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CONTENTS

	PAGE
EDITORIAL NOTE	151
ADDRESSES	
Address by the President to Parliament	153
Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee at the Orientation Programme for the Members of the Parliament of Bangladesh, Dhaka, 22 February 2009	176
ARTICLE	
Role of Language Interpretation in Parliament – Smt. Shimla	184
SHORT NOTES	
Unveiling of the Statue of Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj in the Parliament House Complex	192
Unveiling of the Portrait of Shri Bhupendra Nath Basu in the Parliament House	194
PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES	
Conferences and Symposia	196
Birth Anniversaries of National Leaders	197
Exchange of Parliamentary Delegations	198
Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training	199
PRIVILEGE ISSUES	201
PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS	207
DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST	218
SESSIONAL REVIEW	
Lok Sabha	228

Rajya Sabha	245
State Legislatures	254
RECENT LITERATURE OF PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST	262
APPENDICES	
I. Statement showing the work transacted during the Fifteenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha	267
II. Statement showing the work transacted during the Two Hundred and Fifteenth Session of the Rajya Sabha	271
III. Statement showing the activities of the Legislatures of the States and Union territories during the period 1 January to 31 March 2009	276
IV. List of Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President during the period 1 January to 31 March 2009	282
V. List of Bills passed by the Legislatures of the States and the Union territories during the period 1 January to 31 March 2009	284
VI. Ordinances promulgated by the Union and State Governments during the period 1 January to 31 March 2009	290
VII. Party Position in the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and the Legislatures of the States and the Union territories	295

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Article 87 of the Constitution of India provides for a Special Address by the President to both Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the first session after general election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year. The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Union Government and contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year. It also includes the major legislations which the Government propose to bring before Parliament during the sessions to be held that year.

On 12 February 2009, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, addressed members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House at the commencement of the first session of Parliament for the year 2009. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Address delivered by the President.

In a parliamentary democracy, the Legislature has to shoulder the responsibility of guiding the destiny of the nation. The content and quality of parliamentary democracy, however, largely depends on how smoothly and effectively the legislative bodies perform while discharging their responsibilities. In his Address at the Orientation Programme for the Members of Parliament of the Bangladesh, on 22 February 2009 at Dhaka, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee dwelt on the need for orderly transaction of parliamentary business. He said that the effectiveness of the functioning of the Houses of Parliament depends to a great extent, upon how scrupulously the members follow various rules and guidelines which are the prerequisite for the orderly transaction of parliamentary business. We include in this issue the text of the Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee at the Programme.

The Legislature represents the hopes and aspirations of different people. The truly representative character of our Legislature necessitates the use of different languages during the debate and discussions in the House. Consequently, the role of language interpretation has assumed great importance for establishing a proper communication amongst the participants for making the debate meaningful. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the article on 'Role of Language Interpretation

in Parliament' by Smt. Shimla, Additional Director (Interpretation), Lok Sabha Secretariat.

The precincts of the Parliament House have statues and portraits of our leaders who have contributed immensely to the national cause. On 17 February, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil unveiled the statue of Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj in the Parliament House Complex. A booklet containing the profile of Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj was brought out both in Hindi and English, by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, for distribution among dignitaries. In our endeavour to honour the selfless sacrifices of an eminent freedom fighter and erudite scholar Shri Bhupendra Nath Basu, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee unveiled Shri Basu's portrait in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 24 February 2009. A booklet containing his profile brought out both in Hindi and English by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, was also distributed among the dignitaries on the occasion. We include in this issue of the *Journal* Short Notes on these events.

We also carry in this issue the other regular features, viz. Parliamentary Events and Activities, Privilege Issues, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary interest, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

In our constant pursuit of making the *Journal* more enriching and useful, we always look forward to suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem oriented, non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and all others interested in the field of parliamentary democratic system.

—P.D.T. Achary
Editor

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT

The Constitution of India provides for an Address by the President to either House of Parliament or both the Houses assembled together. The provision for addressing the highest legislative body in the country goes back to the year 1921, when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. The President may address both the Houses of Parliament assembled together or either House of Parliament separately as per provisions of articles 86(1) and 87(1) of the Constitution.

Under article 86(1), the President may address either House of Parliament or both the Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require attendance of members. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first Session after each General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first Session of each year, the President shall address both the Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform the Parliament of the causes of its summons.

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before Parliament during the sessions to be held that year.

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 12 February 2009.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

—Editor

Honourable Members,

I convey my good wishes to you and to all our people. On behalf of all of us, let me greet Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. We are happy that he is recuperating fast. We wish him a speedy recovery for continuing with his onerous responsibilities. I also convey my special greetings to members of our security forces keeping vigil to protect us. We have been through an eventful year—a year that challenged our open society and our open economy. A year that tested by fire the principles that our country has always lived by—communal amity, tolerance, compassion, justice and peaceful coexistence.

Looking back, we see hope. We have not only withstood the challenges but also emerged stronger. The spirit of ordinary people rising together as one overcame the challenge to our nation from terrorist violence. The calibrated and prudent economic reform pursued by our Government is helping us to weather the extreme adversities of the global economic meltdown.

In both these disruptive events, it was our abiding commitment to the principles of democracy that has been our strength. Our economic reform was catalyzed through our deliberative democracy. Challenges to our nationhood were again thwarted by our functioning democracy. The record turnout of people in Jammu and Kashmir to cast their votes in the elections to the State Assembly in a peaceful atmosphere was a resounding affirmation of their faith in democracy and a rejection of terrorism and violence. The elections have brought new hope to the people of that state.

Our functioning democracy has set for my Government exacting standards to judge its performance. People measure Government not on the basis of what it says but on the basis of what it does. In a democracy, Government is measured on a simple maxim—*aam admi ko kya mila?* When democratic, secular, progressive forces came together in this Government it sought to make itself accountable to the people through a National Common Minimum Programme. Today, after close to five years in office, my Government believes that it has acted on nearly all the commitments made to people through the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP).

The commitment to inclusive development articulated in the NCMP has been translated into laws, policies and programmes by my Government. A right to work for people in our rural areas was guaranteed through the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008, will facilitate provision of social security to 43 crore unorganized workers. Through the Act on Right to Information Government has been held accountable to citizens for governance. Through the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, historical injustice to tribes and traditional forest dwellers was corrected to confer land rights. A Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act ensured reservation to students of other Backward Classes in educational institutions. A Bill on Right to Education, a Bill for amending the land Acquisition Act along with a new Bill for Rehabilitation and Resettlement and a Constitution Amendment Bill providing for Reservation for Women in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislatures stand introduced in the Parliament.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which now covers the whole country, is the first such intervention anywhere in the world where a country has guaranteed employment for a specified number of days to any category of citizens. In 2007-08, nearly 3.4 crore rural households were provided employment under this programme. Out of those provided work, 55% belonged to the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Caste and 49% was women. Over 46 lakh works have been taken up under the programme so far, of which 19 lakh have been completed. Water conservation, irrigation and land development account for 83% of the work in 2008-09 contributing to agricultural productivity. It has consolidated grassroots democracy working through *panchayats*. Payments under the programme are being effected through post offices and bank accounts which now hold nearly 6 crore account holders making it a remarkable case of financial inclusion. This programme is keenly watched all over the world as an Indian innovation in combining the twin objectives of providing for consumption expenditure of the poor as well as improving rural productivity and income. Results of the programme in the last three years show increased agricultural productivity, reduced migration and increase in wage rates for agricultural employment across the country. As India is entering the sixtieth year of the republic, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is moving India towards a Republic of Work.

Along with the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the social security framework has been further strengthened through introduction of the *Aam Admi Bima Yojana*, the *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* and the revamped Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme now extended to all old persons below the poverty line.

My Government promised a new deal to rural India through the revival of agriculture on which nearly 60 percent of our population is dependent. Through carefully crafted policies in the agricultural sector we have been able to revive our agricultural economy from the trap of low investment, low productivity and rural indebtedness. My Government increased by three-fold the credit to agriculture from Rs.87,000 crore in 2003-2004 to Rs.243,000 crore in 2007-2008. Short-term agricultural credit was made affordable at 7% through an interest subvention. My Government waived around Rs.65,000 crore of outstanding credit owed by 3.7 crore farmers who had fallen on bad times to revive their credit cycle. Remunerative prices were given to farmers through unprecedented enhancements in the Minimum Support Price which was raised from Rs.630 in 2004 to Rs.1080 per quintal in 2009 for wheat and from Rs.550 per quintal in 2004 to Rs.900 including bonus in 2008 for paddy.

The efforts to create a unified national market through changes in the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Acts bore fruit. Investment in agriculture has increased from 10.2% to 12.5% of the GDP.

Agricultural diversification was promoted through the National Horticulture Mission and a National Rainfed Area Authority was set up to provide technical assistance to increase production from drylands. A *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana* with an allocation of Rs.25,000 crore and a National Food Security Mission with an outlay of Rs.4,822 crore have been put in place to increase production and crop productivity. Special attention was given to distress-affected districts through a special package. A special package was also extended to farmers growing plantation crops. My Government ensured that the interests of our farmers were fully protected in the protracted negotiations in the World Trade Organisation.

Fertilizer is a very crucial input for our farmers. Owing to the unprecedented increase in prices of crude oil and chemicals in the international market, the prices of fertilizers had increased manifold. My Government however did not increase the prices of fertilizers even once in the last five years. At the same time steps are being taken to secure supply of fertilizers from abroad at reasonable prices through investment by Indian companies in fertilizer units abroad. A special purpose vehicle called *Urvarak Videsh Ltd.* has been incorporated for this purpose.

As a result of concerted efforts, this year the agriculture sector has grown by 4.5%. Production has increased in almost all crops between 2004 and 2008. In the case of wheat it has gone up from 68 million tonnes in 2004 to 78 million tonnes in 2008, in the case of paddy from 83 million tonnes in 2004 to 96 million tonnes in 2008, in the case of cotton from 164 lakh bales in 2004 to 258 lakh bales in 2008 and in the case of soyabean from 68 lakh tonnes in 2004 to 99 lakh tonnes in 2008. Through the farmer-first policy, the country has been able to achieve record production of food grains of 230.67 million tonnes in 2007-08 and ensure food security.

The gaps in rural infrastructure that denied opportunities for farm and rural non-farm employment have been systematically addressed through *Bharat Nirman*, our time-bound plan for rural infrastructure. Under *Bharat Nirman*, 5.6 million hectares have been brought under irrigation. The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme has been assisting States to complete ongoing irrigation projects. My Government initiated a major programme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies to augment community level water security. At the same time 14 major irrigation projects have been taken up as National Projects and are being assisted with 90% grant from the Government

of India. Through consensus created with states, the river interlinking projects like Ken-Betwa, Par- Tapi- Narmada and Damodar Ganga-Pinjal have moved ahead.

Under the Rural Roads programme, work on 25,000 villages has been completed to provide market connectivity to farmers. Over 50,000 villages have been provided electricity under the *Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana*. Today 98% of our villages have telephone connectivity and mobile telephony is spreading fast in rural India. Under the *Indira Awas Yojana* component of *Bharat Nirman* 60 lakh houses were to be built and this target has already been achieved with another 16 lakh under construction. Rural water supply coverage and funding, under the programme have considerably increased. *Bharat Nirman* has served to integrate rural India more centrally into the growth process and unlock its potential.

Lack of adequate health care has been a major cause for rural poverty. My Government initiated a National Rural Health Mission, which is now radically transforming health care provisioning in our villages. A major network of over 6 lakh Accredited Social Health Activists or ASHAs has been created to attend to basic health needs of rural households. Rural public health infrastructure of Sub Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres has also been considerably strengthened. The success of these efforts is evident from the fact that institutional delivery has gone up seven-fold since the mission commenced thereby reducing maternal and infant mortality. There is still a long way to go. The campaign for total sanitation in rural areas, vitally important for health has seen unprecedented success increasing coverage from 27% in 2004 to 60% by January this year. The sanitation campaign received a boost through the *Nirmal Gram Puraskar* which has been awarded to 17,969 panchayats and Sikkim has become the first *Nirmal* State in the country. Separate Departments have been set up for Medical Research and Aids Control and a Food Safety and Standards Authority has become functional to ensure consumer protection. Government is considering setting up a National Urban Health Mission to focus on the health needs of the urban poor commencing with selected major cities.

Drugs and pharmaceuticals play an important role in healthcare. My Government has set up an independent Department of Pharmaceuticals, and has taken effective steps to keep the prices of essential and life saving drugs in check. Public Sector Undertakings which had been set up to manufacture critical bulk drug formulations and antibiotics have been revived. In order to promote education and research in pharmaceuticals,

the Government has set up National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research at six places.

The gaps in educational facilities in elementary education stand substantially met through the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. There is near universal coverage of primary education. The focus is now on enhancing quality. Enrolment has increased from 15.6 crore children in 2004 to 18.5 crore in 2008. The number of children out of school has come down from 320 lakh in 2004 to 76 lakh in 2008. The Mid-Day Meal programme implemented by my Government as an incentive for retention of children in schools covered 15 crore children last year. Over 8 lakh teachers have been recruited with the support provided to States through the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. To meet the demand generated through near universalization of elementary education, my Government has announced an equally ambitious programme for secondary education through the *Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan* and 6000 model schools as exemplars of quality are also being set up throughout the country.

Government has been focusing on empowering women through micro finance. Under the *Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana*, self employment of women is promoted. About 31 lakh self help groups have been set up of whose membership, two-thirds are women. My Government is considering the recommendations of the Committee of Governors for speedy socio-economic development and empowerment of women.

Infants and children below six need special attention. Universalisation of Integrated Child Development Services programme has been given a very high priority and nearly eleven lakh habitations have now been covered. The coverage of children has doubled over the last four years and nearly 8 crore children and mothers are now receiving supplementary nutrition. While steps are being taken to further expand and strengthen this important programme, my Government has also established a National Commission for the Protection of Children's Rights.

Social inclusion has been strengthened by my Government through programmes targeted at specific categories like scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and minorities. Education is the key to empowerment of these sections. Ongoing scholarship programmes have been significantly expanded with revision of norms. Each year about 6.5 lakh students, mainly from families of *Safai Karmacharis* will be given pre-matric scholarships. Nearly 10.50 lakh students belonging to Scheduled Tribes and 35 lakh students belonging to Scheduled Castes will be given post-matric scholarships. Pre and

post-matric scholarships will be given to 25 lakh students from Other Backward Classes. Several new scholarship schemes have also been instituted for these categories. The Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship programme assists students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for pursuing research studies at M.Phil and doctoral levels. On an average 8 lakh students from minority communities will be covered each year under three new scholarship schemes. To promote girls' education around 11 lakh scholarships would be given each year. Under the Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science, each year 2 lakh scholarships will be given. Another scholarship scheme for College and University students will benefit 82,000 students every year. Over a crore of students will now begin to get scholarships each year through all these schemes. For the first time, reservation in educational institutions was extended to Other Backward Classes by my Government.

To further strengthen social and economic inclusion of minority communities, my Government set up the new Ministry of Minority Affairs and announced the Prime Minister's new 15-point programme for the Welfare of Minorities. The Sachar Committee set up by Government examined the status of Muslims in a comprehensive manner to enable the Government to respond to relative gaps in development attainments.

Through the initiatives of Government, close to 8 lakh students belonging to minority communities would be provided scholarships this year itself. The coverage will go up to nearly 40 lakh students over the next four years. More than 10000 new Primary Schools and Upper Primary schools have been constructed in areas that have substantial minority concentration. Entrepreneurs from minority communities have been provided assistance under the *Swarna Jayanti Grameen Swarozgar Yojana*. Under *Indira Awas Yojana*, 2.39 lakh houses have been allotted to minorities during 2008-09. The flow of credit to minorities has increased sharply and is expected to go up to 15%. Public Sector Banks have opened more than 500 bank branches in minority concentration districts. With a view to bridging the development gaps in socio-economically backwards districts with minority concentration a Multi-Sectoral Development Programme has been launched to cover 90 minority concentration districts of the country. The representation of minorities in public services, para-military forces, Railways, Banks and financial institutions has considerably improved in the last two years.

