	11573.7	11653.4	12268.4	98.7	99.4	104.6
Private Sector							
GSFC:Vadodara	370.6	240.8	236.3	281.5	65.0	63.8	76.0
SFC:Kota	379.0	380.9	395.5	382.2	100.5	104.4	100.8
DIL:Kanpur*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ZIL:Goa	399.3	395.4	412.4	387.5	99.0	103.3	97.0
SPIC:Tuticorin	620.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MCF:Mangalore	380.0	379.6	379.3	379.5	99.9	99.8	99.9
GNFC:Bharuch	636.0	670.4	592.3	601.7	105.4	93.1	94.6
IGCL:Jagdishpur	864.6	880.3	1068.6	1096.1	101.8	123.6	126.8
NFCL:Kakinada-I	597.3	757.2	768.9	757.0	126.8	128.7	126.7
NFCL:Kakinada-II	597.3	597.2	609.1	723.1	100.0	102.0	121.1
CFCL:Gadepan-I	864.6	1004.4	909.8	1019.6	116.2	105.2	117.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CFCL:Gadepan-II	864.6	995.5	1008.3	1011.2	115.1	116.6	117.0
TCL:Babrala	864.6	1069.7	1023.8	1231.7	123.7	118.4	142.5
Shahjahanpur (Kribhco Shyam)	864.6	913.2	864.3	972.8	105.6	100.0	112.5
Total (Private Sector)	8302.5	8284.6	8268.6	8843.9	99.8	99.6	106.5
TOTAL (PUB.+COOP.+PVT.):	20030.4	19858.3	19922.0	21112.3	99.1	99.5	105.4

*Production suspended

Statement IIB

Plant-wise annual installed capacity, production and %age capacity utilisation of DAP from 2007-08 to 2009-10

Name of Company/ Unit	Installed Capacity (1.4.2006)	---Production (in '000' MTs)---			---%age Capacity Utilisation---		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Cooperative Sector							
IFFCO:Kandla	1200.0	438.3	214.7	722.7	36.5	17.9	60.2
IFFCO: Paradeep	1500.0	593.2	436.5	402.3	39.5	29.1	26.8
Total (Co-op.)	2700.0	1031.5	651.2	1125.0	38.2	24.1	41.7
Private Sector							
GSFC:Vadodara	165.0	87.9	43.5	0.0	53.3	26.4	0.0
GSFC:Sikka-I*	984.0	780.6	630.4	921.8	79.3	64.1	93.7
GSFC:Sikka-II**	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ZIL:Goa	330.0	212.5	205.0	351.8	64.4	62.1	106.6
SPIC:Tuticorin	475.0	71.5	0.0	0.0	15.1	0.0	0.0
MCF:Mangalore	180.0	211.4	158.3	198.1	117.4	87.9	110.1
TCL:Haldia	675.0	237.6	147.8	183.7	35.2	21.9	27.2
Hindalco Indus:Dahej	400.0	131.2	168.6	181.8	32.8	42.2	45.5
GFCL:Kakinada	670.0	567.9	518.1	520.6	84.8	77.3	77.7
PPL:Paradeep	720.0	879.8	470.1	763.7	122.2	65.3	106.1
Total (Private Sector):	4599.0	3180.4	2341.8	3121.5	69.2	50.9	67.9
Grand Total :	7299.0	4211.9	2993.0	4246.5	57.7	41.0	58.2

*Disinvested on 28.02.2002

**Figures for Sikka-I&II are combined

Statement IIC

*Plant-wise annual installed capacity, production and capacity utilization of Complexes
Fertilizer for the years 2007-08 to 2009-10*

('000` MTs)

Name of Company/ Unit	Installed Capacity	---Production---			---%age Capacity Utilisation---		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Public Sector:							
FACT-UD/Cochin	633.5	425.0	605.3	758.1	67.1	95.5	119.7
RCF: Trombay	661.0	468.2	471.0	503.3	70.8	71.3	76.1
MFL:Chennai	840.0	35.2	0.0	0.0	4.2	0.0	0.0
Total Public Sector:	2134.5	928.4	1076.3	1261.4	43.5	50.4	59.1
Cooperative Sector:							
IFFCO:Kandla	1215.4	1531.8	1579.1	1651.7	126.0	129.9	135.9
IFFCO:Paradeep	420.0	272.6	869.5	1097.7	64.9	207.0	261.4
TOTAL (IFFCO)	1635.4	1804.4	2448.6	2749.4	110.3	149.7	168.1
Private Sector							
GSFC:Vadodara	0.0	120.1	197.3	292.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
GSFC:Sikka-I	0.0	44.7	49.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GSFC:Sikka-II	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CIL:Vizag	600.0	698.0	739.7	1053.4	116.3	123.3	175.6
CIL:Ennore	240.0	187.3	158.4	212.6	78.0	66.0	88.6
CIL:Kakinada	0.0	496.5	573.4	735.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
ZIL:Goa	240.0	477.1	373.2	366.2	198.8	155.5	152.6
SPIC:Tuticorin	0.0	1.0	0.0	174.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
MCF:Mangalore	0.0	33.7	74.3	84.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
GNFC:Bharuch	142.5	193.2	134.0	166.5	135.6	94.0	116.8
TCL:Haldia	0.0	392.3	413.4	394.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hindalco Ind:Dahej	0.0	18.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
DFPCL:Taloja	230.0	51.5	57.9	100.6	22.4	25.2	43.7
PPL:Paradeep	0.0	404.2	552.0	447.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Private Sector:	1452.5	3117.8	3323.5	4027.5	214.7	228.8	277.3
Total (Pub.+Coop.+Pvt.):	5222.4	5850.6	6848.4	8038.3	112.0	131.1	153.9

*[English]***Coking Coal for Steel Plants**

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

(a) whether availability of coking coal from the indigenous sources is adequate to meet the requirement of captive consumption of steel plants in the country;

(b) if not, the alternative arrangement made by the Government for securing metallurgy coal and thermal coal assets from overseas for steel plants in the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enter into any contract for the purchase of coal mines outside the country so as to ensure uninterrupted supply of coking coal used in the steel plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) No, Madam. The total availability of raw coking coal in the country, either through Coal India Limited or through captive production, was about 16.84 million tonnes during 2008-09, which was not sufficient to meet the requirement of coking coal for domestic steel industry. To meet the balance requirement of coking coal, steel plants in the country had to import about 24 million tonnes of coking coal.

(b) to (d) The Government is encouraging the formation of joint ventures between steel companies to acquire coking coal assets abroad. A Special Purpose Vehicle namely International Coal Ventures Limited (ICVL) with participation of Coal India Limited, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) and NMDC Limited has been formed for acquisition of coal assets abroad.

Financing of Railway Projects

*588. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have felt the need for Public Private Participation (PPP) to generate funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have identified the sectors/activities proposed to be financed through PPP mode;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the revenue likely to be generated as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (e) Yes, Madam. Areas identified for execution through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) include manufacturing of locomotives/coaches/wagons, development of world-class stations, operation of container trains, Liberalised Wagon Investment Scheme, connectivity to ports and other industrial clusters, private freight terminal, special freight train operation, auto hubs and ancillaries, medical colleges, educational institutions and revenue generation by leveraging the advertisement potential using railway's assets, properties and services etc. These initiatives have evoked a positive response. A fast-track mechanism for examination and clearance of proposals has been set up. The extent of revenue generation cannot be quantified at present.

Empowerment of Wakf Boards

*589. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of commercial and residential properties belonging to the Wakf Boards have been encroached upon in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the corrective action taken thereof by the authorities concerned;

(d) whether reports have been received from various quarters regarding illegal sale of prime Wakf properties in the country including Mumbai;

(e) if so, the details thereof for the last five years; and

(f) the steps being taken to make the Wakf Boards more effective in dealing with the aforesaid matters including initiating amendments to the Wakf Act, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN

KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) As per Section 13 of the Wakf Act, 1995, the Board of Wakfs are established by the concerned State Governments by notification in the official gazette. As per Section 32 of the Act, the general superintendence of all auqaf in a State vests in the Board established or the State and it is the duty of the Board to exercise its powers under this Act to ensure that the auqaf under its superintendence are properly maintained, controlled and administered and the income thereof is duly applied to the objects and for the purposes for which such auqaf were created or intended. Therefore, it is the duty of the concerned State Government and the State Waqf Board to manage the waqf properties properly and take corrective action. There have been reports from time to time regarding encroachment of waqf properties in various parts of the country. The Joint Parliamentary Committee on Wakf and the Sachar Committee, in their reports, have also adversely commented upon encroachments on waqf properties in various parts of the country. There have also been reports of illegal sale of waqf properties in the country, including Mumbai. In the Mumbai case, Government of Maharashtra had reported back that they have directed the State Waqf Board to initiate proceedings of restoration of the said property under

section 52 of the Wakf Act, 1995. As the matter pertains to the domain of a State Government and the remedial action is also to be taken by the concerned State Government or the State Waqf Board, the Central Government relies upon the concerned State Government for appropriate corrective action.

(e) An extract from the Ninth Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Wakf, detailing the list of encroachments, is enclosed as Statement.

(f) A Bill for amending the Wakf Act, 1995, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 27th April, 2010. The proposed amendments in the existing Wakf Act, 1995 proposes to make the State Waqf Boards more effective in dealing with the problems of encroachments on and sale of waqf properties. The Central Government has also launched a scheme of computerization of records of State Waqf Boards in December, 2009 to make the administration and management of Waqf properties more transparent, effective and efficient. A scheme of grants-in-aid to the Central Waqf Council(CWC) for administrative expenditure has also been launched to strengthen CWC in order to improve its institutional capacity to deal with the matters relating to the management of waqf properties.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Wakf Institutions- Properties and approx. Area (with unit of area)	Area under encorachment (Number and approx area)	Approx. Market value of the encroached area (Rs. lakh)	Area enroached by Govt. Agencies (Number and area Encroached)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35, 703 Units 1,45, 543.94 Acres	5, 599 Units (81, 591.40 Acres)	+	+
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	*	*	*	*
3.	Assam	176 Units Likely to increase after survey	*	*	*
4.	Bihar	2684 Units	94 Units	+	+
5.	Chhattisgarh	1811 Units	871 Units 1, 289.007 Acres	+	No

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Goa	To be known after survey	To be known after survey	To be known after survey	To be known after survey
7.	Gujarat	22485 Units	+	+	+
8.	Haryana	12493 Units	891 Units	+	+
9.	Himachal Pradesh	810 Units	236 Units	+	36
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Not covered under the Act.	Not covered under the Act	Not covered under the Act	Not covered under the Act
11.	Jharkhand	135 units	+	+	+
12.	Karnataka	27338 Institutions 30, 046 Units 18239.83 Acres	135 Units	Rs. 440 crores approximately	26
13.	Kerala	6795 Institutions 7723 Units	39 Units	+	+
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14,701 Units	1, 292 Units	+	+
15.	Maharashtra	23564 Units 46,339.90 Hectares	About 70 percent	+	+
16.	Manipur	240 Units	+	+	+
17.	Meghalaya	6 Units	5 Units	+	+
18.	Mizoram	+	+	+	+
19.	Nagaland	*	*	*	*
20.	Odisha	3,729 Units 14,211.719 Acres	17 Units	+	7
21.	Punjab	24, 325 Units	582 Units	+	362 Units
22.	Rajasthan	81 Institutions 22.000 Units	301 Units	+	63
23.	Sikkim	+	+	+	+
24.	Tamil Nadu	6, 672 Institutions 7, 057 Units	1, 081 Units 58 Acres	Rs. 2.90 Crores	+
25.	Tripura	28 Institutions 625 Units	10 Units	Rs. 4.09 Crores	+
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1, 30, 352 Units	75 Units		27 Units
27.	Uttrakhand	2, 053 Units	+	+	+
28.	West Bengal	8, 070 Units	104 Units	+	+

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	70 Units	3 Units	+	+
30.	Chandigarh	32 units	2 units 36.94 sq. yards	+	+
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	10 Institutions	*	*	+
32.	Daman and Diu	*	*	*	*
33.	Delhi	1, 977 Units	685 Units	+	312
34.	Lakshadweep	333 Units 43.73 Hectares	*	*	*
35.	Puducherry	45 Institutions 607 Units	79 Units	Rs. 4.5 crore	*

Note: '+' information not received.

'*' Nil information received.

[Translation]

Handloom and Handicraft Exhibitions

*590. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether handloom and handicraft exhibitions and fairs are organized for the benefit of artisans;

(b) if so, the number of such fairs organized and the details of the financial assistance extended to the State Governments for the purpose during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the benefits accrued to the artisans in promoting their exhibits and artifacts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether complaints have been received from various quarters in regard to organizing such fairs and exhibitions;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the follow up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Statements showing year-wise and State-wise number of fairs and exhibitions organized and financial assistance extended to the State Governments and eligible agencies/organisations during the last three years for Handlooms and Handicrafts are enclosed as Statement-I & Statement-II respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The reports from the field offices reveal that the marketing events under both the Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme of the office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) and Marketing Support and Services Scheme of the office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) provided an excellent marketing platform to weavers and artisans and helped them to sell their products directly to the consumers thereby eliminating middlemen. This also provided the opportunity to the weavers/artisans to understand market trends for developing/diversifying the product range. The sale of handloom and handicraft products through the marketing events during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 was Rs. 258.82 crores, Rs. 304.19 crores and Rs. 432.22 crores (Provisional) respectively.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Statement I

State-wise No. of Exhibitions/Fairs organized and financial assistance extended during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 & 2009-10 under M&EPS (Handloom sector)

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		No. of Exhibitions/fairs	Amount released	No. of Exhibitions/fairs	Amount released	No. of Exhibitions/fairs	Amount released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38	0.95	42	1.87	59	2.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	03	0.03	02	0.02	01	-
3.	Assam	36	1.43	45	2.10	76	4.11
4.	Bihar	-	0.02	-	0.02	-	0.05
5.	Chhattisgarh	03	0.42	07	0.17	12	0.37
6.	Delhi	08	0.49	-	0.37	03	0.62
7.	Gujarat	01	0.27	09	0.26	01	0.76
8.	Haryana	08	0.13	02	0.37	04	0.28
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10	0.17	13	0.26	27	0.51
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	0.06	-	0.00	-	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	-	0.00	-	0.04	06	0.02
12.	Karnataka	17	0.70	22	1.44	32	1.20
13.	Kerala	04	0.18	06	0.23	05	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10	0.86	10	0.12	17	0.68
15.	Maharashtra	10	1.09	16	1.89	23	1.37
16.	Manipur	02	0.10	09	0.35	10	0.47
17.	Meghalaya	04	0.17	07	0.06	05	0.89
18.	Mizoram	10	0.51	12	0.34	07	0.00
19.	Nagaland	23	0.87	34	2.06	57	3.73
20.	Odisha	22	1.15	26	1.07	25	0.74
21.	Punjab	01	0.05	01	0.00	-	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22.	Rajasthan	04	0.64	07	0.44	11	0.73
23.	Sikkim	02	0.04	02	0.03	03	0.04
24.	Tamil Nadu	24	0.62	31	1.54	46	0.80
25.	Tripura	-	0.04	05	0.09	09	0.36
26.	Uttar Pradesh	30	1.35	37	2.36	49	1.73
27.	Uttarakhand	04	0.15	10	0.46	13	0.45
28.	West Bengal	17	0.51	18	1.06	21	0.60
Total		291	13.00	373	19.02	522	22.61

Statement II

State-wise No. of Exhibitions/Fairs organized and financial assistance extended during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 & 2009-10 under MSS Scheme (Handicraft sector)

(Amount Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		No. of marketing events	Amount released	No. of marketing events	Amount released	No. of marketing events	Amount released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	175.23	34	333.42	23	192.69
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	01	-
4.	Assam	41	164.08	20	450.44	19	577.49
5.	Bihar	12	28.67	07	38.61	07	84.59
6.	Chandigarh	--	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Chhattisgarh	02	9.75	05	27.08	03	7.02
8.	Delhi	36	162.38	16	262.79	20	711.90
9.	Goa	03	18.87	-	8.37	01	22.24
10.	Gujarat	20	120.62	24	196.21	11	43.14
11.	Haryana	15	35.42	03	52.58	01	34.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Himachal Pradesh	07	53.24	06	120.97	11	56.81
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	27.73	-	50.70	02	2.76
14.	Jharkhand	07	52.78	04	27.97	05	55.65
15.	Karnataka	15	74.77	15	155.13	11	69.60
16.	Kerala	08	50.62	08	29.56	04	36.81
17.	Madhya Pradesh	24	187.89	14	133.37	12	92.99
18.	Maharashtra	11	95.65	04	73.74	07	35.75
19.	Manipur	29	71.18	09	117.31	12	118.65
20.	Meghalaya	13	3.14	-	6.75	-	-
21.	Mizoram	12	4.04	04	47.85	01	-
22.	Nagaland	19	26.37	08	69.95	04	17.25
23.	Odisha	25	130.20	19	134.40	13	133.26
24.	Punjab	02	6.90	-	9.03	02	9.72
25.	Puducherry	02	16.56	04	31.60	02	26.24
26.	Rajasthan	15	73.26	08	264.63	15	214.41
27.	Sikkim	05	6.75	05	6.38	01	17.64
28.	Tamil Nadu	09	43.79	22	110.81	22	131.43
29.	Tripura	-	24.03	06	5.76	03	4.12
30.	Uttar Pradesh	107	894.90	24	523.69	28	79.19
31.	Uttarakhand	05	39.40	01	45.71	06	26.12
32.	West Bengal	13	40.39	05	64.63	05	6.20
Total		489	2638.61	275	3399.44	252	2807.68

Cost and Time Over-runs of Steel Projects

*591. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of steel projects under construction/implementation in the private and public sectors in the country;

(b) whether the Government is aware that a number

of steel sector projects have incurred time and cost overruns;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the reasons for the same have been identified;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) The details regarding steel projects under implementation in the private and public sector is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (e) Projects for new capacity creation in the steel sector sometimes suffer time and cost overruns on account of reasons like delays in land acquisition, settlement of relief and rehabilitation issues, procurement of forestry and environmental clearances and allocation of raw material linkages, particularly for iron ore and coal. The Government PSUs, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) are also augmenting their capacities and in these projects there have been some delays, particularly in procurement of some packages for reasons such as inadequate response of bidders, deviation in bid offers vis-a-vis bidding conditions and high prices offered by tenderers as compared to the project cost estimates.

As presently computed, the estimated cost of the current phase of modernisation and expansion project in SAIL would be around Rs. 70,000 crores including Rs. 10,000 crores for mine development; while in RINL the presently computed cost of capacity expansion is around Rs. 12,500 crores. Though there has been some delay

from the original schedule, the expansion project of SAIL is expected to be progressively completed in the financial year 2012-13; while the expansion plan of RINL is expected to be progressively completed by 2011-12. The actual cost overruns can be computed after these projects are commissioned on ground.

(f) While Government does not directly oversee implementation of the private sector steel projects, issues relating to such projects are discussed in the Inter-Ministerial Group functioning in the Ministry of Steel with a view to settling issues that may impede the early realisation of these projects. Representatives of the concerned Central Government Ministries and the State Governments are members of this Inter-Ministerial Group. In the case of capacity expansion projects in the public sector, a number of measures have been taken to ensure timely completion of these projects. These include periodical review of these projects in the Ministry of Steel as well as by the Boards of Directors of the respective companies and senior management. The project management systems in these companies have also been strengthened and empowered for enabling quicker decision-making in respect of these projects. The implementation of these capacity expansion projects in public sector companies are thus constantly monitored and corrective action is taken for expediting the pace of implementation whenever found necessary.

Statement

The details of capacity augmentation and modernization projects in the Steel Sector

(Crude Steel capacity in million tonne)

Investor	Existing capacity	Brownfield expansion	Greenfield	Total capacity likely by 2012-13
1	2	3	4	6
Private Sector				
TATA Steel	6.80	3.20	3.00*	13.00*
Essar Steel	4.60	3.90	6.00*	14.50*
JSW Steel	6.60	4.40	-	11.00
JSPL	2.40	4.80	3.25	10.45

1	2	3	4	6
Ispat Industries	3.60	0.60	-	4.20
Bhushan Power & Steel	1.20	1.60	-	2.80
Bhushan Steel	0.80	2.20	-	3.00
Others & Secondary	31.00	3.20	-	34.20
Public Sector				
SAIL	12.84	8.56		21.40
RINL	2.90	3.40		6.30
Total	72.74	35.86	12.25	120.85

*Tata Steel (Kalinga Nagar-Orissa) and Essar Steel (Paradeep-Orissa) greenfield projects are likely to be delayed beyond 2012.

[English]

Pending Court Cases

*592. SHRI MANICKA TAGORE:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

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

(a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of the steps taken to reduce the arrears of cases pending in various courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the 13th Finance Commission has recommended operation of evening/special Judicial Metropolitan Magistrate/shift courts, so as to liquidate the arrears;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken or proposed to be taken to minimise the pendency of cases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Government has taken a number of steps to facilitate reduction of pendencies in the courts. Of these, the Fast Track Courts that commenced in the year 2000 have disposed since their inception and up to February, 2010, 29.08 lakh cases out of the 35.85 lakh cases transferred to them. The measures taken by the Government such as development of the infrastructure facilities for the judiciary,

increase in the strength of Judges, computerization of courts etc. have resulted in improvement in the administration of justice and have contributed to the disposal of cases in the courts in the country generally keeping pace with the institution of cases. However, the exact impact of such steps in reducing the arrears in courts cannot be measured since many of the schemes are still under implementation.

(c) and (d) The Government has accepted the recommendation of the 13th Finance Commission for providing Rs. 5000 crores for various initiatives including setting up of morning/evening/special judicial-metropolitan magistrate/shift courts in the States to address the problem of large number of arrears of cases.

(e) Other steps taken by the Government to reduce pendency of cases in the country are as follows:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) Encouraging alternate modes of resolution of disputes including mediation, conciliation, arbitration and Lok Adalats;
- (iii) Grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches and setting up of special courts;

- (iv) The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 (Act 4 of 2009) has been enacted, which provides for establishment of over 5000 Gram Nyayalayas, to deliver justice at the door step of the rural people.

The Government has also decided, in principle, to set up a 'National Mission for Delivery of Justice and Legal Reforms' which would be serviced by a Special Purpose Vehicle, to facilitate reduction of arrears in courts in a time bound manner.

Promotion of Steel Sector

*593. SHRI SANJAY BHOI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the road map envisaged for the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) to promote and expand steel sector, in view of the growing demand;

(b) whether the NMDC and Tata Steel have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for entering into strategic alliance for acquisition, exploration and development of mines and setting up integrated steel plants;

(c) if so, the details of the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof; and

(d) the extent to which country's steel making capacity is likely to be enhanced through these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) NMDC is fulfilling a substantial part of the demand for iron ore of major domestic steel companies. In view of growing demand of steel sector, NMDC has planned for following actions for contributing in the development and expansion of the domestic steel sector:

- Capacity expansion of existing iron ore mines to the extent possible to meet the iron ore requirement of the Indian steel industries.
- Opening up of new mining projects in India for mining of iron ore and other minerals like limestone, magnesite, coal etc.
- Setting up of projects for value addition to iron ore, like pellet plants.
- Acquisition of overseas mining assets in iron ore and coking coal.
- Acquisition of mineral properties through joint ventures.

Besides this, NMDC has planned to set up a 3 million tonne per annum Integrated Steel Plant at Nagarnar, Chhattisgarh to directly contribute to steel production in the country.

(b) to (d) Yes, Madam. NMDC and Tata steel have signed an MoU on 22nd January, 2010 to explore the possibility of entering into a joint venture /ventures for the purpose of acquisition, exploration and development of mines, extraction and processing of minerals, setting up integrated steel plants and any other business which is of mutual interest to both the parties. However, no final decision in respect of setting up of any steel plant in association with Tata Steel has yet been taken by NMDC.

[Translation]

Freight Earning of the Railways

*594. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the features of the differential tariff charged in the freight segment under the dynamic pricing policy of the Railways;

(b) the percentage growth registered in the freight revenue during 2009-10 due to application of dynamic pricing policy;

(c) the details of freight incentive schemes launched to attract additional traffic and augment revenue earning of Railways; and

(d) the estimated growth of freight revenue for the year 2010-11?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Dynamic Pricing introduced in 2006-07 and extended from year to year, envisaged charging freight rate along with "Busy Season Charge" during the Busy Season and at normal rate during the Lean Season. Busy Season has been defined from 1st April to 30th June and 1st October to 31st March of the year. This Charge is levied on all traffic except container traffic at the rate of 5% on Coal & Coke Group and 7% on all other commodities.

(b) The percentage growth registered in the freight revenue earnings during 2009-10 due to implementation of dynamic pricing policy was 6.18%.

(c) Freight Incentive Schemes have been issued with the objective to generate additional traffic volume and revenue. These Incentive Schemes are in operation since 2006 and are being continued on a year to year basis with certain modification. The Freight Incentive Schemes 2009 has been issued which is effective from 1st January, 2010. Following schemes have been included in the current notification

- (i) Incentive Scheme for Loading Bagged Consignments in Open and Flat wagons;
- (ii) Incentive Scheme for Traditional Empty Flow Directions;
- (iii) Incentive Scheme for Freight Forwarders; and
- (iv) Incentive Scheme for Incremental Traffic.

(d) The estimated growth of revenue for the year 2010-11 from Dynamic Pricing Policy is expected to be approximately Rs. 3600 crore.

[English]

Initial Public Offerings

*595. SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
Khatgaonkar:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of overpricing of shares raised through the Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) have been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any expert group has been appointed to study and suggest steps for monitoring the end use of IPOs funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective action taken by the Government in this matter?

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) IPO price is fixed by the issuer based on an analysis of the quantitative and qualitative factors of the issuer company, market sentiments, demand for the scrip as assessed during road shows etc. The freedom to fix the price band rests with the issuer, who generally does so in consultation with the merchant banker.

As per the data received from Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), on an analysis of IPOs listed during the period April 01, 2009 till April 30, 2010, as many as 24 out of the 39 IPOs listed during the period have closed above the issue price on the date of listing. Further 23 IPOs out of the 39 IPOs listed during the period are quoting above their issue price as on April 30, 2010.

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam, the report of the Expert Group is under examination by the Ministry.

[Translation]

Electoral Reforms

*596. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether suggestions have been received from various quarters including the Election Commission, the Law Commission and other authorities for undertaking comprehensive electoral reforms;

(b) if so, the broad nature of suggestions/recommendations received in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The process of electoral reforms is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out after ascertaining the views among political parties. Further, it needs a deep and careful study. A number of proposals including the recommendations of the Election Commission are discussed with political parties at an appropriate time as a part of the process of reform of electoral laws. The Government has been receiving numerous suggestions from various quarters, including the Law Commission of India, Election Commission of India among others, on the subject from time to time and all these are taken together as and

when discussions with political parties are held. On the last occasion, in July, 2004 the Election Commission of India has sent a set of 22 proposals as given in the enclosed Statement. While the matter was under consideration with the Government, the Chairman, Rajya Sabha has referred the entire matter of electoral reforms to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice for examination and report. Presently, the matter is under consideration with the said Committee.

Statement

Proposals made by Election Commission of India on Electoral Reforms

1. Affidavits to be filed by candidates on criminal antecedents, assets, etc.
2. Need to increase the security deposit of candidates.
3. Criminalisation of politics.
4. Restriction on the number of seats from which one may contest.
5. Exit polls and opinion polls.
6. Prohibition of surrogate advertisements in print media.
7. Negative/neutral voting.
8. Appointment of Appellate Authority in Districts against Orders of Electoral Registration Officers.
9. Compulsory maintenance of accounts by political parties and audit thereof.
10. Government sponsored advertisements.
11. Political advertisements on television and cable network.
12. Composition of Election Commission and constitutional protection of all Members of the Commission and independent Secretariat for the Commission.
13. Expenses of Election Commission to be treated as "Charged".
14. Ban on transfers of Election Officers on the eve of elections.
15. All Officials appointed in connection with Conduct of Elections to be included in Clause (7) of Section 123.
16. Anti-defection law.
17. Use of common electoral rolls at elections conducted by the Election Commission and the State Election Commissions.
18. Simplification of procedure for Disqualification of a person found guilty of corrupt practice.
19. Same number of proposers for all contesting candidates-Amendment of section 33 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
20. Making of false declaration in connection with election to be an offence.
21. Rule making authority to be vested in Election Commission.
22. Registration and De-registration of political parties -strengthening of existing provisions.

NACIL Fleet

*597. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of different aircraft in operation and grounded in the National Carrier Fleet;

(b) the average life span of the existing Air India Fleet;

(c) whether a number of aircraft of Air India have outlived their utility and needs replacement;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the National Carrier proposes to replace the old aircraft by acquisition of new fleet of aircraft; and

(f) if so, the details thereof including the investment required for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As on 1.4.2010, NACIL has 143 operational and 32 non-operational aircraft. The present average age of NACIL's fleet is 7.1 years.

(c) and (d) There is no specified life span for aircraft. All the aircraft in NACIL's fleet are maintained to the required airworthiness standards and meet all the requirements of the regulatory authorities.

(e) and (f) Yes, Madam. Erstwhile Air India Limited and erstwhile Indian Airlines Limited had placed orders with M/s Boeing and M/s Airbus Industrie in 2005/2006 for purchase of 68 and 43 aircraft respectively at a total cost of around Rs. 45,000 crore. With the induction of new aircraft, NACIL is phasing out its old and ageing aircraft.

[English]

Distribution and Sale of Substandard Fertilizers

*598 SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI DHANANJAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether the sale and manufacture of fertilizers are governed by the Fertilizers (Control) Order, 1985;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether complaints have been received from various quarters regarding manufacture, distribution and sale of fertilizers not conforming to the prescribed standards;

(d) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard in various States for the last three years, year and State-wise and

(e) the follow up corrective action taken by various agencies/State Governments for protecting the interests of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):
(a) to (e) Fertilizers have been declared as essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, (ECA) 1955. In order to ensure adequate availability of good quality of fertilizers at reasonable price to the farmers, the Government of India under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act has promulgated the Fertilizer (Control) Order, (FCO) 1985. FCO empowers the Government to regulate the price; distribution and quality of fertilizers. Under clause 19 of FCO sale/manufacture of such fertilizers which are not of prescribed standard is strictly prohibited. Under clause 8 of FCO, it is mandatory to obtain the Authorization Letter from the notified Authority for sale of fertilizers.

No case of large scale manufacture/sale or distribution of sub-standard fertilizers has been brought to the notice of the Government of India.

The State Governments are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the sale of non-standard fertilizers. Violation of provisions of FCO can invite penal action, including prosecution of offenders. The offender who is convicted may be awarded the sentence upto seven years' imprisonment under ECA, besides cancellation of authorization certificate. There are 71 fertilizer testing laboratories including four laboratories of the Government of Indian at Faridabad, Kalyani, Mumbai and Chennai with an annual analyzing capacity of 1.32 lakh samples. During the year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, the percentages of samples of fertilizers declared non-standard at all India level were 6.0%, 6.2% and 5.5% respectively. Information available on follow up action taken in 2008-09 with regard to non standard samples of fertilizers state-wise is annexed as statement. Moreover State Governments have been sensitized from time to time on the issue of sales, manufacture, distribution and quality of fertilizers conforming to FCO standards.

Statement

State-wise details of follow up Action on Non-Standard samples during 2008-09

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Non Std. Samples	Administrative Action Taken			Prosecution Launched	Cases Pending for Action	Charging higher Price	Seizure of Stock/Stop Sale	Disposal allowed under cl. 23	Conviction awarded	Cases Pending in Court	No. of Cases other violation of FCO
			DRC Cancelled	DRC Suspended	Other action								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Assam	5		3	2								
2.	Bihar	46		8	5	25			5			5	34

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Jharkhand	4	8		4								
4.	Odisha	69			54	5	4		11			5	
5.	West Bengal	235	6		232	3			3			30	
6.	Mizoram												
7.	Gujarat	43			34	8	1				1	326	
8.	Madhya Pradesh	560	30	85	445				12	16			
9.	Chhattisgarh	222	15	15	191	1							
10.	Maharashtra	1620	44	202	625	34	715	54	159			963	
11.	Rajasthan	406			209	5	192		14			2	59
12.	Haryana	59	3		21	10	25						
13.	Himachal Pradesh	39			39								
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	9				7	2						
15.	Punjab	15	4		9	2			6		2		
16.	Uttar Pradesh	556	355	36	43	122		8	17	1			117
17.	Uttarakhand	21	2	4	15								
18.	Andhra Pradesh	507	8	28	254	10	207	1				56	
19.	Karnataka	410			373		37	1					
20.	Kerala	216	1	22	20		173						
21.	Puducherry	4			4								
22.	Tamil Nadu	379		363		16		7			1	13	
	Total	5425	476	766	2579	248	1356	71	227	17	4	1400	210

Air Cargo Market

*599. SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated growth of cargo business by 2011-12;

(b) the percentage contribution of cargo to the total revenues of National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL);

(c) whether different private airlines are in the process to start their dedicated cargo services to capture the growing cargo market;

(d) if so, the steps taken by NACIL to augment its revenue share in the cargo business;

(e) whether NACIL proposes to create some strategic business units including separate cargo unit for its low cost operation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The estimated growth of Cargo business is 11.8% by 2011-12.

(b) Approximately 5% in the year 2008-09.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) NACIL have taken the various steps to augment its revenue share in the cargo business like reconfiguration of the aircraft, priority booking for high yield cargo, dedicated freighter service, offers of differential rates, promotional pricing, etc.

(e) and (f) Yes, Madam. At the time of merger of erstwhile Indian Airlines and Air India, a strategic Business Unit (SBU) concept was proposed/suggested for the entire NACIL, with the view to bring in greater accountability in the functioning of the Company. Each SBU Head to be empowered under the broad ambit of the delegation of financial and administrative powers. One of the areas considered for SBU was cargo and its implementation is in process. This would facilitate focussed attention on core business activities for increased revenue generation.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps

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

(a) the policy for allotment of petrol pumps in the country;

(b) whether complaints have been received regarding violation of policy on the allotment of petrol pumps;

(c) if so, the number of complaints received during the last three years, oil marketing company-wise;

(d) the follow-up action taken thereon;

(e) whether the Government proposes any changes in the policy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Based on the broad policy guidelines issued by the Ministry, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs.), viz., Indian Oil

Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) 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 Corporation. Out of 100 marks, approximate 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 skills, 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.

(c) During the last three years i.e. 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, IOC, BPC and HPC have received 930, 188 and 900 complaints respectively against selection of retail outlet dealers.

(d) The selection guidelines contain provisions for grievance redressal system where each and every complaint is registered and examined by a senior officer appointed by the competent authority. The complaints having prima-facie merit are investigated and complainants are advised to furnish material, if any, to substantiate their allegations. Complaints are disposed off by way of a speaking order and a copy of the same is given to all concerned. In case of established complaints action is taken by the OMCs which include re-advertisement, re-interview, cancellation of selection process, initiation of disciplinary action against erring officials of the Corporation, etc.

(e) and (f) Review of the policy for selection of dealerships /distributorships are made from time to time to make the same more transparent, objective and fair.

Integrated Pack House

6596. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of benefits to farmers with integrated pack house and vapour heat treatment plants for

treatment of fruits like mangoes, bananas, apples and tomatoes etc., alongwith the location of such plants, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government providing incentives, subsidies and loan facilities to farmers to establish these plants; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Integrated pack houses/vapour heat treatment (VHT) plants help the farmers to process the fresh produce under temperature controlled conditions and thus in retaining the fresh quality of the produce till it reaches the consumers end. Resultantly, the farmer is able to save the produce from deteriorating and get better remuneration for his produce. Presently, VHT treated mangoes are exported to Japan from India. Integrated pack houses have been set up with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) assistance in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh etc.

APEDA assisted VHT facilities are located at:

- (i) Maharashtra State Agriculture Marketing Board, Vashi, Navi Mumbai.
- (ii) Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd. at Nuzvid.
- (iii) Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd. at Tirupathi.
- (iv) Uttar Pradesh Mandi Parishad at Saharanpur.
- (v) Namdhari Farm Fresh, Nashik.
- (vi) Galla Foods Pvt. Ltd., Chittoor.

(b) and (c) APEDA provides financial assistance to registered exporters for setting up of infrastructure facilities like integrated pack houses @25% of the cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 25 lakh per beneficiary and @ 50% of the cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 25 lakh per beneficiary for setting up of vapour heat treatment plant. In addition, the State Government establishments are provided financial assistance for setting up of integrated pack house and VHT plants to the extent of 100% of the eligible project cost.

Introduction of Schedule M

6597. SHRI BHARAT RAM MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial affect on the viability of the small and medium pharma industries in the country due to introduction of provision of schedule M and Good Laboratory Practices on them; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to meet the financial requirements of small and medium pharma manufacturing units set up before 2001 to upgrade them to global standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 has been made mandatory from 1st July, 2005 for all Pharma Enterprises. The up-gradation to Schedule 'M' by a small and medium pharma enterprise normally requires a sum of Rs. 20.00 lakhs to Rs. 2.00 crore depending upon the capital cost and the size of the unit. The Department of Pharmaceuticals and Ministry of MSME are coordinating their efforts for assisting medium and small pharma units. The Department of Pharmaceuticals, in collaboration with the Development Commissioner, MSME of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) introduced a Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) for Financial Assistance to pharma SSI units for upgradation and compliance of schedule 'M' standards as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940. Under this scheme, 15% capital subsidy is provided up to a loan of Rs. 1.0 crore as per the guideline of the scheme. Further several awareness workshops were organized to help them understand requirement for technical upgradation and to make them schedule 'M' compliant. Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) is not yet mandatory and the financial aspect is not yet estimated.

Investment by PIOs in Aviation Sector

6598. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to allow the Person of Indian Origins (PIOs) living abroad to invest in Indian domestic airlines;

- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
 (c) if not, the present status of the proposal?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
 (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Airport

6599. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to construct an airport in district headquarters of Gadchiroli Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) has sent any proposal to the Government regarding construction of an airport;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the steps regarding selection of a site and inviting tenders etc. for constructing the said airport have been taken;

(e) if so, whether MADC is being provided some financial assistance by the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (f) On the request of State Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC), Airports Authority of India had carried out the study on the suitability of site for setting up of a Greenfield airport which is around 2.5 Km from Gadchiroli, Maharashtra and submitted its report to the Government of Maharashtra. However, Government of India has not received any further proposal from MADC for setting up of a Greenfield airport at the above said site.

[*English*]

Setting up of Pharmacies

6600. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to focus on healthcare and access to cheap drugs by setting up the chain of pharmacies through the Centre-State partnership;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful for the people to have cheaper drugs?

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

(a) and (b) Government has proposed to encourage the opening and operation of Jan Aushadhi Stores (JAS) by respective State Governments through NGO's /Charitable Organizations/Cooperative bodies/Red Cross etc. to promote and make available quality unbranded generic medicines at affordable prices. Under this Scheme, the State Government has to provide space in Government Hospital premises for the running of the outlets (JAS). Government hospitals, NGOs, Charitable Organisations and public societies like Red Cross Society, *Rogi Kalyan Samiti* typically constituted for the purpose can be operating agencies for the JAS. The operating agency for JAS is nominated on the basis of the recommendations of the State Government. Operational expenditure is met from trade margins admissible for the medicines. The State Govt has to ensure prescription of unbranded generic medicines by the Government doctors. At present a total of 44 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in the States of Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, U.T. of Chandigarh and Delhi.

(c) As there is a considerable difference between the prices of Unbranded Generic medicines and branded medicines the Jan Aushadhi Campaign will improve access to healthcare in as much as cost of medicines required for medical treatment would come down substantially.

Setting up of Ferro Alloys Plants by SAIL

6601. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. is planning for setting up Ferro Alloys Plants and also creating special purpose vehicle for International Coal Ventures Private Ltd. restructure in the country;

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

(c) the demands of the steel industry pending with the Government in this regard and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) In order to ensure the availability of ferro-alloys, Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has decided to invest in its existing facilities at Maharashtra Elektros melt Ltd. (MEL), Chandrapur in Maharashtra where a new furnace is being planned. In addition, SAIL is going ahead with its joint venture with Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL). The MOIL-SAIL joint venture proposal envisages production of ferro-manganese and silico Manganese with installation of 3 furnaces at Nandini/Bhilai, in the State of Chhattisgarh.

With the approval of the Government of India, International Coal Ventures Private Limited (ICVL), a special purpose vehicle was created by five public sector undertakings (PSUs)- SAIL, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.(RINL), NMDC Ltd., NTPC Ltd. and Coal India Ltd.(CIL), as its promoter companies for the purpose of acquisition of coal companies and assets in overseas territories to provide long term security in the supply of coal for the promoter companies. ICVL has been incorporated as a company on 20th May, 2009.

Security Help Line

6602. SHRI E.G.SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to launch 24-hour Train Security Helpline;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. A 24 hour Security Help Line for Railway passengers has been approved in the Railway Budget 2010-11. The technical modalities are being worked out and the system is expected to be commissioned as soon as the technical modalities are finalized.

Income Earned by Railways

6603. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any link between the incomes earned by the railway zones and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(b) the details of the income earned by each zone and the expenditure incurred thereon under Tenth Five Year Plan and the Eleventh Plan as on date?

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

(b) Zonal Railway-wise earnings and expenditure incurred during Tenth Five Year Plan and the Eleventh Five Year Plan (upto 2009-10 approx) are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Zone	Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-03 To 2006-07)			Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-03 to 2009-10)		
	Earnings	Revenue Expenditure	Plan Expenditure	Earnings	Revenue Expenditure	Plan Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central	26658.34	21719.74	4148.08	19492.07	18336.30	5608.23
Eastern	13125.35	18659.80	4481.57	9436.99	16022.17	4584.08
East Central	13404.56	11987.74	4680.94	14138.90	14117.66	6255.49
East Coast	14675.37	8541.72	2341.85	19094.58	9299.34	2638.96
Northern	30386.21	26752.06	12922.86	23118.45	25150.23	15743.35
North Central	16695.57	10747.77	2234.55	20331.44	12191.64	3321.19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
North Eastern	5719.46	8470.46	2488.58	4292.14	7901.78	3278.39
North-East Frontier	6358.34	9205.34	5097.11	7105.31	9993.44	5978.73
North Western	6780.60	6552.85	2281.16	7790.46	8377.75	3166.39
Southern	14095.38	16259.70	4271.16	12522.48	15627.99	5595.35
South Central	22511.67	18274.62	4739.35	22990.96	17349.44	6174.08
South Eastern	21912.31	15522.95	3838.93	19316.84	12093.87	3257.17
South East Central	13779.36	7294.32	1952.94	15080.89	8094.47	2194.50
South Western	6283.84	5141.83	2100.34	8416.35	6692.80	3082.46
Western	23226.82	19869.49	4202.89	19981.16	18046.68	4605.21
West Central	11949.93	9301.45	2404.49	14550.49	10547.43	2749.64
Metro/PUs/Other	240.09	585.06	2897.24	238.06	550.86	4463.98
Total	247803.20	214886.90	67084.04	237897.57	210393.85	82697.20

[*Translation*]

Sulphur Quota for Textile Mills

6604. SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sulphur quota to the textile mills has been fixed;

(b) if so, the quantity of sulphur provided to each textile mill during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the existing criteria for fixation of such quota and the authority designated for such task;

(d) whether attention is not paid to the production capacity of those mills; and

(e) if so, the production capacity of the licenced textile mills to which sulphur was provided during each of the last three years?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Memorial for Victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

6605. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal regarding the setting up of an International Bhopal Gas tragedy memorial in the premises of Union Carbide in Bhopal;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount demanded for this purpose; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

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

(a) to (c) A proposal for construction of a memorial involving estimated expenditure of Rs. 70 crore was received from the State Government of M.P. in December, 2005. The Government of M.P. was advised to approach the Planning Commission directly for funds. The Planning Commission approved one time Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 10.00 crore for this purpose, during 2006-07 to the Government of Madhya Pradesh. A proposal for construction of Bhopal memorial with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 116.18 crore was received again from the Government of M.P. in November, 2009.

The State Government of M.P. has again been advised to take up the matter directly with Planning Commission for required funds.

[English]

Oil Depots in Orissa

6606. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of oil depots of various Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) located in tribal areas of Orissa as on 31.03.2010 alongwith their storage capacity in tonnes, district-wise;

(b) the contribution of the said depots and OMCs in the employment generation and integrated development of their respective surrounding areas;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up some more oil depots in tribal areas in the State during 2010-11; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the details of funds allocated for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): The details of oil depots along with their storage capacity located in the tribal areas of Orissa as on 31 Mar. 2010 are as under:

(In Metric Tonnes (MTs))

Name of Depot and company	District	Name of the product and storage capacity
Rourkela, HPCL	Sundargarh	Petrol-195 MT Kerosene-740 MT Diesel-1463 MT
Semiliguda, HPCL	Koraput	Petrol-17 MT Diesel-113 MT

(b) Local people are benefited by way of direct and indirect employment such as haulage contract, security contracts, transport contracts etc. Apart from the above, local people are also benefited by way of timely supply of petroleum products due to close proximity of supply locations.

(c) and (d) Oil Marketing Companies do not have any plan to set up new depot in tribal areas in Orissa during 2010-11.

Harassment of Air Passengers

6607. SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA:
SHRI P. BALRAM:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the private airlines are harassing the passengers particularly at the

international flights boardings especially in Delhi in the name of visa, emigration and other certificates despite having all the relevant documents;

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

(c) the steps being taken to avoid such harassment; and

(d) the compensations paid/to be paid in such cases to the victims who may miss their flights and their valuable time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Complaints against Private Airlines regarding harassment of passengers at international flight boarding in the name of visa, emigration, and other services are usually filed by the passengers with a private airline itself, since the carriage by air is a private contractual matter between the passenger and the airline. However, if any instance of harassment to air passengers is brought to the notice

of the Government, the matter is taken up by the Regulator with the concerned airline for appropriate action.

[*Translation*]

Railway Line between Sitapur and Bahraich

6608. SHRI PREMCHAND GUDDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new railway line between Sitapur and Bahraich has been approved in the Rail budget 2010-2011;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the laying of said railway line is likely to be completed; and

(d) the estimated cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) An updating survey for a new line between Sitapur and Bahraich has been included in the Budget 2010-11. On

completion of the survey, the proposal will be processed for necessary approvals.

[*English*]

Construction of Terminal Buildings

6609. SHRI P. VISWANATHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports in the country where foundation stone was laid for construction of terminal buildings;

(b) if so, the details alongwith its present status and the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new terminal buildings are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) A Statement giving the names of airports in the country where foundation stone for construction of terminal buildings were laid along with present status, estimated cost and expected date of completion is given in the enclosed.

Statement

Names of airports where Foundation Stone was laid and their status

Sl.No.	Name of Schemes	Amount Sanctioned Rs. in crores	Progress/ Status as on 31.3.2010	The time by which likely to be completed/ commissioned
1	2	3	4	5
NORTHERN REGION				
1.	CHANDIGARH Construction of new integrated terminal building	77.97	83%	Sept.-10
2.	JAIPUR Construction of new international terminal complex	94.87	100%	Work Completed
3.	SRINAGAR Expansion and modification of terminal building complex	101.33	100%	Work Completed
4.	UDAIPUR Construction of new terminal building complex	77.44	100%	Work Completed

1	2	3	4	5
5.	BIKANER			
	Development of Civil Enclave at Bikaner	10.00	-	Tender Stage
EASTERN REGION				
6.	KOLKATA			
	Construction of new Integrated Terminal Building i/c facelifting of terminals	1612.08	32%	May-11
7.	GAYA			
	Construction of New Terminal Building and allied structure	62.52	100%	Work Completed
8.	RANCHI			
	Construction of new integrated passenger terminal building	137.79	43%	Mar.-11
9.	RAIPUR			
	Construction of new expandable modular Integrated Terminal Building	135.72	56%	Jan.-11
NORTH EASTERN REGION				
10.	PAKYONG			
	Construction of new airport at Pakyong, Sikkim	309.00	26%	June-12
WESTERN REGION				
11.	AHMEDABAD			
	Construction of New Departure Block for Domestic Terminal Building at C.A. Ahmedabad	46.09	100%	Work Completed
	Construction of New International Terminal Building Phases-I and II	291.00	90%	July-10
12.	AURANGABAD			
	Construction of New Terminal Building	99.60	100%	Work Completed
13.	BHOPAL			
	Construction of new expandable modular terminal bldg. at Raja Bhoj Airport, Bhopal	135.04	60%	Sept.-10

1	2	3	4	5
14.	GOA			
	New Intl. Terminal, car park, Ext. of apron and allied works	330.02	-	Tender stage
15.	INDORE			
	Construction of New Terminal bldg.	135.60	58%	Sept.-10
16.	NAGPUR			
	Exp. and mod. of Terminal Bldg. for international operations	43.00	100%	Work Completed
17.	VADODARA			
	Counstruction of New Integrated Terminal Building	115.90	-	Planning Stage
SOUTHERN REGION				
18.	CHENNAI			
	Development of Kamraj Domestic Terminal, expansion of Anna International and facelifting of existing Terminal	1212.06	43%	Jan.-11
19.	MADURAI			
	Construction of TB and allied works	128.76	70%	June-10
20.	MANAGALORE			
	Construction of New Terminal Bldg.	147.01	100%	Work completed
21.	VIZAG			
	Construction of new integrated terminal building	94.94	100%	Work completed

Gas Pipeline from Myanmar

6610. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to have a gas pipeline from Myanmar via Mizoram;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government is planning to persuade the Government of Bangladesh for this pipeline project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) India had pursued the import of natural gas from A1 and A3 blocks in Myanmar. For evacuation of gas from Myanmar, the option of laying a pipeline through Bangladesh was initially considered. However, as this did not progress owing to differences with Bangladesh, the alternative option of pipeline through north-eastern states of India, bypassing Bangladesh, was also considered. Subsequently, Myanmar decided to sell the gas to China. Myanmar Government is going ahead with its decision to sell the gas to China. Hence, presently it is not possible to take up Indo-Myanmar gas pipeline project.

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

Rail Corridor Connecting Vizhinjam Port

6611. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RITES has been engaged as consultant in the development of rail corridor between Balrampur Railway station and Vizhinjam Port in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the RITES has submitted the feasibility report for this project;

(d) if so, whether the Railways have considered the report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time frame stipulated for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) RITES Limited has not been engaged for any such consultancy by Ministry of Railways. However, it has been learnt that RITES Limited was appointed as Consultant by M/s Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited (M/s VISL), a company of Government of Kerala for preparation of pre-feasibility engineering study in connection with rail / road connectivity to M/s VISL.

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam. RITES Limited has submitted the report to Client, who has further submitted it to Southern Railway for their views. Railways cannot give the time frame as the project is to be implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle viz. M/s VISL, which is not under the Ministry of Railways.

[Translation]

Awards to Railway Employees

6612. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Employees of Jabalpur railway division have been distributed goods of a particular company instead of cash award;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor while the employees of the west central railway zone headquarters have been paid cash awards;

(c) whether orders of the railway board have been overlooked in the said case;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to follow the orders of Railway Board in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) Awards are given individually as well as in groups. Utilization of the funds including for welfare activities is done by the respective Zonal Railways. The mode of distribution of such awards is generally decentralized to Divisions and Workshops.

Contract Awarded by Air India

6613. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has awarded a contract of nineteen crore dollars to the aviation solutions providing company SITA in order to upgrade its IT infrastructure with the intention to come under purview of Star Alliance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. In order to upgrade areas like Reservation, Departure Control, Internet Booking, Frequent Flyer Programme and develop a single airline code, Air India has awarded the contract to M/s. SITA. The total cost for this project for a eleven year period (one year for implementation and 10 years towards recurring costs) will be US\$ 190 millions.

Since Air India has decided to join the Star Alliance, the upgradation will also enable Air India to meet the joining requirements of Star Alliance, rationalise all business processes around Passenger and departure control applications, using the latest industry standards. This was a business necessity for Air India and it is taking necessary measures towards its accomplishment.

ROB at Sultanpur Railway Station

6614. DR. SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is apprehension of serious accidents in crossing the rail lines because of no provision of rail over bridges over some of the platforms of Sultanpur railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to construct rail over bridges on the said platforms so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) No, Madam. One foot over bridge is available at Sultanpur railway station for inter platform transfer. An additional foot over bridge for inter platform transfer has also been planned at this station. Further, one foot over bridge is also available at this station for crossing over the entire yard from one side to the other.

[English]

Air Connectivity

6615. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) the names of the major areas of various States/ Union Territories which have not been connected by air link so far;

(b) the main reasons therefor;

(c) the number of airports closed down due to non-viability in States and Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to air link these States/Union Territories; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, no air services are available in the States of Haryana, Sikkim and Puducherry. However, Haryana is connected through Chandigarh, which is a State capital and Union Territory. Presently Sikkim is connected through Bagdogra. A Greenfield airport at Pakyong in Sikkim is scheduled to come up in the next two years. Airports of Arunachal Pradesh viz Along, Daparizo, Tezu, Passighat, Ziro have connectivity by helicopter services operated by Pawan Hans. Though, Puducherry has an airport, no scheduled air services is currently being operated.

(c) Airports Authority of India has not closed down any of its airports due to non-viability in States and Union Territories.

(d) and (e) The Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. The airlines provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability while complying with Route Dispersal Guidelines.

RPF Training Centre

6616. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have sought the Federal Bureau of Investigation of USA to train the officials of Railway Protection Force (RPF).

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the RPF is considering to set up its own training centers across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(c) to (e) There are already 12 Zonal Railway Protection Force Training Centres of Railways and one RPF Academy at Lucknow. It is proposed to set up a Commando Training Centre with Eastern Railway for RPF/RPSF personnel.

[Translation]

Cancellation of LPG Distributorship in M.P.

6617. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places in Madhya Pradesh where distributorship of gas agencies of Indian Oil Limited have been cancelled after the verdict of the Supreme Court of India; and

(b) the time by which the new gas agencies are likely to be allotted in place of the delicensed agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that they have terminated 6 LPG distributors in the State of Madhya Pradesh, one each in the districts of Morena, Bhind, Datia, Shajapur and two in the district of Ashoknagar, pursuant to the decision of the two judge committee appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to examine political patronage in allotment of LPG distributors.

IOC has reported that they have issued Letter of Intent (LoI) for the location Morena against the terminated distributor and commissioning of the distributor is in progress as per policy. The advertisements for remaining five locations of the terminated distributors shall be released under the Industry Marketing Plan 2008-10.

Manufacturing of Bio-degradable Plastic Bags

6618. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any experimental trials are being carried out in respect of manufacturing of bio-degradable plastic bags in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune — a CSIR Laboratory, has been working on the development of bio-degradable Polylactic Acid (PLA) one of the known basic raw materials for compostable plastics. The development work is still in the laboratory scale, though some processors are trying to develop the market by manufacturing films/other products from imported basic raw materials such as PLA.

[English]

Accession by Multi-national Companies

6619. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disinvestment and accession by multi-national companies have increased in the areas of drug research and drug manufacturing in pharmaceutical industry in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for sale of shares by the companies to multinational companies; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check the monopoly of foreign pharma companies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): The sale and accession of companies is a global phenomena. The multinational companies are acquiring Indian companies and on the other hand Indian companies are also acquiring companies abroad. These acquisitions are done by the companies keeping their business interest.

Sale of Medicines

6620. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the distribution and sale of imported medicines, both patented and not patented, are done through the registered distributors and retailers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the volume of patented medicines imported, their prices, therapeutic classification, source and country etc. during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The distribution and sale of imported medicines is done through wholesale and retail outlets licensed by the State Licensing Authorities under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules without having any distinction in the patent status of the medicine and, therefore, no separate records are maintained about their sale or imports into the country under the said Rules.

Air Services to Lakshadweep

6621. SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce new ATR flight services to Lakshadweep Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to extend the runway/airstrip of Agatti airport in Lakshadweep;

(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) At present, Air India and Kingfisher Airlines are operating four flights each per week on Cochin-Agatti-Cochin route.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The Master Plan with a request for provision of required additional land and reclamation of the lagoon was projected to Administration of Lakshadweep to be provided free of cost to Airports Authority of India (AAI) for extension of Runway 04/22 by 366 m so as to enable operation of ATR-72-500 type of aircraft without load restrictions alongwith associated infrastructure.

(e) Does not arise.

Procurement of Spare Parts by RCF, Kapurthala

6622. DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

Year of purchase	No. of spare parts purchased	Value in Crores (Rs.)	No. of machines and equipments purchased	Value in Crores (Rs.)	No. of coach components purchased	Value in Crores (Rs.)
2007-08	1275	5.08	54	49.79	2028	752
2008-09	2252	6.24	122	68.64	2214	876
2009-10	1874	5.52	57	64.28	2211	850

(b) to (d) Keeping in view the capacity and capability constraints of Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, certain items are procured from outside through judicious mix of make or buy decisions.

LPG Connections in Karnataka

6623. SHRI ADAGOORU H. VISHWANATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of people who have applied for LPG connections in Karnataka during the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, area-wise and Oil PSU-wise;

(b) the details of the LPG connections provided in

(a) the details of spare parts, machinery and other equipments, purchased/procured by the Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala during the last three years;

(b) whether the Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala have capacity and capability to manufacture such spare parts and machinery;

(c) if so, the reasons for procuring such items instead of manufacturing such parts itself by Rail Coach Factory; and

(d) the cost economy of such parts purchased from open market and those manufactured by Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of spare parts, machinery and other equipments purchased /procured by Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala during the last three years are tabulated below:-

Karnataka during the above mentioned years, and the persons remaining in the waiting list, area-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) New LPG connections are made available as soon as possible and in any case, within a period of sixty days. During the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have released 313792, 395898 and 361382 new LPG connections in the State of Karnataka respectively. The company-wise details are as under:-

Name of oil company	No. of connection released
IOC	5,97,077
BPCL	2,07,374
HPCL	2,66,621

(b) and (c) OMCs have reported that at present there is no waiting list for release of new connections with their LPG distributors in the State of Karnataka.

Powerloom Service Centres

6624. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted in selecting the places for powerloom service centres;

(b) whether priority has been given to such places where workers have been rendered unemployed due to closure of the sick textile mills;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs) are set up for providing the services to decentralised powerloom sector in the Country. Accordingly, the presence of Powerloom cluster is the criteria for selecting the place to set up powerloom service centre.

(b) to (d) Since powerloom service centres are set up for providing the services to decentralised powerloom sector, the priority to powerloom clusters has been given in selecting the places to set up PSCs. The mills are working in organised sector and the PSCs are not related to any services /assistance to the workers rendered unemployed due to closure of sick textile mills. Hence, no priority has been given to the places to set up PSCs where workers have been rendered unemployed due to closure of the sick textile mills.

Setting up of Power Plants by IOC

6625. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited proposes to set up power plants in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some LNG based power plants are proposed to be set up in the country with the collaboration of foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the time by which these power plants are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) on 4.11.2009 for its venture into Nuclear Power. A Steering Committee has been constituted by IOC to examine opportunities available in the field for joint participation and the role to be played by two parties.

(c) and (d) IOC has no plan to set up any power plant based on LNG.

Near Miss Incident at Mumbai Airport

6626. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether a major accident was averted at the Mumbai airport on 19 April, 2010 when a Kingfisher Airways flight, carrying 30 passengers, was asked to abort take-off minutes before a GoAir plane was declared to land;

(b) if so, the details of the incident;

(c) whether an inquiry into the incident has been ordered to ascertain the real cause of the mis-happening; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) On 19.04.2010, Go Air A320 Aircraft G8-105 after landing on runway 27 was given vacation order from taxiway N7. However aircraft could not vacate from N7 and proceeded to vacate from N9 the next taxiway, which extended the runway occupancy time by the aircraft. By that time Kingfisher A320 aircraft KFR 308 was on final approach on runway 27 at approx 4-1/2 miles and

another Kingfisher aircraft KFR 4123 was given line up behind G8-105 from taxiway N4. In accordance with the standard established procedure the Air Traffic Controller as a precautionary measure, held the departing aircraft and issued landing clearance to the arriving aircraft to avoid any unsafe situation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The investigation is going on.

[Translation]

Capital Investment in PSUs

6627. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of capital invested in public sector undertakings (PSUs) till now;

(b) the percentage of profit being earned by the said undertakings at present on account of the said investment;

(c) whether the Government has made any estimation regarding the capital investment made in private sector and the percentage of profit being earned there from;

(d) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(e) the reasons for wide gap existing between the public sector and private sector PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per information available in Public Enterprises Survey 2008-09 that was laid in the Parliament on 25.2.2010, the cumulative capital investment (equity + long term loan) in the Central Public Sector Enterprises, as on 31.3.2009 amounted to Rs. 5,28,951 crore. The (aggregate) gross profit as percent of capital invested in CPSEs stood at 15.92% during 2008-09.

(c) to (e) The Central Statistical Organisation, Government of India, makes estimation of capital investment in the private sector, which includes both the private corporate sector and the (private) household sector.

A comparison can, nevertheless, be made between the profitability of the private corporate sector and the

Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) based on the Public Enterprises Survey (2008-09) and the RBI Monthly Bulletin (December, 2008). Accordingly, while gross profit as a ratio of fixed assets stood at 20.31% in the case of 217 CPSEs, it was 23.21% in the case of 1259 private limited companies during 2006-07.

[English]

Setting up of a Unit of BHEL in Gujarat

6628. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has any plan to set up new plants in the country including Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which new plants are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) As part of manufacturing capacity expansion programme in the country, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is in the process of setting up by March, 2012 a new manufacturing plant at Tirumayam in Tamil Nadu for manufacture of power plant piping at an estimated cost of Rs. 293 crore, using internal resources of the company.

[Translation]

Plantation on Railway Land

6629. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM
WAKCHAURE:
PROF. RAMSHANKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have prepared a scheme to carry out forestation on both sides of the railway tracks passing through cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made therein so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. There is no specific scheme for plantation of trees on either side of railway lines in cities. Railways have a general policy for tree plantation on vacant land.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Railway Lines in Uttarakhand

6630. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA':

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to lay Rishikesh-Karanprayag and Kathgodam-Gopeshwar railway lines in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have received any proposal to provide rail link from various places to Dehradun;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Construction of Rishikesh-Karanprayag new line (125 km.) has been included in Railway Budget 2010-11 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 4295 crore. Presently there is no proposal for construction of Katgodam-Gopeshwar rail line.

(c) to (e) Survey for Dehradun-Kalsi new line has been completed and the survey report is presently under examination in the Ministry. Another survey for new line between Ghanauli and Dehradun (via Nalagarh, Baddi, Surajpur, Kala Amb and Poanta Sahib) has been sanctioned in Railway Budget 2010-11.

Since these projects have not yet been sanctioned, dates for commencement of work cannot be indicated at this stage.

Bhopal Airport

6631. SHRI DEORAJ SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has requested his Ministry to transfer 1.5 to 2.00 acres of additional land at Raja Bhoj Airport, Bhopal for proper parking and maintenance of its aircraft/helicopters; and

(b) if so, the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Madam. Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested for allotment of additional land measuring 1.5 to 2.0 acres in addition to land measuring 5.87 acres, which is already in their occupation.

(b) Government of Madhya Pradesh has been requested by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to complete the formalities before the proposal for allotment of additional land is processed.

[English]

Casual/Temporary Workers in NACIL

6632. SHRI SOMEN MITRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of casual and temporary workers in National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL);

(b) whether many of these casual/temporary workers are working for more than two years;

(c) if so, whether these workers will be given permanent status and absorbed;

(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) Total number of casual and temporary workers engaged in NACIL are 1912.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) to (e) Casual engagement is resorted to meet certain exigencies and unexpected increase in workload. The available number of permanent vacancies does not allow additional absorption of permanent basis manpower.

Financial Statement by PSUs

6633. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have not prepared and submitted their financial statements with registrar of Companies in the recent past;

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

(c) whether such delinquency is a sign of the brewing financial problems within the PSUs and the growing scope for misuse of Government funds by the office bearers of these PSUs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audits the accounts of the State and Centrally run PSUs. The audit reports of the CAG along with accounts are laid before the State Assembly for the State PSUs, and before the Parliament for Centrally run PSUs. Recently, CAG had sent a reference to Ministry of Corporate Affairs in February, 2010 requesting for action under Companies Act in case of 658 out of 867 operational State PSUs whose accounts are in arrears. Accordingly, Ministry of Corporate Affairs has addressed letters to all the State Chief Secretaries with the request to prevail upon the Chairpersons and Managing Directors of defaulting State PSUs to complete the accounts in a definite time frame. To ensure regular filing of accounts, the Ministry has issued advisories as well as show cause notices for non-filing from time to time through Registrars of Companies.

Weavers of Chanderi Sarees

6634. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific scheme is in vogue for the weavers of Chanderi Sarees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the said scheme during the last three years; and

(c) the other measures initiated by the Government for the uplift merit of said weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government of India has been implementing various

welfare schemes like Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS), Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme (M and EPS), Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS), Mill Gate Price Scheme (MGPS) and Diversified Handloom Development Schemes (DHDS) for upliftment of handloom weavers in all over the country including weavers engaged in Chanderi Saree. The Government of India has adopted 20 handloom clusters under the Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme in the year 2006-07. Each cluster has about 5000 handlooms which includes Chanderi-Gwalior as one of the clusters being implemented by Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India. So far Rs. 117.55 lakh has been released to the agency for development of the said cluster.

Trademark Policy for Pharmaceutical Companies

6635. DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is duplication of trade names of pharmaceutical companies in the country;

(b) if so, whether any policy has been formulated by the Government to check such activities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No such information has come to the notice of the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

(b) and (c) Section 20(2) of the Companies Act, 1956 provides against duplication of a name (including a trade name) which is identical with or too nearly resembles the name by which a company in existence has been previously registered or a registered trademark or pending trademark application under the Trade Marks Act, 1999.

Rolling Stocks

6636. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of railway wagons for transportation of foodgrains and fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to encourage cooperatives and Public Sector Undertakings for investment in adding rolling stock;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways in this regard; and

(e) if so, the response of the cooperative sectors and PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. There is no shortage of railway wagons for transportation of foodgrains on Government account and fertilizers as these commodities are loaded on high priority.

(c) and (d) To encourage private investment in rolling stock, various schemes like Own Your Wagon Scheme (OYWS), Wagon Investment Scheme (WIS) and Liberalized Wagon Investment Scheme (LWIS) have been launched by Indian Railways from time to time wherein Cooperatives and PSUs are also allowed to participate.

(e) Cooperatives and PSUs have responded well to these schemes. Under Own Your Wagon Scheme (OYWS), cooperatives and PSUs like Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Limited (IFFCO), Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF), Indian Oil Cooperation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board (MPSEB) etc. have participated. Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) has participated in Wagon Investment Scheme (WIS) and National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has participated in Liberalized Wagon Investment Scheme (LWIS).

Railway Crossing Near Cherthala Railway Station

6637. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestions/requests have been received to open Anjalipalam railway crossing near Cherthala Railway station under Trivandrum Division is under consideration of the Railways; and

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

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

(b) The request is for opening of a new level crossing at Km. 35/800-900 near Cherthala Railway station of Trivandrum Division. Nine level crossings already exist in Turavur-Cherthala block section. Two level crossings already exist at Km. 35/100-200 (LC No. 36) and Km. 37/500-600 (LC No. 39). There is also a foot over bridge at Km. 33/200-300.

Further level crossings are not desirable from safety and traffic movement considerations. However, construction of a grade separator Road Over/Under bridge at a technically suitable location can be considered on deposit terms, where complete cost of construction and maintenance charges shall be borne by the State Government.

Constitution of Board of NACIL

6638. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:
SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI:
SHRI S. SEMMALAI:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH MEENA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has appointed Industrialists/independent directors on the Board of Air India;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof including the criteria adopted for selection;

(c) whether a high power committee have strongly recommended that Board of Air India may be allowed to function in a professional way and that Air India should be run by professionals and not by generalists;

(d) if so, the reasons for ignoring the recommendations of high power committee;

(e) whether one of the directors appointed is also a director of private company; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Government has appointed 4 persons of eminence as part-time non-official Directors on the Board of NACIL.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The recommendations of the high power committee have not been ignored.

(e) and (f) Yes, Madam. However, there is no clash of interest in their appointment on the Board of NACIL.

[*Translation*]

Unused Land of NFL

6639. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of hectares of land is lying unused with the closed units of National Fertilizers Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to use this unused land for commercial purposes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Madam. All the plants of NFL are in operation and NFL does not have any surplus land at its Units.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Railway Line between Lalgarh and Beldah

6640. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to lay a new railway line between Lalgarh and Beldah in Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal under South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present to lay a new railway line directly linking Lalgarh with Belda.

Aircraft Maintenance Courses

6641. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) the details of institutions recognised by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to conduct aircraft maintenance courses in the country Indicating the intake permitted, institute-wise;

(b) whether the students of these institutes are required to undergo on the job training for completing their course study; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are 72 Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) Training Institutes approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for conducting Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Course in the country. The list of AME Training Institutes, with their permitted intake is given as statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. On-Job-Training is part of AME Training curriculum. The students of AME Training Institutes are required to undergo six months On-Job-Training in an Aircraft Maintenance Organization.