Needs of the disabled in society should become a central concern for any caring Government. Mindful of the challenges faced by this category of people, my Government has framed a national policy for persons with disabilities which is now being implemented. In addition to

special schools for the disabled, schools under the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* will provide for addressing the special needs of disabled children. Employment provision in public services to the disabled was made applicable to All India Services.

When my Government came into office the plight of weavers was alarming in many parts of the country. A comprehensive package consisting of provision of technology, credit and marketing support together with health insurance was extended to weavers. Cluster-based development plans are in operation. Under the Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme textile industry has been modernized to benefit from the post-quota regime.

Rapid growth in industry, and services, is essential to provide the avenues for employment required by our youth. My Government has put in place appropriate policies which have promoted growth and employment opportunities. In particular, my Government enacted the Special Economic Zones Act, which has already facilitated incremental investment of Rs.90,000 crore, and generated direct and indirect employment for over 7 lakh persons. My Government has constituted the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC) for developing an industrial corridor along the Dedicated Railway Freight Corridor between Delhi and Mumbai. The proposed industrial corridor will pass through six States of the country and infrastructure facilities will be developed at identified locations in consultation with the States concerned. My Government has come out with a new policy for promoting investment in Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals sector through development of investment Regions. Significant progress has been made towards setting up Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Regions in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal.

India is a nation of young people. India's demographic dividends can be realized only if the country invests in developing skills to make our youth employable. Through a planned investment in skill development the country holds the potential to account for a fourth of the global work force by 2022 when India will mark 75 years of its independence. My Government has made skill development a major national priority and has put in place coordinated action for skill development through a National Council for Skill Development chaired by the Prime Minister. A National Skill Development Coordination Board to synergize public and private streams for skill development and a National Skill Development Corporation to promote private sector led action have also been set up.

India realizing its potential in the new knowledge economy is



The President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil arriving in procession to address members of Parliament on 12 February 2009

critically dependent on building institutions that nurture creativity and innovation. It is a tribute to the Nehruvian vision that the Indian Institutes of Technology set up in the early decades of our independence led to India's emergence as global power in software development by the end of the century, My Government has undertaken a second wave of investment in higher education through the creation of 8 new Indian Institutes of Technology, 7 Indian Institutes of Management, 5 Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, and 15 new Central Universities. The core of the Eleventh Plan is knowledge-investment with allocations growing four-fold. India sees knowledge as the strategic resource that will give it leadership and this investment will serve that purpose. To attract and retain talent in institutions of higher learning, my Government has radically restructured the pay scales of teachers in universities.

The National Knowledge Commission set up by my Government has been giving useful inputs for developing and sharing knowledge resources. Acting on its recommendations a National Knowledge Network connecting major national knowledge institutions is being set up and its first phase will become operational shortly.

My Government has taken several steps to promote science and technology. Creation of a new Ministry of Earth Sciences, promulgation of a new map policy, establishment of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure and introduction of the INSPIRE programme to promote science education have been some of the highlights. Biotechnology, a sunrise sector has seen an unprecedented growth of over 35% and research has supported development of vaccines for health and new seeds for agriculture vitally important to the common man. While pursuing frontier areas of science and technology like nanotechnology, robotics or genomics, the Government has also launched special efforts targeted for the disadvantaged through initiatives like the Open Source Drug Discovery programme and CSIR project 800.

Our scientists have demonstrated time and again that they have the capacity to be the best in the world. The successful placing into the lunar orbit of the *Chandrayan-1* spacecraft in November 2008 is a tribute to our talent pool in science and technology and heralded India's entry into a select group of countries that have successfully undertaken lunar missions. India has also successfully accomplished eighteen missions which included eight launch vehicle missions and eight satellites launched by the PSLV and GSLV. Data from our satellites is being extensively used for land and water resource management, monitoring of the environment and the management of natural disasters. India's

space technology has earned international acclaim and is being successfully marketed abroad on a commercial basis.

The Right to Information Act has had a positive impact in making Government more accountable and has been widely welcomed by the people. Information technology offers opportunities to transform our democracy through electronic governance. My Government has taken up a programme for setting up one lakh Common Service Centres providing services in the villages and 25,000 of these have become functional. The Unique Identification Authority of India has been set up in order to generate and assign unique identification numbers for residents. This is important from the security perspective, as also to improve the delivery of development and welfare schemes.

My Government believes that decentralized governance through *Panchayati Raj*, and Urban Local Bodies is the surest way to Improving delivery of services and fostering inclusive development. The Ministry of *Panchayati Raj* set up for the first time at the Central level accelerated the process of devolution of funds, functions and functionaries to panchayat institutions. Through constant engagement with States and central Ministries, the architecture of decentralized Governance has been strengthened. The Backward Regions Grant Fund has been used to institutionalize district planning. *Panchayat* representatives are leading development activities at the local level. The second Administrative Reforms Commission set up by my Government has given elaborate recommendation for Governance reform, many of which have a bearing on decentralisation.

Streamlining the functioning of judiciary is essential for ensuring our people quick and affordable justice. My Government has introduced a Bill to establish a National Judicial Council to ensure accountability and transparency in the judicial system. It has already approved the proposal to increase the strength of High Court Judges by 20 per cent. The maximum number of judges in the Supreme Court, excluding the Chief Justice, has been increased from 25 to 30. District and Subordinate Courts are being computerized to improve their functioning. My Government enacted the *Gram Nyayalayas Act* to take justice closer to people.

Recognizing that India's cities and small towns while being engines of economic growth were seriously deficient in civic infrastructure and services, my Government launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. This Mission is the first major effort for a renewal of our urban areas. In 61 out of the 63 cities covered under the Mission, projects costing over Rs.40,000 crore are under implementation based on City Development Plans. Under its basic services programme,

11.7 lakh houses are being constructed to make housing affordable to the poor. Interest subsidy of 5% is also extended on home loans for promotion of housing for low income groups in urban areas. My Government initiated an Urban Transport policy under which public transport is being promoted. The Metro in Delhi is being expanded to Gurgaon and Noida and urban rail systems have been promoted in major cities like Kolkata, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad. States have also been provided with funds to purchase buses for their urban transport systems.

My Government has, for the first time, announced an Integrated Energy Policy which lays down a roadmap to meet the demand for energy in all sectors of the economy in an efficient, economically viable and environmentally sustainable manner using different fuels and forms of energy. The policy not only meets the requirement of energy security but also provides an overall framework which is consistent with achieving the objective of inclusive growth.

Coal is the main source of energy in the country. Besides expanding production in the public sector, my Government has allocated 158 coal blocks with reserves of almost 40 billion tonnes to various Government and private power, cement and sponge iron companies for captive use. A new Coal Distribution Policy has been put in place and e-auction introduced to make coal accessible to all. Coal India Limited has been conferred *Navratna* status for speedy project implementation. A bill has been introduced in the Parliament to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act to enable transparent allocation of coal blocks through competitive bidding. Coal to Liquid project is being initiated to meet the rapidly growing need of liquid fuel in the country. Rates of royalty for coal and lignite have been significantly enhanced to ensure better revenue to resource-bearing States.

My Government has formulated a new National Mineral Policy in order to attract large investments and the latest technologies for prospecting and mining, with due regard to the needs and sensitivities of the mineral bearing States.

During the last four years, 112 oil and gas discoveries have been made, significant amongst them being the discovery of gas for the first time in the ultra deepwater areas. The refining capacity has significantly increased and our exports of petroleum products have quadrupled from US \$ 6.6 billion in 2004-05 to US \$ 26.8 billion in 2007-08. Over 300 lakh new customers have been provided with LPG connections, thus covering about 52% of the population and 5 kg cylinders have been

introduced for low-income customers. Government has constituted the of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board to protect the interests of customers and petroleum entities. Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology has been established for studies and research in petroleum and energy sectors.

A major initiative has been taken for the development of coal-based Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) each with a capacity of 4,000 MW with environment-friendly super critical technology. Three projects, i.e. Sasan in Madhya Pradesh in 2007, Mundra in Gujarat in 2007 and Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh in 2008 have already been handed over to the successful bidders and are at the implementation stage.

The New Hydro Power Policy 2008 which has been put in place aims at providing a level playing field to private developers. The scheme envisages, in addition to the existing 12% free power for the host State, 1% free power for local area development in the project area. For a period of 10 years from the date of commissioning of the project, 100 units of electricity per month would be provided by the project developer to each Project Affected Family through the relevant distribution company.

The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) has been restructured for implementation during the 11th Five Year Plan with revised terms and conditions and a total outlay of Rs.51,577 crore. The focus of the programme is on actual, demonstrable performance in terms of loss reduction in selected urban areas.

My Government has accorded importance to increasing the share of nuclear energy in our overall energy mix. Three nuclear power units with a total capacity of 1300 MW have been brought online. Six more nuclear power units with a total capacity of 3160 MW are in advanced stages of construction. We are committed to the three-stage nuclear development programme ultimately leading to large-scale utilization of thorium for energy production. A number of new technologies involving Advanced Heavy Water Reactors, High Temperature Reactors and Accelerator Driven Systems are under development as a part of our long-term programme for development of nuclear energy.

The 11th Five Year Plan aims at raising the total annual investment in infrastructure from 5% of GDP to 9%. This will greatly enhance infrastructure development in our country. A country's industrial progress greatly depends on the volume of steel it produces. India is now the fifth largest producer of crude steel in the world and hopes to be the second largest steel producing nation by 2015. The States of Orissa,

Jharkhand, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal are getting major investments to develop their steel industry.

My Government has expanded the network of roads in our country and improved the national highways. It has drawn up an ambitious plan for investing Rs.2,36,000 crore for upgradation of National Highways involving a total length of about 34,000 kms. The Golden Quadrilateral connecting the four metropolitan cities is near completion. The north-south and east-west corridors are expected to be completed during the next year.

The Indian Railways has achieved record profits continuously over the last four years while maintaining efficiency and service standards. The new technologies adopted by the Railways have increased safety and security of passengers. The Railway Protection Force has been constituted as an Armed Force of the Union to augment the efforts of the States to protect and secure railway property and passengers. Construction of a Dedicated Freight Corridor between Kolkata and Ludhiana on the eastern route, and Mumbai and Dadri on the western route, to augment the capacity of carrying freight traffic has been taken up. A Special Purpose Vehicle namely the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited has already initiated preparatory work on this project. This project will use state-of-the-art technology and cover 2700 kilometres at an estimated cost of Rs.28,000 crore.

The expansion of the Civil Aviation Sector and the growing air traffic is indicative of the modernization of India's economy. The number of people who travelled by air nearly doubled, from around 5.7 crore in 2004 to around 11 crore in 2008. Airport infrastructure is being modernized and world class airports have come up in Hyderabad Bengaluru while work is in progress in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. At the same time 35 non-metro airports are being upgraded through the Airports Authority of India. The Airport Economic Regulatory Authority Act has been passed by the Parliament.

My Government has taken a number of steps to ensure that the reach of affordable telecom services is greatly enhanced. Through amendments to the law initiated by my Government faster expansion of mobile services in rural areas has been made possible through use of Universal Service Obligation Fund for such services. Today, there is a phone connection for every three persons and the target is to provide 50 crore connections by 2010. The Broadband Policy launched by my Government in 2004 has seen the number of broadband connections grow from a very low level to over 53 lakh.

While pursuing policies of economic development, my Government has sought to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the environment. A new environment policy and a biodiversity action plan have been put in place to judiciously balance concerns of environment and development. Our flora and fauna need protection and my Government has taken several steps to protect the Indian Tiger as well as all other species of wild life. Our great rivers are also our national assets. My Government has formulated a Green India mission to reforest 6 million hectares of degraded forests making it one of the world's largest afforestation efforts. A Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill locating resources for the programme is under consideration of Parliament. River Ganga has a special place in the hearts of all Indians. Over the years it has been felt necessary to look at the river as a totality and move from city-specific pollution abatement activities to a comprehensive development plan for the basin. My Government has initiated steps to set up a Ganga River Basin Authority chaired by the Prime Minister with Chief Ministers of Ganga basin States to comprehensively plan for reviving the Ganga and its bounty.

My Government has taken measures to face the challenges posed by climate change. India firmly believes in upholding the position articulated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must determine responses of individual countries. India has already voluntarily expressed a commitment that its per capita emissions will never exceed the average of developed countries. A National Action Plan for Climate Change has been developed by my Government under which action will be taken forward through eight National Missions. These Missions will collectively move the country on a path of sustainable development. The National Solar Mission to harness solar energy is one of these eight Missions. A Mission on Sustainable Habitat will set green standards to guide future construction. These important Missions are under finalization now. A National Institute on Abiotic Stress Management is being set up in Baramati in Maharashtra to address impact of climate change on agriculture.

My Government is committed to promote renewable energy technologies and increase its share in the energy mix. India has achieved grid-connected renewable power capacity of 13,740 megawatts and a capacity addition of 14,000 megawatts has been targeted for the 11th Plan.

The world looks up to India for its cultural resources. The large number of cultural institutions in the country requires financial support

as well as professional leadership. My Government has decided to alter the procedure of recruitment to ensure that professionals from the fields of art and culture get chosen to head the cultural institutions. Government has declared Kannada and Telugu as Classical languages along with Tamil and Sanskrit declared earlier and will extend support for activities related to their development. India successfully moved a Resolution, which was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, to observe 2nd October as the "International Day of Non-Violence". During the last four years the country commemorated the 300th anniversary of the consecration of *Shri Guru Granth Sahib*, the 75th anniversary of *Dandi* March led by Mahatma Gandhi, Centenary of the *Satyagraha*, the hundred and fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the First War of Independence and the 2550th birth anniversary of Lord Buddha. These have been events recalling the wellsprings of our composite culture that upholds plurality of thought, tolerance, compassion and quest for truth and freedom. The bedrock of our culture is a celebration of freedom of thought and expression and any attempt to force a closing of the Indian mind goes against the very ethos of being Indian. Such elements need to be fought and defeated.

Economic resurgence has resulted in increased tourism opportunities for India. The Incredible India and the *Athithi Devo Bhava* campaigns along with concerted efforts at improving accommodation air travel and travel facilitation have been successful in attracting more tourists. Foreign tourist arrivals rose from 3.46 million in 2004 to 5.37 million in 2008 while foreign exchange earnings in the same period went up from US \$ 6.17 billion to US \$ 11.75 billion.

India will host the Commonwealth Games in 2010. My Government would spare no efforts to ensure its success. Under a Rs.678 crore scheme, comprehensive and intensive sports training and exposure will be provided at national and international levels to Indian sportspersons. A National Programme called *Panchayat Yuvak Krida* and *Khel Abhiyan* has also been launched to create basic sports infrastructure in village and block *Panchayats* in a phased manner.

My Government has taken a number of steps for devolution of managerial and financial autonomy to the profit making Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). As a result, the turnover and profits of the CPSEs have increased by about 45% and 22%, respectively in the last three years. A Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises was established to advise on the revival and restructuring of sick and loss making CPSEs. Government has approved the revival package for 34 sick and loss making CPSEs involving an amount of more than

Rs.14,000 crore based on the recommendations of the Board. My Government has also issued guidelines for the revision of pay scales of executives of CPSEs after considering the recommendations of the Second Pay Revision Committee.

The economic policies of my Government have resulted in an unprecedented growth rate of over 8.9% in the last four years, with the growth rate in the last 3 years exceeding 9%. Such growth has never been achieved before. This enabled my Government to locate adequate resources to undertake development investment of an unprecedented scale, not only at the Central Government level, but also through increased assistance to State Governments, which increased from Rs.186 thousand crore in 2003-04 to Rs.240 thousand crore in 2007-08. It also helped to implement the much-awaited Sixth Pay Commission recommendations for Government employees, including Defence personnel.