Statement

List of DGCA Approved AME Training Institutes

Sl.No.	Name of the Institute	Address	Scope of Approval	Permitted intake of Students
1	2	3	4	5
NORTHERN				
1	Aeronautical Training Institute	Lucknow Airport, Lucknow-226009 (UP)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE)	60

1	2	3	4	5
2	Alpine Institute of Aeronautics	Nanda ki Chowki, Prem Nagar, Dehradun-248007, Uttrakhand.	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE, JE).Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120
3.	Azad Institute of Aeronautics and Engineering	Kanpur Road, Post Office Chandraval, Near CRPF Camp, Bijnor, Lucknow-226002 (UP)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(PE)Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120
4.	Budha Institute of Engineering and Aeronautics	1, Naresh Park Exten., Main Nazafgarh Road, Nagloi New Delhi-110041	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(JE)	60
5.	Center for Civil Aviation Training	Block-A, Sector-8, Opp-CRPF Camp, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(HA, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120
6.	College of Aeronautical Engineering and Technology	"CAET Campus", Sector-1, Mangal Panday Nagar, Opposite CCS University, Meerut-250005 (Uttar Pradesh)	Avionics Stream-(RN)	60
7.	Falcon Institute of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering	M-34, Aashiana, Kanpur Road, Near Ram Manohar Lohia Law University, Lucknow-226012 (Uttar Pradesh)	Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	60
8.	Hindustan Academy of Aircraft Maintenance Engineers	Lucknow-Kanpur Highway (NH-25), Mile Stone-19, Near Banthara Thana, Lucknow-2271 01 (UP)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE) Mechanical Stream (Helicopter and Powerplants)-(RA, PE, JE) Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	180
9.	Indian Institute of Aeronautical science	B-22, Main Rohtak Road, Multan Nagar, New Delhi-110056	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE) Avionics Stream-(ES.IS)	120
10.	Indian Institute of Aeronautics	Nagloi, Nazafgad Road, Near HP Petrol Pump, Ranhoila, New Delhi-110041	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE). Mechanical Stream (Helicopter and Powerplants)-(RA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	180
11.	Indian Institute of Aircraft Engineering	A-191, Road No-4, Gali No-8, NH-8, Mahipalpur Extension, New Delhi-110037	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(HA, JE) Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Indraprasatha institute of Aeronautics	Behind Apno Ghar, Sector-77, Gurgoan-122001 (Haryana)	Avionics Stream-(ES, IS)	60
13.	Institute Aeronautical Engineering Technology	411, Kaderpatari, Opp. Kanodia Petrol Pump, Village Baburia. P O-Sheshpur Nari, Unnao (Uttar Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE). Avionics Stream-(RN)	120
14.	Institute of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering	Near No. 10 Boring, Gorakhnath, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE) Avionics Stream-(RN)	120
15.	J.R.N Institute of Aviation Technology	414/2, Rani Khera More, Mundka, New Delhi-110041	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE). Mechanical Stream (Helicopter and Powerplants)-(RA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	180
16.	Punjab Aircraft Maintenance Engineering College	Patiala Aviation Complex Civil Aerodrome, Patiala-147001 (Punjab)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE).	60
17.	Rajiv Gandhi Memorial College of Aeronautics	25, Gokulpuri, Opposite Sanganer Airport. Jaipur-302011 (LA, PE)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(Rajasthan)	60
18.	School of Aeronautics	H-947, Palam Extn. Part-1, Near Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi-110045	Avionics Stream-(ES, IS)	60
19.	School of Aeronautics, Neemrana	I-04, Rico Industrial Area, Neemrana, Distt: Alwar (Rajasthan)	Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	60
20.	School of Aviation Science and Technology	Delhi Flying Club, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110 003	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(IA, HA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(RN)	120
21.	School of Engineering and Technology	E-1071-72, Palam Extn. Part-1, Near Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi-110045	Avionics Stream-(ES, IS)	60
22.	Shree Jwalaji Institute of Aeronautical Engineering	117, Delhi-Meerut Road, Near ITC, Guldhar, Ghaziabad-201003 (Uttar Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE)	60

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Star Aviation Academy	P-76, New Palam Vihar, Gurgaon-122017 (Haryana)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE, JE).	60
24.	Uttarakhand Academy of Aircraft Maintenance Engineers	Milestone-10, NH-91, Aligarh Air Strip, Dhanipur, Post- Panethi, Aligarh-202001 (Uttar Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA). Mechanical Stream (Helicopter and Powerplants)-(RA, PE, JE).	120
EASTERN				
25.	Air Technical Training Institute	P.O. Calcutta Airport, Kolkata-700 052 (West Bengal.)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE).	60
26.	Aircraft Maintenance and Engineering Institute	Taki Road, Kazipara, Barasa, Kolkatta. 700124 (West Bengal)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(RN)	120
27.	Bharat Institute of Aeronautics	Patna Airport, Patna (Bihar)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS)	120
28.	Camellia Institute of Aviation	10 GN Block, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkatta-700091 (West Bengal)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants) (HA, PE)	60
29.	College of Aeronautical Engineering	Airport Road, Rani Gate, Borjhar, Guwahati 781015 (Assam)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE).	60
30.	Indian Institute of Aeronautical Science	Sonari Aerodrome, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS)	120
31.	Indian Institute of Aeronautical Science	Kolkata campus, P-253, Michael Nagar, Jessore Road, Kolkata (West Bengal)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS)	120
32.	North East Institute of Aeronautics	Opp. Guwahati Commerce College Boy's Hostel, RG Baruah Road, Guwahati-781003 (Assam)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE)	60
33.	Pailan Aviation Institute	Express Tower, 7th floor, 42 A, Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata-700017 (West Bengal)	Mechanical Stream (Helicopter and Powerplants)-(RA, JE).	60
34.	Utkal Aerospace and Engineering	356, Kolathia Road, Opposite to Biju Patnaik Park, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751030 (Orissa)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120

1	2	3	4	5
WESTERN				
35.	Academy of Aerospace and Aviation	'Swadesh Bhawan' 2, Press Complex, A.B.Road, Indore-452008 (Madhya Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120
36.	Academy of Carver Aviation	Plot No P-50, MIDC Industrial Area, Near Baramati Airport, Baramati, Pune (Maharashtra)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA,PE)	60
37.	Bombay Flying Club	18 Juhu Aerodrome, Santacruz (West), Mumbai-400 049 (Maharashtra)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120
38.	College of Aeronautics	Rajgruh Nagar.Opp to VIP Industries, Behind PNB, Hingna Road, Nagpur-440016 (Maharashtra)	Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	60
39.	HAL Pravara Aviation Institute	Ojhar, Nasik (Maharashtra)	Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	60
40.	Hindustan Aerospace and Engineering	Plot No-257, (Adjacent to Vidhyanchal English High School and Abhinav Shiksha Sansthan), Baner Road, Pune-411007 (Maharashtra)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(HA, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120
41.	Hindustan Institute of Aeronautics	Temple View No.4, Meori Temple, Lal Ghati, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA,PE,JE)	60
42.	Indian Aerospace and Engineering	9 and 10, Jawahar Co-operative Industrial Estate, Near MGM Hospital, Panvel, Navi Mumbai-410209 (Maharashtra)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120
43.	Institute of Aeronautics and Engineering	Sahpur Road, Parvalia Sadak, N.H.12, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE) Avionics Stream-(ES, IS)	120
44.	Institute Aircraft of Maintenance Engineering	Osmanpura, Aurangabad-431005 (Maharashtra)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(E8, IS and RN)	120
45.	NDC Institute of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering	Near Sagar Film City, Sayajpura, Ajwa Road, Vadodara (Gujarat)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120

1	2	3	4	5
46.	Pune Institute of Aviation Technology	Surey No. 12, Opp. Ravidarshan Building, Near Akashwani, Hadapsar, Pune- 411028 (Maharashtra)	Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	60
47.	Sha-Shib Aviation Academy	Guna (Madhya Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE).	60
48.	Sky College of Aeronautical Engineering	Near Police Station, Nagar Palika Road, Bhilai-3, Distt-Durg (Chhattisgarh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE). Mechanical Stream (Helicopter and Powerplants)-(RA, PE, JE).	120
49.	Thakur Institute of Aviation Technology	Thakur Complex, Kandivali (East), Mumbai-400101 (Maharashtra)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(HA, PE, JE). Mechanical Stream (Helicopter and Powerplants)-(RA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	180
50.	Western India Institute of the Aeronautics	No 4, Suketu Bungalows, Near Brahmakumaris Lotus House, Hansol, Ahmedabad-382475 (Gujarat)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE).	60
51.	WINGSSS College of Aviation Technology	140/6, Near Warje Chowk, NDA Road, Warje Malwadi, Pune-58 (Maharashtra)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(HA, PE, JE). Mechanical Stream (Helicopter and Powerplants)-(RA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	180
52.	Pawan Hans Helicopter Training Institute	Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd, Juhu Airport, SV Road Vile Parte (W) Mumbai-400056 (Maharashtra)	Mechanical Stream (Helicopter and Powerplants)-(RA.PE.JE).	60
53.	Indira Institute of Aircraft Engineering	Sarve No- 37, Manjari farm. Solapur Road, Pune- 412307 (Maharashtra)	Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	60

1	2	3	4	5
SOUTHERN				
54.	Academy of Aviation Engineering	No. 38-39, Prestige Enclave, Bettahalasur Cross, B B Road, N H-7, Bangalore-562157 (Karnataka)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)- (LA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream- (ES, IS and RN)	120
55.	Andhra Pradesh Aviation Academy	Government of Andhra Pradesh, Old Airport, Hyderabad-500011 (Andhra Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)- (LA, PE) Avionics Stream- (ES, IS and RN)	120
56.	Coimbatore Aeronautical College	298, Pollachi Main Road, Myleripalayam, Othakkalmandapam Coimbatore-641032 (Tamil Nadu)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)- (LA, HA, PE, JE). Mechanical Stream (Helicopter and Powerplants)- (RA, PE).	120
57.	Flytech Aviation Academy	Corporate Office: 1-8-303/33, Nagam Towers 3rd and 04th floor NTR circle, Minister Road, Secunderabad-500003 (Andhra Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)- (LA, HA, PE, JE). Mechanical Stream (Helicopter and Powerplants)- (RA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream- (ES, IS and RN)	180
58.	Hindustan Aviation Academy	P.B. No 3776, Chyinappannahally, Marathahally Post, Bangalore-560037 (Karnataka)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)- (LA, PE) Avionics Stream-(RN)	120
59.	Hindustan Institute of Engineering Technology	P.B. No. 1308, G.S.T. Road, ST. Thomas Mount, Chennai-600016 (Tamil Nadu)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)- (LA, HA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream- (RN)	120
60.	Hyderabad College of Aviation Technology	Ground Floor, Dr. Atma Rao Complex, Hydernagar, Kukatpally (JNTU) Hyderabad-500085 (Andhra Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)- (LA, PE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120
61.	Indian Institute of Aero-Space Technology and Management	Survey No. 158 and 160, Kompally Cross Roads, Secunderabad-500014 (Andhra Pradesh)	Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	60
62.	Institute Aircraft of Maintenance Engineers	N0.8-290, Old Airport Road, Gautam Nagar, Ferozguda, Secunderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)- (LA, PE,) Avionics Stream- (ES, IS and RN)	120

1	2	3	4	5
63.	Instrulab Institute of Aviation Technology	No 125, G S T.Road, Chrompet, Chennai-600 044 (Tamil Nadu)	Avionics Stream-(ES.IS and RN)	60
64.	Mount Zion College of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering	Kadammanitta, Dist-Pathanamthitta, (Kerala)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE, JE).	60
65.	Nehru College of Aeronautics and Applied Sciences	Kuniamuthur, Coimbatore-641008 (Tamil Nadu)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE, JE). Mechanical Stream (Helicopter and Powerplants)-(RA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	180
66.	Park School of Aeronautical Sciences	Aviashi Road, Kaniyur, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120
67.	Rajiv Gandhi Aviation Academy	190, Plassy Lane, Bowenpally, Near Malla Reddy Gardens Secunderabad-500011 (Andhra Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants) (LA, PE) Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120
68.	Regional Institute of Aviation	West Fort, Subhash Nagar Jn, Perunthanni, Vallakkadavu Post, Thiruvananthapuram 695008 (Kerala)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, HA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120
69.	Sha-Shib Aviation Academy	470-A /9, Near Saj Hotel and Resorts, opposite Cochin International Airport, Nedumbassery, P.O. Vappalassery, Cochin-683572 (Kerala)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120
70.	Sigma Aviation Academy	Corporate office: 1-8-303/33, Nagam Towers, 3rd and 04th floor, NTR circle, Minister Road, Secunderabad-500003. (Andhra Pradesh)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE). Avionics Stream-(ES, IS and RN)	120
71.	Southern College of Engineering and Technology	Luiz Nagar, Chalakudy, Kerala-680 307	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)-(LA, PE, JE).	60

1	2	3	4	5
72.	VSM Aerospace	CA No-15/1-A, 13th Cross, Sector-A, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore-560 064 (Karnataka)	Mechanical Stream (Aeroplane and Powerplants)- (LA., HA, PE, JE). Mechanical Stream (Helicopter and Powerplants)- (RA, PE, JE). Avionics Stream- (ES, IS and RN)	180

Accounting System in Railways

6642. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to dispense with the present accounting system of showing statement of cash and 'investible surplus' and switch over to a more transparent accrual based accounting system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the railways are paying any tax to the exchequer and also whether the dividend paid is treated as part of on capital and hence is treated as loan in perpetuity;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto;

(e) whether the railways propose to extend service tax to railway fares and freight;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The statement of 'Cash' and 'Investible Surplus' is not an accounting system, and has been discontinued in the Budget, 2010-11. Railways will attempt to completely switch-over to accrual based accounting in consonance with the accounting standards to be stipulated by the Government Accounting Standard Advisory Board (GASAB).

(c) and (d) Railways pay excise duty, custom duty, Value Added Tax etc. on the materials and stores purchased, as levied by the Government from time to

time. The 'Dividend' is paid at a specific rate on the Capital invested by General Revenues as recommended by Railway Convention Committee from time to time. The investment of the General Revenues in Railways is treated as loan, in perpetuity, by the Ministry of Finance.

(e) to (g) Imposition of Service Tax on freight on Railways as proposed in the Finance Bill, 2010, has been deferred till 30/06/2010. No Service Tax on passenger fare has been proposed.

[Translation]

Bank Loan for Public Sector Petroleum Companies

6643. SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) the names of the public sector petroleum companies which have taken loans from the banks alongwith the amount of loans taken by them;

(b) the company-wise status as on date and the amount of interest paid by these companies during the last three years, company-wise;

(c) whether the amount of loan taken by the Government if not being utilised by these companies properly;

(d) if so, whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) 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) The details of loans taken from

banks as on date and the interest paid by major oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)		
Name of PSU	Amount of Loan	Interest paid
Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)	4.97	2.75
Oil India Limited (OIL)	Nil	36.12
Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)	Nil	0.05
Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	21650.00	5282.00
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	15707.00	3147.68
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	21302.00	3752.60

(c) The loans were utilized for the purpose for which they were taken,

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Closed Public Sector Enterprises

6644. DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

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

(a) the number of Public Sector Enterprises Units closed down, till date;

(b) the details of loss of revenue per year to the Government on account of closure of these PSUs;

(c) whether there are plans of Government to revive these closed down units;

(d) if so, the amount required to revive the closed down units in the country;

(e) whether Government proposes to run these units under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the details of loss of revenue alone from Hindustan Photo Films Limited lying closed since 1994; and

(h) the future plan of the Government regarding the Hindustan Photo Films Limited and other units which are lying closed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) As per available information, 5 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have been closed between the period 2005-06 to 2008-09.

(b) No estimation on loss of revenue per year to the Government on account of closure of these PSUs is available; the Government is generally redeemed of meeting the expenditure on fixed cost (e.g. salaries and wages of employees) of these sick CPSEs.

(c) and (d) The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) was constituted in December 2004, to advise the Government for strengthening, modernizing, reviving, and restructuring of CPSEs. On the recommendations of BRPSE, the Government have, so far, approved 37 cases for revival and restructuring of CPSEs involving a cash assistance of Rs. 2,921 crore and a non-cash assistance of Rs. 12,333 crore.

(e) and (f) The concerned administrative ministries/ departments of the CPSEs prepare proposals for revival/ rehabilitation/closure or disinvestment on a case to case basis and refer the cases to BRPSE for its recommendations, which are thereafter put up for approval

of the Government. While recommending the revival proposals of CPSEs, all options are considered by BRPSE, including Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

(g) Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Ltd. is not closed.

(h) The future plans of CPSEs are made on case to case basis. In respect of Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Ltd. the company was referred to BRPSE and the Board has given its recommendation for its revival.

[English]

Opening of Gas Agency

6645. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion for allotment of gas agency in terms of population and distance;

(b) whether it is fact that the residents/consumers of Masaurhi sub-division, Patna are attached with a gas agency situated at Jahanabad which is about 16 kms. from Masaurhi;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to open an Indane LPG gas agency there; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have freedom to set up LPG distributors as per their commercial consideration based on feasibility and economic viability of the locations as per their own guidelines, which are available on the websites of the concerned OMCs as well as at their Regional/State Offices.

A location is treated as feasible for appointing of a regular LPG distributor if it is found to be having a sales potential of 2500 refill per month in the defined area of operation for Urban distributor and within a radius of 15 kms. for Rural and Urban/Rural distributor. For

Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY), the location is treated as feasible if it having a sales potential of 600 refill per month in a cluster villages.

(b) to (d) At present, the consumers of Masaurhi are catered to by an LPG distributor of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) located at Masaurhi whose customer strength is about 3000 with monthly refill sales of about 2000 cylinders and adequate refill slack is available to take care of the LPG requirements of Masaurhi. Before commissioning of LPG distributor by BPCL at Masaurhi, the LPG customers were catered by IOC distributor which is situated at Jehanabad. Subsequent to the commissioning of BPCL's LPG distributor at Masaurhi, 355 customers of Masaurhi were transferred from IOC's distributor. However, around 480 customers are still catered by IOC's distributor as per the instructions of SDO, Masaurhi.

Advertisement for the locations under Marketing Plan 2008-10 for the State of Bihar has already been released and it does not include the location Masaurhi as it was not found feasible. Feasibility of locations is periodically carried out and the locations found feasible are included in the next Marketing Plan. LPG distributor shall be opened in Masaurhi only if the location is found feasible for the next Industry Marketing Plan.

[Translation]

Pilferage of Oil from IOC Pipeline

6646. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that oil worth crores of rupees was stolen from the supply line of Indian Oil in March, 2010 at Panipat refinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) has reported a total of three cases of pilferage at Panipat Refinery in the month of March,

2010. A loss of Rs. 22.70 lakhs has been estimated, which is being claimed from insurance company. The details of the three pilferage cases reported are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) FIR has been lodged in respect of each pilferage case with the Haryana Police for investigating into the matter.

Statement

Sl.No.	Pipeline Unit	Chainage (KM)	Pilferage Detected on	FIR No./ Date	FIR registered under Act	Police Station	District	Financial implication if any*
CRUDE PIPELINES								
1.	SMPL (Chaksu-Panipat Section)	292.04	01.03.2010	30/02.3.2010	IPC-J860, PDP Act 1984 SEC 379/511PMP Act 1962	Gohana	Sonepat, Haryana	15.7 Lakhs
PRODUCT PIPELINES								
1.	Delhi-Ambala Section of MJPL	65.100	10.03.2010	78/11.3.2010	IPC 1860 Sec. 379/511	Gannaur	Sonepat, Haryana	7.0 Lakhs
2.	Delhi-Ambala Section of MJPL	102.050	15.03.2010	126/15.03.10	IPC 1860 Sec. 379, PDP-1984 Sec. 3/4, PMP 1962	Panipat Model Town	Panipat, Haryana	No Loss
Total Loss								22.70 Lakhs

*To be claimed from insurance.

[English]

Automatic Weather Station

6647. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up automatic weather stations at airports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds to be spent thereon; and

(d) the benefits likely to be derived therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b)

Yes, Madam. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has installed automatic Aviation Weather Observing System (AWOS) at eight airports namely Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Guwahati, Amritsar, Jaipur, Hyderabad and Bangalore during the last two years and installation at 42 more airports have been planned.

(c) Funds to be invested on setting up of these systems is approximately Rs. 50 crores (Rupees fifty crores).

(d) These Automatic systems are used for real time acquisition, processing, dissemination and display of meteorological parameters like Wind Speed and Direction, Temperature, Humidity, Atmospheric Pressure, Height of base of Low Clouds and Runway Visual Range (RVR),

All of these parameters affect landing and take-off operations. Such automation is to help in better control of air traffic flow and increased air safety.

[*Translation*]

New Pay Scales to Employees of PSUs

6648. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether orders have been issued in regard to granting new pay scales to the employees and officers of Public Sectors Undertakings (PSUs) from January 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the PSUs which have implemented the said orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Government has issued policy guidelines for wage negotiations for wage revision (which falls due on a general basis from 01.01.2007) in respect of unionized workmen in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) vide O.M dated 09.11.2006 and 01.05.2008. The Government has also issued O.Ms dated 26.11.2008, 09.02.2009 and 02.04.2009 in respect of pay revision of executives and non-unionised supervisors of CPSEs, w.e.f. 01.01.2007 in Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) pay scales. The above O.Ms are in public domain.

(c) The implementation of these O.Ms rests with the concerned CPSEs and their administrative Ministries/ Departments. The data on pay revision of unionised workmen, executives & non-unionised supervisors of CPSEs are not centrally maintained by this Department.

[*English*]

Purchase of Aircraft

6649. SHRI PURNMASI RAM
SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA:
SHRI P. BALRAM:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had placed order for the purchase of aircraft without carrying out any analysis on American Boeing and French Airbus Company and taking loan from the foreign banks;

(b) if so, the details of the matter; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Orders for purchase of aircraft with M/s. Boeing and M/s. Airbus Industrie were placed after the Board and Government approval. Detailed analysis were carried out by Air India and Indian Airlines and examined by multiple Government agencies, prior to approval.

Processing of Soyabeans and Potatoes

6650. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the details of schemes for promotion of Soyabeans and Potatoes processing in the country;

(b) the financial assistance provided for this purpose during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether any public sector enterprise working in processing of Soyabeans and Potatoes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the country 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 or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of food processing industries, which alongwith other sectors also cover soyabeans and Potatoes in the category of fruit and vegetable processing.

The details of financial assistance provided for the units pertaining to fruit and vegetables including soyabean

and potato during last three years State-wise is as per Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The data on public sector enterprises working in processing of soyabeans and potatoes is not centrally maintained in the Ministry. National Research Centre on Soyabean, Directorate of Soya Research,

Indore (MP) and Central Potato Research Institute, Kufri, Distt Shimla (HP), are the existing organizations under the administrative control of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). However, there is no public sector enterprise working in processing of soyabeans and potatoes under the administrative control of the Ministry.

Statement

F&VP Sector

State-wise financial assistance provided during the years 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Total of 2007-08		Total of 2008-09		Total of 2009-10	
		No. of Proposals	Released amount	No. of Proposals	Released amount	No. of Proposals	Released amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	154.5	9	148.34	20	305.22366
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0		0		0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0		0		0
4.	Assam	0	0	1	7.53	1	37.5
5.	Bihar	2	12.225	0	0		0
6.	Chandigarh	0	0		0		0
7.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0		0
8.	Delhi	0	0	1	25	2	50
9.	Goa	0	0	1	24.57	1	24.26
10.	Gujarat	4	30.705	11	216.015	24	353.35
11.	Haryana	6	85.495	0	0	4	52.575
12.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	1	2.745
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	3	18.09
14.	Jharkhand	2	9.09	0	2		21.09
15.	Karnataka	11	137.595	4	73	7	121.165
16.	Kerala	20	349.435	16	227.97	12	239.68
17.	Madhya Pradesh	3	57.29	4	60.01	1	4.327

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Maharashtra	13	186.885	17	219.795	22	331.088
19.	Manipur	0	0	1	8.325	5	102.325
20.	Meghalaya	0	0		0		0
21.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	1	11
22.	Nagaland	0	0	1	5		0
23.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	3	20.72
24.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0		0
25.	Punjab	6	109.04	5	108.97	1	22.5
26.	Rajasthan	2	26.32	4	60.08	7	62.43733
27.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0		0
28.	Tamil Nadu	28	479.42	18	289.87	22	378.495
29.	Tripura	0	0	0	0		0
30.	Uttar Pradesh	10	144.845	4	53.92	3	42.1
31.	Uttrakhand	0	0	0	0	2	3.83
32.	West Bengal	7	136.635	1	25	3	34.245
Total		122	1919.48	98	1553.395	147	2238.74599

Sufferings of Weavers

6651. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports been received from various quarters including media in regard to sufferings of weavers in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra on account of threats of rising prices and other reasons; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to alleviate the sufferings of the affected weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Madam. The State Government of Maharashtra has reported that they have not received any report or complaint in regard to sufferings of weavers in the

Vidarbha region on account of threats of rising prices and other reasons.

(b) Does not arise. However, the Government of India is implementing number of Schemes to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and enhance the income and socio-economic status of the handloom weavers by upgrading their skill and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. During the 11th Five Year Plan, the following schemes are being implemented for upliftment of handloom sector:-

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

*[Translation]***Export of Indian Textiles**

6652. SHRI IYARAJ SINGH:
 RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH
 SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:
 SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the stabilization of Indian Rupee, there has been a surge in the export of various textile products;

(b) if so, the details of export of various segments for the last two years and current year; and

(c) the details of export orders have been received by the textile industry during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The exports of India's Textiles & Clothing (T&C) have been adversely affected over the previous two financial years due to global economic slowdown as well as unfavorable exchange rate variations. The segment-wise exports of Textiles & clothing products for the financial year 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto December 2009) is enclosed as Statement.

(c) No data is maintained regarding export orders received by the textile industry.

Statement*India's textiles exports at a glance (Principal Commodities)*

(Prepared on 12.04.2010)

Item	2007-08		2008-09		Variation		Apr.-Dec., 2008-09		Apr.-Dec., 2009-10 (P)		Variation	
	Rs. Crore	US\$ Mn	Rs. Crore	US\$ Mn	Rupee	US\$	Rs. Crore	US\$ Mn	Rs. Crore	US\$ Mn	Rupee	US\$
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Readymade Garment	36497.79	9069.80	47110.00	10242.80	29.08%	12.93%	32337.81	7308.81	33191.91	6932.18	2.64%	-5.15%
RMG of cotton including accessories	30335.79	7538.53	38521.06	8375.36	26.98%	11.10%	26219.59	5926.00	26174.80	5466.65	-0.17%	-7.75%
RMG of Man-made fibre	3912.26	972.21	4720.31	1026.30	20.65%	5.56%	3436.05	776.60	4242.55	886.06	23.47%	14.10%
RMG of other textile material	2249.74	559.07	3868.63	841.13	71.96%	50.45%	2682.17	606.21	2774.56	579.47	3.44%	-4.41%
Cotton Textiles	27599.81	6858.63	21808.20	4741.60	-20.98%	-30.87%	16936.13	3827.81	16081.45	3358.64	-5.05%	-12.26%
Cotton raw including waste	8865.39	2203.07	2865.86	623.10	-67.67%	-71.72%	2119.67	479.08	4197.78	876.71	98.04%	83.00%
Cotton yarn, fabrics & madeups	18734.42	4655.56	18942.34	4118.50	1.11%	-11.54%	14816.46	3348.73	11883.67	2481.92	-19.79%	-25.88%
Man-made textiles	12785.02	3177.11	15088.11	3280.50	18.01%	3.25%	11768.11	2659.76	13415.25	2801.80	14.00%	5.34%
Manmade staple fibres	1121.72	278.75	1172.01	254.82	4.48%	-8.58%	948.63	214.40	1176.39	245.69	24.01%	14.59%
Manmade yarn, fabrics & madeups	11663.30	2898.36	13916.10	3025.68	19.32%	4.39%	10819.48	2445.36	12238.86	2556.10	13.12%	4.53%
Wool & Woolen textiles	1783.13	443.11	2199.50	478.22	23.35%	7.92%	1709.94	386.47	1768.95	369.45	3.45%	-4.40%
RMG of Wool	1409.55	350.28	1742.98	378.96	23.66%	8.19%	1359.39	307.24	1460.16	304.96	7.41%	-0.74%
Woolen yarn, fabrics & madeups	373.58	92.84	456.52	99.26	22.20%	6.92%	350.55	79.23	308.79	64.49	-11.91%	-18.60%
Silk	2646.75	657.72	3106.98	675.53	17.39%	2.71%	2351.28	531.42	2091.23	436.76	-11.06%	-17.81%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
RMG of Silk	1093.67	271.78	1437.72	312.59	31.46%	15.02%	1058.59	239.26	1026.72	214.43	-3.01%	-10.38%
Natural silk yarn, fabrics & madeups	1540.93	382.93	1664.03	361.80	7.99%	-5.52%	1287.60	291.02	1048.56	218.99	-18.56%	-24.75%
Silk waste	12.15	3.02	5.23	1.14	-56.95%	-62.34%	5.09	1.15	15.95	3.33	213.36%	189.56%
Handloom Products*								0.00	845.86	176.66	N.A.	N.A.
Total Textiles	81312.50	20206.38	89312.79	19418.65	9.84%	-3.90%	65103.27	14714.27	67394.65	14075.48	3.52%	-4.34%
Handicrafts	5844.12	1452.28	4939.56	1073.97	-15.48%	-26.05%	3963.29	895.76	3274.21	683.82	-17.39%	-23.66%
Handicrafts (excluding handmade carpets)	2046.21	508.49	1375.48	299.06	-32.78%	-41.19%	1143.44	258.43	712.99	148.91	-37.65%	-42.38%
Carpets (excluding silk) handmade	3725.80	925.87	3505.37	762.15	-5.92%	-17.68%	2787.38	629.99	2528.59	528.10	-9.28%	-16.17%
Silk carpets	72.11	17.92	58.71	12.76	-18.58%	-28.77%	32.47	7.34	32.63	6.81	0.49%	-7.14%
Coir & Coir Manufacturers	644.87	160.25	680.89	148.04	5.59%	-7.62%	494.83	111.84	574.29	119.94	16.06%	7.25%
Coir & Coir Manufacturers	644.87	160.25	680.89	148.04	5.59%	-7.62%	494.83	111.84	574.29	119.94	16.06%	7.25%
Jute	1319.36	327.86	1375.80	299.13	4.28%	-8.76%	1100.08	248.63	793.16	165.65	-27.90%	-33.37%
Floor covering of jute	317.56	78.91	251.58	54.70	-20.78%	-30.69%	196.98	44.52	213.24	44.54	8.25%	0.03%
Other jute manufactures	322.22	80.07	491.71	106.91	52.60%	33.52%	400.45	90.51	232.74	48.61	-41.88%	-46.29%
Jute yarn	215.14	53.46	216.92	47.16	0.83%	-11.78%	170.67	38.57	101.41	21.18	-40.58%	-45.09%
Jute hessian	464.44	115.41	415.59	90.36	-10.52%	-21.71%	331.98	75.03	245.77	51.33	-25.97%	-31.59%
Total Textiles Exports	89120.85	22146.78	96309.04	20939.80	8.07%	-5.45%	70661.47	15970.50	72036.31	15044.89	1.95%	-5.80%
% Textile Exports	13.59%	13.59%	11.47%	11.47%			10.82%	10.82%	12.05%	12.05%		
India's exports of all commodities	655863.52	162983.90	839977.96	182630.50	28.07%	12.05%	652919.56	147569.12	597974.11	124887.82	-8.42%	-15.37%

Source : Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities & Countries), DGCI&S for export figures in Rupee and Department of Commerce (Intranet) -Exchange rate

*Handloom Products has been included as commodities first time in 2009-10

Exchange rate (Source: DOC intranet) Apr.-Dec., 2008-09 44.2450

Apr.-Dec., 2009-10 47.8809

[English]

Operation of Airlines

6653. SHRI MANISH TEWARI Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries with which bilateral agreements have been signed for operation of their flights in the country during the past six years.

(b) the number of foreign airlines flying to various destinations in the country along with the weekly frequency as on 1 April, 2010.

(c) the number of countries which have allowed flights to Indian owned and India based airlines to fly to different destinations in their respective countries indicating weekly frequency of flights during the last six years.

(d) the number of India based Airlines flying to foreign destinations along with weekly frequency, country-wise and destination-wise; and

(e) the total quantum of seats out of the bilateral rights available to India that India based and India owned airlines are using and the total quantum of seat, as per bilateral agreements, foreign airlines flying to India are using as of 1 April?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) India has signed 12 bilateral Air Services Agreements (ASAs) with foreign countries during the past six years. However, India has totally 104 bilateral ASAs with foreign countries.

(b) As on 1st April, 2010, 72 foreign airlines operate to/from various destinations in India providing 1356 services/week and 3, 26, 705 seats/week.

(c) and (d) Indian carriers are eligible to operate to/from 104 countries with whom India has bilateral Air Services Agreements. However, four Indian carriers are operating on international sectors to 25 foreign countries operating 990 frequencies per week to 35 destinations. The seat-capacity utilization per week by the Indian carriers during the last six years are as under:

2004	-	77,097 seats per week
2005	-	1,14,664 seats per week
2006	-	1,16,465 seats per week
2007	-	1,33,650 seats per week
2008	-	1,70,053 seats per week
2009	-	1,59,846 seats per week

(e) As on 1st April, 2010, 7,11,356 seats per week are available as capacity entitlements to the Indian carriers on a reciprocal basis. The Indian carriers and foreign carriers are utilizing 1,70,914 and 3,26,705 seats per week respectively.

Salem Airport

6654. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has handed over additional land to Airports Authority of India for the upgradation of Salem Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the current status of modernisation/upgradation of the said airport?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Modernisation and upgradation of the Salem airport is subject to availability of 563 acres of additional land from the State Government to Airports Authority of India (AAI) free of cost and free from all encumbrances.

Modernisation of Chandigarh Airport

6655. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any steps to modernise the Chandigarh Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the time by which the above said work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether any allocations have been made in the budget of current year for the said purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken construction of a new Integrated Terminal Building to cater for 400 passengers, with aerobridges and other modern passenger facilities with an estimated cost of Rs. 77.97 crores. The expected date of completion of the new integrated terminal building is September, 2010. In addition, a new Joint Venture Company (JVC) has been formed with Airports Authority of India, Government of Punjab/GMADA and Government of Haryana/HUDA

as Joint Venture partners to undertake the construction of an international civil passenger terminal and associated works at Chandigarh.

(d) and (e) An amount of Rs. 6.80 crores has been allocated for the work related to construction of new integrated terminal building in Budget Estimates for 2010-11.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Sites for Petrol Outlets

6656. SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes who have not been provided sites by Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited even after allotment of dealership/outlet for petrol pumps; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) As on 01.04.2010, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs.) *viz.*, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have issued 1315 Letter of Intent (LOI) for Retail Outlet (RO) dealerships to the candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) category, which are yet to be commissioned.

(b) As per the extant policy, selected candidates for Retail Outlet dealerships belonging to SC/ST categories are eligible for Corpus Fund facility. Under this scheme, OMC have to procure suitable sites following the laid down procedures and make available the ready ROs with all basic facilities at its own cost.

However, the commissioning of the ROs, gets delayed, at times, as either no Government land is available for these dealerships or no appropriate offers of land are received against public advertisement for land by the Corporation.

In order to mitigate the problem of pending LOIs holders, this Ministry *vide* its letter dated 6.9.2006, have advised OMCs that temporary Company Owned Company Operated (COCOs) should be offered and handed over to the pending LOI holders under SC/ST category.

[*English*]

New Exploration Licensing Policy

6657. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

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

(a) whether there has been a sharp rise in exploration activities after the initiation of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of area under exploration in the pre-NELP period the increase after initiation of the NELP; and

(d). the extent to which the import bill has been reduced after the initiation of the NELP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes Madam, under the seven bid rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) held so far, 203 exploration blocks have been awarded in onland and offshore area, including deepwater area, to National Oil Companies and Private Companies. The pace of exploration activities in the country has increased manifold after the introduction of NELP. The major achievements of NELP are as under:

- About 2, 73, 487 Line Kilo Meter (LKM) of 2D and 1, 37, 480 Sq.KM of 3D seismic data acquired, processed and interpreted and 243 exploratory well have been drilled in NELP blocks so far
- 78 hydrocarbon discoveries (23 oil and 55 gas) made in 23 blocks, including major gas discoveries in Krishna-Godavari deepwater area
- Reserves accretion to the tune of 642 MMT (O + OEG) realized from NELP discoveries as on 01.04.2009

- Commercial production of oil and gas commenced from 6 discoveries, including first deepwater oil and gas production in the country. Current oil and gas production from these discoveries is about 32, 000 bbl/day of oil and 62 MMSCMD of gas respectively. The gas production from NELP blocks during 2009-10 was about 30% of country's total gas production during the year.
- Exploration and Development investment has been made in NELP blocks as on 01.04.2010 is about US \$ 13.81 Billion.

(c) Before the Launch of NELP in 1999, the exploration activities were carried out primarily by National Oil Companies viz. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Oil India Limited in blocks awarded to them on nomination basis. Further, under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, an area of about 0.15 Million Sq.Km (i.e, 5% of the total sedimentary area of 3.14 Million Sq. Km) was awarded under the Pre-NELP rounds for 28 exploration blocks prior to launch of NELP.

Under seven bid rounds of NELP held so far, about 1.39 Million Sq.Km area has been awarded for exploration, which is about 44% of the total sedimentary area of the country. Therefore, after the launch of NELP, the total area awarded under the PSC regime for exploration in the country increased to 1.54 Million Sq.Km, which is about 49% of the total sedimentary area.

(d) The oil import bill has been reduced by the extent of oil production from NELP discoveries.

Rail Road Integration System

6658. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI S. ALAGIRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have examined and considered the various schemes for rail road integration in the recent past; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. In order to facilitate rail road integration and

provide end to end logistics, Railways have taken following initiatives-

1. Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and 15 other private Container Train Operators have been allowed to operate container trains and provide door-to-door services to the customers.
2. Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have been permitted to develop Rail-side Warehousing Complexes at various locations to provide warehousing and door to door services to customers.
3. Lease holders permitted under Parcel Leasing Policy also provide end to end logistics.
4. Roll-on-roll-off which is successfully in operation on Konkan Railways also provides rail road integration. It is also proposed to introduce the same on other zonal railways.

Audit and Accounts Department

6659. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the posts of Senior Section Officer (A/CS), Senior Travelling Inspector (A/CS), Senior Inspector of Store (A/CS) working in the Indian Railways were accorded Group (B) status by the Sixth Central Pay Commission;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have not implemented the said recommendations while implementing the Sixth Central Pay Commission Report;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the criteria in vogue in Indian Railways for classification of Railways Services Posts;

(e) whether the Railways have received representations to relook at this classification especially for the said posts; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto and outcome thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Various posts under Ministry of Railways have been defined and classified in Indian Railway Establishment Code. The classification is based on pay structure, administrative and functional requirements of multi disciplinary operational system.

(e) Yes, Madam.

(f) Existing classification of the above posts has been continued.

[*Translation*]

Opening of LPG Agency

6660. SHRI KAMAL KISHOR 'COMMANDO': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to open a LPG gas agency in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Bahraich area; 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) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are in the process of setting up 10 new LPG distributors in Baharaich district of Uttar Pradesh under various Industry Marketing Plan/Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana. The details are as under

Sl. No.	Name of location	Marketing Plan/ RGGLVY
1.	Chitaura	1999-2000
2.	Huzurpur	1999-2000
3.	Phakharpur Dev. Block	1999-2000
4.	Bahraich	2004-07
5.	Mahasi	RGGLVY
6.	Nawanganj	RGGLVY
7.	Nanpara Dehati	RGGLVY
8.	Patnamalipur	RGGLVY
9.	Tulsipur	RGGLVY
10.	Wazirganj	RGGLVY

Commissioning/opening of distributors involves Field Verification of Credentials of the selected candidate, construction of godown/showroom and obtaining statutory clearances. It is therefore, not possible to indicate any time frame for commissioning/opening of LPG distributors, but every effort is made to do so as quickly as possible.

Processing of Meat

6661. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide special financial assistance to State Governments to promote the food processing industries engaged in processing and export of meat and meat products including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details and the names of those units which export maximum quantum of said products during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of grants given to each State during the last three years for this purpose, unit-wise;

(d) whether the Government has sought report about the expenditure incurred by this industry or State Governments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant & 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 including meat processing industries.

(b) No such data is maintained by this Ministry.

(c) The State-wise details of grants given to meat processing industries during the last three years is given as Statement.

(d) and (e): No such data is maintained by this Ministry.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
22.	Punjab					3	52.15	3	52.15
23.	Rajasthan								
24.	Sikkim								
25.	Tamil Nadu								
26.	Tripura								
27.	Uttar Pradesh	5	119.77	4	97.88	7	171.12	16	388.77
28.	Uttaranchal								
29.	West Bengal	2	16.23			2	25.19	4	41.41
30.	Chandigarh								
31.	Puducherry								
Total		10	208.08	8	180.18	23	495.74	41	883.99

*[English]***Capital Punishment**

6662. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission in its 187th Report made some suggestions on 'mode of execution of death sentence and incidental matters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

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

(b) As informed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Law Commission has recommended that the Section 354(5) of Cr. P.C. be amended by providing an alternative mode of execution of death sentence by administering lethal injection until the accused is dead.

(c) Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the seventh schedule of the Constitution of India and are administered by the State Governments. Implementation of recommendations is subject to receipt of views of the State Governments and Central Government taking a holistic view on the recommendation and views of the State Governments.

Inconvenience to Air Passengers

6663. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN
SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated guidelines to make airlines more accountable and penalise them for harassment of passengers due to delays;

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

(c) whether the incidents of indecent behaviour with foreign and Indian travellers at every airport have come to light in the country;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to deal with such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Complaints of scheduled domestic airlines have been received from passengers regarding missing/lost baggage, refund of tickets in case of delays/cancellation, denial of facilities like wheel chair, meals/snacks in case of delayed flights, etc.

Being regulatory body for airline operations, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has taken up these complaints with the airlines for suitable redressal.

All the scheduled domestic airlines have been advised to display their citizen charter on their respective websites various facilities offered to the passengers, both in terms of free and chargeable, in a conspicuous manner so that passengers are aware of these before booking air tickets. Airlines also refund the tickets as per regulations issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation, in case of cancellation of flight.

[Translation]

Operational Expenditure

6664. SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operational expenditure of the Railways has again started increasing from the year 2009-10 after having been in the declining order since 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the factors responsible for the increase in operational expenditure; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Railways to control the operational expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. The operational expenditure, *i.e.* ordinary working expenses, normally show an increasing trend. However, there has been a sharp increase from 2008-09 as shown below:

Year	Ordinary Working Expenses (Rs. in crore)
2006-07	37432.53
2007-08	41033.17
2008-09	54349.30
2009-10	66152.38 (Approx)

(c) The operational/ordinary working expenses have increased sharply after 2007-08 primarily due to impact of implementation of recommendations of 6th Pay

Commission. Other factors contributing to the increase in expenditure include higher price of fuel, increase in lease charges, higher cost of stores, increased rate of dearness allowance etc.

(d) All possible measures are being taken to contain expenditure, which include control in areas such as fuel/power consumption, contractual payments and purchase of materials, productive use of manpower, better utilization of assets, improved inventory management and steps for reduction in the cost of operations and maintenance of rolling stock and other assets.

[English]

LPG Distributorship in Karnataka

6665. SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA:
SHRI ADAGOORU H. VISHWANATH:

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

(a) the total number of LPG outlets which have been sanctioned and opened in the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 in Karnataka, OMC-wise and district-wise; and

(b) the time by which the LPG outlets are likely to be opened in tribal areas of Karnataka especially the areas like Mysore, Kodagu and Chamarajnagar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) During the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have advertised 62 locations for setting up of LPG distributors in the State of Karnataka. Out of which 8 LPG distributor has since been commissioned and Letter of Intent (LoI) for 12 locations have already been issued. The selection for the balance locations is in progress. The company-wise/district-wise details are available with the Director (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

In addition to this, notice inviting applications for selection of LPG distributors under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitruk Yojana (RGGLVY) have been issued on 31.03.2010 by OMCs for establishing 48 new LPG distributors in the State of Karnataka especially in rural areas and undercovered areas, out of which 3 are in Mysore, two in Kodagu and three in Chamarajanagar district and the selection of the same is in progress as per policy.

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

Lumding-Silchar Railway Section

6666. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an in-house audit by the Railways has revealed an unproductive expenditure of more than 880 crore on a diverted alignment in the Lumding-Silchar hill section of North Frontier Railway due to improper planning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this has led to further delays in execution of works and escalation of the project cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Railways against the authorities responsible for this and to ensure to expedite the work on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Principal Director of Audit, Northeast Frontier Railway has prepared a Draft Paragraph on Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam, Badarpur-Kumarghat gauge conversion project covering expenditure and planning issues. Northeast Frontier Railway has been asked by them to verify the facts and figures and communicate Administrative Remarks on the same.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Uniform Price of Gas

6667. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

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

(a) whether the Government has invited tenders from foreign companies alongwith the domestic companies for fixing uniform pricing of gas in the country;

(b) if so, the number of foreign as well as domestic companies which submitted offer;

(c) the name of company finally selected alongwith the basis of selection thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received requisite suggestions from the said company;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the funds paid by the Government to the said company in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) GAIL (India) Ltd. on behalf of Government had invited tenders for consultancy assignment on uniform gas pricing mechanism in the country.

(b) The number of foreign as well as domestic companies who had submitted the bids are as follows:

Indian arm of Foreign Companies	:	5
Domestic Companies	:	3

(c) M/s Mercado Energy Markets India Pvt. Ltd. was finally selected on the basis of the lowest price bid after satisfaction of bid evaluation criterion.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. The major recommendation of consultant inter alia, are as follows:-

(i) Two separate pools for the power & fertilizers sectors,

(ii) The term for the pool; should be 4-5 years,

(iii) There should be a pool operator.

(f) The tender value of the consultancy assignment awarded to M/s Mercados was Rs. 8.47 lacs exclusive of service tax @ 10.23%. Out of the above amount of Rs. 8.47 lacs, around 75% of the amount *i.e.* Rs. 6.35 lacs have been paid to the party till date by GAIL.

Availability of Molasses

6668. SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

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

(a) whether the byproduct of sugarcane molasses available in the country is also being used for mixing with petroleum products in addition to brewing liquor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of molasses used for mixing in petroleum products and in brewing liquor separately during each of the last three years; and

(d) the average price of molasses for both purposes separately during the said period?

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

(a) to (d) Molasses are not used for mixing with petroleum products. Ethanol, produced from molasses is allowed to be blended with Motor Spirit (MS) to the extent of 5% under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme. During 2006-09, 58.7 crore litre of ethanol was procured and blended against requirement of 180 crore litres.

The quantum of molasses used for production of potable alcohol during last three years in respect of 10 major producing states is as follows:

2006-07	9.0 million MT
2007-08	9.2 million MT
2008-09	7.0 million MT

The average price of molasses varies from state to state and the price range is as follows:

Year	Average Price including all taxes (Rs. per MT)
2006-07	1167-4543
2007-08	1279-4253
2008-09	3433-6906

*[English]***Independent Regulator for Railways**

6669. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission in its mid-term appraisal has recommended for setting up of an independent regulator for Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) The Planning Commission has recommended that in order to put Railway fares on a rational basis, it is essential to establish a Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority.

(c) The Ministry is not in agreement with recommendation of Planning Commission.

Delinking of Wagons

6670. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether delinking of wagons from goods trains in motion is on the rise in sections falling under the Chennai division of the Southern Railway, causing frequent traffic disruptions and raising concerns about safety as well;

(b) the number of incidents of delinking of wagons from goods trains in motion, reported during the last three years and current year in the country, zone-wise; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. Cases of delinking of wagons in Chennai Division of Southern Railway have shown only a marginal increase from 09 to 2008-09 to 10 in 2009-10.

(b) A statement is enclosed, which indicates a declining trend in such cases on Indian Railways over the last three years.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

(b) The incidents of delinking of wagons from goods trains in motion reported during the last three years and upto the current year on Indian Railways are as given below:

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Central Railway	59	48	58
Eastern Railway	22	18	11
East Central Railway	67	72	66
East Coast Railway	48	53	74
Northern Railway	31	26	18
North Central Railway	66	76	73
North Eastern Railway	1	6	0
North East Frontier Railway	10	2	4
North Western Railway	20	10	14
Southern Railway	58	53	37
South Central Railway	47	25	46
South Eastern Railway	191	156	157
South East Central Railway	106	112	123
South Western Railway	43	44	26
Western Railway	37	30	25
West Central Railway	71	62	45
Indian Railways (Total)	877	793	777

[*Translation*]

Exploration of Oil Reserves in Kosi Basin of Bihar

6671. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) since when the work pertaining to exploration of oil reserves starting in Kosi Basin in Bihar;

(b) whether the work pertaining to exploration has not been completed so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to complete the said work in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) The Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) was granted on 08.06.2005 in the block GV-ONN-2002/1 awarded under fourth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-IV) in Bihar. Subsequently, one block each was awarded under NELP-VI and NELP-VII respectively.

About 1907 Line Kilo Meter (LKM) of 2D and 882 Sq. Km of 3D seismic data has been acquired, processed and interpreted and one exploratory well has been drilled

in the awarded blocks. An exploratory investment to the tune of US\$ 42.18 MM has been made as on 01.04.2010. So far, there has been no hydrocarbon discovery.

Committed Work Programme in different Phases will be carried out in the awarded blocks as per timelines stipulated in Production Sharing Contracts.

Oil Bonds

6672. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue Oil Bonds to meet the loss suffered by oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether loss making oil companies have made any efforts to find out any other measures to meet their losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) As the retail selling prices of the sensitive petroleum products namely, Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG are not being maintained in line with the international oil prices, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) incur under-recoveries on the sale of these petroleum products. To protect the interest of the common man, the Government has been following an equitable Burden Sharing Mechanism, to ensure that the burden of under-recoveries is shared by all the stakeholders.

Under the said Burden Sharing Mechanism, the under-recoveries of the OMCs have been compensated as per the details given below:

(Rs. Crore)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total Under-recovery of OMCs	49,387	77,123	1,03,292
Oil Bonds issued by the Government	24,121	35,290	71,292
Assistance given by the PSU Upstream Oil Companies	20,507	25,708	32,000
Borne by OMCs	4,159	16,125	Nil

During the year 2009-10, the OMCs have incurred under-recoveries of Rs. 46,051 crore. Ministry of Finance has released budgetary support of Rs. 12,000 crore as the share of the Government towards meeting the under-recoveries for the year 2009-10. The PSU Upstream Oil Companies have also contributed Rs. 8,364 crore to the OMCs for their under-recoveries on Petrol and Diesel by way of discount on crude/products during the first three quarters of 2009-10. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has requested Ministry of Finance to provide a further cash assistance of Rs. 19,620.95 crore to fully compensate the OMCs' under-recoveries on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG during 2009-10.

As per the above Burden Sharing Mechanism, the OMCs have not reported any loss during the years 2006-07 to 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April-December 2009).

[English]

Evaluation of Machineries of Closed Units of HFCL and FCIL

6673. DR. ANUP KUMAR SAHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated scrap value of machineries and equipments lying in each of the closed units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL);

(b) the area of land along with character of usage of land possessed by each of the closed units for factory and township purposes separately and valuation of the same based on the present market rate; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government for gainful utilisation of the said land and machinery lying idle since many years?

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

(a) The details of estimated scrap value of machinery and equipments of the closed units of the HFCL and FCIL, done by M/s. Project and Development India Limited (PDIL) are as under:-

Units of HFCL/FCIL	Scrap value of un-useable items (Rs. in crore)
1	2
Durgapur (HFCL)	39.84
Barauni (HFCL)	37.89

HFCL:

Figures: land in acres

Land Area	Durgapur	Barauni	Haldia
Factory	539.42	405.89	167.67
Township and others	245.21	279.54	86.17
TOTAL	784.63	685.43	253.84

FCIL:

Figures: land in acres

Land Area	Sindri	Gorakhpur	Ramagundam	Talcher
Factory	922	300	919	569
Township	2533	693	365	283
Miscellaneous: Like link road, ash ponds etc.	2720	—	—	52

The preliminary valuation of land has been done by M/s. PDIL. According to PDIL, the estimated valuation of land is Rs. 192.99 crore for Durgapur unit, Rs. 128.37 crore for Barauni unit of HFCL and Rs. 367.70 crore for Gorakhpur unit, Rs. 120.45 crore for Ramagundam unit and Rs 143.21 crore for Talcher unit of FCIL. Since both the companies are sick and before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court/BIFR, the matter of revival is being considered by the Hon'ble Court/BIFR. Therefore, the valuation, the subject matter of the question is subject to the outcome of the proceedings.

(c) The Government has decided to explore the

1	2
Ramagundam (FCIL)	83.32
Gorakhpur (FCIL)	50.53
Talcher (FCIL)	84.74

The valuation of other plant like Haldia unit of HFCL has not been carried out. Valuation of Sindri unit of FCIL is under reconsideration of M/s. PDIL.

(b) The detail of quantity of land along with character of usage of land possessed by closed units of HFCL and FCIL is as under:-

feasibility of revival of the closed public sector units of HFCL and FCIL subject to assured availability of natural gas. An Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) has been constituted 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 considered various possible investment options for revival of each of the closed units and have finalized its recommendations regarding the suitable options. The recommendations of ECOS are under consideration of the Government.

Divorce under Hindu Law

6674. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:
SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended to dispense with the requirement of mutual consent in case of divorce under Hindu Law especially in cases where both the parties are living separately for years; and

(b) if so, the response/decision of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Law Commission, in its 217th Report on 'Irretrievable Breakdown of Marriage-Another Ground for Divorce', has recommended that immediate action be taken to introduce an amendment in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 for inclusion of 'irretrievable breakdown of marriage' as another ground for grant of divorce.

Since the subject matter of the said Report falls under List III-Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, comments/views of the State Governments and Union territory Administrations have been solicited and a final decision in the matter is under consideration.

Administrative Control of Heavy Industries

6675. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to shift the heavy industries to the administrative control of Corporate Affairs Ministry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH):

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

Appointment on Contract Basis

6676. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees working in Air India Air Transport Services Ltd. (AIATSL) and Air India Charters Ltd. (AICL);

(b) whether the employees of AIATSL and AICL are selected as per the usual selection process of the Union Government organizations but finally appointed on contract basis; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Total number of employees engaged in AIATSL as on 1.4.2010 is 1079 and in AICL as on 31.12.2009 is 943.

(b) and (c) The employees of AIATSL and AICL are selected on the basis of a selection process specific for the post. These employees, are engaged on a fixed term contract basis for a specified period keeping in view the operational requirement.

[Translation]

New Scheme for Handicrafts

6677. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any new scheme to promote handicrafts;

(b) if so, the details of the said scheme; and

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Madam. However, the existing schemes of the Government, for promotion and development of handicrafts in the country namely are able to meet the needs of the artisans: Baba Sahib Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY); Marketing Support and Services Scheme; Design and Technology Upgradation; Research and Development; Human Resource Development; and Handicrafts Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Allocation of Blocks under NELP**

6678. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

(a) whether in the recently concluded auction the Government has approved the award of 33 out of the 36 exploration areas that were bid round under the New Exploration Licensing Policy VIII;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the decision to award 33 blocks under NELP VIII to the first ranked/sole bidders was based on recommendations made by the Empowered Committee of Secretaries; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not awarding to all the on-land blocks and the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Yes Madam, on the recommendations of Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECS), the Government has approved the award of 33 blocks to the first ranked/sole bidder. The two onland blocks, VN-ONN-2009/1 and VN-ONN-2009/2 were not considered for award under NELP-VIII in view of very low percentage share of profit petroleum offered to the Government which may be detrimental to Government's interest in future.

The award of another onland block AA-ONN-2009/2 under NELP-VIII was kept in abeyance in view of representation received from the bidder. On the recommendation of ECS and after getting approval of Government, this block is likely to be awarded shortly.

Recruitment in RPF

6679. SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to create more than 5000 new posts in Railway Protection Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are also considering to raise a women commando company of RPF; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 5134 no. of posts have recently been created in RPF.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to raise 12 Companies of Lady RPF Constables. Further, a Commando training Centre is also proposed to be established.

Appointment of Air Hostess

6680. SHRI K. SHIVKUMAR *ALIAS* J.K. RITHEESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to replace middle aged and old air hostesses in Air India and appoint young girls like the private airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to announce Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the air hostesses who are serving in Air India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the middle aged and old aged air hostesses will be deputed to the Administrative Department as an alternative plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

Introduction of New Trains in Orissa

6681. SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to provide better rail facilities between Rourkela and Raipur and also between Bhubaneshwar and Bolangir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of trains introduced between Rourkela and Koraput via Bolangir; and

(d) the time by which the said trains are likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 12 pairs of trains including 11 pairs of Express trains are available between Rourkela and Raipur and 5 pairs of trains including 2893/2894 Bhubaneshwar-Bolangir Intercity Express are available between Bhubaneshwar and Bolangir. These are considered adequate for the existing level of traffic offering on the respective sections.

(c) and (d) 8107/8108 Rourkela-Koraput Express via Bolangir has been introduced from 31.03.2010. Besides this, 8005/8006 Howrah-Koraput Express via Rourkela, Bolangir is also available.

Escape from Air Accident

6682. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether two aircrafts were flown recently just opposite above the Indian Ocean area miraculously escaped from a major disaster;

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

(c) whether any inquiry is ordered to probe the incident;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) On

09.04.2010, there was an incident of breach of separation between Condor CFG 326 B-763 aircraft operating sector Frankfurt-Manila and Qatar Airways ATR 030 B-777 aircraft operating sector Doha-Melbourne in Mumbai Oceanic airspace. The incident is under investigation.

(e) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements making it mandatory to install Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) on aeroplanes. Mono-pulse Secondary Surveillance radars have been installed at major airports in the country to provide altitude information to the Air Traffic Controllers. Minimum Safe Altitude Warning (MSAW) system has also been provided. Air Traffic Management service are modernised to include air traffic conflict warning in the system. Flexible use of airspace to reduce traffic congestion in the airspace has been implemented. Regular proficiency checks for Air Traffic Controllers and pilots are carried out and corrective training is given wherever necessary. Specific co-ordination procedures for transfer of traffic from one unit to the other, have been established and are reviewed periodically.

[Translation]

Allotment of LPG Connections

6683. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG gas agencies of public sector oil companies in Lohardagga area of Jharkhand;

(b) whether the public sector oil companies have stopped allotting new domestic gas connections in some areas of Jharkhand;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the number of these gas agencies is enough in proportion to the population of this area; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) As on 01.04.2010, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating two LPG distributors in Lohardagga area of Jharkhand.

OMCs are serving about 21,727 customers through these two distributors and the demand of the customers is being fully met and there is no backlog as well as waiting list for release of new connections in the Lohardagga market. There is sufficient refill slack to take care of LPG requirements in this market for few more years.

OMCs have not stopped release of new LPG connections in the country, including the State of Jharkhand. 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.

OMCs have identified 80 locations under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitruk Yojana (RGGLVY) in the State of Jharkhand to enhance the reach of LPG and advertisement inviting application for the same has already been released and the selection of the same is in progress as per policy.

Complaints against Registered Caterers

6684. SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the fact that number of Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) registered caterers are sub-letting their licence to other small caterers particularly in Dehradun bound trains;

(b) if so, the details of such instances reported, zone-wise and whether actions have been taken by the Railways against such companies; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. No complaints regarding sub-letting of pantry car licence particularly in Dehradun bound trains have been reported.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Introduction of a Link Train from Lumding to Guwahati

6685. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the Barak Valley Express which runs from Silchar to Guwahati now terminates at Lumding;

(b) if so, whether the Railways propose to introduce a link train from Lumding to Guwahati for the passengers of Barak Valley;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. Silchar to Lumding is on meter gauge while Lumding to Guwahati is on broad gauge.

(b) to (d) Train No. 5694 Silchar-Lumding Barak Valley Express arrives at Lumding at 2000 hours. Train No. 5666 Dimapur-Guwahati reaching Lumding at 2325 and train No. 5604 Ledo-Guwahati Express reaching Lumding at 0100 provides connection to the passengers requiring to travel to Guwahati.

In Guwahati to Silchar direction, 5603 Express leaves Guwahati at 2230 hours reaching Lumding at 0230 hours. Train No. 5693 Barak Valley Express leaves Lumding at 0615 hours and reaches Silchar at 1845 hours providing the required connectivity.

Rail Project between Villupuram-Dindigul, Madurai and Colachel Port

6686. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of ongoing railway doubling project between Villupuram-Dindigul and Madurai-Colachel Port; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) On Villupuram-Dindigul doubling project, final location survey completed and tenders for civil, electrical and other works processed. This project is likely to be completed by the year 2014.

Colachel Port is near Eraniel station existing on Kanniyakumari-Thiruvananthapuram rail route. Doubling of Madurai- Eraniel/Kanniyakumari rail line is not sanctioned.

Greenfield Airport at Sriperumbudur

6687. SHRI M. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has dropped the proposal to set up a greenfield airport at Sriperumbudur near Chennai;

(b) if so, the reasons for dropping the proposal and the details of the project expenditure incurred so far; and

(c) the current status of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government of India has not received any formal proposal either from the State Government of Tamil Nadu, in accordance with the Policy for Greenfield airports, for setting up of a Greenfield airport at Sriperambudur in Tamil Nadu. However, on the request of Government of Tamil Nadu, Airports Authority of India had 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.

[Translation]

Production in PSUs

6688. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy increase has been registered in the turnover of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three year till date;

(c) the percentage of this turnover in comparison to the Gross Domestic Product of the country; and

(d) the expenditure incurred and the investment made by the Government in terms of capital and loans in these PSUs during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per information available in Public Enterprises Survey 2008-09 that was laid in the Parliament on 25.2.2010, there were 112 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), which registered increase in their turnover consistently during the past 3 years *i.e.* 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (Statement enclosed).

(c) Turnover of these 112 CPSEs in comparison to the Gross Domestic Product of the country stood at 18.88%, 19.01% and 20.09% during the past 3 years *i.e.* 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

(d) Total expenditure incurred and total investment in terms of paid-up capital and long term loans in these CPSEs during this period is shown in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

CPSEs consistently increase in turnover during the last 3 years

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of The CPSEs	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total	Total
					Expenditure	Investment
					2008-09	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Air India Air Transport Services Ltd.	1961	3063	5978	6079	5
2.	Air India Charters Ltd.	70682	87490	137332	142371	278531
3.	Airports Authority of India Ltd.	272419	389087	390872	221531	65381
4.	Andrew Yule & Company Ltd.	14495	18271	18979	21430	10951

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	135633	153039	171799	152900	1629
6.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	327195	338595	386654	449243	320130
7.	Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	43351	45438	46482	61925	11500
8.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	260179	272579	300706	281561	4177
9.	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	395270	410254	462409	417200	8121
10.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	1873895	2140101	2803319	2365929	48952
11.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	10745227	12168407	14539207	13091109	212649
12.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	14372	19459	23636	18255	16441
13.	Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	55662	71063	93510	84845	6999
14.	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	13734	15099	18352	18304	126976
15.	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	32572	34263	36389	26596	125224
16.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	450641	506054	597837	462945	123397
17.	Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.	16032	19596	32982	32263	1904
18.	Central Warehousing Corpn.	63232	63491	78977	69383	6802
19.	Certification Engineers International Ltd.	1586	1994	2475	1198	100
20.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	2940930	3304894	3653466	3095958	105355
21.	Cochin Shipyard Ltd.	72236	83642	125913	110841	23242
22.	Container Corporation of India Ltd.	304808	334730	341716	248610	12998
23.	EdCIL (India) Ltd.	3301	4110	5383	5323	150
24.	Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.	76326	85102	95771	95117	3542
25.	Engineers India Ltd.	57012	72187	153103	122243	5616
26.	Ennore Port Ltd.	10105	12802	13776	3533	31850
27.	Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd.	10571	12051	12898	12043	200
28.	Fresh & Healthy Enterprises Ltd.	475	1621	3509	4055	8371
29.	Gail (India) Ltd.	1654585	1858021	2429224	1971625	236848
30.	Handicrafts & Handloom Exports Corp. of India Ltd.	7174	70340	159314	156655	1382
31.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	30879	41662	46443	38471	60508
32.	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.	778361	862533	1037338	1073319	12248

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	4922	10659	14739	16224	23722
34.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	20557	21419	22035	20920	10042
35.	Hindustan Latex Ltd.	24115	31709	37030	36080	3357
36.	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	9144803	10422820	11642783	12004499	351184
37.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	1459	1717	2618	4184	297500
38.	Hindustan Prefab Ltd.	2320	3510	15032	14733	13477
39.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	845	1330	2769	2882	3526
40.	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.	32763	38452	39581	50029	90428
41.	Hindustan Steel Works Costn. Ltd.	42383	51355	70640	68012	157536
42.	Hooghly Printing Company Ltd.	408	412	651	608	288
43.	Housing & Urban Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	260822	272467	275556	34521	2125123
44.	HSCC (India) Ltd.	1678	1740	1936	1696	240
45.	India Infrastructure Finance Co. Ltd.	3630	11189	62621	5692	1571936
46.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	1381	5670	12962	13870	409038
47.	Indian Medicines & Pharmaceutical Corpn. Ltd.	897	1065	1389	1298	754
48.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	22435333	27032325	32973142	29855301	1697146
49.	Indian Oil Technologies Ltd.	158	191	194	57	55
50.	Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corpn. Ltd.	42134	51183	59331	52215	2000
51.	Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.	228398	259696	301537	1786	2644255
52.	Indian Renewable Energy Devt. Agency Ltd.	16677	197 Bo	23982	8171	277697
53.	Instrumentation Ltd.	22873	24723	25351	26553	21306
54.	IRCON International Ltd.	147481	196816	265431	255178	990
55.	Jute Corpn. of India Ltd.	3287	15900	31982	10456	500
56.	Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	13112	19645	22501	21320	771
57.	MMTC Ltd.	2334614	2650303	3682076	363b065	5000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
58.	MSTC Ltd.	299893	505494	693351	680562	220
59.	Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	272	369	505	472	160
60.	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	371275	434708	538339	383894	37037
61.	Maharashtra Elektros melt Ltd.	29154	39641	42505	29066	2400
62.	Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.	3237688	3734840	4271888	3549721	374397
63.	Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.	41763	97341	128484	40731	2800
64.	MECON Ltd.	37358	48653	59037	52969	25951
65.	Mineral Exploration Corpn. Ltd.	7630	9086	9581	9860	11955
66.	Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.	19262	25501	30911	30553	15541
67.	Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd.	442	514	1046	1572	23375
68.	National Backward Classes Finance & Devp. Co.	1951	2016	2162	900	52735
69.	National Bldg. Constr. Corpn. Ltd.	145994	196999	204120	179520	9000
70.	National Fertilizers Ltd.	388094	415810	514080	494434	49058
71.	National Handicapped Finance & Devpt. Corpn.	178	232	247	579	10780
72.	National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.	41716	61457	86532	86360	1900
73.	National Minorities Devp. & Finance Corpn.	1746	1904	2086	1540	64378
74.	National Research Devp. Corpn.	427	730	1046	1147	442
75.	National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Devp. Corpn.	865	951	968	386	23050
76.	National Seeds Corpn. Ltd.	15326	22162	28689	25539	2062
77.	National Small Industries Corpn. Ltd.	32645	40229	49481	57837	30164
78.	Neyveli Lignite Corpn. Ltd.	210811	298165	335491	258933	573541
79.	NHPC Ltd.	175412	224373	267185	107111	2261652
80.	NMDC Ltd.	418584	571131	75s403	185073	39647
81.	North Eastern Regional Agri. Marketing Corp. Ltd.	1493	2950	3691	3792	762
82.	Northern Coalfields Ltd.	540879	551423	661617	378833	114148
83.	NTPC Electric Supply Company Ltd.	1795	3110	7173	4975	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
84.	NTPC Ltd.	3259527	3705013	4214539	3121718	4281315
85.	Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.	793032	876416	885335	783748	78350
86.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	5691231	6013735	6396819	3292707	216563
87.	Oil India Ltd.	538921	608195	724145	438843	21400
88.	PEC Ltd.	451790	567156	1027478	1121833	2000
89.	Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.	18202	21033	30108	25444	11377
90.	Power Finance Corporation	381667	502928	655737	49969	5281686
91.	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.	358985	461482	657981	110172	3192427
92.	Projects & Development India Ltd.	4096	4689	6103	5008	1730
93.	Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.	98526	142311	165417	162909	599502
94.	Railtel Corporation India Ltd.	11296	18860	37466	22242	50926
95.	Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Ltd.	7136	8064	8708	8353	952
96.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.	355962	522897	845532	757575	68553
97.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	5257	6s56	7853	7685	36210
98.	Rural Electrification Corpn. Ltd.	265170	337822	475717	13237	4319961
99.	Sambhar Salts Ltd.	1076	1517	1531	1226	1687
100.	Security Printing & Minting Corpn. India Ltd.	127473	200417	233903	182618	52505
101.	Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.	370344	372684	416664	308227	289512
102.	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	632370	871878	1015506	631583	75189
103.	State Farms Corporation of India Ltd.	7324	10781	16432	17415	14861
104.	State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.	1433527	1577413	1978584	2075848	6000
105.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	3959866	4604615	4925009	3719380	761268
106.	Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organisation	1180	1482	1577	693	1
107.	Telecommunications Consultants (India) Ltd.	38259	38634	61795	63517	8582
108.	Triveni Structural Ltd.	182	477	520	831	2127
109.	Uranium Corporation of India Ltd.	27333	28087	40242	35406	107765
110.	Vignyan Industries Ltd.	2451	3329	3527	2909	279
111.	WAPCOS Ltd.	12810	16005	20508	19145	200
112.	Western Coalfields Ltd.	501224	568134	650579	556372	29710
Total		80900821	94034483	112015551	95170872	34819951

Pollution-Free Engines

6689. SHRI DHANANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued directions to various car manufacturing companies to upgrade engines of all car models to make them pollution-free;

(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 of India has not issued any specific direction to automobile industry to upgrade engines of all car models to make them pollution free. However, it is mandatory for the automobile industry to manufacture vehicles as per standards prescribed under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989. Accordingly, as per information provided by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), in keeping with the Auto Fuel Policy, the Automotive Industry has already introduced BS-IV norm compliant vehicles in the metro cities. The BS-IV emission norms are more stringent and will help reduce pollution emanating from vehicles significantly.

[English]

Women Engaged in Textiles Sector

6690. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:
SHRI P. BALRAM:
SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA:
SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether women constitute a large percentage of workforce engaged in handloom, handicrafts and sericulture;

(b) if so, the details of such workforce, head-wise and whether any study has been conducted to assess the working condition of such women; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the said study and the action being taken by the Government based on such study particularly in the areas specific to women development such as insurance, training facilities etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Madam. As per census conducted in 1995-96, 49.25% and 47.41% of the total persons engaged in handloom sector and handicrafts sector respectively are women. In case of sericulture, women constitute 60.0% of the workforce.

(b) and (c) No specific study has been conducted to assess the working conditions of women in handloom and handicrafts sector. However, in sericulture, under the National Sericulture Project (1989-96), Central Silk Board, an Statutory Body under the Admn. Control of Ministry of Textiles, had undertaken a study to assess the problem faced by the women in sericulture. Several NGOs and S&T organizations were involved to study the grass-root level problems. Based on the outcome of the study, the major issues that were concerning the women in sericulture industry were identified viz. technical awareness and skill development, access to land and credit etc. CSB had included a separate component entitled "Women Development Component" under the Catalytic Development Programme in the XI Plan.

Under the "Women Development; Component", following schemes have been taken up:

(i) Health Insurance for Women sericulturists and workers

The "Health Insurance Programme" is being implemented through the State Sericulture Departments. The scheme covers not only the women as the prime insurer but also her husband and two children (1+3), covering all pre-existing diseases as well as and keeping substantial provision for OPD, up to a maximum of Rs. 15, 000 per year. The programme covers all pre-existing diseases, and all those which are specifically associated with sericulture industry.

(ii) Training to women Sericulturists

The Research Institutes and EDP Cell of the Central Silk Board provide training to women sericulturists to enhance their skill and competency in sericulture. The Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute of CSB at Mysore has organised exclusive training programmes for women, under a DBT sponsored programme. The major Research

Institutes of CSB have been imparting training to the stake holders of silk industry, officials sponsored by the State Governments, NGOs etc which includes both women and men. In addition exclusive training is organised for women groups to develop handicraft items such as flower bouquet, decorative items etc. out of pierced cocoons.

[Translation]

Funding Pattern for Victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

6691. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether projects being run for the Victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy the funding pattern between the Union Government and the Government of Madhya Pradesh has been fixed at 75 and 25 per cent respectively;

(b) if so, whether as per the said agreement the Government of Madhya Pradesh is being provided funds for the rehabilitation schemes run for the gas victims; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Central Government had approved a five year Action Plan in 1990 for the Medical, Social, Economic and Environmental rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims with a total outlay of Rs. 163.10 crore which was increased in stages to Rs. 258 crore. The outlay to be shared between the Government of India and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in the ratio of 75:25 was only for implementation of this Action Plan. The Central Government has already released its entire share of Rs. 193.50 crore and the Action Plan has been completed in the year 1999-2000.

[English]

Setting up of Judicial Panels

6692. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.4577 on December 17, 2009 and state:

(a) whether requisite information has since been collected so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) No Madam, the information is awaited from Ministry of Home Affairs.

Real Estate Assets of Railways

6693. SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to lease out some of its real-estate assets;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far, zone-wise; and

(c) the objectives of such lease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) In order to mobilize additional financial resources, Indian Railways have set up Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) through an Act of Parliament to undertake suitable development of its vacant land not required by railways for its own immediate future operational needs, by leasing it on long term basis. 135 sites have been entrusted to RLDA so far, in this regard. Zone-wise details of the sites are given in the enclosed statement. Vacant railway land is also leased/licensed for purposes connected with Railway working viz. shops, coal dumps, steel yards, bulk oil installation etc. This yields additional revenues for Railways.

Statement

Zone-wise Details of Sites

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	No of sites	Area (in Acres)
1	2	3	4
1.	Central	1	1.98
2.	East-Central	2	7.04
3.	East-Coast	2	4.44
4.	Eastern	6	51.16

1	2	3	4
5.	Kolkata Metro	18	10.28
6.	North East	4	176.26
7.	North Western	3	2.30
8.	North Central	3	89.91
9.	Northeast Frontier	27	459.16
10.	Northern	14	176.68
11.	South Central	18	94.08
12.	South-East Central	5	1056.24
13.	South-Eastern	3	6.29
14.	Southern	6	24.24
15.	South-Western	2	6.72
16.	Western	21	1594.64
Total		135	3761.42

Review of Urea Marketing Policy

6694. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently reviewed the urea Marketing Policy;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to permit open market sale of 50 per cent urea and to keep 50 per cent urea under controlled sale in the interest of farmer community;

(d) if so, whether the Government has constituted a committee to suggest measures for reviving sick/closed urea plants and to set up new gas based/coal based urea plants in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition, terms of reference and the stipulated period of submission of report by the said Committee?

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

(a) and (b) Government of India has decided to increase the Maximum Retail Price of urea by 10%, from Rs.

4830 PMT to Rs. 5310 PMT w.e.f. 1.4.2010. There is no change in marketing mechanisms of the urea.

(c) As per policy for stage-III of NPS for urea, the Government will continue to retain the authority to direct movement of urea stock upto 50% of production under Essential Commodities Act..

(d) and (e) Pursuant to the decision dated 30.10.2008, an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (EGOS) was constituted on 7.11.2008 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Fertilizers) and Secretaries of Department of Expenditure, Department of Disinvestments, Planning Commission, Department of Public Enterprises and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as Members to look into all the financial models for revival of each of the closed units.

The Committee in its first meeting on 5.12.2008 had approved the Terms of Reference (TOR) for consultants and that FCIL and HFCL should finalize appointment of consultants as per the TOR already approved.

The second meeting of the ECOS was held on 24.08.2009 in which various financial models for revival were considered and it was decided to recommend the Revenue Sharing Model, for approval of the CCEA. M/s Deloitte India Pvt. Ltd. have been selected as Project Advisers for implementation of the selected options for revival of the closed units of Sindri, Ramagundam, Talcher and Gorakhpur in respect of FCIL and Durgapur Unit of HFCL. M/s PDIL has been appointed by HFCL as Consultant for evaluation of existing assets of the closed units and certification through Registered Valuer. ECOS has advised to obtain the approval of CCEA for the recommended Revenue Sharing Model for revival before implementation of the same. At present, DOF is in the process of finalizing the note on the subject for Inter-ministerial circulation.

[*Translation*]

Development of Offshore Small Areas by ONGC

6695. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation in collaboration with GAIL India Ltd. and partnership with some foreign entity has formulated a scheme to the tune of Rs. 3241 crore for the development of off-shore small areas;

(b) if so, whether the said collaboration will provide a yield of 97 lac tonnes of crude oil and 4.5 billion cubic meter of gas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is in Coal Bed Methane (CBM) of KG Basin; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) There is no collaboration of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) with GAIL (India) Limited or in partnership with any foreign entity for development of offshore small areas. However, a cluster of 7 Marginal Fields (B-192, B-45 and WO-24 structures alongwith adjoining areas B-192-8 and B-192A-1) in Western Offshore are being developed by ONGC at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 3241.03 crore. The project envisages cumulative production of 9.73 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of oil and condensate and 4.52 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) of natural gas over a period of 16 years. The project is scheduled to be completed by December, 2012.

(d) No, Madam.

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

[English]

Public Amenities at Nampally Railway Station

6696. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of passenger amenities at Nampally Railway Station in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Railways thereto;

(c) the total expenditure incurred by the Railways on passenger amenities on this station during the last three years;

(d) whether the Railways have chalked out any plan to make this station a model station; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if no, the steps taken or being taken by the Railways for providing better passenger amenities at this railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There is no station by the name Nampally on Indian Railways. However, Hyderabad railway station exists in Nampally area. All passenger amenities have been provided at this station as per norms.

(c) Total expenditure incurred on augmentation of passenger amenities at this station during last three years is Rs. 5.3 crore.

(d) and (e) Augmentation of passenger amenities at railway station is a continuous exercise and works in this regards are undertaken depending upon need and increase in passenger traffic. Hyderabad railway station has already been developed as Model station. Various other developmental works viz. extension of platforms, improvement to air-conditioned waiting hall and VIP rooms, provision of mechanized cleaning system for cleaning of coach toilets have also been taken up at this station and planned for completion by December, 2010.

Delivery of Consignment

6697. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consignments booked in February 2010, from Delhi to Kochi through Air India cargo have not been delivered to many people till now;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Air India Delhi have received any complaints in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by it to deliver the consignments to the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, one consignment booked on 19.2.2010 is yet to be collected by the consignee despite the Cargo Handling Agency's request for its collection.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Since the Consignee has not collected the consignment, the Consignor has requested for recall of

the consignment and the Cargo Handling Agency has been requested to return the consignment to Delhi to return to the Consignor.

Stoppage at Piravom Road Railway Station

6698. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any representation regarding the stoppage of some important trains at Piravom Road Railway Station (Ernakulam-Kottayam sector) in Kerala;

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

(c) whether a demand has been made to the Railways for modernizing the said railway station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and the action taken thereon?

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

(b) At present 6 pairs of Mail/Express trains and 8 Passenger trains are stopping at Piravom Road. Stoppage of additional trains has not been found commercially justified or operationally feasible at present.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. However, modernization and upgradation of amenities at stations is a continuous and ongoing process.

[Translation]

Irregularities by LPG Distributors

6699. SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Representatives had registered complaints against the Hindustan Petroleum Gas distributors in the country particularly, Darbhanga in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Whenever Public Sector Oil

Marketing Companies (OMCs) receive complaints against their LPG distributors, these are investigated. If the complaint is established, action is taken against the LPG distributor in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) had received a joint representation forwarded by Deputy Secretary, Food & Supply Department, Government of Bihar against their LPG distributor, M/s. Om HP Gas at Rarhi, District Darbhanga, Bihar for irregular supply of LPG. The distributor has been advised to maintain regular supplies to its registered customers.

[English]

Shortage of Medicines

6700. SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of medicines in the Lakshadweep Islands;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to meet the shortage?

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Do not arise, in reply to (a) above.

(c) NPPA monitors the shortage and availability of the medicines in the country as per information made available through State Drugs Control Administration. As per information received therefrom, wherever required, NPPA takes remedial steps for ensuring availability of medicines by impressing upon the manufacturers to rush the stocks to places of shortage.

Recruitment in Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala

6701. DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recruitment undertaken under various categories of employees in the Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala during the last three years, category-wise; and

(b) the number of persons who were given employment from the State of Punjab in the said Rail Coach Factory?

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

(b) State-wise figures are not maintained.

Training Programme under FPI

6702. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of centrally sponsored training programme in various fields of food processing industries in the country;

(b) the amount allocated to run these programmes during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the total number of persons trained during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Human Resource Development Scheme with following components:

The first component is Entrepreneurship Development Programme and objectives of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme are to provide basic knowledge of project formulation and management including technology, marketing, and profitability besides motivating the trainees and instilling confidence in them to start and manage a business venture. Eligible organisations are Central/State Govt. organisations, National level institutes, Professional Institutes, State level consultancy organisation, Industry organisations, NGOs. The Ministry grants 100 % assistance of Rs. 2.00 lakh per EDP and grant is released in three installments of 50%, 25% and 25% respectively.

The second component is Food processing Training Centre (FPTC) and objectives of FPTC are development of rural entrepreneurship and transfer of technology for processing of food products by utilizing locally grown raw material and providing "Hands-on" experience at such production cum training centres, while according priority to SC/ST/OBC and women minorities candidates.

Eligible organisations are Central or State Government Organizations, Educational and Training Institutions, Schools and Colleges, ITI s, NGOs and Co-operatives. Financial assistance of Rs. 4.00 lakhs for Fixed capital costs and Rs. 2.00 lakh as revolving seed capital Single Product Line Centre (for any one group of processing activities) and Rs. 11.00 lakhs for Fixed and Rs. 4.00 lakh as revolving seed capital for Multi Product Line Centre are provided (for more than one group of processing activities).

The third component is Training at recognized institutes such as CFTRI /DFRL /any other reputed State /National level Training institute /College of GOI /State Govt. with the objective to impart specialized training to new EDP trainees who are in advanced stage of setting up their own food processing units including higher levels of training after periodical intervals. The quantum of assistance will vary with the number of trainees and duration of training subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,00,000/- per training programme for 20 trainees for 10 working days.

(b) State-wise details of training programmes conducted and amount spent are annexed as Statement-I and Statement-II.

(c) Approximately, 11000 persons have been trained during this period in EDP programme and 4500 trainees have been trained in FPTC.

Statement I

State-wise Details of EDPs conducted during last three years

State	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	8	8.00	20	20.00	17	24.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Assam	2	2.00	—	—	10	10.00
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	2	2.00	—	—
Bihar	—	—	12	12.00	5	10.00
Chhattisgarh	—	—	6	6.00	5	7.39
Dadra and Nagar Heveli	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi	3	3.00	—	—	—	—
Goa	—	—	—	—	3	3.00
Gujarat	—	—	1	1.00	—	—
Haryana	7	7.00	14	14.00	7	8.50
Himachal Pradesh	15	15.00	2	2.00	4	7.25
Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	10	10.00	—	—
Karnataka	—	—	14	14.00	3	3.00
Kerala	1	1.00	—	—	11	11.25
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	2	2.00	16	16.00	1	1.45
Maharashtra	13	13.00	34	34.00	17	24.90
Manipur	—	—	1	1.00	1	1.00
Mizoram	—	—	2	2.00	—	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	3	3.00
Nagaland	—	—	1	1.00	5	7.00
Odisha	3	3.00	8	8.00	18	25.90
Puducherry	—	—	—	—	2	2.00
Punjab	10	10.00	5	5.00	—	—
Rajasthan	—	—	10	10.00	—	5.00
Sikkim	2	2.00	2	2.00	4	5.00
Tamil Nadu	4	4.00	3	3.00	14	19.00
Tripura	1	1.00	5	5.00	5	5.00
Uttar Pradesh	11	11.00	—	—	10	12.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Uttaranchal	21	21.00	—		14	18.95
West Bengal	15	15.00	8	8.00	9	14.00
Jharkhand	—		2	2.00	4	4.00
Total	118	118.00	178	178.06	175	235.97

Statement II*State-wise details of Food Processing Training Centres Assisted during 11th Plan*

(Amount in Rs. Lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		Total	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	04	13.50	01	2.47	07	33.07	13	49.04
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Assam	—	—	—	—	02	8.00	02	8.00
5.	Bihar	—	—	01	2.00	—	1.13	01	3.13
6.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Haryana	01	1.99	01	1.46	05	19.90	07	23.35
9.	Himachal Pradesh	02	9.30	—	—	—	—	02	9.30
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	01	4.00	—	—	01	4.00
11.	Karnataka	01	7.20	—	—	04	15.60	05	22.80
12.	Jharkhand	01	1.60	—	—	—	0.85	01	2.45
13.	Kerala	01	7.00	—	—	—	—	01	7.00
14.	Maharashtra	04	10.00	01	4.00	04	20.66	09	34.66
15.	Madhya Pradesh	13	25.61	10	20.00	02	5.00	25	50.61
16.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Mizoram	01	7.50	—	—	—	—	01	7.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Odisha	01	2.00	—	—	05	19.12	06	21.12
21.	Punjab	01	1.62	—	—	—	—	01	1.62
22.	Puducherry	—	—	—	—	01	11.00	01	11.00
23.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	02	3.69	—	3.00	—	—	02	6.69
25.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	07	24.76	02	6.08	—	1.00	09	31.84
27.	West Bengal	02	4.00	01	2.90	02	12.00	05	18.90
28.	Uttrakhand	—	—	01	3.90	—	—	01	3.90
Total		41	119.77	19	49.81	32	147.33	92	316.91

Unprofitable Routes of Air India

(d) Does not arise.

6703. SHRI G.M.SIDDESHWARA Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

Opening of Retail Petrol Outlets/ LPG Agencies

(a) whether the Government has identified the unprofitable routes of Air India;

6704. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(a) whether there is a proposal to open retail petrol outlets and LPG agencies by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) all over the country;

(c) whether the Government has a proposal to set up a subsidy fund to subsidise airlines to fly on unprofitable routes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(c) the time by which these are likely to be opened; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Based on the performance analysis of three years and in view of sectors incurring cash losses, NACIL as on March 2010, has withdrawn the Amritsar-Birmingham, Delhi-Los Angeles, Mumbai-Dar E Salaam, Mumbai-Sharjah, Delhi-Seoul, Ahmedabad-Sharjah, and some other international and domestic routes. Some of them have been integrated with other flights on the network.

(d) the likely gains to ONGC from such retail outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) At present, there is no proposal for opening of Retail Outlets (ROs) and LPG distributors by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).

(c) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Assistance to Handloom Cooperatives

6705. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is providing financial assistance to handloom cooperative societies and State Handloom Finance Corporations for setting up of looms and for other development works of looms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms adopted for providing such assistance;

(d) the amount of financial assistance provided by the Union Government under different schemes during each of the last three years including the current financial year, State-wise, particularly Kerala to such cooperatives and State Handloom Finance Corporation; and

(e) the total number of beneficiaries benefited therefrom, State-wise, including Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government of India is providing financial assistance for purchase of new handlooms, dobbies, jacquards and accessories under the Cluster Development Programme and Group Approach sub-component, of the Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme. For the Cluster Development Programme, financial assistance is provided to the Implementing Agencies *i.e.* State Director of Handlooms and Textiles, State Handloom Development Corporations, Apex Handloom Cooperative Societies, Non Government Organizations (NGOs) etc. through the State

Government concerned. While for the Group Approach, financial assistance is provided to the Implementing Agency *i.e.* Assistant Director of Handlooms and Textiles through the State Government concerned. The beneficiaries in the Cluster and Group Approach may include weavers of the State Handloom Development Corporation and Handloom Cooperative Societies. The financial assistance is provided @ Rs. 8000 for purchase of new handloom, @ Rs. 6000 for purchase of jacquard, @ Rs. 4000 for purchase of dobbie and @ Rs. 2000 for purchase of accessories. The financial assistance for these components is shared in the ratio of 70, 20 and 10 by Government of India, State Government and beneficiary/Implementing Agency respectively while for the States of North Eastern Region (NER), Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, the financial assistance is shared in the ratio of 90, 5 and 5 by Government of India, State Government and beneficiary/Implementing Agency respectively. The proposals are received from the State Government concerned, duly recommended by State Level Project Committee (SLPC) and the financial assistance is released to the Implementing Agency through the State Government concerned.

(d) and (e) Statements-I and II showing amount of financial assistance released to State Handloom Development Corporations, Handloom Cooperative Societies and other agencies and the beneficiaries covered under the Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme and Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme during the period 2007-08 to 2010-11 (upto 30.4.2010) are enclosed.

Statement I

State-wise and year-wise details of the funds released to weavers covered under Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS) during 2007-08 to 2010-11 (upto 30.04.2010)

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11 (upto 30.04.2010)	
		Amount Released	Weavers covered	Amount Released	Weavers covered	Amount Released	Weavers covered	Amount Released	Weavers covered
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16.87	116706	4.98	6810	11.11	95776		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.17	9500	2.45	2620	1.43	1270		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Assam	2.18	6023	3.12	3180	4.52	266600		
4.	Bihar	0.88	4156	1.04	1742	0	0		
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.92	5192	0.59	1399	0	0		
6.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0.16	375		
7.	Gujarat	1.28	25745	0.75	1900	0.97	33519		
8.	Haryana	0.05	630	0	0	0	0		
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.24	3205	0.24	110	1.39	1229	0.29	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	1.43	2780	1.32	1530		
11.	Jharkhand	1.56	5463	1.85	4630	1.63	1544		
12.	Karnataka	1.90	16157	2.73	81398	0.74	34813	0.75	4792
13.	Kerala	4.32	28760	6.30	68462	2.30	51228		
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1.60	9386	2.13	25275	0.54	1292	0.15	
15.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0.16	550		
16.	Manipur	3.37	9500	2.86	52356	0.00	0		
17.	Meghalaya	0.63	2375	0.55	774	3.42	1980		
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0.90	652		
19.	Nagaland	0.67	2250	2.43	4450	10.58	41754		
20.	Odisha	3.98	20793	5.70	74003	5.25	62493		
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0		
22.	Rajasthan	0.26	798	0.54	321	0.15	1800		
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0.37	330	0	0		
24.	Tamil Nadu	28.05	129586	41.30	221187	50.15	380534		
25.	Tripura	1.16	5025	1.28	2514	0.85	1856		
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2.36	12603	4.28	95618	3.06	3637		
27.	Uttarakhand	0.90	3150	1.47	1626	0.15	1743		
28.	West Bengal	5.20	37085	5.01	8071	2.94	113004	3.00	115875
	Total	79.55	454088	93.40	661556	103.72	1099179	4.19	120667

Statement II

State-wise and year-wise funds released/weavers covered, to various Cooperative Societies/Apex Societies/Handloom Corporations under the Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		Amount Released	Weavers covered	Amount Released	Weavers covered	Amount Released	Weavers covered
1.	Assam	0.06	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Bihar	0.02	0	0.02	0	0.05	0
3.	Haryana	0.06	0	0.04	0	0.09	55
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0.05	3750
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.06	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0.02	1500
7.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0.05	40
8.	Kerala	0.04	0	0.14	150	0	0
9.	Madhya Pradesh	0.32	2112	0.05	842	0.23	3160
10.	Maharashtra	0.52	125143	1.35	210801	0.83	103287
11.	Manipur	0.20	4300	0.30	12400	0.52	14700
12.	Mizoram	0.22	8800	0.14	9550	0	16000
13.	Nagaland	0.26	14250	0.70	28000	1.11	54030
14.	Odisha	0	0	0.09	275	0.05	0
15.	Sikkim	0.04	1500	0.03	1500	0.04	2150
16.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0.14	130	0.05	0
17.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0.22	0
18.	Uttar Pradesh	0.10	100	0.09	40	0.51	0
19.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0.09	100	0.09	0
20.	West Bengal	0.02	0	0.14	0	0.14	115
Total		1.92	156205	3.32	263788	4.05	198807

Setting up of Nano Technology Centres

6706. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has any proposal to set up Nano Technology Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to set up Centres of Excellence in various parts of the country particularly in the State of Tamil Nadu; 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 Limited (BHEL) is proposing to set up a new Centre of Excellence for Nano technology applications at its Corporate Research and Development facility at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 8.3 crore.

(c) At present, there is no proposal under consideration for setting up any other Centre of Excellence.

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

Curative Petition

6707. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for submitting the curative petition in the Supreme Court of India;

(b) whether petitioner-in-person is eligible to submit the curative petition without a certificate issued by the Senior Advocate; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in the case of Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs Ashok Hurra and Another, (2002) 4 SCC 388, has laid down the criteria for submitting the curative petition in the Supreme Court.

[Translation]

Installation of Modern Air Traffic System

6708. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such airports where modern air traffic system has been installed during the last three

years till date and the details of the expenditure incurred by the Government in this regard;

(b) the details of the benefit earned by the civil aviation sector as a result thereof;

(c) the names of such airports that are made suitable for chartered flights during the above period;

(d) the names of airports in the country where Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars (MSSR) has been installed/are proposed to be installed; and

(e) the details of the expenditure incurred/likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Modern Air Traffic Control System including Automation of Air Traffic Management System has been installed at Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports in the last three years. The systems at the new Greenfield airports at Bengaluru and Hyderabad have since been commissioned at a cost of Rs. 158 crores. The existing air traffic system at Delhi and Mumbai airports is being upgraded at a cost of Rs. 80 crores, Chennai airport at a cost of Rs. 70 crores and Kolkata airport at a cost of Rs. 70 crores.

(b) The following benefits have been derived by installation of modern air traffic systems:

(i) Efficient Air Traffic Management Function;

(ii) Better situation awareness;

(iii) Modern software tools for Air Traffic Controllers which process Flight Plan Data and Surveillance Data; and

(iv) Enhanced safety.

(c) Airports at Akola, Cooch Behar, Gondia, Nanded, Latur, Mysore, Vidyanagar, Mundra, Tura and Jharsuguda have been made suitable for chartered flights during the last three years.

(d) Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Trivandrum, Guwahati, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Varanasi, Mangalore, and Berhampur airports have been equipped with Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars (MSSR). The airports where MSSR are planned to be installed in the year 2010-11 are Bellary, Vizag, Jharsuguda, Katihar, Bhopal, Porbander and Jodhpur.

(e) The expenditure likely to be incurred will be Rs. 67 crores.

[English]

Aerospace Hub in Andhra Pradesh

6709. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh is rapidly becoming aerospace hub of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to help Andhra Pradesh technically and otherwise to make it a aerospace hub?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has decided to establish aviation specific Special Economic Zone. Government of India will facilitate the Andhra Pradesh Government towards any assistance they may seek.

Aviation Institutes

6710. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the opening of the Civil Aviation sector, many institutes have come up in the country running various types of civil aviation related courses in the field of aviation and claiming to be in tie up with major aviation companies .as far as placements are concerned;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any control over these institutes;

(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) There are 72 Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) Institutes and 39 Pilot Training Institutes approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). In addition, airlines also have their respective training divisions. DGCA does not maintain the placement records of these training institutes.

(c) and (d) These institutes are approved in accordance with the Aircraft Rules, 1937 and regulations

stipulated by DGCA. Compliance of these regulations is ensured before grant of approvals and during regular surveillance conducted by DGCA. Renewal of approved institutes is granted only after satisfactory completion of annual surveillance programme by DGCA.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Steel Wire

6711. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel wire is exported from India at large scale;

(b) if so, the quantity of steel wire exported during the last three years alongwith the names of the countries to which the export was made, year-wise;

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange earned by the Government therefrom;

(d) whether the Government provides subsidy on export duty to the units exporting steel wire; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) The export of steel wire from India during the last three years, both in terms of quantity and value is given in the table below along with the names of the top 5 export destinations of the product.

Year	Quantity (in '000 tonnes)	Value (in Rs. in Crore)	Top 5 Export Destinations During the Year
2007-08	57.7	620	Singapore, UAE, Germany, USA, Italy
2008-09	57.0	580	Sudan, UAE, Spain, Germany, Italy
2009-10 (Provisional)	47.8	472	UAE, Djibouti, Germany, Belgium, U.K.

Source: JPC

(d) There is no export duty on steel wires.

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

*[English]***JUTE-Geo Textiles**

6712. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether jute is being used for modern life style products such as fashion accessories, road construction etc. in the form of jute-geo textiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the specific areas of its expansion;

(c) whether any such project under joint venture with Bangladesh is proposed to be initiated by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Jute in the form of Jute Geotextiles (JGT) are used in road construction. JGT is not being used for modern lifestyle products. The specific areas of its application are:

- Road construction, especially medium and low volume roads.
- River bank erosion control.
- Stabilisation of flood and road embankments and
- Hill slope erosion control.
- Soft soil consolidation and
- Watershed management.

(c) and (d) An international project on 'Development and Application of Potentially Important Jute Geotextiles in Rural Road Construction and Erosion Control' has recently been launched. The project was mooted by the International Jute Study Group (IJSJG), Bangladesh with Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) providing 51.60% of the project cost (US\$ 3,962,826) as grant.

The project will cover India and Bangladesh and several European countries.

The objectives of the project would be:-

- (i) Development of potentially important Jute Geotextiles (JGT) suitable for use in the two

identified end-uses viz. soil erosion control and rural road construction.

- (ii) Standardisation of potentially important JGT, evolving design methodologies based on simulation studies and field applications.

The purpose of the project is to expand domestic and international market, especially in European countries, of JGT in the two specific areas of application through international accreditation.

Fixation of Natural Gas Price

6713. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) which had fixed the gas price at USD 4.2/mmbtu had weakened the case of its own company National Thermal Power corporation (NTPC) by arbitrary determined high price that the contractor Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) had been bargaining for;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for approving such a high price resulting in hike in the price of power and fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Article 21.6 of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) stipulates sale of gas at competitive arms-length prices to the benefit of parties to the Contract and that gas price formula/basis would require approval of the Government prior to the sale of natural gas to the consumers/buyers. Thus, under the PSC, Contractor is required to get the price formula/basis approved by the Government prior to sale of gas.

Accordingly, the contractor of KG-DWN-98/3 block, vide its letter dated 18th May 2007, had submitted a price proposal for approval by the Government. This price proposal was considered by the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC) chaired by Dr. Rangarajan, which recommended that the proposed price appeared to be in line with the PSC with small modification. The Government also constituted a Committee of Secretaries (CoS) under the Cabinet Secretary to consider the gas supply and pricing issues, which recommended that the Government may consider

framing a Gas pricing and Gas Utilization Policy, before considering the price proposal. Various representations and presentations were made by various stakeholders which were taken into account by these two committees while giving their report.

The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) was set up to decide on the utilization and pricing issues of gas produced under New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP). The EGOM comprised of Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Power, Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of Steel, Minister of Finance, Minister of Law and Justice, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Minister of Corporate Affairs and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The EGOM considered the recommendations of the EAC and CoS and approved the price formula based on which the current gas price works out to be US\$ 4.2 per mmbtu at crude price greater or equal to US\$ 60 per barrel.

Thus, while arriving at the price of gas, the interests of power and fertilizer sector were also taken into account.

Taking Over of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd.

6714. SHRI SANJAY BHOI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. are having plenty of captive mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. have made plan to take over the Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) has captive iron ore mines with reserves estimated at 150 million tonnes spread over 874.29 hectares in the State of Orissa.

(c) and (d) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.(RINL) has plans to acquire equity stake in NINL The process of valuation of the equity shares of NINL based on due diligence has since been carried out and communicated to Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) for appropriate action.

Investigating Corruption in PSUs

6715. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) the mechanism in place to look into complaints against CMDs/MDs/and Board of Directors of the Central PSUs;

(b) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is no longer asked to look into the complaints and a panel headed by Cabinet Secretary is vested with such powers;

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

(d) whether CVC has urged for restoration of its powers to recommend lodging of cases against the chiefs of the public sector companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) Complaints against Chief Executives and Functional Directors of the Public Sector Enterprises and CMDs and Functional Directors of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions, whether pseudonymous or otherwise, received by the Cabinet Secretariat or the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) or the Prime Minister's Office, will be first scrutinized by the Group headed by the Secretary (Coordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat.

The Group constituted will also be looking into the complaints received by the Cabinet Secretary from CVC under the CVC Act or the Public Interest Disclosure Resolution. The CVC shall be kept informed at regular intervals about the status of the scrutiny/review undertaken by the Group into complaints forwarded by the CVC.

(b) The CVC enjoys the powers to look into the complaints under Section 8 of the CVC Act, 2003. As per amended O.M. of DPE dated 12th April, 2010, the

Group headed by Secretary (Coordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat and having Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Additional Secretary, Department of Financial Services and Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission as Members will also be looking into the complaints received by the Cabinet Secretary from CVC, under the CVC Act or the Public Interest Disclosure Resolution. The CVC shall be kept informed at regular intervals about the status of the scrutiny/review undertaken by the Group into the complaints forwarded by the CVC.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Rajiv Gandhi LPG Vitrak Yojana Scheme

6716. DR. BHOLA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Rajiv Gandhi LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGLVY) in rural areas;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme including the norms/criteria fixed for distributorship;

(c) the number of distributors appointed in the States since launch of the scheme, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has received complaints in regard to certain irregularities in the allotment of distributorship;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the follow up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) "Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana" (RGGLVY) scheme which primarily aims at providing LPG to the rural house-holds, including BPL families has been launched on 16.10.2009. Salient features of the scheme are:-

(i) The LPG agencies under the RGGLVY will be of small size requiring lesser finance/infrastructure.

(ii) The distributor himself will manage the agency with the help of his/her family member and one or two employees.

(iii) Age limit for the distributor to be between 21 and 45 years.

(iv) Distributor under the scheme will have to be a permanent resident of the village(s) covered by particular location.

(v) Ail agencies under this scheme to be in the joint name of husband and wife. In case of applicants who are single the 'spouse' will automatically become a partner after the marriage.

(vi) Reservation for SC/ST categories has also been provided for.

(vii) The selection of the distributor would be by draw of lots from amongst all candidates who have secured more than 80% marks on the criteria of financial capability and education qualifications.

Advertisements inviting applications for distributors under the scheme have been released in 13 States and the selection process is in progress as per policy. The details of locations advertised are as under:

Name of States	Number of locations
Andhra Pradesh	331
Bihar	251
Chhattisgarh	39
Jharkhand	80
Karnataka	48
Madhya Pradesh	97
Maharashtra	253
Odisha	101
Puducherry	1
Rajasthan	192
Tamil Nadu	130
Uttar Pradesh	331
West Bengal	175

So far no LPG distributor under this scheme has been commissioned. Commissioning/opening of distributors involves Field Verification of Credentials of the selected candidate, construction of godown/showroom and obtaining statutory clearances. It is therefore, not possible to indicate any time frame for commissioning/opening of LPG

distributors, but every effort is being made to do so as quickly as possible.

(d) to (f) OMCs have reported that they have not received any established complaints on irregularity in selection of LPG distributors under RGGLVY. However, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that they have received three complaint against selected candidates in the State of West Bengal which are being handled by them as per the laid down procedure/guidelines.

[English]

Production Capacity of Iron Ore Mines

6717. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether measures have been initiated by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to augment production capacity of iron ore mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the production of iron ore has increased due to the steps taken by SAIL?

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) is implementing its growth plan to raise the production capacity of its iron ore mines to cater to expanded steel production. This is planned to be met by expansion of capacity of existing mines at Kiriburu, Meghahatuburu and Goa in Jharkhand, Bolani, Barsua and Kalta in Orissa and also by developing new mines at China in Jharkhand, Rowghat in Chhattisgarh and Taldih and Thakurani in Orissa.

(c) The expansion of operating mines and development of new mines are in the various stages of implementation. The increased production of iron ore will be in line with the increase in hot metal production capacity.

[Translation]

Modernization of NTC Mills

6718. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI VITTHALBHAI HANSRAJBHAI
RADADIYA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of revival of the National Textile Corporation (NTC) envisages modernization as one of the component;

(b) if so, the number of mills proposed to be modernized and the present status of modernization of textiles mills;

(c) the cost likely to be incurred and actual cost incurred so far under the scheme;

(d) whether the Government is satisfied with the pace of modernization of NTC mills;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) 24 mills are being revived by NTC itself, out of which, 18 mills have already been modernized.

(c) As per the BIFR approved scheme, an amount of Rs. 1155.96 crores is earmarked for modernization, of which an amount of Rs. 850.86 crores has been spent on modernization.

(d) to (f) The scheme is self-financing and the funds are to be generated through sale of surplus land and assets. There were some initial delays owing to delay in permission from the State Governments, pending litigations before various Courts, recession in the real estate market etc. Most of such problems have since been sorted out. To overcome the temporary resource problem, the company has decided to borrow funds from banks.

Profit Earned by PSEs

6719. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO:
SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

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

(a) whether some Central Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) have earned profits during the years 2004-05 to 2009-10;

(b) if so, the percentage increase registered in the profit earned during the said period;

(c) the details of the sectors in which these enterprises are doing business; and

(d) the details of the turnover of these enterprises in the financial years 2004-05 to 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2008-09 that was laid in the Parliament on 25.2.2010, 119 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) were in profits continuously for the past 5 years *i.e.* from 2004-05 to 2008-09. Year wise percentage change (increase/decrease) in profits of these CPSEs is shown below:

Profits of continuously profit making CPSEs during the past 5 years

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Aggregate Profit	Change (increase/decrease) over the previous year (in %)
2004-05	72044.12	23.62
2005-06	71990.20	-0.07
2006-07	86731.69	20.48
2007-08	88472.80	2.01
2008-09	81134.17	-8.29

(c) and (d) These profit making CPSEs are doing business in various commodity/cognate groups. The turnover of these CPSEs for the past 5 years is shown in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Turnover of Profit Making CPSEs, during the past 5 years

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Commodity/Cognate Groups	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Agro Based Industries						
1.	National Seeds Corpn. Ltd.	79.84	104.84	153.26	221.62	286.89
Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals						
2.	Indian Medicines & Pharmaceutical Corpn. Ltd.	6.22	8.52	8.97	10.65	13.89
3.	Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	88.86	88.54	131.12	196.45	225.01
4.	Projects & Development India Ltd.	40.69	40.18	40.96	46.89	61.03
5.	Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	17.59	33.18	47.38	94.33	80.69
Coal & Lignite						
6.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	4043.74	4512.91	4506.41	5060.54	5978.37
7.	Coal India Ltd.	106.10	268.42	281.37	272.31	318.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd,	3578.98	3277.11	3712.75	4347.08	5383.39
9.	Neyveli Lignite Corpn. Ltd.	3001.94	2201.41	2108.11	2981.65	3354.91
10.	Northern Coalfields Ltd.	5103.98	5315.09	5408.79	5514.23	6616.17
11.	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	6580.71	7160.92	6323.70	8718.78	10155.06
12.	Western Coalfields Ltd.	4504.73	4986.32	5012.24	5681.34	6505.79
Consumer Goods						
13.	Artificial Limbs Mfg. Corpn. of India	48.71	53.33	48.88	42.14	52.43
14.	Hill Life Care Ltd.	195.05	212.61	241.15	317.09	370.30
15.	Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.	273.99	303.04	315.33	300.65	297.82
16.	Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	592.99	742.35	786.43	842.03	721.07
17.	Hooghly Printing Company Ltd.	10.00	5.08	4.08	4.12	6.51
Contracts & Construction Services						
18.	BBJ Construction Company Ltd.	42.50	55.00	67.81	85.28	59.79
19.	Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	442.90	467.60	556.62	710.63	935.10
20.	IRCON International Ltd.	972.45	1058.08	1474.81	1968.16	2654.31
21.	Mineral Exploration Corpn. Ltd.	73.55	78.87	76.30	90.86	95.81
22.	Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd,	1.51	3.70	4.42	5.14	10.46
23.	National Bldg. Constn. Corpn. Ltd.	778.02	1235.70	1453.94	1969.99	2041.20
Crude Oil						
24.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	46713.57	48244.39	56912.31	60137.35	63968.19
25.	Oil India Ltd.	3883.04	5550.19	5389.21	6081.95	7241.45
26.	ONGCVIDESH Ltd.	1081.52	1194.59	2863.49	6908.71	6340.94
Fertilizers						
27.	National Fertilizers Ltd.	3492.55	3603.85	3880.94	4158.10	5140.80
28.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.	2829.78	3102.09	3559.62	5228.97	8455.32
Financial Services						
29.	Balmer Lawrie Investments Ltd.	3.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Export Credit Guarantee Corpn. of India Ltd.	476.13	543.05	594.44	545.76	525.27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31.	Housing & Urban Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	2773.47	2297.99	2608.22	2724.67	2755.56
32.	Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.	1827.23	1892.00	2283.98	2596.96	3015.37
33.	Indian Renewable Energy Devt. Agency Ltd.	248.27	156.03	166.77	197.50	239.82
34.	Kumarakruppa Frontier Hotels Ltd.	6.10	10.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	National Backward Classes Finance & Devp.co.	20.17	21.74	19.51	20.16	21.62
36.	National Minorities Devp. & Finance Corpn.	14.15	17.04	17.46	19.04	20.86
37.	National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Devpt. Corpn.	4.75	5.45	5.89	6.22	6.16
38.	National Scheduled Castes Finance & Devp. Corpn.	14.74	15.99	15.40	15.28	17.72
39.	National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Devp. Corpn.	12.69	15.12	8.65	9.51	9.68
40.	Power Finance Corporation	3040.38	3125.56	3816.67	5029.28	6557.37
41.	Rural Electrification Corpn. Ltd.	2199.81	2071.31	2651.70	3378.22	4757.17
Generation						
42.	Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corpn. Ltd.	177.67	335.98	748.54	681.10	835.43
43.	NHPC Ltd.	1449.98	1614.11	1754.12	2243.73	2671.85
44.	North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.	798.97	839.62	827.75	860.31	857.83
45.	NTPC Ltd.	22564.92	26904.91	32595.27	37050.13	42145.39
46.	Nuclear Power Corpn. of India Ltd.	3344.72	3567.06	3592.10	3333.83	3010.56
47.	Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.	1098.28	1371.50	1618.23	1504.26	1886.60
Heavy Engineering						
48.	Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.	2.09	5.19	3.15	10.90	3.46
49.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	10336.40	14525.49	18738.95	21401.01	28033.19
Industrial Development & Tech. Consultancy Services						
50.	Broadcast Engg. Consultants India Ltd.	35.75	29.69	24.25	27.91	15.88
51.	Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.	151.15	145.79	160.32	195.96	329.82
52.	Certification Engineers International Ltd.	21.19	17.63	15.86	19.94	24.75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
53.	EdCIL (India) Ltd.	23.61	39.29	33.01	41,10	53.83
54.	Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.	515.38	636.32	763.26	851.02	957.71
55.	Engineers India Ltd.	907.48	792.66	570.12	721.87	1531.03
56.	HSCC (India) Ltd.	11.88	18.45	16.78	17.40	19.36
57.	Indian Oil Technologies Ltd.	1.09	0.89	1.58	1.91	1.94
58.	Mecon Ltd.	173.86	257.75	373.58	486.53	590.37
59.	National Research Development Corpn.	3.40	3-93	4.27	7.30	10.46
60.	RTTES Ltd.	236.90	414.01	592.89	617.53	582.85
61.	Telecommunications Consultants (India) Ltd.	418.49	453.49	382.59	386.34	617.95
62.	Wapcos Ltd.	86.58	111.19	128.10	160.05	205.08
Medium & Light Engineering						
63.	Antrix Corporation Ltd.	348.71	386.05	605.46	837.98	338.94
64.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	1054.00	1311.36	1356.33	1530.39	1717.99
65.	Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	455.85	528.81	433.51	454.38	464.82
65.	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	3212.09	3535-98	3952.70	4102.54	4624.09
67	Biecco Lawrie Sco. Ltd.	39.29	49.67	52.60	58.43	57.91
68.	Electronics Corpn. of India Ltd.	768.41	698.03	1005.90	1001.65	1058.62
69.	Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Ltd.	59,07	61.06	71.36	80.64	87.08
70.	Vignyan Industries Ltd.	21.55	28.81	24.51	33.29	35.27
Other Minerals & Metals						
71.	FCI Aravali Gypsum & Minerals (India) Ltd.	29.94	38,45	37,07	36.81	42.47
72.	Indian Rare Earths Ltd.	299.15	306.50	360.53	296.25	336.70
73.	KIOCL Ltd.	1853.77	1232.28	267.44	1530.11	1228.98
74.	Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.	378,78	334.10	417.63	973.41	1284.84
75.	National Aluminium Company Ltd.	4439.99	5287.36	6514.51	5586.99	5543.96
76.	NMDC Ltd.	2229.99	3710.92	4185.34	5711.31	7564.03
77.	Uranium Corporation of India Ltd.	234.52	256.66	273.33	280.87	402.42
Petroleum (Refinery & Marketing)						
78.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	63857.00	85149.62	107452.27	121684.07	145392.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
79.	Gail (India) Ltd.	14106.25	14875.49	16545.85	18580.21	24292.24
80.	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	64689.51	74044.11	91448.03	104228.20	116427.83
81.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	152034.03	186246.09	224353.33	270323.25	329731.42
82.	Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.	20692.55	28242.86	32376.88	37348.40	42718.88
83.	Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.	4298.99	5820.37	7930.32	8764.16	8853.35
Steel						
84.	Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd.	90.78	99.85	105.71	120.51	128.98
85.	Maharashtra Elektros melt Ltd.	262.39	247.33	291.54	396.41	425.05
86.	Mishradhatu Nigam Ltd.	131.35	152.97	192.62	255.01	309.11
87.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	8181.34	8482.44	9150.57	10433.07	10410.63
88.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	32085.06	32707.75	39598.66	46046.15	49250.09
Telecommunication Services						
89.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	33450.04	36138.94	34616.21	25917.27	22876.11
90.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	5592.39	5560.98	4909.32	4722.52	4456.00
Tourist Services						
91.	Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Ltd.	1.38	1.37	1.49	1.87	1.80
92.	India Tourism Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	341.13	351.30	528.48	436.84	361.20
93.	Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corpn. Ltd.	123.78	258.21	421.34	511.83	593.31
Trading & Marketing						
94.	Central Cottage Industries Corpn. of India Ltd.	61.74	69.59	105.21	84.93	68.59
95.	Central Warehousing Corpn.	485.22	568.83	632.32	684.91	789.77
96.	Cotton Corpn. of India Ltd.	1415.07	2158.20	1666.32	1587.35	4922.34
97.	HMT (International) Ltd.	28.17	14.89	31.45	25.00	16.36
98.	India Trade Promotion Organisation	94.82	132.31	98.82	141.25	139.54
99.	MMTC Ltd.	15138.07	16393.39	23346.14	26503.03	36820.76
100.	MSTC Ltd.	4898.62	4092.55	2998.93	5054.94	6933.51
101.	National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.	241.72	253.45	417.16	614.57	865.32
102.	NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd.	574.97	434.46	861.35	776.37	1963.98
103.	PEC Ltd.	5961.32	3725.43	4517.90	5671.56	10274.78

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
104.	State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.	9562.49	7125.24	14335.27	15774.13	19785.84
105.	STCL Ltd.	431.96	470.78	1009.04	2440.92	2170.44
106.	Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organisation	7.42	8,52	11.80	14.82	15,77
Transmission						
107.	NTPC Electric Supply Company Ltd.	6.12	7.46	17.95	31.10	71.73
108.	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.	2513.07	3145.34	3589.85	4614.82	6579.81
Transport Services						
109.	Airports Authority of India Ltd.	2794.17	3247.09	2724.19	3890.87	3908.72
110.	Container Corporation of India Ltd.	2003.49	2433.16	3048.08	3347.30	3417.16
111.	Dredging Corpn. of India Ltd.	524.79	506.90	572.89	705.32	685.22
112.	Ennore Port Ltd.	92.00	92.32	101.05	128.02	137.76
113.	Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.	209.56	164.73	182.02	210.33	301.08
114.	Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.	3396.14	3531.02	3703.44	3726.84	4166.64
Transportation Equipment						
115.	BEML Ltd.	1856.01	2205.84	2601.79	2725.79	3007.06
116.	Cochin Shipyard Ltd.	276.48	373.53	722.36	836.42	1259.13
117.	Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.	881.41	985.99	713.74	556.65	740.62
118.	Goa Shipyard Ltd.	83.49	106.96	152.79	26.94	476.85
119.	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.	4533.80	5341.50	7783.61	8625.33	10373.38
Total		615026.91	709899.85	845936.62	968244.10	1140591.06

[English]

Wasteful Expenditure by OMCS on Petrol Pumps

6720. SHRI IJYARAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have spent heavy amounts on decoration of petroleum outlets;

(b) if so, the reasons for this huge expenditure;

(c) whether the companies have deliberately taken this decision to undertake renovation /decoration works so as to avoid dividends to the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs.), *viz.*, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have

been incurring expenditure for modernization of their Retail Outlets (ROs). Modernization of a RO means providing latest forecourt facilities like Electronic Pre-set pump /Multi Product Dispensers (MPDs), tanks of adequate capacity, driveway (concrete or paver blocks), canopy, lighting and modern signage etc at the existing ROs.

Modernization of ROs in line with the above is an ongoing activity based on the requirements of the customers, sales potential of the locations subject to availability of adequate space and receipt of all statutory approvals.

(c) and (d) The expenditure on modernization of ROs has no link with the amount of dividend paid/declared by the OMCs to the Government. OMCs have been consistently paying dividends to the Government.

Assets and Liabilities of Judges

6721. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court of India who have disclosed their assets and liabilities with the details of Supreme Court and High Courts as the case may be or private website for public viewing;

(b) the number of High Courts which have yet not passed resolutions or taken other measures to enable their Judges to declare their assets;

(c) whether the Judges of subordinate courts also have to declare their assets and liabilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of States where subordinate court Judges declared their assets and liabilities;

(f) whether a constitutional court can take a decision on the administrative side to challenge a decision of a subordinate court and hear that matter on the judicial side;

(g) if so, is there not a clear conflict of interest as evidenced in the Supreme Court Registry matter; and

(h) the steps contemplated by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Judges of the Supreme Court of India and 3 High Courts have so far posted the information relating to their assets and liabilities on the respective websites. All the Judges of 9 High Courts, 7 Judges of the Jharkhand High Court and 33 Judges of the Karnataka High Court have declared their assets to the respective Chief Justices. Information from the remaining High Courts is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e) 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. Therefore, such information is not maintained centrally.

(f) When the matter relates to interpretation of law, the Supreme Court can take a decision in the matter arising from subordinate court challenged on judicial side.

(g) No, Madam.

(h) Does not arise.

Setting up of Heavy Industries

6722. SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up some Heavy Industries during Eleventh Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether any such unit is proposed to be set up in Odisha and particularly in the KBK region;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. The details of industries to be set up by Department of Heavy Industry are as follows:

Industries	Location	State
Manufacturing Plant of Jagdishpur Paper Mills Limited	Jagdishpur	Utter Pradesh
Capacity augmentation in Nagaland Pulp and Paper Corporation	Tuli	Nagaland
Manufacturing Plant of NBPPL	Chitoor	Andhra Pradesh
Manufacturing Plant of BHEL	Tirumayam	Tamil Nadu
Salt Refinery project under Sambhar Salts Ltd. (SSL) Jaipur	Gudha	Rajasthan

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Data on Petroleum Sector

6723. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Energy Agency (IEA) has asked India to come out with enhanced data on their stockpiles, demand and supply situation of petroleum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Madam.

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

Role of PSUs in Railways

6724. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of undertakings/corporations under the ambit of Indian Railways;

(b) the financial performance of these undertakings/corporations during the last three years;

(c) whether the Railways propose to divest their stake in these undertakings/corporations to part finance the various projects/schemes proposed to be undertaken by 2020;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the measures proposed to finance the ambitious targets set under 'Indian Railways Vision 2020'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are eleven Public Sector Undertakings/Corporations under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways, namely:

1. Ircon International Limited (Schedule A)
2. RITES Limited (Schedule A)
3. Container Corporation of India Limited (Schedule A)
4. Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (Schedule B)
5. Railtel Corporation of India Limited (Schedule A)
6. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (Schedule B)
7. Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited (Schedule A)
8. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (Schedule A)
9. Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (Schedule A)
10. Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (Schedule A)
11. Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited (Schedule C)

(b) The financial performance of the above Public Sector Undertakings/Corporations, PSU-wise, during the last three years, as published in their Annual Reports, is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Particulars	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1. IRCON International Limited				
1.	Income/Turnover	1543	2093	2788
2.	Profit after tax	76	114	140
2. RITES Limited				
1.	Income/Turnover	566	661	672
2.	Profit after tax	118	104	94
3. Container Corporation of India Limited				
1.	Income/Turnover	3141.94	3510.33	3628.25
2.	Profit after tax	703.82	752.21	791.20
4. Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited				
1.	Income/Turnover	2284.03	2624.78	3024.78
2.	Profit after tax	398.70	421.51	180.79
5. Railtel Corporation of India Limited				
1.	Income/Turnover	114.32	199.82	386.43
2.	Profit after tax	40.85	56.14	102.04
6. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation				
1.	Income/Turnover	433.54	527.66	618.77
2.	Profit after tax	20.23	20.75	46.50
7. Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited				
1.	Income/Turnover	17.04	32.95	36.38
2.	Profit after tax	9.94	22.61	17.63
8. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited				
1.	Income/Turnover	985.26	1423.11	1654.16
2.	Profit after tax	11.27	28.43	40.83
9. Konkan Railway Corporation Limited				
1.	Income/Turnover	668.68	787.06	786.58
2.	Profit after tax	(-) 233.28	(-) 145.79	(-) 80.09

1	2	3	4	5
10. Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited				
1.	Income/Turnover	—	—	—
2.	Profit after tax	—	—	—
11. Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited				
1.	Income/Turnover	22.09	10.86	18.09
2.	Profit after tax	(-) 24.14	(-) 13.62	(-) 8.63

(c) No, Madam. Ministry of Railways has decided not to go for disinvestment of Government equity in its Public Sector Undertakings at present.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) 'Vision 2020' document has outlined the need to tap all possible sources of resource mobilization with emphasis on additional resource generation through Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives and prudent borrowings, besides internal generation and Government support, to meet the ambitious scale of investment required.

Corporate Safety Plan

6725. SHRI PURNMASI RAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the Corporate Safety Plan (CSP) in Indian Railways;

(b) whether none of the zones have achieved the targets set out in CSP;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and measures taken to improve the monitoring of the objectives; and

(d) the details of works executed under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) during the last three years and the quantum of SRSF fund diverted for other purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The Corporate Safety Plan (CSP) has the following broad objectives:

A. To achieve reduction in rate of accidents per million train kilometers from the present level of 0.44 to 0.17 by the year 2013

B. Implement measures to reduce chances of passenger fatality substantially inconsequential train accidents by 2013.

C. Focus on development of manpower through major improvements in working environment and training to reduce the accidents attributable to human failure by 40% by 2013.

D. Achieve safety culture on all fronts including maintenance depots, worksites, stations, controls etc.

E. Progressively achieve an environment of "Fail-proof from the present "Fail-safe" system of asset failures by upgrading the systems by 2013.

F. Prioritization of safety related projects.

G. Implementation of accepted recommendations of RSRC at an accelerated pace.

(b) and (c) The currency of Corporate Safety will come to an end on 31.3.2013. Railways are striving to minimize the number of accidents and exceed the targets of CSP. Upto the financial year ending 31.3.2009, 75.05% safety related works indicated in this Plan have been completed. The remaining works are likely to be completed by end of the Plan. For achieving the targets, monitoring of this Fund is being done at Board, Headquarters and divisional level.

(d) All the works planned under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) have been completed by 31.3.2008. No works were, therefore carried on (under SRSF) during the last two years i.e. 2008-09 and 2009-10. The detail of the works executed under SRSF upto 31.03.2008 is given as under:-

The progress of the works for assets renewals upto 31.3.2008 are as following:

Details of works	Targets	Progress	Balance	%Progress (3) x 100% (2)
Track Renewals (upto March 2008)	16538 km.: Complete Track Renewals (12376 km. on BG, 4162 km. on MG)	16533.35 (includes 909.17 km of CTR works due to gauge conversion)	4.85 km will be charged under DRF during 2008-09	99.97%
Bridge works (Upto July 2008)	2370 Bridges (Reassessment done) Revised target -2286 bridges	2191 Bridges		95.8%
Signalling and Telecommunication	1448 Stations: Complete Renewal	1315 Stns.: Complete Renewal		90.81%
	911 Stations: Casual Renewals	904 Stns.: Casual Renewal upto June 2008		90.12%
Rolling Stock (upto 1.4.08)	Diesel loco BG-93	93	—	100%
	Diesel loco NG-6	2	4	33%
	Coach BG-186	—		100%
	OHE Inspection. Car-52	51	1	98%
	Diesel Multiple Unit-12	12	—	100%
	Electric Multiple Unit- 599 (revised to 450, 149 manufactured under DRF)	268	182	59.55%
	Coach MG-520	520 (including reduced requirement of 446 after gauge conversion)	—	100%
	Coach NG-157 Self-propelled Accident Train SPART-60	119	38	76% —
Wagons-7698 (Vus)	7238	460	94%	

The progress of the works for Safety enhancement upto 31-03-2008 are as follows:

Details of works	Targets	Progress	Balance x 100% (2)	%Progress (3)
1	2	3	4	5
Twin Beam longer visibility headlights Diesel and electric locos and EMU	9800 nos. (4900 -Diesel) (4900- Electric)	2616 nos. (Diesel) 4900 nos (Electric) Progress upto 1.4.2008	—	100%
Automatic flasher lights on locos Diesel and Electric loco and EMU	2400 nos. (1200-Diesel) (1200-Electric)	1200 nos. (Diesel) 1200 nos. (Electric)	—	100%
SPURT Cars for rail testing	3	Nil	3	
Air-dryers for compressed Air system-Diesel locos	2000 nos.	2000 nos.	—	100%
Air-dryers for compressed Air system-Electric locos	3800 nos.	3800 nos. Progress upto 1.4.2008	—	100%
Speed Recorders Micro Processor for Electric and Diesel Locomotives Loco speed recorders	1300 nos. (Diesel-650) (Electric-650)	782 nos. (Diesel) 650 nos. (Electric)	—	100%
Track circuiting	5307 locations	4569 locations	738 locations	86.09%
Simulators for Dsl. and Elec. loco Drivers (100% of 5 electric locomotives completed)	12 nos	11 nos.	1	91.6%

1	2	3	4	5
Hydraulic Re Re-railing eqpt	51 nos.	51 nos.	-	100%
Technology to improve Thermit welds to improve rail life	2 (firms indented for trial)			
Optic Fibre Cable and Cable works	8147 Route km.	7947 Route km.	200 route kms	97.5%

An amount of Rs. 16, 318 crores has been spent out of total projected amount of Rs. 17, 000 crores under SRSF. To complete the ongoing works spilled over in year 2008-09, Rs. 590.36 crores has been credited in Depreciation Reserve Fund.

Jobs in Government Services

6726. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has compiled the data regarding representation of minorities in the Government departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) since the implementation of 15 point programme; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the number of minorities employed in Government departments/PSUs during each of the last three years and the current year, community-wise and department/PSU-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) and (b) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities was launched in June, 2006. On 8th January, 2007 Department of Personnel and Training had circulated revised guidelines to all Central Ministries/Departments for giving special consideration to the recruitment of minorities in Central Government Offices and Central Public Sector Undertakings.

The details regarding number of minorities employed in Government Departments/Public Sector Undertakings, which are compiled after the close of each financial year, are not maintained community-wise. However, the number of persons belonging to all the minority communities recruited during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given below:-

Name of the Organization	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	Persons from minority communities recruited	Persons from minority communities recruited	Persons from minority communities recruited
Other Ministries/Departments, Sub/attached offices	5,485	1620	2546
Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions	702	1,615	4263
Para Military Forces	2,700	4,914	3068
Department of Posts	386	517	176
Railways	1,456	2,295	3012
Public Sector Undertakings	1,453	1,234	2107
Total	12,182	12195	15172

The department-wise details are available on the Ministry's website www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

Appointment of Chief Operating Officer

6727. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has engaged a Chief Operating Officer (COO);

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions of appointment, emoluments and perks etc.;

(c) whether the emoluments of the new COO are more than ten times that of the Chairman and Managing Director of Air India under whom he is required to work;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether All India Cabin Crew Association of India have lodged a protest on the appointment of Foreign National as COO of Air India at exorbitant salary;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) No, Madam. Selection of a COO was considered by the Air India Board in its last meeting.

(e) to (g) Yes, Madam. The concerns expressed by the Association would be taken into consideration, and due care would be taken while taking decisions.

Financial Irregularities in PSUs

6728. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of financial irregularities in Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) in the recent years in the country, State-wise where such units are established;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for failure in checking these irregularities;

(d) the action, the Government proposes to take on the basis of the Comptroller and Auditor General's (C&AG) Report in terms of financial irregularities; and

(e) the loss accrued to the Government exchequer during the last three years due to financial irregularities in PSEs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in its Report (Commercial) No. CA 24 of 2009-10, which was placed in the Parliament on 9th July, 2009 has mentioned about deficiencies in management of PSUs that have certain financial implications.

(c) and (d) The C&AG in its Report has also indicated the reasons for these deficiencies. The concerned Ministry/Department is required to take necessary action including remedial action, if any, on the Audit paras/observations relating to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) under its administrative control. In order to effectively monitor and expedite the follow up action on CandAG report, each Administrative Ministry/Department has also set up a Monitoring Cell.

(e) As per the audit observations made in the C&AG Reports No CA 24 of 2009-10, CA 11 of 2008 and CA 11 of 2007 the financial implications amount to Rs. 1846.58 crore, Rs. 1404.32 crore and Rs. 4547.63 crore respectively.

[Translation]

LPG Connections

6729. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Indain Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation have issued any circular regarding the number of gas connections to be retained by the consumer in a family;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken regarding retainment of more than one gas connection in a family?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Government has amended the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000, vide Notification dated 10.09.2009 which *inter-alia* provides for only one LPG connection (alongwith DBC) in any household. Multiple LPG connections in a household are not permitted. The amendment has been made with a view to check release of multiple connections leading to diversion of the highly subsidized domestic LPG.

Government have advised Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to implement the amended Control Order strictly and accordingly, nationwide advertisements were released by OMCs in leading dailies.

[*English*]

Exploration of Hydro Carbons

6730. SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are huge potential of Hydro Carbon available in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for exploration of above natural resource?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The prognosticated hydrocarbon resources in the country are estimated to be about 28 Billion Tonne, which includes 15 sedimentary basins in onland and offshore area as well as estimated resources in the deepwater area.

(b) Following steps have been taken to exploit the oil/gas resources available in the country:

- Accelerating exploration activities by awarding exploration acreages through New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- So far, 203 exploration blocks have been awarded in onland, offshore and deepwater area under seven rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) held so far.

- 34 exploration blocks are likely to be awarded under eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII).

- Exploring alternate sources of energy, such as Gas Hydrate, Oil Shale etc.

Tenth Five Year Plan

6731. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy framed by the Indian Railways for modernization of rolling stock, tracks, signalling system during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the actual success achieved since the mid-term appraisal of Tenth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) In the Tenth Five Year Plan, emphasis was on induction of high horse power and three phase technology locomotives, higher axle load wagons with better pay load to tare ratio, improvement of track structure and mechanization of maintenance and renewal of tracks, provision of train collision avoidance/train protection system, electrical/electronic interlocking, track circuiting, automatic signalling and interlocking of level crossing gates.

(b) Since the mid-term appraisal of Tenth Plan from 2005-06 onwards till 2009-10, there has been increased production and induction of 234 electric and 310 diesel locos of higher horse power with three phase technology. Open and covered stainless steel wagons with higher axle load and better pay load to tare ratio have been designed and are currently running in Indian Railways system. Modern track structure with heavier rails, Pre Reinforced Concrete (PRC) sleepers and modern elastic fastenings are being adopted and mechanized maintenance and renewals of tracks are progressively increasing. In the field of Signalling, Train Collision Avoidance/Train Protection System on 1786 route kilometers, Electrical/Electronic Interlocking on 1978 stations, Block Proving by Axle Counter in 1926 block sections, Continuous Track Circuiting/Automatic Signalling on 740 route kilometers and interlocking on 2045 level crossing gates have been provided.

*[Translation]***Reduction in Prices of Medicines**

6732. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has framed some rules to reduce the prices of some medicines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price & Control) Order, 1995 the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA/Govt. fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. The NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations including imported scheduled formulations under price control. Under the DPCO, no person can sell any formulation (medicine) of price controlled category to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified/approved by the NPPA/Government. In case, a company is found selling at prices higher than the price notified/approved by the NPPA/Government, action is taken against them as per the provisions of the DPCO.

In respect of drugs - not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers 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.

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. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum 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.

Medical and Paramedical Education

6733. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to launch the facility of medical and paramedical education for its employees and the general public at the railway zonal headquarters and other important centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the norms fixed for admission in the medical and paramedical education centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Medical and Nursing Colleges are proposed to be set up on railway land not required for immediate operational purposes mostly on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis.

(c) The norms for admission have not yet been decided.

*[English]***Computerized Reservation System in Bahraich Region**

6734. SHRI KAMAL KISHOR "COMMANDO": Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of stations pertaining to Bahraich district in Uttar Pradesh which have been provided with computerized reservation system;

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend this facility to other stations pertaining to Bahraich district in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this step is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) In Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh, Computerized reservation facility is provided at 5 stations namely Bahraich, Nanpara, Payagpur, Risia and Jarwal Road.

(b) and (c) Unreserved Ticketing System-cum-Passenger Reservation System(UTS-cum-PRS) has been sanctioned for 3 more stations viz. Mihinpurwa, Bichhia

and Nepalganj Road stations and is likely to be commissioned shortly.

[*Translation*]

Introduction of New Trains

6735. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to run the Garib Rath and the Rajdhani trains from New Delhi to Mumbai, Dadar and CST *via* Bhopal, Itarsi, Bhusawal and Manmad stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard; and

(d) the time by which these trains are likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) No, Madam. Garib Rath and Rajdhani trains are already running between New Delhi and Mumbai *via* Kota, Ratlam, Vadodara and Surat.

[*English*]

Intake Capacity of NIFT

6736. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to increase student intake capacity by 25 per cent for the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in the country including State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court and Government of India, National Institute of Fashion Technology was to increase its student intake by 54%

during the 3 years 2008-10 in order to implement the provision for OBC Quota reservation in NIFT.

During the 2 Academic years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 the strength has already been increased by 600 students. The remaining additional 129 students shall be admitted in 2010-2011, thus bringing the overall increase to the required 54%. No other increase of students is envisaged at present.

Privatisation of Non-Core Business

6737. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) with a view to cut the operating issues of the company is proposing to hive off the non-core businesses such as maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), ground handling and engineering services from the fold of the company;

(b) if so, whether the proposed move is part of the overall business plan of privatisation of this company;

(c) if so, the reasons behind arriving at a decision to gradually privatise NACIL part by part; and

(d) the way the proposed move to transfer the non-core business will help the airlines to come out of losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) NACIL is in the process of operationalising three separate subsidiaries covering Engineering, Ground Handling and Cargo.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Strategic Business Units (SBU) concept was proposed for NACIL at the time of merger to bring in greater accountability in the functioning of the company. Each SBU head would be empowered under the broad ambit of the delegation of financial and administrative powers. It would facilitate focussed attention on core business activities for increased revenue generation.

Service After Sales of BHEL

6738. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move to shift Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited Service After Sales (SAS) Wing from Patna (Bihar) to Durgapur (West Bengal);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation against the move;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the interests of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): No Madam. There is no move at present in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to shift its existing Service Centre office located at Patna (Bihar) to Durgapur (West Bengal).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) Representations have been received from various sources such as Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Bihar; Members of Parliament; Bihar Chamber of Commerce; Indian National Trade Union Congress, Bihar; and Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee.

There are, however, no plans to shift the Service Centre office from Patna.

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

[Translation]

Supply of Gas from Spanish Firm

6739. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Spanish firm has offered to supply gas at an average rate to fertilizer and power sector units; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The Government is not aware of any such offer.

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

Supply of Imported Fertilizers to States

6740. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of imported fertilizers including Muriate of Potash allocated and released to each State during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Union Government has received any request from the Government of Bihar to increase the quota in order to meet the demand in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The quantum of imported fertilizers including Muriate of Potash (MOP) and its availability (allocation) of fertilizers namely Urea, Di-Ammonium of Phosphate and MOP, including indigenous production during each of the last three years is as follows:

(lakh metric tonnes)

Year	Urea		DAP		MOP
	Imports	Availability	Imports	Availability	Imported/availability*
2007-08	69.27	274.26	29.78	83.40	29.28
2008-09	56.66	270.88	66.31	99.78	43.34
2009-10	52.08	265.97	59.87	104.09	47.60

*There is no viable source of MOP in the country.

The State-wise quantum of imported Urea, DAP & MOP and its availability during last three years *i.e.* 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and current year (upto April, 2010) is as given as Statement-I to IV.

(b) No such request has been received from the State Government of Bihar for increasing the quota (requirement) of fertilizers during current year.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Statement I

State-wise quantum of imported Urea, DAP & MOP and Availability during 2007-08

2007-08 Name of State	UREA		DAP/MAP		MOP
	Quantum of import	Availability (Indigenous+ Imported)	Quantum of import	Availability (Indigenous+ Imported)	Quantum of import*
Andhra Pradesh	13.86	26.84	1.43	7.16	4.52
Karnataka	6.03	13.63	1.03	4.54	3.70
Kerala	0.74	1.44	0.07	0.18	1.19
Tamil Nadu	4.96	9.68	1.53	3.35	4.85
Gujarat	6.77	18.37	1.23	6.76	1.82
Madhya Pradesh	3.97	14.76	3.81	6.82	0.76
Chhattisgarh	2.07	6.17	0.11	1.38	0.69
Maharashtra	6.94	23.05	1.57	6.45	3.46
Rajasthan	3.16	13.83	3.40	5.51	0.23
Haryana	3.19	19.30	4.11	6.80	0.34
Punjab	3.43	26.97	5.30	9.14	0.58
Uttar Pradesh	9.21	54.37	5.74	14.89	1.27
Uttaranchal	0.09	2.42	0.02	0.23	0.05
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.05
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	1.19	0.16	0.33	0.07
Bihar	0.97	19.40	1.61	3.30	1.19
Jharkhand	0.07	1.67	0.07	0.75	0.08
Odisha	1.98	5.19	0.01	1.79	1.05
West Bengal	2.74	12.45	0.25	3.80	2.76
Assam	0.00	1.99	0.00	0.08	0.40
All India	71.35	274.26	31.51	83.40	29.28

*There is no viable source of MOP in the country.

Statement II*State-wise quantum of imported Urea, DAP & MOP and Availability during 2008-09*

2008-09 Name of State	UREA		DAP/MAP		MOP
	Quantum of import	Availability (Indigenous+ Imported)	Quantum of import	Availability (Indigenous+ Imported)	Quantum of import*
Andhra Pradesh	13.16	27.84	7.23	9.98	6.27
Karnataka	4.87	12.88	4.72	8.12	5.14
Kerala	1.04	1.68	0.12	0.24	1.53
Tamil Nadu	6.16	11.28	3.12	3.85	5.95
Gujarat	7.07	18.69	4.09	8.24	2.26
Madhya Pradesh	2.00	13.83	7.12	8.31	1.17
Chhattisgarh	1.05	5.23	1.19	2.31	0.95
Maharashtra	6.32	22.84	6.35	10.19	5.17
Rajasthan	2.95	13.21	5.08	5.90	0.32
Haryana	2.44	17.59	6.31	6.69	0.47
Punjab	2.86	26.28	8.17	8.82	0.98
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.06
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	1.28	0.49	0.59	0.14
Uttar Pradesh	10.09	55.74	11.16	15.12	2.79
Uttarakhand	0.00	2.22	0.19	0.31	0.08
Bihar	0.77	18.33	2.70	4.12	2.28
Jharkhand	0.00	1.57	0.24	0.80	0.16
Odisha	1.06	4.74	0.11	1.89	1.53
West Bengal	2.59	11.94	1.23	4.03	4.80
Assam	0.26	2.30	0.09	0.14	1.08
All India	64.79	270.88	69.82	99.78	43.34

*There is no viable source of MOP in the country.

Statement III*State-wise quantum of imported Urea, DAP & MOP and Availability during 2009-10*

2009-10 Name of State	UREA		DAP/MAP		MOP
	Quantum of import	Availability (Indigenous+ Imported)	Quantum of import	Availability (Indigenous+ Imported)	Quantum of import*
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	10.41	26.16	4.10	8.89	6.07
Karnataka	5.07	13.77	3.79	8.46	6.12

1	2	3	4	5	6
Kerala	1.02	1.53	0.18	0.30	1.57
Tamil Nadu	4.27	9.98	2.53	2.94	5.14
Gujarat	5.56	18.21	2.07	7.64	2.86
Madhya Pradesh	3.57	16.00	7.57	9.52	1.67
Chhattisgarh	0.65	5.27	1.23	2.65	0.96
Maharashtra	5.14	22.87	7.57	13.83	7.07
Rajasthan	2.46	13.37	4.50	5.86	0.55
Haryana	2.73	18.05	4.33	6.66	0.90
Punjab	2.15	24.65	6.22	8.08	1.00
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.02	0.05
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	1.22	0.38	0.48	0.18
Uttar Pradesh	6.02	53.64	11.25	16.51	3.47
Uttarakhand	0.00	2.33	0.12	0.38	0.04
Bihar	0.89	17.04	2.19	3.98	2.26
Jharkhand	0.00	1.50	0.26	0.82	0.17
Odisha	1.08	4.61	0.41	2.24	1.31
West Bengal	1.27	11.71	1.65	4.56	4.97
Assam	0.10	2.56	0.13	0.22	0.97
All India	52.45	265.97	60.56	104.09	47.60

*There is no viable source of MOP in the country.

Statement IV

State-wise quantum of imported Urea, DAP & MOP and Availability during 2010 (upto April, 2010)

States	UREA		DAP		MOP
	Quantum of import	Availability	Quantum of import	Availability	Quantum of import*
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	0.22	1.63	0.00	0.71	0.09
Karnataka	0.10	0.67	0.13	0.78	0.11
Kerala	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.06
Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.52	0.00	0.08	0.05

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	0.33	1.13	0.04	0.42	0.22
Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.39	0.28	0.35	0.24
Chhattisgarh	0.08	0.45	0.08	0.32	0.06
Maharashtra	0.31	2.04	0.45	1.57	0.05
Rajasthan	0.05	0.64	0.08	0.15	0.13
Haryana	0.00	0.82	0.56	0.58	0.00
Punjab	0.11	1.52	0.26	0.39	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.06	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	0.11	3.84	0.15	0.67	0.06
Uttarakhand	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.01	0.00
Bihar	0.00	0.82	0.00	0.20	0.03
Jharkhand	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.04	0.00
Odisha	0.10	0.26	0.00	0.10	0.07
West Bengal	0.10	0.66	0.00	0.33	0.08
Assam	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.05
All India	1.51	15.91	2.08	6.83	1.31

*There is no viable source of MOP in the country.

[English]

Production of Stainless Steel in DSP

6741. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the finished consumer goods are not produced Durgapur Steel Plant despite having the requisite technology;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is actively considering to start production of finished consumer goods of stainless steel from this plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) With the available technologies Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP)

produces Channels, Angles and TMT bars which are used for construction purposes. Integrated Steel Plants do not normally manufacture finished consumer goods.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. There is no plan to start the production of finished consumer goods of stainless steel at Durgapur Steel Plant.

Training Facilities to Staff

6742. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Staff of National Aviation Company of India Limited and other allied agencies are performing various duties without proper training and proper rest; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide them regular training and other amenities such as proper rest after night duties, rest room particularly for ladies staff etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Employees of NACIL and other allied agencies are trained adequately and continuously for doing their jobs effectively. The mandatory minimum gap of 11 hours is always maintained as per the regulations while rostering staff for the shift. Adequate rest rooms for both male and female staff are provided.

[*Translation*]

Family Courts

6743. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:
SHRI M. ANANDAN:

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

(a) the number of family courts functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration to set up more family courts in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of cases filed/pending/disposed of

by family courts during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the financial assistance provided to each State for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (e) As per the information received from the State Governments/Registries of the High Courts, 207 Family Courts are functional in the country. Statement-I indicating the number of Family Courts functioning in the country, State-wise and financial assistance provided to States for the purpose during the last three years is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Family Courts are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Court as per their need. The role of the Central Government is limited to providing financial assistance to the State Governments for meeting expenditure on Family Courts as per the norms of the scheme. Central Government has, however, requested the State Governments to set up at least one Family Court in each district.

(d) Statement-II indicating the number of cases filed, pending and disposed of by Family Courts during the last three years, State-wise is enclosed.

Statement I

As on 31.3.2010

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Family Courts functional	Amount released under Plan	Amount released under Non-Plan	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27			
2.	Assam	2			
3.	Bihar	30		100 (2008-09)	100
4.	Chhattisgarh	19	20 (2007-08)	30 (2007-08)	50
5.	Delhi	5			

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Gujarat	9			
7.	Jharkhand	8			
8.	Karnataka	10			
9.	Kerala	16			
10.	Madhya Pradesh	15			
11.	Maharashtra	20		90 (2007-08)	
12.	Manipur	1		90 (2009-10)	180
13.	Mizoram	*			
14.	Nagaland	2		10 (2009-10)	10
15.	Odisha	2			
16.	Puducherry	1			
17.	Rajasthan	6			
18.	Sikkim	1			
19.	Tamil Nadu	6		30 (2007-08)	30
20.	Tripura	3		9.08 (2007-08)	9.08
21.	Uttar Pradesh	15			
22.	Uttarakhand	7			
23.	West Bengal	2	30 (2007-08)	35 (2007-08)	65
Total		207			

*Four Family Courts notified.

Statement II

Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in the Family Courts for the Last Three Years

Sl.No.	Year States/UTs	2007				2008				2009			
		Opening balance	Institution	Disposal	Pendency at the end	Opening balance	Institution	Disposal	Pendency at the end	Opening balance	Institution	Disposal	Pendency at the end
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5186	5397	5163	5420	5420	6834	2929	9325	NA	NA	NA	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2.	Assam	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3.	Bihar	16630	9310	8591	17314	17314	10870	9031	19153	NA	NA	NA	NA
4.	Chhattisgarh	4631	10355	5632	6384	6384	8553	5652	6718	6718	7691	7932	6477
5.	Delhi*										292	286	1024
6.	Gujarat	8038	5923	5487	8474	8474	10554	5739	13255	13353	9376	10227	12502
7.	Jharkhand	4985	3321	3154	5076	5076	4608	3238	6446	32604	6260	4268	34687
8.	Karnataka	9149	6116	7888	9957	9957	13286	15156	14348	13856	9072	9048	13880
9.	Kerala	37804	31377	37953	31228	31228	33396	35659	28965	29450	8656	7977	30129
10.	Madhya Pradesh	7375	9076	9414	7037	7037	9904	9168	7773	7773	11490	10221	9042
11.	Maharashtra	17705	15931	14829	18807	18807	16347	NA	20087	20087	19863	15683	24270
12.	Manipur	769	547	372	944	944	512	271	1185	NA	NA	NA	NA
13.	Mizoram	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
14.	Nagaland	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	Nil	NIL	NIL	NIL	NA	NA	NA	NA
15.	Odisha	5552	2132	1641	1081	6043	6043	2490	1313	7220	2732	1915	7977
16.	Puducherry	520	1093	1081	532	532	1023	1002	553	553	637	507	683
17.	Rajasthan	13396	7641	8882	12155	12155	9178	457	10976	10976	10168	9910	11234
18.	Sikkim	67	92	97	62	62	NA	NA	68	82	27	40	69
19.	Tamil Nadu	9881	11169	9157	11893	11893	NA	NA	14286	14286	13766	11982	16070
20.	Tripura	472	1009	763	718	718	1127	949	926	NA	NA	NA	NA
21.	Uttar Pradesh	NA	NA	NA	NA		93631	84139	63125	NA	NA	NA	66585
22.	Uttarakhand	4315	4433	4674	4074	4074	4311	3716	4669	NA	NA	NA	5380
23.	West Bengal	842	655	435	1062	1062	769	588	1243	NA	NA	NA	1319

*Information for Quarter October-December, 2009.

Cargo Handling Facilities

6744. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of those airports in the country where cargo handling facilities are available at present;

(b) the details of the cargo handled by these airports during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the names of the airports at which cargo premises are proposed to be set up during the Eleventh Five Year Plan with a view to improve the infrastructural facilities at the airports and expedite the pace of development in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The airports where cargo handling facility is operated by Airports Authority of India (AAI) are Chennai, Kolkata, Guwahati, Lucknow, Coimbatore, Amritsar and Indore. In addition, airports where cargo handling facility is operated by State Government Agencies/others are Delhi, Mumbai, Amritsar, Nagpur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Varanasi, Calicut, Visakhapatnam, Trivandrum, Bagdogra, Goa, Cochin, Srinagar, Bhubaneshwar and Tiruchirapalli.

(b) The details of cargo handled during the year 2006-07 to 2008-09 is given as Statement.

(c) AAI has plans to develop cargo handling facilities at Srinagar, Surat and Agartala airports.

Statement

Freight (in tonnes) handled at those Airports where Cargo Facilities are available during the period 2006-07 to 2008-09

Sl.No.	Airports	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Mumbai	480181	533494	529938
2.	Delhi	389490	432863	426263
3.	Chennai	238325	270608	272368
4.	Bangalore	163766	178147	158000
5.	Kolkata	83523	90909	89870
6.	Hyderabad	44667	51178	57211
7.	Cochin (CIAL)	21389	25164	31155
8.	Ahmedabad	20389	23576	23033
9.	Goa	4898	4969	3977
10.	Trivandrum	31907	32105	31584
11.	Calicut	11461	9394	12919
12.	Guwahati	3698	2062	1644

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Jaipur	2668	2934	2482
14.	Coimbatore	5257	4793	5533
15.	Lucknow	1901	1786	1922
16.	Nagpur	3358	4062	3895
17.	Srinagar	2145	1918	1501
18.	Bhubaneswar	1018	1258	1287
19.	Indore	3657	4903	4952
20.	Visakhapatnam	541	535	766
21.	Amritsar	1842	1363	2174
22.	Portblair	1658	1962	2139
23.	Trichy	879	1166	924
24.	Bagdogra	623	568	636
25.	Varanasi	384	365	318
	Others (Airports where cargo handling facilities are not available but freight handled)	31281	32896	35494
		1550906	1714978	1701985

[English]

Recommendations of Irani Committee

6745. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is bringing new law to put insolvency cases on fast track;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has implemented Irani Committee recommendations so far;

(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) to (d) The Irani Committee on new Company Law set up by the Government had, inter-alia, made recommendations for a time-bound, fair and effective insolvency and winding up regime for corporates under Company Law. Keeping in view such recommendations made by Irani Committee and after holding consultations with all concerned stakeholders, a comprehensive and revised legislation viz Companies Bill, 2009 has been introduced in the Parliament on 3rd August, 2009. The Bill was subsequently referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance for its examination and report. The Companies Bill, 2009, inter-alia, contains adequate provisions for rehabilitation and winding up proceedings of companies to take place in a timely and effective manner.

(e) Does not arise.

Fish Processing

6746. SHRI K. SHIVKUMAR *ALIAS* J.K. RITHEESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Governments for setting up of Fish Processing Industry including canning freezing in Coastal areas in the country.

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

(c) The steps taken by the Government in this regard along with financial assistance provided to each such State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) under its Plan Scheme for Technology Upgradation, Establishment and Modernization of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance to the proposals received from eligible agencies for setting up of food processing units as per guidelines of scheme. MFPI schemes are project specific, not State specific. MFPI has not received any proposals directly from State Governments for financial assistance for setting up of Fish Processing Industry including canning freezing in coastal Areas in the country during the last three years.

(c) To promote food processing in the country, 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 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. In order to ensure speedy disbursement of financial assistance, the Ministry has decentralized the disbursement procedure through banks/ financial institutions under the scheme of setting up/ Establishment/Modernization/Expansion of Food Processing Industries w.e.f. 01-04-2007.