My Government's policies have ensured that even as India faces an economic slowdown along with the rest of the world, our fundamentals are much better. India's domestic demand can inject fresh momentum to our economy. India's banks are well capitalized and face no threat that many banks face in other parts of the world. My Government has taken a series of measures to stimulate our economy at this juncture. These have been expeditiously announced after discussion with stakeholders to address the problem of slow down in industrial growth, exports and the services sector. These measures include increasing availability of liquidity and credit, reduction in taxes and duties, boost to infrastructure, and special support to the worst affected sectors such as exports, micro, medium and small industries, housing and automobiles. My Government has relaxed the constraints imposed by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act to increase capital expenditure by the State Governments. These measures will drive the demand for goods and services reviving production activities in the manufacturing as well as services sectors. Even in the prevailing adverse global economic environment, our economy, it is hoped, would still register a relatively high growth rate.

Honourable members are aware that the sharp increase in global commodity prices, especially those of petroleum and food, had an adverse impact on our economy. This shock was in large measure absorbed by the Government and the citizen insulated. This also required that Government put in place several fiscal and monetary measures to contain inflation. As a result of these actions, my Government has been able to bring down the rate of inflation from 12% in September 2008 to around 5-6% in January, 2009. The prices of

petrol, and diesel and LPG have also been reduced to provide relief to the common man.

The nation faced multiple internal security challenges. The country witnessed terrorist attacks in several cities with growing levels of sophistication and assistance from outside the country. Several innocent lives have been lost. The terrorist attack in Mumbai as well as the terrorist incidents in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Bengaluru and Assam and before that on our Embassy in Kabul, were an assault on all the values that our country stands for. The attack in Mumbai was deliberately planned to retard our economic progress. My Government is heartened by the international support it has received after these attacks. There is greater appreciation in the international community of the threat that exists to the region and the world from the terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

I salute the members of our security forces, including members of the State police forces, who face grave challenges from terrorists, left wing extremist and insurgent groups and resolutely defend the integrity and sovereignty of our country. Many of them have made the supreme sacrifice and laid down their lives, most recently in the attacks in Mumbai. We share the grief of their families, and my Government will ensure that they are adequately compensated so that they can lead normal lives.

My Government has strengthened the country's internal security to protect people from such mindless acts of violence. A National Investigation Agency has been established to deal with terrorism. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has been amended to deal with terrorist offences and terrorist organizations. These measures have strengthened the legal and investigative framework to tackle terrorist forces. While arming the internal security apparatus with these powers, all care would be taken to uphold legal procedures and prevent any misuse of such powers. A comprehensive plan has been drawn up to strengthen maritime and coastal security against threats from the sea.

Left wing extremism remained a major concern in several States. My Government has adopted a holistic approach to tackle this problem in close coordination with the affected States through modernization of police forces and better implementation of socio-economic development programmes for the most backward regions. Similarly, several initiatives were taken to deal with the problem of insurgency in the North-East.

The general situation in the north-east has improved significantly over the last four years. Efforts have been made to initiate a dialogue

process with various groups who abjure violence with the aim of bringing them into the national mainstream. To address the infrastructure deficit of northeastern States, a Special Accelerated Road Development Programme targeted to provide inter-region, inter-State and district level roads connectivity totaling about 8700 kilometers has been taken up. The 1840 km long Trans-Arunachal Expressway has been approved. Special emphasis has been given to the development of an alternate highway to Sikkim, and rail and air connectivity to the North East States has been put on fast track. The Kaladan project will link Mizoram and North East to the sea and open up the entire region. Along with infrastructure, expansion of educational facilities in this region has been given high priority with a Central University in each State of the region. An Indian Institute of Management has already been set up in Shillong.

For Jammu and Kashmir, my Government has taken up a Reconstruction Plan under which Rs.24,000 crore is being invested in 67 projects. It aims at strengthening infrastructure and catering to other development needs of the three regions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The Baglihar hydro-electric project has been commissioned. Commencement of the first railway line in the Valley has meant both physical and emotional connectivity for the people of the region with the rest of India. Srinagar-Kargil-Leh road has been declared a national highway and its up-gradation is in progress. Against this background, my Government has reached out to people resorting to violence to join the mainstream and work for the welfare and rapid development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The protection of India's security and territorial integrity has received the highest attention of my Government. Our Armed Forces have made the country proud with their sense of commitment, sacrifice and professionalism. They have time and again come to the aid of civil authority in natural disasters, as well as to combat insurgency in affected areas.

Our long borders encompassing different geographical and climate conditions and terrains make it imperative to keep the Armed Forces in a State of full preparedness to face diverse challenges at all times. The modernization programme of the Armed Forces is focused on State-of-the-art technology, network centric warfare, and includes an Integrated Space Cell to deal with the challenges posed by the militarization of space. Government stands committed to give financial support for modernization to the required extent. The actions taken by the Indian Navy to deal with threats of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and to secure

our sea-lanes of communication have demonstrated our capacity and willingness to protect our interests.

Our research and development efforts in the area of defence technology showed concrete results through launches of the *Agni-I* and *Agni-III* and other missiles. The main battle tank *Arjun* was productionised. Defence procurement procedures were continually reviewed and updated to ensure maximum transparency, economy of resources and support for our indigenization efforts.

India has the second largest diaspora in the world. The overseas Indian community estimated at over 25 million is spread across every major region in the globe. My Government has taken a series of measures to improve the welfare of overseas Indians, particularly in West Asia and the Gulf, and to create mechanisms to facilitate their participation in nation building activities. These have included scholarship programmes, the creation of the India Development Foundation, the establishment of a Council for Promotion of Overseas Employment and an Overseas Workers Resource Centre and a People of Indian Origin/ Non Resident Indian University. In recognition of the importance attached to the role of overseas Indians, a Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of Persons of Indian Origin has been set up to catalyse ideas for national development.

My Government has accorded highest priority to fostering close political, economic, social and cultural relations with all countries, on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual respect, to help promote a friendly and peaceful external environment, to safeguard our national security and ensure rapid socio-economic development for our people. We have also consistently endeavoured to promote a stable and prosperous South Asia in the recognition of the fact that we are bound by strong ties of history, culture and ethnicity.

The conduct of our foreign policy has enhanced India's stature in the world. My Government's foreign policy has been imbued with the values that our nation rests upon—of independence of thought and action, ensuring a democratic, just and equitable world order and the rule of law. India's views on the major international issues of our times are not just heard, but are now being actively sought.

My Government worked actively with the international community to address key global challenges of terrorism, energy and food security, climate change and sustainable development, the global economic and financial crisis, and the reform of international institutions, including of the United Nations, to reflect contemporary realities.

The conclusion of an India Specific Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the decision of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group in 2008 to allow its members to enter into full civil nuclear cooperation and trade with India in nuclear material and technology marks the beginning of the end of thirty four years of nuclear isolation and the technology denial regime that India was being subjected to. This has opened the way for our indigenous nuclear power generation programme to be reinforced by additionalities through international civil nuclear energy cooperation, thereby also contributing to the global fight against climate change. The opening of such cooperation with India is a vindication of India's impeccable record on non-proliferation and our long-standing commitment to universal, non-discriminatory and comprehensive nuclear disarmament.

India discharged her responsibilities in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to promote economic re-integration in our neighbourhood. During India's Chairmanship of the SAARC and thereafter, several regional initiatives, including the decision to establish the South Asian University in India, were launched which transformed SAARC from a declaratory to an Implementation phase.

We consolidated our relations with Afghanistan, and remained closely involved with its economic reconstruction and development efforts. We wish to see a stable, pluralistic and democratic Afghanistan. The terrorist attack on our Embassy in Kabul in 2008 was a matter of deep concern and reinforced our determination to fulfill our commitments to the people of Afghanistan. We welcome the return of multi-party democratic politics in Bangladesh and remain committed to working closely with the newly elected Government. The visit of the Prime Minister to Bhutan and my own visit to represent India at the Coronation of His Majesty Jigme Khesar Wangchuck further consolidated our multi-faceted relations with our closest neighbour. India and the Maldives continue to enjoy traditional bonds of friendship and close cooperation. With Myanmar we have conducted our relations in a manner that reflects our shared history and mutual desire to promote peace and tranquility along the border. Government extended its full support to the people of Nepal in their historic transition to a multi-party democracy, and we wish them well.

We are concerned at the plight of civilians internally displaced in Sri Lanka on account of escalation of the military conflict. We continue to support a negotiated political settlement in Sri Lanka within the framework of an undivided Sri Lanka acceptable to all the communities, including the Tamil community. I would appeal to the Government of Sri Lanka

and to the LTTE to return to the negotiating table. This can be achieved if, simultaneously, the Government of Sri Lanka suspends its military operations and the LTTE declares its willingness to lay down arms and to begin talks with the Government.

Our relations with Pakistan have made considerable progress since 2004, but, regrettably, terrorism from Pakistan has eroded the achievements of the bilateral dialogue process and has caused a grave setback to our relations. Despite solemn commitments given by Pakistan at the highest level that it would not allow territory under its control to be used for terrorism in any manner against India, terrorists from Pakistan have continued to attack India. We expect Pakistan to honour the commitments made to us, and to take decisive and credible action against all terrorist groups that are based in, and operate from, its territory.

Our relations with the People's Republic of China have witnessed regular high-level exchanges, growing economic and trade ties, increased defence contacts and enhanced people-to-people exchanges. Our Strategic and Cooperative Partnership with China is progressively acquiring a more regional and international perspective. Both sides are also engaged in efforts at resolving outstanding issues including the boundary question through dialogue, while maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas.

The signing of the Agreement on Cooperation on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy with USA was one of the manifestations of the transformation in our relationship with the United States of America. Our relations with the USA cover a broad canvas of sectors ranging from science and technology, agriculture, education, health to trade and investment. We look forward to working with the new Administration to mutual benefit in the bilateral field as well as on the major challenges of our time. India's strategic partnership and long standing relations with Russia have been strengthened and diversified. Russia remains our valued partner in meeting our defence and nuclear energy needs, and in the area of science and technology, including cooperation in the field of space. Our interaction with the European Union and other countries in Europe in the fields of defence and security, science and technology, trade and investment, agriculture, culture and education has significantly deepened. Agreements on civil nuclear cooperation were signed with Russia and France, and negotiations to conclude similar agreements with other friendly countries were initiated.

Our Strategic and Global Partnership with Japan was consolidated and our relations are marked by a strong mutual desire to harness our complementarities. Our engagement with East Asia was a manifestation

of our belief that the twenty-first century belongs to Asia, and that India has a role to play in the Asian resurgence. My visits to Vietnam and Indonesia, and India's participation for the first time in the Summit meeting of the ASEM Countries provided a major impetus to our "Look East Policy".

We paid special attention to the intensification of our traditional and historic relations with the Gulf. The visit of the Prime Minister to Oman and Qatar opened new avenues of cooperation in the areas of energy security, investment and welfare of Indians working in the Gulf. Our ties with West Asia were reinforced through the visits of the Presidents of Egypt, Syria and the Palestinian Authority. The most tragic loss of lives and acute suffering surrounding the recent incursions into Gaza highlight the urgent need for a comprehensive resolution of the Palestinian issue. We remain steadfast in our support to the Palestinian cause, and in our desire to see peace and stability in West Asia. The Government worked towards building a contemporary relationship with Iran. The visit by the President of Kazakhstan as the Chief Guest for our Republic Day symbolized the importance attached by Government to our extended neighbourhood in Central Asia.

My Government opened a new chapter in our relations with the great continent of Africa. The first ever India-Africa Forum Summit held in India established a blueprint for our relations with Africa for the future. We will share our resources and technical know-how to assist Africa in its development efforts. My first overseas visit as President was to Brazil, Mexico and Chile. Several steps have been taken to tap the vast potential that exists in our relations with Latin America and the Caribbean countries.

India's participation in the Summit meeting of the G-20 countries, and the hosting of the third IBSA Summit and second BIMSTEC Summit in India were utilized to forge new, and strengthen existing, economic linkages at a time of turmoil in the international economic and financial system.

Honourable members, the efforts of my Government were singularly focused on enhancing the prosperity of our people through the sharing of opportunity. My Government believes that its programmes for inclusive development have created those opportunities that help share the benefits of progress more equitably. When a child in a remote tribal village has access to a local school that has come up in her habitation, when her health care needs are attended to, when her parents do not have to migrate for work but find employment locally through the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, when they have rights on

their land, and when they are empowered to make the Government accountable to them for these actions through the Right to Information we have moved closer to meeting the goals that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru flagged for the nation. At the turn of our independence his clarion call in these very hallowed precincts was that collectively we must act to “remove poverty, ignorance, disease and the inequality of opportunity”. Even while acknowledging that the move towards an inclusive society with equal opportunities for all our citizens is still work in progress, on the basis of the record of its performance, it is my Government’s belief that we have moved much closer to realizing this agenda.

My Government has steadfastly sought to accelerate the pace of growth to enable our youth to access global opportunities. Young India has the power to dream big. Our economic progress has enabled such global aspirations. Our investments in knowledge will get us closer to our goals. Our young people have never been more confident about the future. Let our reach exceed our grasp.

Jai Hind.

**ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA,
SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE AT THE
ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR THE MEMBERS
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF BANGLADESH, DHAKA,
22 FEBRUARY 2009**

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered an Address at the Orientation Programme for the members of the Parliament of Bangladesh at Dhaka on 22 February 2009.

We reproduce below the text of the Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

—Editor

Your Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh; Honourable Speaker, Jatiya Sangsad, Md. Abdul Hamid; Honourable Members of the Jatiya Sangsad; and Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am greatly honoured to have been invited at the Orientation Programme organized for the newly elected members of the *Jatiya Sangsad* by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

At the outset, I convey my warm felicitations to Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina on her election as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and wish her the very best in her endeavours. I would also like to heartily compliment honourable Md. Abdul Hamid on his election as the Speaker of the *Jatiya Sangsad*. On behalf of the people and the Parliament of India, and on my own behalf, I congratulate all the honourable members of the *Jatiya Sangsad* on their victory and wish them all success in the discharge of their parliamentary duties and responsibilities. I also convey my greetings and good wishes to our brothers and sisters of this great country for their happiness and prosperity in the years to come, following their decisive mandate.

Honourable members, as the elected representatives of the people, you will have to constantly and vigorously strive for their socio-economic emancipation and overall development of your country. Orientation Programmes like this for the newly elected members are always useful to provide them insight about the working of Parliament which will

enable them to serve duly the people through this great institution and properly discharge their duties and functions. I compliments the *Jatiya Sangsad* and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs for this important initiative and trust that this Orientation Programme will be of great help to all the newly elected members.

Excellencies, the relations between India and Bangladesh are rooted in a shared cultural, economic and political history. Uniquely, we also share the noble vision of the Universal Poet, *Kaviguru* Rabindranath Tagore, who wrote the National Anthems of our two countries. We have fought together for freedom from foreign rule and emancipation of our citizens. Today, our relationship is guided by the principles of democracy, non-alignment and mutual friendship. We have worked together with common goals and aspirations in the past and we look forward to continued interaction at various levels in the future too, to promote the cause of peace and prosperity of our people. We should maintain regular and greater interactions at the parliamentary level between our two countries for our mutual benefit. I feel privileged to be here today to share with you some of my own experiences on building successful parliamentary institutions from the perspective of the role played by the elected representatives of the people and working out benchmarks for our Legislative institutions.

As we all know, in parliamentary democracy, which is the most widely accepted form of governance the world over, the Legislatures are bestowed with the immense responsibility of guiding the destiny of their nations and, therefore, constantly remain at the centre-stage of their democratic polities. They have a paramount role to play in making sure that the fundamental laws of the land keep pace with the changing needs of the constantly evolving society. But the content and quality of parliamentary democracy largely depends on how smoothly and effectively the Legislative Bodies perform while discharging their responsibilities. In fact, the Legislatures symbolize the urges, aspirations and expectations of the people and with the unprecedented growth in the range and magnitude of governmental activities, their responsibilities have further increased. Of late, several new areas of public importance have emerged necessitating enactment of new legislations. This apart, the number of policies and programmes in diverse areas of public importance have increased manifold, making the legislative and surveillance roles of modern Legislatures more diversified and complex.

Legislatures have multi-dimensional functions to perform—ranging from ventilating people's grievances to making laws, to debating policies and subjects of public importance and to keeping surveillance

over the administration. Naturally, in democracy, the people while casting their votes, hope for improvement in their living conditions, redressal of their day-to-day problems and the overall development of the country. The people always expect that those who represent them in the supreme democratic institution discharge their duties with total commitment and utmost sincerity and their elected representatives should strive to live up to the expectations of the people.

After having spent nearly four decades as a member of Parliament, and the last nearly five years as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, I would say that the credibility of Parliament as the supreme representative institution eventually depends on the performance of the parliamentarians—individually, as well as collectively. A member of Parliament, on his election, is entrusted with onerous responsibilities and is expected to perform a variety of roles both inside and outside the House. He comes to Parliament with enormous obligations on his shoulders and in the discharge of his parliamentary duties, he or she must have a good grasp of the rules of procedure and conduct of parliamentary business. It is, essential for those elected for the first time to familiarize themselves with various parliamentary procedural concepts to discharge his or her functions adequately.

As you all know, Parliament functions through debates, discussions and consensus, and it can only do so if the deliberations are marked by a sense of commitment to the cause of the people and the atmosphere in the House is kept free from bitterness and acrimony. The effectiveness of the functioning of the Houses of Parliament depends, to a great extent, upon how scrupulously the members follow various rules and guidelines which are a prerequisite for the orderly transaction of parliamentary business. Only when members get well acquainted with the Rules of Procedure do they get the confidence to participate in the proceedings of the House and their participation becomes effective and meaningful. Unless the rules, regulations and well-established parliamentary conventions are respected by each and every member and unless the members exhibit mutual accommodation and respect whenever there are differing points of view, parliamentary democracy will not be a working democracy, as the people want.

There are conventions and rules of parliamentary etiquette, which have to be observed by every member in the interest of parliamentary decorum. Members should also be well-conversant with their rights and privileges individually and that of the House collectively. In this context, it is essential that members attend the House regularly. It is not necessary that they should participate in every discussion but by being

present in the House, they will get to listen to the other members deliberating on issues of contemporaneous relevance and benefit from such discussions. It is equally important for new members to observe the performance of senior parliamentarians and get enlightened from their rich and varied parliamentary understanding and experience.

An important quality required in a legislator is the habit of listening to differing perceptions and respecting dissenting opinions. Your willingness to listen to others' points of view especially that of your political adversaries, is the test for your own democratic credentials. You should listen to others without interruption and then refute them, if you want to, with your own convincing reasons. Let us remember at all points of time that democracy is a system of alternatives—of alternative parties, alternative policies, alternative principles, alternative approaches and alternative leaders. The Treasury Benches and the Opposition have equal responsibilities in ensuring good governance in the country. While discharging their parliamentary responsibilities, both sides are expected to be accommodating and forbearing towards each other, particularly when contentious issues are debated on the floor of the House. In a democracy, today's Opposition Party could be tomorrow's Ruling Party and *vice-versa*. This fact enjoins upon all sections of the House to display a very high degree of tolerance to the views and stances of other parties discharging their parliamentary duties.

As one who has spent almost all my parliamentary life in the Opposition Benches, I can say with some authority that one important aspect of the political dimension of parliamentary democracy is a strong Opposition in the Legislature. As a matter of fact, parliamentary system operates better when there is a vigilant and responsible Opposition which is entitled to articulate its programmes and policies as is the Government. While the Treasury Bench has the mandate to rule, the Opposition has to keep an unremitting vigil on the acts of omission and commission of the Government, Constructive criticism backed by viable alternative approaches, definitely helps democracy deliver better. Hence, whenever issues having a bearing on the larger interests of the State come up for discussion in the House, each member of the Legislature must act in a non-partisan manner. Undeniably, tolerance is the basic tenet of democracy,

More than anything else, I would humbly beseech you to show respect to the Presiding Officer who is the custodian of your rights and privileges. He is elected by you to enable the smooth and orderly conduct of the House and to regulate its business according to the rules which you yourself have drawn up. In every way, the Speaker is the

voice of the House, representing as he does the dignity of the House. Needless to say, the Chair deserves utmost consideration from all sections of the House if he has to function effectively, If one questions his decisions or interferes with his authority, one is lowering the prestige of the Chair and the House as such. That being so, members should extend unstinted cooperation to the Presiding Officer to enhance the dignity and prestige of the House.

I understand that, as in other Parliaments, the Parliament of Bangladesh has also a well-developed system of Committees to transact various kinds of parliamentary business and also to ensure the accountability of the Government Departments in an organized manner. Many of you will be getting opportunity to serve on various Committees of your Parliament. Since the Committee work is as important as the work of the House, you all are expected to take keen interest in the Committee system to make your participation meaningful in the parliamentary business. I can say from my own experience that Parliamentary Committees will offer all members an opportunity to specialize in an area of their interest and to work more effectively towards securing Executive accountability to the Legislature.

I would like to reiterate that it is a privilege to be a member of Parliament which also carries with it tremendous responsibility too and that is where setting benchmarks becomes important. When you are filing your nomination, you are also giving a solemn undertaking to your constituents that you will at all times be striving for their welfare. You may be a member of a party which put you up as a candidate. That is another loyalty you will have to reconcile while representing your people who are the ultimate masters in a democracy. That, perhaps, is the most significant aspect that you should, ever remember. Mahatma Gandhi once said and I quote: "It is an illusion to think that the MLAs are the guides of the voters. Voters do not send representatives to the Assemblies in order to be guided by them. On the contrary, they are sent there loyally to carry out the people's wishes. The people are, therefore, the guides, not the MLAs. The latter are the servants, the former masters". This also enjoins upon the representatives to constantly apprise their electorate about various actions and initiatives taken by them as also the Government to ameliorate their lot. He must strive to understand the pulse of the people and act in such manner that facilitates harmonizing judiciously the competing roles that he has to play as an elected representative.

It is perhaps a common experience that deliberations in Parliament are often interrupted for reasons and by methods which are very difficult

to justify. I can say from my own experience that several times the senseless and sometimes motivated interruptions lead to pandemonium inside the House causing non-completion of the scheduled business and the resultant loss of the precious time of the House and wastage of public money, which democracies like ours can ill afford. If the legislators themselves show lack of commitment to parliamentary behaviour and are perceived to be unconcerned about the discharge of their responsibilities, the people, specially the youth who are our future leaders, will lose faith in the system as a whole, resulting ultimately in total chaos which, in turn, will lead to anarchy and instability, the ultimate victims of which again will be the people themselves.

It hardly needs to be emphasized that you should always bear in mind the fact that each one of you is a representative and a leader of the people at one and the same time. Restoring the trust of the people in parliamentary democracy when there is a crisis of credibility of its institutions is the biggest challenge before us today.

It is necessary that Legislatures should take appropriate initiatives not merely for capacity building of members and staff, but also to communicate Parliament to the people. In the Lok Sabha, as Speaker, I took the initiative of setting up five Parliamentary Forums, viz. on Water Conservation and Management; Youth; Children; Population and Public Health; and Global Warming and Climate Change, with a view to providing our parliamentarians a platform to exchange ideas; views, experiences, expertise and practices in respect of their mandate with experts, civil society groups, other stakeholders, etc. I also started a Lecture Series for members of Parliament on subjects of topical interest. Experts in different fields from India and abroad, including from international bodies, and social activists, have shared their views and experiences with members of Parliament. Besides, I set up in August 2006 the Parliament Museum which is designed to highlight India's rich democratic heritage. This high-tech Museum, which is visited by a large number of people, especially students, imparts knowledge in an interesting and interactive manner on the evolution of political institutions, constitutional history and parliamentary development in our country.

I have always held the view that the people of the country have every right to know of the functioning of the Parliament and of their elected representatives. Such an understanding would help them take informed decisions at the time of elections which would also help to evolve an informed democracy. With this in mind, I launched a 24-hour Lok Sabha Channel on 24 July 2006. Apart from live telecast of Lok

Sabha proceedings, the Channel telecasts a large number of value added informative programmes involving parliamentarians, political leaders, civil society activists, academics, experts and others. Undoubtedly, this has gone a long way in taking Parliament nearer to the people and in the process, demanding new benchmarks from our parliamentarians.

In fact, it is the Legislature which is responsible for the sound health of democracy. The Legislature needs to operate within the framework of well-defined benchmarks with due respect to the representative character of the Legislatures, thereby ensuring their independence, effectiveness and accountability.

Excellencies, in an increasingly inter-dependent world, it is imperative that all stakeholders should take concerted action to promote consultation and cooperation. This should particularly be so in respect of the elected representatives of the people. Parliamentary diplomacy and inter-parliamentary cooperation can augment and supplement governmental efforts to buttress cooperative relations among countries. Conferences, Seminars and Workshops of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association provide ample opportunities for debates and discussions on issues of topical concern and to arrive at viable solutions in addressing the challenges before us. I recall that the 53rd CPA Conference which we successfully organized in September 2007 in New Delhi had facilitated very informed discussions among the parliamentary fraternity, besides promoting greater interaction among parliamentarians from the Commonwealth community. The Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians offers parliamentarians from our region to work together in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding. Besides enabling us to consolidate democracy, such endeavours will also help to promote resolution of outstanding problems in an amicable manner, in addition to encouraging greater people-to-people contacts, thereby strengthening democratic institutions everywhere. In this context, I would like to share with you that we have in our Parliament, Parliamentary Friendship Groups with a large number of countries to have more focused and continuous interactions with parliamentarians of those countries and to promote bilateral relations. I am confident that the Parliamentary Friendship Group that we have in our Parliament *vis-à-vis* Bangladesh will play a proactive role to bolster our bilateral ties both at the governmental and parliamentary level, and help to serve greater people-to-people contacts.

Honourable members, being the people's representatives in the apex parliamentary institution of your country, you hold the potential to usher in a new era of peace and prosperity in your country as well as

in the entire South Asia region. India has gained a lot of experience in working parliamentary institutions successfully, in spite of several aberrations. I would like to mention here that we in India have a specialized parliamentary training institute called the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) which has been in operation since 1976. The BPST, in which officers from the Bangladesh Parliament have also undergone training at various points of time, provides parliamentarians and parliamentary officials with institutional opportunities for problem-oriented studies and systematic training in various disciplines of parliamentary institutions, processes and procedures. We will indeed be pleased to share our experiences with sister Parliaments, especially those of our neighbours, to the benefit of all of us.

Excellencies, on 4th June 2004, I had the honour of being elected as the Speaker of Lok Sabha. Replying to the warm and gracious sentiments expressed by all sections of the House, I had said, and I quote: "We should ask ourselves when the House rises for the day every evening as to what we have done during the day for the country and for the people and whether we have justified the people's faith in sending us here. Nothing will give us more satisfaction than the feeling that we have tried and done our best". As one who has spent four decades in the Lok Sabha, this will be my humble message to my fellow parliamentarians in the *Jatiya Sangsad*.

I trust that this Orientation Programme being organized by the National Democratic Institute for International affairs and the *Jatiya Sangsad* will help you further your capabilities and equip you adequately to undertake your new responsibilities with greater zeal and enthusiasm. I am confident that you all would discharge your duties as parliamentarians with devotion and commitment and conduct yourselves as examples to be emulated by others. I am sure you will prove to be effective and devoted parliamentarians, Ministers, leaders and statesmen of tomorrow who would enhance the rich traditions and lofty ideals of your great country. Once again, on behalf of people and Parliament of India, I wish you all the very best in your endeavours for securing peace and prosperity for the friendly people of Bangladesh.

Before I conclude, I would like to once again thank His Excellency Md. Abdul Hamid, Honourable Speaker, *Jatiya Sangsad* for giving me an opportunity to share my views with the newly elected member of the *Jatiya Sangsad*.

Thank you.

ROLE OF LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION IN PARLIAMENT

Smt. Shimla

Introduction

Language interpretation plays a significant role in the functioning of the Legislatures in a Parliamentary Democracy. It facilitates the dialogue and discussion amongst the members representing multilingual societies in the House. It hardly needs any mention that in a parliamentary democracy, the supreme power is vested in the people and is exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation involving periodically held elections.

The Legislature represents the people and acts as their agent and thus, it is at the core of democratic functioning and traditions. It is, in fact, the forum in which the elected representatives of the people meet, plan, deliberate, review the policies of the State and enact laws for the efficient and effective governance of the State to ensure public welfare.

Another important and cardinal role of the Legislature is to keep in touch with the emerging needs of the people and to voice their aspirations. That being so, the Legislature takes upon itself the responsibility to influence the executive actions in evolving timely and constructive solutions to the problems of the people. These roles can be exercised only by meaningful and constructive participation in the debates on the floor of the House and Committee meetings.

Multiplicity of languages in the Legislature:

The world is full of diversities in terms of religion, ethnicity, language, culture, etc. The linguistic diversity in the world is quite large with having nearly 6,500¹ spoken languages.

Being the living expression of human culture, each language is the

1. *Encyclopedia Americana*, Vol. 16

vehicle of a distinct culture. Various languages of the world give voice to the diversity of human experiences in different parts of the world. Since each language develops in a cultural, historical and traditional context, it needs to be promoted for preserving culturally and historically diverse heritage of humanity. Restricting and confining the use of language in communication lead to impoverishment of the common heritage of human wisdom, and may also deprive the humanity of the fruits of cross cultural ways of thinking and approaching several issues confronting the world. It is for this pertinent reason that the use of different languages is encouraged and facilitated through the process of interpretation, not only in national Parliaments but also in international organizations.

In United Nations (U.N.) and its affiliated organizations, and also in various institutions of European Union (EU) multilingual environment is provided through the interpretation facility. As such, the member nations and institutions conveniently and freely interact and also contribute to the conservation and promotion of cultural and linguistic heritage of the world.

India is a vast country inhabited by people belonging to diverse communities and ethnic groups professing and practising different religions and different languages and is indeed a living example of unity in diversity. A Hindi saying "*Kos Kos Par Badle Pani, Barha Kos Par Badle Vani*" (taste or quality of water changes at a distance of every 3-4 kilometres and the dialect changes at a distance of every 40-50 kilometres), very aptly describes the scenario in our country.

In India, we have hundreds of languages and thousands of dialects spoken by different groups across the length and breadth of the country. Out of these, as many as 22 major Indian languages have been recognized in the Constitution under the Eighth Schedule. These are, Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

Why the Members choose to speak in their own language?

There are a number of reasons as to why the members exercise their right to speak in their own language. There could be members in the House who may not be well conversant with either of the two working languages of the Parliament, *i.e.* English and Hindi, and may find it difficult to express themselves in either of them. Such members genuinely require the help of simultaneous interpretation. The constitutional

provisions also allow them to express their views in their own language and to overcome the hindrance due to the multiplicity of languages.

Another important reason for preferring one's own language could be the desire of the member to be politically correct. The legislatures have their political agenda and may like to be seen by their constituents as their true representative, speaking in their own language. They represent the will and the voice of the people and they look up to them for articulating their concerns and problems and meeting their aspirations. If the members speak in their own language, their speeches get more coverage and publicity in the local language media through which people get to know as to how effectively their representatives are working for them and how much concern they have for the local aspirations. They also come to know about the work of their representatives more closely and subsequently develop proper appreciation for their contributions in solving the problems of the area. This also contributes in image building exercise of political leaders.

Members also accord due respect and pride of place to their language by choosing it as the medium of communication at national and international platforms. This can be very eminently seen during the visits of foreign parliamentary delegations.

The foreign parliamentary delegations visiting India, while having formal or informal interaction with Indian dignitaries communicate in their national language with the help of an interpreter who happens to be a part of the delegation. Even though the delegates might be well-versed in English, quite often they prefer to speak in their own language as a matter of policy for giving importance and taking pride in that.

In the Indian Parliament also, members sometimes speak in their own language for the above cited reasons. In this context a humorous anecdote is worth referring to. Once a member hailing from Darbhanga constituency in Bihar, who always used to speak in Hindi, started speaking in English. No sooner had he spoken a couple of sentences, another member, sitting by his side, quipped, "*Darbhangia Phone Karen Kya?*" (Shall I telephone someone in Darbhanga) and this member immediately switched over to Hindi in the midst of peals of laughter in the House. Later on, we came to know that this member had promised his constituents that he would always speak in Hindi in Parliament. Thus, despite the fact that this particular member could perfectly speak in English, he always preferred to speak in Hindi, the language of his people.