Under the decentralized procedure the applications are received directly by the Banks/F.Is hence the data for receipt of the applications is not maintained centrally by the Ministry. However, during last three years for 2007-08 and 2008-09 and 2009-10 the following proposals received state wise through e-portal for Fish Processing Industries have been sanctioned grant-in-aid by the Ministry for Fish Processing Sector.

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		No. of units	Amount Released	No. of units	Amount Released	No. of units	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	33.22	1	25.00	1	25.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Gujarat			1	25.00	1	25.00
3.	Karnataka	2	50.00	2	50.00		
4.	Kerala	8	191.31	6	161.34	8	188.23
5.	Maharashtra	1	25.00	1	23.00		
6.	Manipur	1	30.68			1	24.42
7.	Orissa	1	25.00				
8.	Tamil Nadu	1	8.75	2	50.00	2	29.60
9.	West Bengal	4	93.89	3	62.10		
	Total	19	407.85	16	396.44	15	342.25

[*Translation*]

Appointment of Independent Directors

6747. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to impose heavy penalty on the companies failing to appoint a fixed number of independent directors within a definite period as per the norms of the corporate proposal; and

(b) if so, the details of the companies appointing and the names of the companies failing to appoint a fixed number of independent directors as per the norms of the 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) and (b) The Companies Act, 1956 does not provide for appointment of independent directors. As per clause 49 of the Listing Agreement, all the listed companies are required to appoint independent directors. As per the information received from Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), there are 83 companies listed in

BSE and 47 companies listed in NSE which have not fully complied with clause 49 of the listing agreement.

CVC Guidelines for PSUs

6748. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that various Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are not complying with the guidelines issued by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC);

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

(c) the details of the guidelines being issued to various PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) The guidelines/circulars of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) are duly extended to the administrative Ministries/Departments concerned with the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The monitoring of implementation of the CVC guidelines in CPSEs is done by the concerned Ministry/Department.

Opening of Gas Agencies in M.P.

6749. SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies which have given advertisements for opening of gas agencies in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) the location-wise and area-wise number of gas agencies opened in Madhya Pradesh during the period as per the advertisements alongwith the number of applications pending for gas agency; and

(c) the timeframe fixed by the Government to clear the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) During the last two years, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have not advertised any location for setting up of LPG distributor in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

However, notice inviting applications for selection of LPG distributors under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY) have been issued on 19.10.2009 by OMCs for establishing 97 new LPG distributors in the State of Madhya Pradesh and the selection of the same is in progress as per policy.

The selection of LPG distributorships is made by OMCs themselves, in terms of laid down guidelines. The setting up of LPG distributors is a continuous process and involves identifying of a suitable location, arranging Sand for construction of godown/showroom and obtaining statutory clearances. It is therefore, not possible to indicate any time frame for commissioning/opening of LPG distributors, but every effort is made to do so as quickly as possible.

[English]

Reservation for Women in PSUs

6750. SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

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

(a) whether the Forum of Women in Public Sector (WIPS) is demanding a reservation in top board position in Public Sector Undertakings;

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

(c) the response of the Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government on the demand of WIPS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) No, Madam. No formal demand for reservation in top board level positions in Public Sector Undertakings has been received from the Forum of Women in Public Sector.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Subsidies to Petroleum Sector

6751. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to International Energy Agency (IEA) in 2008 India spent approximately 40 billion dollar on subsidies to the petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the details of subsidies provided /to be provided in the Eleventh Plan, year-wise; and

(c) the total number of beneficiaries of the subsidies in the country in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) International Energy Agency (IEA) in its Paper on 'Petroleum Prices, Taxation and Subsidies in India, June 2009' has made a reference that under-recoveries have escalated alarmingly in recent years, from approximately US \$ 10 billion in 2006-07 to an expected total of over US \$ 40 billion in 2008-2009. As the said reference by IEA seems to be in the context of total under-recoveries suffered by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), the total under-recoveries incurred by OMCs on the sale of sensitive petroleum products i.e. Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, since 2007-08 are given below:

Under-Recovery	Unit	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
PDS Kerosene	Rs. crore	19,102	28,225	17,364
Domestic LPG	Rs. crore	15,523	17,600	14,257
Petrol	Rs. crore	7,332	5,181	5,151
Diesel	Rs. crore	35,166	52,286	9,279
Total	Rs. crore	77,123	103,292	46,051
Total under-recovery in US\$	Billion US\$	19.17	22.50	9.71

*Gross under-recoveries without considering oil bonds/cash subsidy and upstream assistance.

The details of the fiscal subsidy provided by the Government to the OMCs on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG and release of Oil Bonds/cash assistance

under the burden sharing mechanism since 2007-08 are given below:

	Unit	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Fiscal Subsidy	Rs. crore	2,641	2,688	2,770
Oil Bonds/Cash subsidy	Rs. crore	35,290	71,292	12,000
Total	Rs. crore	37,931	73,980	14,770
Total in US dollars	Billion US \$	9.43	16.11	3.11

The quantum of the under-recoveries to the OMCs depends upon the international oil prices which fluctuate on a daily basis. Hence, the under-recoveries of the OMCs rise and fall in tandem with international oil prices.

(c) The fiscal subsidy and assistance for compensating the OMCs under-recoveries on Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG is passed on to all consumers in the country. Subsidy/cash assistance is provided to the OMCs based on their sales figures in respect of the four sensitive petroleum products.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Greenfield Airport

6752. SHRI DHANANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given permission for the construction of greenfield international airport in any State relaxing the laid down norm of maintaining a distance of 150 kms between the two airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Government of India has given approval for setting up of Greenfield airports at Shamshabad in Andhra Pradesh; Devanahalli in Karnataka; Mopa in Goa; Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra and Kannur in Kerala for international operations within the aerial distance of 150 km of the existing airport *i.e.* Begumpet airport at Hyderabad; HAL airport at Bengaluru; Dabolim airport at Goa; CSI airport at Mumbai and Calicut & Mangalore airport in Kerala respectively.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Bid for Sakhalin-III

6753. SHRI RAJAIHA SIRICILLA:
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

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

(a) whether Indian and Russian companies are considering jointly bid for Sakhalin-III oilfields;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No Madam.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Special Trains in Sabarimala Season

6754. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of special trains introduced by the Southern Railways during the last 'Sabarimala' season;

(b) the details of revenue earned from these special trains;

(c) the growth rate of revenue earned as compared to the 'Sabarimala' season 2008-09;

(d) whether the schedule of regular trains gets affected by the introduction of such special trains; and

(e) if so, the details of loss of revenue to the Railways as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) About 420 special trains were run on Southern Railway during last Sabarimala season from November 2009 to January 2010.

(b) and (c) The details of revenue earned from special trains run for Sabarimala season during the last two years has been as under:

(Rs. in Crores)		
2008-09	2009-10	Growth rate
4.07	7.00	72. 6%

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

Pricing Policy for Transportation of Fuel

6755. SHRI N. CHELUVARAY SWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce differential pricing policy based on the cost of transportation of the fuel from the nearest port to the sale point;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revised pricing policy has been introduced; and

(d) if not, the time by which the same is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

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

Security Beef up in Flights

6756. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of constant threat from terrorists, Air India has beefed up security in flights to and from Kabul;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for sharing information with the Afghan Civil Aviation Authorities to ensure the safety of passengers and property of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Air India has taken various measures like positioning of security personnel at Kabul airport and on board Air India flights, passenger screening and other additional measures to enhance security at the Kabul airport in coordination with Afghan Civil Aviation Authorities for Air India flights. It would not be in the interest of security to divulge all the details.

Shortage of Manpower in AAI

6757. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of Communication, Navigation and Surveillance personnel in the Airports Authority of India which is affecting its day-to-day functioning;

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

(c) the steps taken to fill the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The sanctioned strength of CNS discipline in Airports Authority of India (AAI) is 3249. Against this 1849 personnel are in position. There has been some delay in the recruitment process due to administrative reasons. However, suitable measures have been taken, like deployment of personnel for permissible extra duties, as per rules, to meet the shortfall in manpower for day to day functioning.

From 2007 to 2010, the vacant posts filled by Direct Recruitment (DR) and Departmental Promotion (DP) in respective order is 2007-83, 426; in 2008-80, 664; in 2009-Nil, 51; and in 2010-87, Nil. Further, AAI has taken steps to fill the vacant posts by direct recruitment/promotions. Recruitment action is in process for 196 posts at Manager level, 164 posts at Junior Executive level and 250 posts at Non-executive level.

Difference in Price of Vaccines

6758. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:
SHRI P. LINGAM:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

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

(a) whether the Government has examined the study report of doctors of the Department of Paediatrics, AIIMS and Jan Swasthya Sahyog regarding the huge difference in the price of vaccines offered to doctors;

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

(c) whether there is a scope for a substantial reduction in vaccine prices;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to issue direction to the concerned companies for reduction in prices of vaccines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (e) This Ministry is not aware of such study conducted by Doctors of Department of Paediatrics, AIIMS and Jan Swasthya Sahyog. Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price and Control) Order, 1995 the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA /Govt. fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs /formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. The NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations including imported scheduled formulations under price control. Under the DPCO, no person can sell any formulation (medicine) of price controlled category to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified/approved by the NPPA/Government. In case, a company is found selling at prices higher than the price notified/approved by the NPPA/Government, action is taken against them as per the provisions of the DPCO. The Vaccines are not covered in the 74 Scheduled bulk drugs and hence are considered as non-scheduled drugs/medicines.

In respect of drugs-not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 i.e. non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers 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 RandD, cost of utilities /packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc.

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. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum 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.

Railway Safety

6759. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) the details of functioning of the railway safety as an autonomous body under civil aviation sector;

(b) whether there was any recommendation to strengthen the commission of railway safety activities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Commission of Railway Safety deals with the matters pertaining to safety of rail travel and train operation and is charged with certain statutory functions laid down in the Railways Act, 1989. These functions are inspectorial, investigatory and advisory in nature. The main task of the Commission of Railway Safety is to direct, advise and caution the Railway executives with a view to ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken in regard to soundness of rail construction and safety of train operation. Similar role has also been assigned to the Commission in relation to Metro Railways.

(b) and (c) Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture in its 98th Reports on "Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in the 83rd Report on the "functioning of the Commission of Railway Safety" have, *inter-alia*, made the following recommendations:

- (i) The proposal for making the Commission an autonomous body should be expedited within a fixed timeframe and it should also include the aspect of comprehensive cadre review so that the impartiality and independence of the Commission is ensured.
- (ii) Ministry of Railways should not reject or overrule any recommendation made by the Commission without a meeting between the Chairman Railway Board and the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety.

- (iii) The Commission should submit half yearly reports to the Committee about the status of its recommendations indicating the discussions, if any called by the Ministry of Railways on the issue of difference of opinion.
- (iv) The Ministry of Railways should seek the concurrence of the Commission of Railway Safety before the introduction of any new passenger train.
- (v) Suitable amendments in the Indian Railways Act, 1989 be incorporated to facilitate smooth and expeditious progress of inquiry proceedings and immediate publication of Inquiry Repots.
- (vi) The Commission of Railway Safety should be accorded desirable status that commands the respect of the Railway Authorities and public.
- (vii) The officers of the Commission should be exposed to technological advancement.

[Translation]

Gram Nyayalayas

6760. DR. BHOLA SINGH:
SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM
WAKCHAURE:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

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

- (a) the number of Gram Nyayalayas likely to be made operational across the country during the year 2009-10, State-wise;
- (b) whether only a few States have taken steps for establishing Gram Nyayalayas despite passing the Gram Nyayalaya Act;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the State Governments to establish the Gram Nyayalayas in their respective States; and

(e) the financial assistance provided to each State Government for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) After the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 came into force w.e.f. 2 October, 2009 the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Maharashtra, taken together, have notified 144 Gram Nyayalayas out of which 47 have been made operational till date.

Most of the States to which the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 extends, have supported the setting up of Gram Nyayalayas. Some States, however, have for different reasons, not felt the need to set up Gram Nyayalayas like the States of Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu and MCT of Delhi.

The Central Government has been requesting the State Governments to take advantage of the Gram Nyayalayas Act and take prompt action for setting up

Gram Nyayalayas. Hon'ble MLJ has written to all Chief Ministers urging them to take full advantage of the provision of the law and also conveyed to the Chief Ministers that the Central Government would extend financial support for establishing these Gram Nyayalayas. As per the scheme for providing financial assistance to State Governments for establishing and operating Gram Nyayalayas, the Central Government provides assistance to States towards non-recurring expenses for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 18.00 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya. The Central Government also provides assistance towards recurring expenses for running these Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3.20 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya per year for the first three years.

The Department has released an amount of Rs. 13.47 crore to the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Maharashtra for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas in 2009-10. A Statement showing the Statewise financial assistance is enclosed.

Statement

Up-to-date Position of the Gram Nyayalayas in the country

(in Rs. lakhs)

State	No of Gram Nyayalayas notified in the State	Operationa- lized	Amount released		Total
			Non-recurring	Recurring	
Madhya Pradesh	89	40	504.00	128.00	632.00
Rajasthan	45	0	567.00	-	567.00
Odisha	1	1	12.60	3.20	15.80
Maharashtra	9	6	113.40	19.20	132.60
Total	144	47	1197.00	150.40	1347.40

[English]

Corruption Charges against top Brass of ONGC

6761. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of 200 complaints have been received by the Government for corruption charges against top brass of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against these officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) the details of the complaints received on the subject during the last three years by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited alongwith action taken are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of complaints received during the last three years by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

Sl.No.	Nature of Complaint	Name of Board Level Appointee	Action Taken
1	2	3	4
1.	Favour to helicopter service provider M/s Global Vectra Helicopter Ltd	Shri N.K. Mitra, Director (Offshore).	Case was registered for investigation and Warning issued to Shri Mitra on 18.2.2009.
2.	Misuse of power and corrupt practices	Shri A.K. Balyan, Director (HR).	Case was registered for investigation and after investigation the case was closed.
3.	Corruption in crores at ONGC's Uran plant aluminum scrap scam at ONGC made by Maryada Magazine	Shri R.S. Sharma, CMD.	Allegations were not substantiated and as such no action called for.
4.	Irregularities in recruitment of Shri T.S. Darbari as E.D., Corporate Affairs	Chairman, ONGC.	Case was registered for investigation and after examination the case was closed.
5.	Misuse of position by Shri N.K. Mitra	Shri N.K. Mitra, Director (Offshore).	Case was registered for investigation and after investigation the allegation was not substantiated.
6.	News article appearing in the Indian Express dated 12th January, 2009 titled 'Austerity? Rs. 6500 a month on taxi rental, hotel bills, airline tickets.	Management.	CMD vide letter CMD/03 dated 20.1.2009 apprised the position to the Ministry and the case was closed.
7.	Extension to Shri Sandeep Vashishta then vigilance Officer, ONGC	Shri A.K. Balyan, Director (HR).	Report was submitted to the CVC, which approved for closure of the case and accordingly the case has been closed.
8.	Complaint by Nordic against tender for construction of systemic Survey Vessel.	Shri R.S. Sharma, CMD.	Case was registered for investigation. No adverse role of Shri Sharma noticed.
9.	Award of Contract worth Rs 31 crores for various services in different establishment to M/s BVG India Limited, Pune and denial of promotion	Shri A.K. Balyan, Director (HR).	Case was registered for investigation. Allegation not substantiated against Shri Balyan. However, RDA for minor penalty recommended against two officers. Information sent to CVC.

1	2	3	4
10.	Award of contract on nomination basis without considering rate reasonability	Shri A.K. Balyan, Director (HR).	Case registered for investigation.
11.	Irregularities in promotion to the level of ES and above.	Shri Subir Raha and other members of ONGC Board.	Case registered for investigation.
12.	Compliant regarding award of contract for hiring an oil rig at a cost of over Rs. 5000 crores.	Top Management.	Case was registered for investigation. Reply sent to CVC directly by CVO, ONGC on 20.1.2010 and CVC advised closure of the case on 8.2.2010.
13.	Irregularities in promotion-made by Shri Anand	Top Management	Case registered for investigation.
14.	Acquisition of Assets abroad-Imperial Energy Corporation.	Complaint against Shri R.S. Sharma, Chairman, ONGC and Shri R.S. Butola, MD, OVL.	The factual position submitted to PMO. The complaint was pseudonymous, frivolous and devoid of merit and as such no action called for.
15.	Complaint by M/s Sundowner Offshore International (Bermuda) Ltd. reg. irregularities in tendering process by ONGC for Charter Hiring two Modular Working Rings	Not against any specific officer.	The matter was got investigated through CVO, ONGC who had recommended for the closure of the case as allegations were not substantiated. Case closed.
16.	Complaint by M/s Arc. Marine Private Ltd., against tender for manning, running, operating, etc., ONGC on offshore supply vessels	Not against any specific officer.	The matter was got investigated through CVO, ONGC who had concluded that the bid of M/s Arc Marine was rightly rejected on technical grounds. CVO, ONGC had further recommended that to make competition fairer and wider, ONGC need to asses suitability of present BEC clauses vis.a vis operational requirements, safety aspects proper upkeep of vessels etc. Ministry agreed with the request of CVO, ONGC and he has been requested to take up the matter with the Management of ONGC accordingly.
17.	Complaint against ONGC by Mr. P.K. Vijayan, EE(Auto), Cementing Section, Agartala reg. irregularities in awarding contract, misappropriation of funds and thefts of ONGC properties	Not against any specific officer.	The matter was got investigated through CVO, ONGC. CVO, ONGC after investigation concluded that the allegations made in the complaint do not have any merit and recommended for closure of the case. Accordingly, the case was closed.

Housing for Workers in RSP

6762. SHRI SANJAY BHOI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received demands from the workers of the Rourkela Steel Plant for providing housing accommodation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether sufficient land is available at Udit Nagar/ Civil Township for this purpose;

(d) if so, whether the steel plant is likely to start construction of houses for the workers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The land at Udit Nagar /Civil Township area in Rourkela belongs to the State Government and does not belong to Rourkela Steel Plant.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Appointment of Cooking and Auto Fuel Ombudsman

6763. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:
SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to appoint cooking and auto fuel ombudsman for resolving complaints; 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) At present, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Retirement Age of Judges

6764. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the retirement age of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to increase the working days of these courts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) No, Madam. There is no proposal, at present, to increase the age of retirement of Supreme Court and High Court Judges.

(c) and (d) Working hours in the Supreme Court and High Courts are regulated by the rules framed by the respective Courts. There is no proposal in the Government to increase the working days of these courts.

Air India Express

6765. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India Express has made profits for four years since its inception and marginal losses last year;

(b) if so, the details of the balance sheet for all the five years;

(c) whether Air India Express has decided to outsource cabin crew services to an outside Agency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India Express has earned profits to the extent of Rs. 1.35 crore and Rs. 65.94 crore during 2005-06 and 2007-08 respectively. However, it suffered a loss of Rs. 70.52 crore and Rs. 339.6 crore during 2006-07 and 2008-09 respectively. The accounts for the FY 2009-10 have not been finalised. The balance sheets of Air India Express for the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 have already been laid in the Parliament.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Allotment of Domestic LPG

6766. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of per capita allotment of domestic LPG to Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat in Gujarat by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL);

(b) whether distributors of Vadodara City are allotting less per capita allotment of domestic LPG gas cylinders by the IOCL in comparison to Ahmedabad and Surat whereas pipeline gas supplying in said three cities to consumers;

(c) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government to check the uneven distribution of LPG to Vadodara in comparison to other two major cities of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that there is no system for allotting domestic LPG based on per capita to any of their LPG distributor in the State of Gujarat including Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by them through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

[*Translation*]

Production from Iron Ore Mines

6767. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of iron ore mines in the country at present under the National Mineral Development Corporation, State-wise; and

(b) the quantum of production from these mines during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) NMDC Ltd. has the following 5 mining leases in Chhattisgarh State and 2 mining leases in Karnataka State for mining iron ore:

Sl.No.	State	Iron Ore Mining Leases
1.	Chhattisgarh	Deposit-14
2.	Chhattisgarh	Deposit-14 (Non-mineralized zone)
3.	Chhattisgarh	Deposit-5
4.	Chhattisgarh	Deposit-10
5.	Chhattisgarh	Deposit-11
6.	Karnataka	Donimalai
7.	Karnataka	Kumaraswamy

(b) The quantum of production from the above mines during the last three years, State-wise is given below:

Sl.No.	State	Production (in Million Tonnes)		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1.	Chhattisgarh	22.97	22.15	18.08
2.	Karnataka	6.85	6.36	5.78
Total		29.82	28.51	23.86

[*English*]

Railway Project in Kashmir

6768. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways conceived a project to connect Kashmir Valley with rail link eight years ago;

(b) if so, the total expenditure incurred by Railways on this project so far;

(c) whether terrorists recently attacked rail track on this line;

(d) if so, whether Railways have carried out detailed feasibility, viability and security of the project in view of the recent attack by terrorists on rail tracks; and

(e) if so, the future strategy chalked out by the Railways for security of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) 4 The work of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new line was included in Budget 1994-95.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 6217.80 crore has been incurred by Railways on the project till 31.03.2010.

(c) A blast took place on 01.04.2010 at about 21.30 hrs. on the railway track in Qazigund-Baramulla section.

(d) and (e) Policing of Railways' is a State subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State concerned. In this context, a high Level Co-ordination meeting of the concerned Security Agencies was held at Srinagar on 03.04.2010. The security of railway track, stations etc. and trains has been suitably enhanced. A comprehensive security plan has been chalked out.

[Translation]

Quota for Notary

6769. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for allocation of quota of notary in the State;

(b) whether any State Government has requested to increase its quota; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) On the basis of the requirement/request received from the State Government, the quota of Notaries is allocated.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Corporate Governance Standards in PSUs

6770. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:

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

(a) whether the Government is planning to put in place a whistle-blower policy in all PSUs with a view to improve the corporate Governance Standards;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed policy;

(c) whether only ONGC and GAIL have a policy to encourage employees to expose wrong-doings in their companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to encourage other PSUs to implement this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) 4 In terms of the Guidelines on Corporate Governance for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) issued by the Government in 2007, which are voluntary in nature, CPSEs may establish a mechanism for employees to report to the management concerns about unethical behavior, actual or suspected fraud, or violation of the company's General guidelines on conduct or ethics policy.

(c) to (e) All CPSEs have already been advised to establish 'Whistle Blower Policy' listed in para 8 of Annex VIII of Guidelines on Corporate Governance for CPSEs, 2007. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has voluntarily adopted 'Whistle Blower Policy' with effect from November, 2009 and GAIL (India) Limited is in the process of formulating a 'Whistle Blower Policy'.

(f) The Government has now decided to make the Guidelines on Corporate Governance for CPSEs mandatory.

[Translation]

Railway Line in Haryana

6771. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of Garhi-Harsaru (Haryana) to Farukhnagar railway line has been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by the Railways to expedite the said project; and

(d) the time by which train service is proposed to be introduced on said line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The gauge conversion of Garhi Harsaru-Farukhnagar has been completed. The section will be commissioned to passenger traffic after inspection of Commissioner of Railway Safety. Necessary action in this regard is being taken.

[English]

Fire Fighting Systems at Railway Workshops

6772. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are withdrawing Fire Tenders systematically from major Railway Workshops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to install modern fire-fighting facilities in the major railway workshops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Fire fighting arrangements are made as per requirement assessed by technical experts, keeping in view the availability of Fire Bridges in the nearby local bodies and requirements of safety. To deal with minor incidences of fire, fire tenders and other basic fire fighting equipment viz. fire extinguishers, water hydrants are maintained at critical locations in Railway workshops. Presently, Fire tenders are available at 12 Railway Workshops.

[Translation]

Revival of NTC Mills

6773. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evolved any scheme to create a special purpose fund in collaboration with the private sector for revival of sick mills of National Textile Corporation (NTC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of sick NTC mills and number of workers likely to be benefited under the said scheme?

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

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

[English]

Opening of Jan Aushadhi Outlets in Gujarat

6774. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for opening the Jan Aushadhi outlets in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No proposal is received from Government of Gujarat.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Officers on Deputation in Railway Protection Force

6775. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that a large number of officers are working on deputation in Railway Special Protection Force and Railway Protection Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the force-wise details of officers who are on deputation for which they were initially appointed alongwith the number of years for which they have been serving in the force;

(d) the details of the officers who got their term extended after expiry of the initial term of deputation or are working in the force after getting promoted; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Railways to repatriate the officers on deputation to their parent cadres after expiry of the term of deputation alongwith the time by which these steps are likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The following IPS officers are working on deputation with Railway Protection Force and Railway Protection Special Force:

Name of Officers (S/Shri)	Date of posting in the Ministry of Railways	Initial Tenure	Remarks
Ranjit Sinha, IPS, DG/RPF/RB	12.11.2008	5 years	
P.K. Mehta, IPS, CSC/RPF/NR	07.08.2004	5 years	1. Tenure extended upto 07.11.2009 as IG/RPF/NR. 2. Again tenure extended upto 08.11.2011 as ADG/RPF, Northern Railway.
Shahid Ahmad, IPS, CSC/RPF/NFR	24.12.2007	5 years	
Dr. Nazrullslam, IPS, ED/Security/RB	20.01.2010	5 years	
B.S. Sidhu, IPS, CSC/RPF/CR	26.07.2004	5 years	His tenure extended upto 26.07.2010.
G.M.P. Reddy, IPS, CSC/RPF/SR	27.06.2005	5 years	
Gopal Gupta, IPS, CSC/RPSF/RB	10.07.2006	5 years	
Neeraj Sinha, IPS, CSC/RPF/ECR	24.01.2006	5 years	

(e) The IPS officers on deputation are generally repatriated to their parent cadre on expiry of their sanctioned tenure after following the prescribed procedures.

(c) whether benefits of reservation to SC/ST category employees are extended upto various grades; and

(d) if so, the basis of implementation of reservation policy being observed by NACIL?

[English]

Benefit of Reservation Policy

6776. SHRI KAMAL KISHOR "COMMANDO": Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the policy adopted by National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) to provide reservation to SC/ST categories employees in senior grades;

(b) the transfer policy of NACIL in case of temporary and permanent posting of employees at station within India as well as abroad;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a), (c) and (d) National Aviation Company of India Limited(NACIL) follows the Presidential Directives on reservations for Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes. Reservation is applicable even at senior grades in appointments by direct recruitment. In appointments by promotion, the reservation is applicable upto the lowest rung of Group 'A' posts.

(b) As per the Service Regulations of NACIL, the Company may transfer/deploy an employee from one department/station /region to another in exigencies of

service and needs of administration. The transfer of employees in Grade 1/9 from one region to another is effected on voluntary basis. The period of stay at an outstation is normally three years.

Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline

6777. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

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

(a) whether India seeks fresh talks with Iran over gas pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has raised certain questions over pricing structure of gas with Tehran;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Iran has agreed on the India's proposal to pay for the fuel only when it is delivered at Pakistan-India border; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (f) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, viz., pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, security of supply, etc., are under discussion amongst the participating countries. India has proposed to Iran the dates for holding the next meeting of Indo-Iran Special Joint Working Group (SJWG) on the Project.

[Translation]

Ticketless Travelling

6778. SHRI DHANANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fine is being collected illegally by the ticket examiners from the passengers travelling without ticket in various trains plying in different zones of the Railways in the country without giving any valid receipt for the same;

(b) if so, the details of such instances which came to the notice of the Railways during each of the last three years and current year alongwith the measures taken by the Railways in this regard;

(c) whether such illegal practices are rampant in Delhi-Ghaziabad route;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of cases which came to the notice of the Railways during the last three years;

(e) whether the cases of manhandling passengers travelling without a ticket by the security personnel during the high level checking in trains have also been reported; and

(f) if so, the measures taken by the Railways in this regard and the details of the fine collected during such checking, zone-wise during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Fine/Penalty is imposed by the ticket checking staff, as per rules, from ticketless/irregular travelers and a prescribed railway receipt is issued. However, some cases of illegal collection of money from passengers travelling without tickets by ticket examiners without giving any receipt do come to notice.

(b) The number of cases were Ticket Examiners were taken up under disciplinary rules for indulging in various types of malpractices including illegal collection of money during the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 (upto February, 2010) (latest available) are 1285, 1356, 1032 and 172 respectively. Regular preventive checks are conducted by Commercial and Vigilance Departments against malpractices being indulged in by ticket checking staff. Staff found indulging in such malpractices are taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

(c) and (d) No such trend has been noticed on Delhi-Ghaziabad route.

(e) and (f) No cases of manhandling of without ticket passengers by the Security personnel have been reported.

The zone-wise statement showing the amount of railway dues from ticketless/irregular travel and judicial fine realized during the 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (latest available) are given in the Statement.

Statement

The Zone-wise amount of railway dues realized from ticketless/irregular travel and judicial fine realized during the year 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (latest available):

Railway	Amount of Railway dues realized during drives conducted against ticketless/irregular travel during the period (Rs. in lakhs)			Amount of judicial fine recovered during magisterial checks during the period (Rs. in lakhs)		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Central	3236	3865	4541	41.78	45.68	51.10
Eastern	1196	1219	1351	42.89	41.84	32.40
East Central	1115	1296	1584	14.69	26.95	26.91
East Coast	360	471	599	7.03	7.32	12.77
Northern	4871	5452	6402	53.11	49.14	26.17
North Central	1949	2502	2956	68.77	85.23	91.87
North Eastern	1208	1482	1806	25.70	21.71	21.10
Northeast Frontier	661	853	1004	0.63	0.90	1.51
North Western	944	1054	1202	1.35	7.07	5.04
Southern	1244	1657	2010	125.35	136.70	158.95
South Central	2453	2928	3452	38.78	42.10	87.12
South Eastern	563	705	922	12.09	15.59	15.27
South East Central	409	537	639	2.96	4.37	1.65
South Western	567	697	808	0.06	0.23	0.24
Western	2789	3417	3844	15.11	16.33	16.37
West Central	1148	1184	1386	54.36	60.41	42.79
Total	24713	29319	34506	504.66	561.57	591.26

*[English]***Rub at Kothanalloor (Kerala)**

6779. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any representation regarding the construction of road under-bridge (RUB) in Kothanalloor in Ernakulam-Kottayam Sector, Kerala; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Expansion in LNG Infrastructure

6780. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to expand the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the LNG re-gasification capacity in the country would reach a level of 20 million metric tonne per annum (MMTPA) by the year 2011-12; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Currently, two Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals, viz., Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL's) Dahej terminal and Hazira LNG Private Ltd. (HLPL's) Hazira terminal are operational in the country. In order to handle increased LNG import, additional infrastructure is being created in the country. PLL's Dahej LNG terminal has been expanded from the 5 million metric tonne per annum (mmtpa) to 10 mmtpa capacity in July 2009. 5 mmtpa capacity Dabhol LNG terminal is expected to be commissioned shortly. The terminal will, however, become fully operational only after completion of breakwater facilities in 2012. PLL is setting up a 2.5 mmtpa capacity LNG terminal which is expandable to 5 mmtpa at Kochi. The terminal is planned to be commissioned in 2011-12.

As such, by 2011-12 the total regasification capacity available in the country is expected to go up to about 20 mmtpa.

Expansion of VSP

6781. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved any plan for the expansion of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the source of investment;

(c) whether the international market and export trends have been carefully assessed and incorporated into the risks inherent in huge investments;

(d) if so, whether the plant is dependent on continued demand only from China; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to assess the potential returns on the huge investment being planned by the Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) The Central Government had approved an expansion plan of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) so as to augment its liquid steel production capacity from 3.0 million tonne per annum to 6.3 million tonne per annum. The expansion project is envisaged to be fully financed through the company's internal accruals and loans raised from financial institutions/banks. The expansion plan was approved after consideration of a Techno Economic Feasibility Report prepared after taking into account present demand, future requirements and installed capacities /ongoing expansion schemes inside the country, strengths and risks involved and overall availability /demand in the coming years.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

Quality Control Inspectors

6782. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have appointed Quality Control Inspectors to check the quality of food served in trains and also ensure proper sanitation services;

(b) if so, the total number of quality Inspectors appointed by the Railways;

(c) whether the violation of norms such as overcharging for food, unkempt coaches and toilets etc. been reported; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Quality Control Professionals have been engaged for conducting inspections to ensure quality food served onboard trains. Quality of cleanliness in coaches is checked by supervisory staff on the Railways during the maintenance of the trains in the coaching depots.

(b) In all 78 Quality Control Professionals are deployed for monitoring quality of food by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) on the Railways.

(c) and (d) An 'On Board Housekeeping Scheme' has been introduced in select trains, to carry out frequent cleaning through escorting staff provided by professional agencies. This is to be super checked by the 'Executive Housekeeper' of the concerned agency.

During the inspection conducted by Quality Control Professionals during 2009-10, about 1681 complaints regarding overcharging were recorded. The details of action taken by IRCTC on the complaints are as under-

Fined- 340, Warned- 887, Advised suitably- 454.

Duronto Trains

6783. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the last rail budget a Delhi-Bhubaneshwar Duronto train and Puri-Rameshwaram Express was proposed to be introduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these trains are likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. 2281/2282 Delhi-Bhubaneshwar Duronto train

(weekly) announced in Railway Budget 2009-10 has been introduced w.e.f 31.03.2010. However, Puri-Rameshwaram Express was not proposed to be introduced in Railway Budget 2009-10.

Research and Development in Pharma Sector

6784. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take any new initiative to encourage the Research and Development in the field of pharma sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of private companies having their own R & D facilities in the country;

(d) whether none of the Indian Companies have their own R & D facilities in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps 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) Government plans a comprehensive RandD plan for the future. At present Government plans to set up Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) compliant Chemical, Biological Laboratories and Large Animal House facility in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode for boosting indigenous manufacturing and testing for developing safe, potent and affordable medicines for the masses.

(c) to (e) The information is not centrally maintained.

[Translation]

Report of Dr. Mashelkar Committee

6785. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Dr. Mashelkar Committee was constituted for monitoring the expanding trade of medicines in the country;

(b) the dates on which the report of the said committee was received by the Union Government;

(c) the details of suggestions/recommendations made in the report; and

(d) the action taken by the Government so far on the recommendations of the committee?

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

(a) to (d) The Department of Pharmaceuticals has not constituted any Committee under Dr. Mashelkar to expand trade of medicines in India. However, Department of Commerce have informed that they have constituted a Joint Task Force (JTF) to recommend specific steps/action to be taken to gain a share of 5% in the world trade by the year 2020.

[English]

Import of High Sulphur Crude Oil

6786. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cheap high-sulphur crude is being imported from Gulf countries and mixing the same with high quality Brent of UK and light sweet crude of US so as to keep the price of petrol and diesel at low in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of global recession, the cost of high quality Brent of UK and light sweet crude of US have become cheaper than the high-sulphur crude imported by the country thereby putting Oil Marketing Companies in dilemma to buy which crude oil;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures 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) During 2009-10 (Apr-Jan), the total crude oil imports by India were 132.6 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT), out of which imports from Middle East countries and UK were 87.1 MMT and 0.094 MMT respectively. There were no imports from USA. The sourcing, proportion and quantity of high-sulphur and sweet crude to be imported are based on factors such as availability, price, refinery configuration, other techno-economic criteria evaluation, security of supplies etc.

(c) No Madam. The average prices of high quality/light/sweet crude oil i.e. WTI crude of US and Brent

crude of UK and high-sulphur crude oil (which is benchmarked to Dubai crude) during 2010-11 (upto 23rd April 2010) are given below:

(\$/bbl.)		
High quality/Light/Sweet Crude		High Sulphur crude
WTI (US)	Brent (UK)	Dubai (Gulf)
84.54	84.57	83.23

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

Committee on SFIO

6787. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Committee constituted to examine the issues concerning Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has submitted its report;

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

(c) whether the Government has examined the same;

(d) if so, the details of action so far taken thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Expert Committee i.e. the Vepa Kamesam Committee has made recommendations in respect of statutory, administrative and organizational changes for improving effectiveness and efficient discharge of duties by SFIO.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Necessary steps have been initiated to strengthen the SFIO by releasing additional 56 posts. As regards the legislative changes in respect of the definition of corporate frauds etc., necessary suggestions have been made to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance for consideration as the Standing Committee is considering the Companies Bill, 2009.

(e) Does not arise.

Superfast Train between Howrah and Delhi

6788. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are considering to make Howrah-Delhi Superfast Express a daily service;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to make 2323/2324 Howrah-New Delhi Superfast Express (Bi-weekly) a daily service at present, as 2259/2260 Sealdah-New Delhi Durgam Express (Bi-weekly), 2249/2250 New Delhi-Howrah Yuva Express (weekly) and 2273/2274 Howrah-New Delhi Durgam Express (Bi-weekly) have been introduced recently. Besides, 11 pairs of trains are also available for Kolkata-Delhi passengers.

Refrigerated Vans

6789. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have started refrigerated vans attached with various trains for transportation of perishable commodities;
- (b) if so, the number of such vans at present being operated by railways;
- (c) whether operation of such vans have shown any encouraging results;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the railways to make these vans viable?

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

(b) to (e) Indian Railways have 10 such refrigerated parcel vans at present. Earning from such refrigerated vans has been increasing, showing encouraging results. The earning has gone up from Rs. 1.32 crores in 2007-08 to Rs. 1.96 crores in 2009-10. It is a viable service.

Appointment of Foreign Consultant

6790. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVDANJI GADHVI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India has appointed foreign consultants to help draw its flight network in a bid to cut down on expenses;
- (b) if so, the details of consultants appointed with their terms, conditions and fees being paid to them;
- (c) whether Air India is also in the process of appointing foreign consultants for their financial restructuring; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) NACIL has appointed M/s SH and E as 'Airline management Solution Provider' at a contract valued at \$549, 000 through a tender selection process. They have been contracted to develop Network Strategy, Schedules and Aircraft Rotation for the combined entity, including the low cost carriers.

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

[Translation]

Unfair Trade Practices

6791. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the misleading advertisements released by the companies to allure the customers during festival seasons fall into the category of unfair trade practice according to MRTP;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard during the last three years alongwith the names of the 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 Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act has since been repealed with effect from 01st September, 2009, and the MRTP Commission has also been dissolved with effect from 14th October, 2009. As per Section 36A of the repealed MRTP Act misleading advertisements released by companies to allure the customers during festival seasons fall under the unfair trade practices. The MRTP Commission before its dissolution on 14th October, 2009 did not receive any complaint since 2006 specifically about misleading advertisement released by companies to allure the customers during the festival seasons.

Rebate on Air Tickets

6792. SHRI DHANANJAY SINGH:
SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is giving a special rebate of ten percent on the tickets purchased from the booking office of the Air India by the students going to U.S., Australia and other countries for studies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also contemplating to give a rebate of twenty percent to the passengers of age of 65 years or more who travel by Air India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Under the Maharajah Scholars Offer for 2010, Air India is offering 10% discount on the base fare on Economy class fares from India to North America, Europe,

UK, South East Asia, Far East and Australia for tickets issued at the Air India Reservation Offices only, against a valid student visa/student exchange visa.

(c) and (d) 55% discount is offered on normal economy class INR fare component on Air India domestic sectors to senior citizens who have completed the age of 65 years in case of male and 63 years in case of female on the date of commencement of travel. No discount is being offered on international sector.

[English]

Pollution Control Devices in SAIL Plants

6793. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be please to state:

(a) whether the pollution control devices have not been installed in various plants of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL);

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

(c) the amount spent by SAIL for the installation of environment friendly devices in its plants during the last three years, year-wise, plant-wise;

(d) whether the workers of SAIL at different units are suffering from several ailments due to non-observance of the minimum environmental norms;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Pollution control devices have been installed in various production units of the SAIL plants.

(c) The amount spent by the SAIL plants for installation of environment friendly devices in the last three years is given in the table below:

(Rs. Crores)

Year	BSP	DSP	RSP	BSL	ISP	ASP	SSP	VISP	MEL	SAIL
2007-08	5.54	9.10	12.30	1.53	4.62	0.24	0.04	0	1.07	34.44
2008-09	5.53	0.40	10.27	9.39	6.35	0.2	0	0.45	2.67	35.26
2009-10	1.47	2.39	15.16	18.18	2.76	1.5	0.45	0.63	0.1	42.64

Note: BSP: Bhilai Steel Plant, DSP: Durgapur Steel Plant, RSP: Roukela Steel Plant, BSL: Bokaro Steel Ltd., ISP: IISCO Steel Plant, ASP: Alloy Steel Plant, SSP: Salem Steel Plant, VISP: Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant, MEL: Maharashtra Elektrosmelt Ltd.

Further, environmental and energy efficient initiatives like rebuilding and cold repair of coke oven batteries, installation of coal dust injection in blast furnaces and energy efficient continuous casting have been taken up at the integrated steel plants during the last three years.

(d) to (f) The air and water pollution parameters are within the prescribed norms and there are no specific reports of workers suffering from ailments due to non-observance of minimum environmental norms.

Yuva Trains

6794. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:
SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have introduced Yuva trains for the unemployed youth;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the special features of these trains?

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

(b) 2249/2250 Howrah-New Delhi (weekly) and 2247/2248 Mumbai-Nizamuddin (weekly) announced in Railway Budget 2009-10 were introduced w.e.f 30.12.2009 and 12.01.2010 respectively.

(c) The special features of Yuva trains are:

- (i) Yuva trains are totally air conditioned having only Chair Car accommodation.
- (ii) 60% of the total number of coaches (rounded off to next higher whole number in case of a fraction) is earmarked for "Yuva" category. The remaining is earmarked for general passengers (non-Yuva)
- (iii) The basic fares for Yuva category upto a distance of 1500 Km are Rs. 299 and for distances beyond 1500 Km and upto 2500 Km are Rs. 399.
- (iv) The Yuva Fares will be applicable to unemployed persons between the age group 15-45 years who fulfill the prescribed criteria of Yuva.

- (v) No concession is granted in fares to any passenger by these trains. Moreover, there is no provision of 'Emergency Quota' and Tatkal scheme in these trains.

Foreign Assistance for Fertilizers Companies

6795. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the guidelines issued by the Government in regard to obtaining foreign assistance and collaboration by the fertilizers companies in the country;

(b) whether some fertilizer companies have taken foreign assistance/collaboration during 2008-09 and 2009-10; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The Government has not issued any specific guidelines in regard to obtaining foreign assistance and collaboration by the fertilizers companies. However, the Investment Policy announced by the Department of Fertilizers on 4th Sept. 2008 provides framework for setting-up of Joint Ventures abroad in Urea sector.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. Following Indian Fertilizers entities have taken foreign assistance/collaboration during 2008-09 and 2009-10:

1. Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has obtained consultancy services from M/s. Haldor Topsoe, Denmark in the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 for its Kalol Expansion Project. The consultancy services include the pre-project activities related to Ammonia Plant including preliminary design, cost estimation etc.

Following Indian entities have obtained permission from the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for import of Technology.

1. Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) on 01.05.2009 has been granted permission for collaboration with M/s. Kellogs Brown and Root international Inc., USA and with SAIPEM S.p.A, Italy for revamping of its existing ammonia and

urea plant at Surat, Gujarat for increase in Plant capacities.

2. Matix Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited has been granted permission on 5th April 2010 for the agreement for Technology Transfer with M/s. SAIPEM S.p.A, Italy for setting up of a new Urea unit at Burdwan, West Bengal and with Kellogs Brown and Root international Inc., USA for setting up of a new Ammonia Unit at Burdwan, West Bengal.

Discovery of New Oil and Gas Fields

6796. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total plan outlay earmarked during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the discovery of new oil and gas fields in the country;

(b) the total fund utilized out of the allocated amount so far for this purposes;

(c) the new discovery made in the oil and gas during the Eleventh Five Year Plan so far, year-wise and company-wise; and

(d) the strategy chalked out by the Government to utilize the allocated amount in time and detailed plan chalked out for Twelfth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Against the total plan outlay of Rs. 1,50,932.49 crore approved for Exploration and Production activities by the Oil PSUs during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period (April 2007 to March 2012), an amount of Rs. 1,03,580.20 crore has already been utilized upto March, 2010.

(c) A total of 141 hydrocarbon discoveries have been made during the XI five year plan period so far (April 2007 to March, 2010). The Company-wise and year-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) As per the present trend, the total plan outlay allocated for the purpose is expected to be fully utilized. The programmes for XII Five Year Plan have not yet been finalized.

Statement

Sl.No.	Company	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total XI Plan (upto 2009-10)
1.	ONGC	38	27	21	86
2.	OIL	9	4	2	15
3.	RIL	8	2	3	13
4.	GSPC	5	6	2	13
5.	CAIRN	3	0	0	3
6.	ESSAR	2	0	2	4
7.	JUBILANT	2	0	2	4
8.	FOCUS	1	0	0	1
9.	HOEC	2	0	0	2
TOTAL		70	39	32	141

Abbreviations:

ONGC: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited.

RIL: Reliance Industries Limited.

CAIRN: Cairn Energy (India) Pvt. Limited.

JUBILANT: Jubilent Oil and Gas Pvt. Limited.

HOEC: Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Limited.

OIL: Oil India Limited.

GSPC: Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited.

ESSAR: Essar Oil Limited.

FOCUS: Focus Energy Limited.

Appointment of Official Recruiter

6797. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Air India has appointed official recruiter to recruit employees in various categories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of procedure followed for the appointment of the agency; and

(d) the terms and conditions of the appointment of the agency and the schedule of fees?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Railway Land on Lease

6798. SHRI S. R. JEYADURAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of railway land leased out occupied illegally and lying un-utilized in the State of Tamil Nadu alongwith the annual revenue generated through the lease; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to get this land under its utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Railways do not maintain data State-wise. The state of Tamil Nadu is covered by Southern and South Western Railway. Areas of land leased, under encroachment and presently lying vacant on these railways are as under:

Railway	Land leased/ licensed (in acre)	Land under encroachment (in acre)	Vacant land (in acre)
Southern	753	155	5673
South Western	128	40.27	2255

Annual revenue generated through leasing/licensing on Southern and South Western Railways during 2009-10 has been Rs. 77.7 crore and Rs. 47.6 crore, respectively.

Vacant/unutilized land is required for railways own developmental works such as doubling, gauge conversion, yard remodeling and traffic facility works, servicing the track and structures as well as development of various infrastructural works in addition to commercial development wherever feasible.

As regards encroachments, Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to remove encroachments and safeguard its land boundaries. Removal of encroachments is taken up as per provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971.

Chanasma Kamboi Harij Railway Line

6799. DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a railway line between Chanasma Kamboi Harij in the Western Railway existed;

(b) whether the railway line was removed/uprooted many years ago; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to restore/restart line and extent it up to Radhanpur so as to improve connectivity to Kutch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There existed a rail line from Chanasma to Harij which was dismantled long back.

(c) No, Madam.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): 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 Aero Club of India, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Aero Club of India, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2477/15/10]

(3) A copy of the Aircraft (1st Amendment) Rules, 2010, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 297(E) in Gazette of India dated 8th April, 2010, under Section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2478/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2479/15/10]

(2) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited for the year 2008-2009 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2480/15/10]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2481/15/10]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Madras Fertilizers Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2482/15/10]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Fertilizers Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2483/15/10]

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2484/15/10]

(v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Projects and Development India Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2485/15/10]

(vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation

Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2486/15/10]

- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2487/15/10]

- (viii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2488/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2489/15/10]

- (2) A copy of the Central Silk Board Silkworm Seed Regulations, 2010, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 194(E) in Gazette of India dated 16th March, 2010, under sub-section (3) of Section 13 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2490/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Engineers India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2491/15/10]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-

(i) The Naphtha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobile) Amendment Order, 2010 published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 281(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2010.

(ii) The Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Amendment Order, 2010 published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 282(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2492/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Statement of Affairs (Hindi and English versions) of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited (under liquidation) for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2493/15/10]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the HMT Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2494/15/10]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Andrew Yule & Company Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2495/15/10]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited and the

Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2496/15/10]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2497/15/10]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the NEPA Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2498/15/10]

- (vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Cables Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2499/15/10]

- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2500/15/10]

- (viii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Scooters India Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2501/15/10]

- (ix) Memorandum of Understanding between the Engineering Projects (India) Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2502/15/10]

- (x) Memorandum of Understanding between the Tyre Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2503/15/10]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA*

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I have to report a message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"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 5th May, 2010 agreed without any amendment to the National Green Tribunal Bill, 2010 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th April, 2010."

Madam Speaker, I have also 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 5th May, 2010 agreed without any amendment to the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2010 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd May, 2010."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Bill, 2010 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th May, 2010."

2. I also lay on the Table the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Bill, 2010 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 5th May, 2010.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS**5th and 6th Reports***[English]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigad): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions:-

- (1) Fifth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Twentieth and Thirtieth Reports (14th Lok Sabha) on the representations regarding grabbing of LIC money through fraudulent diversion of commission to outstation branch of Life Insurance Corporation of India, Danapur Branch Office under Patna Divisional Office, Patna, Bihar; and resitement of petrol pump of M/s. Taneja Service Station from Jhilmil Industrial Area, G.T. Road, Shahdara, Delhi.
- (2) Sixth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Thirty-fourth and Forty-fourth Reports (14th Lok Sabha) on the petition/representation regarding payment of pay revision arrears for the period from 01.01.1992 to 31.12.1998 to VRS employees of Instrumentation Limited, Kota, Rajasthan; and payment of salary arrears of Ex-Employees of HMT Limited, Bangalore.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**9th to 12th Reports**

SHRI MILIND DEORA (Mumbai South): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (2009-10):-

- (1) Ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in First Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-10) relating to the Ministry of

Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).

- (2) Tenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Second Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-10) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- (3) Eleventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Third Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-10) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology).
- (4) Twelfth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Fourth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-10) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications).

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**Statements***[English]*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): I beg to lay on the Table the statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of the following Action Taken Reports of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution:-

- (1) Twenty-sixth Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- (2) Twenty-fifth Action Taken Report on the subject Consumer Movement in the County (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

- (3) Twenty-eighth Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- (4) First Action Taken Report on the subject "Price rise of Essential Commodities-causes and effect with special emphasis on import of Wheat and Enforcement of prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of supply of Essential Commodities Act, 1980" (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

12.04½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

(i) 12th Report

[English]

SHRI HASSAN KHAN (Ladakh): I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour on action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on the Demands for Grants for the year 2009-10 of the Ministry of Textiles.

(ii) *Statement*

SHRI HASSAN KHAN: I beg to lay on the Table the Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour (2009-2010) (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in Thirty-third Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Development Schemes for Handicrafts Sector of the Ministry of Textiles.

12.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

145th Report

[English]

SHRI RAMEN DEKA (Mangaldoi): I beg to lay on the Table the One Hundred and Forty-fifth Report (Hindi

and English Versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Demands for Grants (2010-11) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

12.05¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TOURISM AND CULTURE

159th Report

[English]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA (Patna Sahib): I beg to lay on the table One Hundred Fifty-ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on the Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in its One Hundred Thirty-first Report on Closure of Bangalore and Hyderabad Airports; One Hundred Forty-first Report on Modernization of Airports; and One Hundred Forty-second Report on Functioning of Private Airports.

12.05½ hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 5th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2009-10), pertaining to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (15th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in pursuance of direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

In all, nine recommendations were made by the Committee in the above report where action was required

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library *see* No. LT 2504/15/10.

to be taken on the part of the Government. The Government has accepted 'in principle' all the recommendations of the Committee. The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is given in the Annexure to this Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of the Annexure, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.06 hrs.

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 4th Report of the Standing Committee on Railways on Demands for Grants (2009-10), pertaining to the Ministry of Railways*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 4th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways in pursuance of Directive 73 A, of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated 1st September, 2004.

The 4th Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants 2009-10 presented to the Lok Sabha on 09.12.2009 contained 15 recommendations and Action Taken Notes thereon were furnished to the Committee on 25.02.2010 in English version & on 11.03.2010 in Hindi version.

Statements showing details of all the recommendations contained in the Report and implementation status thereof are laid on the Table of the House. Since the statements are voluminous, I request that the same may be taken as read.

12.06 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

(iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 25th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and

Natural Gas on Marketing, Supply, Distribution, Dealerships and Pricing of Kerosene and other Petroleum Products, pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): I beg to lay the Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 25th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part n dated September 01, 2004.

The Twenty fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 24.02.2009. The Report relates to the marketing, supply, distribution, dealerships and pricing of kerosene and other petroleum products.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Report of the Committee had been sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat on 25.06.2009. Updated Action Taken Reply on the subject has been forwarded to Lok Sabha Secretariat on 19 November 2009.

There are 20 recommendations made by the Committee in the said Report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to issues like adequate stock of petroleum products, supply of Euro-II and Euro-IV equivalent fuel, allocation of PDS SKO to the States, setting up of LPG distributorships in rural areas, opening of new petrol/diesel retail outlets, LPG and SKO dealerships, reduction of waiting list and new LPG connections, rationalization of security deposit on LPG cylinders, multiple LPG connections, timely LPG refills, prevention of diversion/black marketing of PDS SKO and domestic LPG, introduction of composite cylinders, setting up of auto LPG dispensing stations, automation of retail outlets, financial impetus to the OMCs, price mechanism of petroleum products, issues related to sales tax/VAT on petrol and diesel, setting up of ROs in the remote and low service areas, refining cost of petroleum products and reasons for delay in various pipeline projects.

Present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library *see* No. LT 2505/15/10.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library *see* No. LT 2506/15/10.

the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take valuable time of the House by reading out all the contents of this Annexure which is laid on the Table of the House. This may please be considered as read.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now Item No. 18—Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam Speaker, first, discussion should be held regarding the need to determine specific criteria for Census, 2011. Only thereafter, should the Bills be passed. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Madam Speaker, discussion regarding Census, 2011 should be held first. Bills should be taken up only afterwards. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): Madam, discussion on Census, 2011 should be held first. Next business of the House should be taken up after that. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Let me have my say then you can put your views.

Madam, in the normal course legislative business is taken up first and discussion under rule 193 is taken up afterwards. Yesterday, for the first time it was taken up first. If the hon. Members can give a firm assurance that all the Bills will be passed, then they can take them up and get them passed in one or two minutes. As we had decided yesterday, the Bills may be passed first. ...(Interruptions) They can be taken up first.

Madam, Shri Lalu Prasadji and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadavji are giving us an assurance that all the four Bills will be passed. So, respecting their view and the view of all other hon. Members, the Government is willing to hold the discussion first. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE (Beed): Madam Speaker, it had been decided that the issue of Census would be taken up first.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: I said I will call you during the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): Madam Speaker, we were assured that the reply on the matter raised by us would be given after two days. There is no response from the Government. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I know. I will call you during the 'Zero hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. SEMMALAI: Please allow our Leader to raise this issue. Please ask the Government to respond. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I said I will call you during the 'Zero hour'.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): Madam, when would the 'Zero hour' be taken? ...(Interruptions) Madam, many times we raised the issue. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the Calling Attention take place and then we will proceed with it.

[Translation]

Let Calling Attention Madam to be place first. All right, that will also be done. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. SEMMALAI: Madam, what about the issue that we raised? ...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam, please allow us. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, I want to mention that foreign students coming to India for studies are not getting visas. Hence, I appeal to the government to give them visas. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: All right Mulayam Singh ji, let Calling Attention take place first.

...(Interruptions)

12.09 hrs.

**MOTION RE: SIXTEENTH REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN
KUMAR BANSAL): I beg to move:

“That this House do agree with the Sixteenth Report
of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the
House on 5th May, 2010.”

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do agree with the Sixteenth Report
of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the
House on 5th May, 2010.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today we have
many things to complete. So, let us please do it without
wasting any time. We have a Calling Attention.

As far as Dr. Thambidurai's issue is concerned, I
have told you that I will allow you to raise the matter.
Kindly let us proceed with the Calling Attention.

Shri Devegowda has also a matter to raise. He will
also get time. Then, we will continue with the Discussion
under Rule 193, which has to be finished today. That is
how we will proceed.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): Madam, please allow
me after the Calling Attention, as you said.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes. Thereafter, Shri Devegowda
will be allowed to speak.

Now, Calling Attention—Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

12.11 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Situation arising out of deplorable condition of
working women, particularly the poor women
workers in unorganized sector and steps
taken by the Government in this regard**

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Madam, I call
the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment

to the following matter of urgent public importance and
request that he may make a statement thereon:

“The situation arising out of deplorable condition of
working women, particularly the poor women workers
in unorganized sector and steps taken by the
Government in this regard.”

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, if you
have received a copy of the statement, I would request
the hon. Minister to lay it on the Table, if you agree.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):
We have submitted the copies of the statement.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Madam, I have no
objection.

MADAM SPEAKER: He says that he has no
objection.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I lay the statement on the
Table.

*According to the survey conducted by the National
Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 2004-05, the total
employment in both the organized and the unorganized
sectors in the country was 45.9 crore, of which 2.6 crore
are in the organized sector and 43.3 crore (about 94%)
are in the unorganized sector. Out of total workforce in
the country, 31.6% are women workers which are mostly
employed in the unorganized sector.

In rural areas women are mostly employed in
agriculture. Underemployment in the agricultural sector,
seasonal nature of employment and other socio-economic
factors, result in particularly poor conditions and workers
of this category have little to fall back upon in later years
of life when they are unable to earn their livelihood.
Though agriculture is a State subject and Labour is in
the Concurrent List, the Central Government is alive to
the situation and is taking appropriate action to provide
for their better working and living conditions.

Presently, many existing labour laws like the Minimum
Wages Act, 1948, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen
(Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service)
Act 1979, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition)

*This part of the speech was said on the Table.

Act, 1970 etc. are applicable to unorganized workers. For taking care of the rights of working women, the Government has enacted the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 to provide for payment of equal remuneration to men and women for the same work or work of similar nature and for the prevention of discrimination on ground of sex against women in the matter of employment. Under the Maternity Benefit Act, women employees are entitled to maternity benefit at the rate of average daily wage for the period of their actual absence up to 12 weeks due to the delivery. In cases of illness arising due to pregnancy, etc. they are entitled to additional leave with wages for a period of one month. They are also entitled to six weeks maternity benefit in case of miscarriage. The Maternity Benefit Act also makes certain other provisions to safeguard the interest of pregnant women workers.

There are some schemes for the working women being implemented by various Ministries/Departments, The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana provides for bringing the assisted poor families (Swarojgarees) above the poverty line by ensuring sustained level of income over a period of time. Allotment of houses under Indira Awas Yojana is made to the female member or alternatively in the name of both husband and wife. These and such other schemes ensure access to economic resources and social security to the rural workers, including women workers.

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). It is being implemented with the objective of reducing maternal and neo-natal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among the poor pregnant women. The Yojana, launched on 12th April 2005 is being implemented in all states and UTs. JSY is a 100 % Centrally sponsored scheme.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment have constituted the Welfare Funds for some categories of workers like beedi, cine and non-coal mine workers in the unorganised sector. The Welfare Funds are utilized to provide for financing of measures to promote the welfare of workers, including women workers engaged in these occupations. The welfare measures include health and medical care, insurance, housing, education, recreation, water supply, maternity benefits, etc. In addition, women beedi workers are eligible for maternity benefit amounting to Rs. 1,000 per delivery for the first

two deliveries. Widow of beedi workers are also eligible for financial assistance of Rs. 5,000 on each occasion for marriage of first two daughters.

The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008

The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 was enacted on 31.12.2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganised workers/categories of unorganised workers from time to time. Women workers will also be benefited from these schemes.

The National Board was constituted on 18.08.2009. The Act provides for women representation on the Board.

'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana'

The 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' was launched on 1st October, 2007 to provide smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30000 per annum on family floater basis to BPL families (a unit of five) in the unorganized sector. The enrolment of spouse is mandatory under the scheme. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008. As on date, 26 States/Union Territories have initiated the process to implement the scheme. More than 1.45 crore cards have been issued. The RSBY covers maternity package of Rs. 2500 for normal delivery and Rs. 4500 for caesarian.*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Madam, I have got a copy of the statement. I am sorry to say that the statement is too timid, too much blind to the facts of life and too much lukewarm to the problem that I seek to raise.

The question is not whether there are laws to benefit the working women in the country; the question is whether these laws are being implemented and enforced and whether there is machinery in the country to look after the problem of the working women. That is the main issue.

According to my statistics, Madam Speaker, total workforce in the country is 46 crore. Out of 46 crore workforce in the country, unorganized labour accounts for 43 crore. Women constitute one-third of the workforce in the country as a whole, but in the unorganized sector, according to my estimate, 40 per cent of the workforce are women.

Madam, if you kindly permit me to say, I have looked into the proceedings of the House for the last several decades and not on a single occasion, the problems of working women have been taken up in the House. It is a greater tragedy than the tragedy that arises out of the deplorable condition of the working women. What is their condition? In this regard, I am quoting a report of the Government, not mine. The report is prepared by a committee of the Ministry of Labour. The report says:

“Women workers constitute a marginalized category within the class of workers.”

Further, it is said that: “Among the workers, women workers are much worse of.” This is the finding of the Committee.

There is a second assessment by the Committee of the Government. It says *...(Interruptions)*

Madam, I will appeal to you to kindly restore order in the House.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please, let us have order in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The second comment in the Report of the Committee on Labour appointed by the Government says that: “The reproduction role of the women workers are less visible in the society and less recognized.” What does it mean? It means that the role played by the women to carry forward the civilization is not taken note of by the political system and the economy of the country.

Madam, what is the tragedy of the Indian democracy? I am constrained to say that the political super-structure of the country is headed by a woman. We have a woman as the Rashtrapati; the principal political party of the country is led by a woman; the principal opposition party has chosen a woman as their leader; and we have the august presence of a leader in the temple of democracy who is a woman to take care of the deliberations of the House. In such a situation where woman Rashtrapati; woman Speaker; woman as the leader of the principal party; and woman as the opposition leader are there, but the Government and the society is so indifferent towards working women. This is the tragedy.

Madam, the question is this. Why the country is so indifferent? I would like to ask this from the hon. Members of Parliament. Why this default? Why this utter neglect of the problems of the working women? Why this political blunder? Who is to be blamed? Madam, kindly allow me to blame all the leaders and the parties who are parading the corridor of power. They are to be held responsible for this utter and grim neglect of the women who work. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Not everybody, but you. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is we. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

But I am raising, and Mr. Mulayam is not raising it. Today, the Leader of the Congress Party is here, but the Leader of the Opposition is not present here knowing full well that we are going to discuss the issue of working women.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): You alone are enough.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Thank you for the compliment, Mr. Lalu. But what are the problems of the working women? Their problem is wage discrimination as men get more than women. What are their problems? It is harassment at the working place. If a woman is young and she has an elegant look, then she becomes victim of the masculine greed everywhere in the country.

Madam, they are under-paid and overloaded with working conditions. In addition, there is denial of maternity benefit. The maternity benefit is a law, but it is denied to 90 per cent of the working women of the country. They are forced to keep away from trade unionism, and they suffer from alarming job insecurity. These are the problems which nobody can ignore in the country. It is there in the Government report which the Government has presented before the country.

The hon. Leader of the House may kindly take note, he is also the Finance Minister, that the Government is not having a model role. Let me give you an example. The women stringers, the women correspondents, who work with Akashvani, who work with Doordarshan are denied of maternity benefit. Can you imagine? They are denied of maternity benefit. They lose their job, if they say that they are pregnant. They are all subjected to uncertain payment which is dimly low.

Madam, the point is the disease that has affected the private sector has also affected the public sector,

even the Government. There are hundreds of contract labour working with different departments of the Government, who are also not paid the minimum wages. In some cases, provident fund is denied.

Let me give you some bare statistics. Fifty lakh women are employed by the Government as social workers—anganwadi and ASHA karmi workers. Out of them, the largest segment is anganwadi; their number is nearly 23 lakhs. What is their job? It is to look after the child-bearing women, to organize vaccination for the children, and to enforce the supplementary nutrition programme. It is a day-long job; they have to move one place to another in rain and sun. What is the payment? The minimum payment is Rs. 1500; in many cases, it is Rs. 2,000.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (Dum Dum): In case of anganwadi, it is Rs. 900.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am right; Rs. 1500 is the payment given by the Central Government. Hon. Minister Saheb, I always speak on record. An amount of Rs. 1500 is given by the Government, and additional money is given by the State Government. Generally, it is between Rs. 1500 and Rs. 2000.

Hon. Speaker, you are aware of the plight of the depressed sections of the community in the country. These anganwadis get a payment of Rs. 2000, whereas the Cabinet Secretary gets Rs. 80,000 per month. May I ask you, hon. Speaker, is it social justice? Is it inclusive growth? Is it gender equality? Is it service to the nation? Is it not a case of gross discrimination?

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, please ask your clarificatory question.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I will ask, but let me quote the facts as a horror to the House. Let us feel ashamed; let tears roll down our cheeks; let us say what we have been doing all these years, and let us feel ashamed.

Madam, the point is anganwadi workers are doing more than what they are supposed to do. They are employed for voters' list revision. Now, they are doing Census work; they are doing additional work, but they do not get any additional payment. There is a Supreme Court order that any additional work that they will do, they should be given additional payment. It is not done in many cases, may not be in all. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Madam, the State's share has not been given by the ruling party in West Bengal. They are not giving the State's share in West Bengal. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat Deepaji.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Madam, Anganwadi workers are only getting Rs. 1500 in West Bengal. They are not getting the State's share. Who are receiving Rs. 3000 as their share? The Central Government is giving and many other State Governments are giving. He is shedding tears for the cause of wages. There is discrimination. But West Bengal Government should give their share. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude. We have got a very long list of business for today.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I wish my friend on the other side kindly listen to me. Who is to be blamed? I am not here to defend the inaction of any State Government. I am not here to defend anybody. I am here to join her in demanding, if it is not given in West Bengal. But I am constrained to say, let it be looked into, that the West Bengal Government is also paying some money. I do not know the amount.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: You are taking too much time. Please put your question.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Dr. Dome, please sit down. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Do not raise your voice like this.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not get so agitated.

[Translation]

Why are you standing?

Dasgupta ji, please conclude. Please your question and conclude.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Madam, please give me one minute to speak.

MADAM SPEAKER: How can you speak? Please sit down. You cannot speak on this.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Madam, I support this.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Dasgupta ji, please ask your question quickly.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I join everybody in the House including my friend Kalyan Banerjee, Shrimati Deepa Dasmunsi and everybody. If there is any dereliction of duty on the part of any Government including West Bengal, I stand to demand that they should also pay a reasonable amount. I am saying that. It is not West Bengal Government that we are discussing. We are

discussing the human problem, the basic human problem of the Anganwadi workers. We are discussing it.
...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): You attack the West Bengal Government.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Madam, hon. Minister is shouting. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please ask your clarificatory question.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, for the information of the hon. Member, in our State we are giving Rs. 4000 for the Anganwadi workers – Rs. 1,500 by the Central Government and Rs. 2,500 by the State Government.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Prabodh Panda ji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Madam, Please give me one minute.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Madam, we are discussing a problem of human distress. We are discussing the problems of the working women in the country. Let us join hands together. Let us join hands together in demanding a better deal, in demanding something better for them. They are all our sisters. They

are all our children. They are all social workers. Let there be no political acrimony on this. I am one with everybody.

MADAM SPEAKER: But now I think you should conclude. We have a very long List of Business for today. Please conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Madam, just to give you a few more instances, there are ten lakh ASHA workers in the country. They are paid only when they take the pregnant women to the hospital. If ASHA workers cannot take the pregnant women to hospital, they are not paid.

What about the ten lakh workers who are cooking mid-day meals in schools? They get only Rs. 500. Seventy per cent of the beedi workers in the country are women. They are denied the basic amenities of life. Workers in the construction industry are mostly from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. They do not have any benefit whatsoever. There are 40 lakh domestic workers in the country. In Mumbai alone there are six lakh domestic workers. They are not recognized in the country by law as workers. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: This is not a full discussion which is going on.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM (Mumbai North): Madam, Maharashtra Assembly has passed a legislation recognizing all domestic workers in Maharashtra as workers. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Sanjay Nirupamji, please sit down. Gurudas Dasguptaji, you are a very senior Member. You know this is Calling Attention.

[*Translatoin*]

SHRI ANJAY NIRUPRAM: There is a law in Maharashtra. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (Sreerampur): Madam, ask him how many domestic workers in West Bengal are recognized as workers. ...(*Interruptions*)

What is the state of development of the women in West Bengal? How many laws have been passed in West Bengal Legislative Assembly for the development of women? Let us understand that first. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members please take your seats.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Members please conclude.

[*English*]

We have so many other things to take up. Please ask your question.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you setting to agitated. Sanjay Nirupram ji please sit down. Why are you to agitated, what is the reason.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)...*

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Why are you standing again and again. Why are you getting to agitated. Gurudas Dasgupta ji you know, this is a Calling Attention motion. So, please do not give such a long speech. Just ask the question or I will call upon the Minister to give his reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Please give me one minute.

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you speaking, I cannot give you time.

[*English*]

Nothing is going on record.

...(*Interruptions*)...*

MADAM SPEAKER: Gurudas Dasguptaji, if we go on like this I am afraid there will be other items which

*Not recorded.

we will not be able to do and tomorrow is the last day. Kindly think about it and ask the question. Hon. Minister, you will have to reply now.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you have to reply now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The point is domestic workers are not recognized in the country. I am not speaking of Mumbai. I am speaking of the country; I am speaking of the Ministry of Labour of the Government of India. If you go a little further, the same is the condition of women workers in food processing, in garments, in agriculture sectors and everywhere. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I think, you are not asking the question. Please ask the question.

[Translation]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I want to ask about the hungry labourers and women who have neither food, money and housing or access to legal measures. We want a legislation for such women. It is a matter of regret that the issue of women labourers has never seen received in Lok Sabha.

[English]

I am constrained to say that there cannot be any development without dignity; there cannot be any political empowerment without economic empowerment; and there cannot be any advance without taking care of the women.

[Translation]

I want the government to do something for them. This is not a political issue. It is the issue of the hardworking people of the country, of the working women. Something should be done for these women.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam, I also would like to ask a question. I have given a notice.

MADAM SPEAKER: There is no provision for asking of a question during Calling Attention Motion. You, please, sit down. We cannot violate the rules. You are a very senior Member. Please, take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: No. The rule does not permit under the Calling Attention. Please you cannot ask.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Hon. Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. Member for raising a discussion on such an important matter. There are two aspects to his point. First, he put the political aspect, the reply to which will be given by the democratic forces in West Bengal. He raised some questions on the labour laws. Hon. Guptaji knows this very well that this House and the Parliament of India have always had the same opinion in regard to the labour laws. Labour is a concurrent subject where compliance of laws is as much the responsibility of State Government as it is of the Union Government. Hon. Member has said that we are fortunate that today the President of the country is a woman, the Chairperson of the largest coalition is also a woman. The hon. Speaker of our House is a woman too and the Leader of Opposition too, is a woman. I would like to bring it to the notice of the Member that the number of steps taken continuously till date for the welfare of the unorganised sector since 2004 is a record in itself and even hon. Member Gurudas Dasguptaji will also agree to it. In this journey, when we were making efforts, Gurudas Dasguptaji was also with us, he stood with us. If I may say it in the words of a poet then his present situation is like "Bade Gaur Se Sun Raha Tha Jamana, Hami Bhatak Gaye Dastaan Kahate Kahate". He went to the BJP's side. ...(Interruptions). That is why I used the words 'Bhatak Gaye' because he is not sleeping, he has lost the way ...(Interruptions). I am going to speak on this point itself. The tradition we had started in the last 5 years, we are marching ahead with the same alertness and intensity even today. Even Gupta ji is also aware of this. We have been receiving his guidance regularly in taking those efforts forward. I do not see it in the political context. UPA is committed toward women empowerment. Women empowerment is one of the constituents out of the 6 constituents of our National Common Minimum Programme'. We cannot go back on our duty. I am happy that about a dozen laws in the field of labour for the welfare of the women and a total of 22 laws have been enacted to improve the condition of the women in the country. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the statement of the hon. Minister.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Madam, I am replying to the queries raised by the hon. Members. He said that laws are there but they are not complied with totally. I also accept this. I do not want to go into the issue as to who is responsible for compliance of the laws. ...*(Interruptions)* Guptaji I am coming to your point itself. You should have some patience. I want to say that alongwith Union Government the State Government too have the responsibility to comply with most of our laws. I would like to give a small example in this regard. Guptaji has mentioned that the fund meant for building construction and other construction workers is not being spent. I do not want to delve into the whole list. Only to increase his knowledge, I want to tell that we have collected Rs. 118 crore as cess in West Bengal which is with the State Government. This amount is with them from 1996-97 and only 0.61 percent of it has been spent so far.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Please tell us the situation in Bihar?

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Lalu ji has such a strong voice that it has to be respected. About Rs. 51 crore is there with the Government of Bihar out of which 0.04 per cent has been spent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please, keep quiet and let hon. Minister speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Of the total number of beneficiaries under MNREGA, half are women. We all are aware that MNREGA has helped in checking distress migration. Even the Chief Minister of Bihar and Odisha have said this from where maximum migration takes place.

I am speaking about the facts because the expenditure is to be incurred in the districts and Talukas at the state level, but the average number of work days is 54. So, there is no doubt that there are short comings and we have to see as to how we can work to whether to remove them. Similarly, there is National Rural Health Mission, National Agriculture Development Scheme and other schemes too. ...*(Interruptions)* Allocated funds are not being spent in this schemes.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Madam, I do not want to speak on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please, let the Minister reply. You may speak after that.

[English]

He is on his legs.

[Translation]

Let the Minister speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I am ready to answer each and every query provided I get sufficient time for that...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: This is Calling Attention and not debate or 193.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not get so angry.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You should let him reply.

[English]

We are discussing the Calling Attention.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: There is no water in Bundelkhand. ...*(Interruptions)* People will die there.

MADAM SPEAKER: You, please sit down. You are a senior Member. This Calling Attention.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Madam, I am not speaking on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You can ask after him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You may ask immediately after him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Madam, I have those things. I will not go into those details which are pinching my hon. Colleagues

[English]

I am just concluding my submission.