Moreover, one always finds it convenient to express himself or

herself in his or her own language. It provides greater confidence as well as effectiveness. It is one's own language *i.e.* mother tongue in which one thinks, feels and dreams. The fluency and eloquence, which one develops in his/her own language, may not be acquired even after years of study of any alien language.

Every human being has emotional attachment to one's own language and attaches a lot of importance to it. On the other hand, human emotions play a very vital role in all forms of communication and they are best expressed in one's own language.

Emotional attachment can be very well perceived when members raise demand for inclusion of their language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. This was particularly observed on the occasion of International Mother Tongue Day on 21 February 2006 when the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee set the tone by speaking in his mother tongue, Bengali. After that, nearly 30 members spoke in their own language, though for many of them interpretation facility was not available. On that day, many members raised the demand for the inclusion of their language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and thereby providing the interpretation facility and protecting their right to speak in their own language.

What is language Interpretation?

Broadly speaking, language interpretation means the *act of oral translation from one language into another language*. But, like the general meaning of the word 'interpretation', the language interpretation is also *'an art of finding out or collecting the intention of the speaker from his words, and other non-verbal expressions like facial expression, body language and tone or tenor of the speech'*, and then transmitting that intention to the listener *via* the medium of another language.

When a member speaks in a language not comprehensible to the audience, the interpreter listens to that, and translates the meaning and intention of the speaker mentally, and then orally transmits it to the target audience in their language simultaneously. It is a fascinating and intellectually challenging job involving unbelievable multiplicity of mental exercise at a very high speed. The mental exercises involved in this act are:

- i) *Listening and understanding*—which includes listening to and analyzing the source language speech, thereby understanding the message which the speaker intends to convey.
- ii) *Retaining it in short term memory i.e., storing information*

just received from the speaker, till it can be rendered in the target language speech.

- iii) *Transference*—that is producing a target language version of the speech matching in style and the effectiveness of the language used by the original speaker.
- iv) *Speaking effort*, which means articulating what has been transferred into another language mentally.

All these mental exercises go on simultaneously delivering the target language version almost at the same time as the original speaker goes on speaking.

Interpretation as a profession has been evolved over the years to make the multilingual oral communication feasible in the world. With the steadily growing international interactions and proliferation of international organizations and consequent use of different languages during the meetings and negotiations, the need and role of language interpretation has been ever increasing.

Role of Interpretation

A meaningful communication essential for a fruitful discussion cannot be established in a House representing a vast linguistic and cultural diversity as that of India, without the help of interpretation. In the Parliament of India, the facility of interpretation provides an opportunity for establishing a proper communication and thus enable the members to discharge their duties towards the people and exercise the roles assigned to them perfectly by placing their views on the various items of the business before the House and the Committees.

Interpretation not only breaks the barrier of the language but also fosters national integration. The members elected from various parts of the country, come to the House with their own experiences, their own perceptions about the needs and aspirations of their people, and of course, their own cultural values and traditions. They also understand complexities, consequences and implications of the ongoing and yet to be taken up projects and policies in their respective constituencies. When they raise all these issues according to their own understanding and approach them *via* the medium of their language, their speeches are interpreted by the concerned interpreter in Hindi and English, which makes it comprehensible to other members. Thus, interpretation helps in understanding and appreciation of each other's views.

The unifying role of interpretation is not only significant in the Indian context, it is equally relevant in international scenario. The world has

become a global village resulting in a greater need for developing international understanding in different spheres of international relations. The interactions among delegates at different levels of Government to Government meetings, international Conferences, business meetings and negotiations, meetings and conferences held under the aegis of world organizations like United Nations (U.N.), World Trade Organisation (WTO), etc. not only enhance understanding but also foster better relationship and promote trust. In all these meetings and conferences, interpretation helps in breaking the language barrier and brings the people of different nationalities to a closer understanding

Interpretation facility in Parliament of India

Since the members of Parliament are elected from different linguistic regions, many of them may not be able to follow the proceedings transacted in two working languages of Parliament, *i.e.* Hindi and English, as provided under article 120 of the Constitution. Therefore, simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings of Lok Sabha was introduced on 7 September in 1964. Initially, it started from Hindi into English and *vice-versa*. In 1967, the facility of interpretation was extended to other Indian languages *viz.*, Assamese, Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Tamil and Telugu as listed in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. This facility was later extended to six more Indian languages listed in the Eighth Schedule *i.e.* Manipuri in April 1998, Punjabi and Sanskrit in December 2000, Nepali and Urdu in April 2004 and Maithili in April 2007. At present, the services of interpreters for fourteen languages namely, Assamese, Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Manipuri, Nepali and Maithili are available in Lok Sabha. Efforts are being made to extend interpretation facilities for rest of the scheduled languages namely, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Konkani, Santhali, and Sindhi.

Under article 120 of the Constitution, the business in Parliament is to be transacted in Hindi or English. However, a member may make a speech in Lok Sabha in any of the 14 languages for which interpretation facilities exist. The discussions / debate in the House are interpreted from Hindi into English and *vice versa*, and simultaneously relayed through the Simultaneous Interpretation System (SIS), installed in the House. Each seat is provided with a head-phone, a language selector switch and a volume control knob. The interpreter sitting in the booth interprets (orally translates) the speech in Hindi or English, which can be listened to by the members through the head-phones available at each seat. A member can select the language channel in which he/she

wishes to listen to. The procedure is such that whenever a member delivers his speech in Hindi, it is simultaneously interpreted in English. Similarly, English speeches are simultaneously interpreted in Hindi. These two language channels are available to the members throughout the sitting of the House. The member intending to speak in any language other than Hindi or English has to give a notice to the officer at the table or the Parliamentary Notice Office, at least half an hour in advance, specifying the language and the item of the business on which he/she intends to speak. After that the concerned language interpreter is deployed in the booth who renders its English interpretation and the Hindi interpreter simultaneously takes the relay from English booth *via* audio link and renders it into Hindi without any perceptible loss of time and quality.

The proceedings of parliamentary committees are also conducted either in Hindi or English and the simultaneous interpretation from Hindi into English and *vice versa* is provided throughout the proceedings. If any member wishes to address the Committee in any other scheduled language, he/she gives the prior intimation to this effect to the Chairman of the Committee and accordingly, the concerned language interpreter is deployed for providing the interpretation of such an address. Simultaneous Interpretation System is installed in all the Committee rooms in Parliament House, Parliament House Annexe and Parliament Library Building.

The system of simultaneous interpretation is also installed in the Central Hall in Parliament House and interpretation-facility is provided whenever a joint session of both the Houses is held or any visiting Head of the State addresses the joint sitting of both the Houses.

So far as the State Assemblies are concerned, no such facility exists there at present, except in the case of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly where interpretation facility is made available from Urdu into English, as and when a member speaks in Urdu and in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly from Chhattisgarhi into Hindi and *vice versa*. Whenever the Presiding Officers' Conferences are held in State Legislative Assemblies, facility of interpretation of the proceedings of such conferences is provided by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Conclusion

The interaction and discussion are the watchwords of the democratic form of governance. For facilitating interaction among people with different linguistic backgrounds there is a need to break the language barrier.

Legislatures are the people's institutions. As such, Parliament of India reflecting diversities of the country including that of language cannot function effectively without providing for the language bridge to overcome language barriers. As each language is associated with a distinct cultural ethos, the debate and discussion by the members of Parliament reflect this human diversity in the Parliament when they speak in their own language. It, thus, makes it essential to have the Simultaneous Interpretation of the proceedings of the House and its Committees for the productive and purposive functioning of the Parliament of India.

UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF RAJARSHI CHHATRAPATI SHAHUJI MAHARAJ IN THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE COMPLEX

On 17 February 2009, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil unveiled the Statue of Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj in the Parliament House Complex.

Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj was a multi-splendoured personality who left an indelible mark on the socio-economic firmament of the country with his innumerable contributions. Shahuji Maharaj ruled the princely state of Kolhapur in Maharashtra for twenty-eight years from 1894 to 1922. His reign is remembered for several initiatives taken by him for the eradication of poverty, superstitions and backwardness prevalent in the society. He channelised his political power for the betterment of masses through his incisive thinking, realistic approach and decisive judgement.

Shahuji Maharaj is credited with the establishment of Boarding Houses and introducing a reservation policy for backward classes in 1902, reserving 50 per cent of jobs in Government offices for them. He also gave a fillip to the removal of untouchability by declaring open all public wells, buildings, *dharamshalas*, State houses and water resources open to all without any discrimination. His vision, industry and patronage of the arts and his consuming passion for improving the lot of the common man, all marked him out as a truly remarkable personality. The Statue of Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj, sculpted by Padamshree Ram V. Sutar was donated by the Government of Maharashtra.

The function of unveiling of the statue was attended, among others by Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker, Lok Sabha; Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance; Shri S.C. Jamir, Governor of Maharashtra; Shri Ashok Chavan, Chief Minister of Maharashtra; Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha; Union Ministers; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament



Dignitaries after the unveiling of the statue of Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj by the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil on 17 February 2009 in Parliament House

Unveiling of the Statue of Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj 193

and other distinguished guests. The dignitaries also offered floral tributes at the statue.

At the function, a booklet containing the profile of Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj, brought out both in Hindi and English by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, was distributed among the dignitaries. The President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil also felicitated the sculptor on the occasion.

UNVEILING OF THE PORTRAIT OF SHRI BHUPENDRA NATH BASU IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE

On 24 February 2009, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, unveiled the portrait of Shri Bhupendra Nath Basu in the Central Hall of Parliament House.

Shri Bhupendra Nath Basu was an outstanding leader of the freedom struggle, who made tremendous contribution in the development of progressive thought and the spirit of nationalism in the beginning of the twentieth century. A great patriot, a valiant freedom fighter, an erudite scholar, an educationist and a brilliant orator, Shri Basu was a multi-faceted personality and his talent was reflected in his various vocations.

A member of the Bengal Provincial Legislature for six years from 1904 to 1910, he presided over the Bengal Provincial Conference at Mymensingh. He had the distinction of presiding over Madras Session of the Indian National Congress in 1914. Shri Basu was also appointed as the Secretary of the State Council. He played a key role in implementing the *Montague-Chelmsford Reforms*. He was a member of the Royal Commission of Public Services and the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University. He was also the Founder President of Mohun Bagan Athletic Club. A man of quiet temperament, he was sensitive to the social problems and opposed the practice of untouchability in all its forms. His life reflects and exemplifies the saga of a man, who despite having humble beginnings left an indelible impression in the history of our freedom struggle. The portrait of Shri Bhupendra Nath Basu painted by the renowned artist, Shri Washim R. Kapoor was donated by the Bhupendra Nath Basu Memorial Committee, Kolkata, West Bengal.

The function was attended, among others by Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha; Union Ministers; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other



The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charanjit Singh Atwal; and the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary after the unveiling of the portrait of Shri Bhupendra Nath Basu in the Central Hall of Parliament

distinguished guests. The dignitaries also offered floral tributes at the portrait.

A booklet containing the profile of Shri Bhupendra Nath Basu, brought out both in Hindi and English by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, was distributed among the dignitaries on the occasion.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

The 58th Seminar on "Parliamentary Practice & Procedure" at Westminster, London: The 58th Seminar on Parliamentary Practice & Procedure was held at Westminster, London from 1 to 13 March 2009. Shri Khimi Ram Sharma, Deputy Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Shri R. Radhakrishnan, Speaker, Puducherry Legislative Assembly; Shri Deependra Singh Shekhawat, Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly; Shri Harbans Kapoor, Speaker, Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly; and Shri Ashok Chandulal Bhatt, Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly; from the State CPA Branches of CPA India Region attended the Seminar.

A separate programme for Clerks was also held at the Seminar which was attended by Shri P.K. Grover, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat and Shri H.R. Kuri, Secretary, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

Meeting of the Working Group of Asia-Pacific Group of Inter-Parliamentary Union in Beijing: The Meeting of the Working Group of Asia-Pacific Group of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) took place in Beijing on 20 March 2009. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation consisting of Shri P.S. Gadhavi, MP, Lok Sabha and Shri Cyril John, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the Meeting. The meeting held deliberations and finalized the agenda of the Asia-Pacific Group of IPU for 120th IPU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 2009.

Hindi Website of Lok Sabha launched: On 7 January 2009, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee launched the Hindi Website of Lok Sabha at a function organized by the Editorial and Translation Service of Lok Sabha Secretariat at BPST Main Lecture Hall, Parliament Library Building. The function was attended by members of Parliament, the Secretary General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary, Officers of Lok Sabha Secretariat, media persons and other distinguished guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker, Lok Sabha termed the event as a commendable step in bringing Parliament

nearer to people. The Hindi Home Page of Lok Sabha can be accessed by logging on to the website *loksabha.nic.in* and then clicking on the Hindi Site.

Parliament Museum: As the readers are aware, the Parliament Museum was inaugurated on 14 August 2006 in the Parliament Library Building. The Museum is open to the public from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm on all weekdays except Sunday, Monday and Government holidays. During the period 1 January to 31 March 2009, a total of 7,177 visitors visited the Museum. Apart from the general visitors, there were 2,741 students from 34 schools all over the country. Besides, a number of present and former members of Parliament, members of State Legislatures, and foreign dignitaries/delegations also visited the Museum. Among the foreign dignitaries, Lord Viscount John Douglas Slim, member of House of Lords (United Kingdom), Mr. Mohammad Qanooni, President of Afganistan's *Wolesi Jirga* (Lower House of Parliament) visited the Museum. Delegations from the National Council of Bhutan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Federal State of Germany, Mauritius, Finland, Lithuania and Nepal also visited the Museum during the period. Shri Deependra Singh Shekhawat, Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly also paid a visit to the Parliament Museum.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organized under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat are brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period 1 January to 31 March 2009:

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a function was held on 23 January 2009 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Leader of the House and Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning, Shri V. Narayanasamy; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Lala Lajpat Rai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, a function was held on 28 January 2009. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Smt. Sarojini Naidu: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Sarojini Naidu, a function was held on 13 February 2009. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning, Shri V. Narayanasamy; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Smt. Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Shri Morarji Desai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Morarji Desai, a function was held on 28 February 2009 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, a function was held on 23 March 2009. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Indian Parliamentary Delegations Going Abroad

Bangladesh: The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee visited Bangladesh from 21 to 23 February 2009 to deliver an Address at the Inaugural Function of the Orientation Programme organized for the new members of *Jatiyo Sangsad* of Bangladesh.

Foreign Parliamentary Delegations Visiting India

Afghanistan: A 12-member Parliamentary Delegation from Afghanistan led by Mr. Mohammad Younus Qanooni, President of Afghanistan's

Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) visited India from 14 to 19 February 2009.

On 16 February 2009, the Delegation had a meeting with the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi. Later, the Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, who hosted a Banquet in their honour.

On 17 February 2009, the Delegation called on the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and also the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari. The Delegation also had a meeting with the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee the same day.

On 18 February 2009, the Delegation had a meeting with the members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs.

The Delegation visited Agra on 19 February 2009.

Indonesia: An Indonesian Parliamentary Delegation led by Mr. Agung Laksono, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesian Parliament visited India from 25 February to 28 February 2009.

On 26 February 2009, the Delegation called on the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil; the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri-Somnath Chatterjee. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting Delegation the same day.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Mumbai.

Meetings of Parliamentary Friendship Groups

India-Sweden: A meeting of the India-Sweden Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Shri Rupchand Pal, MP and President of the Group and the visiting Swedish-Indian Friendship Group of the Swedish Parliament headed by Mr. Bjorn Hamilton, MP, Swedish Parliament was held on 6 February 2009.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period 1 January to 31 March 2009, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organized the following courses/programmes:

Study Visits: During the period, the Bureau conducted Study Visits for: (i) an 11-member Delegation from the National Council of Bhutan from 24 to 27 February 2009; (ii) a 25-member Delegation of Government Officials from Kazakhstan on 6 March 2009; and (iii) a 12-member Delegation of Senior Citizens Council of Mauritius on 25 March 2009.