[Translation]

A historic legislation was passed in this House in December 2008 which is known as the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act. I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister that while we are just identifying the schemes through National Social Security Board he has even created a National Social Security Fund worth Rs. 1000 crore within a year of the said Act coming into existence. Alongwith this, we have started to identify those areas which have been mentioned by the hon. Member, SHri Gurudas Dasgupta. This process is on. Gurudas ji knows this much better than the other members. Domestic workers, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers are included under it whom we are going to cover under Rashtriya Swasthiya Bima Yojana (RSBY) so that they can get Smart Cards. Hon. Finance Minister said that the MNREGA workers will be included in it and we are going to include them. There is a large number of BPL people and women among building construction and other workers whom we are going to include in RSBY. Besides, efforts are being made to benefit women in large numbers under Janani Suraksha Yojana, Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, Swadhar Yojana, Swayamsiddha Yojana and Beedi Workers Welfare Fund, which has been mentioned by him. Maternity benefits have been given in the 6th Pay Commission also. Our Government is committed to making women equal partners and efforts should also be made to make the workers of unorganised sector equal partners.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2507/15/10]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Two members of our party are sitting on fast. They are sitting near the statue of Gandhiji ... (Interruptions) They will die without water. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Devegowda ji is speaking, you please sit down. You please let Devegowda ji speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You may request because both the MLAs are sitting on fast. ... (Interruptions) You should get the water arranged for Bundelkhand. ... (Interruptions) Both the MLAs have had to return under compulsion. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: He rarely rises to speak. Please, let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Kindly allow Shri Devegowda to speak. He speaks very rarely.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Hon. Speaker, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you for allowing me to raise an important matter during 'Zero Hour'. So far as illegal mining is concerned, about two weeks back, four political parties had signed a letter for taking up this issue under Rule 193. We have met several times in this connection. This matter was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee and it authorized your goodself to fix any suitable date for this discussion. But due to paucity of time, you are unable to fix the time for this discussion under Rule 193. Yesterday also I requested for that. It seems there is no proper understanding between the Ruling Party and the Opposition Parties. I understand the hon. Minister is sick and he is unable to come. I also made an appeal to the Minister for Parliament Affairs for replying to the debate on behalf of the Mining Minister. But anyhow, I do not want to take up this issue during 'Zero Hour'. I would again submit that we want to have a detailed discussion and if possible, I would request you to permit us to raise it tomorrow.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now Mr. M. Thambidurai to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Sriperumbudur): Madam, I am on point of order.... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Baaluji, there is no point of order during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, he is going to make an allegation against a Minister... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let us hear him first. I will not allow any allegation to be made.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Here, he will not be allowed to make any allegations.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Dr. Thambidurai, do not make any allegations.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): I am not making any allegations. I am bringing the facts before the House.

First of all, I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an urgent matter. Many times I tried to raise this matter in the House but now I have got the chance. Madam, as you know very well our Finance Minister presented a Budget of nearly Rs. 11.5 lakh crore for this year. I want to bring to your kind notice how our Exchequer is losing the money. During 2007-08, when 2G spectrum allocation was made, this country lost Rs. 1 lakh crore. This is our money...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not make any personal allegation.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: I am giving the facts. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: No personal allegation to be made.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Dr. Thambiduraji, you are a very senior Member. Please ensure there is no personal allegation.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not get so agitated. Why are you getting so agitated?

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam, the C&AG has also said in its report that nearly Rs. 26,000 crore have been

lost because of the unfairness and the wrong doings by this Ministry at that time...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, the C&AG report has already been replied...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: I would also submit that because of that the CBI was ordered to investigate the 2G spectrum allocation by the CVC in October, 2009 after it found gross and blatant violations in the allocation of 2G spectrum by...** The CVC said Shri Raja's allotment of first-come-first-served, that also at a cheap rate is not acceptable...(Interruptions) That might have been the norm nine years ago...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, he has not done anything wrong ... (Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: The CVC found criminal conspiracy and blatant violation in change of cut off date from October 1, 2007 to September, 2001. Upon CVC's order, the CBI registered a FIR under Section 120B of the CrPc and also under Prevention of Corruption Act on October 21, 2009...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: It was not against the Minister ... (Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: These are all facts. I am not making any allegation...(Interruptions) Let him deny it that is a different matter...(Interruptions) The CBI started raids and there are so many documents with the CBI and this aspect has to be taken into consideration...(Interruptions) The CBI interrogated many persons ...** (Interruptions) But till now no arrest has taken place...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, he has to substantiate this...(Interruptions) He is making a wild allegation ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not make any allegation against the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam, the Delhi High Court has also observed that the policy adopted by the Minister is not correct and therefore...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You have made your point and you may now conclude.

...(Interruptions)

**Expunged as ordered by the chair.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, he has to substantiate that aspect of the 'benami companies'...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam, the country has lost rupees one lakh crore. We do not know where that money has gone...(Interruptions) This is poor man's money and that has to be spent for the development of the nation. ... (Interruptions) It is a very serious matter. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, you may please go through the records...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nobody, except Dr. Thambidurai, is allowed to speak. Nothing, except what is being said by Dr. Thambidurai, will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam, I am not making any allegation. I am only stating facts...(Interruptions) Even the CBI officer who conducted the enquiry and headed the team...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam, I have not finished. I am only placing the facts...(Interruptions) Please allow me to speak...(Interruptions) CBI Officer, Shri Vineet Agarwal has been transferred. The Court had given a direction that whenever an investigation is going on, the officer must not be transferred, but he has been transferred...(Interruptions) He has to be retained. ... (Interruptions)...**

SHRI T.R. BAALU: This is a wild allegation ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Allegations will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam, I demand a statement from the hon. Prime Minister about the progress of the investigations by the CBI and also request ... (Interruptions) to take action... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MADAM SPEAKER: I would like to inform the hon. Members that I shall go through the records and if there is anything objectionable, it shall not form part of the records.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam, I have not made any allegation. I am only bringing the matter to the notice of the Government... (Interruptions) I would like to request the Government to take this matter seriously and keep the appointment of Shri Raja as Minister in abeyance for some time till the investigations are over ... (Interruptions) We also want a JPC to discuss this matter ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: If the House agrees, we may skip the Lunch Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: What is going on in the House?

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam, we want a JPC to be constituted to look into the whole matter. ... (Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Need to play down specific parameters from conducting the Census, 2011—Cont.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House will now take up item No. 24. Shri Ananth Kumar may continue his speech.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar is not present. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav may speak now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Madam, two hon. Members of the House. ... (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

Expunged as ordered by the chair.

MADAM SPEAKER: You should speak on a subject under rule 193.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: They are sitting on fast. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: You speak on a subject under Rule 193.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: There is no water there. The Government should make arrangements for drinking water. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, speak on census.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Water level has gone down there everywhere, including streams, ponds, tube-wells etc. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: You speak on census.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: There is no drinking water. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: You speak on census.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Speak under Rule 193.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Both the hon. Members from there are sitting on fast. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Speak under Rule 193.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The people there will die due to lack of water. Madam, you should ask the Government to make arrangements for water there ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 2 p.m.

13.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Two Minutes
past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Matters Under Rule 377 shall be as laid on the Table of the House. Hon. Members are requested to send in slips immediately as per the practice.

(i) **Need to set up the proposed Textile Unit in Nagpur, Maharashtra**

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): The Vidarbha region has enormous opportunities for the development of textile sector owing to its being vastly cotton growing area. In fact, Nagpur had the privilege to have two textile mills viz. Empress Mill and Modal Mill established about 120 years back in the private sector. Both these mills have since been closed and the land disposed of. Besides, Badnera, Pulgaon, Hinganghat and Achalpur in the Vidarbha region were also having number of textile mills. Most of these mills have also either been closed or are in sick state of affairs due to lack of the required incentives. As a result thereof not only the textile sector suffered adversely but it caused lot of unemployment in the region. In fact Vidarbha region once used to be the hub of textile sector, with a view to revive the textile industry in the Vidarbha region which is having the required infrastructure and the raw material, Government needs to provide all the incentives for the development of this industry.

Now that the Government has proposed to set up three new textile units in the country. Nagpur is the most suitable place for the establishment of one of these units. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to ensure that one of these textile units is set up in Nagpur.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

(ii) Need to connect more areas of West Delhi with Metro

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA (West Delhi): A large part of my parliamentary constituency, West Delhi is deprived of metro service. The Government has to connect the remaining areas in phase 3 and phase 4. The people of Najafgarh, Matiyala, Uttam Nagar, Vikaspuri are not getting the services of metro. The laying of metro track from Nangloi to N.H. 8, Kakrola to Dhansa border is getting delayed. Najafgarh is called the Connaught Place of rural areas. The people from rural areas do not go to Connaught Place and Chandni Chowk but buy the goods of their daily use at Najafgarh. Several Government offices like Jharoda Kalan CRPF Centre, BSF camp etc. are located here. People face many hardships due to non availability of metro services here.

Hence, I request that steps be taken at the earliest to connect Najafgarh, Matiyala, Uttar Nagar, Vikaspuri areas with metro so that people of my parliamentary constituency may avail metro services.

(iii) Need to construct underpasses and foot overbridges on National Highway No. 8 passing through Valsad Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL (Valsad): About 100 k.m. long road of my constituency falls under Surat-Dahisar Section of Ahmedabad-Mumbai N.H. 8. Accepting my demand the Government has started 6 laning of this road, I am thankful for that. There is an urgent need for under passes and foot overbridges at four places, which is not being fulfilled. These places are as under:

- (a) Damrachi village of Valsad Tehsil is being bifurcated and at that place there is a need to build an underpass to connect Piru Fariya.
- (b) The entire Padadi town and the office of Tehsildar is located on the one side of N.H. 8 and the biggest school is located on the other side. There is a need for a foot overbridge at this place.
- (c) Big schools and colleges are located at the T-point of Salvav village in Padadi Tehsil. There is a need for an underpass at this place.
- (d) There is a need of an under pass on the road going to Chhadwada village from Vapi town because facilities such as school, college and hospital are located at Dhadwada road.

Hence, through this House, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways to sanction the construction of underpasses and foot overbridges at the said places.

(iv) Need to bring life saving and essential drugs under Price Control Regime

SHRI HARSH VARDHAN (Maharajanj, U.P.): During the period from 1977 to 1994 drugs price control was based on use. In 1994 a new drug policy was formulated to fix the price of drugs on the basis of price competitiveness under which only about 20% of medicines remained under price control. In the year 2002 efforts were made to bring an even lesser number of drugs under price control.

Against this effort the proposal to bring the life saving and essential drugs under the purview of price control under the draft drug policy 2006. Submitted by the committee constituted by the Government on the order of the hon'ble Supreme Court on March 10, 2003 for protecting the interests of the common man is pending with the Government for decision.

The decision to ensure availability of life saving and essential drugs at controlled prices to people suffering from various diseases is also pending for the last 4 years. The result of this delay is that drug manufacturing companies doing an annual transaction of about Rs. 50 thousand crore in the country have got an opportunity to earn arbitrary profits from persons suffering from various disease.

There is a need to take decision on the cases pending before the group of Ministers immediately and implement them in the public interest to make available life saving and essential drugs to the patients by bringing them under price control.

(v) Need to take steps for release of residents of Barmer Parliamentary Constituency and Jaisalmer languishing in Pakistani jails

SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY (Barmer): Several poor villagers of my parliamentary constituency Barmer inadvertently strayed inside the border of Pakistan during the period between 1986 and 2000. At that time there was no fencing at the Indo-Pak border. These people are still languishing in the jails of Pakistan. Most of them belong to the extremely poor Muslim and dalit families, there is nobody to take care of them. Many of them

have completed their sentence but are still languishing in the jails. I met the hon'ble Minister of External Affairs in this regard and also did correspondence in this regard but these people have not been released yet. The Minister of External Affairs himself has accepted that many of them have completed their sentence. They have not committed any serious crime. There are several such prisoners who have not contacted by their relatives during last one year and there is no information about them.

I, through this House, request the Government to get the people of my constituency Barmer and Jaisalmer released at the earliest from the jails of Pakistan on humanitarian grounds.

(vi) Need to provide electricity to mushroom growers in Punjab at affordable rates

[English]

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (Hoshiarpur): Mushrooms in view of their delicacy and food value have become popular with the predominantly vegetarians in our country. Considering its demand in world market, the farmers of Punjab started growing mushrooms. The Ministry of Agriculture has issued a letter to all the States stating that 'Mushroom Production' be treated as an Agricultural activity and Mushroom as an Agricultural commodity. Few of the States acted upon the advice of Ministry of Agriculture like Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim Mizoram etc, but the farmers of Punjab who are growing mushroom are facing lots of problem due to heavy tariff of electricity charges. They have to pay sales tax as well as electricity charges on the line of Industrial charges.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Agriculture to request the Punjab Government to issue necessary instruction to treat mushroom production as an agricultural activity.

(vii) Need to re-open the Railway Station at Kavalkinaru, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (Tirunelveli): Kavalkinaru, Radhapuram Taluk of Tirunelveli, District, Tamil Nadu is situated on Tirunelveli - Kanyakumari National Highway which comes under Trivandrum Division of Southern Railway. It is famous for Flower Market. Banana plantation is also prominent here. Huge quantities of agricultural produce and flowers are produced here and exported to various parts of the country. ISRO Research Centre and

a famous Church are also located here. A good number of engineering colleges and other educational institutions and Koodunkulam Nuclear Power Plant are also located here.

However, Kavalkinaru is not served with rail facilities. Due to absence of a railway station, the traffic meant for railways are diverted to roadways and the goods produced from here are transported by road. The students, businessmen and other general public from here and neighbouring villages viz. Vadakkankulam, Valliyur, etc. are facing a lot of difficulties as they have to depend solely on the roadways and they come here to board buses for longer distances like Chennai, Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelveli and on their return, they get down here to reach their native places. In this connection, various institutions, and general public have submitted memorandum to the Ministry of Railways for re-opening the Railway Station at Kavalkinaru, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu. If the Kavalkinaru railway station is reopened, they need not go to Nagercoil, Kanyakumari or Tirunelveli to reach their destinations as they do now.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister for Railways to take necessary steps to re-open the Railway Station at Kavalkinaru, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu at the earliest.

(viii) Need to provide suitable compensation to the bereaved families of brave police personnels who laid down their lives while battling militants at Norat Jaimal Singh area, Bhamial in Punjab

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA (Gurdaspur): I wish to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Home Minister to the recent encounter that took place at Norat Jaimal Singh area, Bhamial wherein two militants who crossed over from Pakistan were killed. In the process two police personnel, namely, Shri Narinder Singh and Shri Sawinder Singh sacrificed their lives for our motherland. These great sons of India who lost their lives while discharging their duties near the India-Pakistan border at Gurdaspur, which is my constituency deserve not only a meritorious recognition, but also their families have to be taken care of. It has been brought to my notice that the families of these great sons of India are at a loss not knowing as to how to take care of the future of their children and their very survival is in question.

Under these circumstances, it is my request to the Hon'ble Union Home Minister and the Government of

India not only to provide to their immediate family members a Government job, but also to announce measures like taking care of the education of their children at free of cost, besides announcing a suitable compensation for the heroic sacrifices made by these police personnel. This would definitely send the right signals to our brave soldiers and police personnel, who defend our country's borders at the cost of their lives without much expectation.

I hope the Hon'ble Union Home Minister would do the needful at the earliest and take appropriate measures to provide necessary compensation and support to the bereaved families.

(ix) Need to lift ban on the export of cotton

[Translation]

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA (Amreli): Hon. Madam Speaker, it is well known fact in the country that more than 33 percent cotton is produced in Gujarat. In this era of rising prices farmers have to toil hard from sowing of cotton to its production. But safeguarding cotton produce from the vagaries of nature such as storm, excessive rains, drought etc. and various diseases is extremely difficult.

The cotton produced in Gujarat is of such high quality that apart from India its demand is very high in international market viz. China, Thailand, Turkey, Indonesia. The farmers were getting a remunerative price of Rs. 2500/- per tonne with export duty from export of cotton but the Central Government has now banned the export of cotton with effect from April 19, 2010.

Our farmers are incurring heavy losses and the contracts given to the farmers before this ban have now suddenly been cancelled as a result of which farmers are on the verge of falling in the debt trap.

If the Central Government does not remove this ban, all the people related to cotton ginning committee are likely to go on indefinite strike.

I request the Government to remove the said ban on the export of cotton immediately and to restore the per tonne export duty being given earlier.

(x) Need to look into the problems being faced by cotton growers in the country

[English]

DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI (Ahmedabad West): The Centre's move to curb the export of cotton in

the name of promoting India's cotton textile sector is anti-farmer and against the interest of Gujarat State's cotton growers and farmers. The price of raw cotton in market has already gone down, much to the detriment of farmers of Gujarat. Gujarat produces almost one third of production of cotton in India, it was 40 lakh bales in 2008 and 98 lakh bales in 2009.

After Ahmedabad lost its status of being Manchester of East with collapse of composite textile mills, most of cotton produced here has the tendency to go out of the State and abroad. Gujarat's cotton currently goes to China, Thailand, Indonesia, Turkey and other foreign countries. Farmers are getting an excellent price for their produce. However, on 9 April an export duty of Rs. 2500 per ton has been imposed and thereafter on 29 April cotton exports has been stopped.

Already because of export curb, the price of cotton has gone down from Rs. 710 per 20 Kg to Rs. 675 per 20 Kg and there are no buyers. The estimated loss is about Rs. 1500 crore to Gujarat's farmers. This would lead to desperation among the farmers and it would force them to commit suicide. I appeal to lift the ban on cotton export immediately.

(xi) Need to take appropriate measures to counter the threat posed by RPF – a militant group in Manipur, to oust non-Manipuris

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Silchar): It is learnt that the RPF Militants Group in the State of Manipur have issued "Quit Manipur" notice to all non-Manipuris living in the State. The outfit has issued a statement asking all non-Manipuris who had come to Manipur after 1949 to leave the State by May, 31. In the Statement, it has been said that taking away of jobs by the non-Manipuris had resulted in discontentment among the local people. Such ill-motivated design cannot be accepted. This is sure to create hatred between the Manipuris & non-Manipuris. Such thinking is unconstitutional also.

So, both the Central and State Governments should take up the matter seriously and see that no non-Manipuri is made a victim of such evil design.

(xii) Need to provide funds for construction of a bridge on river Hasdeo in Janjgir-Champa Parliamentary Constituency, Chhattisgarh

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PATLE (Janjgir-Champa): There is a gammon bridge on Hasdeo River in my

parliamentary constituency which was constructed during the British rule. The bridge is in such a dilapidated state that the District Collector had to declare it unfit for traffic twice and to ban use of the bridge for traffic. The State Government had prepared an estimate of 3.75 crore rupees for repair of this bridge and submitted to the Union Government. But the Union Government rather asked for the estimates for construction of a new bridge. The state Government has submitted the estimates for new bridge. But the work has not been started as the funds have not been released.

Hence I would like to demand that the Union Government should release the funds immediately so that the construction work of bridge may be started. The people have to travel several extra miles due to ban on traffic on the said bridge.

(xiii) Need to provide adequate compensation and proper rehabilitation to the farmers of Chandrapur, Yavatmal and Nagpur districts whose land has been acquired by Coal India Limited

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): The arable land of farmers has been acquired by the district collectors in various parts of the country for mining of coal and other minerals, setting up special economic zones, carrying out development works like roads, services and aviation and power sector under Land Acquisition Act, 1894, CB Act, 1957 and other laws without taking the consent of the farmers. Factors like the feelings of the displaced farmers, their conventional and traditional source of employment are not taken into account. These displaced farmers have been subjected to this injustice for several years. The land of the farmers is being acquired at damn cheap rates.

The land of thousands of farmers is being acquired by Coal India in my Parliamentary Constituency Chandrapur, Yavatmal and Nagpur districts and the value of the land is determined by the District Collectors on the basis of ready reckoner. The compensation for the said land is being paid at the rate of 30,000 rupees to 50,000 rupees per acre which is very meagre. It has caused unrest among the farmers. About 6 to 11 lakh rupees per acre are being paid for private industries and captive coal blocks in the same region whereas Coal India is paying just 3 to 5 percent of the price of the land. It is exploitation of the farmers. I request the Union Government to stop this exploitation and to think seriously about paying fair price of land to the displaced farmers,

to amend LA Act, CB Act and to direct Coal India immediately to fix the price of land equal to the price paid by private sector to the displaced farmers and to discuss with them for fixation of fair price.

(xiv) Need to expedite completion of Panchanada Project in Etawah Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI PREMDAS (Etawah): There is an acute crisis of drinking water in my parliamentary constituency Etawah in Uttar Pradesh due to depletion of water table on account of continuous low rainfall. The handpumps are not working due to depletion of water table. The cattle of farmers as well as wild animals are dying for want of drinking water. A Panchanada Project has been approved in Auraiya in Uttar Pradesh. Some funds were released for the said project during the last few years but the work is going on at very slow pace. After completion of this project, the ground water level in Auraiya, Etawah, Jalaun, Bhind, Kanpur Dehat, Kanpur City and other districts will be maintained and enough water will be available for agriculture and cattle.

I would like to demand that the work of this project may be expedited so as to deal with the crisis of drinking water.

(xv) Need to stop the practice of hiring the services of private security guards in BSNL through open market

[English]

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (Palakkad): The move by the BSNL to engage daily wage employees from open market to carry out the duties of security guards is against the guidelines and Government orders. The DGR has issued letter that no PSUs are to engage private security agencies on contract through open tender. The BSNL was requested to forward to the office of the DGR their requirement of security guards. It has also been instructed that all administrative ministries/departments should issue necessary instructions to the PSUs under their control to obtain contract security service from the DGR or state ex-servicemen corporations for sponsoring ex-servicemen security agencies on their panel. These instructions are mainly with a view to avoid exploitation of Ex-servicemen by the private security agencies and also to enlarge employment opportunities. The present move by the BSNL is against the interests of ex-servicemen who had served our country.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to stop the reduction of the security guards from BSNL and the present strength should be allowed to continue.

(xvi) Need to provide funds for acceleration of works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Orissa

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (Kandhamal): The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was launched on 25 December, 2000 by Government of India as a 100% central sponsored scheme to provide road connectivity in rural areas of the country. For Orissa a sum of rupees 9958.47 crores has been sanctioned by Government of India since the inception of scheme by the end of 2009-10, Rs. 5197.22 Crores have been received by the State Government of Orissa and Rs. 5371.99 Crores have been spent which is more than the amount received by the State Government. Similarly, the construction for 29, 189.43 KMs of road laid over 7488 number of routes has been identified. So far, construction of only 49.89% of road under the Project has been completed. Due to lack of funds, it is difficult to complete ongoing projects for providing connectivity to the people of the region. For the year 2010-11 at least 2500 Crores Rupees may be provided to accelerate the pace of execution.

I urge upon the Government to provide at least Rs. 2500 Crores immediately to accelerate the pace of work under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Orissa.

(xvii) Need to record the data pertaining to scheduled Tribes residing in Delhi in Census 2011

DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA (Dausa): The Indian Census is the most credible source of information on Demography (Population characteristics) such as Economic activity, Literacy and Education, Housing & Household amenities, Urbanization, Fertility and Mortality, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Language, Religion, Migration, disability and many other socio-culture and demographic data since 1972. But the Scheduled Tribes population living in Delhi will not be recorded as Scheduled Tribes as per the oral instructions given by the Director (Census), NCT Delhi to Census Officer, Master Trainer, Supervisor, Enumerators, Village Officer and local Registrar, etc. during the training imparted to them from 8 to 10th April, 2010. This is unfair and will hurt the feelings of Scheduled Tribes who are living in NCT Delhi because Scheduled Tribes are being put in other category in Column No. 15 of House

listing and House Census Schedule of Census of India, 2011. The data generated on the basis of recorded information would be misleading in context of Scheduled Tribes. This would adversely affect the right of Scheduled Tribes which was accorded to them under Article 342 of the Constitution of India.

All India Conference on National Population Census-2011 was held under the Chairmanship of Minister of Home Affairs, Government of India on 4th March, 2010 in the Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. This conference was organized by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Government of India in which most of the District Census of States, Divisional Commissioners; District Magistrates, Collectors and Deputy Commissioners, etc, participated. They have not been issued such type of instruction as Director (Census), NCT Delhi had orally instructed during the training to Census staff.

In view of above, proper initiative may be taken by the Central Government so that suitable instruction to the Director (Census) NCT Delhi could be given and the Scheduled Tribes living in Delhi could be recorded Scheduled Tribes in Column No. 15 of House listing and House Census Schedule of Census of India, 2011. This is essential for credibility of Census Information and protecting the rights of Scheduled Tribes.

14.03 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Need to laid down specific parameters for conducting the Census, 2011—Contd.

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Discussion under Rule 193.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important issue. We, the socialists, have always accepted that caste system is a social evil society and we do accept it. The constitution makers have provided in the Constitution for providing reservation for the socially and educationally backward

castes so as to bring them forward. I would like to say that as of now there are have no identity. We took the first step in Uttar Pradesh in this regard. These castes are — Rajbhar, Nishad, Prajapati, Mallah, Kahar, Kashyap, Kumhar, Dhimar, Bind, Bhar, Kemat, Dhiwar, Watham, Machhuara, Manjhi, Turha and Gond — these are about 17 castes in Uttar Pradesh which have no identity and no importance in jobs or state assemblies and Lok Sabha. We took a step to identify them. They got jobs and still they are to get jobs. But the next government delisted these 17 castes. We had sent the State Government's proposal to the Union Government in Delhi. We have demanded a caste based census so that these castes may get in identity. These are the castes having small population and are poor also. They have been left far behind. We also accept Chauhans, they are our rivals but we accept them and are also including them in this. These are such castes which have no recognition. That is why we had demanded it on the basis of caste because provision of reservation want that in the ongoing census. Addition of only one column will make this work very easy. They say that there is so much difficulty in it, but we have talked to the senior officers, they say that there is no problem in it, one column will be added in which caste will be marked.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that castes should be known. What is the status of the castes which are weak and have such low population? In the census, information on education, house and agriculture etc. is being collected. When all the water bodies, trees, rivers are being accounted for, then the Government should have no objection on caste based census, the Government must accept it. This is our logic. Out second point is that when census is conducted without incorporating the castes, Kaka Kalelkar also accepted that problems will crop up as we have no information about the population of castes. The Mandal Commission was constituted and it also accepted that unless caste is marked. We would not know how much reservation is to be provided to which caste. Somehow they accepted it around 54 percent. On the other hand, constituted the Rangnath Mishra and all other Commissions, but no one accepted it. We have said this many times in the House. But we do not want to go into the details of it. We just want to tell why the entry of caste is necessary. Mandal Commission, Kaka Kalelkar all have accepted it. After that Rangnath Mishra and all other Commissions were constituted by the Congress Government. Except Mandal Commission, which was constituted by our Government of Janta Party by the

then Minister of Home Affairs, Chaudhary Charan Singh, all other Commissions were constituted by the Congress Government. The reports of all these commissions have been put on the back burner, that is why inequality cropped up among people. The Commission had said that the condition of Muslims is worse than the condition of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. There is a need to provide them special opportunity. Similarly all other castes coming under backward castes, should be given this opportunity. You may say that all the three Yadavas discuss it separately. These backwards are coming up Pratapgarh. What is the condition of Kurmis-Yadav as or Kushwahas there. They castes may see such thing in Raebareli, Pratapgarh, Sultanpur or Basti, we are only referring to the districts of U.P. only. Their condition is so bad that when their castes are mentioned only then it will come to light that the condition of this many castes is bad. The Government should work to push them forward, they will have to think over it. Look at the pictures here, Lajuji, Mulayam Singhji and Sharad Yadavji all have prospered so much. The people have made us progress so much, but today the condition of society is such. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, if well educated Dalit, even if he becomes an officer does not get respect like an officer belonging to upper castes in society or in villages. This is the culture and to do away with this, there are only two ways, first abolish the system of casteism or give them special facilities. That is why I said in the morning that they have to do a lot to remove the dirt from society and accept it. When reservation was given to the OBSs, the Supreme Court also said in Indira Sahini case that unless caste based census is conducted, the correct decision cannot be taken in this regard because there are so many castes and therefore it becoming very difficult to take any decision. The same thing is happening in educational institutions. The educational institutes are also facing problems. I am associated with academics and am still associated with this field. Many famous colleges are located in our constituency even today. Now I have handed over a college to my brother, he is running it now. It is a P.G. College. There is a medical college in my area. As per today's status they are not in Government jobs in substantial number. Because even today the exact population of different castes is not known. The Government in India have been functioning on conjecture. Someone please clarify whether it was our policy.

Sir, till now we have been talking about women. To bring women forward we provided them free education upto graduation level, provided Rs. 20 thousand as Kanya

Dhan and also scholarship during our regime. As per one estimate girls who got Rs. 2000/- per month came forward for higher education and at some places girls outnumbered the boys. I would like to cite the example of our area. Here the number of girls was more than the boys in B.A. and M.A. classes. When the other Government came into power in U.P. all these facilities were discontinued. As a result the number of boys increased and the number of girls remained only 25-30 percent of their number. It is a matter of providing special opportunity for them. Unless census is conducted on the basis of caste, how can we provide any facility to anyone? Therefore we want that caste based census be conducted because many problems are also cropping up in the field of education due to this. Difficulties are coming in providing scholarship. Girls have to visit many places for getting their scholarships. They have to get their applications forwarded from tehsil, the Accountant, SDM and in doing so spend a substantial amount on fare. If the name of caste is mentioned then there will be no need of getting a certificate issued to this effect. The Pradhan will send it in writing. They may use the voter list to prove their caste. There is lot of corruption in issuing caste certificates people will also be saved from this corruption.

There are so many backward people eligible for scholarship, Shri Sharad Yadav and Laluji all are aware of the difficulties people face in getting all types of letters issued. They have to get their applications forwarded from various authorities only then they can apply and get the amount of scholarship. In this process the amount spent by them exceeds the amount of their scholarship. That is why the Government must look into it.

Sir, I want to raise one more point that the founding fathers of our Constitution have mentioned the name of certain special classes in Chapter 16 of the Constitution and have made certain provisions and the Constitution stipulates that Anglo-Indians, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes will be provided reservation in Government services, legislatures and in the Parliament, and their quota will also be fixed. On this basis we got elected in the Lok Sabha or legislative Assemblies otherwise no one would have allowed us to come here. But we remained the same people, I am using the term 'We' not 'I' in which all the people are included.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, provision for constituting a commission was made to protect the interest of lower classes and to ensure that Scheduled castes get their due. That is why this Commission was constituted. I would

like to know from the Government whether this Commission has so many resources to collect the names of various castes and their number and to find out the population of each caste. Whether be it the Commission for Backward Classes or the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; they do not have enough funds. They do not have the funds even for the stationary e.g. for paper, pencil or furniture, because we have provided them these things. I would like to know how this work would be carried out by the Backward Class Commission, Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is not possible. That is why I am happy that some of the Ministers raised this issue seriously in the cabinet. Some people opposed it, but I do not want to point out who opposed it or who were in favour of it. In the newspapers it was reported that some of the Ministers spoke strongly in favour of our demand and some also spoke against it. This is the question of mentality. Mindset is related to culture, it is possible to change this culture only when the people of lower strata are brought into the mainstream ...*(Interruptions)* if you are in the Chair ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken 15 minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, I will conclude soon. The Article 340 of the Constitution provides that the President has the power to appoint a commission to identify the educationally backward people in India and give suggestions for their upliftment. They would not accept it. The Mandal Commission, Kaka Kalelkar Commission and the Supreme Court all want that exact population of castes should be known and the name of caste should be displayed against the name of the people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the offer made by the Commission was very good, as I have already mentioned that girls and boys have to run from pillar to post to get their caste certificates. It suggested to provide special facility to both the backward classes and the scheduled castes on the basis of backwardness. Nobody objected to it. In Article 340 it is clear that the dalits, Scheduled castes and many of the Muslims are also included in backward castes ...*(Interruptions)* On this basis the Government should accept our demand. The sentiment of the House should be respected. We have to respect

those who are in majority. If we do not do this. We will have to face difficulties. I am telling you that this is the trend in the country at present. Now problems will start cropping up. The leader of the House understands it very well that it has been discussed in the Chaupals of each and every village. Whosoever tries to go against them, will be finished. ...(*Interruptions*) our old slogan was ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, that is why I want to tell them to accept it happily. We are happy that the upper caste people accepted the request of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes happily. The recommendations of the Mandal Commission were also accepted happily by all the castes. Therefore, I would like to specially request the people from upper castes to lead from the front. We have to do it in a state of helplessness as no one had the courage to raise this issue, nobody was ready to raise this point. Therefore we raised this issue. Now this issue has been raised in such a way that the House is not functioning and it has become a burning topic in villages as to what they actually wants. The people of villages ask what would happen if the name of the castes are added. What is the problem in this? To provide them facilities or not, is a different thing. We are not demanding any facility for them. Facility is a different thing. Only the name of caste may be written. We are not demanding any funds or allowance, we are not demanding jobs for them. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, please give me two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already taken 20 minutes.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, such an opportunity does not come time and again. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken so much time.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, all these things are taking place when you are in the chair. Give me some time. I'll conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude in two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down, let him speak, he is concluding.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down, let him speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your speech is not going in the records.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, I would like to say that census is very much required ...(*Interruptions*). He has replied that the question was raised in Cabinet meeting ...(*Interruptions*). I would like to congratulate and give special thanks to them who supported it. I would be very happy if the Cabinet approved it unanimously. It would not remain secret. Today it may be a secret but later on the entire country will know about it. So I want the Cabinet to approve it unanimously. The Government has done it for the dalits, the Scheduled Castes and the Backward Castes as per Mandal Commission. I would like to thank the Government for it, whichever party was in power at that time. Mandal Commission was constituted during our regime. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Sahib): Mulayam Singh Ji, there are poor people among the Sikhs also. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Yes, Sir, I do agree that there are poor people in Sikh community also. I have referred to all the Scheduled Castes, the minorities not only Muslims but also Anglo-Indians and Sikhs ...(*Interruptions*). I deliberately avoided such words which could hurt anyone. Otherwise I would have said that there should not be any malafide intention ...(*Interruptions*). When the jawans sacrifice their lives on the border for security of the county, one can find out that 1 out of 11 of them belong to the place to which I belong and I am proud of it ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh Ji, you are a senior member.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is the same case there also ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to take into account time factor.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: When people are needed to fight for security of the country, the people belonging to this class go there ...*(Interruptions)*. There are officers but the person who fire bullets and becomes the victim of bullets belongs to this very class ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please give me one minute to speak ...*(Interruptions)*. So I would like to say that there would not be any debate or difference of opinion on the population of backward castes. The Government will also not have any such problem. Everyone has got the right to ask for one's rights. Today, you are in the Chair on this historical occasion. I want that there should be a column for marking the name of the caste *i.e.* Scheduled Caste, other Backward Caste ...*(Interruptions)*.

With these words, I conclude and hope that the House would agree to this.

SHRI BHAKT CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi): Today, a very serious question has been raised. The biggest problem in our country is the social problem and discussion on this problem is a historical discussion. I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to take part in this discussion. Now Census 2011 is going on. Before speaking about it I would like to refer to its several aspects. The first question is what is its historical aspect? The second question is to what extent have we been affected and we have made progress in social sector? The third question is what kind of society do we want to have and in which direction do we want to take the country? Before proceeding further, I would like to quote the statement made by a freedom fighter and senior leader of the country Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel in Census Conference in February, 1950.

[English]

Sardar Patel, in his address to the Census Conference in February 1950 said:

“Formerly, there used to be elaborate caste table which was required in India partially to satisfy the theory that it was a caste ridden country and partially to meet the needs of administrative measures dependent upon caste division.”

In the forthcoming census, this will no longer be a prominent feature.

[Translation]

This comment was made by Sardar Patel Ji at the time of Census, 1951. His comment reflects how the Britishers treated all the classes in our country. The second point is that caste based census is not being discussed in the Parliament for the first time. The first census was held in the year 1872. Thereafter censuses were held in 1931, 1941, 1981 and recently in 2001. In the year 2001 discussion took place on caste based census. A lot of information was collected during NDA regime and caste composition was also discussed. This issue was presented before the Cabinet during NDA regime and later on it was withdrawn. The then House Secretary had submitted reply in six pages in which it was said that it was not required. Our advisory council discussed this issue in the year 2005. There were reactions on the report of Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment in the year 2006 and the report of Sachchar Committee in December 2006. Every time Registrar General of India has taken one stand that we need to think what is its relevance? Recently, a writ petition was filed in the supreme court.

[English]

On the Writ Petition 133 of 2009 filed in the Supreme Court, the hon. Court has made the following observation which is extremely relevant. I quote the observation:

“How can we give a direction to the Government to conduct a caste-based census? It is a policy decision. If it was not done for last more than 70 years, there must be some reason behind it. Why should it be done now? Some fear that there could be a social problem.

There is a Backward Class Commission. Why don't you go there? These are policy matters of serious implications. The courts can neither interfere nor give any direction to the Government in such matters"

[Translation]

After that the petitioner had withdrawn the petition from the Supreme Court. When caste composition report came out in 1941, many problems were seen in it. All the censuses conducted before 1951 *i.e.* before independence had many confusions relating to the surname, title and gotra etc. due to which report was not accurate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is another aspect. According to the censuses there are 1885 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in our country. During a survey in this regard in 2001, names of 18,740 castes came to light. Thus, there was about 9 or 10 times increase in the number of castes. Similarly, there are six thousand castes in our country in the Central Government's list of OBC category. If the census is conducted similarly on the basis of caste, then given the different conditions in different states, the report will have 9 to 10 times more names. If you see, then there are chances of having more than one lakh castes in the report. Keeping in view the historical background, statement of the Supreme Court, Commander of freedom struggle Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, who contributed in creating India, we should think today as to which kind of nation we want to create. As far as Dalits and tribals are concerned, untouchability was so rampant at that time that it was necessary to provide them a life of dignity. That is why Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar emphasized this need and had asked about making provision for reservation for the dalits and tribals. I feel, our system has some shortcomings. Otherwise, why are the poor still poor, even after these long 63 years of independence and despite having all provisions in the Constitution. Our BPL survey says that more than 37% people live below poverty line today. I would say that actually 50 percent of the population is living below poverty line. It is most important for the Government today that the basic minimum needs of the people are fulfilled. To what extent have we been successful in providing drinking water, health, education, dignified life to them? We should also not neglect to think about how much attention we have paid to this aspect.

Our Upanishad speak of Vasudhaiv Kutumbhakam. When the country faces crisis all the philosophers and eminent leaders of our country, irrespective of the party or caste they belonged to, spoke about the unity of the whole world. The Almighty God, has created all of us and we all are one and this has been said by our leaders many times in the context of the whole world within and even outside this House. Why? Whenever the country has faced threats in the name of caste and religion, our leading figures have used these points to draw the attention of the masses. Today, we see a caste related tension. Today, there are many castes even among the tribals and they lack the unity which should be there. There are many castes even among the Scheduled Castes. I will speak about myself — I belong to a Scheduled Caste. I belong to a dalit community and I had waged a war against hunger in Kalahandi. I had raised the issue of hunger in the year 1985. There are big leaders in this House and they know how I had raised this issue. Who used to die of hunger? The poor. Obviously they are Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs. Even though belonging to a dalit family, I have been elected to the division of land or development of extremely backward area I have always done that. Giving due respect to the Constitution, I always stood for the people's rights. Not only this, several newspapers and magazines of the country and even the foreign magazines had covered this issue. I always remained in touch with the people and the people voted for me. Even today, I see that the Atrocities Act is misused. The SHO/Police who is IO, misuses this Act on the betest of those who want to take revenge from the people. When I see such mentality, I feel that such persons want to cheat our national unity and harass the dalits.

Sir, as far as caste related tension is concerned, I want to urge that we can even look among ourselves. The whole country is watching that there is no unity even among the Members of 24 parties in the Parliament. We do not tolerate each other. People of one particular caste among OBCs, do not like to marry in another caste. People do not merge if the other person does not belong to their category of OBC, SC or ST. If it does happen, then they become violent and tension is created among them and they fight so much that they forget about development. This brings our fight to the fore. Same thing is seen in the Parliament that whenever tension crops up our fight is brought to the fore. The same thing happens

in the villages and districts too. When the country and the world is progressing, such things should not happen.

Our ancestors had paid close attention to the fact that there are lakhs of castes and religions in India and violence is spreading among them. Mahatma Buddha had spoken of 'Ahimsa Parmo Dharm' in view of the said fact. Gandhiji had reiterated the same. The violence resulting from the tension among the castes makes people weak, does not fulfil the needs of the people and the country never progress. Thus, we will have to see as to what could be the outcome if we harbor such feelings in our mind.

Sir, I respect Lalu ji, Mulayam ji and Sharad Yadav ji a lot and they also know this. I am a very small person in front of them. I was president in college when Sharad Yadav Ji became the youth president. Being a worker, I went to Nagpur to listen to his speech. I got the opportunity to work with him for a long time. I have seen in him the mentality to bring progress in the society. When Lalu Ji became the Chief Minister of Bihar, Mulayam Singh Ji became the Chief Minister then the people of backward classes there had great expectation that they would pay attention to them. I had gone to Bihar and saw that it was lagging far behind as far as development was concerned. I want to say that just because of my speech or the fact that I am a dalit or whatever I would say for the dalits or OBCs that will not help the dalits. They need self esteem and to live a life of self esteem, their basic needs would have to be fulfilled. We have crores of unemployed hands about whom no leader thinks. We are not even fighting on this issue. Our children are dying due to lack of nutritious food even today. Our women, who form the biggest community irrespective of caste and religion, are weakest today. Efforts are not being made to enable them. Nothing is thought about as to which kind of legislation is needed in our backward area today so that development takes place there. No attention is paid to the fact that why the areas of poor and dalits are so backward even after a number of provisions made in the constitution by our forefathers.

This country belongs to 120 crore people. We can make a lot of progress if we root out the difference between the poor and rich in the country. I agree with d Mulayam Singh Ji that we should think of rising above

caste based feelings. We should speak of 'Jaati todo' instead of 'Jaati Nirman'. There should be no castes and life of everyone should be full of self esteem. Constitution provides for making all equal and it should be implemented. How much more will we push botton the dignity of our Parliament?

[English]

Let us not push button the Parliament, the great Parliament of our forefathers. Please prepare it.

[Translation]

It should be made a temple of every heart, stronger temple so that our country emerges as the strongest country before the world.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after a lot of efforts I have got this opportunity to speak on such an important matter today. Hone. Members have expressed their views on census and there is a situation of confusion in the Parliament that perhaps, this census is of a particular caste. But, it is not so, whether someone belongs to forward caste, backward caste or Muslim religion etc. caste of everyone is to be counted under it. Regarding allegations being made against caste, I would like to say that it is not a modern concept, it is being practiced since early times. Caste is a reality of this country and no one can deny this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhubani): It is a fact and truth.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hukmadeo Ji, since when have you started speaking English.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: As long as some people will get honoured in the name of caste and others will get insulted for being born in particular caste, casteims will stay in this country. Many great people were bore in this country to talked about in this country with a lot of emphasis. Savitribai Phule, the wife of Jyotiba Phule had resolved to educate the half of the population of this country who was insulted by our society. In this country,

on the one hand animals and dogs — cats can drink water from the pond but on the other hand human beings had no right to drink water from that pond. Such was the practice everywhere whether it was Maha Talab or Kalaram Mandir. Therefore, the fact of caste can not be denied. You know that Baba Saheb Ambedkar included the article 340 in the Constitution of this country. The sufferings of the dalits, SC/ST/OBC and minorities in the country after 63 years of independence, they are lagging behind the people belonging to general category. That is why Dr. Ambedkar made the provision of article 340 in the Constitution. People of these categories would assert their rights when they progress after getting education. The commission formed in 1951-52 under the leadership of Kaka Kalekar was transferred. Mandal Commission formed in 1980 under the leadership of Bindeshwari Prasad Mandal stated the number of backward people as 52 percent. After that, legal battle started. A conspiracy was hatched to stall the implementation of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission by taking recourse of the law when it was implemented in the year 1989. It was only in 1992 that the Supreme Court gave its verdict and the recommendations of the Mandal Commission were partially implemented in the country. I would like to bring into the cognizance of the House that when recommendations of Mandal Commission were implemented after making great efforts, then 52 percent people of the total population got 37 percent reservation in jobs but they did not get reservation in any other sector. Despite this reservation only two, four or five percent people have got the jobs in class one, two three four or A.B.C.D. category. If caste based census of these people is conducted people who have been facing humiliation or oppression in the name of caste since ancient time would get justice because it is the responsibility of the Government to provide amenities to the people on the basis of numbers. I am not against any particular caste. I would like to break the caste system. I would like to submit that we should break the caste system to unite socially. Kanshi Ram was born in a Dalit family, he dedicated his entire life in bringing social change. He gave slogan 'Jati Todo aur Samaj Jodo' meaning that we should break the caste system to unite socially. Despite all this, charges of casteism are leveled against us. Until the caste system is eradicated ...(*Interruptions*). I am talking of all the eminent personalities. I am talking of Gandhi Ji, Lohia ji and Dr. Ambedkar. ...(*Interruptions*). I would like to submit that

when trees, plants, ponds, animals, houses could be counted in the country. Then why the census of the people of the country who are leading miserable life at some places even after 62 years of our independence not conducted on the basis of caste? I congratulate our colleagues as I read in the newspaper that some of them in the cabinet were in favour of this and some were against it. I am not saying so, but the census is proposed to be conducted in three phases. It is an excuse to say that though census has been initiated but the forms have not been printed yet. The Government many include the column upto February, 2011. A number of commission have been constituted to find out the number of poor, whether it is Tendulkar Committee on Arjun Sen Gupta but the poor people of the country are still helpless in absence of accurate data of their numbers. State Governments are always making demand in this regard, demand was made in the Parliament also that more and more BPL people should be covered and their number ascertained because the policies are not being formulated in absence of accurate figure of the poor. I and my party leader believe that united the problem is detected it cannot be rectified. The Government should be aware of the problem existing in the society. Everybody be they Heun Tsang Fahein, Ibn Battuta. I have discussed the caste system in their books. Union Government is not able to formulate schemes for the poor due to absence of accurate BPL figures in the country. As a result the UPA Government formed under the leadership of Congress, which ruled the country maximum number of times in the post independence period, had always raised the slogan that the poverty should be alleviated. But, their Government could not formulate right policies for the poor due to absence of accurate data. Even the data is not available today hence, the poverty has not been alleviated even after 63 years of independence. Bahujan Samaj Party is in power in Uttar Pradesh. I would like to congratulate the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Mayawati Ji. I had requested her to cover number of BPL people and she has fixed the number of people as 30 lakh who are not covered in the BPL list and Rs. 2000 crores for the purpose and decided to provide Rs. 300 to the women of BPL until the Union Government have the accurate information regarding the BPL families.

I was listening to the view of various hon. Members. As far as the question to include the Scheduled Castes is concerned, no State Government has the right to

include any caste in the list of Scheduled Castes. This right has been vested with the Parliament of the country and the Government of India. I can say that backward communities form the largest part of the society. I belong to that society which is called the most backward community. I could never believe that I would get the chance to be elected as MP. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has made the provision for the education of such children whose parents cannot even afford to feed and educate them properly. The Government provides Rs. 25,000 to such poor in two installments. The number of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes has increased. The responsibility of the Union Government is to eliminate discrimination in the country. Until casteless and equal society is formed, society will remain divided on caste line.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have got the opportunity after making huge efforts. I do not wish to repeat the views expressed by various members. I would like to submit that casteism is reality in India, be it good or bad. It is such a big issue which every one would find hard to explain. Marxist members were talking of class, but the point is clear that such unjust, cruel and oppressive society does not exist in any other country apart from the Indian continent. There is injustice and oppression everywhere. Our is such a society where if someone belongs to the higher class or is more powerful then adulate him and if he belongs to the inferior caste, then oppress him. Such system does not are against the caste based census. When the people were discriminated and oppressed on the basis of their colour, there was a fight against apartheid and everyone was aware of the fight. But it is strange that only a handful of people in the world are aware of this oppression faced by the people due to caste system in India. That is why the world is unaware of the fact that fight against caste system is far more dreadful than the fight against apartheid. Apart from the physical, mental, and financial exploitation every exploitation is meted out on the basis of caste in the Indian society. My colleagues Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Dara Singh Chauhan have just submitted that oppressed people have made such demand. Number of times, Kaka Kalelkar Commission and Mandal Commission A etc. have made such demands but the ultimate truth and genuine issue before the country

is that as to why do we want such hypocrite society? Caste system is reality in India, caste means caste system. I will present real picture in the form of data that caste means caste system. But we are against this. The Government has neither understood nor does it not want to understand the plight of victims of caste system even after sixty years who are facing such plight for hundreds of years.

I would like to submit that there is a strong resentment against oppression being faced due to the intense distress in caste system and it is like to erupt like a volcano. It is definitely going to be erupted sooner or later and no one will be able to handle the situation then. Each time you proceed ahead by crushing the truth. The Government has always disregarded this truth and issue without any debate. The Minister of Home Affairs hails from such area, but I feel sorry that even your ministry has raised the point that census should not be done. You have visited the places alongwith me and I always had an impression about you that are my strong colleague in bringing transformation and equality in the society. Tamil Nadu is that state where Periyar had staged a great fight against the caste system in India before Independence. Basvanna, Narayan Swami, Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Sahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Dr. Lohia and Shri Jai Prakash Narayan etc. too had raised the voice. Tamil Nadu is that state due to which constitution was amended for the first time. Chidambaramji's state holds the honour of fighting for the first time for the rights of the majority of the Hindu community belonging to the backward castes and backward caste does not mean only Hindus, it includes Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Parsis and others also. The first constitutional amendment took place during the time of Jawahar Lal Nehru for their rights as given in the constitution and this happened because of his state and not because of us. No repercussion had occurred in the plains of Ganga and Yamuna. Had it taken place, then the face of India would have changed. But, this is the plan of Ganga and Yamuna and so far as I know no revolution took place there. Had it occurred, such injustice would not have been possible today. I would say that caste is such a big reality that even while travelling in a bus or train, people do not feel comfortable until they know the caste of their fellow passengers. And they are not wrong in doing this.

15.00 hrs.

The discussion begins just after the caste is known. Caste is a reality. I am not saying that it is good or bad. How long can we hide our face from this reality? No ticket is distributed in any Party in India. I accept the fact that had I not been born in an Aheer family, I would not have won the elections in the three states in India. I won in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Besides me, two more persons — Indira ji and Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji have won elections from other states. I accept this fact but others will not. It is such a big disease. The Government wants to collect data about this disease. Shri Mulayam Singh ji has rightly said that they are not demanding jobs, they are not asking anything. Just tell them that they are backward. The number of votes, itself, becomes the power and identity of people. And why the Government wants to keep them far from that identity? Just because they should not realize that now powerful they are? That is why the Government wants to hide their identity from them. The situation prevailing during the past 60 years forced the Government to implement the Mandal Commission's Report 17 years ago. A survey was conducted by the DoPT of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

15.02 hrs.

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA *in the Chair*]

This survey was conducted by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances Cell of the Ministry of Home Affairs, in 2006-07. This survey was started on 01.01.2005. The number of SC, ST and OBCs in the Government of India jobs, except the Army and Railways, was surveyed under it. It was conducted by the UPA Government and I do not want to elaborate on the findings of the survey.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are 80,569 jobs under Group 'A' in which the number of SCs is 9651 (11.9%), STs 3448 (4.3%) and OBCs 3791 (4.7%) i.e. 27% reservation has been provided for the OBCs but how much has been given actually in the last 17 years? Who is behind this injustice? I met the Prime Minister and only after that it has been revealed. Hon. Home Minister can ask him privately. Similarly, there are 1,39,956 jobs are under Group 'B' in which the number of SCs is 19194 (13.7%), STs 6230 (4.5%) and OBCs 3252 (2.3%). The majority

community of India feel proud to be Hindu but how many of them have got jobs in Group C? There are 20,36,103 jobs under Group 'C', barring Railways and Army, and the number of SCs in them is 3,33,000 (16.4%), STs about 1,31,000 (6.5%) and OBCs 1,29,000 (5.9%) which is lower than both. There is more detail but I will not read further. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhubani):
It is our traditional work. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please do not disturb him. He knows how to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: A new figure but reservations for OBCs as on 1.1.2006 has also been declared by the DoPT giving their numbers in the main Ministries. The total number of Group 'A' Officers in the Rashtrapati Bhavan is 22 and the number of OBC is nil there. There are 24 officers in the PMO but the number of OBC is zero. Election Commission has 36 officers and Zero number OBC ...(*Interruptions*) Coal Ministry has 30 officers but the number of OBC is zero there.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please wind up. You made your point.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please keep quiet.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: There are zero number of OBCs in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. This means that in India in 20 Ministries, and 18 departments of the Ministries not a single OBC is there in Group A category. I will lay these figures on the Table of the House so that the Government may see it. Bhakta Charan Das ji, you were sitting beside me but unfortunately you could not explain anything properly. ...(*Interruptions*) He should tell the Government I feel sorry that Chidambaramji hails from that state. Had he been from some other state I would not have said anything. Law Minister Moily Saheb is sitting

here. He has written to the Prime Minister about the backward classes. I say that all the castes in India should be identified. Of the figures given by me, the weaker sections have even less than 20%.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Sir, I want to urge the supporters of the UPA Government that they are inciting the people who have shown a lot of tolerance in the country so far. They want to push them to the wall so that a war breaks out in the country. But, I want to warn them that this debate does not end here itself. The Government should improve the system. The Government counts the number of animals, rivers and of the general category.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: The Government counts the number of drains but it is not ready do count the number of people. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Sir, if the Government cannot give anything at least, give the right to speech. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you should understand before they shout that we have the time constraint.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Sir, I got it. I am going to conclude. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: His party time was three minutes and he has taken 20 minutes. He gave a beautiful speech. Please do not disturb him. Hon. Member, please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Hon. Home Minister, Sir, just make your officers understand. Eighty per cent people of the country have 20% jobs. The Government has the figures for all the three classes; I have given those figures. Even after this, after getting 80% reservation, they are asking for more. This reservation is for social and educational backwardness but even now people shout slogans. ... (Interruptions) All this can be found out. ... (Interruptions) Find information about higher castes also as to how many of them are suffering. We have to make schemes for them also. I have no objection to it. I only know that poverty is related only to caste. As the castes become lower and lower, the number of the poor increases proportionately. I have a mathematical chart which I will give him alongwith a letter. Where does poverty grow? It increases when lower the caste becomes; it keeps on spreading. I, therefore, through you, would like to say that the Government should not take it lightly. The Government is posing such questions which are creating much problem. People like me are living in the country for many years and suffering so much difficulties only for the creation of an equalitarian society; please do not break that harmony. Do not think that this matter will get solved just by counting the numbers. It will be followed in the next Lok Sabha also and with such force that the Government cannot imagine ... (Interruptions). Tomorrow is yet to come.

With this, I submit to you and the Government that ... (Interruptions) Yes, in the next Lok Sabha ... (Interruptions) I request you, we are not asking anything from the Government. We are asking our numbers from the Government. The Government should count our numbers. The Government allocates Budget and we are just saying how will the Government allocate that budget and how will it be distributed. The Commission for backward classes should be given power. At present, the Government has curtailed its power. This Commission should also be given power on the lines of the power given to the commission for the SCs, STs and Minorities.

[*English*]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (Sreerampur): Hon. Chairman, on behalf of my Party, I support this step undertaken by the Central Government as regards census. We support that.

India is a country where we say Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis, Muslims, Christians remain together. The great poet Tagore said:

*"Punjab-Sindh-Gujarat-Maratha,
Dravida-Utkal-Banga
Vindhya-Himachal-Yamuna-Ganga
Uchchala-jaladhi-taranga."*

We are the firm believers of the principles of secularism, communal harmony and unity of the nation. The great poet of Bengal Shri Atul Prasad Sen wrote: *"Nana Bhasha, nana man, nana paridhan, vividher majhe dekho, milono mahan."*

We are united in our country. We are aware that a sense of insecurity exists in the minds of the Harijans, cobblers, scavengers, other backward classes and minorities etc. Right from the commencement of our Constitution, not only the makers of the Constitution, time to time this august House has extended the benefit of the constitutional provisions to the Scheduled Castes, to the Scheduled Tribes, to the OBCs. This has come and benefits have been extended. There is no harm for a detailed report after census which would emerge caste-wise. There is no harm on that. Today we are having a Right to Information Act. If anybody is making an application in respect of the population in an area, detailed report, caste-wise report, how will the Government give it? If the Government is ready to take steps for a particular area, for a particular Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe or OBC for providing the necessary help, how will the Government give it?

The Government has to act on the basis of documents and not on the basis of emotions. If these details are not available with the Government, how can the Government take appropriate steps and extend help to the people in particular areas where it is needed? The people who really need help have to be identified. They cannot be brought to the surface on the basis of any lecture or on the basis of expressions of emotions. If I wish to help a certain person, I have to identify him first.

Who are the people who need help from the Government under Part IV of the Constitution, the Directive Principles? How will it be known unless a detailed picture is available? It is nice to hear emotional lectures. It is nice to blame people. But nothing comes out of that. It is really difficult to work for the betterment of the people, if certain details are not there.

I fully support the steps undertaken by the Government to undertake detailed caste-wise census it would be very useful if the census report makes available these figures state-wise. We firmly believe that if such a detailed report comes to the Government, the Government will be in a position to give a clear picture to the country as to how many OBCs are there in which areas of the country.

It has just been said that employment opportunities to OBCs have not been commensurate with their percentage in population. I agree with that argument. But where are these OBCs living and where is employment necessary? There is no scope for somebody to come from the street and enter into Central Government employment. Awareness has to be created within the OBCs and within the SCs and STs. It is right that the Naxal and Maoist movements are on the increase. That is because places have not been identified at all in the area of Jharkhand and West Bengal border. The people who deserve the benefits of Government schemes have not got the benefits and these movements are gaining ground. That is because the beneficiaries have not been properly identified. This identification is essential.

I do not want to deliver a long speech on this. I have a very short point and that is that caste-based census are necessary. On behalf of my Party I support the steps undertaken by the Central Government because it is only after such census are carried out that ultimately the people who need help from the Government will get it and not others.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Chennai North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we come from the State where Thandai Periyar E.V. Ramasamy's Self-respect Movement had a great impact. The impact was such that in the whole of India there is only one State, that is Tamil Nadu, where people do not attach their caste names to their names. We are against caste differences. We do not want caste. But how to abolish caste? We have to abolish caste by empowering the backward people.

I can quote one classic example from Tamil Nadu. There was a particular caste of people who were called the denotified class.

They were even made to go to the police stations and sign daily. Those people are not Scheduled Tribes people; they are from Backward Classes. One great leader of Tamil Nadu, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Devar, who was also a Member of this House, twice, fought for their rights, and those people were identified, targeted, and they were given education and they were rehabilitated. If the people identify themselves as to which caste they belong to, the Government could rehabilitate them. There are certain communities – the figures say that India's literacy rate is 64 per cent. What about the remaining 36 per cent? Are they spread over in all communities? No. There are certain communities which are isolated from the mainstream. We should identify them. They believe that they are Backward Classes. They are the people who have to serve the upper castes because of *Manu Dharma*; they believe that *Chaturvanyam Mayashristham*. *Chaturvanyam* is the creation of God. So, when God says something, that we should follow. Those people are still not uplifted. They have to be identified; they have to be targeted. How will you identify them unless you know their castes? How will you rehabilitate them unless you know their castes?

I wish to quote Babasaheb Ambedkar, in his classic work, "Who were the Shudras?" had stated:

"If people have no idea of the magnitude of the problem (of the Shudras) it is because they have not cared to know what the population of Shudras is. Unfortunately, the census does not show their population separately. But there is no doubt that excluding the untouchables, the Shudras form 75 to 80 per cent of the population of Hindus".

This has to be taken note of. Dr. Ambedkar was a great social reformer. His vision has to be considered very seriously. Only then, India will have a casteless society in the future. Caste cannot be abolished by law. We should empower the people. We should empower the downtrodden people so that we can abolish caste. So, to empower them, we should identify them. Hence, caste-based enumeration is necessary.

Three Backward Classes Commissions were formed. None of the Commission could give proper figure because there is no census based on caste. I would like to quote Havanor Commission Report, 1975. The Government

cannot hide behind the provisions of the Constitution. The Government cannot say that articles 15, 16 and 29(2) of the Constitution prohibit them from having a caste-based census. I can quote Havanor Commission:

"We have got to examine the correctness or the *bona fides* of such an assertion. It is to be noted that Articles 15, 16 & 29(2) prohibit the State from making discrimination against any citizen on grounds not only of caste, but also religion, race, sex, place of birth, descent, residence and language. Have the religions, castes, races, languages, etc., ceased to exist because of prohibition of discrimination? No. One fails to understand the logic of the contention that the abolition of caste particulars in Census was right, when other particulars relating to religion, race, sex, place of birth, descent and language are enumerated in the Census. The logic or the reason that is applied in the abolition of caste particulars would also have been applied in matters relating to religion, race, sex, place of birth, descent and language. What is the justification in the enumeration of people on the ground of their place or residence in urban and rural areas? What is the justification in the enumeration of people belonging to Scheduled Tribes? What is the justification in the enumeration of people of their peculiar descent like Anglo Indians? Further what is the justification to mention the similarly prohibited aspects of religion, race, sex, place of birth, residence and descent in the Birth and Death Registers, in the Admission Registers of Schools and Colleges and the Service Registers of Government Servants? Have they not made people conscious of their religion, sex, race and language? Is it not discriminatory against Hindu castes if particulars, of castes are not enumerated"

This was the report of the Havanur Commission in 1975. So, the Government should consider this. To target the backward people, to identify the people, and to rehabilitate them, caste-wise enumeration is necessary. I wish to join the other Members of this side in requesting the Government to have a caste-wise census.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Bolpur): Thank you for allowing me to take part in the Short Duration Discussion on Census, 2011.

Our country is a Democratic Secular Republic. On principle, we cannot support the division of the society on the basis of caste, religion and creed. This is our principled position. Our country is integrated in the

philosophy of unity in diversity. It is a diverse nation. Secularism and pluralism is the mainstay of integration of our country.

But why we are discussing this important issue of Census 2011? All of a sudden, the hon. Minister, Mr. Moily, the other day, in this House told us that our Census 2011 started and it is going on. This process of enumeration of different sections of our people started, but we have no time to discuss it in the House, before the process is started. This is very unfortunate.

We cannot deny the legacy of the *manuvadi* society in our country; still it is remaining; at this given point of time, caste system and religious division in our country is there; we cannot deny that. So, for all practical purposes, enumeration of people, particularly for categorizing the priority sector, the deserving category of section of our society, should be there; and we cannot deny census on the basis of caste.

So, our planning process, our different policies and programmes are made on the basis of the exact composition of the people. The Government is fixing priority of its policy on the basis of the population-composition. The reservation is made by Constitution. The Founding Father of our Constitution has enshrined this right on that basis. They realized the caste system and they have given this right in the Constitution. It is unfortunate that we are having this caste system, the *manuvadi* system in our country; this is continuing and we are not able to eradicate; we cannot blame the illiterate, backward people in the country. But the advanced people, the educated elites are not free from caste legacies. This is a very unfortunate situation which I must admit here.

For that reason, the demand for enumeration of census on the basis of caste system should be there; we cannot deny this practical proposition. This is the ground reality. So, the enumeration should be there on the basis of caste and also religious communities. Similarly, the composition of religious communities should also be enumerated. This is our clear understanding. We are against this system and wish that this system should not continue longer. We are for the casteless and classless society. That type of a society must come in our country. For the present, we are carrying on the legacy of the past. So, our census should fix the priority areas. Enumeration on the basis of caste cannot be denied. The process of census has already started and I do not know whether it is possible to include at this

point of time but I would say that the Government should evolve a mechanism to include OBC also in the enumeration process. Either the Central Government or the State Government should formulate such a mechanism otherwise the whole purpose of enumeration will have no meaning.

With these words, I urge upon the Government to re-think and be practical. Caste system cannot be denied in our society. I would say that Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, OBC and minority communities should be included in the enumeration process.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I stand here to participate in the discussion initiated by Shri Ananth Kumar relating to laying down specific parameters for conducting 2011 census.

Before I dwell into the issue I would like to quote what was published in *The Hindu* on 6th April, 2010.

"A petition has been filed in Kerala High Court, which was admitted and the petitioner has pointed out that the Backward Class Commission Chairman, Dr. Kaka Kalelkar and the Mandal Commission had recommended a caste and community-based census so that various Constitutional provisions could be implemented."

In 1998 the former Census Commissioner had announced that the Union Welfare Minister had mooted a proposal to conduct a caste-based enumeration in future national census. However, when the Notification on the present census was published there was no proposal to include caste in the enumeration. I would again quote another newspaper *The Times of India* dated 15th September, 2009.

"The findings of an official survey, indicating that Other Backward Class population in rural areas was around 38.5 per cent, have given fresh impetus to call for a caste-based census with the Law Minister, who is present here now in this House, Shri Veerappa Moily asking the Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh to do away with the bar on caste enumeration in the 2011 census."

I am referring to these two newspapers here to elucidate my point and to clearly state that census is a useful tool for policy purposes. Often a question is posed which is nothing new in our country: Why should a Census engage in such a task unless some policy is on

the anvil that will use this information? I believe Census is the work arm of policy making. It is the basic work of the Government. It does a tedious job of adding numbers but only on matters that are going to become or are already aspects of State policy.

As many hon. Members have already said, the last caste-based Census was done during colonial period in 1931 and its purpose was very different. Today, the purpose is to frame new policies or to propagate the policy that are being vouchsafed there. That period was something else. Since Independence, no such Census has been done.

A question has been posed by the Supreme Court which was referred to by Mr. Bhakt Charan Das, my good old friend, why no caste-based Census was done during the last 70 years and why should it be done now? But different courts in our country have repeatedly asked the Government why you are not doing the caste-based Census. I would like to understand from the Government the reason they have submitted to different courts.

The Constitution has provided caste-based reservation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Let us not play with words. By shutting our eyes, we cannot do away with the reality that is encompassing us. Other backward classes have been identified by caste alone. I was talking to some of my friends here. When other backward classes are being identified, what are the parameters through which a class can be identified? What are the criteria? What are the stratifications through which the class can be identified? In their collective wisdom in 1990, the caste became the basis on which OBCs were identified. What are the other parameters through which a class can be identified and stratified? One other parameter is the economic status. Who is going to do it? It is the Government that has to do it. They have not done it in the last 70 years. Rather Kaka Kalelkar had insisted on caste enumeration. Mandal Commission had also asked for caste-based Census. It is not the economic or financial backwardness that is being targeted to provide reservation. It is caste and caste is a reality and we cannot wish it away. I am reminded of a very pathetic situation which occurred during pre-Independence period when Mahatma Gandhi visited Orissa. He was campaigning in Barboi near Delang. Without taking permission of Mahatma Gandhi, Kasturba left that place and went to pay obeisance to Lord Jagannath. When she came back, Mahatma Gandhi asked her: Where had you been? She replied that she had gone to Lord

Jagannath. Why? She replied that she had come from Gujarat and wanted to pay obeisance to Lord Jagannath. He asked her: Do you not know that all Hindus are not allowed to enter that temple and that I have taken a vow and you are aware of it that until and unless everybody and every Hindu is allowed to enter that temple, we will not go into that temple? He fasted for two days. Subsequently, a rapprochement was agreed upon.

He did not go into the temple. He never visited the temple. But on his demise, rather 12 days after his demise, on the 12th of February, in a purely non-violent way, the *dalits* of Orissa did a *Satyagraha* and forced the temple management and the gates of the temple were opened for the *dalits*. That is how the *dalits* enjoyed the prestige in Orissa and in Oriya community we have a number of such instances. Caste classification in Orissa is not that rampant. But caste is a reality and constitutionally we have strengthened it through our various approaches and that is a positive aspect. It is not a negative aspect. It is easy to say sitting in London, New York or Tokyo that casteism is weakening our society. It is easy to say that but this is a positive aspect that reservation is being provided. Therefore, I would say that refusal to include a question on caste in the census makes no sense. Keeping caste out of the census does not mean that we can wish it away. More importantly, as long as the Government offers affirmative action for groups that backward for historical reasons, it must gather as much information about them as possible. That does not mean just counting the numbers of the backward caste, it would also help policy makers in identifying more precisely just which groups are disadvantaged and to what extent. This is essential because policy then can deal with facts rather than with impressions as is the case now in the absence of authoritative data.

What happened some months back in Supreme Court? A case was filed in the Supreme Court. Should I name the judge?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot take his name.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: In the open court the Justice asked as to how did one arrive at 27 per cent? That is a question, I think, that the Government had to answer. What is the basis? The basis is the 1931 census on which the Mandal Commission relied upon. With the growth of population, with the growth in different castes, it has come to 52 per cent or 54 per cent, but because it is not allowed more than 49 per cent, it came down to 27 per cent. What is the logic? Today, as Shri Sharad

Yadav ji had said, the discussion here has started today but is not going to end. This is the beginning. Sporadically, in various High Courts the petitions are being filed. In the Madras High Court a petition was filed and this was in the month of January. Chief Justice H.L.Gokhale and Chief Justice K K Sashidharan asked the Union Home Secretary, the Register General and the Census Commissioner Government of India to consider the representations and had given eight weeks to respond. This was in the month of January and today we are in the month of May. The Government must have responded...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair. Please conclude now. I will give two more minutes. Some other speakers also are left.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: It is not a very emotive issue here today. I do not want to make it an emotive issue. But as we are dealing with policy matters, there is a necessity to know the number of castes. What is census? An enumerator will only ask a question. He is not an investigator. If I have five rooms in my house, then he will just ask me as to how many rooms I have in my house. If I say 4, he will write 4. He will not object to saying, 'no, no, I know you have five rooms'. He is not an investigator. He is just an enumerator. He will write down all the information that he collects. The basic purpose is that demographic parameters like age, sex, literacy, religion, languages known, economic activity, status, migration, etc. are being collected in respect of each individual. I am told that requests for conducting caste-based census were received from Government of West Bengal. I do not know why Dr. Ramchandra Dome did not mention it. The Government of West Bengal had made a request to the Union Government of India. I do not know whether any other State Governments have made that request or not. The first bench of Madras High Court, about which I had mentioned, has said "seriously consider". This was the direction of the Madras High Court. This was published in *The Indian Express* on 23rd January, 2010.

Sir, therefore, I would plead that caste-based census is necessary. It is not that time has run out. The house-to-house census will start. Since time is short, I am not going into all those details. It can be added in the forms which every member has to fill up through the enumerator. It starts on 1st February, 2011. The enumeration which has started today is the first phase. Actual enumeration will start next year. I am not going into the information which I have. I am not privy to what happened in the

Cabinet. There are differences of opinion. But I would also like to state one more point because the subject under discussion today is the methodology. I would plead before this Government to include caste-based census.

Sir, you would appreciate the second suggestion which I would like to make here. I would also like to know from the Government as to why the third gender is not being counted in India. The transgender people in the country should not be given a miss this time. Census 2011 does not provide them a separate gender option. In the comprehensive house listing and housing census which is spread over 35 columns, the gender option is confined to the usual male/female. The current census will lead to the issuing of Unique Identity Cards for the first time in the country. It is reported that one Assistant Director in the office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India has come out openly and said that no suggestion has come on the option for third gender in census form. He has said that option could be considered in the main data of the census form to be held in February, 2011. With enough suggestions which had come to this effect, this grave injustice should be corrected.

Lastly, third gender does exist in the society and it cannot be ignored. The Punjab and Haryana Governments had recently announced including the third gender in the category of male for the purpose of Government services. The High Court has issued a notice to the Government of India on a petition asking it to spell its policy on this issue. Two years ago, the third gender won a huge battle in Tamil Nadu when the third sex was granted official status by the State. In the ration cards and application forms for college education, there is a provision to record third gender or transgender as an option. However, in Tamil Nadu, the third gender has to wait for a separate categorisation in passports and voter identity cards since it requires a policy decision to be taken by the Government.

Therefore, there is a necessity for including them as we are revisiting this issue and this is the beginning of it. We have to have a caste-based enumeration and if possible, also include the third gender in it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE (Beed): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I believe that a historic debate is taking place in this House today because there are 54% OBCs in the country. It means that we are having a debate on the matter

relating to the life of 54 crore people. The Government has not taken a decision on this matter. Only one time, in 1931, a census was done to find the number of OBCs and no such census has been done for the last 80 years. If we do not conduct the census of OBCs even now then we will have to wait furthermore to deliver justice to the OBCs and it would be injustice to them. Why is such census being demanded? In 2007, after reservation was given to the OBCs in the IIT, a public interest litigation was filed in the Court had, at that time, asked the Government to provide the details of the OBC population to it. The Government gave a reply that no statistics on OBC population was available with it since independence. And since no statistics is available to give reservation, it cannot be decided as to what per cent reservation should be provided. During a debate that time, the Additional Advocate General had said in the packed Court that the Government should do a census of the OBCs. Now, when the census is taking place, why the census of OBCs is not being done? Just a while ago our hon. Member was saying that justice should be delivered in the society on the basis of quality. I see him as the next 'Manu'. Where is equality in the society today? I welcome him that even being a *dalit* he got elected from an open seat. But, had there been no reservation for the SCs/STs in our Constitutions, could the remaining Membes have won? His thinking is far removed from reality. Just because he got justice, he should not embroil everyone into injustice.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, has untouchability vanished today? No, it has not. Are *dalit* allowed to enter the temples today? Not only Baba Saheb Ambedkar, every Ambedkar is being denied entry. Leave aside yesterday's situation, have *dalits* houses not been burnt in Haryana a day before yesterday? A procession was taken out in Kirlanji in Maharashtra after forcibly stripping our sisters, daughters, mothers and they were burnt later. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not blaming the Government I am just telling the reality of the society. Everyday, we speak from some platform that untouchability has been abolished and we all are equal. It is just for speaking but there is a difference in saying and doing, while the reality is totally opposite. The Government wants to create a casteless society. I do not believe in reincarnation but if I were to be born again in India, I would pray to God that I should be given birth in a casteless home, then is it possible? Which home is without caste? ...*(Interruptions)* May be next time I will take birth in a Yadav family and a Yadav in Munde family. OBC is not a caste but class. Scheduled Caste is a class, Scheduled Tribe is a class and OBC too is a class because many castes fall under them. The Constitution has provided reservation for the SCs and

STs but not for OBCs. Kakelkar Commission was set up and various states were empowered to give power to the OBC in their respective states. ...*(Interruptions)* It was not there earlier but an amendment was made. I would like to say that madras and Karnataka are the states in the country which had provided reservation even before independence. I hail from Maharashtra where Sahu Maharaj had given reservation to the OBCs and SCs before Independence and Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar was given scholarship by Sahu Maharaj from Baroda. I do not believe that irregularities came in the caste system due to power. But, the truth is that the caste system never goes away. Many people accepted Christianity and may became Muslim during the Mughal era. The caste based census is necessary because backwardness is linked to caste and caste is linked to backwardness. Those living in the villages are backward who do not even have drinking water. They have not seen the roads, electricity. They do not even have clothes to cover their bodies. These people are backward. The Government does not want to deliver justice to them even after 63 years of Independence. Not counting the OBCs in the census amounts to not doing social justice to the OBCs. The Government does not want to do social justice. Had Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Sahu Maharaj not been there then this section would not have become organised. They would not even have the power to fight. They spoke about equality. This is not the time to think as to what is wrong in the country despite having various castes and if it is a good thing or bad thing. In spite of having different castes, different costumes, different languages, different states, our country is still one. It is, therefore, wrong to have doubts about the patriotism of the backward classes. They are ready for any work. This backwardness is continuing for many years and centuries. The question before us is whether the Government wants to do justice to them under the welfare state or not. Mandal Commission was constituted after the Kakelkar Commission. Mandal Commission found out the number of castes. There are 3743 castes which include sub-castes also. There are so many castes that Jayprakash Narayan started the 'Jaati Todo Andolan'.

16.00 hrs.

Many people have entered into inter-caste marriage. So did I. Now they are a separate caste. The Mandal Commission assessed that OBCs constituted 52 percent of the total population and they should get 52 percentage reservation but the court put a cap of 50 percent reservation. Why? The provision of reservation was made in order to do social justice to the people who have

been deprived of equality. What is the basis of reservation provided to these people? They have been provided reservation on the basis of caste, hence, census is necessary.

The Renke Commission was constituted in the year 2004 by the hon. Atal ji's government. The Commission submitted its report in the year 2008 wherein they have included OBC communities. The commission reported that OBCs constituted 47 percent of total population. The names of various people are not included in the voters list. The commission was constituted for the nomadic tribes. The Government did not implement the report. The Government should implement the report of the Renke Commission and do justice to the OBC community. These people do not own any house or land. As per the observations made by the Kalelkar, Mandal and Renke Commissions nobody has the idea as to what the exact number of OBCs is. Will our country ever have a scientific approach? No one has the right to say anything. Will this country ever come up with a scientific procedure to enumerate the exact OBC population so that reservation could be provided on that basis in different states? There is a schedule for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the constitution. There is a schedule for the parliament and the State Government in the constitution. Hon. Rajiv Gandhi ji enforced Panchayati Raj after making amendment in the constitution. I demand that there should be a schedule for OBCs as there is one for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. A separate ministry should also be constituted for the OBCs. They consider every community equal. The concept of creamy layer is in force. There is no creamy layer for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes but it exists among OBCs. My son and Yadav ji is son cannot get the benefits of reservation because the chances are already exhausted. They can not avail the facilities available to OBCs because they fall in creamy layer. I would like to submit only one point about the facts putforth here regarding the OBCs. There is 13 percent reservation for scheduled castes and 9 percent for scheduled tribes which is seven percent in some states. Are these castes respresented in service in the ratio of their population? The Sachar Commission was constituted to prepare a report on the present status of Muslims. I demand that the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and OBCs should get their due reservation at least now after 63 years of independence. They are getting only 4 percent against the provision of 13 percent and the OBCs are getting only 2.4 percent against the provision of 27 percent. What have they got? Decisions taken on paper do not translate into justice. It would be justice in true sense of the term when they get

their right. They are still deprived of justice. This is the struggle of social justice, not merely a pursuit to have them counted in the census. I do ot want to repeat but my question is as to why you are not indicating these castes while all other are being indicates. Caste can't be concealed once one gets registered in the census. I don't know as to why the Government is hesitating. Now the struggle is on the roll. The gap between the rich and the poor is widening. The total population of backward classes has risen to 63 percent, who is responsible for it? I would like to remind Charan Das ji that had equal status been accoreed to everybody, OBCs would not have asked for reservation. They are the extremely backward people.

They are neither adequately educated nor are they adequately represented in politics. How will the country make progress if the 54 percent population remains backward and deprived of the benefits of development and progress? I feel that OBCs should be provided reservation facility by bringing them into the mainstream of the country and their caste should be indicated in the census.

16.06 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman Sir, I am making a demand for census of OBCs because the Government has got such opportunity. Swamiji, let us not miss this opportunity. Moily ji, let us not miss this opportunity. Swamiji, let us not miss this opportunity. Moily Ji, why are you still a part of such cabinet where your views are not heard? Let the struggle for OBCs take place. People will adore you ...(*Interruptions*). I am not suggesting this to Narayanasamy ji.

Sir, this is the issue of population. Why is census not conducted to enumerate the OBC's? Only one more column to indicate Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe or OBC has to be filled. The person will write his caste against the column. How will it cause harm to the Government? No one has made a demand, but today the OBC community is making demand to conduct census. This demand is being raised from every corner but the Government has turned a deaf ear to the demand made by the OBC's. I would like to submit that when the Minister gives his reply today, he should announce that census of OBC's will be conducted separately. You will face the ire of 75 percent population if you do not conduct it. Today your party is in power. The major responsibility of the Government is to do justice to society, no matter

whose Government is in power. It is the constitutional responsibility. Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had made a provision in the Constitution to do justice to the backward communities. It was the dream of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and the hope and aspiration of all the poor people of the country that they will get justice in the democracy. These people have been waiting for all these 63 years with hope and their hope should be realized. These people are not asking much, they are simply making a demand to be counted in the census. We are the citizens of this country and we should be counted in the census. Therefore, it is my request that the Government should atleast once cannot then in the census. With this, I conclude.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Mr. Chairman Sir, I have never said in my submission that the OBCs, should not be provided reservation ... *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you please take your seat. Now, Shri Sandeep Dikshit.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on a very important subject that is census 2011. The debate on census, 2011 has been started with the discussion on the issues which should be incorporated in this census and regarding which survey should be conducted. I have been listening to all the senior leaders' view in this debate for a long time. But I feel that to blame that certain things are not done only under the present government is not a good thing. First of all, I would like to clarify as Shri Dara Singh Chauhan was talking about the SC, ST that the census of SC and ST is done under six thousand sub castes. That data is published, this is done as a whole. If you look at the SC, ST table of 1999, you will get all the lists. It also strengthens your point if the counting of SC, ST can be done counting of OBC can also be conducted. It is not correct that the Government does not have the experience conducting such type of census. But I want to say that there have been several governments. In the year 1979-80 when the preparation of 1981 census was being done, the Congress was not in power. Last time when census was conducted in 2001 the government of Mundeji's Party was in the power. Today Munde ji says that Narayan Swamiji and Moily ji should leave that cabinet in which they are not counted. So he could have said such instigating words at the time of 2001's census also. It is not a matter of politics. To ignore this by saying that it is the demand of persons belonging to a particular party is wrong. These things come before us after the passage of sometime and then

it was taken care of. It appears that there is need of further counting to deliver social justice. First, let us decide it and then start discussion. Keeping in view the consensus emerging in the House and this trend, I also want to express my views. We may also say why this was not done by the then Government in the year 1979-80, why it was not done at that time? Last time there was yet another Government, why the survey of OBC was not conducted at that time. This is not the way. Two years ago many of the present Members of Parliament were also MPs at that time. Registrar General wrote a letter to me in 2011 that census was to be conducted and they wanted to know our views. All these issues were discussed but at that time I was the only Member of Parliament who participated in it in Vigyan Bhwan, why did the remaining Members of Parliament not to there? I may also say why it should be so? At that time also people would have expressed their views but it was a matter of time, we also know it, in my view it was wrong for the party that comes into power to say that any particular government or a constituent party was against this. Today, I am putting my views before the Government that Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs are present here, they are listening to me and I have full faith that they would keep our views in mind. It is a very important thing and many people have said this that there had been inequality in caste in our society and we have been trying to mitigate the ill effects of casteism through various methods. In this effort the revolutionaries of the South India have been in the forefront. Here the names of Periyar Saheb and others were mentioned who removed all the doubts regarding revolution continuing for the last 70-80 years in South India. Unfortunately, we the people of north India lagged behind in this regard. Such revolutions did not come forward in our society and such changes could not take place in our society and the dominance of castes continues in our society. But it is based on our policy. Today if we would not have figures related to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, we can not formulate any programme for them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have many programmes for Scheduled Castes and in this House itself we passed an Act for the tribals. That Act provided us the strength to counter the wildlife lobby on the basis of figures that the population of tribals is so and so and the land possessed by them is this and they have been deprived of the ownership of so and so area of land. It is very important thing that true figures come out and the real picture of population is put before us. I would like the Government to consider it sensibly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to put one more issue before you that keeping all these things in mind. The Government must think whether it wants to conclude these things in the census of 2011 or not. I know that they can conduct more surveys. One feeling is that if we can include this in the census itself then such message will go on behalf of the House that we prepare a demographic picture before doing any important work and in that picture we also figure. In the marriage ceremony each member of the family wants to come into the picture. Similarly various castes are saying that they are backward that they should figure in that picture. The feeling runs through this House and I support it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to further elaborate this point, there are so many leaders present here who belongs to various castes. I am not saying that they are leaders of a particular caste but they represent the population of this country. After collecting figures of population, we have to take the next step. There are so many subcastes in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Are we doing justice to them? I have worked in Madhya Pradesh. There are various Members of Parliament from Madhya Pradesh who belong to Scheduled Tribe category and are present here. Many of the castes of Scheduled Tribe say that the benefits given to our castes have been availed by only a few. I am not creating division among them. When we talk about doing justice then it is necessary to identify the most backward caste and take the next step to help them. If a few such communities are present under OBC, Mulayam Singhji, Sharad Yadavji, Laluji all are present and would agree with me, then we shall have to resolve to take these next step.

Sir, there is one more thing I would like to talk to hon. Minister of Home Affairs and through him to the Registrar General and other officers. There are many such tables and figures in the census which provide so much information that we can draw a realistic picture of this country later on. Today, issue of health is talked about, the most important figure reflecting the status of health is infant mortality rate. Probably no Member of Parliament is aware that the source of getting information related to Infant Mortality Rate is the census itself. In that we can also get caste wise Infant Mortality Rate, but as the office of Registrar General is not strong in itself, they have not been able to retrieve figures of many years. I would like to request the Minister of Home Affairs that there is not only a need to know about their exact number only but also about their present status. From this census we

would know the number of children they have, what is their sub-caste, how many children of which caste is in the colleges. How many children of which caste is graduate, how many children have bicycles, how many have bank accounts? Census provides us even these types of information, but when tables of up to the year 1991 have not been published even today then what is the benefit of this policy? Therefore, through you and through this House, I would like to request Registrar General are in need of it. When these figures will be published, the real picture will come out and these figures will be helpful in correcting and improving this picture. When the true picture will come out, right policies will be formulated and when proper policies will be formulated you and we will be more empowered. The people who have elected us, should get justice under the said policy. Sir, it was my submission that census should not be left here. There are many such informations unfortunately when census is conducted and figures are published hon. President approves it and the next day it is published in newspapers that our population is 115 or 120 crore, we express concern about decreasing sex ratio, and on children etc. but we cannot go further from this point. We have to take it further. Reservation is not only one point involved in it, accept that. As Mundeji said very emphatically that by introducing reservation, by providing government jobs to the people, we give a message to the people that the freedom for which we fought, the India which we built after Independence we all have share in the development of it. This important message is delivered but the important thing is the formulation of a proper policy by analyzing this development correctly.

Sir, with these words I conclude. In the end I would like to make two three requests Mahtabji had said two-three things about himself. I would also say that when language is assessed in the census it is asked what is your mother tongue Hindi, Tamil, Kannad or any other language. No assessment is being made about the dialects in our country. A few days ago my able friend Mahababji had talked about Bahujanpuri language we do not know how many people speak Bhojpuri language. At the place I was born, Awadhi language or Hindi was spoken there, even today we do not know how many people speak that language. I would also like to know how many people, like me, speak Hindi, who can speak such type of language? It would be better if we could count their sub caste. At last a person like me who do not consider himself a person belonging to any particular religion, who consiers himself only an atleist, there should also be a column there for people like me. With this

submission that when the enumerators will come next time to my home ask me my religion, I will reply that I have no religion and I should be given space for marking it in the census.

[English]

SHRI SAMEER BHUJBAL (Nashik): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. India's national Census – it is 15th since the exercise began under the British Rule in 1872 – is under way to bring out a veritable wealth of statistics on different characteristics every 10 years. However, I wish to take this opportunity to raise certain basic issues of which, I am sure, the Government would take cognizance and issue necessary guidelines.

The refusal to include a question on caste in the Census makes no sense. Keeping caste out of Census does not mean we can wish it away.

More importantly, as long as the Government offers affirmative action for groups that are backward for historical reasons, it must gather as much information about them as possible. It also would help the policymakers in identifying more precisely just which groups are disadvantaged and to what extent. This is essential because policy can then deal with facts rather than impressions, as is the case now in the absence of any authoritative data. In fact, inclusion of 'Caste' in the census will help allocations to be made for OBCs and other marginalized groups.

Today, in the absence of a clear data on various castes and particularly OBCs, we are 'suppressing the reality of the backward class percentage going up by not allowing a caste-based census that has not been carried out since 1931, to know the real number of the Other Backward Classes'. Consequently, OBCs are not getting their due share in terms of reservation, since their latest count is not available.

In this regard, I would like to mention that earlier the Member had said that there was a case in the Supreme Court, and there was a judgment passed. I would like to tell all the Members here,

[Translation]

I would like to tell all the Members here that Akhil Bhartiya Mahatma Phule Samta Parishad is a social organization which has been working for the last 15 to 20 years following the policies of Mahatma Phule and Ambedkar

Ji. This very organization has filed a PIL in the Supreme Court. In course of hearing on the said PIL the SC has sought a reply from the Government within a period of three weeks which expires tomorrow. He said another case might have been referred to but this case is still pending in the SC. Our PIL is still pending there and the Government has to file an affidavit tomorrow? I would like to request the Government that the demand for the census of other backward castes (OBC) raised in the House should be met and included in the Government's affidavit. It is necessary that the census of OBC is conducted. Today it is being said that it is too late but it is not so. The Samta Parishad had raised this issue in a rally in Ram Lila ground three or four years ago where our leader Hon. Pawar Saheb, Lalu Prasad Yadav Ji, Shri Jaiswant Saheb of Congress party and our leader in Maharashtra Shri Chhagan Bhujbal Ji – all were present. We had demanded in that rally that the date OBC must be collected in the next census. But our demand has not been met so far. Now when the time has come, it is being said that it is too late now. I would like to thank our minister Shri Moily ji. I would like to tell him that the stand taken by him, Shri Narayanswamy ji and Shri Vayalar Ravi Ji is very important and I would like to congratulate them all for they may have supported census of OBC and presented this issue before Congress High Command. I would like to quote Shri Moily Ji.

[English]

It says:

"I had written to the Prime Minister six months back for it (caste-based Census)", Mr. Moily said.

"After 1931, no caste-based data was prepared and the Centre also does not have any caste-based data of its own. Government depends upon States for it," Mr. Moily said adding. "It is required for implementation of different schemes and employment programmes for the OBCs."

[Translation]

A senior Member of Cabinet is also of the view that data is required for implementation of any scheme, providing facilities thereunder and allocation of funds for the scheme. Sir, I want to ask what is the reason for not bringing this fact to the light. What is the need to keep this fact under cover? As all the Members have said that caste can not remain hidden, everyone knows the caste and all of us must know this fact today. The public and particularly

other backward castes are expecting it. Today at least a discussion on this issue has been started.

After this discussion they will get a result. OBC is also a part of the backward class, common people who have been voting for Congress for 60 years and Congress have been also working for them. There is a need to collect data of OBCs this data is likely to be helpful in providing facilities, funds and other facilities in education and service. The Supreme Court has issued several directives on several issues. Whenever cases pertaining to various issues related to this topic have come up for hearing in Maharashtra High Court, Madras High Court, Delhi High Court and other High Courts, every time the courts have asked the Government or the lawyers representing the government whether the government has got any data. Every time the Government's reply was that they did not have any data. Here the courts did not pass any order. Every court has asked the government to ensure that the data of OBC is collected in the coming census but it has not been done by anyone till date.

[English]

In the Fifteenth Report of the Standing Commission on Social Justice and Empowerment in the year 2005-06 on National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, the Committee observed:

"The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should vigorously pursue with the Registrar General of India to conduct a survey of the OBCs and the persons living below double the poverty line in this category so that the Ministry could prepare its Action Plan, so that the required amount of funds can be made available to the State Governments for effective implementation of the NBCFDC's various schemes for the development of the backward classes."

[Translation]

Despite the requests of the Alagh Committee, Mandal Commission, Kaka Kalelkar Commission, Lok Sabha Committee none has considered it till now.

Mr. Chairman Sir, through you I would like to say only that not much is required to be done in this case, it has been said that it is too late.

[English]

There is only a minimum change, which is required be done. It is not a very difficult matter to collect the

caste details in the Census operations. As a matter of fact, the necessary columns are already there; and no structural alterations are required in the forms and schedules. For example, in the 2001 Census operations, in the household schedule of the social demographic study of villages, column 2.2, Section 2: general characteristics of the household reads:

"To which caste/community does the head of the household belong.

Name.....

(Register Code in case of SC/ST)"

Here, after 'Register Code in case of SC/ST' we may add the word 'OBC'. This is the only thing, the Ministry has to do, the Government has to do. Let the truth come out in front of the country as to what is the number of people living under the OBC category. This is the only request from my side.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE (Kalyan): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to take part in an important topic, the Census, 2011.

Many hon. Members who have spoken before, have elaborately spoken about the Census, viz., how it would be conducted, in what phase it would be there, how much money would be spent on it. To conduct a Census is really a huge and gigantic task, which the Government is going to perform.

Census, 2011 has already started from the 1st of April, 2010. The first Census was conducted in 1872 and the last Census was conducted in 2001. I remember, as a youngster, as to how the person had come to collect the information regarding Census, the question he asked and the manner in which the form was filled. A questionnaire is prepared for collecting the information. Nearly 35 parameters have been short-listed. All the data, which is going to be collected, is given to the local Tehsildar.

When I went through all the 35 parameters, I found out that in one column the caste column was there. Against the caste column, it was mentioned, 'SC/ST and others'. Nobody in the House will deny that a caste system is prevalent in India.

[Translation]

I remember when I got my school leaving certificate. I saw caste and religion written in the certificate. So, all the Members present in the House cannot deny the fact that even today several practices based on the caste and religion are prevalent in India. When I look at my school leaving certificate, even today I find Hindu and Brahmin words written there. So, I on behalf of Shiv Sena party demand that the data of OBC should also be collected during this census. OBCs are not getting the required help from the government even today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say another thing about Maharashtra that the census has been started in a region there and the primary teachers have been engaged for census. If I talk about my Parliamentary Constituency Kalyan the data collection work is not being carried out properly there. These primary teachers or teaching staff had prepared the voters list which was not prepared properly. A friend of mine from Mumbai is aware of the fact that 30 or 40 percent names were duplicate. Hence, I can say that even voters' list was not prepared properly. Therefore, I have doubt as to whether we will get the accurate data by the ongoing census 2011. Today, the Government is incurring around rupees seven thousand crores for the said purpose. Around Rs. 60 per person is being spent for the census. Through you, I request that when the hon'ble Minister replies, he should ensure the House that the data which is being collected in the census 2011 will be accurate.

Sir, I would like to make my third point regarding Mumbai, Thane, Raigarh and Navi Mumbai that the number of Bangladeshi immigrants is higher in these areas. Therefore, I have doubt as to how the enrollment of these immigrants will be checked in the proposed National Population Register. Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should assure the House that illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal will not be enrolled in the National Population Register in any case. On behalf of Shiv Sena I would like to repeat that data of OBC should be collected. I once again repeat my demand. I thank you for allowing me to speak and conclude my speech.

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (Khammam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Census 2011 is going on. Census is a very important issue. Census of OBC was conducted in the year 1931 during British regime. Census of OBC has not been conducted in the post Independence period. The Minister of Law making statement regarding Women's

Bill has recently submitted that Census of OBC has not been conducted since 1931, therefore, the Government does not have accurate details of the OBC population. Hence, representation of OBC is not being reflected properly in the women's reservation and he assured the House that he would surely do something in this regard, but the Minister himself is opposing the caste-wise census outside the House. The Minister is making different statements in and outside the House. The Minister himself submitted in the Rajya Sabha during the discussion on Women's Bill but he is making different points outside the House. It should not be done. I am making such a demand to the Government because census is very important. It should contain every details. National Population Register is very important. In future justice will not be done with the the OBC in respect of any development activity unless their details are available. Therefore, it should contain details of the OBC. Our leader Chandra Babu Naidu has already written to the Prime Minister in this regard. When Telugu Desham Party (TDP) was formed, then its founder N.T. Ramarao Saheb brought forward the OBC without reservation ... (Interruptions) We have given tickets and he himself brought forward the OBC. I am making a demand to the Government that full details of the OBC should be collected in the census. Besides, name of the people living at the railway stations and platform and beggars should be enrolled in the population register of the citizens of India. Similarly, illegal immigrants should be identified and prevented from getting registered in the said list. They should be sent back to their respective countries. This is the responsibility of the Government. We want that census is very important for seeking budgetary allocation and development of the country. The Government should collect the details of the OBC invariably. We also demand that the OBC should be provided their due share in the development activities in proportion to their percentage.

Sir, various hon'ble Members have given suggestions regarding the format of the census and I would also like to give one suggestion that no column has been made in the format of the census regarding health and medical facility. Census should be conducted while adding the column regarding medical facilities and details of OBC. The Government should carry out such changes. If such changes are not carried out, then problems are likely to come up in the long run. It is an important factor.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, there are still 30 names of hon. Members with me who want to speak. I

request all of them to confine their speeches to five minutes each. Otherwise, it will be very difficult to accommodate all of them. Moreover, we are also having a number of other business. Four official Bills have to be passed. If some hon. Members want to lay their speeches on the Table of the House, they can do so.

Now, hon. Member, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta-ji.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my Party, I want to speak for five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, Sir. After Shri Gurudas-ji.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Mr. Chairman, I join unhesitatingly the unanimity of the House that the identification of a person should be on the basis of social status, that is, caste. I agree with it totally.

The fact of the matter is that the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, and Muslims are subjected to social atrocity all over the country and nobody can deny it. We have not been able to break poverty; nor have we been able to bring about economic empowerment of the people. It is a reality that the most poor people of this country belong to this section. Who are the most poor people? They are the Dalits, they are the Adivasis, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the Muslims and the Tribals. If it is so, then what is wrong in identifying them on the basis of their own identification status, that is, caste?

I do not say that caste will bring about the division of the country. It is not possible because despite the caste system, India has existed, despite the caste system, the national unity has not been impaired.

It is a long history, not of today but of the past and days immemorial. Today there is a statement by the hon. Minister that the census system cannot be changed. Today there is a statement by the hon. Minister that the census system cannot be changed because it has already started. We have got the news, right or wrong, that the Cabinet is divided. It is not for me to substantiate. There are Members of the Cabinet who say that if it is done on the basis of caste it will divide the nation. Can you wish away the caste? Do you want to destroy the caste system? Is it possible? There is caste. Therefore, the point is, if there is a caste, let us do our bit and bring about a situation when we are able to bring India economically empowered on the basis of the salvation of the caste.

I wish that the Government does not take a narrow view and the Government takes a broad view and if the Government takes a broad view and accepts the unanimity of the House, then there will be a democratic sense prevailing in the Government.

Therefore, I do not want to go into any jargon, any politics, anything at all. The social system is based on caste system. Therefore, it should be taken into account while the census is done. This is my submission in unity with the cross-section of the opinion that has been reflected in the House.

[Translation]

I agree with the entire House that caste based census should be conducted.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to some points. Some of our Members from the Treasury Benches mentioned about the Havanur Commission's recommendations. In that period as Leader of the Opposition in Karnataka I moved a resolution. I will read resolution:

"Recommending to the Government of India to conduct caste-wise census of the people of the country."

This is the resolution which I have moved in 1974 as the Leader of the Opposition. I do not want to go into the details of all the figures that he has quoted which I have quoted in my speech.

How many Governors belong to the upper castes? How many Chief Ministers belong to those castes? I have got all these figures here. I do not want to elaborate and take much time of the House. I would like to draw attention of the House to only one point.

Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi wanted to give constitutional teeth to the Panchayati Raj and the Nagarpalikas and the Local Bodies and to these institutions. But he was unable to get two-third majority and the legislations were defeated. During the time of late Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments were brought and they were adopted, passed by both the Houses. But before passing these two amendments, I was also included in one of the Joint Parliamentary Committees and in that Joint Parliamentary Committee

we were unable to come to a unanimous decision so far as the backward classes are concerned. It was because of the recommendations made by Dr. Kaka Kalelkar and various other State-level Backward Class Commissions. There, there were differences among the Members in the Joint Parliamentary Committee as there was no details about the caste.

Then we took a decision in the Committee that the reservation, so far as the backward classes are concerned, can be left to the States so far as reserving the constituencies for the castes which were carved so far as the Panchayat Raj system was concerned.

Sir, the only problem at that time was that we did not have Census figures. That was the reason for which we were unable to come to a unanimous decision so far as Joint Parliamentary Committee was concerned. Subsequently, in Karnataka, we have taken certain decisions. As the seniormost leader Shri Gurudas Dasgupta has said, we have taken the decision in Karnataka about dalit Christians and minorities. Shri Moily is also here. He knows that Karnataka has formulated it. Of course, we cannot overrule the decision of the Supreme Court and we cannot exceed reservation for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes beyond 50 per cent. So, we have categorised them. I would like to read that reservation list, which is within the ambit of the decision of the Supreme Court. It is general merit – 50 per cent; Scheduled Caste – 15 per cent; Scheduled Tribe – 3 per cent; Category I – 4 per cent; Category IIA – 15 per cent; and Category IIB – 4 per cent which is exclusively for Muslims. Since Muslim population in Karnataka is hardly 10 per cent, we created a separate compartment and gave 4 per cent reservation to them in 1995. Category IIIA belongs to my own community, which is given 4 per cent reservation. There is not only Vokkaliga community, but 23 other communities also clubbed in it, and Lingayats are given 5 per cent reservation. I do not want to go into all these details of the exercise we made.

When the Deputy Leader of the BJP was speaking, I was hearing. So far as the decision of the Supreme Court limiting the reservation to 50 per cent is concerned, it is very difficult to accommodate all these communities. There are various communities I know of and I can quote the number of communities which we have dealt with in the Havanur Commission on Backward Classes. He had gone very extensively into it, much more than all the previous Commissions. The Havanur Commission made a very deep study of that. He is no more now. That is

why, this House may have to take a decision reversing the decision of the Supreme Court which limits the reservation. The House in its wisdom can allow it to exceed more than 50 per cent. Otherwise, we are not going to do justice to those neglected communities. Unless and until, as he said, poverty is eradicated, social disparity or injustice will continue. As long as we allow this injustice to continue, we cannot provide what is called peace and harmony in the society. This is my honest opinion. You can deliberate more on this and have more discussion on this. Peace and harmony comes only when we completely eradicate poverty and there is 100 per cent literacy. Only then, it can be achieved; otherwise we cannot achieve it.

Sir, I wholeheartedly support the leaders. We have done everything for them, including the Muslims and the women. Shri Moily is here. We have given 33 per cent reservation to women. From primary education to university education, 50 per cent of all the teaching posts are reserved for women, whether it is the post of Professor, Assistant Professor or ordinary teacher. We are all talking of women empowerment today. There is 33 per cent reservation in all posts. Article 15(4) ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, it is there in Karnataka. There is nothing new in it.

Our seniormost leader, Dr. Kalaignar had once said that he would have to adopt Karnataka model. I know that. I am telling this because Karnataka has shown that and tried to bring it within the purview of 50 per cent ceiling of reservation, especially the reservation for women. Not only that, the posts of Chairperson are also reserved for them. The post of Chairperson or Chairman or Deputy Chairman in Zila Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat, Gram Panchayat and Nagar Palika rotation basis goes to backward classes, the Scheduled Caste, the Scheduled Tribe and then the so-called general category. All these things are going on for the last 15 years. More than 8,000 and odd engineers of the Muslim community are qualified and they are working in various countries and nearly 1,400 doctors are there so far as the Muslim community is concerned. I am only giving a couple of information to this august House, namely, as to what benefit has been given to the Muslim minority in Karnataka in the last 15 years. It is more than 8,000 engineers and nearly 1,400 doctors.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to you for allowing me some time, on behalf of my Party, to express my views.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, I would like to submit only one point. It would be good if 50 percent seats are reserved for women in engineering and medical colleges.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): Sir, my name has not been called. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not given your name. You are a senior Member. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a senior Member, and I should not tell you anything.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, you may be allowed to speak but your party should give it in writing.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Faridkot): Lalu ji, please let us speak because we hardly get a chance to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Thank you, Chairman sir for giving me the opportunity to speak on need to lay down specific parameters for conducting Census, 2011. We are discussing an important subject today. It has national importance. The data and statistics that are collected during the Census exercise are very important in nature.

However, sir, in this august House, I want to place on record an important point that has been left untouched by other Hon. Members. Sir, I am basically a teacher. I can feel the agony and concerns of the teaching community.

Sir, Census is an important exercise. However, the teachers and students – the future of our country, are also associated with the exercise of Census. At least 90% school teachers are roped in this exercise by the Government. As a result, teaching has taken a back seat. Admissions have been put on hold. This whole exercise is taking its toll on teachers and students. In Punjab, more than 37,000 teachers of Government schools are involved in this gargantuan task. In the rural areas, many schools have only one teacher. These schools have been forced to shut down. The teachers as well as students are having a hard time due to the Census exercise.

Sir, many a time, we compare the result of private schools with Government schools. However, teachers of private schools are never roped in to perform any duty during the Census exercise. On the other hand, the teachers of Government schools have to perform many tasks during elections or Census exercise. These teachers have to even perform tasks like killing rodents and rats in their respective areas. Naturally, teaching is the casualty and students suffer.

Sir, in fact, the poor people are adversely affected due to this policy of the Government. We all know that mostly, students from poor families study in Government schools. They afford to study in affluent private schools. This is sheer injustice perpetrated on the poor students. Hon. HRD Minister has started the semester system in schools. The first semester will begin from September. The school teachers will be busy in performing Census duties in May and June. Teaching is bound to be the casualty as a result of this onerous exercise.

Sir, I have a suggestion. The Government should explore some alternatives so that teaching does not suffer. Why not rope in the educated unemployed youths in this exercise. Each unemployed youth involved in this exercise can be given Rs. 5500 as honorarium. Thus, the Government will be able to provide help to the educated unemployed youths of this country. We cannot expect the teachers to teach as well as deliver the goods on

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

the Census front. This is a grave injustice against these hapless teachers. They are already overburdened. So, I appeal to the Government to involve educated unemployed youths in this exercise.

Sir, the enumeration of data in 1931 Census had taken place on the basis of caste. I wholeheartedly support the demand made by many Hon. Members that caste-based Census enumeration should be allowed. Only then can a clear picture emerge. We will come to know about the real percentage of population belonging to OBCs and other categories.

Sir, Rai Sikhs reside not only in Punjab but throughout the country. In Punjab, facilities and concessions have been provided to the Rai Sikhs. However, no other state in India has done so. Hence, I appeal to the Government to enumerate Rai Sikhs separately during the on-going Census exercise. They should be granted SC status.

Sir, I am sorry to say that there is no column seeking health-related information in the Census enumeration – form. This is an area of vital importance that is being ignored. This error should be rectified. Health related information will help the Government chalk out specific programmes of health-care for the needy. We ought to know how many people in the country are able-bodied, how many are chronically ill and how many are handicapped. It will help the Government formulate better programmes for those who require them. Also, language and dialect related information should also be collected. The current format of Census does not have this column.

Who is a genuine Indian citizen and who is not – how will we cull this information? The current format of Census data collection is silent on this issue. Hence, it is flawed. We all know that millions of illegal Bangladeshi migrants are residing in this country. People from Nepal also reside in this country. Infiltration from Pakistan goes on unabated. For instance, I recently visited Dharamshala. I asked a shopkeeper whether he was an Indian. To my surprise, he replied in the negative and emphasized that he was a Tibetan. The names of such people should not be registered as Indian citizens. Such people should not get multi-purpose I-cards. Terrorists can misuse such I-cards.

Sir, when the Census exercise takes place in villages, it is generally seen that the enumerators only visit the

house of the village headman. They do not visit the hutments of poor people. All information is collected from the village headman. So, the real picture that emerges is either incomplete or faulty. Until and unless the data collected in regard to SCs STs and OBCs is complete, the Government cannot frame policies for their welfare. Neither can these policies be implemented properly in the absence of correct information.

17.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Many other Hon. Members have yet to speak.

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Sir, there is another discrepancy regarding collection of data pertaining to the Sikhs. Only turbaned Sikhs are placed in the category of Sikhs. The non-turbaned or 'Sehajdhari' Sikhs are not included in this category. In Delhi, the number of Sikhs shown in the Census is far less than the actual figures. Who will correct these discrepancies? So, I appeal to the Government to rectify this error.

The enumerators do not have any mechanism to verify the information provided by the respondents. Claims must be verified.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of census of other backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and Muslims was raised first of all by Hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ji. I am happy that all the parties are having consensus on this issue which is being reflected in the debates on this issue. I would like to suggest the Government not to create a war like situation in every village. I know what would be your reply. Those who opposed Mandal Commission have seen the historical change brought by the report of the said commission. Today the Congress is in power, hence it has to understand the sentiments of the people on this issue. It has been said on several occasions that we do not have correct figures about the BPL, nor do we have the figures about the OBCs in order to give them reservation in higher education. It is 80 years since we had a caste-based census held in 1931. The British Government had ruled over this country and held the said census in which there are gazetteer and descriptions of the castes. In the gazetteer one can find about the

features, colour and character of each of the castes. Caste is clearly written in the registry document of land and caste certificates are also provided by the concerned authorities. How much the OBCs have got and what did they not get?

17.04 hrs.

[DR. GIRIJA VYAS *in the Chair*]

Hon. Sharad ji had raised the issue of Class-I service but that is not the issue of debate today. Today there is a direct and simple question — whether the government wants to hold caste-based census or not? The population of SC and STs has since increased after 1931. Similarly the population of OBCs, Muslims and all other castes has also gone up. If one is a Brahmin then Hindu Brahmin should be written in the bracket. If one is Thakur, that should be written alongwith the name and if one belongs to backward class then the sub-caste should be written in the bracket. If any party makes an excuse that census has been started now, I would like to say that census has not been started anywhere. Ever the forms have not been printed yet. If the forms have been printed, tear those forms. The preparations for conducting census are underway at present. The Census will be started in the year 2011. Shri Punia ji did not get an opportunity to speak. I do not hate any caste but the backward classes must be counted. When there will be a census, the numebr of SCs and STs will also increase. I would like to thank Shri Mahtab and Shri Mundeji that they have washed off a stigma of Bhartiya Janata Party. You belong to backward class and you have accepted this reality. When we were fighting for Mandal according to Sharad Bhai some people were walking around with *kamanda*. I would like to thank CPI and CPM because when Mandal Commission's report was the issue in the country, the left parties, which believe in class struggle and Late Comrade Jyoti Babu had said that caste was a reality in the country which cannot be ignored. So do not get enraged after watching a red cloth. As we see in the foreign countries that the bull gets enraged on seeing a red cloth. One cannot indulge in any lame excuse on this issue. The people of every caste have to be enumerated mentioning their caste. Through the Mandal Commission was implemented, however its scope was curtailed and the people hardly got any benefit. The Government prepares policies and budget. A lot of people

are becoming naxalites. The government says that it will hold talks with them. What talks will be held by the government? The government should conduct the census and the people will know their number. I would like to appeal to all the people belonging to backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes that when Mahatma Buddha was enlightened in Bodhgaya, he gave two messages. Buddham Sharnam Gachchhami, Sangam Sharnam Gachchhami. Be intelligent and be clever. Baba Jyotiba Phule, Baba Sahib Ambedkar had given a call to all the dalit brethren to awake, to educate themselves and to wage a struggle to get their rights and to be united. The backward classes, dalits and the Muslims should make use of the census. That is how the power would come their way. The government has to do this. □..(*Interruptions*) Are you following the religion more sincerely than us? It has been written in the religious books — He Yadav, he Madhav. Mundeji has said if there is rebirth, let it be. Lord Krishna said to Arjuna, "You are a comrade, you are afraid of death, a man never dies, a man is neither born nor a man dies, wind and fire can do no harm to a soul, it changes its dress only. You will be reborn and we pray that you are born in Bihar as a Yadav. ...(*Interruptions*) I am giving a good suggestion to the government. Samiji and Law Minister are good human beings.

[*English*]

He belongs to the Most Backward Community. We have full faith on you. When you reply, today or tomorrow, you accept and announce that one the basis of caste, the Backward Classes and Minorities, census would take place.

[*Translation*]

If the census officer does not agree with the government's views, throw him out of the system. When you reply tomorrow, come prepared. We do not want any confrontation, rather we want to avoid confrontation. ...(*Interruptions*) Majority prevails. On the one hand there is supremacy of Parliament and Prasad Saheb had also told that the government had no figures, how would the government do? There should not be any such excuse. Do not get alert as to why am I speaking? Do not panic, we should have the figures of caste. The government is conducting census of goat, buffalo, beds, birds, tiger,

jackal, bed sheet, parrot and peacock. I would like to suggest the counting of the persons living in the country should also be done. Some people argue that it will strengthen the caste system, but it is not so. Caste is a reality. Several people are saying that we should do away with the caste system. Caste system is prevailing in the country and we also know that it cannot be done away with. The Government does not recognize the caste which tries to do away with the caste system. Hence I would like to suggest that the Government should provide a separate compartment for the backward and most backward classes of the country in the Government service so that they are benefitted. I would like to tell Shri Samiji that when he replies, he should not give awkward suggestions. I demand that you should give a specific reply.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Beni Prasad Verma ji.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Beniji, I could not recognize you.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA (Gonda): Nobody has got exclusive rights for anything.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Address the Chair.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA: Madam, I am trying to make him understand, he is my old friend.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Where is the tie?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA: You would not get a tie in this life. Tie is not worn with this suit. I will come with tie. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA: Madam, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak under the Rule 193. The society should be casteless and I am in favour of doing away with the caste system. I have entered politics with a socialist ideology. But, has our society become casteless even after so many years of independence? Why has this demand for reservation for the backward classes, dalits, minorities been raised? Congress party, too, has remained a supporter of Sachar Committee. But, how the decision will be taken? On any matter of national importance, at least, neither the Government should take any decision nor any Member of the House should give this opinion with preconceived notion. What is the meaning

of carrying out census just to know the population of our country? What message will go to the society? What is the population of dalits, how can it be known? What is the population of minorities, how can it be known? What is the population of people like Mulayam Singh Ji and me, how can it be known? Why should the backward classes be given 27% reservation and dalits only 22.5 percent? Why the Muslims should be given 15% reservation? What will the Government reply on this issue? What will the reply? We have no figures of the period after 1931. The country, too, was divided after 1931. How many forward castes went to Pakistan, how many backwards went to Bangladesh, how many Hindus stayed on there, how many Muslims stayed on there — in there any such data available? No, there is not. I am not going to speak against anyone with jealousy. Anybody, who is against the castebased census, who is against impartiality, we consider him an opponent. How will the Government take decision, how will debate take place in the House. It is the result of the revolt itself that Lalu Ji and Mulayam Singh Ji became a Chief Minister and emerged as leaders. I will not take her name but Mayawati Ji is a symbol of revolution. Had the social justice been declined after the independence there would have been no Mulayam Singh Ji, Laluji or Mayawati. This will give rise to revolution in the country. What is our population, we should know. A casteless society should be created. Inter caste marriages should be encouraged. Inter-religious marriages should be encouraged, then a casteless society will become into being. I am also a supporter of a society devoid of religion. But, the Government does not have the figures, then how can it create such a society? It will say in one sentence that the caste based census is socially divisive in nature. Will we agree, will Mulayam Singh Ji agree, will Lalu Ji agree, will Mayawati Ji agree, will Devegowda Ji agree? No, they will not and such persons belong to more than half of the country's population. If more than half will not accept the decision, then what is the meaning of such decision? I will not speak longer as I am not sure where Mulayam Singh Ji may interrupt me and where I may say something to him ...*(Interruptions)*. Feudals have emerged in castes, communities and even in religious as well. How will this casteist and religious feudalism end? Mulayam Singh Ji we will have to think over it also that when caste based census will be made public then I and you will have to think. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Listen, I have got Akhilesh married. You should also go for an inter-caste marriage.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please, do not speak with each other. Beni Prasad Ji, please, address the Chair.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA: All my sons and daughters have been married. But, you can check that I have done all these marriages without the Gotras.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Then do inter-caste marriage of your grandsons and grand daughters.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA: If I will have a granddaughter then you can get her married with your grandson. And if you will have a grand daughter, then I can get her married to my grandson.

I have no objection about this. A casteless society can not come into being without having a caste based census. Social justice can not be delivered, religious justice can not be delivered. That is why the majority in the House is for casteless census. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: There is unanimity.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA: The Government should accept the majority, this will make the country progress this will help in delivering social justice in the country. This will pave the way for an equal society.

[*English*]

SHRI O.S. MANIAN (Mayiladuthurai): Thank you, Madam Chairman. The most important work on Census 2011 has started. In this census 35 questions or details are being asked. As far as possible, the number of details may be curtailed, but at the same time the most important ones should not be ignored.

At many places the stay of the head of the family or the person who leaves his native place to some other country, State or place, is only temporary. Most of them return back to their respective native places. Census for such people should not be left behind. Most of them return during their religious customary functions or other important functions. People at the Taluk level and Union level should take necessary steps to include these people in the census during this period. There should be no double entry as well.

The illiterate people are finding it very difficult to answer the queries asked by the census officials. Necessary arrangements may be made to depute officials who can take exact details from such people during the census.

The work of census for people living in coastal areas has been handed over to private companies and the same have already started the work. I humbly submit that the census may be done on the righteous path and submitted at the earliest.

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please, keep quiet in the House. Those who have already spoken, should listen to others.

[*English*]

SHRI O.S. MANIAN: The census should be a successful one. The main objective of the census is to find the exact details of the socially, economically and backward people so that they are uplifted.

The census is being taken once in ten years. The data which is taken during the census is being used by the Government as a parameter for the economic conditions and requirements of the people in order to introduce welfare schemes for their upliftment.

I would like to say that for getting admission of our children to school, the first question that the school authorities ask us is our caste. Even at the time of interview for employment the selection authority verifies the caste certificate. So, what is wrong in mentioning the caste?

Before concluding my speech, I, on behalf of the AIADMK Party support the caste-based census.

[*Translation*]

SHRI S.D. SHARIQ (Baramulla): Madam Chairman, I thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

Debate is going on since morning on a very serious matter and many big leaders have expressed their views on it. Actually, I think that it is a desire of these people to raise voice against injustice. The people asking for identification of their caste are not saying it as a fashion that they be identified as dalits, adivais or harijans. They are the people who have been crushed under the injustice of the society from centuries. They are the people who

have tongue but their tongue has no words. They are the people who have heart but their heart has not been allowed to beat. They are the people who have blood in their veins but their blood has not been allowed to circulate by the dominance and the injustice section of the society. And the result was that we call this section, which as low castes, I feel shame to use the term how caste as we do not have this kind of differentiation of high and low. Our Quran-E-Mazid says a People, for the Lord, who has produced all of you from the same parents. You do not have separate castes. If there is a caste, then it is only the tribal groups, which have been created so that you could be indentified. We do not believe in high or low. I consider a cobbler, who serves the humanity by stitching shoes on the pavement, higher than a corrupt burueacrat or a corrupt political leader. I rank that cobbler, whom you call as 'chamar' higher than a bureaucrat or a political leader who misappropriates crores of rupees every second. It has been said here that people should be identified as to who is a dalit, who belongs to backward classes so that it can be ascertained as to who lives in the country? Some people, who have had been dominating since fifty years, sixty years or thousands of years should realize that the days of the dominance are over and how the times are changing and a revolution is coming. These people are a symbol of this revolution and this symbol of reservation is putting a demand before you. I will urge the Government to change its programme by accepting these demands and convert it into the formate for the unity, integrity of the country, for the respect of the humanity so that justice is done to all. It is the need of the justice to progress. Thank you.

[English]

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Respected madam chairperson, Census is a very important matter and there should be unanimity among various political parties and other forums on this. Through you, today I would like to express the views of my party in this august House. Census is a decennial affair – it takes place after every 10 years. While doing this, the social, economic and castes factors of the people of the country should be taken into consideration. The enumerators should have a definite idea about the demographic alignment and arrangement of the entire population. If this is not done or known properly then the Government would not understand what it should do for the welfare of its citizens and what policies should be adopted for their benefits.

To date, the manner in which Census have been conducted revealed only incomplete and inadequate data. Merely religious beliefs or caste traits are not enough to identify the citizens of a country. To have a clear idea about the actual condition of the people living in a country, one must have information of their economic status and background along with caste and creed.

Thus we demand that during the Census 2011, data regarding the occupation, or livelihood of the citizens of India must be taken into consideration. In other words, we demand occupation based Census.

We also want to say very strongly that this Census should bring to light the actual number of people living below the poverty line and should also highlight in what manner the income of an individual affects one's position in the hierarchy of society.

Here I would like to say clearly that we have two Bangladesh in this world one is the neighbouring country Bangladesh and another is our state of West Bengal. In both the places, Bengali speaking people live and there are Hindus and Muslims in either side of the border thousands of Bengali people from West Bengal come to Delhi or other Indian states in search of work. They are genuine citizens of this country. So if Hon. Members in this House raise a clamour that, these people are Bagladeshis then it would be a grave mistake. However, I admit that from Bengladesh, lacs of illegal migrants are coming over to India and this is causing immense damage to our country's infrastructure and resources. Since there is no natural barrier along the border, only artificial barriers are not enough to stop cross-border infiltration. So this aspect must be looked into seriously.

Another point is there to make a mention of Census which is taking place in Delhi is not being properly conducted. I have learnt from the enumerators that they are turned away every time they go to perform their duties and are being harassed. So the Government should monitor the entire process if it wants to have a successful programme.

With these words I thank you and conclude my speech.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER (Ponnani): Madam, while participating in the discussion on the Census, on behalf of my party, I believe and would like to logically argue that caste based census is very much required in the Indian situation today. As has been

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bangali.

correctly mentioned by the former speakers, caste system in India is a reality which cannot be disputed. If we pretend that we have not seen it, then I would like to say that this is nothing but hypocrisy. There is no logic in saying that secularism and casteless society will come into existence if we are not taking census on the basis of caste. The very agenda of this Government is inclusive development. As has been correctly mentioned by the former speakers, various Commissions from the Kaka Kalekar Commission, to the Ranganath Mishra Commission have suggested various measures that need to be taken for the upliftment of the backward sections of the society. I would like to ask the Government, how are we going to make policies and programmes without identifying the target groups? Without understanding the right number of beneficiaries, how can we have effective planning?

Madam, the Government should seriously think about this. We have to do a lot of things for the progress and welfare of the down-trodden and the marginal sections of the society. This kind of a census is very much required and we need to have a different kind of an interpretation to that. I once again strongly argue that caste based census should be there. It is very much required.

Madam, I would like to make another point in this regard and that is about the NRIs. The Indians working abroad are not including in the census merely on the technical ground that they are not present in their houses at the time of taking the census. There is no logic in that. We all know that Indians working abroad is only a temporal thing. They should not be ignored. They will have to be included in the census and that would be a just and fair action. This is my humble submission.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Madam, with your permission I would like to submit that the issue of Census is being discussed here and the census is underway in the country. We know the criterion adopted by the Britishers in the Census conducted during the year 1931. What was the fallout of that Census — the entire world knows it — Pakistan and India were created. ...*(Interruptions)* They alone cannot have a say, everyone has it.

Madam Chairman, through you, I would like to submit that this country belongs to the rich and poor alike. The poor being ground here do not belong to any particular community. Are these people poorer still even after

becoming Chief Minister? Are they still backward, do the backwards belong to a particular caste? The poor should be heard, there is no doubt about it. ...*(Interruptions)* I know, I have seen that there are Hindus, Muslims, Sikh, Buddhists all kinds of castes in my constituency.

Madam Chairman, through you I would like to submit that there are 60 per cent Hindus and 40 per cent Muslims in my constituency. I have obtained 39 out of 40 per cent Muslim votes. Please tell me which caste or community should I talk about. If one analyses the condition in hilly areas one would know. ...*(Interruptions)* A Muslim got scheduled tribe benefits and another Muslim is staying on those very hills, he was not entertained by anyone. The condition of Muslims in Poonch, Rajouri is the same. ...*(Interruptions)* there is total absence of basic infrastructure like road, electricity, school, water and land in the backward areas. The condition is worse there. Would any community be stronger and prosperous there? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Lal Singh ji, please conclude now.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Madam Chairman, through you I wish to submit that the Gujjar community in my constituency lives in abject poverty. ...*(Interruptions)* Their condition is so poor, one cannot tell. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Lal Singh ji, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Asaduddin Owaisi.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Except Shri Owaisi's speech, nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Those who want to lay their speeches on the Table of the House may please do so.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad): Madam Chairman, I stand here to support the demand that has been made, through a census, about backward class communities.

I only have seven points to make because of paucity of time. Why do we require the census of backward class communities to be done? Firstly, it is for better development planning of BCs so that their educational and social level parameters come up to the level of upper castes.

The second point is that numerous writ petitions are being filed in the courts of law stating that there is no population of backward classes. To negate these writ petitions which are being filed in courts of law, it is needed.

There is a misconception that constitutional safeguards are only for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is totally true. For Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, articles 341 and 342 are there. For BCs, article 340 is there, though it was implemented lately, in 1990s only.

Article 15 (4) was given by none other than the great Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I would like to know from the Congress Party whether Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was a castiest. He has given article 15 (4) wherein reservation was given to OBCs. This is the point which the hon. Minister must answer when he replies to the debate. That is why, in the light of article 15 (4), this demand is being made.

Which OBC list should be followed? This is a census done by the Central Organisation. So, the Central OBC list should be followed. In the Central OBC list, how many BCs are there? It is 1,963. The number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are 1,300. So, not much difference is there.

The next point is, why can the NCBC or the State BC Commission not do this exercise? This exercise cannot be done by them. The NCBC and the State BC Commission can do a survey. But they cannot do a census. They do not have the wherewithal; they do not have the infrastructure and the capability to do it.

My next point is very important. There is a confidentiality clause in the census, whereas in the Citizenship Act and the rules, no such confidentiality clause is there. In the light of the recent eves dropping conspiracy and telephone tapping, I would like to know from the Government as to what steps will be taken to protect my privacy. This information will be there. All my ten fingers will be there. The information of citizens, especially of the Muslim community will be there. I would like to know what would be the safety mechanism for upholding the privacy of the citizens in the light of the NATGRID? This information can be shared by the IB and other organisations. *...(Interruptions)*

What will happen to fifty lakh Indians who are working in Gulf countries? Will they open an NPR because NPR is being done now? Will this exercise continue not only for the next year but on a continuous basis? It is because their names have to be reflected so that they can get the Unique Identification Card.

The last point is that, for this population enumeration, can the forms be given in Urdu, especially in Andhra Pradesh, Bengaluru and Lucknow? It is because when the enumerators are going and asking the details in Muslim localities, they are answering in Urdu.

The last and important point is that for the first time we are seeing how the BJP is badly exposed. The BJP's slogan was "Justice to all and appeasement to none." But what Shri Munde has said, has exposed the BJP.

[Translation]

*SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Madam Chairman, diversity is the characteristic feature of India due to various societal setup? However, due to cultural nationalism several features are quite distinct. Caste system is practised in India for several generations. Several differences were created in the composition of caste system due to divide and rule policy of the Britishers. Caste based census was conducted for the first time in India in the pre-Independence era in the

year 1931 on the basis of which we are providing reservation benefits to SCs, STs and OBCs even today. The population of India is increasing rapidly in comparison to that of the world, and for this very reason there is a need to conduct caste based census afresh in order to ensure adequate representation to all the castes in the governance.

Mandal Commission was set up in 1979 to identify OBC community and its population by the then Government. Its report was submitted in the year 1989. The then Government implemented the provisions of reservation for OBC as per the said recommendations. As per Mandal Commission 3 thousand caste groups were proposed to be covered under other backward classes totaling their population to 52 per cent. Despite all this the Government does not have any official figures of the OBC population.

The Government expressed its inability to provide official figures of OBC population when it was asked by the Supreme Court of India in the matter of amendment brought by the Government regarding admission to OBC candidates in the management courses by the IIM. It is a living example of the Government's neglect of the OBC community. On one hand Mandal Commission states the percentage of OBC population as 52 and on the other hand other Government departments like National Sample Survey and Planning Commission give different figures. The Government has determined the policy of sanctioning the budgetary assistance in proportion to caste based population in the country. According to it budgetary allocation is made in proportion to tribal and scheduled caste population. However, OBCs are not getting any budgetary support in proportion to their population in absence of any definite basis though they fall under backward castes. This is duping the OBCs. The amount of scholarship fixed by the Government for OBC students is outstanding in several states even today. The Government makes huge investments for minority students. However, the Government is cheating in the name of OBC students.

There are huge outstanding against the Union Government on account of centrally sponsored schemes for OBCs in Maharashtra. This itself manifests the neglect of the rights of OBCs by the Union Government. If the Government claims to be committed towards the development of STs, SCs and minority population in the country then why is the majority population of OBCs being neglected? I want to submit that huge changes have taken place in the figures of caste based census

conducted in the year 1931 during the British Era in the last 79 years it is necessary to conduct census afresh on the basis of castes in order to strengthen the OBCs socially, financially and educationally. The Government should take meaningful initiative for conducting caste based census to provide capable representation, equal opportunities to OBCs in development by making amendments in the next census and concept of national multipurpose identity card.

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhubani):
Madam Chairman, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me the opportunity to speak on this issue. The House is discussing this issue seriously. The high attendance of members of the ruling party as well as the opposition testifies to the importance of the subject under discussion. This is not an accusation against the government or ourselves or anyone else. The exploitation, injustice, oppression and atrocities in the country are a social, cultural and religious blot on the nation. The caste system, the social arrangement in the country is entirely responsible for this. The rishis and the munis campaigned and preached against the caste system but the caste system is still prevailing in India. This is a proof of this fact.

Madam, there are two types of hunger in the country caused due to the caste system. One is hunger of the stomach and the other is hunger of mind. Food can assuage the former but respect is the only thing that can assuage the latter. What the backward, dalit, tribal, exploited and victimised people of the country need is not food to fill their stomach but respect. I want to ask those who talk of qualifications, capability, skill and talent whether the backwards, dalits, tribals or minorities in the country do not have people amongst them who are qualified, skilled, intelligent and talented? Is there no one amongst them who holds the ability to run the administration or the government? 85 percent people in the country are requesting that they should be given their rights. They are praying to be given rights through the census, they are requesting for a right to get jobs. It is shameful for the country that 85 percent people are begging for their rights. It is a blot on the democracy. Who holds the power to grant these rights? The House and the society should identify this 15 percent people before which 85 percent of the population is standing like a beggar. That 15 percent should be identified. Mulayam Singh Yadavji I am not talking of any particular caste. But what does this 15 percent consist of? Be it the rulers, administrators, high level bureaucrats — all those who have a feudal mentality will not be able to

understand our pain. "Ka dukhjane dukhiya, yajane dukhiya ki mai, jaki pair na phate biwai, so kajane peer parai". Only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. A person who has not been insulted on the basis of his caste cannot understand my pain. The insults borne by Munde ji cannot be understood by others. When Sharad Yadavji was fighting elections from place I will not mention the name, a slogan had been raised—"Sharad Yadav lathi le lo, gaon jakar bhains charao". Can we tolerate this slogan even today? Upon the death of the renowned leader, Chaudhary Charan Singh, the English dailies of the country had written, "Jaat mara tab janiyo jab chaudahvi ho jaye". The society which thinks that even the most talented amongst the backward castes, dalits and tribals should not emerge as a national leader, should be destroyed ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hukmadeoji, please conclude now.

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV : Madam, I would like to conclude by saying one last thing. If we are not given our rights in the census then this issue will not remain within the House but will be taken up on the streets. It will no longer be a request but a war. Life ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Tarun Mandal, please start now.

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Do not give rise to unrest in the country. It is my humble request that when the country has adopted Gandhiji's path then this change the course of Indian history and give respect to the backward classes Pay keep to the words of these leaders. If they are ignored, the society and this country will have to repent later.

*SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE (Raver): Madam, I would like to place my opinion regarding the issue under discussion before the House in writing under Rule 193.

Fixation of special norms for census 2011 is an extremely urgent need. All the castes should be included in the census. A person always has to mention his caste right from the time he starts his education till the time he applies for a job. O.B.C. castes are the backward castes in the country. OBCs have not been included in the reserved posts for promotion. I would like to request the government to take immediate decision to include OBCs in the census.

[English]

DR. TARUN MANDAL (Jaynagar): Madam, at the very outset, I would like to say that this is a very serious and sensitive issue. Many hon. Members have expressed the view that it is an insignificant matter.... *(Interruption)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I again request that those hon. Members who want to lay their speeches on the Table of the House may do that.

DR. TARUN MANDAL: They said that it can be taken as simply mentioning in the census register. But I do not think it is an insignificant matter at all. It has got far-reaching consequences in our national history.

I definitely believe that our society is divided into many religions, castes, sub-castes and multiple divisions but simply mentioning the caste divisions and caste identification in our census calculation will not at all help development and upliftment of the so-called *dalits* or the under-privileged sections of the society. I personally believe that even mentioning religion and such kinds of things will flare up caste feelings, religious feelings and religious hatred amongst our population. So, Madam, we cannot accept it in our census recording.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Only two minutes each are given. I have already requested that those hon. Members who want to lay their speeches can do that because we are short of time.

DR. TARUN MANDAL: Madam, I am a new Member. Please help me in making my points clear. I have made only one point.

Secondly, in reality, many things are prevailing in our society like that of untouchability, child marriage, etc. Communal hatred is prevailing in our society. But whatever is the reality in our society, we cannot make it recorded because, in future, it will not help our progress and civilization. In British India, there was the divide and rule policy. For that reason, in their census, they utilized it but our country now should not accept it. It should continue to remain as a Democratic, Secular Republic and a scientific nation. It should not go by caste divisions or religious divisions.

With these words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Akbarpur): Madam Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity for speaking on such a sensitive issue. I feel that this is the first day of this session in which the members of the ruling party and the opposition are in unanimity regarding an important issue. Undoubtedly, the government is not unaware of this fact. I am certain that there is no need to debate this issue for so long. There are enough indications to tell which way the wind is blowing. I would like to say through you that the people who are making this demand are not the ones who introduced the caste system. There were four castes in the country — Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaisya and Shudra. ... (*Interruptions*) The Simon Commission sent by the Britishers had conducted a survey for inclusion of castes in the scheduled castes list. The people included in that list became scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and the remaining are still bewailing their backwardness over after 63 years of independence. The time for patience is over now. These are the people who have been left out of the mainstream in terms of economic, social, educational and political development. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to say that the makers of the Constitution had said that political freedom would automatically follow the right to vote. SC/ST/OBC candidates are being elected. But this is not enough to safeguard the interests of all sections. Political freedom has no meaning unless it is followed by social and economic freedom. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to remind you that the makers of the Constitution had said that another struggle would be needed to gain economic freedom in the country. Hence, I ask the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry to take the decision to include the 54 percent people who are raising their voice in the census tomorrow. Thank You.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. Nothing except Dr. Raghuvansh Prasadji's speech will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

**SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): Madam, Once in 10 years Census is taken. Census means survey of population. Now the process of taking Census has started. This discussion on the question of Census enumeration

*Not recorded.

**Speech was laid on the Table.

either be based on caste-wise or not should have been initiated and decided much earlier. Suppression of OBCs with major population along with SCs, STs is a historical fact.

Equal opportunities and rights guaranteed some 60 years back in the Constitution was a farce. Marginalized communities still continue to suffer. They continued to be oppressed socially and economically. There is a need to look into their genuine demands and grievances. Caste-wise enumeration may create a passage for reaching the goal. But this alone will not give answer to this issue. What is required is a change in the mindset of the people entrusted with the task of Governance of the country.

Commission after Commission have brought out reports about the plight of OBCs, but what is lacking is implementation process. Nobody can deny that. The demands of the backward communities to uplift themselves through concessions and schemes are genuine.

But the scale and extension of benefits conferred to the OBCs are not sufficient to meet the demands. The Central and State Governments should adopt a liberal and broad approach towards the real issues and problems faced by the OBCs and discuss across the table with the political leaders, economists, socialists and other interested in the issue and work out a blue print of action for implementation within a time frame.

I endorse the views of the members those who are pressing for the parameters for conducting Census. The reasons for raising such demand are genuine and acceptable. That is why I am saying that the reasons for the demands have to be looked into primarily. Before starting the treatment proper diagnose is much important. If we find out the root cause of all the problems the solution would be very easy. There is nothing wrong in taking caste-base census enumeration. This is a real mirror which will focus the real face of the total population.

Let us sit together, look into the issue and hammer out policies and programmes that will give substantial relief to the oppressed OBCs of the country. Let us not postpone the issue and put the issue under burner by citing one reason or the other.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Madam Chairman, after the census of 1931 the Kaka Kelkar Committee, the Mandal Commission, the SC and

the Government all have questioned the very basis of giving the share of the backward classes to them without knowing their population. The reply to this question is that the census of the backward classes under census 2011 should be done on the basis of caste. It needs no other logic. There is a consensus and any excuse by the Government is not going to work. Madam, there is a simple logic, that when there is census of Scheduled Tribes and minorities who are backward, oppressed, deprived, neglected then why there is no census of the people who have such a huge population? Nobody is ready to give a reply to it. Why is there problem in giving a reply? There is no room for showing reluctance in this regard. No excuse will be acceptable. The fifth month of this year is ending and the census will take place in 2011. There is sufficient time, therefore, it should take place. Now, I see the character of the Government. The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry takes care of Scheduled Castes, backward castes and all. There is a separate ministry for the Minorities, a separate ministry for the Tribals then why not a separate ministry for the 54% Backward Classes? I want an answer. Why is such a huge population being neglected? Someone in the country should tell me as to why there is no ministry for the 54% backward classes. This proves that India will remain backward and can not compete with the developed and powerful nations until the crores of the people in the country are neglected by calling them backward dalit, SC and ST and kept oppressed. To make India stand-up to the powerful nations of the world, crores of oppressed and deprived majority of people will have to be provided a share by making changes in the social, political and economic areas. ...*(Interruptions)* Otherwise, people are right in saying that war would become a possibility. There will be a war and they cannot be deprived of their share. The Government should give them their share ...*(Interruptions)*. Deprivation of their share should be stopped and they should be given their rightful share ...*(Interruptions)*. If you are not ready to give it without struggle ...*(Interruptions)*. Then be prepared for the struggle ...*(Interruptions)*. Crores of people would come on the streets ...*(Interruptions)*. The fight will go on from the street to the parliament and nobody would be able to stop it. The Government should make an announcement immediately ...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Ji, please, conclude now. Nothing will go on record after this.

...*(Interruptions)**

*SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam, there is need to fix the norm for the census 2011 in the country to be conducted on the basis of caste. This will help in identifying the BPL persons alongwith SC/ST, backward and Muslims. The standard of living of the people will definitely improve along with the development of the country. Laying stress on this discussion I demand from the Government that census 2011 should be done the basis of caste.

(English)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Hon. Madam Chairperson, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion and debate initiated by Mr. Anant Kumar on the 'need to lay down specific parameters for operating the Census 2011'.

Here, I would like to submit some of my observations and suggestions and I would also like to urge upon the Government to take corrective measures in the matter of doing Census on the population of the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. In 2001 Census, the figure shown in the case of the Scheduled Tribe population is only as 8,45,26,240 out of 102,86,10,328.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: In terms of percentage is concerned, it is only eight-point something. So far as my observation with regard to the ST population is concerned, the population of the Scheduled Tribes has not been enumerated in an accurate way. If the population of the upper caste people can grow, why cannot the population of the Schedule Tribes and Scheduled Castes increase in the last 60 years after Independence?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Shri Vinay Kumar Pandey to speak now.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Based on 1971 Census, figure you have fixed the reservation quota for the Tribal people at only seven-and-a-half per cent across the country. In 2002, several communities have been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes without increasing the rate of reservation quota...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Vinay Kumar Pandey ji says.

(*Interruptions*)...*

DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY (Shravasti): Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on this extremely important issue.

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

(*Interruptions*)...*

18.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Pandey Ji, please continue.

DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY: I have listened to the points made by the senior leaders like hon. Sharad Yadav, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Munde ji etc. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY: I have heard all the senior members with attention. I know that time is short and I have to make my points in limited time. I would like to express myself before the August House in the limited time available to me. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now it is six o'clock. If the House agrees, we can extend the time of the House till we complete the business listed for today. What is the sense of the House?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The time of the House is extended till we complete the business listed for today.

I would request the hon. Members to lay their speeches on the Table of the House because we have to pass four Bills today.

[*Translation*]

DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY: Madam, my preceding speakers have discussed this topic with much depth, detail and seriousness. I would like to say that my preceding speaker and brother hon. Sandeep Dixit Ji had said that he is an atheist but I, through you, would like to tell the House and the whole country that I am a staunch theist person. I have firm faith in my religion and caste. I have true respect for our ancestors who sacrificed themselves to form this country. Something was being talked about here and I was feeling sad to listen it that what will our future generations think given the manner in which our senior members, while discussing this topic, had labeled India as a country of caste and religions. Through you, I would like to know as to when the day will come when we the Indians would be able to say that our caste is Indian, our religion is the Indian Constitution and that progress of the country is our only goal and that our ancestors are Mahatma Gandhi, Shivaji, Maharana Pratap? When would we be able to say that Ashfaqulla, Ram Prasad Bismil and Bhagat Singh are our ancestors in whom we have true faith? This is an aspect to think over.

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Rama Devi, the last speaker.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Madam, today is the birthday of Shrimati Rama Devi. We all should congratulate her on her birthday.

MADAM SPEAKER: Rama Devi Ji, on behalf of all of us, I wish you on your birthday.

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (Sheohar): Respected Madam grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue.

Today many Hon'ble Members have put forth their different view points on the issue But I want to say that

the people have been suppressed on the basis of their caste and backwardness and I too was victim of this. I got elected to this House and represent these very people. For me being an MP means that we should voice concerns of the people we represent. But here we are being denied this basic right. We are not able to voice their concern. In such situation how are we going to fulfill peoples expectations. The people expect that their MP will come with some good news for their development or take measures for ameliorating their condition. Even today our society is backward. The lower strata of our society that is OBC, SC, ST, tribals are still leading same kind of life which it led earlier. If the Government which talk tall of these people consider them as part of the society and ready to make efforts for upliftment of these people, only then I could consider that we are independent in real sense. Sixty years have passed since country attained its freedom. When the country got independence we thought that we would make progress. We had struggled hard and made sacrifice for the independence and now reached this stage. Today the condition of women is quite miserable. They have to work both inside and out side of the house. They still are not empowered to raise their voice. You may easily imagine how much we people have been suppressed.

The issue of census programme is being discussed in the House. Many Hon'ble Members have given valuable suggestions. The entire House seems to be united in the discussion. The discussion has revealed the meaning of freedom. Hon'ble Members have given suggestions that there should be data of OBC and others in the census. I support it and extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I request the House that those Hon'ble Members who like to express their views on the issue, can lay their speech on the table of the House.

*SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (Ahmadnagar): Madam, India being a vast country is a multilingual nation. In order to secure justice and equal rights for all in the county, Government follows different norms in conducting census in respect of various castes and communities, whereas each and every caste and community want to get benefits from the schemes of the government on the basis of their population. Jain community has contributed a lot towards the nation building since independence in 1947 till date. Therefore, there should be a separate census for Jain community in

the present census. This is my demand as well as demand of Jain community.

*SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL (Jaina): Respected Madam, I would like to put forth my views on the ongoing discussion under the rule 193. I am of the view that separate counting of OBC should be conducted in the ongoing census, because, population of the country is 125 crore and in such large population census of OBC should be conducted separately on the lines of SC and ST. The reason is that each caste, society be aware of their rights in order to receive their due share and the Government should be aware of the percentage of each society and casts residing in the country. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct separate census of OBC.

*SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL (Deoria): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that the Government of India is not sincerely working for the development of backward classes and does not want to uplift the communities lagging behind in the country. The Government has been requested a number of times to conduct census in order to find out the number of people of backward classes but the Government has not conducted any such census till date and the column for OBC is missing in the census 2011 for which work has been initiated from 1st April, 2010. The Government has no information regarding number of people belonging to OBC living below poverty line. The Government is not even aware of number of OBC women in the country. The Union Law Minister M. Veerappa Moily has refused to consider reservation of backward classes in context of Women Reservation Bill and said that the OBC data is not available at national level because census of OBC has not been conducted since 1931. Therefore, it can't be decided as to who are OBC until this data is available. This makes it clear that the Government of India have no intention doing anything for welfare of OBC. The Government pretend to care about OBC by formulating schemes for them. There are only seven employees who are engaged in the OBC unit of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for more than half population of the country. What welfare measures are being implemented for OBC without finding out their population. The development of OBC is not on UPA Government's agenda. When castes are being determined in the census 2011, then why column of OBC is not their in the forms. Whether the OBC's are not part of the nation and they don't have any role in nation building. On one hand castes are being mentioned in

schools and colleges and caste certificates are being issued by the Government offices on the other hand Government says that the census for the people belonging to OBC will lead to hatred among communities. But I want to ask whether this hatred will not be spread by mention of castes in the census.

I request the Government that census of OBC should be conducted in the census, 2011 and maximum reservation of OBC, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes should be provided on the basis of population in women Reservation Bill.

In democracy majority is fundamental right so therefore majority must be granted. The Government is formed majority so majority must be honored. Through you, I strongly request the House that all the Hon'ble Members may suggest the Government to respect the majority, otherwise, it cannot be corrected. Therefore, I request the Government that it should respect the House by showing large heartedness and correct the mistakes committed earlier. Better late than never. So everybody should respect the House. With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

*SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): Regarding specific parameters for conducting census 2011, my humble request is to find some other specific methods for calculating the actual living conditions of each and every communities in our country. The caste base census is not the solution for the real backwardness of our country. Madam, 2011 census is already started and the half of the work is also completed. My sincere opinion is that caste base census will spoil our secularist concept. Madam, the need of the hour is the unity of our country. For the unity and integrity of our nation, caste base census will not help in any way.

I am requesting to include the NRI's in the census. Tens and thousand of NRI's are eagerly waiting to get into the census list of their own mother country. Therefore, I am requesting to consider to include the NRI's in census.

With these words, I am concluding my short deliberations.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam Chairman, I am not giving any statement? I, through you only ant to say that the House is criticized throughout the country. I think that the people watching it would

*Speech was laid on the Table.

understand how qualified and understanding people, having an understanding of the grassroots level, are present here. The debate which took place here today has reinforced and shown the strength of Parliament.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, I would like to inform the House that the hon. Minister□ will reply to this Discussion under Rule 193 tomorrow.

[Translation]

*SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the census of backward class under Rule 193.

Our learned colleagues, and every class of this House has supported it. I also strongly support this. Today I saw the census form. There are columns to indicate whether the person belongs to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes but there is no column to indicate one's class if one belongs to the backward class minorities. It is a regretful situation.

It is said that it has not been the practice to conduct caste based census. I would like to say that the time keeps changing. The recommendations of the Mandal Commission were implemented and reservation was given, to the backward class in Educational Institutes as well. The Supreme Court question the very basis of this reservation. Our Minister of Home Affairs is himself a famous lawyer and he would have taken a suo-motu initiative for the census of the backward people.

Similarly a lot of things are being done for the welfare of minorities. Revolutionary works like constitution of Sachechar Committee, action on the report submitted by the committee, setting up of a new Ministry for the Minorities, Prime Minister's 15 point programme, special scheme for 90 minority dominated districts etc. have been done but the census of minorities is not being conducted. We have committee this mistake. It should be rectified.

There are separate schemes for the backward class there is also Separate budget. The information regarding their economic condition, social status can only be collected through the census. It may be helpful in preparing future schemes and to push this class forward.

To deny this, the logic put forward is that the census has already begun and now, no change can be effected in it. This contention does not hold water. If census is completed in this way what will be its importance? I demand that this census be stopped immediately and

*Speech was laid on the Table.

the census should be stated afresh with full preparedness including the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes the minorities and the backward. I am thankful to you for this.

*SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Faridabad): At present discussion on census is going on in the House? I belong to Gujjar community. The last census was conducted in 1971 in which Gujjar community was not included as a separate caste. Today we are facing the consequences of that negligence and this is the reason that Gujjars are agitating in several parts of the country. On the one hand, they live in the valleys of Jammu and Kashmir and on the other hand, they lead their difficult lives living behind the sand dunes of Rajasthan. This is a wandering community, rearing cattle and frequently changing their place of stay. They support their families through cattle rearing. This community has been neglected in each field be it education or Government jobs. Even today, most of the Gujjar families are uneducated, unemployed and helpless. They do not have any permanent residing place. They lead their lives living in Jungles. They do not have any voter identity card or any ration cards. They have not been recorded as residing at a fixed place. At present they are continuously agitating for their rights in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country. The recent incident of Rajasthan is before us, they are demanding reservation in education, Government jobs like other castes. It is very difficult to keep caste and religion away from politics in the country. Therefore, I support caste based census. I request the Government to provide reservation to all the Gujjar communities, whether they belong to Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh or Uttarakhand, in education and Government jobs so that they get an opportunity to progress like other castes. Gujjars are the most patriotic community in the country. Their slogan is that first they are Gujjars and then they are the patriots. They are not divided like the Hindus and the Muslims they provide their services at the international as well as inter state borders like soldiers living in the forest. All the facilities available to other communities getting reservation should also be provided to this community.