In addition, seven other Study Visits were conducted for the benefit of students/trainers/officers of various institutions/organisations. In all, 532 participants attended these visits.

International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting: The 24th International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting was organized from 13 January to 13 February 2009. The programme was attended by 38 participants from 33 countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme (SCAAP) and Colombo' Plan.

Appreciation Courses: During the period, Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organized for: (i) Probationers of Indian Ordnance Factories Service, Indian Railway Traffic Service and the National Institute of Financial Management from 16 to 19 February 2009, attended by 30 participants; (ii) Probationers of Indian Revenue Service and Indian Audit and Accounts Service from 23 to 27 February 2009, attended by 190 participants; (iii) Probationers of Indian Railways Service of Electrical Engineers from 2 to 5 March 2009; attended by 23 participants; (iv) Probationers of Indian Administrative Service from 30 March to 1 April 2009, attended by 111 participants; and (v) Probationers of Indian Statistical Service from 6 to 9 April 2009, attended by 23 participants.

Training Programmes: The following Training Programmes were organized during the period: (i) Training Programme for Watch & Ward Officials of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats from 23 to 27 March 2009, attended by 28 participants; and (ii) Training Programme for Officials of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats dealing with Questions, Legislative Business and Budgetary Process from 13 to 17 April 2009, attended by 25 participants.

PRIVILEGE ISSUES

LOK SABHA

During the period 1 January 2009 to 31 March 2009, the Committee of Privileges held four sittings on 2 and 28 January, 9 February and 6 March 2009.

The details of the sittings held during the period are given below:

- (i) **Petitions given under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and Rules made thereunder by (i) Dr. C. Krishnan, MP against Shri L. Ganesan and Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, MPs & (ii) Shri L. Ganesan, MP against Dr. C. Krishnan and Shri Sippiparai A. Ravichandran, MPs.**

Marumalarachi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (hereinafter referred to as MDMK) in the Lok Sabha had a strength of four members, namely, Sarvashri L. Ganesan, Gingee N. Ramachandran, Sippiparai Ravichandran and Dr. C. Krishnan. As per the Lok Sabha Secretariat records, Shri L. Ganesan, MP was the Leader and Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, MP, the Deputy Leader and Dr. C. Krishnan, MP the Chief Whip of MDMK Legislature Party in the Lok Sabha.

On 12 February 2007, Shri Vaiko, General Secretary, MDMK, addressed a letter to the Speaker, Lok Sabha intimating that Sarvashri L. Ganesan and Gingee N. Ramachandran, MPs had been removed from the posts of Leader and Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha as per the decision taken in the General Council meeting of the MDMK held on 10 January 2007, at Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Shri Vaiko also informed that he had decided to appoint Dr. C. Krishnan, MP as the Leader of MDMK in the Lok Sabha and Shri Sippiparai Ravichandran, MP as the Whip of the party in the Lok Sabha.

On 19 February 2007, Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran addressed a letter to the Speaker, Lok Sabha wherein he *inter-alia* intimated that in the General Council meeting of the party held on 29 December 2006, at Salem, Shri Vaiko had been removed from the post of General Secretary of the MDMK party as well as from the primary membership of the party. He further informed that he had been elected as the General Secretary of MDMK party.

In the capacity of General Secretary of the party (who is authorized to take decisions about the parliamentary party office bearers), Shri Ramachandran intimated that Dr. C. Krishnan had been removed from the post of MDMK parliamentary party whip and that he (Shri Ramachandran) would be acting in that capacity instead.

On 19 February 2007, Shri Gingee Ramachandran in his subsequent letter *inter-alia* stated that Shri Vaiko unilaterally passed a resolution on 23 December 2006, suspending Shri Ganesan and himself (Shri Ramachandran) from the post of Presidium Chairman and Deputy General Secretary of the MDMK party. This resolution was challenged in the High Court of Madras.

On 24 December 2006, the High Court granted an order of injunction restricting Shri Vaiko from implementing/acting upon or giving effect to the resolution passed on 23 December 2006.

Before the voting on the Confidence Motion held on 22 July 2008, Shri L. Ganesan issued a whip on 21 July 2008 to Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, Dr. C. Krishnan and Shri Sippiparai A. Ravichandran to vote for the Confidence Motion. On the other hand, Dr. C. Krishnan issued a whip on 18 July 2008, to Shri L. Ganesan and the other two members of the MDMK to vote against the Motion.

During the voting on the Confidence Motion, Shri L. Ganesan and Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran voted in favour of the Motion. On the other hand, Dr. C. Krishnan and Shri Sippiparai A. Ravichandran voted against the Motion.

After the voting on the Confidence Motion, Dr. C. Krishnan, MP filed two separate petitions dated 25 July 2007, against Shri L. Ganesan and Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, MPs under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and the rules made thereunder praying that the members be disqualified for being member of the House.

Thereafter, Shri L. Ganesan filed two separate petitions dated 18 August 2008, against Dr. C. Krishnan and Shri Sippiparai A. Ravichandran under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and the rules made thereunder praying that the members be disqualified from the membership of the House.

On 1 October 2008, the Speaker, Lok Sabha referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges in terms of provisions of Rule 7(4) of the Members of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1985 for making a preliminary inquiry and submitting a report to him.

The Committee, in their Twenty-first Report, presented to the Speaker on 17 March 2009, submitted that the vital issue with regard to the 4 petitions under consideration was the determination of the

validity of the whips issued by Shri L. Ganesan and Dr. C. Krishnan and that for this purpose it was imperative to first resolve the leadership issue in the MDMK parliamentary party within the parameters of the Tenth Schedule. The Committee also expressed the view that there are certain grey areas in the Tenth Schedule that need to be addressed.

(ii) Petition given by Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, MP and leader of Shiv Sena Party in Lok Sabha under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and Rules thereunder against Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil, MP.

On 28 July 2008, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, MP and Leader of the Shiv Sena Party in the Lok Sabha gave a petition against Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil, MP alleging that by violating the party whip to be present in the House on 21 and 22 July 2008, and vote against the Motion of Confidence in the Union Council of Ministers, Shri Patil had incurred disqualification from the membership of the Lok Sabha under Para 2 of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil, the respondent *vide* his letter dated 25 September 2008, stated that the alleged whip by Shri Anant Geete was neither issued nor posted and was not delivered at his Delhi address or his permanent address at any point of time and no communication thereto was sent either by way of fax, telephone, internet or on cell phone at any point of time.

The Speaker gave a personal hearing to the petitioner Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, MP and Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil, MP in connection with the disqualification petition filed by Shri Geete against Shri Patil on 1 October 2008. The respondent was represented by his Advocates.

On 1 October 2008, the Speaker, Lok Sabha referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges in terms of provisions of Rule 7(4) of the Members of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1985 for making a preliminary inquiry and submitting a report to him.

The Committee in their Eighteenth Report presented to the Speaker on 7 January 2009, observed that the petitioner had not been able to establish actual service of whip on the respondent. The Committee also stated that the respondent's contention that he did not come to participate in the Lok Sabha Session as he had been expelled from the party was also not correct and he also did not bother to know his party's stand on the motion or whether any whip had been issued by the party due to admitted differences with the party.

(iii) Question of privilege given by Shri Yogi Aditya Nath, MP against police officials and district administration of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh for allegedly harassing and arresting him in false and baseless cases without any genuine grounds.

On 12 February 2007, Shri Yogi Aditya Nath, MP gave a notice of question of privilege against police officials and district administration of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP) for allegedly harassing and arresting him on 28 January 2007, in false and baseless cases.

On 22 February 2007, a communication enclosing copy of the notice of question of privilege given by Shri Yogi Aditya Nath, MP was forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for furnishing a factual note in the matter for consideration of the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The member meanwhile raised the matter in the House on 12 March 2007. While raising the matter, the member stated that:

“...I was lodged in jail on 28 January 2007, intimation of which was given by the Gorakhpur District Administration to the Lok Sabha Secretariat in which it was mentioned that Shri Yogi Aditya Nath, MP has been arrested in the afternoon of 28 January, 2007 from Sadar, Gorakhpur, UP for apprehension of breach of peace. Sir, I was arrested for apprehension of breach of peace 20 kms. away from Gorakhpur. Sir, no administration can lodge a person in jail for more than 24 hrs. under sections 107 and 116 of Cr.P.C for apprehension of breach of peace, then why was I lodged in Gorakhpur jail for 11 days... Sir when my representative lodged an appeal against my arrest with the Gorakhpur district judge, many cases were registered against me from back date. If any FIR is lodged against a person, a copy of the same is sent to the court within 24 hrs. But in my case no copy of FIR against me was sent to the court even after 7 days of my arrest, which shows that the cases against me were registered from back dates... Sir, I seek your protection. I have given notices of question of privilege on 6th, 12th and 27th February also while I was in jail... The guilty officials must be punished...”

The Speaker, who was in the Chair, observed that:

“... As soon as your letter came to me, we have asked for a report from the Home Ministry on this matter. We are waiting for the report... Whatever is possible within my power, I will do it...”

Since no response was received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, till then, a copy each of the proceedings of Lok Sabha dated

12 March 2007 and further communication, along with enclosures, addressed by the member to the Speaker in the matter was forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for obtaining a factual note in the matter. Protracted correspondence was made with the Ministry of Home Affairs for obtaining the factual note in the matter. The Ministry of Home Affairs on the other hand issued several letters to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh to expedite furnishing of the requisite factual note.

The matter was referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha on 22 April 2008, under the provisions of Rule 227 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha for making a preliminary inquiry and submitting a report to him.

The Committee, in their Twenty-second Report, presented to the Speaker on 18 March 2009, expressed their resentment on the inordinate delay caused in furnishing of factual note in the matter by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to the Speaker, Lok Sabha, and recommended that the same may be conveyed to the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India for appropriate action in the matter. The Committee also recommended that the observations made by them in certain paras of the Report may be communicated to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions respectively for appropriate action to prevent recurrence of such lapses.

(iv) Petition given by Shri Ram Gopal Yadav, the then member of Lok Sabha under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and Rules thereunder against Shri Rajnarayan Budholiya, MP.

On 28 July 2008, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, the then member of the Lok Sabha gave a petition against Shri Rajnarayan Budholiya, MP seeking his disqualification from the membership of Lok Sabha under Para 2(1)(b) of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and the Rules made thereunder for voting against the Motion of Confidence on 22 July 2008, thus violating the Party directions and whip issued for being present in the House on 21 and 22 July and vote in favour of the Motion of Confidence in the Union Council of Ministers.

The respondent *vide* his letter dated 15 October 2008 stated that he had been expelled from the membership of the Samajwadi Party much prior to the date of issuance of whip and once his membership was ceased, the whip issued by the Samajwadi Party did not apply to him. He also submitted that neither the copy of the whip was directly addressed to him nor was it served on him or on any of his family member or his associate.

On 19 November 2008, the Speaker, Lok Sabha referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges in terms of provisions of Rule

7(4) of The Members of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1985 for making a preliminary inquiry and submitting a report to him.

The Committee, in their Twentieth Report, presented to the Speaker on 9 February 2009, submitted their findings, for his consideration. The Committee found that the petitioner could not produce any documentary proof to establish that the whip was actually served upon the respondent. They were also not convinced by the respondent's statement that he was not aware of the stand of his party on the Motion of Confidence as in that case he could have directly approached the Leader of the Party to know in what manner he was supposed to vote. The Committee was not convinced by the statement of the respondent that he voted according to his conscience because some other members asked him to do so.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2009)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and, as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Parliament Session: The Fifteenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha and the Two Hundred and Fifteenth Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 12 February 2009. Both the Houses were adjourned on 26 February 2009. The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, prorogued the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 2 March 2009.

Resignation of Union Ministers: On 25 February 2009, Union Minister of State for Commerce, Industry and Power, Shri Jairam Ramesh, resigned from the Council of Ministers.

On 1 March 2009, Union Minister for Labour, Shri Oscar Fernandes, resigned from the Council of Ministers.

On 28 March 2009, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri R. Anbumani and Minister of State for Railways, Shri R. Velu resigned from the Council of Ministers, as their party Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) withdrew the support from the ruling United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and joined the AIADMK front.

Elections to Rajya Sabha: On 15 January 2009, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh. His term commenced on 20 January 2009 and he took oath/affirmation on 12 February 2009.

On 6 February 2009, Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz and Shri Ghulam

Nabi Azad, both of the Indian National Congress (INC) were elected to the Rajya Sabha from Jammu and Kashmir. The term of both the members commenced on 11 February 2009 and they took oath/affirmation on 16 February 2009.

On 6 February 2009, Sarvashri P. Rajeeve of Communist Party of India (Marxist), M.P. Achuthan of Communist Party of India and Vayalar Ravi of the INC were also elected to the Rajya Sabha from Kerala. The term of all the three members commenced on 22 April 2009 and they took oath/affirmation on 27 April 2009.

On 13 February 2009, Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Shri Mohammad Shafi, both of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (J&KNC) were elected to the Rajya Sabha from Jammu and Kashmir. The term of both the members commenced on 16 February 2009 and they took oath/affirmation on 18 February 2009.

Resignation of Rajya Sabha Member: On 22 January 2009, Shri C. Ramachandraiah of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) resigned from the Rajya Sabha.

Resignation of Lok Sabha Members: On 5 January 2009, Shri Harising Nasaru Rathod, BJP member from Yavatmal (Maharashtra) resigned from the House.

On 6 January 2009, Shri Omar Abdullah, J&KNC member from Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir) Lok Sabha constituency resigned.

On 13 January 2009, Ms. Mehbooba Mufti, J&K People's Democratic Party member from Anantnag (Jammu and Kashmir) Lok Sabha constituency resigned.

On 12 February 2009, Shri S. Bangarappa, Samajwadi Party (SP) member from Shimoga (Karnataka) Lok Sabha constituency resigned.

On 26 February 2009, Shri M. Shivanna, Janata Dal (Secular) (JD-S) member from Chamrajanagar (Karnataka) Lok Sabha constituency resigned.

On 6 March 2009, Dr. Kunwar Devendra Singh Yadav, SP member from Etah (Uttar Pradesh) Lok Sabha constituency resigned.

On 12 March 2009, Shri Afzal Ansari, SP member from Ghazipur (Uttar Pradesh) Lok Sabha constituency resigned.

On 16 March 2009, Shri Sukhdev Singh Libra, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) member from Ropar (Punjab) and Shri Kunwar Sarvraj

Singh, Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)] member from Aonla (Uttar Pradesh), resigned their membership from the House.

On 21 March 2009, Shri Somabhai Gandadal Koli, BJP member from Surendranagar (Gujarat) Lok Sabha constituency resigned.

On 23 March 2009, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, SP member from Gonda (Uttar Pradesh) Lok Sabha constituency resigned.

On 24 March 2009, Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) member from Kolhapur (Maharashtra) Lok Sabha constituency resigned.

On 28 March 2009, Smt. Archana Nayak, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) member from Kendrapara (Orissa) Lok Sabha constituency resigned.

Disqualification of Lok Sabha Members: On 9 January 2009, the Speaker, Lok Sabha disqualified Dr. Pookunhi P. Koya, JD(U) member from Lakshadweep under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution.

On 16 March 2009, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, disqualified Shri Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy, INC member from Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution.

Death of a Lok Sabha Member: On 8 March 2009, the BJP member from Jaipur Lok Sabha constituency, Shri Girdharilal Bhargava, passed away following a cardiac arrest in Ahmedabad. He was 73.

Death of former President, Shri R. Venkataraman: On 27 January 2009, former President, Shri R. Venkataraman passed away in New Delhi. He was 98.

Death of a Constituent Assembly Member: On 1 February 2009, Chaudhary Ranbir Singh passed away at the age of 94. He was the lone surviving member of the Constituent Assembly.

Lok Sabha Elections Announced: The General Elections to the 15th Lok Sabha were announced on 2 February 2009 to be held in five phases, on 16, 23 and 30 April, and 7 and 13 May 2009. A total of 71.4 crore voters with an increase of 4.3 crore over the 2004 elections, were slated to elect 543 members.