I demand that the Government should consider these demands seriously so that this deprived community gets justice and reservation. In the census of 2011, people belonging to Gujjar community should be enumerated with their caste indicated therein.

18.07 hrs.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BILL, 2010

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up item no. 20A—
Shri M. Veerappa Moily.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): Madam Chairman, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to provide for the creation of Legislative Council for the State of Tamil Nadu and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): Please allow us to speak on this Bill. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): You can speak on this Bill, if you want to oppose it. ...(Interruptions) Madam, the hon. Minister has already moved this Bill. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, do you want to speak now?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: After the speeches of the hon. Members, the Minister will speak. ...(Interruptions)

Hon. Members, kindly sit down. The discussion on this Bill will be there. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to provide for the creation of Legislative Council for the State of Tamil Nadu and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Prahlad Joshi ji – not present.

Now, Shri T.R. Baalu.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Sriperumbudur): Madam Chairman, While I rise to support this Bill which has been brought

my friend and the hon. Minister, Shri M. Veerappa Moily, I profoundly thank my leader, Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi, who is instrumental for bringing this historical Bill after 24 years.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not thank the hon. Madam Sonia ji, the Chairperson of the UPA, Dr. Manmohan Singh ji, hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Home Minister and also the hon. Law Minister who are solidly standing behind us.

As we have the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha – these are the highest bodies to legislate and to make policies - here at the Centre, we, in Tamil Nadu, want to have a two-Chamber system, which existed till 1986. It is because many illustrious and eminent people could not contest the elections for various reasons and become MLAs. In order to enable them to share their views and to accommodate their views in policy-making, we would like to have an Upper House in Tamil Nadu. That is why, the Resolution has been proposed and passed in Tamil Nadu, and sent to Parliament for its approval.

Many prominent leaders have said – I have heard it yesterday and today – that we are rushing through the Bill. We are not rushing through the Bill. It is the Election Manifesto, 2006 of the DMK. At page 28, it says:

“We will insist to bring in a Constitutional Amendment to establish the Legislative Council in Tamil Nadu as it has been done in Andhra Pradesh, with a view to enable the representatives of political pundits, scholars, teachers, educationists, employees, lawyers, doctors, service organizations, social workers, artists, poets, Self-Help-Groups, traders, farmers, weavers and Representative Local Bodies, labour and fishermen associations to take part in it and advise the Government.”

To advise the Government, these prominent, eminent and illustrious persons have to be consulted. How to consult? They have to be part and parcel of the Upper House. That is why the Bill has been brought for our approval.

When the late Chief Minister, Mr. MGR was in power, he had abolished the Upper House. I do not want to enter into its politics; I do not want to say as to why he had abolished the Upper House. There were so many extraneous reasons. But the history cannot be wiped out by white clothing. We cannot wipe it out by white clothing.

Madam, when our leader, Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi came to power, he wanted to establish the Upper House. To establish the Upper House, he had brought in the Resolution on 20.2.1989 as well as on 26.7.1996. He had brought in the Resolution twice. But it was negated by the previous Chief Minister. You know, who she is.

Hence now, a proposal is before us. The Legislative Councils were established by the British Parliament by the Act of 1892 as well as the Act of 1909. By the Acts of 1892 and 1909, the Governor of the State has to play a role to nominate the Members. In 1919 the elections were conducted. Who will be having the voting rights? They would be only the tax payers and the property owners.

In 1920 my parent party, the South Indian Liberal Federation Party, which was called as Justice Party, came to power. It had brought wonderful legislations. For 17 years, from 1920 to 1937, it was in power. While it was in power, Mr. Subbarayalu Reddy was elected as the first Premier of the Madras State. Our mother, the great leader of our movement, Muthlaxmi Reddy had brought a Resolution before the House. What was that Resolution? It was to abolish the *Devadasi* system. To abolish the *Devadasi* system, she vociferously fought with the Satyamurthy Ayyar, who was the Member of the Constituent Assembly also; and, she won. She brought the Resolution. The Communal G.O. was enacted during our regime only. When Mr. Muthia Mudaliar was the Minister, the Communal G.O. was passed, which ended up to the first Amendment brought by Nehru by the agitation of Thanthai Periyar in Tamil Nadu with the able support of Kamaraj.

So, in 1919 the first Act for Upper House was passed. The communal GO was in position for the sake of OBC, in the year 1920.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): The credit will go to us. We are going to pass this Bill.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Not only that, but also the leaders of the Justice Party, Pitty Thiagarayar, T.M. Nair and Dr. Nadesanar were instrumental to see that the policies of empowerment of women, the policies of social justice are brought, for the first time in India to see that the people of OBC, the people of SC/ST, the people belonging to minority communities are getting the proper place in the system of governance, in the field of education and employment.

During Justice Party's rule, many progressive decisions had been taken but at the same time, because of paucity of time, I do not want to mention all those things. But many illustrious leaders had been elected and they were adorning the Upper House, for instance, late Rajaji, the first Governor-General of India was a Member of the Upper House. Mr. P.T. Rajan, the leader of our movement; Mr. O.P. Ramasamy Reddiar, Mr. Bakthavachalam Mudaliar, our leader Dr. C.N. Annadurai, our leader, Dr. Kalaignar, C. Pa. Aditanar, MGR; former President of India R. Venkatraman; the first Finance Minister of India R.K. Shanmukham Chettiyar; Dr. S. Muthulakshmi Reddy, Dr. A.L. Mudaliar, Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiyar, Raja Sir Muthiah Chettiyar; the great revolutionary SC leader M.C. Raja; Sir A.T. Panneerselvam and also Rattamalai Seenivasan, who was a Scheduled Caste leader, were also adorning the Upper House.

This Bill, which we are going to pass with the support of Shri Lalu Prasad and all other Members cutting across Party lines, there will be 78 Members.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: We are going to pass this Bill.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Out of 78 Members, 12 Members will be nominated by the Governor; and 26 Members will be from the local bodies. Here, my friends should understand that the local bodies' representatives will directly represent the Upper House. Graduates will be representing in seven places. Teachers will be representing in seven places. The Legislative Assembly will elect 26 people. The Governor will nominate 12 persons.

Altogether, 78-Member Chamber will be in position, and many progressive things will happen under the leadership of my leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi.

With this I conclude. I request all of you to kindly support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Madam Chairman, I rise to support this Bill. It is true that all the states do not have Legislative Council. I hail from Bihar and there is a Legislative Council there. But any of the states do not have Legislative Council like the neighbouring state of Bihar, Jharkhand which has no Legislative Council is a good alternative for people who do not get elected in the elections in the state. Elected persons have a great value in a democracy and it has

also been the history of the country that even the Prime Minister have been elected so far. But, this time, the parliament has achieved a new milestone that since the last 6 years, the Prime Minister of the country has been from the upper House, where the Members are not elected directly by the people ...*(Interruptions)* This is the subject.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please come to the subject.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I knew it. If I have said something wrong then I will withdraw my statement. Just say if he is a Member of Lok Sabha ...*(Interruptions)* He should get up and say if he is a member of Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please, do not make it a debate. Please, speak on the current Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I am taking the name of Pandit Ji, is it objectionable too? ...*(Interruptions)* Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi Ji, Shastri Ji, Charan Singh Ji and late Rajiv Gandhi Ji — all of the Prime Ministers of the country so far had got elected and became the Prime Minister of the country. I have not risen to create any controversy on this. ...*(Interruptions)* This is the problem and I have made it clear many times that the party in power should allow the others to speak. The party is enjoying power and will not allow us even to speak ...*(Interruptions)* Will I have to take permission from the Government to talk about someone? ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, this is a good effort. I would say that many states have legislative Council and had there been a Legislative Council in Jharkhand, then the situation would have been different and Guru Ji would not have needed to think about here and there. The Chief Minister in Tamil Nadu got elected and then became a Chief Minister. Through you, I request the Hon'ble Home Minister that a discussion on this issue should be held in the entire country because some of the state have Legislative Council while others do not Bihar has it but Jharkhand does not have it. Uttar Pradesh has it but Rajasthan, Kerala, Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh do not have it. I have, in my first line on this Bill said that I am supporting this Bill. This Government is working very promptly in Tamil Nadu as its party is ruling there. I do not want to create any controversy but would like to say that the Government is working there very promptly. The Hon'ble Home Minister

hails from Tamil Nadu and doing a great job. Should not there be consensus on it? There is Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in the country. Many states have their Chief Ministers from the Legislative Council. It is a very boring topic and, in one line, I can say that I support this Bill. Such a major debate is going on here and a proper message would not be conveyed without the views of the opposition. Through you, I urge that a consensus should be arrived at whether the other states also need Legislative councilor not because some states have them and others do not. This creates problem for many people. Talks should be held with the state on the complete proposal, a meeting of all parties should be held and there should be consensus everywhere.

I will conclude by saying one thing that if a leader loses in a state not having a Legislative Council, he hungs up his boots while a leader in another state having a Legislative Council does not do so. He says that he is going to be elected. Many persons do not win Lok Sabha elections. They says that they will not vacate the house now because they are going to get a seat in Rajya Sabha. It is a very serious matter. When the Government will pass this Bill, it should tell us if there should be a uniform system in the country or not. Should not there be both Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly from Kashmir to Kanyakumari? I am not making any insinuation but want to give a new direction. Our party, while supporting the current Bill, wants to see its larger application and also wants to know the vision of the Government as to whether the Government is bringing this Bill just for the sake of it or it has some vision too in this connection. Perhaps someone just spoke about it casually and the Government has brought it? The Government should have some vision, foresightedness and this will be in its favour. I request that it should listen patiently to the suggestions from the opposition and kept control.

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Madam Chairperson, on behalf of the Congress Party I rise to support the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Bill, 2010. I am happy to recall that during November, 1986 when there was a debate in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, on behalf of the Congress Legislature Party, as Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I spoke in favour of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council.

18.25 hrs.

[SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI in the Chair]

Hon. Member Shri Baalu spoke about certain incidents that took place in Tamil Nadu regarding the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council has got a meritorious past from 19th century. Thiru Satyamurthy who is considered to be the political guru of our revered leader Shri Kamaraj, once represented the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council. As Shri Baalu said, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, the former President of India Shri R. Venkataraman and the noted educationist Sir A.L. Mudaliar had also served in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council. It would also be interesting to note that the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi once was a Member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council and also late Shri M.G. Ramachandran, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was also a Member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are so many freedom fighters, senior leaders, stalwarts who have represented in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council. But, during the month of November, 1986 it was abolished. We know, more than twice efforts have been taken to restore the Council; but every attempt has proved futile. My request is that once a Council is formed, at any cost it should not be dissolved. That should be the endeavour of our Government. I urge upon our hon. Minister of Law and Justice, Dr. Veerappa Moily to give a serious thought to this aspect that once a Council is formed it should not be dissolved at any cost.

It is also interesting to note that during the year 1952 when the first General Election was held, in Tamil Nadu, the erstwhile Madras State, no Party could get majority. There were 63 independent candidates elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. During that time, our revered leader Shri Kamaraj approached Shri Rajaji, the former Governor General of India to take the lead and to form the Government. So, Rajaji became the Chief Minister of the erstwhile Madras State and then he became a Member of the Legislative Council.

Again, during the 1967 Election, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri C.N. Annadurai, whom we call with reverence as 'Anna' contested from the South Madras constituency to the Lok Sabha. When the DMK got majority of seats, Dr. Anna then became a Member of the Legislative Council and became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. That was the history of Tamil Nadu Legislative Council.

Sir, as I said earlier, there are so many people, so many stalwarts, so many leaders who could not contest the general election and this Legislative Council is the forum, is the place for them to represent their constituencies. Today, under the leadership of Madam Sonia Gandhiji and under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh we are bringing this Bill. Definitely we are going to pass this Bill today.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Bill, 2010. Strongly supporting this Bill brought by the Hon'ble Law Minister, I give consent on behalf of the Samajwadi Party for the passing of this Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present some states have Legislative Council while some do not. Those states will definitely demand it and if they will send a proposal then, I would like to give a suggestion that the Hon'ble Law Minister should ask for proposal from all such states and get Legislative Council Constituted there. The experts who can not win or those who lose elections, their views should reach the Upper House in some way.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, sometimes there is a crisis at the time of selection of a Chief Minister. But, if there will be Legislative Council then he can get elected. This can solve the constitutional crisis.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my party supports the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, five states have Legislative Councils in the country presently. Earlier, proposals were passed in many states; Legislative Councils were constituted and in many states these were abolished. A Bill to Constitute a Legislative Council in Andhra Pradesh was brought in the Parliament which was passed. There are 2-3 advantages of constituting a Legislative Council. It is not just for solving the constitutional crisis and nor also for political accommodation. It is because of the Upper House in the Parliament that Shri Devegowda or Shri Gujral could become a Prime Minister because such circumstances were created at that time. Similarly, such a situation has occurred many a times in the states. When Shri Lalu Ji became the Chief Minister of Bihar,

he became a Member of the Legislative Council. Similarly, when a constitutional crisis occurred in the state, then it got resolved only through the Legislative Council.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been a Member of the Legislative Council for 18 years and have seen that whenever some omission is made by a Legislative Assembly in the matter of law or bill then it is corrected in the Legislative Council and then sent to the Legislative Assembly again. Thus, Legislative Council is a very good system. When there is a bi-cameral system at the Centre, then the same system should be present in every state. Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are bigger states which have Legislative Councils. Similarly, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have bi-cameral system. Though, Jammu and Kashmir is a small state, it has a Legislative Council. Tamil Nadu should have a Legislative Council and I support this Bill. Jharkhand has a fewer number of Members of Legislative Assembly. Their number should be increased if political accommodation is needed because the area of Jharkhand is almost equal to that of Bihar. If a proposal for constitution of a Legislative Council is received from Jharkhand, then that should also be considered.

I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI P.K. BIJU (Alathur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know that this Bill will be passed in this House today, but it is a retrograde step for the country. Tamil Nadu State Assembly had passed a resolution on 12.4.10 recommending the creation of State Legislative Council. Sir, the Council was there and it was abolished on May 14, 1986 by the then great leader of Tamil Nadu, Shri M.G. Ramachandran. What is the reason for that? This is the waste of money and unholy power utilization in the State. Similar case has happened in Andhra Pradesh State Legislative Council also. In 1985, the great leader NTR had abolished the State Legislative Council in Andhra Pradesh.

Out of 28 States of our country, only six States have the Legislative Council mechanism. The Centre has the federal structure, but States do not have the federal system. Therefore, this shows that there is no need to implement this Act to have a Legislative Council.
...(Interruptions)

Yes, we are surprised to see this Bill coming in a fast track manner in the House. I came to know from the

newspaper reports that some Ministers had raised objection in the implementation of this Bill even in the Cabinet meeting. Why is this happening? This is only a political motivation to implement this Bill in a speedy manner. ...(*Interruptions*) So, I want to know this from the Government. It has already said to Assam and Punjab for implementation of the Legislative Council in these States. Why are you mum in those cases? I want to know this from the Government. Why is this being implemented in a speedy manner?

So, on behalf of the CPI (M), I strongly oppose this move to introduce the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Bill, 2010.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I stand here to oppose the Bill that has been moved by the Government. I oppose on a very principal issue. It is because I oppose Legislative Council in every State. This is a regressive step, which is being taken by the Tamil Nadu Assembly. I had stood up here and opposed the formation of a Council in Andhra Pradesh when the Bill was moved to have a Council in Andhra Pradesh. The trend that was witnessed during the late 1960s and early 1970s is that respective State Assemblies were abolishing the State Councils.

The Constitution very clearly states here in Article 168 that:

“(1) For every State ... two Houses;” ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Kindly read Article 169.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: This is published in 2005. Subsequently, Andhra Pradesh was added later on when the UPA came to power. Of course, in Jammu & Kashmir, a bicameral system is there. ...(*Interruptions*) All that I intend to say is that during the British period some major provinces, namely, Bengal Province, Bombay Province, Madras Province, Punjab Province, United Province, Central Province were there. Of course, Punjab was divided later on. So, there was bicameral system.

When the Constitution was framed and after the Constitution was framed, especially, after 1967, the trend was to abolish the Councils. I will be dealing with two or three points relating to abolishing Council, this is, how the Tamil Nadu Council was abolished; how the Punjab Council was abolished; and how the Central Province Council was abolished. ...(*Interruptions*) The Council was also abolished in Bengal during Shri Ajoy Mukherjee's

tenure when Shri Jyoti Basu was the Deputy Chief Minister. Consciously, many other States ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Chennai North): It was not abolished as a policy, but it was done for certain reasons.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: There were many other States that consciously did not adopt bicameral system in the State. That provision was there. It depends on the State, and Centre's involvement in the formation of Council is very little. The Centre does not pay a single penny. All expenditure will be borne by the State exchequer.

But I remember Mr. Varkala Radhakrishnan who is no more with us here inside this House nor is there in Varkala. He met with a serious accident, and some weeks back the hon. Speaker also read out the obituary. What he said strikes me even today. It is ringing in my ears. I think many Members will be remembering him. Why should this Parliament become a rubber stamp and pass whatever is decided in the State Assembly? That is why, I would urge upon the Government that the suggestion which was given ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: When you are opposing it, where is the question of this Parliament becoming a rubber stamp? We are supporting it, and you are opposing it.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: A democratically elected State Government passed a resolution.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: You have misunderstood me. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: I do not know why you are opposing him. Is there anything unparliamentary in what he has said? Let him have his say. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: He is speaking against the Constitution.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: That is what I am saying. This House, this Parliament, can only change the Constitution. The suggestion which was given by Shri Shah Nawaz Hussain, now the time has come, let us decide, and it has to come from the Government. Let us leave it to the Assembly. Let the Assembly decide it. Why do they have to get the sanction of the Parliament? Tomorrow, in 2011, if not in September/October, 2010, if the nomenclature of Tamil Nadu Assembly changes ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: It would not change.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I said, 'If it changes'. There is a great 'if'. If it changes, and that House again passes a resolution to abolish the Council, again we will be deliberating on it. It may not get passed, but the relations between the Centre and the State will become serious. There is a history behind it, especially in Tamil Nadu.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahtab, please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: The Legislative Council in Tamil Nadu has got a chequered history. On 26th July, 1996, the Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a resolution for creation of a Legislative Council. The Bill was brought in 1997. A Bill was introduced for creation of a Legislative council in the State of Punjab and also Tamil Nadu Assembly, in Lok Sabha, on 14th August, 1997. This is not the first time, but the Bill lapsed on the dissolution of the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Again, the Tamil Nadu Assembly passed another resolution on 12th September, 2001 when AIADMK was in power rescinding its earlier resolution dated 26th July, 1996. Again, on 12th April, 2010, the Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed a resolution and now we are deliberating it. With the change of the Government, the decision is changing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Chairman Sir, Members are present here in good number since morning. I think that the Members from AIDMK Party must speak on the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have just now called out Shri Thambidurai.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Therefore, I would urge let wise counsel prevail on everyone. Let not the Parliament become a rubber stamp of a decision ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Parliament is not a rubber stamp. Kindly do not say that. Earlier, you said that we should give respect to the States' opinion, now you are talking the other way.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I think the Home Minister is capable enough to deliberate on this issue. But this is my suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Narayanasamy Ji, Mr. Mahtab is expressing his views.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: It is a waste of money. If the respective States are willing to spend that money for that purpose, it is welcome. I will give one last instance. In Orissa, the same situation had arisen. People said that literate people, educationists, scientists, etc., are not getting elected to the Assembly. The onus, at that time, was left to the Congress leadership. They saw to it that educated people, scientists, people from different spheres in legal profession saw to it that they should get elected to the Assembly. There was no need that we have to accommodate them in the Council. Where the leadership is failing, there a Council is being erected. This is what I wanted to say. With these words, I conclude my speech.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to say a few words about this Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Bill. On behalf of my AIADMK Party, I oppose this Bill.

The hurry with which it is brought forward imputes ulterior motives behind this Motion. My Party founder leader Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR brought the Resolution in Tamil Nadu Assembly in 1986 and abolished the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council with a good intention of removing the symbol of British rule in this country.

I want to bring to the notice of the House what Dr. Ambedkarji said about this Council. I quote: "All that we are doing by this Constitution is to introduce the Second Chamber purely as an experimental measure. We have not, by the draft Constitution, given the Second Chamber a permanent place. We have not made it a permanent one; we have not made it a permanent part of our Constitution. It is purely an experimental measure, as I said, and there is sufficient provision in the present Article for getting rid of the Second Chamber." Dr. Ambedkarji, knowing the recent developments at that time, said that the Second Chamber was not necessary and that should be there only on an experimental basis. That is why, most of the States abolished the Legislative Council. In the same way, our leader Dr. MGR, during his period, abolished the Council.

Even the Inter-State Sub-Committee on Sarkaria Commission, in its meeting reiterated that the Upper House should be removed from all the States. That is what they said. What the hon. Member has said is that by having the Upper Chamber, we can accommodate eminent people, educationists, lawyers, engineers, teachers etc. I want to say that I was also a teacher in the Guindy Engineering College. Everybody knows that. I contested the election in 1984 December as a candidate and I got

elected. Why I am telling this is that nowadays elections are fought on the party lines. People are voting for the parties and the leaders. We can take the example of Dr. Shashi Tharoor. He is also an eminent man. He had served in the UN for many years but he has been elected from Thiruvananthapuram. How has he got elected? I am saying that eminent people can be elected and come to the elected House. There are so many ways. The party is giving the ticket. If they want, they can come. What is the necessity of having the second Chamber? The Upper Chamber may be for upper caste people. People who could not come directly, they can use this backdoor method. That is why, the Council was abolished.

The hon. Member has explained the history of how one party is abolishing and another party is reviving and once again the abolition is taking place. That is what happened. The Tamil Nadu Legislative Council was abolished with effect from 1st November, 1986. Afterwards, on 20.2.1989, in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, the DMK Party passed a Resolution reviving the Legislative Council. However, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed another Resolution on 12th September, 2001 rescinding its earlier Resolution. Earlier this was in 1989 and then this was nullified by another Resolution of 4.10.1991. Then again on 26th July, 1996, the DMK Party in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a Resolution for the creation of the Legislative Council in the State of Tamil Nadu. When we came to power, our Madam felt that it was not necessary and she passed once again a Resolution not to revive this. This is the way every thing happened so far.

In 2006, in their party manifesto, they wanted to revive the Legislative Council. For the last four years, what have they done? Four years have lapsed, they have not taken any steps. Now, what is the urgency in bringing this kind of Bill? Let them explain. ...(*Interruptions*) Hon'ble Member I had just now read the DMK manifesto, 2006 – four years have lapsed. They have not taken any action. They slept over it ...(*Interruptions*) Suddenly, What is their idea behind bringing in the Second Chamber? ...(*Interruptions*) They wanted to help certain people because elections are going to come, either in November, 2010 or sometime in 2011. In that elections, what is going to happen? Once again, my leader, *Puratchi Thalaivi* is going to win the elections. Once again, we are going to pass the Resolution in the Assembly to abolish this Council. This is going to happen. ...(*Interruptions*)

Hon. Member stated that they wanted two Chambers, as we have – Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Two

Chambers are for the federal set up. We are having different culture, different linguistic set up and for that purpose, we have two Chambers. The situations changed later and States were carved out on linguistic basis. Then, what is the necessity of having one more Chamber in the State? That is why, there is an opinion that only one House is necessary. There is no necessity of two Houses. Having two Houses would not help. Even managing one House is a difficult proposition. Managing the second House would create another problem! Therefore, second House is not necessary. Only one House is enough through which we can do service to the people.

Another important matter is that one hon. Member stated about the teachers' constituency and graduates' constituency. This would take us to old days, the British period, when we had voting rights for selected people. Based on the taxes paid, voting rights were given during the British period. Others were deprived of voting rights. What would happen when we revive the Council? Why are the teachers given second vote? Why are the graduates given second vote? Is this the way to discriminate? Like any ordinary man, teachers can contest and have representation in even the elected bodies. Why should we adopt the method of graduates having two votes whereas, ordinary citizen is given only one vote? Is this democracy? Why should there be discrimination and go back to the old days? Why should teachers be given the priority? This is a retrograde step. Election in Tamil Nadu is coming. Therefore, to satisfy certain sections of people only, they are bringing the Legislative Council. It will not help any other person.

Another thing is, we are having Planning Commission and other bodies to bring in eminent people – a defeated person is already occupying the post of Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission in Tamil Nadu. The Government can bring eminent persons in the Planning Commission and use their intelligence. What is the necessity to create Council for that purpose? That is the reason why I fully oppose this. This is a very retrograde step.

SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR (Parbhani): On behalf of my Shiv Sena Party, I am supporting the Bill. Hence, this Bill should be passed on the floor of the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): Mr. Chairman Sir, I strongly support the Bill presented in the House regarding creation of Tamil Nadu upper House. Upper and lower

Houses are part and parcel of democracy. Neither of the Houses should be abolished. I agree with the views of Shri Shahnawaz ji. Proposals should be forwarded here for creation of Upper House from such states which have no upper House so that democracy, could function properly, but I would also like to suggest Baalu ji that he should not take its credit alone because I am here. Lalu and Baalu. It is not that only your party is there ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you removing *aaloo*.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: *Aaloo* is another thing. What I am saying, Baalu and Lalu.

[Translation]

Mulayam Singh ji and others are with us. Now you should pass it since we all are fatigued.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please pass this Bill but instruct them for its compliance. The objective for creation of the Upper House was to nominate educationists, scientists and other such eminent persons from different fields who cannot be elected to this House. The fact is this that I hail from Uttar Pradesh, there all politicians are nominated to the Upper House. You should ensure that such objective is achieved. I want that this Bill should be passed at the earliest.

[English]

*SHRI P. LINGAM (Tenkasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on behalf of the Communist Party of India on the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Bill, 2010. I oppose this Bill.

I fail to understand the reason behind this move to revive the Legislative Council in Tamil Nadu which was abolished 24 years back. It was stated that a promise on the similar lines was given to the people of Tamil Nadu in the Election Manifesto during the Assembly Elections of 2006. I would like to ask of them whether they have fulfilled every other assurance that was given then. More than 8 districts in Tamil Nadu are reeling under severe drought conditions due to the failure of North East Monsoon. I would like to point out that this would greatly dent the Exchequer worsening the financial situation

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

causing great concern to all concerned. Our nation is already witnessing the fall in agricultural production and our industrial production too.

Legislative Council is unnecessary. Most of the States in the country do not have a second Chamber in their Legislative bodies. After making two unsuccessful efforts to revive the abolished Council, the present Government there makes an attempt again now. This move smacks of politics and will only be leading to further the confused state of politics there. The Upper House in a democratic set up is like sidelining the House comprising people's representatives. So we are not for a bicameral legislative set up. Eminent scholars and intellectuals would prefer to come only to the Upper House and may not choose to contest public election and come to the House of people's representatives is fallacious an argument. Only those who have understood the problems facing the people and only those who have felt the pulse of the people interacting with them directly can serve the people better as people's representatives. The elite alone remaining in an Upper House cannot uplift the country.

Legislative Council is a needless one. We do not want it. This Bill has been brought in haste. I do not know whether a proper method, as per the laid down practice and procedure, has been followed. This was introduced and is now passed within a day and informed as an item in the Supplementary List of Business today. I even feel like asking whether rules permit to pass it today itself. Hence I urge upon the Government to drop the move to revive the Legislative Council in Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

SHRI S.D. SHARIQ (Baramulla): Sir, I am grateful to you the main issue is this that legislative council should be constituted in Tamil Nadu. This is the main issue and not the issue of leadership, but as far as the broad base of Indian constitution is concerned, this Bill has been passed by the concerned state legislative assembly and not by the Parliament. The concerned state assembly as respected the will of people. The elected representatives of the state assembly have forwarded the will people of the Government of India and it has been conveyed to the Parliament. We should not have any objection in this regard. Why should we object, if the people have desired so? If we do not honor the will of assemblies and people in a federal system, then such system will come to an end. Therefore, we should honor their will. It is their choice, that they want it. What is the problem? It is their concern whether it is beneficial for people or not. This is

for them to decide. It is not for us to do anything in this regard. We have been communicated that they would do this and as an apex body. Parliament should convey the message that we are doing this. Hence, I support this Bill.

19.00 hrs.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you. I strongly support the Bill presented here regarding the constitution of Legislative Council in Tamil Nadu. But I also agree with the issue raised by Hussain Saheb. It is necessary to make efforts for the constitution of Legislative council in the states where such House does not exist. I would like to submit that the Assam Legislative Assembly had Government of India a few years ago. I would like to know from the Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Law and Justice as to what action has been taken as on date on the proposal by Assembly ... (*Interruptions*) There is need to bring changes in the representation method.

I would like to tell you about a very serious issue.

[*English*]

There are some States in India where the indigenous Bodo people have been languishing like anything without getting any scope to represent themselves into their respective State Assemblies. Take for example, West Bengal. In North Bengal Bodo people could send some representatives to the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal in the early part of post-Independence era. Even the first MP from Talpaiguri was a Bodo since that time. Bodo population started decreasing, Bodo people could not send their representatives neither to Parliament nor to the West Bengal Assembly. So is the case with the Bodo people living either in Meghalaya or Nagaland.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

Now Hon. Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Earlier MLA from Bodo community got elected from Dimapur constituency of Nagaland. But today not a single Bodo person is elected to the Nagaland Assembly. Therefore, provision should be made to nominate representatives of the Bodo community to the legislative council, so that their community could be adequately

represented because there people cannot get elected to the legislative assembly.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Nothing will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Hon. Chairman, I am quite thankful to all the hon. Members for having extended overwhelming support to this Bill. I also note some of the dissenting voices, rightly so, setting out the justifications of their own. In fact, Shri T.R. Baalu, the hon. Member has said that it is a part of the manifesto of 2006.

In a democracy, the political will of the people is always reflected by the Party which comes to power with majority. While implementing the assurances given in the manifesto you are acknowledging the mandate, respecting the aspirations of the people. Of course, there are political Parties, I do not want to single out, which remember the manifesto assurances from one election to another election. That is another part but it is not a model or an exemplary method by which the mandate of the people will be recognized. Ours is a rainbow democracy. As a country, we have the States with diversities. I do not want to expand my argument but I want to say one thing that particularly after the incorporation of the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution, the federal concept has changed. There are three Governments, namely, Centre, State and District Administration – the Panchayati Raj. So, naturally, we have made provision in this that there will be representatives who are elected from the Panchayats. This is the recognition of that fact. I would rather say that the existence of a Legislative Council got all the more prominence particularly after the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution of India. I do not want to deal much with that but of course, our hon. Member, Shri Shahnawaz Hussain, has a point when he asked why do we not ask all the States to have Legislative Councils. We have no objections but the Constitution does not mandate that. If you go through article 169, it is very clear when it says that the option is given to the States. It says:

“Notwithstanding anything in article 168, Parliament may by law provide for the abolition of the Legislative Council of a State having such a Council or for the creation of such a Council in a State having no such

*Not recorded.

Council, if the Legislative Assembly of the State passes a resolution to that effect by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting.”

So unless we amend the Constitution, the Parliament or the Central Government cannot request like any other thing to send a proposal for creation of Legislative Council. So it is very clear.

It was also reflected in the debate that Punjab has sent a resolution and Assam has also sent a resolution but you have not done it. These questions were raised by some of the hon. Members. The State Government of Punjab *vide* its letter dated 18.9.2002 stated that in view of small area of the State and the financial implications involved, there is no need for the revival of the Legislative Council in the State. That is the last letter and we have not got any reminder or any fresh resolution. So, how do we grant it? This is the wish of the State Assembly. Insofar as Assam is concerned, the State Government of Assam did not respond to the reminder given to it by the Legislative Department seeking the incumbent Government's view on the proposal and hence the Central Government did not pursue the proposal further. We have sent reminders but they did not respond. It means to say that they did not want to create a Legislative Council. As on today, except the proposal from the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu, we do not have any other resolution of any other State Assembly for the creation of the Legislative Council. There is no question of discriminating between one State to another.

Now on a high pedestal of principle, hon. Member, Shri Mahtab raised some questions and I do agree with him. But what has happened? Why was it abolished? I am not going to give any motive or anything. But it is not in response to what you said on principle. If a decision has been taken by any Legislative Assembly or a State Government purely on personal and political reasons, can you cover it by a principle?

That is the question. I do not want to expand this argument. These decisions, sometimes some political parties does it and the idea is to take a negative decision. Decisions in regard to institutions of democratic set up of the country will have to be taken not on political and personal reasons but on principled reasons. If the entire Parliament feels...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister complete his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Sir, I am going to answer everyone.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister may continue his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Sir, I have a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister is not yielding.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Kindly take your seat. The Minister is not yielding...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, I am here to tell him. Why are you taking the trouble?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. SAMPATH: Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister is not yielding and I have not allowed you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under what rule are you raising the point of order?

SHRI A. SAMPATH: Sir, I will come to the rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, you may ask him to first quote the rule ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. SAMPATH: Sir, please allow me to raise the point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may first tell me under what rule you are raising the point of order...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. SAMPATH: Sir, if the House has more than one Chairman, then what can I do? It seems that there

are quite a number of hon. Members who are trying to become the Chairman. I can only obey ruling of the Chair...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You just now saw that I even objected to the hon. Minister. I am only asking you under what rule you are raising this point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing this. It is not a point of order. The hon. Minister will continue. The House runs with some decency and decorum. There should not be too much of insistence. It does not look nice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Sir, I would like to say that these debates have gone on. The Tamil Nadu Legislative Council was in existence even earlier to the Constituent Assembly coming into existence. So, it was there earlier. If we today call it a colonial symbol, then we are very much reflecting on the aspirations of the Founders of our Constitution...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Thambidurai, let the hon. Minister complete his speech. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Are they going to bring Bill against the Rajya Sabha?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Dr. Thambidurai and Shri Baalu it is better to remain quiet.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Our very experienced and veteran parliamentarian Dr. Thambidurai knows it very well. But sometimes you say that we have political compulsions to bring this. But I do not say that you have a political compulsion to speak on the floor of the House. I do not say that...*(Interruptions)* As a former Deputy-Speaker of the Lok Sabha and even now carrying on with the same legacy and tradition by being in the panel of Chairman in the House, I think, you should have appreciated my departure. You can one day come to my chamber on an experimental basis. I will show that after I became the Law Minister, we have drafted 778 Bills. If a Bill comes in the morning from any administrative

Ministry, by 12 midnight or 1 a.m., the Bill will be ready. ...*(Interruptions)* You know me very well, Dr. Thambidurai. The hon. senior Member of this House, Dr. Thambidurai knows me very well since 35 years. He does not know me just today. You also know that I believe in a principle that when I can run, why should I walk. This is my wise principle. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not want to explain further.

There are two things I would like to say today to this august House. Dr. Ambedkar was the greatest democrat maybe in the world. He is the best founder of the Constitution. Are we doubting his wisdom? He has very clearly said it. In recognition of the federal concept of the representatives, he only said one thing. You quoted only one or two subsequent sentences. But he clearly said:

"The question of whether to have a second Chamber in the provinces or not was discussed by the Provincial Constitution Committee, which was appointed by this House. The decision of that Committee was that this was a matter which should be left to the decision of each province concerned. If any particular province decided to have a second Chamber, it should be allowed to have a second Chamber; and if any particular province did not want a second Chamber, a second Chamber should not be imposed upon it."

It is very clear. This is the substantive portion of his speech.

Another question also came up again before the Sarkaria Commission. With the passing of time, the Sarkaria Commission could have decided otherwise. They have said as follows in paragraph 2.33.06.

"2.33.06. We would recommend that when a resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State for abolition or creation of a Legislative Council in the State is received, the President shall cause the Resolution to be placed, within a reasonable time, before Parliament together with comments of the Union Government. Parliament may thereupon by a simple majority of the members present and voting declare that they adopt or reject the request contained in the Resolution. If the Resolution is so adopted by Parliament, the Union Government shall introduce the necessary legislation in Parliament for implementation of the Resolution. If necessary, Article 169 may be amended to provide for this procedure."

*Not recorded.

The only thing which the Government at that time had not accepted is that the reference will have to come to the President through the Parliament. Otherwise, 100 per cent, the Sarkaria Commission has put a full stop on this Bill. After all, we have to believe in some institutional arrangement to further the cause of democracy and nurture democracy. When the Constituent Assembly decided on this, Dr. Ambedkar endorsed it and Sarkaria Commission has also endorsed all this. At this point of time, to say that the Council should not be created is not correct.

I would like to say one thing. In Karnataka, there is a Council. Many a time, it is inconvenient to us irrespective of the party in power. But at no point of time, either in Karnataka or anywhere in the country, Congress has chosen to abolish it. At no time, we have done it because we recognize this as an important and a unique parliamentary institution.

I think, to say here that Parliament should not be used as a rubber stamp to do that is not well within the boundaries of the democratic principles which we have been practising.

With these words, I commend the Bill for the acceptance of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up the motion for consideration.

The question is:

“That the Bill to provide for the creation of Legislative Council for the State of Tamil Nadu and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Sir, we are not convinced with the reply of the hon. Minister. So, in protest, we are walking out....*(Interruptions)*

19.15 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. M. Thambidurai, Shri A. Sampath and some other hon. Members left the House

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

“That clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

19.21 hrs.

LAND PORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA BILL, 2009

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up item no. 21.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): On behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to provide for the establishment of the Land Ports Authority of India for the development and management of facilities for cross border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders of India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

The Land Ports Authority of India Bill 2009 as introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7th August, 2009 was referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for its examination and

Report. The Committee considered the Bill and presented its Report to the Lok Sabha on 22nd February, 2010 and to the Rajya Sabha on 24th February, 2010.

The amendments recommended by the DRSC in the Bill have been duly considered. We have accommodated almost all the recommendations. Whichever recommendations that have not been adjusted in the Act, we will try to provide for that in the rules.

With this, I would request the House that the Bill be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to provide for the establishment of the Land Ports Authority of India for the development and management of facilities for cross border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders of India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

19.23 hrs.

[DR. M. THAMBIDURAI *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is tried and wants that this Bill be passed quickly. But when anything is passed in this House, it is done after debating this issue in detail. But I have certain concerns about it and these concerns are because I am an inhabitant of Bihar and a Member of Parliament from Jharkhand Hon'ble Lalu Ji is not present now. I respect him a lot, yesterday he had lost his temper on our some remarks. The demography of this country is changing, you and the entire country are concerned about it they want to set up a super — regulator hon'ble Salman Khursheed is present here, the way he tried to set up competition commission, in the same way they have introduced the land ports Authority of India Bill. Under it they want to set up check — posts, in which they want to cover Nepal, Bhutan, China border and also J & K border. But trade and commerce is not their subject as it has been introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs, had this Bill been introduced by the commerce Ministry we could have understood its motive that trade and commerce are involved in it. What type of border these are? We know that in Khandhar hijacking, some people entered Nepal through border and they hijacked the plane

there. That border is open border. They want to set up a system like GMR, you say that they are creating infrastructure as GMR is doing. GMR is able to create infrastructure because people use the air services form Delhi Airport as they have passports, they are passport holders, but the border we want to open for trade is an open border and it comes under the border management by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Nobody knows at which point the border of Nepal, border of Bangladesh, border of Jammu & Kashmir, border of Bhutan end. If we go to Rajasthan, Jammu all borders are open and there they are trying to make 13-14 points initially. But I am saying that Kandhar hijacking was executed through Nepal Kasab also came, after that their target is ports. They will go to ports after the land. Our port at Pakistan border is also open.

I like to bring certain things in your Notice, the article is published:

[*English*]

“Jammu and Kashmir: Border trade money used to fund terrorists, claim police.”

[*Translation*]

We are not saying this.

[*English*]

“On October 4, 2009, Police Station Sadar in Srinagar received a docket to the effect that an active member of LeT Mushtaq Ahmed Lone of Budgam, with the help of his associates Pakistani militant commander Furqan and a local terrorist Mehmood Ahmad Dar of Kulgam — who have been in PoK for last 18 years, are sending trade items and grains through a firm Sartaj Traders in Purkhoo area of Jammu City, they said.

The amount of Rs. 13,85,000 obtained from selling these items was distributed among LeT terrorists and their associates to spread terrorist activities in Valley, they said.”

[*Translation*]

I am not saying this, rather this is what police saying about the ongoing trade. Further the police have said that:

[English]

“Goods worth Rs. 272.13 crore have traded *via* two LoC cross points of Salamabad and Chakan-da-Bagh in Baramulla and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir since October 21, 2008 when the cross border trade between J&K and PoK was started.

While goods worth Rs. 160.21 crore were brought from PoK, those worth Rs. 111.92 crore were sent from J&K during the period, they said.”

[Translation]

This is what Srinagar Police is saying about this. My concern is that they are trying to create a super regulator, because when we go to Nepal or Bhutan, we do not need passports. Hon'ble Shahnawaz Ji once used to be a Member of Parliament from Kishanganj, Asararul Haq Saheb is also there, people come here from the other side of the river, they pull riksha in Kishanganj town and return Bangladesh in the evening. A few days ago it was being debated in the House that the issue of infiltration from Bangladesh is not related to communalism, but this issue is related to employment. This issue is related to our security if we'll not carry out proper border management and not carry out fencing of the border, this issue is not likely to be resolved because demographic change is taking place in the border districts of Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Pak Border.

They have set up a North East Development Financial corporations Bhutan, whose chairman is Shri K.N. Hazarika is saying that.

[English]

“Tight security is necessary to boost trade relation with Bhutan,” Hazarika said while speaking at an interactive seminar on ‘Enhancing Trade Relation between Bhutan and North East India’ here.”

[Translation]

I just want to say that it does not matter who is present where whether people from Bhutan are present or people from Nepal are present rather what matters most is the mechanism we have for maintaining security? What is the role of customs immigration. What is the role of Military deployed at the border? They are trying to make something by taking something from here and there, what is their right over the state police? When hon'ble

Chidambaram was Finance Minister, he was looking the SEZ in which goods were going from DTA to EOU, EOU to DTA then he set up SEZ authority and said that a nodal officer will look the SEZ. Has revenue loss not taken place there? Have people not committed theft there? Chidambaram Saheb your papers are with one in which you have made such allegation against several companies. Similarly he is setting up Land and Port Authority, how they will control customs under it? How BSF will be controlled, CRPF and passport related matters will be controlled? Because there is no passport there. Their condition is not like GMR. Border is open there, those who want to go Nepal, go there. It was the concept of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji who put forward in 2003 after that committee of secretaries was constituted. Director, IB himself has questioned it. I do not know whether the concern of Director, IB has been addressed or not? He says:

[English]

“We are very acutely aware of the need for adequate security measures at each and every land check post. I may refer to the trade posts in Jammu and Kashmir, *i.e.* Kaman and Chakandabad. You are very right, Sir, we are always on the watch that in the garb of trade whether militants from across would try to infiltrate weapons, ammunition and other items to aid the terrorists who are already in our country.”

[Translation]

Director is speaking this even today, I am not saying this. If you look even Foreign Secretary is saying that it is right that Home Ministry is doing it, the Government is doing it but there is a need of lots of amendment in it. First of all Border Road Organisation has to construct roads, set up fences there. I think their effort may be good, we may be supporters. It was the concept of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji who put forward it in the year 2003, they have brought it after seven years. Unless security concerns are addressed the Land Port Authority Bill will not succeed.

With this I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those hon. Members who have written speeches can lay them on the Table of the House and they will form part of the proceedings. I request other Members to make their points in brief.

*SHRI PREM DAS RAI (Sikkim): I support this Bill. For far too long the land trade routes have been stymied because of the uncertain relations we have with our neighbours. It has been so since 1962 and prior to that in many parts of North East India. In a globalized world this is absolutely untenable.

We have to take advantage of the scale of savings in terms of cost and opportunity that arises if we start looking at our land routes which have but been underperforming tremendously. In fact a lot of what we term as un-official trade goes on which is many times the amount shown as official through the huge number of trade points. It is therefore important that this Bill is given effect and the Land Ports Authority of India is constituted at an early date. This will both boost trade and also serve to help the North Eastern people get more livelihoods and build entrepreneurship which has been curtailed due to the landlocked nature of the States. This is behind the spirit of the Look East Policy that the Government of India has initiated with great fanfare.

I would like to remind that on 6th July, 2006 the Nathula border trade was re-opened after a gap of 44 years. The Nathula trade route was closed after the 1962 war with China. Sikkim was then a sovereign country and only in 1975 did the people of Sikkim seek to join the Indian Union as the 22nd State of India.

The Nathula trade route has been doing some small business and as I understand it is picking up. Most recently this month the route has been reopened after the winter hibernation period.

However, I would like to bring the following to the notice of this august House:

1. Proper infrastructure in terms of linkage by road. The road is being prepared on a war footing. Hopefully it will be completed on time.
2. The trade mart at Sherathan is being upgraded by our State Government.
3. The trade items are but very scarce and inappropriate for doing any meaningful business—only 29 items of export and 15 items of import.
4. There is a strong demand from the business people of Sikkim to expand the list of items.

5. There is a strong demand from the tourism sector to expand this route to a full fledged port from where people can go and visit Tibet by taking on the spot visas. This would enable the answer to a long standing demand from people who have relatives on the other side of the border. Sikkim has had, historically, very strong ties with Tibet.

So we welcome this Authority which will see to it that a land port is set up and formal trade and exchanges of people for pilgrimage and tourism purposes is started.

With these few words, I conclude.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity and I support the Land Ports Authority of India Bill, 2009.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the hon. Home Minister and his team. They have done a good job by bringing this Bill. There are a lot of Entry and Exit Points on the international borders of our country. My friend has just mentioned about the Northern and Western borders of our country. He has, of course, briefly mentioned about the North East also. Since I come from Manipur, we have got long international borders on all sides like Indo-Myanmar border and Indo-Bangladesh border. We have got some Trade Centres there. They are Jekhawthar in Mizoram, Moreh in Manipur, Pangsha in Nagaland, Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh and Nathula Pass in Sikkim. We have been there quite often to these places and the situation there is quite awful. A lot of persons move across these border posts and a lot of goods are also moved across the borders. So, we have to manage our borders properly.

Sir, the most important thing is, good border management is mandated by the country's security concerns. Unless we have a good border management, it is very difficult to check infiltration. The important part of this Bill is the proposed establishment of Integrated Check Posts having all the modern facilities. First of all, these areas are to be sanitized. The modern facilities to be provided include dedicated passenger and cargo terminals, customs and immigration facilities, security and scanning equipment, health check-up facilities, duty-free shops and other passenger amenities. The passenger amenities include restaurants, parking space, and dormitory for drivers etc. The Bill proposes to establish the Land Ports Authority of India to undertake the construction and maintenance of Integrated Check Posts.

I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill and I wish that this Bill is passed unanimously by the House. I, once again, would like to repeat that good border management is mandated by the country's security concerns.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate on Land Ports Authority of India, Bill, 2009. Shri Nishikant Ji was speaking on this Bill a short while ago. If we think about it in the right perspective, it relates to the integrity and unity of our country as to how we can secure the border of our country and indulge in transportation and trading of goods across the borders. So far as the international borders of the country are concerned. ...(*Interruptions*) The Government is establishing integrated check posts with all the modern facilities and passenger amenities at the international borders. It is a very good thing. This Bill provides for facilities including dedicated passenger and cargo terminals, customs and immigration facilities, health check-up facilities, other passenger amenities including waiting rooms, restaurants, rest-room, parking space, clock rooms, dormitories for drivers and fuel.

Sir, it has been said that the Chairman of this Authority would be a person having knowledge and experience of transport, industry, commerce, law, finance and public administration. I think that a person cannot be so much experienced and an expert of all fields so as to look into all the matters. So I think there should be a provision of Co-chairman in this Bill. One person cannot be an expert of so many subjects. So our main objective of Land Ports Authority of India Bill, 2009 would be achieved only if experts from various fields are made members and one of them is made Chairman.

With these words I support the Land Ports Authority of India Bill, 2009 and conclude my speech.

[*English*]

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Attingal): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I understand that The Land Ports Authority of India Bill, 2009, has been elaborately discussed in the Standing Committee of Home Affairs. The clause 3 of the Bill provides for creation of The Land Ports Authority of India. So, I understand that this is following the footsteps of the Airports Authority.

Sir, my humble submission is that this Land Ports Authority shall not be a *modus operandi* for privatization. When we go through clause 11, Chapter 3 of the Bill, we find it very vast and comprehensive and we understand that it needs not only the cooperation but the participation of the State Governments. But what I understand is that only three State Governments have given their suggestions or recommendations regarding this Bill.

Sir, about 13 integrated check posts are going to be established. These 13 integrated check posts will be in the States of Bihar, Punjab, West Bengal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. Here, we should proceed very cautiously because the porous landlocked borders with Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar are very sensitive and most of the border that we have with China is not demarcated, the largest area remains demarcated. So, it is advisable to have more consultation and to seek more cooperation and participation of the State Governments concerned because many of our refrained borders have become the haven of illegal activities, illegal arms trade, flushing of people, fake currency, human trafficking, etc.

With your permission, Sir, I would like to say that recently in a newspaper called *Sunday Guardian* of May 2nd, there was a news item.

In that news item, one of the hon. Ministers of State has made a statement. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister wants to say something.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Sampath, it is not correct. The Minister concerned has issued a statement denying that newspaper report. He has categorically denied it, and that copy has been made available to the Presiding Officer of the other House. Do not make that allegation. He has categorically denied it.

SHRI A. SAMPATH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would accept what the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has stated in the House. I will be one of the happiest persons if that denial is true. I believe in truth; and always the truth shall prevail; *Satyameva Jayate*. So, I will accept whatever the Minister of Home Affairs has stated. I believe it.

I would like to bring to your notice another matter which is very important. Recently, in the State of West

Bengal, in the district of Cooch Behar, there was indiscriminate firing by the BSF people thereby killing a very old lady along with a child. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly try to conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. SAMPATH: Sir, let me utilize my time; you have to protect me. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. SAMPATH: More facilities have to be provided for movement of goods as well as people because we want people-to-people relation; we want very good relation with our neighbouring countries. One integrated check-post has to be established in the Into-Bhutan border also especially in a place called Jaigaon. We need one check-post there. We want more integrated check-posts along our border.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir for giving me this opportunity. I welcome the Land Ports Authority of India Bill as it envisages unifying the various functions now performed by different agencies which are nevertheless inadequate.

It is an independent Authority. It should be an independent authority. The Authority is entrusted with the task of developing and managing facilities for cross-border movement of passengers and goods at designated points.

Clause 19 of the proposed Bill empowers the Authority to levy fees or rent for the cargo handling, warehousing, parking of trucks, parking of passenger vehicles, and other amenities etc. But the authority determines levying of fees or rent with the previous approval of the Central Government. I think this is obnoxious. It undermines the independent nature of the Authority. So, I suggest that the expression 'with the previous approval of the Central Government' in clause 19 of the Bill may be deleted to give unfettered power to the Land Ports Authority.

Then I come to Clause 7 of the Bill. It provides for the re-appointment of members to the Authority inasmuch as the term of a whole-time member is for a period of five years or till he or she attains the age of sixty years. I feel there is no need for the re-appointment of the whole-time member again to the Authority. It is because, I think it will create vested interest. Hence I would request the hon. Minister that Clause 7, enabling for re-appointment of a member for another successive term, be deleted.

On the whole, I welcome the Bill as it provides additional and centralized power to the Land Ports Authority to keep constant vigil and set up security measures.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to support this Bill.

There are several designated entry and exit points on the international borders of the country. Through this, persons, goods and traffic move across each other. Integrated Check Posts are coming along both Eastern and Western international borders.

This Bill seeks to establish, as has been said by the Minister, Integrated Check Posts at entry points and exit points. I am of the view that this should be a great facilitator for trade at the border with the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan.

As has been stated here, there are seven such Posts in the Bangladesh border; four in the Nepal border; one in the Myanmar border; and one in the Pakistan border, totaling 13 land ports, but not a single one in the China border. Is it because there is no recognized international border with China or are you going to develop one in Nathula Pass?

With the changed circumstances, Sir, there is a need to boost border trade through hi-tech integrated check posts. There is a need to develop coordination among various agencies and service providers to facilitate cross border movement of goods and passenger traffic, while also addressing – this is more serious which, Shri Nishikant Babu has just mentioned during his intervention – the security concerns. Sir, it is important to put in place systems which address security imperatives but the major purpose is to facilitate trade and commerce. Here the catch lies. The European countries, at one point of

time, had built land ports in every border. There are around 17 countries. But with the European Union coming into force, most of the land ports are vanishing day after day. The Interior Ministry was the key Ministry both in Europe and also in the United States, which look after the land ports. Be it with Canada or with Mexico, the United States has land ports which are looked after by the Interior Ministry. 'Interior Ministry' means the Home Ministry in our country. So, in that respect, I fully support the view that it is the Home Ministry which has to coordinate. It is not the Trade and Commerce Ministry which should do it. It is the Home Ministry which should coordinate this aspect, and should look after it; that should be the nodal agency.

Before I conclude, I am reminded some two-and-a-half decades back, that is, around 25 years back, it was during Mrs. Gandhi's time when the SAARC concept came, seven sisters or seven countries of the Indian sub-continent. We are building borders, land ports, we are fencing our borders, and we are concerned about our security. When will the time come when we will have free borders with the SAARC countries? I would be very happy if such things happen during my lifetime. If that happens, then there will be free movement of passengers, there will be free movement of goods, and there will be free movement of traffic within the SAARC countries but we should be careful about the international border which is beyond the SAARC countries.

Sir, with these words, I support this Bill.

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Hon. Chairman Sir, this Land Ports Authority of India Bill 2009 is a good Bill and it can also be supported to some extent but I have certain apprehensions and my fear might come true. It might lead to privatization as was the case with the airports – this is the question. The Government must ensure that privatization does not take place under any circumstances.

Moreover Sir, only 13 Port Authorities have been proposed to be set up. West Bengal is almost entirely a bordering state. We have Bangladesh on the other side and Hili is the biggest commercial centre. My request to Hon. Minister would be that even if he decides to have only one integrated check post in our state, that should be the Hili checkpost. This place is very renowned and well known and should get its due.

Secondly Sir, there is a provision of acquisition of land, "under the provisions of the National Highway Act 1956 or any other law for the time being in force"- therefore it is not clearly mentioned that which department is to handle the cases of compensation for displacement arising out of land acquisition, if any, - whether the National Highway Authority will take the responsibility or any other department will take the onus is not clear. This should be kept in mind.

Thirdly, another point is about SOR; it has been said that "the authority would plan develop, construct, manage and maintain integrated check post, coordinate the functions of various agencies working at such check post and also coordinate with various ministries and departments concerned of the Government of India and the agencies for regulating the entry and exit of the passengers, goods and establish necessary service facilities". Thus whether the Port

Authority will manage everything or various other departments will work together, is not known. So there will be clash of interest and responsibilities between the former and the latter. This paradox must be seriously looked into so that there is no overlapping of duties and rights.

With these few words, I thank you for allowing me to speak on this Bill and conclude my speech.

*SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA (Gurdaspur): I thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on the Land Ports Authority of India Bill.

At the outset, I wish to thank the hon. Minister for conceiving this idea of establishment of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at entry and exit points on the international land borders to facilitate trade and commerce. The Land Ports Authority which is going to be constituted has been entrusted with the responsibility of construction, management and maintenance of these Integrated Check Posts, and I welcome this move.

For the first time, all the regulatory agencies such as immigration, customs, banking, health and quarantine facilities, dedicated passenger and cargo terminals, besides providing for various passenger amenities in a single complex and this will definitely help in boosting trade and commerce with our neighbouring countries.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bangali.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Now, I wish to highlight a few points in regard to the provisions contained in this Bill.

As regards land acquisition for these ICPS, it is provided in the Bill that any land needed by the Authority shall be deemed to be needed for a public purpose and that the Authority has the power to enter into any contract necessary for executing its duties.

In this regard, I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that around 10 acres of land was acquired by the State Government of Punjab and around 122 acres of land was acquired by the Central Government for the establishment of the Check Post at the Attari Border, of WAGAH Border and you have laid the foundation stone in February this year. We hear that the farmers were not very happy as they did not receive adequate compensation for the lands acquired from them. The per acre price for Category A land which was paid to the farmer was Rs. 30 lakh and in case of Category C land, the price paid was Rs. 14 lakh. The farmers are agitated over the fact that their fertile lands were acquired by the Government at a price which is much below the market price. It is not a question of the farmers not willing to part with their land, but it is a question of getting adequate compensation for the same.

I request the hon. Minister to look into this matter and ensure that adequate compensation is paid whenever such fertile lands are acquired by the Government.

One of the concerns expressed by the Standing Committee on Home Affairs is the private sector participation in non-sovereign functions such as opening and operating hotels, parking lots, etc. The Committee felt that this may affect the security of the country adversely. I am sure, the Government has taken all the security concerns into account. Jurisdictional issue is another point raised by the Committee, that is, when Trade and Commerce is a subject matter of the Ministry of Commerce, then how come the Ministry of Home Affairs is handling this issue. The hon. Minister may please clarify this point. In case of any dispute arising within various agencies located in this Integrated Check Posts or if a problem relating to the Land Ports Authority has to be addressed, will it be the Home Ministry which would address those problems or not is something which has to be clarified.

The presence of a multiplicity of authorities means that there should be synergy amongst these various agencies in order to accomplish the objectives. Therefore,

the jurisdiction, powers and responsibilities should be clearly demarcated.

A very important aspect that needs our highest attention along these international borders is the high incidence of smuggling of arms and ammunition and drug trafficking taking place from across the borders, especially the Golden Triangle. In this context, the management of borders acquires a high priority. There are several reports of smuggling of heroin worth several crores of rupees in the international market, and most of these smugglers are coming *via* these international borders. We all know that Terai region has become notorious for the smuggling of Fake Indian Currency Notes. Similarly along our borders with Bangladesh, we know that smuggling of rice and jute is very rampant. Therefore, these aspects also need careful handling and a sustainable mechanism should be put in place to address the security imperatives and for the prevention of these cross border crimes.

Another important point is that as part of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), we have accorded the Most Favoured Nation Status (MFNS) to Pakistan, but the same has not been reciprocated by them. As you know, on both sides of the borders, we have people who really have close relations and they want good neighbourly relations to prevail upon in this region.

Before I conclude, I would like to once again thank the hon. Minister for addressing the felt need for effective and efficient regulation of trade and commerce along the international borders by establishing this Authority and ICPs along the international borders.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Mr. Chairman Sir, I will try to give a reply to the matters raised by all the Hon'ble Members in brief.

The first question raised by the members is why the Ministry of Home Affairs has brought this Bill. Mr. Chairman Sir, we have airports as well as seaports. The airports are under the control of Ministry of Civil Aviation and the seaports are under the control of Ministry of shipping. So it is clear that when it comes to land ports, there will be movement of not only goods but also of persons, the Ministry of Home Affairs will supervise it and not the Ministry of Commerce. Hence this Bill.

Secondly, I would like to tell the Hon'ble Members that the second line of the statement of objects and reasons says

[English]

Good border management is mandated by India's security concerns.

[Translation]

We started it with public security concerns, then we conceptualized it and thus the Land Ports Authority of India came up. One more issue has been raised here as to the type of interface with the Customs and coordination with other departments? I would like to tell the Hon'ble Members and the House, through you, that the Land Ports Authority of India will be a statutory body in which these would be representatives of the Ministries of External Affairs, Railways, Defence, Departments of Commerce Revenue, Road Transport and Highways and the concerned State Governments. The Government would take proper care of all the apprehensions of the Members.

Apart from these, several other issues have been raised like the need to strengthen the Border security, etc. The work of fencing, providing flood lights, roads will go on at their pace and there will be no compromise. I would like to tell the Hon'ble Members that there is a proposal to construct 1377 kilometres of road on the Indo-Bhutan border. With these roads about 13 integrated check posts are proposed to be set up. Seven check posts are proposed to be set up in the first phase and Six check posts in the second phase. The Government will carry out all these things properly. Through you, I would request the Hon'ble Members and the House to pass this Bill.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: I want a clarification.
...(Interruptions)

If we set up land ports, hotels and restaurants, at the border, other countries will also set up such things at the Border. In such case if there is increase in the terrorist activities, which authority will check it as we are taking the initiative to set up such things? ... (Interruptions) The second point is that Nepal and Bangladesh are the biggest centres of fake currency and there is open border with these two countries and no passport is required. Any person can move across the borders of these countries. Has this check post got any authority to check fake currency?

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I would like to reiterate that, as I have said earlier setting up Land ports Authority of India and check posts does

not mean that we are strengthening our border security. There will be no softening of border security. The work of providing fencing flood light and roads will go on as usual, rather at a greater pace. In addition to these the representatives of the State Governments and the Ministry of Defence will be a part of the Land Ports Authority of India and they will take care of these concerns.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of the Land Ports Authority of India for the development and management of facilities for cross border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders of India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

Definitions

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3

Constitution of Authority

Amendments made:

Page 2, for line 32, *substitute*,—

"(b) two Members, out of which a member shall be Member (Planning and Development) and other Member shall be Member (Finance);". (4)

Page 2, line 39,—

for "of the respective State"

substitute "not below the rank of the Secretary to the Government of the respective State". (5)

Page 2, for lines 41 to 43, *substitute*,—

“(e) two representatives, one of whom shall be from recognized bodies of workers and the other shall be from traders, to be appointed by the Central Government; and”. (6)

Page 3, line 6,—

for “field of transport”

substitute “field of security, transport”. (7)

(Shri Ajay Maken)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 to 10 were added to the Bill.

Clause 11

Functions of Authority

Amendments made:

Page 4, line 30,—

for “develop and manage”

substitute “develop, sanitize and manage”. (8)

Page 4, after line 33, *insert*—

“(a) put in place systems, which address security imperatives at the integrated check posts on the border;”. (9)

Page 4, line 34,—

for “(a)”

substitute “(b)”. (10)

Page 4, line 36,—

for “(b)”

substitute “(c)”. (11)

Page 4, line 38,—

for “(c)”

substitute “(d)”. (12)

Page 4, line 43,—
for “(d)”

substitute “(e)”. (13)

Page 5, line 1,—
for “(e)”

substitute “(f)”. (14)

Page 5, line 2,—
for “(f)”

substitute “(g)”. (15)

Page 5, line 4,—
for “(g)”

substitute “(h)”. (16)

Page 5, for lines 6 to 8, *substitute*,—

“(j) make appropriate arrangements for the security of integrated check posts and provide for regulation and control of movement of vehicles, entry and exit of passengers and goods in accordance with the respective law concerning them;”. (17)

Page 5, line 9,—

for “(i)”

substitute “(j)”. (18)

Page 5, line 11,—

for “(j) regulate and control the plying of vehicles”

substitute “(k) regulate and control the movement of vehicles”. (19)

Page 5, line 15,—

for “(k)”

substitute “(l)”. (20)

Page 5, line 18,—

for “(l)”

substitute “(m)”. (21)

Page 5, line 20,—

for “(m)”

substitute “(n)”. (22)

Page 5, line 23,—

for “(n)”

substitute “(o)”. (23)

Page 5, after line 25, *insert*—

“Provided that sovereign functions of the Authority shall not be assigned to any private entity;”. (24)

Page 5, line 26,—
for “(o)”
substitute (p)”. (25)

Page 5, line 28,—
for “(p)”
substitute (q)”. (26)

(Shri Ajay Maken)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill. “

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 12

Responsibilities and Powers of other agencies

Amendment made:

Page 5, for line 44,—
after “or State police”

insert “as per the provisions of the law for the time
being in force”. (27)

(Shri Ajay Maken)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 12, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 13 to 18 were added to the Bill.

Clause 19

Power of Authority to charge fees, rent etc.

Amendment made:

Page 7, line 3, omit “with the previous approval of
the Central Government”. (28)

(Shri Ajay Maken)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 20 to 31 were added to the Bill.

Clause 32

Power of Central Government to supersede Authority

Amendment made:

Page 10, line 3,—

for “at the earliest opportunity”

substitute “in the immediate subsequent session of
Parliament”. (29)

(Shri Ajay Maken)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 32, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 32, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 33 to 37 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short title and commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 5,—

for “2009”

substitute “2010”. (3)

(Shri Ajay Maken)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

20.00 hrs.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1,-
for "sixtieth"
substitute "Sixty-first" (2)
(Shri Ajay Maken)

MR. CHAIRMAN (DR. M. THAMBIDURAI): The question is:

"That the Enacting formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*The Enacting Formula, as amended,
was added to the Bill.*

Long Title

Amendment made:

Page 1, in the Long title,-
after "the Land Ports Authority of India"
insert "to put in place systems which address
security imperatives and" (1)
(Shri Ajay Maken)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Long Title, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*The Long Title, as amended,
was added to the Bill.*

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: On behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

20.01 hrs.

**PLANTATIONS LABOUR (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2010**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):
On behalf of Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 provides for the welfare of labour and regulates the conditions of work in plantations. The welfare of the plantation workers is of utmost priority for our Government. Briefly, the Bill seeks to amend the definition of 'employer'. We have made the definition of 'employer' more broad based so as to fix the responsibility on the Managing Directors, Partners, Lessee or the officers of the Government entrusted with the management of the plantation.

The definition of 'family' has been made gender neutral to remove the distinction between the family of a male and the female worker for availing dependants' benefits. We also propose to enlarge the scope of workers by increasing the wage ceiling from Rs. 750 to as much as Rs. 10,000 per month and also to include contract workers employed in Plantations who have worked for more than 60 days in a year within the definition of the 'worker'.

The Bill seeks prohibition of employment of children below 14 years in plantations. We also propose to add a new chapter, IV-A to cover all aspects of safety and occupational health of workers working in the plantations. We sincerely hope that the proposed provisions in the Act will go a long way in providing safety and occupational health to plantation workers, who often handle the agro-chemicals, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, etc. We will impress upon the State Governments to make adequate Rules wherever necessary in this regard so as to ensure its effective implementation. This will also meet the concerns and observations of the hon. Members of the Standing Committee.

Through this Amendment Bill the State Governments will now have the power and responsibility to provide

adequate medical facilities for the workers and their families in case of default by employers and recover the cost from them. A new Section 32-C is also proposed to be inserted in order to prescribe the manner in which compensation in case of accident shall be registered by the employer with the Commissioner in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. The Amendment Bill seeks to make penal provisions more stringent for effective implementation of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951.

The Bill proposes to make provisions for any worker, an office bearer of the trade union of which such worker is a member for filing a complaint regarding the commission of an offence under this Act with a provision for providing immunity to the complainant.

With these words, I commend the Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2010, as passed by Rajya Sabha, for consideration of the hon. House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Guwahati): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity given to me. The original Bill which is being amended now through the proposed Bill, was introduced in 1951. It has got the British frame of mind to look after the interests of the owners. During that time, the owners, mostly, were Britishers. But in this present amendment Bill, although the hon. Minister has said many things, there are many things which are wanting. I feel that the hon. Minister does not spell out as to what will be the minimum wage and whether Sundays will be included as a paid day or not. Regarding the medical facilities, the hon. Minister says in the Bill that it is solely dependent upon the State Government. Today, most of the villages in the country are not having proper hospitals. That is why I feel that the Bill has got lot of lacunae.

Another point is that all the plantations should come under the subject of agriculture. There was one Question that was asked in the Rajya Sabha where the hon. Minister did not say that it will come under agriculture. All the plantations come under agriculture, trees and that is why it is a labour-oriented one. If the labourers are not given proper facilities, they cannot work properly.

You know that these are the days of globalisation. The world players are there; competition is there. If the

labourers are deprived of their due, if the labourers are not given proper amenities, proper wages etc., they cannot work properly and the plantation would be harmed and the production would be less.

According to another question, the hon. Supreme Court has suggested that there should be a minimum wage and 25 per cent of the total income should go for different facilities for the labour classes. It includes all those facilities like medical facilities, education facilities etc. But even after the directions of the hon. Supreme Court, the State Government did not care to revive it nor the labourers are given proper facilities. Sir, what is the present rate of wages? In the eastern sector, it is only Rs. 65.50. In these days of high rise of prices of the commodities, the amount of Rs. 65 is nothing.

When there is universalisation of education, you will be surprised to know that most of the workers who are working in tea gardens, rubber plantations, cinnamon plantations, they are less educated. There are very little facilities for these people. These people are not aware of what facilities are given by the Government because they have got no education at all.

Regarding the women labourers, they work just like men. But their wages are less than what the men get. This is a very surprising thing. When they work, they carry their children on their back. They toil in the rain and in the scorching heat. But they get less wages than the menfolk. In this Bill the hon. Minister does not mention anything regarding the parity of wages between men and women.

Moreover, under the NREGA scheme, the workers get Rs. 100 in the eastern region whereas the plantation workers get Rs. 65 only. The labourers in the tea gardens are not even asked to work under the NREGA schemes. Have they been invited, I think, they would have got some amount of money in the form of salary.

I urge upon the Government to form a National Wage Board for the plantation labour so that these unfortunate labourers may get justice. I welcome the move of the Government to bring this amendment Bill, but there are lot of lacunae, as I mentioned here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

It will be alright if these lacunae are set right. Though the bill was passed way back 1951, nothing has been done so far. Please tell us when you are going to do this. The Minister has not laid anything. If you can say anything on it, I will accept it because there are about 70 lakh tea garden labourers in Assam.

[English]

I think, you people never visit the area. I know their conditions personally.

Lakhs and lakhs of tea garden labourers and coffee garden workers are engaged in very hard work in their concerned field and that too in very sub-human conditions. There are no full-fledged hospitals. Although it is mentioned in the Bill that the State Government will look after it, I am very doubtful whether the State Government can carry out all these things and would be able to fulfil all the wishes mentioned in the Bill.

The hon. Minister must be aware of the fact that the present Plantation Labour Act is grossly violated by the concerned State Governments in many cases. You will be surprised to know that there is only a single person who looks after the labour and their conditions and he is the Labour Inspector. The Labour Inspector has got no car. So, he has to take car from the owner of the gardens. He gets every facility from the owner – hospitality, car and gift - and as a result, he gives his report in favour of the owner. So, the State Governments exercise their authority through this Labour Inspector. When the Labour Inspector is ineffective, who will look after all these things? Regarding their education, their health, their sanitation facility and drinking water facility, they have to depend upon the report of the Labour Inspector, who is very ineffective in every respect.

There is a provision for penalty, but the penalty is only Rs. 500. Here in the Bill, hon. Minister does not mention anything about it. If the owner of a garden refuses to give houses and provide water, sanitation and health facilities to the labourers, he will be imposed a penalty of Rs. 500. He can easily pay this penalty because if he constructs a house it will cost him Rs. 50,000. So, instead of spending Rs. 50,000 on constructing a house, the owner of a garden will pay the penalty of Rs. 500 or Rs. 5000. That is what happens.

There is no proper retirement benefit for the labourers. It is reported that the owners do not deposit the amount they deduct from the salaries of these labourers, which is very unfortunate. Sir, through you, I would request the hon. Minister to note this. The money they deduct from the salary of the labourers on account of Contributory Provident Fund, they do not deposit it. As a result, when a labourer retires, he does not get anything. There is a provision of Deposit Link Insurance Scheme also, but that scheme too is ineffective because no money is given to the labourer.

The fact is that this Plantation Labour Act is applicable only to big tea gardens and not to the smaller ones. If a big tea garden has got 500 labourers, only then this Act will be applicable to it. That is why, the unscrupulous owners of the big gardens divide their gardens into the smaller ones under different names so that they do not come under the provisions of this Act.

While concluding, I want to give some suggestions. The first one is that all the stringent measures the Minister wants to propose, should be applicable to both big and small gardens, be it a tea garden, be it a rubber garden or be it a coffee garden. There should be no disparity between men and women labourers; there should be more teeth in the Bill; the wage should be increased; there should be some provision so that the benefit is accorded to the ex-tea garden labourer also; and there should be old-age pension. I would request the Minister to take care of all these things.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. I rise to support the Plantations of Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2010, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

Sir, this is one of the major Acts enacted by the first Parliament of India. It is known that the plantation industry was established by the colonial masters in our country. The condition of the plantation workers was very bad. At that time, Pandit Nehru and the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi expressed their concern about it before Independence, and they promised that their fortune will be improved after Independence. After the formation of the first Government in 1950, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru took personal initiative to introduce the Plantation Labour Act in 1951, and that Act covered everything from schooling, hospital, working conditions, welfare of children and workers in the plantation. But I am sorry to say that despite 60 years of the Plantation Labour Act, it is becoming an old Act. It needs a total overhaul because the pattern of cultivation and the pattern of the plantation industry in our country have drastically changed. More than two million people are involved in the plantation industry, and their interest is looked after by this Plantation Act.

Here, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Labour for bringing partial amendments to the Plantation Labour Act. I suppose that this is because they have formed an Industrial Committee on Plantation, and this Committee has gone into it for two or three years and they have given a long list of amendments to this Act.

The hon. Minister has personally included some of the good amendments. I am saying this because earlier the workmen whose salary was only Rs. 750 were covered and not the other people. Now, they have increased it to Rs. 10,000. It is a welcome step.

The hon. Member from the other side had mentioned about punishment. Yes, in this Act also they have increased the amount of punishment. Earlier, it was three months and Rs. 500, and it is increased to six months jail and Rs. 10,000 fine and if necessary both can be given.

I must say that one of the major step in this amendment ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: It can be extended to Rs. One lakh.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Another major step was that earlier the employer was the poor Manager and if they prosecute the Manager, then the owner was happy because he was not concerned. Now, they have brought up to the level of Managing Director into the purview of this Act. So, I think that the real master of the plantation will be under this provision, and I think that this is a welcome step.

I must say that despite 60 years of our Independence, the plantation workers are on the mercy of the employer for their education and healthcare. I think that the Government has to think over this aspect. We have the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which is now extended to the plantation area. The tea garden workers should be fully covered under the National Health Mission. When it comes to primary education, it is at the mercy of the planters. No planter in this country thinks that providing education to the children of the plantation workers is his responsibility. They think that it is an unproductive expenditure, as far as they are concerned. The Government will have to look into this issue. The children of the plantation workers whose number is in millions should get the same treatment from the State as well as the Central Governments. I am very much hopeful that the UPA-II will take all these initiatives for improving the lot of the plantation workers.

In regard to wages, I agree with the hon. Member that there must be a National Wage Board for the plantation workers should be set up in the country. We have plantations in Assam, Tripura, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and in many other

places. There has to be a National Wage Board that would fix the wages of these workers.

Another major issue to which I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is about the rest day. After working for six days, they get a day's rest, but they do not get any wages for that rest day. In every other industry, the workers get a rest day along with wages for that day. But in the case of plantations, the worker who puts hard work for six days, he gets a rest day without any wages. The rest day has to be given with wages. The workers are getting deprived of this benefit now.

In many parts of our country, in Kerala, West Bengal, etc., when a plantation is closed, the schools and hospitals also get closed. Then, who is going to look after these people? The plantation is not like any other industry. The people who are working in these plantations are living there for generations together. Their ancestors came there two, three or four generations ago, and for them the plantation is everything. If the plantation is sick or closed, then the children would not be able to go to the school because the teacher is not there, and if a person is sick, he will not be able to go to a hospital because there is no doctor or the required medicines. The Government has to think about all these things.

The plantation workers are not living in happy conditions. Earlier, the Government of India has given subsidy for the construction of labour quarters in the plantations, but now they have stopped giving that incentive to the employers, and the employers are not taking any interest to provide housing facilities to the plantation workers, which actually is their responsibility, according to the Plantation Labour Act.

I urge upon the Government, particularly the hon. Minister, to look into this problem and try to see that the plantation workers who are living in the remotest parts of our country and who are living in very difficult conditions get the same treatment as the workers in other industries are getting. I have firm belief that the UPA Government will do this. This amendment is a good beginning. This is not the end, and when they bring another amendment, they will be completing the journey.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2010. This Bill has been brought to amend the

Original Act which was enacted in the year 1951. This Bill provides for all the gardens — tea garden, Coffee garden, rubber garden, cardamon garden and cincona garden. This Bill provides for the workers working in these gardens, their welfare and the insurance scheme for them in detail.

It provides for health, education, drinking water, housing, sanitation, looking after the children and creche and the Minister deserves congratulation for these provisions. The families of the workers and labourers have also been covered under the insurance scheme for any disability. In addition to this the Bill provides for compensation in case of accidents. It is also a very good thing.

This House is always concerned about the health of workers and keeping it in view this Bill has been presented here. It has been seen that after working for a long period the workers suffer from various diseases affecting various parts of the body like skin diseases, eczema, bronchitis, asthma etc. Apart from these diseases their noses and ears are also affected. It is a good Bill because all these things have been covered under this Bill.

It is a good thing that this Bill provides for women workers. The provision regarding six months rest after delivery of the child is good. The provision of old age pension for the workers is also good. The Minister deserves congratulation for the provision regarding the health of the workers as they suffer from malaria, dengue, meningitis filariasis and increasing the limit of Rs. 750 to Rs. 10,000/-. Child Labour was banned earlier also and it is good that this Bill also provides for ban on child labour. If we look at the record or the official figures, we find that about 100 workers die of poisonous insect bites or snake bites every year. I think that these figures should be more. Several insects or animals bite the workers and they die and their deaths are not reported. It is good that these things have also been covered under this Bill.

This Bill also covers the safety of the children and the families of the workers. I would like to demand that if the workers have got no work, then unemployment allowance should be provided to them. Some of the Members have just said that the workers do not get wages for the rest days. I demand that wages, if not full then half, should be given to them for the rest days. We can improve their living standard with these things. This Bill is meant for plantation workers. The people are

engaged growing mangoes, guavas, watermelons, amla peppermint opium etc. in my area and it would be good if such a Bill is brought to provide facilities to the said people and agricultural workers.

With these words I support the Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2010 and conclude my speech.

[English]

*SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY (Jalpaiguri): Hon. Chairman Sir, many thanks to you for allowing me to participate in this debate on Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill 2009. I rise to support this Bill in this House and want to say a few things on it. We have seen that since 1990, a new kind of scenario has emerged in the plantation sector. The Plantation Labour Act that has been enforced is not being followed religiously. Infact violation of the law has become the order of the day. The estate owners are trying to go above the rules. Therefore the basic difficulty lies in the implementation part of the Bill which has been brought before the House in 2010. if we fail to implement the law, we will achieve nothing out of it.

It has been seen in the past that the violators of law were never punished; instead they were conferred with prizes and awards, including the Padma awards. This is an irony and we should definitely ponder over this. So the work of implementation of law should be taken up very seriously.

There are numerous tea gardens in the country, particularly in West Bengal, Assam and Kerala. Most of the labourers come from SC-ST or tribal communities or even from the minority communities like Muslims. The major problem they face is that they are paid extremely low wages. It has been discussed here that these labourers get only Rs. 65 or Rs. 67 as daily wage whereas under NREGA the workers are supposed to get Rs. 100 daily. So there is gross injustice.

Secondly, the responsibility of providing medical facilities to these workers, according to the Act, is with the State Government which has to bear all the expenses. But the problem is they come in contact with pesticides and chemicals which gradually lead to addiction of drugs. Due to addition, the labourers fall ill and often suffer from mental retardation. They are also forced to take loans in order to meet their medical expenses and other

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

financial requirements in order to support their families. So who is to set up the hospitals and dispensaries? It is not possible for the State Government alone to provide healthcare facilities, particularly in the remote areas. The estate owners must also be roped in for setting up hospital chains. Infact it should be their duty to look after their employees.

Sir, I want to say that the National Wage Board should be constituted immediately to determine the wages of the workers.

Another point is that in the North Eastern States, especially in my constituency Jalpaiguri, Darjiling and N. Dinajpur, some new factories have cropped up which are known as bought-leaf factories. These factories purchase tea leaves in bulk but do not process those leaves. There are about 70 to 72 such factories in the region. The labourers who toil hard in the factories are paid minimum wages and are deprived of medical facilities, Provident Funds or bonus. More than 10 to 15 thousand workers are engaged in bought-leaf factories in deplorable conditions. I think that these factories must be covered by this Plantation Act.

The tea estates which are more than 5 hectares in area and employ a minimum of 15 labourers are brought under the said Act. But I know that there are smaller gardens with area less than 5 hectares which employ about 10 workers. Those gardens should also be included in this Act – this is my submission to the Government.

I thank you once again for allowing me to speak on this Bill and conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY (Alipurduar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate Hon'ble Minister for presenting the Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill. Several Members have participated in the debates on this Bill and all of them, be the Member of ruling party or the opposition are having consensus on it. There are several gardens in plantation sector – rubber plantations and tea plantation. I pride myself on being a tea worker. I was born in a tea garden and I have worked there. Hon'ble Member Shri Pawan Ghatowar Ji has also referred to it, so I want that a class change should be brought. The question has been raised as to who would be the owner of plantation. The plantation area of 5 to 6 hectares of land and having 15 daily wages workers will be covered under the Plantation Labour Act. So small

gardens are being carried out. Small gardens are more in number than big gardens so that the owners do not have to pay tax and take measures for the welfare of the workers. So the people are growing instead of baddy. So all the tea gardens, wherever those gardens are, should be covered by the Plantation Labour Act. Honourable Minister has beautifully presented it stating that there is need of some improvement because this Act was enacted in the year 1951. At that time the geographical position and political set up of the country was different from what is today. Therefore it needs more improvement. It is the largest industry and earns foreign exchange more than any other industry. It provides employment to more than about 20 lakhs of labourers. The labourers from Jharkhand, Orissa and other states come to work in West Bengal and Assam. The workers from neighbouring states come to work in Kerala. The Plantation Labour Act was enacted in 1951, therefore it needs amendment. There is a need to hold discussions with all the trade unions in tea gardens because today is an age of globalization. All the people are looking towards them. Their wages are very low. A worker in Assam gets 65.50 rupees as wages and in Kerala gets 80 rupees. Plantation Act is an act for the owner of tea gardens. The owners follow the rules for earning profit but the workers do not get full wages there. It seems that gradually all the tea gardens would be closed down because the workers do not get full wages there. Their wages has been fixed as per the Central Wages Act enacted a long time ago. There is no pay structure. A worker gets 100 rupees under NREGA but a worker of tea garden does not get 100 rupees. The tea industry is getting affected. I want that Central Wages committee should be constituted and after discussion something should be done for the workers.

There is also a need to do something for the labourers in regard to education and health. There is a competition going on to break the Plantation Labour law. Nowadays, the traders and not the planters are the owners of the tea gardens, and the traders need profit. They break the rules for profit. They deduct the PF money but do not deposit that money. They do not give pensions and do not deposit their money. They rob the Government as well as the workers. Action should be taken to open the gardens which are lying closed. There is Cincona plantation in Darjeeling which is very big and is on the verge of closure. The Government is not coming forward or doing anything in this regard. Its workers are not getting their wages. The Government should be concerned about the Cincona plantation. I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister that a Central Wage Commission should be constituted

for the tea workers. A central school should also be opened.

I thank the Hon'ble Minister for bringing this Bill.

[English]

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER (Ponnani): I support this Bill because this Bill addresses certain important problems pertaining to the plantation workers. It is addressing the health and safety of plantation workers; it addresses the risks associated with the growing usage of agro-chemicals; it also fixes the responsibility on the employers on safety and storage of hazardous chemicals; penalty clauses have been tightened here; it is prohibiting child labour and restricting the working hours of women employees; definition of family, employee and worker is suitably amended to make it more specific and broad-based.

The good intention of the Bill is understandable. At the same time, if you ask an honest question, whether this amendment is sufficient to address the problems of plantation workers, we can say, no.

I recall that in 1937, world famous Indian novelist, Dr. Mulkraj Anand, wrote a very famous book titled, 'Two Leaves and a Bud'. That novel was treated as the best classical piece of Indian literature. Dr. Mulkraj Anand's book says about the story of blood and tears of the plantation labours in India.

If you analyze the present situation, we apprehend that things are going reverse to the story told by Dr. Mulkraj Anand. I would like to appeal to the Government to take the deplorable situation of the plantation workers of India very seriously. As far as health hazards are concerned, overuse of pesticides is adversely affecting the health of plantation workers. As per the Report of WHO, it may cause severe headache, vomiting, lack of concentration, difficulty in breathing, neurological diseases like depression, lung diseases and may contaminate the river water. Government should take it very seriously. I understand that the Government is attending to it. Even the empty container of the pesticide or even the smell of the pesticide may affect the health. This may be taken into consideration seriously.

With regard to safety, we have legislation like Factory Act, Plantation Labour Act, Industrial Employment Standing Orders Act and Pollution Control Board Act. All these Acts contain a number of provisions for the safety of the

workers. So far as Acts are concerned, they are okay but their implementation is very poor. Inspectors of factories and boilers or the plantation inspectors are not inspecting the institutions in time. They are not even informing the trade union leaders that they are coming for inspection. I would request the Government to sincerely implement these Acts.

Coming to the problems in general, we know that our plantation sector is really diminishing. Former speakers have narrated this. We used to be at number one position in export but unfortunately now we are in the fourth position after Sri Lanka, Kenya and China. We have to consider this also seriously. Some encouragement or incentive should be given in this regard by the Government. We had a lot of schemes to assist the orthodox plantation. Unfortunately, it is not taking place at the desired level.

I would urge upon the Government to consider all these matters seriously. Not only adequate funding but also adequate motivation should be given to this sector. There are other problems also but considering the time constraint I do not want to take much time of the House. I once again support the Bill and hope that the Government will go ahead by bringing more measures in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Sir, I would like to say that, though late, the Government is at least concerned about the workers particularly through, the amendment to the Plantations Labour Act, 1951. The circumstances of the country, after independence, were such that the workers kept becoming helpless and the owners kept making them helpless. Everyone knows that this Act was passed in 1951. I thank the Hon'ble Minister that he has brought this Bill. I hail from Jharkhand. The tribals from Jharkhand used to work in the tea plantations in Assam 2-3 years ago. What to speak about their wages, they were even tortured mentally and physically. A committee under the leadership of Arjun Munda Ji from Jharkhand State had also gone there. Our committee had gone to Assam and Darjeeling and I had seen it. I would like to urge upon the Hon'ble Minister that at least 30% of the people, including the owners and the workers from Bihar and Jharkhand are engaged in tea plantations since the British Rule. Their condition is very pathetic as on date. I request the Hon'ble Minister that if the workers are getting a wage of Rs. 100 under 'NREGA' then the tea plantation workers should not be given less than this.

Secondly, I request that the Central and State Governments should investigate the matters relating to their education, health, CMPF gratuity from time to time so that the workers there could also feel that they are citizens of free India and the amendment being made in this Act now after the British Rule is in the interest of the workers. And because the entire India is making efforts to achieve all the thing through outsourcing-be it contract labour, tea plantation workers or landless labour — the condition of all of them is the same. It is, therefore, necessary to ponder over it. This is what I request the Hon'ble Minister for.

With these words and supporting this Bill, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the original Bill was introduced long ago during British time. I am fully supporting this amendment. Being a Member from the plantation area like Idukki district of my parliamentary Constituency in Kerala, I know hundreds and thousands of plantation workers are facing very much difficult situation in such areas. The real condition of the workers of tea gardens is very pathetic. Similar is the case with the plantation workers. Today, a worker gets only Rs. 127.48 as wages and after deducting the contribution towards Provident Fund, he gets only Rs. 112.18. With the result, more than a dozen tea gardens were closed years back in my District. No sincere steps have been taken for opening these gardens. The living condition of our tea garden workers is very pathetic. They do not get sufficient water, electricity, etc. They are living just like animals. This amendment gives some relief to the labourers and I welcome the steps which the Government is going to take. Day-by-day, the use of hazardous chemicals is increasing without any protection. This amendment makes provisions for some protection. I welcome this.

The children of poor labourers are not able to go to schools or colleges. Hundreds of students have stopped their education due to the closing down of these plantations. I would request the Government to take some drastic steps for re-opening these closed plantations. The UPA-I introduced a special purpose fund for the plantations. I do not know what kind of spending is done from this fund. I would request that they should spend more money for the betterment of labourers. Anyway, I am supporting this amendment.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, eight hon. Members Shrimati Bijoy Chakravarty, Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar, Shri Shaieldnra Kumar, SHri Mahendra Kumar Roy, Shri P.T. Thomas, Shri Manohar Tirkey, Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer and Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey have expressed their views this Bill passed by the Raja Sabha. I would like to thank all the hon. Members very much for their suggestions.

This is true that this discussion is connected to the safety and health of the lakhs of the plantations workers. This Bill was much awaited since long. Efforts were made for this Bill many times earlier also but circumstances were such that either the Lok Sabha got dissolved or the situation changed and, therefore, this amendment Bill has been brought so late. Today, we have brought this Bill with those amendments which have been widely discussed. We have talked to its nodal ministry *i.e.* the Ministry of Commerce and other Ministries and various labour organisations too. The six states, which have plantation workers, have also given their consent to these amendments. Still, I would like to thank those hon. Members who have given suggestions of wider public importance. We will talk to the Ministry of Commerce to consider those suggestions because the administration of plantation is under their jurisdiction. We will also talk to the concerned states. Some provision have been made in it which will be kept in mind at the time of framing the rules. Therefore, we have given the power to make rules to the states so that they could make the rules in accordance with the condition of plantations in their respective states. Definitely, the guidance of the hon'ble Members would prove useful to us in this regard. I will send their suggestions to the concerned states.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank Shri Ghatowar and other colleagues too that they have, to a large extent, lightened my burden and have taken those points positively and mentioned our good steps. We have tried to widen the definition of employees because while facing the liability, the employer used to get saved from his liability in the court as the plantation partners, directors, leasee or other persons did not come under the definition of the word 'Employees' Now, we have fixed their responsibility. Similarly, we have done away with the difference in the benefits to be given to the dependents of the male and female workers by amending the definition

of the members of family. Besides, we have brought more workers in this sector by increasing the wage ceiling so that the provisions of this Act could be applied to them and they could get benefits. For the first time, we have made an effort so that the contractual labour, who has worked for 60 days, could benefit from it. We also bringing them under the definition of 'Employees'. Here, through an amendment in the section 10(2), we have empowered the State Governments by giving them the right to recover the expenses from the employers in the cases where medical facilities are not being provided by latter. Earlier, this right was with the Chief Inspector and many complaints were received about his work. That is why this responsibility has been given to the State Governments. There are many toxic products which are used frequently. Now, there are herbicides, insecticides, pesticides and similar other products which are used in plantations about which Basheer Saheb has explained in detail. They pose danger to the life of the workers and we have given the right to frame rules to the states in this regard. I hope that the State Governments will keep the suggestions of the expert bodies in mind in this regard and will frame rules in accordance with those suggestions. Mention has been made of everything from the way arrangements for storage and handling have to be made to other precautions that have to be taken. For this, a new chapter introduced as chapter 4(a) has been added to it. I believe that the concerns of the people and the Hon'ble Members regarding health safety will be addressed properly when the states frame the rules under it. By making rules in this regard, the Government can also check exposure of the women and children to the toxic products. Earlier, a child of age 12 years could work in the plantations as plantation was not considered a hazardous activity and because of this the provisions of the Child Labour Act could not be applied. Therefore, we have increased the age limit to 14 years under section 24 by amending the Act itself. While framing rules, the State Governments will have the right in that they can make rules to check the employment of children/women if they see that use of toxic products will be hazardous for children even above 14 years of age. In this context, we have decided to direct DG FASLI to remain in touch with the States and the States would be provided proper consultation/suggestion in this regard if they seek our Ministry's opinion on this matter. It will also be ensured that the expertise available with the DG FASLI (Directorate General, Factory Advice Service and Labour Instituted) is also made available to the state so that the states could work in accordance with his suggestions while framing rules.

Sir, through you, I would also like to say that, earlier, states used to take long time in framing the rules. They had to send the rules to us. Now, we have allowed the states to notify the rules and lay them on the Table of the Legislative Assembly and the rules would be considered operative from the day itself. Our colleagues here have asked that the Compensation Act should be implemented effectively. For this also, we have put the onus on the employers to see if any accident has taken place under the Compensation Act, then, it should be registered with the commissioner properly.

About penal provisions, sister Chakravarty Ji has said that they are so less that the employer would rather accept the punishment than provide facilities like housing etc. which he should provide under the Act. We have increased it to Rs. 10,000 but in view of the quantum of the crime it can be raised to Rs. 1,00,000.

21.00 hrs.

A few things have been said here about the functioning of Inspector. We have minimized his work to the extent that his work, even in the case of medical assistance, will start only when he receives any complaint that medical facilities are not being provided. State Governments have been given the complete responsibility of ensuring medical facilities. As mentioned by our hon. Members, we have also urged the State Governments to avail the services of good private hospitals in remote areas lacking proper medical facilities and the expenses incurred as per the rules can be reimbursed directly to the empanelled hospital itself for the facility provided by it to the worker directly. The State Governments are authorized to make such arrangements. ...(*Interruptions*). Earlier, there was a concept of group hospital for medical facilities. If the State Governments want to carry on with that concept then it is a good thing and I will speak to the Commerce Ministry too so that they get all the facilities they need in this regard from it. It is necessary that a proper monitoring mechanism is set up so that medical facilities are provided properly because we cannot set up a parallel mechanism of our Ministry. But, I will request the nodal Ministry which has state administration of plantations under it, that there should be some proper monitoring mechanism so that health related facilities are provided properly to the workers engaged there.

Earlier, the workers dared not make complaints out of fear of losing job. Now, besides the workers, we have

given this right to the Trade Unions of which the workers are Members so that, at least, their leaders i.e. the Trade Union leaders could not have any fear. If they make complaint, action would be taken on their complaint. They have been provided immunity through law so that the owner cannot take any punitive action. Hon'ble Members here spoke about the amenities that the plantation workers should get the facilities of water, toilet, education etc. Talks were held with the Commerce Ministry in regard to these facilities and for developing some social security system. And they have also developed their system for this purpose under which various welfare measures have been taken like the Coffee Board Development support scheme, Tea Board Human Resource Development Scheme which has an outlay of Rs. 50 crore. Similarly, there is a Human Resource Development scheme of the Rubber Board with an outlay of Rs. 42 crore. It is not that the Government is not making efforts towards these requirements. We want to link our efforts with the efforts of the State Government and the Commerce Ministry has further initiated action on developing the Social Security Scheme at its own level. We will seek information about the stage thereof and will try in our own ways that the scheme is implemented as soon as possible. I am also concerned about the Tea Gardens which are lying closed and Pawan Ji had raised the matter of their rehabilitation. Regarding closed Tea Gardens, the Assam Government is taking very effective steps in that direction, and other State Governments have also taken some steps. Our effort will be to see that some social security scheme reaches the employees of the Tea Gardens lying closed. As Pawan Ji has given a suggestion that they can be covered under the RSB, this suggestion will be considered at proper time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Some of our colleagues here have spoken about setting up a Wage Board. There was almost a consensus among the Hon'ble Members here. Since, everyone had raised this matter, I would also like to say something on it. Wage Board might, perhaps, have been a good idea in itself but nowadays trade unions are very active and alert and most of the times they prefer to negotiate the wage cases themselves instead of seeking the help of the Wage Board. Even the recommendation made by the second National Labour Commission in this regard was also not in favour of constitution of Wage Board. Even then, some states have constituted of a Wage Board. Even then, some states have constituted such Wage Boards. We will make the other states aware of the sentiments of the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a point has been made here about the minimum wages. Our Act is not just an Act. Through this Act we have revised the National Floor Level Minimum wages. The minimum wages, which was Rs. 80/- earlier, has now been increased to Rs. hundred. We have requested the states not to fix minimum wages lower than this. I would like to quote all the information collected by me regarding plantations. In several states the situation is critical. We will try, we will again request the states. We are also trying to make National Floor Level Minimum Wages statutory.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to all the hon'ble Members. ...*(Interruptions)* With this I request the House to accept and pass this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up Motion for Consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 16 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 to 16 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

21.09 hrs.

[Translation]

PREVENTION OF TORTURE BILL, 2010

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to provide punishment for torture inflicted by public servants or any person inflicting torture with the consent or acquiescence of any public servant and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, India is a party to the Convention Against Torture. We have to ratify the Convention. But ratification requires that an enabling legislation be put in place.

Hence this Bill is moved. This Bill defines torture in Clause 3 and describes punishment for torture in Clause 4. The definition of torture is by and large reflective of the provisions of the criminal law. I, therefore, move that the Bill be taken into consideration and passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to provide punishment for torture inflicted by public servants or any person inflicting torture with the consent or acquiescence of any public servant and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you. Since it is too late, I would conclude in five-seven minutes.

Sir, Prevention of Torture Bill 2010 has been introduced because this issue was raised in United Nations Convention and a resolution was passed in this regard in the UNO on 9 December, 1975. After 22 long years on 17 October, 1997 India signed it and after the passage of 13 more years this Bill has been introduced. It has been introduced because

[English]

it was a mandatory provision of the Convention that a law must be enacted and enforced.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, National Human Rights Commission has also highlighted it many times that public servants torture, though the provisions related to this do exist in I.P.C. Article 21 of the Constitution and also in C.R.P.C. Since it was an international convention so this Bill was introduced under that. I would like to inform that as many as 16,836 custodian deaths took place between the period from 1994 to 2008, these deaths took place in police custody or caused by torture in jail. The average is about 1203. The National Human Rights Commission says that the number is increasing day by day, therefore, it must be checked. This Bill was introduced due to convention.

Sir, I just want to say that it would have been better had the Evidence Act been amended along with the introduction of this Bill as is evident in Section 4 and 5. I just want to focus these two sections. If the Evidence Act is not amended it will not give desired results. This Bill deals with both the physical and mental torture. I want to say that there is no provision of punishment in section 5, but it contains only cognizance of the offence. There should be some amendment in the provision of 6 months made in it or there should be some exceptions in it.

Sir, I would like to explain it through an example—suppose, there is a prisoner in certain jail and superintendent of jail is torturing him and the prisoner is serving a sentence of two years. Can that prisoner take legal action against the Superintendent of the jail? He cannot, because he has to serve his sentence in that very jail, so he fears. They are saying that if anyone has been tortured he can initiate complaints only up to six months. He can lodge complaints strictly within six months and not later than that. I, through you, would like to tell the government that there should be some amendment in it and some exceptions also be allowed. There are some people who continue to be tortured but cannot complain as I cited the example of jail. Suppose a peon works under a higher officer. The officer asks him to cook, but peon says that he cannot. In such situation he cannot complain as long as the officer is there. I have experienced it many times in my life. Therefore, some exceptions should be allowed in the condition of 6 months contained in Section-5. I request the government. There is a provision of 10 years sentence in Section-4, I also want some exceptions in it. The provisions are already there for people who commit crime on the basis of caste, religion, language, for this they are providing a punishment

of ten years' sentence, but in my view there should at least be life sentence for this so that no one can commit crime in the name of caste religion, sex and language.

Sir, persons who can be indirectly called criminals, like the government servants. For example if an SHO tells a constable to beat somebody, there is no provision to cover such crime when constable beats someone, beat SHO is indirectly responsible for this. In the Act, there is no mention of those government servants who are indirectly responsible for the crime. This aspect should also be included in the Act.

Second, here both physical and mental tortures are included. I just want to say that BPL survey, survey regarding Indira Aawas are being conducted. For example, when a Gram Sevak conducts any survey and includes those houses under BPL category which do not qualify and excludes those houses which are fit to be included in this list. What will be done in such case where mental torture is inflicted in such way? Provisions for these things already exist but are not implemented. If these two Acts are introduced, they should have been brought in the larger perspective than many such schemes such as BPL list, Indira Aawas, SGSY could have been streamlined and government servants would fear to do anything wrong.

Sir, there was a case namely B.K. Basu vs State of Bengal in which it was ruled that custodial deaths and custodial rapes should be reported within 24 hours. Information has not been received, Central Government has no figures, I also tried to find out that, if they would not provide information, it would be taken as contempt. Through you, I would like to tell that there are so many laws but unless these laws are implemented there is no use of those laws. I belong to Rajasthan. A law was passed banning smoking in public places, but people still smoke openly. Why was this law passed then? Its object is related to International Convention. There is Sharada Act which bans child marriage but child marriages are taking place unabated. Many child marriages will take place on coming 16th May. Unless our mind set change, no change is likely to take place with only the pass of Act ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, through you, I would like to request hon'ble Minister unless our mindset changes, the public servant or any other people may torture anyone in the name of religion, language, sex and caste. The aspect of changing mindset should also be included in it.

With these words, thanking you for the opportunity you gave me to speak, I conclude.

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (Thiruvananthapuram):
Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Prevention of Torture Bill 2010. This is my maiden opportunity to participate in such a debate as a Member of Parliament and I am grateful to you for this opportunity. However, since the hour is late and the issue is clear, I shall be brief.

As an Indian official at the United Nations, Mr. Chairman, I was proud when in 1997, the Government of India signed the United Nations Convention on the Prevention of Torture and other cruel inhuman and degrading practices. This was wonderful. But at the same time our failure to ratify our own signature for as long as 13 years has been a cause of some dismay. As the hon. Minister has just explained, the ratification requires enabling legislation from this Parliament to bring national laws in conformity with the international standards. I am pleased that now we have a Bill which actually defines torture for the first time far more clearly than our previous laws have done, and that also makes it a criminal offence punishable with the full force of the law. We have a Bill that accomplishes both these objectives and, I believe, it deserves our support.

It is interesting that the hon. Member of the Opposition just spoke about the mindset of people, and that is indeed a major concern. I have often felt that the issues here go to two fundamental problems in our country. The first is, how we treat our own people; and the second is the image of our country in the world at large. The mindset of our people is reflected in both of these.

My hon. colleague from Kerala Shri Mohammed Basheer just referred to a novel; let me refer to a film. We were also excited around the world about the huge success of 'Slumdog Millionaire' but, yet, none of us seem to make anything of the fuss. There was no public uproar about the fact that this film opens with a scene of astonishing police brutality where the Indian policeman is busy showing torturing the hero including with electric shocks to get him to confess the cheating in a quiz show. What was startling with that, it seems to me, was that the mindset of our public has become such that we are immune to it. We took these scenes for granted. No one said how outrageous it is that our country should be shown in this way because, in fact, the assumption appears to be, well, this happens all the time.

The fact is that, Mr. Chairman, it should not be allowed to happen all the time. No civilised democracy conducts or condones torture. The practice of police brutality and torture is, as we all know, a colonial legacy in our country. The police once intended to be instruments of repression; they are no longer that; they should no longer be that. But, yet, we all know that stories of police brutality abound in our society. Even in my own constituency of Thiruvananthapuram, the Capital of the enlightened State of Kerala, there have been reports of allegations at any rate of police torture. And, yet, how many of the custodians of the law in our country have been prosecuted for such behaviour? Let alone, how many have been ever punished for such behaviour? It seems to me that the strength of this Bill is those of us who campaign against this sort of behaviour; those of us in favour of the broader issue of police reforms would now have one more element to go to, to rest upon and that if a policeman in our country behaves as the policeman in that movie behaved, now he would face up to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment as well as a severe fine. That is an achievement of this Bill.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, I do want to say that there is great deal that is amiss. I had the experience of reading a confidential report from a very leading international human rights organisation a few months ago, and I was deeply shocked and grieved by the accounts I saw there of the prevalence of torture in our society. Frankly, the stories, the verbatim accounts of the sufferers were deeply saddening. I know that some of us would argue that law and order is a State subject and this is not a proper concern for the Central Government, but I do want to state that 'torture' is not a State subject. Torture is a moral upfront to the conscience of every Indian, and we must use this occasion to affirm that very strongly. What, after all, is a law? A law simply reflects the values and aspirations of our society. Concepts of justice, of the legitimacy of Governance, of the dignity of the individual, of humane treatment by the State, and indeed a protection of people from oppressive and arbitrary rule or conduct by the authorities of the State, all of these are fundamental to who we are as a nation.

It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that this is also at the core of our national movement. Our national movement was based on such principles. Indeed Mahatma Gandhi's conduct in leading our national movement, the values of non-violence, won us great admiration as a country around the world. Many of us were there this morning to do a *pushparchan* of the portrait of Pandit Motilal Nehru, a great nationalist and lawyer, who fought

for the human rights of Indians against the British. When we speak of people like Gandhi ji and Pandit Motilal Nehru, we are talking about people who fought for our freedom. But we did not fight to win our freedom in order to be able to torture our own people with impunity. I am quoting from my memory, Mr. Chairman, what Gandhi ji once said.

He said that it was a mystery, how any human being could find any honour in the humiliation of his fellow human beings. This was a powerful observation by the Mahatma, and it seems, Mr. Chairman, that we should honour the Mahatma and what he stood for by strongly outlawing the humiliation of people. The torture inflicts both the innocent and the guilty alike.

As has been pointed out by the hon. Member of the Opposition, the truth is that our country has had a long record. He mentioned the National Rights Commission. Indeed, early on, in our Independence, India participated with favour and conviction in the adoption of the universal declaration of the Human Rights. So, we have these values. We have indeed stood for the ideals for a very long time. India has never lagged behind the rest of the world in standing for these principles. We have no reason to fall behind on the issue of torture; as you have pointed out, adopted in 1975, signed by us in 1997. This is time enough for us to catch up with the rest of the world to be where we long in terms of the principles we stand for.

Torture is simply wrong. It is morally unacceptable; it is legally unjustifiable; and it is practically defective because people in pain would tell you anything that they think you want to hear to stop the torture. So, the truth is that it should not be allowed to happen anymore, and we have to ask ourselves what kind of India we wish to build in the 21st Century – clearly, not a land which condones that sort of practice.

Indeed, the next time if somebody wants to make an Oscar-winning movie showing an Indian policeman behaving in that way, we can surely hope that they will also show him being punished and sentenced for his actions. That is indeed what India should stand for and be seen as standing for around the world.

I would like to thank the Home Minister and the Government, therefore, Mr. Chairman, for bringing forward this timely and an important legislation. I wholeheartedly support this Bill, and, of course, I urge the Members here to pass it unanimously.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010. I listened to my bretheren Arjun ji and Tharoor ji very carefully. I would like to thank Tharoor ji for mentioning Mahatma Gandhi and Nehruji. He might have read something now. People had a misconception about this.

As far as this Bill is concerned, it pertains to stopping torture of a person in custody. It is often seen that third degree torture is inflicted on the accused if he refuses to sign a confessional statement. There is no greater violation of human rights than the use of third degree. Extreme torture is inflicted thereunder. In fact the level of torture has caused a number of deaths too. During the current session in the zero hour, I had raised the issue of two fishermen aged 24 and 30 years beaten to death by policemen in Naini thana in Allahabad. This is the situation. The Bill may have some shortcomings but its provisions should be enforced strictly.

Another major issue is that the poor who have no influence and no support are often framed for crimes ...*(Interruptions)* You did not press the bell when Tharoor Sahab was speaking, you did not say then ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JYOTI MIRDHA (Nagpur): That was his maiden speech as a Member ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Alright. Framing people on false charges has become a trend. There is a need to put a stop to police atrocities. People are framed with the deliberate intent of torturing them. The police does not stop even after being censured by the court. Many times policemen are called in High Courts and lower courts and their conduct is censured but they do not mend their ways. As far as compensation to the victims is concerned, we took up many cases and wrote to the human rights commission but the victims are not getting any compensation. When cases relating to deaths in police custody are taken up there is inordinate delay in payment of compensation. There are very few cases in which people have been punished and compensation paid. Prisoners in jails are treated in an extremely inhuman manner. As far as SCs, STs and women are concerned, atrocities against them have gone up in Uttar Pradesh. The latest report of the Scheduled Caste Commission says that Uttar Pradesh is leading the states in cases of

atrocities against the said communities. This fact also needs to be given consideration. As per the report of the Asian Centre for Human Rights, cases of death, torture and atrocities in custody have almost doubled. Hence, I would like to conclude by emphasising the importance of the Bill and request the Home Minister to take it seriously.

[English]

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Attingal): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill. It is a very important Bill. I would like to associate myself with the points raised in this august House by my learned senior colleagues. Anyway, my learned friend from my own District of Thiruvananthapuram, Shri Shashi Tharoor has made his maiden speech on a very important Bill.

The reason for this Bill, I understand, is the United Nations General Assembly Resolution of 1975. After 22 years, our nation signed the Convention on 14th October, 1997. I do not understand as to what is the hurry at the last minute of the Session for getting this Bill passed in this august House. I am asking this question because I was subjected to torture. I am standing before you because I have been subjected to severe torture. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have been!

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. SAMPATH: Yes. I believe, I have every right to speak on this subject in this august House. Even the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. A.K. Gopalan was subjected to severe torture several times by the police.

It is not only the question of physical torture, there is also a mental torture. Not only the police officers but even the administrative officers are expert in giving mental torture. If in 1987 I was not kicked out by the UPSC, I would not have been elected as a Member of Parliament and I would not have come here in the 11th Lok Sabha; and again I would not have been here in this Lok Sabha. This is not a single piece of legislation alone. Here, we are the largest multiparty democracy in the world. We cannot follow the footsteps of the United States of America. They are simply preaching about the human values, on the human rights. We all know what they do in Guantanamo jail. We also have the experience of the Tihar jail in the very city of Delhi. A businessman from Kerala, was subjected to such a torture in that jail that

he died in the jail. I do not want to repeat his name; everybody knows what happened at that time. It was before the 11th Lok Sabha elections.

This Bill is just like sick cattle sleeping in a paper. The sick cattle will not eat grass. The Bill talks of 'any person'. It is all right. This should not be curtailed as a right of citizen. This Bill inflicts certain restrictions upon the people, the injured people, because it demands for the previous consent of the Government. My humble submission is that it should not be limited to the Government of India and the State Governments. It should be the definition given under article 12 of the Constitution of India. It says of the definition. I do not want to take much of the time because I hope everybody knows. So, it should be an officer or a public servant under article 12. So, as our Constitution was amended, and the Nagarpalika and the Panchayati Raj Acts have come into force, those who are working under the local bodies should also come under the purview of the Act if the Bill is being enacted. It should not be limited to both the Central Government and the State Governments.

Getting the previous sanction of the Government is almost impossible for a poor man or a poor woman who has been inflicted or who has been tortured. Tortured by whom? It is tortured by the State. If a police man or the administrative machinery or a public servant is doing the sovereign functions of the State, then the State is responsible for the torture. It means that. The State is the largest machinery for torture. That cannot be tolerated.

This is an important Bill. This should be sent to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs to have a detailed discussion and for taking evidence of experts and only after the discussion and only after the Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, should this be re-introduced and a discussion should take place in this House, and only then this should be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI A. SAMPATH: I shall finish within one minute.

We have been hearing many, many instances where the misuse of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. We have been hearing painful stories from various parts of our country. We have been hearing not only from Jammu and Kashmir, not only from the North-Eastern States but also from many other States. Even if those provisions are not at all applicable, I am saying in this august House that many of the Armed Forces people and even the

NCC officers are using their official vehicles without the number plates and they are going everywhere like that. We have not declared martial law in this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI A. SAMPATH: I am going to conclude. Please have mercy on me because this Bill is very important.

Six months' time is given to the aggrieved person to file the complaint. How can he do this? If I am behind the bars, if I am grievously hurt—we all know what is said in the Indian Penal Code about the grievous injury—if I am grievously injured, I will be in the hospital; I will be at my home; I cannot move out; and I will be bed-ridden. How can you insist me to go and file my complaint within the period of six months? If I do not file within six months, then my complaint vanishes. So, the officer concerned or the public servant can go scot-free. So, this time limit should be deleted from that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken so much of time. Please conclude.

SHRI A. SAMPATH: Now, I am coming to children. If the children are tortured, this punishment is not sufficient. Torturing children by men in uniform or even by men not in uniform cannot be tolerated.

Last but not least, I am concluding. By profession, I am also a lawyer like the hon. Minister. I have seen him wearing the robes in the Supreme Court. I am very proud of that profession that we both share. I have seen many instances where the officers, especially the police officers, send the tutored witnesses to the box. They ask, they teach and they know how to make them speak. If the witnesses do not give the deposition as the officers have tutored them, they will be subjected to torture.

Here, it is only regarding getting of evidences. So, it is not only torture but prevention should also be there. Here it is stated in clause 4 'for the purposes of extracting from him or from any other person entrusted in him, any confession or like that'. So, this should also be kept in mind.

Again, my strong submission is that this should be sent back to the Standing Committee and a detailed discussion should take place in the Standing Committee. This is a very serious Bill.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, in this late evening hours we are still sitting in the House and

deliberating on a very far-reaching Bill. I was telling my friend Shri Dikshit that this is a Bill which we should have discussed at length in this House because it concerns human rights, it concerns human values and it concerns the dignity of human being.

At the outset, I would thank the Government that agreed to put its signature in 1997, and also the present Government, specially the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. I think, with the change of Home Minister this Bill has come about. I do not know. I think I am right. Specially, after the Dantewada incident, as it has been reported in newspapers, the Home Minister and the Prime Minister had the courage to get it ratified within the Cabinet and have brought it before this House.

This is a Bill, which I would say, defines 'torture'. Because on earlier occasion, in the IPC – many Members have mentioned about it – it was treated as a regular offence and provisions in the Indian Penal Code such as Section 230 is defined as 'grievous hurt' which may apply to torture cases, but are limited in two ways. First, they apply only in situations where specific kind of physical injuries are inflicted and fail to cover the gamut of ways in which torture is committed. Secondly, for the purposes of such sections it is of no relevance whether the perpetrator of the offence is a public servant or not. In that respect, this Bill comes a long way.

I would say that this Bill defines – it has already been said – 'torture' and very rightly it has been mentioned as a 'stand alone' legislation. The purpose is to put in place a law to check torture by Government servants including the Armed Forces personnel and police by making it a punishable offence and the maximum punishment for torture is ten years. Why can it not be more? I do not know. I am not a lawyer by profession; nor was I student of law. I do not know if the previous speaker from Congress, Member from Thiruvananthapuram, was subjected to mental torture or not. I do not wish to say whether we are put to some kind of torture by sitting at 9.30 p.m. or 9.45 p.m. or not. But the question arises as to who will be the complainant. The person who is tortured? As has been mentioned here, can a person who is inside jail, make a complaint within six months of time if he is imprisoned for more than two years? Or someone else, who is related to him, as in the case of provisions of law, a person can draw the attention of the court. That provision is not here. I think, subsequently, this can be modified and in certain respects a person who is affected should not be the only complainant. Of course, that provision can come. But the proviso is to be read along with danger to life, limb or health.

What I understand is that with these three provisos it has been very wide and open. Could the Government not have made it a little more explicit? How many complaints would you expect when there is apprehension that there will be very low conviction?

I am aware that the matter was examined at length in consultation with the Law Commission of India. This Bill seeks to achieve basically three things. One is – it defines the expression of torture; secondly it provides for punishment to those involved in the incidents of torture and thirdly I specifies the time for taking cognizance of the offence of torture. However, the law would not apply in cases which are covered by special laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. It does not envisage setting up independent Committees both at the Centre and at State levels to deal with complaints of torture. One has to go to the court of law.

I think the Government can make certain Committees in different levels where this type of complaint can come other than the person who is affected himself by torture. Of course, I am not going to repeat about the custodial deaths and about the National Human Rights Commission which has recorded the custodial deaths of 16,836 persons on an average of 1,203 persons per year during the period 1994 till 2008.

This represents only a fraction of the incidence of torture. There is no record of torture that does not result in custodial deaths. Here, the hon. Supreme Court's guideline is to report cases of custodial deaths about which my predecessor has mentioned about B.K. Basu versus State of West Bengal. But I would say, UN Treaty says there cannot be any exceptional circumstances to justify torture, not even a state of war.

Before concluding, I would say this Bill is better late than never. Mental torture and trauma is barbaric. This Bill will add strength to Article 21 making it a constitutional guarantee to live a life with dignity, without trauma and without torture.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the important Prevention to Torture Bill. It has been clarified in its Statement of Objectives and Reasons that the UN Convention was held in 1975 and we signed it in 1997. This Bill has been presented for enactment into

an Act as per the requirements of the said Convention. The definition of torture, the penalties for the said practice and certain conditions have been provided in the Bill. This is a very serious problem. Incidents of torture occur on a daily basis. The National Commission for Women, the National SC/ST Commission and other such organisations have mentioned the rise in incidents of torture particularly involving dalits, minorities and women. The ghost of the feudal system of the Britishers is still lingering in the police stations in the country. There is no difference in the treatment meted out to the criminals and the victims. Victims are treated just like criminals. This mindset needs to be changed. When we talk of police reforms and improving the law and order situation we limit ourselves to talking of increasing the facilities for policemen or creating posts of commissioners in places where such posts do not exist. But we should consider ways to change their attitude and ways to train them. No initiative has been taken in this regard, so far as far as I know. Torture chambers have been constructed in thanas. The police has invented ways to inflict torture in ways which would cause pain but leave no marks on the body. People are administered electric shocks which have caused deaths also. Such deaths occur on a daily basis in the thana in Barabanki district. A boy belonging to Maurya family died in prison ten days ago. But everyone remains silent about these deaths. There is need for serious deliberation on this issue. Such incidents have to be stopped. Public awareness needs to be raised. The Human Rights Commission has become a silent spectator. It does not hear anything. It simply issues notices and files cases and then wait for hearings. That is where the case remains stuck. Hence we need to give serious thought to this issue. Fake encounters take place daily. We need to consider how to stop them. There was a Chief Minister. I have never worked with. Whenever he was informed about an encounter and that the persons involved were big time criminals he only enquired if any policeman was hurt. This was just to know whether it was a fake encounter or not. If there is a real encounter, one or two policemen are likely to be killed. The criminals are better than the policemen in taking aim and their arms are better than the arms of the policemen. So, now-a-days encounters are taking place daily and no policeman is injured. We need to think over it seriously.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not speak much and refer to only sections-5 and 6.

[English]

Clause 5 reads:

“Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, no court shall take cognizance of an offence under this Act unless the complaint is made within six months from the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed.”

[Translation]

The government has dis-associated itself completely in this. The person, who has been tortured, has to file a complaint in the court and case involves the court and the victim only and the government has nothing to do with the complaint. The complainant will have to pursue his/her complaint personally. The government will not advocate that complaint. It has been provided that the victim has to file complaint and the court will decide the quantum of punishment. The government has nothing to do with the case. I think that it needs to be reconsidered. There should be a provision of registering F.I.R. in place of filing a complaint and the government should advocate the case. The police officers should be directed to take action after F.I.R. is registered. Apart from it, there should be an independent agency. How the justice will be dispensed if the victimizer, punisher, investigator and lodger of the F.I.R. happen to be the same person. There should be an independent agency of such people who are not susceptible to police influence and pressure. This provision is a must otherwise the Bill will become redundant.

The second point is that it has been provided that no action and cognizance can be taken against the public servants. Section-6 of the Bill provides that the employees and officers, who are accused of torturing someone mentally and physically, cannot be sued without obtaining the permission from the government in this regard. This provision is completely wrong. Are these public servants performing public duty? Torturing someone is an offence. Supreme Court has given several rulings in this regard that when a public servant takes to corruption then he is not performing public duty but he commits an offence as an individual. So, the requirement of obtaining permission to sue the public servant in his above capacity in case of individual crimes should be done away with.

With these words, I support this Bill and conclude my speech.

[English]

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Respected Chairman Sir, we must always remember that we were under the British rule for a very long time. The laws framed by the Britishers are still prevailing; as for instance the archaic Indian Penal Code. The torture that was meted out at that time by the colonial rulers has still not disappeared – we should not forget this. The law states that if any person is arrested, he must be produced in the court within 24 hours. But what actually happens? If the police is satisfied, only then they produce him in court; otherwise they resort to torture, harassment and try to exploit his vulnerable situation. Often they squeeze out money from the accused person. The law also states that if the police requires to take statement from an accused, always a Magistrate should be present. But this law is also violated. The policemen apply third degree, give electric shocks and often beat up the arrested person. After that they cook up a story and submit it legally. We have seen this happening.

Who are the public servants who torture the most? The policemen do it, no one else does it in that fashion. One should definitely ponder over this. But Sir, I am very glad today that after so much of delay, this Bill has been ultimately brought before this august House by the Government. Thus I thank Hon. Minister for this initiative. However I don't know very surely whether after the passage of this Bill, the situation is going to change or not; whether things are going to improve or not. Times have changed; the age is different today – people are now more progressive, more developed, more well – informed. But there is a need of further awakening and arousal of consciousness. These things must always be kept in mind.

It should also be remembered that more than 1600 people have died due to cruel torture in judicial as well as police custodies. But they did not get justice even today – nothing happened to the perpetrators of crime; no punitive action was taken against them. Not a single FIR was filed. We all know that in the entire country, the picture of all police stations is almost similar. The policemen do not want to register complaints, they do not accept FIRs easily. In many places you will find that the police is omnipotent, all powerful and MPs and MLAs do not have any power to control them. This should not be allowed to happen. Those power-hungry cops must be severely punished. Infact there is a need for complete

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

overhaul in the police system – police reform is the only way to cleanse the entire force. The common people are actually afraid of them. On one hand they extort money from them and on the other, torture them cruelly. These practices should be stopped immediately.

I have one more request to make to Hon. Home Minister. He should remember that the country has gained independence through mass movement, through people's struggle starting from Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement. Thus if possible, Hon. Minister should ponder over the proposal that in no mass uprising or movement, police force would be utilized to restrict or torture the activists. This is a very important issue. It would be great if this provision of non-interference by police be included in the said Bill. This is my humble submission to you Sir.

With these few words, I thank you for allowing me to participate in the discussion on Prevention of Torture Bill 2010 and conclude my speech.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate and discussion being held on the Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010.

I rise to support this Bill wholeheartedly, but at the same time I do have some queries. I would like to know from the Government of India, particularly, from the present Union Home Minister as to why the Government of India had ratified the Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, only on 14th October, 1996 whereas the UN General Assembly had adopted the aforesaid convention on 9th December, 1975 itself.

[Translation]

This Bill has been brought 12 yeras and 22 days after ratification.

[English]

Why this kind of Bill was not brought in this august House before? It is a fundamental as well as a very serious question.

I would like to tell you about the manifold tragedies, which had been faced by the Bodo people during the Bodoland movement period. We had started our Bodoland movement since 2nd February, 1987. Our movement was quite peaceful, non-violent and very very democratic.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: A lot of atrocities were meted out to the Bodo people and a lot of draconian black laws including TADA, etc. were imposed on Bodo people with a view to cracking down our peaceful Bodoland movement.

22.00 hrs.

Right from 2nd February, 1987 to 20th February, 1993, around 2,000 innocent Bodos were killed and massacred, in a period of six years and 18 months. Then, the first Bodo Accord was signed on 20th February, 1993 between the Government of India, the Government of Assam and the All Bodo Students Union.

[Translation]

At least 1000 Bodo people were killed during the period of nine years, eleven months and twenty days from the year 1993 to 2003 till new Bodo accord was signed. This 3000 innocent Bodo people were killed during the period of ten years of Bodo movement.

[English]

More than 200 Bodo girls and women were gang-raped by the security personnel. In the year 1988, on a particular night, 12 Bodo girls and women were gang-raped in a particular village called Bhumka in the District of Kokrajhar. At that time, the Chief Justice of Guwahati High Court was Mr. Guman Mal Lodha. It was only because of his kindness, a bit little amount of justice was given to the victims. On a particular night, during the Bodoland Movement, in a particular village called Kapurpura, ten innocent Bodos were killed by the police personnel.

Now, I would like to know what kind of retrospective action, will be taken by the Government of India against those culprits and erring officials. In the background of such situation prevailing in the country, a question arises as to how the Government of India will ensure the safety and security of the indigenous tribal people, indigenous Bodo people and the Scheduled Caste people in the whole country? This is my question.

[Translation]

I would like to be submit one more point that when our people request to democratic ways for resolving any

problem, the government does not come forward. When our people take up arms government comes forward for holding talks.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Please wind up.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: What is happening today in the areas which are infested by the naxalites, infested by the Maoists, and infested by the insurgents in the North-Eastern Region?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: So, I would like to demand and request that efforts should be made to hold talks with all the militants and democratic organizations and to find out permanent solution to all the problems. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. The Minister can proceed now with his reply.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Chairman, I thank all the Members who participated in the debate. Just to set the record straight, I must say that the Bodo people have now their Bodo Territorial Council. It is a success story, as far as self-governance is concerned. They held recently an election. The party which was ruling the Council has been re-elected. So, I compliment the Bodo people for making a success of their Autonomous Council. If there has been any injustice in the past, we are very sorry. But this is an opportunity for you to demonstrate how well you can self-govern yourself.

Sir, there are just four points to be clarified. 'Torture' in this Bill is defined as a special offence. Grievous hurt, murder, homicide, injury, they are all defined in the IPC. Here, 'torture' is defined in a very special context, namely, when it is inflicted by a public servant or abetted by a public servant for the purposes to obtain from him or a third person information or confession. So, that is the definition in the Convention, and that is the definition that

*Not recorded.

has been borrowed here. When a person is in the custody of a public official or somebody, abetted by a public official, is tortured for the purposes of extracting information or a confession, this section applies. In ordinarily, when a person is in jail as a prisoner, this section may not apply, the general IPC will apply. Unless in the rare case, when a jailer inflicts torture on a prisoner say in order to extract information about co-prisoners or extract a confession about committing a prison offence, generally the IPC will apply. This is a special offence.

The second point is about public servant. The definition of public servant in the Explanation to clause 3 is without prejudice to section 21 of the IPC. Section 21 of the IPC defines public servant. All those who are mentioned there will be public servant under this Act plus any person acting in his official capacity under the Central Government or the State Government is also a public servant. If you look at section 21, you will find employees of panchayats and local bodies are already defined as public servants.

The third matter on which apparently there is some confusion is about the word 'complaint'. How can a victim under a superior officer or in jail complain? The point is that the complaint need not be given by a victim. Complaint and complainant are two different things. Victim is a different thing. Please read the section. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, no court shall take cognizance of an offence under this Act unless the complaint is made within six months, not that the victim must complain. Victim's father can complain, victim's friend can complain, victim's brother can complain. And that is consistent with section 2, clause (d) of the Criminal Procedure Code which defines complaint. Anybody can give a complaint. Today a Habeas Corpus petition need not be filed by the person who has been abducted or kidnapped. It can be filed by any person, even by the next friend. Complaint, therefore, can be given by anyone who is the next friend or next of kin of the victim.

The fourth point is about compensation. This is already provided for in the Criminal Procedure Code. Section 357 of the Criminal Procedure Code contains detailed provisions regarding compensation. There is no need to carry all those provisions into this Act because the Criminal Procedure Code will any way apply.

On custodial death and custodial disappearance, there is already section 176 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Therefore, we need not again carry all that into this Act.

Finally, I want to conclude by saying that most cases of torture arise where a person is given for what is called custodial interrogation. I do not want to comment on the way the law has developed. But I have always had grave reservations about the concept of custodial interrogation as if custodial interrogation is different from ordinary interrogation. We have unwittingly allowed some element of unjustified methods being imported into interrogation. Which is why, I welcome the judgment of the Supreme Court which declared narco test as gross interference with Fundamental Rights. When I saw the television channel broadcasting the narco test tape, when narco tests were administered to the two boys of Nepal in the Nithari case, it was shocking. I am very happy that the Supreme Court has declared narco test as unconstitutional. In my view, all interrogations must take place in a very civilised manner after administering to the person to be interrogated his legal rights, after telling him that he has a right to have counsel and under very civilised conditions where he has water, food, rest, toilet breaks. That is the only way a civilised country will interrogate even the worst criminal. I think by introducing this new phrase called 'custodial interrogation', we have unwittingly given scope for unjustified methods. I hope that this Bill will, if not entirely, to some extent, put an end to unjustified custodial interrogation methods and bring back interrogation to the civilised manner in which interrogations should take place.

I commend this Bill and request the House to pass the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide punishment for torture inflicted by public servants or any person inflicting torture with the consent or acquiescence of any public servant and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (Siwan): Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union government towards the miserable condition of Rajendra Prasad Kustha Sewashram, Anugrah Nagar, Mairwa, which is situated in my Parliamentary constituency Siwan in Bihar. This institution is engaged in and famous for treatment and rehabilitation of the patients suffering from leprosy for several decades. This institute has treated thousands of such patients successfully so far. Cottage industries have been set up in the institute through which these patients are rehabilitated. Five Presidents and four Prime Ministers have visited this institute so far but today this institute is on the verge of closure because the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has stopped the grant being given to this institute in the year 1950 without any cause. Now the patients suffering from leprosy in this region are helpless and there is none to take care of them.

So, through you, I would like to demand from the Union Government to provide the grant to Rajendra Prasad Kustha Sewashram, Anugrah Nagar, Mairwa immediately so that this institute may work for the said patients. I demand special financial assistance in addition to regular grant so as to improve infrastructure facilities of this institute.

CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. There are 63,705 backlog vacancies in the category of posts of Class-I and Class-II officers in Union Government reserved for the dalits, tribes and backward classes as per the figures submitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs. There are 4,22,000 backlog vacancies of lower division clerks. There are 1,53,000 backlog vacancies of Class-IV posts. Thus there are about 6,40,000 backlog vacancies. The Union government had worked out an action plan to fill up all the reserved backlog vacancies through O.M 36038/

1/2008 dated 19.11.2008 of DoPT in view of its Common Minimum Programme. Various authorities, ministries and departments of Union Government were asked to furnish the information regarding vacancies till 31.12.2008 vide this O.M. and a target was set to publish the advertisement by 31.01.2009 and to complete the recruitment process by 15 March, 2010. However, it was deliberately put on the back burner by the officers in order to induce infighting between forward and backward caste. Minister of Railways Kumari Mamta Banerjee had also announced an action plan for this purpose under which backlog vacancies were to be advertised by 30 September 2009 and recruitment was to be made by 15 March, 2010.

Sir, I demand from the Union Government that the officers guilty of violating these orders and not filling the backlog should be dismissed and tried for treason. Secondly, the Government should fill the backlog of approximately 6,40,000 vacancies. Thirdly, the proposal to include 16 castes in the scheduled caste made by the Governments of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and other states was turned down by the Union Government and sent back, so all those 16 castes should be included in the tribal category since their standard of living is pitiable even today. The Government of India should conduct caste-based census of the year 2010-11. So, I request the Union Government that the said issue is a very grave so the Government should take immediate action taking cognizance of this matter.

[*English*]

SHRI IJYARAJ SINGH (Kota): On 24th December 2009, a portion of the single span bridge under construction over the Chambal River, very near the city of Kota, collapsed. The bridge was being constructed jointly by Hyundai Engineering and Gamon India. Forty eight workers died in the accident and many were injured. This is a critical bridge – this is a part of the by-pass of the city of Kota of the National Highway 76 of the East West Corridor, which is a part of phase-2 of the National Highway Development Project. The construction of this is being managed and implemented by the National Highway Authority of India. Currently, in the absence of this by-pass, all the traffic on this important East West Corridor National Highway passes right through the heart of the city of Kota is using the existing bridge. Over the years, this has resulted in many vehicle accidents in the city as well as instances of citizens of Kota being run over by heavy vehicles and other traffic. In addition, certain main thoroughfares of the city get unnecessarily clogged.

Completion of the bridge will put an end to all these problems.

Several steps have been taken by the Government. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has constituted an expert committee to look into the causes of the bridge collapse. Another administrative committee has been constituted under the Divisional Commissioner of Kota. Senior Managers in charge of the construction work on the bridge have also been taken into judicial custody. However, till date, no finding has been made public.

Naturally after the collapse, all work on the bridge was stopped. Until the cause of the collapse is determined, further progress is not possible, as one does not want the same problem or technical fault to recur. More than four months have elapsed since the bridge collapse. Therefore, it is necessary that the expert committee submits its findings as soon as possible for the bridge construction work to re-start and progress. The completion of the bridge is very important for the citizens of Kota.

*SHRI P. LINGAM (Tenkasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance pertaining to the Employees Provident Fund Act of 1952. This was conceived for extending pension benefits to the working class to enable them to get food, medicine and medical care after their retirement. In 1995, along with the Minimum Wages Act, another legislation came in place to ensure monthly pension as a minimum financial compensation for the working class in the wake of spiraling up of prices. According to a formula that was worked out then, contribution to EPF for pension will be from the worker who will pay 8.33 per cent of the wages. Such a fund that has become a very huge in the hands of the Government now touching lakhs and crores of rupees has not extended the benefits to the workers to a desired level. This fund created with an intention to benefit the workers and their families after their retirement, especially during their old age, has not hit the target.

This is like any other well meaning social security scheme. But the working class, who are supposed to be the beneficiaries of EPF, are not getting adequate support, security and protection in the twilight of their lives. The monthly pension paid to the workers from the EPF is found to be much less than the monthly pension paid to

the aged people by various State Governments. This is not commensurate with the increased prices and inflation rates. The workers are not able to meet their requirements as the pension paid to them is found to be meagre and the workers are not able to meet their needs in the wake of price rise which is not being addressed to by the Government that administers EPF. Even the minimum wages that has been fixed by the very same Government has not been taken into account at all while paying a meagre pension to the retired and aged working class people. The small pension they get does not help them to meet their basic medical requirements. They are forced to remain as burden to their families. Various sectors like textiles and garments, matches and crackers, beedi and cigar, power and plantation find lakhs of workers who are left to fend for themselves through EPF which is not helping them effectively.

Hence I urge upon the Government to increase the monthly pension provided under the EPF Scheme. The workers who have parked their money right from their prime of youth are finding themselves as disappointed aged people as the returns are discouraging. The Government must come forward to fix the minimum monthly pension under EPF to be at least Rs. 4,000 per month.

SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN (Dharmapuri): I would like to raise an important issue concerning unemployed youths in the country, more particularly pertaining to those youths who have taken educational loan from banks and have remained unemployed for many years.

Sir, every youth in the country wants to attain higher qualification to get a suitable job for his livelihood. To achieve this, they are taking educational loans from banks, because majority of such youths represent poor families and they are not able to afford higher education for their children. The banks are their last resort to accomplish their desire to provide a base for their children. This is being done with a fond hope that after their education, they would get a better job with a repaying capacity of the loan taken. But what is happening is contrary to their desire and their children remain unemployed and the banks which have provided educational loan are after them adding misery to their life. Due to this, the educated youths are feeling depressed. In the present age of tough competition, it is natural for them to feel depressed.

I have also come to know that some youths have gone to the extent of committing suicide, only because his/her families were not able to repay the bank loan for

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

want of employment because of their pathetic economic condition. Their number who have taken this extreme step may not be to the level of farmers who have committed suicide.

When the Governments at the Centre were soft towards agriculturists and were kind enough to waive of their agricultural loan running into thousands of crores across the country, why could the Government not think of giving the same treatment to these unemployed youths who are the future of this great nation and have come forward for waiving of their educational loan. Educated youth need satisfactory job proportionate to their qualifications in order to ward off stress and strain which may lower the risk of not only individual depression in health and wealth but to their home.

The result of educating the youth of the nation is not only increasing the number of literate people but also increasing the workforce of the country. But today's youths seem to be under a great pressure because of the competition, which is increasing day-by-day.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to waive of the educational loan of the unemployed youths as already waived in the case of agriculturalists who were not able to repay the agricultural loan.

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (Kandhamal): Sir, I have been continuously raising the alarming food insecurity situation in Kandhamal District of Orissa in this august House. Kandhamal District has the lowest food security in South East Asia.

Further due to communal riots and violence in the year 2008-09, the economic conditions of the people have become worse. More than 70 per cent of the population of the area belong to the Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribe, of which 53 per cent belong to the Scheduled Tribe community. Due to mistake in the BPL survey, 35,000 families do not have BPL cards. As a result of this they are deprived of getting rice at Rs. 2 per kg. as introduced by the Government of Orissa. I have been repeatedly requesting the hon. Union Agriculture Minister to provide rice under AAY to at least 25,000 families so that they can avail of this facility of having rice at Rs. 2 per kg. But the Government of India instead of granting this, is sending different unrealistic queries for which the poor people are not getting natural justice.

I therefore urge upon the Government to immediately sanction AAY rice for 25,000 families of Kandhamal district to save them from starvation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, you can raise only one issue.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

Sir, through you I would like to strongly urge upon the Government of India, particularly the Union Minister of Railways to take proper steps to help to resolve the long pending genuine demands pertaining to the railway service facility related problems being faced by the people of Bodoland territory. I have been raising this issue on various occasions in the last one decade since 1998.

Sir, Kokrajhar is the headquarters of Bodoland territory and at the same time it happens to be the headquarters of Kokrajhar district as well which is the last bordering district of Assam adjoining the State of West Bengal. Kokrajhar is the gateway of India to enter the north-eastern region and all the trains have to cross Kokrajhar Railway station while entering the north-eastern region from the South-Western part of the country and while departing from the North-Eastern region. But unfortunately, except the Rajdhani Express train the Guwahati – Chennai bound express train, none of the important South-West bound train has a stoppage at Kokrajhar Railway station. This situation has deprived the people of the Bodoland territory from enjoying the facility of boarding the South West bound trains at Kokrajhar station who intend to visit some important cities like Chennai for medical treatment, to Bangalore and Hyderabad for educational purposes. This situation has hurt the sentiments of the people of that area and the Government should intervene in the matter so that all the trains start stopping at Kokrajhar station with immediate effect. The following trains should be given stoppage at Kokrajhar Railway Station with immediate effect. The trains are as follows: The Poorvator Sampark Kranti Express; Ernakulam Guwahati Express; Bangalore Express; Trivandrum Express; Lohit Express; Saraighat Express; Jhajha Express; Secunderabad Express; Capital Express; Bikaner-Jodhpur Express, Okha Express; Puri Express, Lokmanya Tilak Express, Amarnath Express and Amritsar Express. If this is not done with immediate effect then tens of thousands of people will start agitation and put blockade on the N.F. Railway tracks either in the month of June or July.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Sir, I stand here to raise an urgent matter of public importance.

The General Secretary of NSCN(IM) and Ato Kilonser, (Prime Minister) of Government of People's Republic of Nagaland, Shri Th. Muivah desires to visit his birth place, Somdal in Ukkrul District of my State, Manipur.

Because of his territorial ambition for a greater Nagaland by taking away four districts of Manipur, two districts of Arunachal Pradesh and one district of Assam, the very news of his intended visit to Manipur has already created social tensions in Manipur both in the valley and the hills.

Already the people of Manipur have been fuming and famished due to the month long economic blockade in National Highway No. 39. There is an apprehension that his visit will certainly create a serious law and order problem in the State. It might even ignite a communal violence in the already disturbed and troubled State of Manipur. The Government of Manipur has taken a decision not to allow Shri Muivah's visit to Manipur. It has always been our sincere wish and desire that the Union Government do take the State Government, in this case the Government of Manipur, into confidence while taking such a delicate and sensitive decision like Shri Muivah's visit to his birth place in Manipur.

The situation now in Manipur is really very fluid and volatile. Hence, I very respectfully and sincerely urge upon the Union Government, the Ministry of Home Affairs in particular, to immediately do something that will be good for all the concerned people.

SHRI THANGSO BAITE (Outer Manipur): Sir, I would like to associate with what Dr. Meinya has said.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Mr. Chairman Sir, coal is being transported from Kargali coal mine of CCL to Chasnala Washery of Steel Authority of India for the last one and a half years at a distance of approximately 120 km. whereas the coal mine of Bharat Coking Coal Limited is only 10 km. away and coal is also available there. This work is being executed due to the nexus between the manager and contractors as a result of which SAIL has been suffering a loss of revenue to the tune of crores of rupees for the last one and a half years.

Mr. Chairman, there is danger of spreading pollution, road accidents and recurrence of incidents of damage of roads due to falling and spreading of coal and coal dust on roads and nearby areas due to transportation of coal in open and overloaded trucks. Several departments are involved in these illegal works. Transportation is causing adverse impact on the health of people and loot of national wealth is also taking place.

Therefore, the Government is requested to take immediate effective measures to check long distance coal transportation, save SAIL from loss, check pollution and occurrence of accidents and immediately cancel long distance transportation. Besides, the recovery of the loss should be made from the management and contractors there.

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN (Fatehpur): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to raise a very important issue. Through you, I would like to apprise the Government that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, was passed by Government of India in the year 1976 thereby making certain amendments to list of castes mentioned in the Constitution of India. This law came into effect in Uttar Pradesh on 27.07.1997 in which four castes-Manjhar, Gaur, Beldar and Turaih were included in the list of Scheduled Castes. The clear synonyms for the term Manjhar are Manjhi, Mallah, Kewat, Rajgaur and Mujbir castes whose members were included in Scheduled Caste. However, Scheduled Caste certificate is not being issued to the people belonging to these castes in the district by the officers of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Their children are getting neither any reservation benefits nor scholarship due to non-availability of certificate. This is a very serious issue. This is also mentioned in the Gazette. The officers of the unbridled Government of Uttar Pradesh...* are not issuing certificates to anyone not withstanding the legislation made by the Government of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The name should be deleted.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: This is a very serious issue. Hon. Narayanswamy ji is sitting here. I request you to take this issue seriously. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)...*

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: Please give me only a minute. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a debate.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): There are more than three hundred Special Schools in Kerala taking care of mentally challenged children. Except one Special School run by the Government of Kerala, all other Special Schools are run by voluntary organisations. All the Special Schools are struggling hard to run the schools.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, through the Deen Dayal Rehabilitation Scheme, is providing grant-in-aid for only 51 Special Schools in Kerala. The grant-in-aid is not released in time. The grant-in-aid is released only at the end of the school year.

The application for grant-in-aid is recommended by the Government Education Officers. The State Government, again verifies and recommends it to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Educational Officers and the State Government cut short the grant-in-aid amount to eighty per cent of the total request. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment further cuts short the amount to sixty per cent. Ultimately, the Special Schools in Kerala receive only sixty per cent of the running cost as grant-in-aid from the Deen Dayal Rehabilitation Scheme.

Remuneration given to staff as honorarium is also very low. For a special teacher the honorarium provided is Rs. 3,800. ...(*Interruptions*) The honorarium provided to teaching and non-teaching staff needs to be raised. The amount provided to mentally challenged children who are in the boarding houses are also very meagre. This also needs to be raised.

So, I would request the Ministry concerned to take necessary steps in this issue of those children who needs our care always.

DR. BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an important matter of public importance regarding set up of world class university at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

Visakhapatnam is deprived of establishment of advanced educational institutions. In the past, people of Visakhapatnam were promised to upgrade the existing University College of Engineering to an IIT along with Osmania University, College of Engineering, Hyderabad. However, due to six-point formula and due to political situation, the proposal was pushed back.

Another promise was made to the people of Visakhapatnam to establish an IIM as there is no IIM in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Again this proposal was also pushed back. Later a proposal came up to establish an Indian Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology at Visakhapatnam along with BHU Institute of Technology, Aligarh Muslim University and Bengal Engineering Sciences University.

The hon. Prime Minister was kind enough to make a promise at the Indian Science Congress held at Visakhapatnam in 2008 to establish a world class university during the Eleventh Plan period at Visakhapatnam along with thirteen other places, Coimbatore, Pune, Kolkata, Mysore, Gandhinagar, Jaipur, Patna, Bhopal, Kochi, Amritsar, Bhubaneswar, Noida and Guwahati.

I understand that the Government of Andhra Pradesh, in the past, already made an allocation of thousand acres of land for this purpose. All other cities have excellent advanced educational institutions except Visakhapatnam.

I urge upon the Government, through this House, to initiate necessary steps to establish a world class university at Visakhapatnam immediately and bring Visakhapatnam on the map of advanced educational institutions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on an important matter. Suratganj, Sarauli, Bhojpur and Ramnagar blocks of Ramnagar tehsil in my parliamentary constituency Barabanki suffer destruction due to flood in the Ghagra river every year. It is a matter of urgent public importance. The Chowka guide band constructed on the upstream of the Elgin Railway Bridge and the

bridge at Ganeshpur on the Ghagra river have been totally damaged due to the flood which came in the year 2009 in my parliamentary constituency due to which normal life was grossly affected and which led to loss of life and property. Besides, railway operation is also likely to be abstracted due to erosion near the railway track. I have wrote several letter to the Ministry of Railways in this regard. The Railway officials have submitted that the dam is safe, but the entire Ramnagar block has suffered huge devastation due to such dams of the railways during the last two years. It has also affected Suratganj, Sarauli, Bhojpur areas. The Railways is not taking the matter seriously. Consequences would be serious if such an important issue is neglected. It is an important matter. Therefore immediate action need to be taken in this regard so that no harm is caused to normal life and railway tracks due to recurrence of flood like situations in the ensuing monsoon. These dams are need to be built strong so that it will not get damaged by flood. While drawing attention of the Minister of Railways to this matter of urgent public importance. I would like to submit that he should issue direction for taking effective steps immediately in this regard.

SHRI RATAN SINGH (Bharatpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, gas power plant is functioning in Dholpur. Gas pipeline is being extended to Alwar district and Haryana via rural areas of my Parliamentary Constituency Bharatpur. Bharatpur is extremely backward in terms of power supply and it is the Eastern Gateway to Rajasthan.

The 85% major sources of the livelihood of the people of Bharatpur is agriculture. Presently, all the industries in Bharatpur are almost closed down due to which unemployment has become a big problem and social life is being affected.

With the establishment of gas power plant availability of electricity will be easy and sufficient and as a result closed industries would be revived and possibilities to establish agriculture based new industries will increase. Not only of Bharatpur but also the people of entire Rajasthan will be benefited and the economic and social development of Rajasthan and the economic and social development of Rajasthan will be possible. Aprt form this, problem of unemployment would be addressed and Rajasthan would be included in the list of the leading states of the country. Besides, revenue of Rajasthan will also increase.

Roopwas area form where pipeline is being laid is appropriate for establishment of gas power generation plant. Water required for power generation would be made available thorough the pipeline being laid in Chambal, capacity of whihc is about 10 MLD. More then 100 acres of land is available in Roopwas area which could be acquired for the estbalishment of this plant. Around 2.5 MMSMCD gas is required for 400 MW power generation unit. Labourers in requisite number of available in Bharatpur district and Roopwas to be engaged in the power generation unit. As a result, about 2500 labourer could be engaged during the establishment of gas power generation plant and after that about 2500 labourer though direct recruitment and 750 odd labourers for these purposes.

Therefore, through you I request the Hon'ble Minister of power that permission may be granted for construction of Roopwas gas powre generation plant in Bharatpur district so that economic and social development of Rajasthan alongwith Bharatpur district could be made possible and the problems of unemployment in Bharatpur could be addressed, and closed industries could be revived. I shall be grateful to you.

[English]

SHRI K. SUGUMAR (Pollachi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise a very serious matter regarding the allocation of 2G spectrum licences. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This matter has already been raised in the morning.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. SUGUMAR: No, Sir. I have some other point. I have a right to speak. I have given a notice....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it cannot be raised now. The same matter cannot be raised again. ...*(Interruptions)* It was raised in the morning and he wants to raise it again when the House is going to adjourn. This cannot go on like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Sir, I have some other subject to raise. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can simply say that you want to associate with it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Sir, as a Member of Parliament I have a right to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can send a slip saying that you are associating with it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Whatever he wants to say has already gone on record in the morning. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sugumar, you can say that you want to associate with the matter which was raised in the morning. That will be taken on record and that is enough.

SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Sir, I want to associate myself with the matter which has been raised by Dr. Thambidurai in the morning during 'Zero Hour'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

22.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, May 7, 2010/Vaisakha 17, 1932 (Saka).

ANNEXURE I

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