AROUND THE STATES

BIHAR

Resignation of Ministers: On 22 March 2009, Minister for Agriculture, Shri Nagmani and Minister for Disaster Management, Shri Nitish Mishra, resigned from the Council of Ministers.

DELHI

Death of MLA: On 28 January 2009, former Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee President and MLA from Rohtas Nagar, Shri Ram Babu Sharma passed away.

GUJARAT

Resignation of Minister: On 27 March 2009, Minister of State for Women's Welfare, Smt. Mayaben Kodnani resigned from the Council of Ministers.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

New Chief Minister: On 5 January 2009, National Conference President, Shri Omar Abdullah was sworn in the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. Nine others were sworn in as Cabinet Ministers.

The names of Council of Ministers with their portfolios are: Shri Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister; Sarvashri Tara Chand, *Deputy Chief Minister, Housing and Urban Development, Municipalities, Elections, Printing and Stationery*; A.R. Rather, *Finance, Law and Parliamentary Affairs*; Pirzada Mohd. Sayeed, *School Education, Public Enterprises Department*; Ali Mohd. Sagar, *Rural Development and Panchayats*; Mian Altaf Ahmed, *Forests, Environment and Ecology*; Taj Mohi-ud-Din, *Public Health Engineering, Irrigation and Flood Control*; Nawang Rigzin, *Tourism and Culture*; Surjit Singh Slathia, *Industries and Commerce*; and Sham Lal Sharma, *Health, Horticulture and Floriculture*.

JHARKHAND

Assembly By-election Result: On 8 January 2009, Shri Gopal Krishna Patar was declared elected to the State Legislative Assembly in the by-election held on 3 January 2009 for the Tamar Assembly constituency. He defeated the Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) candidate Shri Shibu Soren.

Resignation of Chief Minister: On 12 January 2009, Chief Minister Shri Shibu Soren resigned from his post.

Imposition of President's Rule: On 19 January 2009, President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil signed the proclamation bringing the State under President's rule after the Union Cabinet approved the recommendation of the Governor, Shri Syed Sibtey Razi to impose Central rule in the wake of Chief Minister, Shri Shibu Soren losing a by-election to the State Legislative Assembly. The State Assembly was kept under suspended animation.

KARNATAKA

Resignation of MLA: On 4 February 2009, Shri Gurupadappa Nagamarapalli, an INC MLA from Bidar, resigned from the State Legislative Assembly and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party.

MAHARASHTRA

Expansion of Cabinet: On 19 February 2009, Chief Minister, Shri Ashok Chavan expanded his Council of Ministers by inducting two Cabinet Ministers and a Minister of State. While Sarvashri Narayan Rane and Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil were sworn in as Cabinet Ministers, Mohammed Arif Naseem Khan took oath as Minister of State.

MEGHALAYA

Political Developments: On 11 March 2009, political crisis in the State deepened with the strength of the Nationalist Congress Party-led ruling Meghalaya Progressive Alliance (MPA) getting reduced from 31 to 30 in the 60-member Assembly following the resignation of Urban Affairs Minister, Shri Paul Lyngdoh from the Donkumar Roy Government and the MPA. Two Independents—Sarvashri Limison Sangma and Ismail R. Marak—also withdrew support to the Government.

On 12 March 2009, the Health Minister, Dr. Advisor Pariong resigned.

On 16 March 2009, Speaker Shri Bindo M. Lanong suspended five Independent MLAs from the State Legislative Assembly, ahead of Vote of Confidence on 17 March 2009.

On 17 March 2009, the Government survived a trust vote with Speaker Shri Bindo M. Lanong casting his vote in favour of the Government after a 27:27 tie in the 60-member Assembly during division.

Four of the five legislators, who were suspended by the Speaker, also cast their vote. However, the Speaker announced that their votes were invalid owing to their suspension.

President's Rule: On 19 March 2009, the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet, signed a proclamation for imposition of President's Rule in the State.

ORISSA

Resignation of Party MLAs: On 3 March 2009, three BJP MLAs—Sarvashri Sananda Marandi from Kuliana Assembly constituency and

Dhaneswar Majhi from Kesigna Assembly constituency resigned from the party. Earlier, Shri Brundaban Majhi from Laikera Assembly constituency had also resigned from the party.

Vote of Confidence: On 11 March 2009, Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal President, Shri Naveen Patnaik won the Vote of Confidence in the Legislative Assembly by voice vote. The session was convened as per the direction of the Governor after the Naveen Patnaik Government lost the majority following the withdrawal of support by the BJP on 7 March 2009. The BJP withdrew its support after it failed to reach an agreement with the BJD on seat sharing for the ensuing Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

Change of Party: On 13 March 2009, four sitting legislators of the BJP joined the ruling BJD. The legislators were: Sarvashri Dhaneswar Majhi, Mahesh Sahoo, Sananda Marandi and Brundaban Majhi.

PUNJAB

New Deputy Chief Minister: On 21 January 2009, Shiromani Akali Dal President Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal was sworn in Punjab's Deputy Chief Minister.

Death of Minister: On 29 March 2009, Minister for Cooperation, Shri Kanwaljit Singh was killed in a road accident.

RAJASTHAN

Vote of Confidence: On 3 January 2009, the Congress-led Government won the Vote of Confidence. With its strength of 96 members, the ruling Congress Party received the support of six BSP MLAs and 11 Independents, securing a comfortable majority in the 200-member House.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 28 February 2009, Chief Minister, Shri Ashok Gehlot expanded his Cabinet by inducting 10 more Ministers. While Sarvashri Jitendra Singh and Rajendra Pareek, took the oath as Cabinet Ministers, eight others—Sarvashri Amin Khan, Ashok Bairwa, Babulal Nagar, Bharosilal Jatav, Gurmeet Singh Kunnar, Mangi Lal Garasia, Pramod Kumar Jain 'Bhaya' and Ramlal Jat were sworn in as Ministers of State.

The names of Council of Ministers with their portfolios* are as

* As on 21 May 2009

follows: Shri Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, *Departments of Finance and Taxation, Planning, Planning (Manpower), Policy Planning, Personnel, Administrative Reforms and Coordination, Parliamentary Secretariat, Rajasthan State Investigation Bureau, Civil Aviation, Social Justice and Empowerment, Khadi and Gramodyog, General Administration Department, Civil Aviation*; Sarvashri Aimaduddin Ahmad 'Duru Miyan', *Medical and Health, Family Welfare, Ayurveda, Medical Education*; Bharat Singh, *Rural Development and Panchayati Raj*; Brijkishore Sharma, *Transport, Sanskrit Education, Language and Linguistic Minorities and Devasthan* (Additional Charge); Harji Ram Burdak, *Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries*; Hema Ram Chaudhary, *Revenue, Colonisation, Sainik Kalyan*; Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya, *Tribal Area Development, Public Grievances Redressal, Technical and Engineering Education* (Additional Charge); Mahipal Madema, *Water Resources, Indira Gandhi Canal Project, Public Health and Engineering, Ground Water, Command Area Development*; Master Bhanwar Lal, *Labour and Employment, Primary Education, Secondary Education*; Parsadi Lal Meena, *Cooperatives, Small Savings and State Lotteries*; Shanti Kumar Dhariwal, *Home, Home Guard and Civil Defence, Law and Justice, Parliamentary Affairs, Urban Development and Housing, Local Self Bodies*; Rajendra Pareek, *Industries, Non Resident Indians (NRI), Economics and Statistics and Excise* (Additional Charge); Dr. Jitendra Singh, *Energy and Non Conventional Energy Sources, Information Technology and Communication, Disaster Management and Relief* (Additional Charge), *Higher Education* (Additional Charge); and Smt. Beena Kak, *Tourism, Art, Culture and Archeology, Women and Child Development, Printing and Stationery*.

The Ministers of State are: Sarvashri Ramkishore Saini, *Social Justice and Empowerment, Jail* (Independent Charge); Amin Khan, *Waqf* (Independent Charge), *Rural Development and Panchayati Raj*; Ashok Bairwa, *Information and Public Relations* (Independent Charge), *State Insurance* (Independent Charge), *Election* (Independent Charge), *Traffic, Sanskrit Education, Language and Linguistic Minorities, Devasthan*; Bharosi Lal Jatav, *Estate* (Independent Charge), *Motor Garage* (Independent Charge), *Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries*; Gurmeet Singh Kunnar, *Agriculture Marketing* (Independent), *Water Resources, Indira Gandhi Canal Project, PHED, Ground Water, Command Area Development*; Mangi Lal Garasia, *Youth Affairs and Sports* (Independent Charge), *Primary Education, Secondary Education, Labour and Employment*; Smt. Golma Devi, *Khadi and Gramodyog, Home Guard and Civil Defence*.

The Ministers of State (Independent Charge) are: Sarvashri Babulal

Nagar, *Food and Civil Supplies, Dairy, Technical Education, Agriculture (Additional Charge)*; Pramod Jain 'Bhaya', *Public Works Department, Science and Technology (Additional Charge)*; and Ram Lal Jat, *Forests and Environment, Mines (Additional Charge)*.

TAMIL NADU

Assembly By-election Result: On 12 January 2009, Ms. Latha Athiyaman of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) was declared elected from Thirumangalam Assembly constituency, by-election to which was held on 9 January 2009.

UTTARAKHAND

Withdrawal of Support: On 17 March 2009, Shri Yashpal Benam, an Independent MLA from Pauri, withdrew his support to the B.C. Khanduri Government.

UTTAR PRADESH

Legislative Council By-election Results: On 22 January 2009, the biennial elections were held for 12 Legislative Council seats. While the ruling BSP won seven, the Opposition SP won three and the BJP two. Among the winners are: Sarvashri Naseemuddin Siddiqui, State Irrigation and PWD Minister, Lokesh Prajapati, Ram Raksha Pal, Dharam Prakash Bhartiya, Om Prakash Tripathi, Ashok Kumar Siddharta and Pratap Singh Baghel (all BSP); Ahmed Hasan, Ramesh Babu Yadav and Sarojini Agarwal (all Samajwadi Party); and Babu Ram and Vinod Kumar Pandey (both BJP).

WEST BENGAL

Assembly By-election Results: By-elections to three Assembly constituencies were held on 5 January 2009 and the results were declared on 9 January 2009. The winners are: Smt. Firoza Bibi (Trinamool Congress) from Nandigram; Minu Bauri (CPI-(M)) from Para; Mausam Benazir Noor (INC) from Sujapur.

On 1 March 2009, Shri Madan Mitra of the Trinamool Congress was declared elected to the State Legislative Assembly in the Bishnupur (West) Assembly by-election held on 26 February 2009.

EVENTS ABROAD

BANGLADESH

General Elections held: The elections to the 300-seat *Jatiya*

Sangsad (the unicameral legislature) were held on 29 December 2008. The party position following the elections is as follows: Awami League: 230; Jatiya Party: 27; National Socialist Party: 3; Workers Party of Bangladesh: 2; Liberal Democratic Party: 1; Bangladesh Nationalist Party: 30; Jamaat-e-Islami: 2; Bangladesh Jatiya Party: 1; and Independents: 4.

New Prime Minister: On 5 January 2009, Ms. Sheikh Hasina Wajed was sworn in as the Prime Minister.

BELGIUM

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 19 December 2008, Prime Minister Mr. Yves Leterme resigned.

New Prime Minister: On 30 December 2008, the King Albert II appointed Mr. Herman Van Rompuy as the Prime Minister.

EL SALVADOR

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 84-seat Legislative Assembly (the unicameral legislature) were held on 18 January 2009. The party position following the elections is as follows: Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front: 35; Nationalist Republican Alliance: 32; National Conciliation Party: 11; Christian Democratic Party: 5; and United Democratic Centre: 1.

GEORGIA

New Prime Minister: On 6 February 2009, the Parliament (the unicameral legislature) approved the appointment of Mr. Nika Gilauri as the Prime Minister. Mr. Gilauri replaced Mr. Grigol Mgaloblishvili.

GHANA

New President: Mr. John Atta Mills was elected as the President in the election held for the post on 7 and 28 December 2008. He was sworn in on 7 January 2009.

Parliamentary Elections: The elections to the 230-seat National Assembly (the unicameral legislature) were held on 7 December 2008. The party position following the elections is as follows: National Democratic Congress: 114; New Patriotic Party: 107; People's National Convention: 2; Convention People's Party: 1; and Independents: 4. (Results for two constituencies was withheld because of voting irregularities).

GUINEA

Death of President: On 23 December 2008, President Mr. Lansana Conte died. Within hours, the Military *Junta*, the National Council for Democracy and Development seized the power.

New Prime Minister: On 30 December 2008, the Military *Junta* appointed Mr. Kabine Komara as the new Prime Minister. He was sworn in on 2 January 2009.

ICELAND

New Prime Minister: On 1 February 2009, Ms. Johanna Sigurdardottir, was appointed as the country's first woman Prime Minister.

ISRAEL

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 120-seat *Knesset* (the unicameral legislature) were held on 10 February 2009. The party position following the elections is as follows: Kadima: 28; Likud: 27; Yisrael Beiteinu: 15; Labour Party: 13; Sephardic Torah Guardians: 11; United Torah Judaism: 5; United Arab List-Aran Movement for Renewal: 4; National Union: 4; Democratic Front for Peace and Equality: 4; New Movement-Meretz: 3; Jewish Home: 3; and National Democratic Alliance:3.

LATVIA

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 20 February 2009, Mr. Ivars Godmanis resigned as the Prime Minister.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 25-seat *Landtag* (the unicameral legislature) were held on 8 February 2009. The party position following the elections is as follows: Patriotic Union: 13; Progressive Citizens' Party: 11; and Free List: 1.

LITHUANIA

New Government: On 9 December 2008, a four-party centre-right coalition government was appointed with Mr. Andrius Kubilius as the Prime Minister.

ROMANIA

New Prime Minister: On 15 December 2008, Mr. Emil Bloc was sworn in as the new Prime Minister.

SOMALIA

Political Developments: On 14 December 2008, President Mr. Ahmed Abdullahi Yusuf dismissed the Prime Minister Mr. Nur Hassan Hussein. However, the Legislature rejected President's decision. The President on 16 December 2008 unilaterally selected another Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammed Mahmud Guled. Following the internal struggle for power, Mr. Yusuf resigned on 29 December 2008, handing over power, on an acting basis, to the Speaker of the Legislature, Mr. Shaykh Aden Mohammed Nur.

New President: On 30 January 2009, Mr. Shaikh Sharif Shaikh Ahmed was elected as the President.

New Prime Minister: On 13 February 2009, President Mr. Shaikh Sharif Shaikh Ahmed appointed Mr. Umar Abdirashid Ali Shermarke as the new Prime Minister.

THAILAND

New Prime Minister: On 17 December 2008, King Bhumibol Adulyadej appointed Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva as the new Prime Minister.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

President Sworn in: On 20 January 2009, Mr. Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States of America.

ZIMBABWE

New Prime Minister: On 11 February 2009, Mr. Morgan Tsvangirai, was sworn in to the newly created post of Prime Minister by President Mr. Robert Mugabe.

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

The Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Amendment Act, 2008: As per the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982, the Governors were entitled to emoluments amounting to rupees thirty-six thousand per *mensem* with effect from 1 January 1996. Consequent upon the revision of salary and allowances of various other constitutional authorities, it was proposed to enhance the emoluments of the Governors from rupees thirty-six thousand per *mensem* to rupees one lakh and ten thousand per *mensem* with effect from 1 January 2006.

The definition of 'family' as per the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982, *inter alia*, included the spouse and the dependent children of the Governor. The Governor and the members of his family were entitled to medical facilities on the scale and conditions applicable to the highest ranking member of the All India Services under the All India Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1954. Under its Rule 2(c), the definition of 'family' meant (i) the wife or husband of a member of the service, and (ii) the parents, children and stepchildren of such member wholly dependent upon that member. It was, therefore, proposed that the definition of family of the Governor be revised so as to include the 'dependent parents'.

In order to overcome any unforeseen difficulty which might arise while giving effect to the provisions of the said Act as amended by the present Bill, it was proposed to insert clause 4 in order to provide remedies for the 'removal of difficulties'. This clause in the Bill proposed to enable the Central Government to issue an order within two years from the commencement of this amendment Bill.

The Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Amendment Bill, 2008, which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 24 October and 15 December 2008 respectively. The President assented to it on 2 January 2009.

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order (Amendment) Act, 2007: As per provisions contained in articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution, the list of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes were notified by the Presidential Orders during the year 1950 and 1951 in respect of various States and Union territories respectively. The list of Scheduled Tribes of Lakshadweep was contained in Part I of the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951. According to that Order, the inhabitants of the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands who, and both of whose parents were born in the Union territory were deemed to be the Scheduled Tribes.

Representations were received from various corners that existing provisions

contained in Part I of the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951 were creating difficulties for certain islanders who were born on the mainland on account of non-availability of adequate health services in the islands, inasmuch as the said Order provided that the person had necessarily to be born in the islands for being deemed to be a Scheduled Tribe and therefore, such persons who were born outside the islands, to the inhabitants of the islands, were not being accorded Scheduled Tribe status.

As far as Lakshadweep was concerned, no particular community was listed as a Scheduled Tribe and all the inhabitants in the Union territory irrespective of the community or religious affiliation were being treated as Scheduled Tribe in view of their socio-economic backwardness arising out of isolation from the mainland. It was felt that it may not be appropriate to deny Scheduled Tribe status to such persons who were born on the mainland for medical reasons, therefore, in order to make such persons born on the mainland eligible for Scheduled Tribe status, the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2003 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 5 March 2003, to amend the Part I of the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951 related to the Union Territories of Lakshadweep. The consideration of the above Bill was deferred on 9 April 2003 by the Rajya Sabha as it was felt necessary to include cases of inhabitants of the islands, who have been residing away from Lakshadweep due to educational or job requirements, resulting in their children having been born in the mainland of India. Taking into account the above said facts, the proposals in the Bill were revised and a fresh Bill was introduced.

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2007, which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 22 December and 23 December 2008 respectively. The President assented to it on 7 January 2009.

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2008: The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court of India have constantly been on the rise largely due to higher rate of registration of cases. As on 31 March 2007, 41,581 cases were pending in the Supreme Court. The Chief Justice of India had intimated that the Judges in the Supreme Court felt over-burdened and had been working under acute work pressure. It had also not been possible for the Chief Justice of India to constitute a five-Judge Bench on a regular basis to hear cases involving interpretation of constitutional law as doing that would result in constitution of less number of Division Benches which in turn would result in delay in hearing of other civil and criminal matters.

Suitable steps were, therefore, required to be taken to augment the strength of the Judges in the Supreme Court so that it could function more efficiently and effectively towards attaining the ultimate goal of rendering speedy justice to the litigant public. It was, therefore, proposed to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 to increase the number of Judges in the Supreme Court from twenty-five to thirty, excluding the Chief Justice of India.

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2008, (classified as the Money Bill under article 110 of the Constitution) which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha on 22 December 2008. It was transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for consideration. However, the Rajya Sabha was adjourned *sine die* on 23 December 2008. Since the Rajya Sabha could not consider the Bill, under provisions of article 109 of the Constitution, which states that the Rajya Sabha must approve or give its suggestions within 14 days of receiving the Money Bill, the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2008, was deemed to have been passed by the Houses on 6 January 2009. The President assented to it on 5 February 2009.

The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 2009: The salaries, allowances and pensions of the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts were last revised with effect from 1 January 1996, as per the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 1998. The Sixth Central Pay Commission recommended revision in the salaries and other allowances, and pensionary benefits of the Central Government employees including the members of All India Services. Majority of the recommendations of the Commission were accepted by the Government and necessary orders issued.

The need to increase the salaries, allowances and pension of the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts had been necessitated because of the increase in the salaries and allowances and pensions of the Central Government employees on acceptance of the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission by the Government. The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2008 revised the salaries of the Judges with effect from 1 January 2006, as follows—

Chief Justice of India — from Rs. 33,000/- p.m. to Rs. 1,00,000/- p.m.

Judges of Supreme Court — from Rs. 30,000/- p.m. to Rs. 90,000/- p.m.

Chief Justice of High Court — from Rs. 30,000/- p.m. to Rs. 90,000/- p.m.

Judges of the High Courts — from Rs. 26,000/- p.m. to Rs. 80,000/- p.m.

The Bill also revised the rates of sumptuary allowance and scale of free furnishing admissible to the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts by doubling the existing rates with effect from the 1 September 2008.

The rates of pension of the Judges of High Court and Supreme Court were last enhanced with effect from 1 January 1996, by the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 1998 and the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 2005. The Sixth Central Pay Commission recommended revision in the pensionary benefits of the Central Government employees including the members of All India Services. The revised pension rules have come into force with retrospective effect from 1 January 2006. It was, therefore, necessary to increase suitably the existing pension, additional pension and maximum pension of the Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

Based on the recommendation of the Sixth Central Pay Commission the

Central Government decided to grant additional quantum of pension and family pension with reference to the age of the Central Government pensioner and family pensioner. On the same analogy, it was decided to extend the similar benefit to all retired Judges..

The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2009 which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 19 and 24 February 2009 respectively. The President assented to it on 16 March 2009.

We reproduce here the texts of the above Acts.

—Editor

THE GOVERNORS (EMOLUMENTS, ALLOWANCES AND PRIVILEGES) AMENDMENT ACT, 2008

An Act further to amend the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title.* This Act may be called the Governor (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Amendment Act, 2008.

2. *Amendment of section 2.* In the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982 (herein after referred to the principal Act), in section 2, in clause (c), for the words “spouse and the dependent children”, the words “spouse, dependent children and the dependent parents” shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted with effect from the 1st day of January, 2007.

3. *Amendment of section 3.* In section 3 of the principal Act, for the words “rupees thirty-six thousand per mensem”, the words “rupees one lakh ten thousand per mensem” shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted with effect from the 1st day of January, 2006.

4. *Power to remove difficulties.* If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of the principal Act as amended by this Act, as may appear to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after

the expiry of two years from the date on which this Act comes into force.

(2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, to be laid before each House of Parliament.

THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) (UNION TERRITORIES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2008

An Act further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title.* This Act may be called the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order (Amendment) Act, 2008.

2. *Amendment of Part I of Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951.* In the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951, in PART I.—*Lakshadweep*, the following proviso and *Explanation* shall be inserted at the namely:—

‘Provided that the children who are born to inhabitants of Lakshadweep in any other place in the mainland of India shall be deemed to be inhabitants born in the islands if such children settle permanently in the islands.

Explanation.—The term “settle permanently” shall have the same meaning as defined under clause 3(1)(d) of the Lakshadweep Panchayats Regulation, 1994.’

THE SUPREME COURT (NUMBER OF JUDGES) AMENDMENT ACT, 2008

An Act further to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title.* This Act may be called the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2008.

2. *Amendment of section 2.* In section 2 of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, for the word “twenty-five”, the word “thirty” shall be substituted.

**THE HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT JUDGES
(SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)
AMENDMENT ACT, 2009**

An Act further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixtieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. *Short title and commencement.* (1) This Act may be called the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 2009.

(2) Sections 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13 shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of January, 2006 and the remaining provisions of this Act shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of September, 2008.

CHAPTER II

AMENDMENT OF THE HIGH COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) ACT, 1954

2. *Amendment of section 13A.* In the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 (hereinafter referred to as the High Court Judges Act), in section 13A,—

(a) in sub-section (1), for the words “thirty thousand rupees per mensem”, the words “ninety thousand rupees per mensem” shall be substituted;

(b) in sub-section (2), for the words “twenty-six thousand rupees per mensem”, the words “eighty thousand rupees per mensem” shall be substituted.

3. *Amendment of section 17A.* In section 17A of the High Court Judges Act, in sub-section (1),—

(a) the words “plus fifty per cent. of his dearness pay” shall be omitted;

(b) the words “plus thirty per cent. of his dearness pay subject to a minimum of one thousand nine hundred and thirteen rupees per month” shall be omitted.

4. *Insertion of new section 17B, Additional quantum of pension or*

family pension. After section 17A of the High Court Judges Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“17B. Every retired Judge or after his death, the family, as the case may be, shall be entitled to an additional quantum of pension or family pension in accordance with the following scale:—

Age of Pensioner or Family Pensioner	Additional quantum of pension or family pension
From eighty years to less than eighty-five years	Twenty per cent. of basic pension or family pension
From eighty-five years to less than ninety years	Thirty per cent. of basic pension or family pension
From ninety years to less than ninety-five years	Forty per cent. of basic pension or family pension
From ninety-five years to less than hundred years	Fifty per cent. of basic pension or family pension
From hundred years or more	Hundred per cent. of basic pension or family pension.”

5. *Amendment of section 22A.* In section 22A of the High Court Judges Act, in sub-section (2), the words “plus thirty per cent. of the dearness pay” shall be omitted.

6. *Amendment of section 22C.* In the High Court Judges Act, for section 22C, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“22C. The Chief Justice and each of the other Judges of every High Court shall be entitled to a sumptuary allowance of fifteen thousand rupees per month and twelve thousand rupees per month respectively.”

7. *Amendment of First Schedule.* In the First Schedule to the High Court Judges Act,—

(a) in Part 1,—

(i) in paragraph 2,—

(A) in clause (a), for the letters and figures “Rs. 21,945”, the letters and figures “Rs. 43,890” shall be substituted;

(B) in clause (b), for the letters and figures “Rs. 16,725”, the letters and figures “Rs. 34,350” shall be substituted;

(C) in the proviso, for the letters and figures “Rs. 2,70,000”

and "Rs. 2,34,000", the letters and figures "Rs. 5,40,000" and "Rs. 4,80,000" shall, respectively, be substituted;

(ii) in paragraph 8, for the letters and figures "Rs. 2,70,000", the letters and figures "Rs. 5,40,000" shall be substituted;

(iii) in paragraph 9, for the letters and figures "Rs. 76,785", the letters and figures "Rs. 1,57,670" shall be substituted;

(b) in Part II,—

(i) in the proviso to paragraph 2, for the letters and figures "Rs. 2,70,000" and "Rs. 2,34,000", the letters and figures "Rs. 5,40,000" and "Rs. 4,80,000" shall, respectively, be substituted;

(ii) in paragraph 3, for the figures "16,898", "20,280", "23,649", "27,033", "30,420" and "33,799", the figures "34,696", "41,642", "48,559", "55,508", "62,462" and "69,402" shall, respectively, be substituted;

(c) in Part III, in paragraph 2,—

(A) in clause (b), for the letters and figures "Rs. 7,800", the letters and figures "Rs. 16,020" shall be substituted;

(B) in the proviso, for the letters and figures "Rs. 2,70,000" and "Rs. 2,34,000", the letters and figures "Rs. 5,40,000" and "Rs. 4,80,000" shall, respectively, be substituted.

CHAPTER III

AMENDMENT OF THE SUPREME COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) ACT, 1958

8. Amendment of section 12. In the Supreme Court Judge (Salaries and Condition of Service) Act, 1958 (hereinafter referred to as the Supreme Court Judges Act), in section 12A,—

(a) in sub-section (1), for the words "thirty-three thousand rupees per mensem", the words "one lakh rupees per mensem" shall be substituted;

(b) in sub-section (2), for the words "thirty thousand rupees per mensem", the words "ninety thousand rupees per mensem" shall be substituted.

9. Amendment of section 16A. In section 16A of the Supreme Court Judges Act, in sub-section (1),—

(i) in clause (a), the words "plus fifty per cent. of his dearness pay" and "plus thirty per cent. of his dearness pay" shall be omitted;

(ii) in clause (b), the words “plus thirty per cent. of his dearness pay” shall be omitted.

10. Insertion of new section 16B. After section 16A of the Supreme Court Judges Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“16B. *Additional quantum of pension or family pension.* Every retired Judge or after his death, the family, as the case may be, shall be entitled to an additional quantum of pension or family pension in accordance with the following scale:—

Age of Pensioner or family Pensioner	Additional quantum of pension or family pension.
From eighty years to less than eighty-five years	Twenty per cent. of basic pension or family pension
From eighty-five years to less than ninety years	Thirty per cent. of basic pension or family pension
From ninety years to less than ninety-five years	Forty per cent. of basic pension or family pension
From ninety-five years to less than hundred years	Fifty per cent. of basic pension or family pension
From hundred years or more	Hundred per cent. of basic pension or family pension.”.

11. Amendment of section 23. In section 23 of the Supreme Court Judges Act, in sub-section (1A), the words “plus thirty per cent. of the dearness pay” shall be omitted.

12. Amendment of section 23B. In section 23B of the Supreme Court Judges Act, for the words “ten thousand” and “seven thousand five hundred”, the words “twenty thousand” and “fifteen thousand” shall, respectively, be substituted.

13. Amendment of Schedule. In the Schedule to the Supreme Court Judges Act,—

(a) in Part I,—

(i) in paragraph 2,—

(A) in clause (b), for the letters and figures “Rs. 6,030”, “Rs. 1,82,820” and “Rs. 15,360”, the letters and figures “Rs. 12,180”, “Rs. 3,69,300” and “Rs. 31,030” shall, respectively, be substituted;

(B) in the proviso, for the letters and figures “Rs. 2,97,000”, the letters and figures “Rs. 6,00,000” shall be substituted;

(ii) in the proviso to paragraph 3, for the letters and figures "Rs. 2,70,000", the letters and figures "Rs. 5,40,000" shall be substituted;

(b) in Part II, in paragraph 2, in clause (b), for the letters and figures "Rs. 16,898", the letters and figures "Rs. 33,795" shall be substituted;

(c) in Part III, in paragraph 2,—

(A) in clause (b), for the letters and figures "Rs. 7,800", the letters and figures "Rs. 16,020" shall be substituted;

(B) in the proviso, for the letters and figures "Rs. 2,97,000" and "Rs. 2,70,000", the letters and figures "Rs. 6,00,000" and "Rs. 5,40,000" shall, respectively, be substituted.

CHAPTER IV

TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

14. Arrears. The difference of salary, pension and family pension payable to a Judge of High Court or to his family, as the case may be, under the High Court Judges Act or a Judge of the Supreme Court or his family, as the case may be, under the Supreme Court Judges Act as amended by this Act and the salary, pension or family pension payable to such Judge or his family, as the case may be, but for this Act shall be paid in two installments, the first Instalment of forty per cent. to be paid during the current financial year 2008-09 and the remaining sixty per cent. to be paid in the financial year 2009-10.

15. Repeal and saving. (1) The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 2009 is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 as amended by the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, as amended by this Act.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

FIFTEENTH SESSION

The Fifteenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha commenced on 12 February 2009 and was adjourned *sine die* on 26 February 2009. In all, there were 10 sittings during the Session. The House was prorogued on 2 March 2009.

A resumé of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period from 12 to 26 February 2009 is given below:

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

The Interim Budget (Railways), 2009-2010: Presenting the Interim Railway Budget in the House on 13 February 2009, the Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad said that while the estimates were for the whole year, he would seek from the House a "Vote on Account" sufficient to provide for the estimated expenditure for the first four months only. The requirements for the remaining part of the year were to be voted separately, at a later stage. The Railways were set to establish the historic landmark of earning a cash surplus, before dividend, of more than Rs.90,000 crore in five years. The same Railways which faced a paucity of funds for replacement of over aged assets in 2001 and which had to defer payment of Rs.2,800 crore as dividend to General Revenues had now surprised the whole world with a historic financial turnaround. Even in adverse times, *i.e.* the worldwide recession, the Indian Railway Finance Corporation, in November 2008, had successfully raised a loan of 10 \$ crore at the rate of only 4 per cent from the International market.

In the last five years, the Railways had stepped up the annual growth rate of freight loading from an average of 3 per cent during the 1990s to an average of 8 per cent. Besides, there had also been a significant improvement in Railway safety and a steep reduction in the number of accidents. There had been a paradigm shift in strategy and thinking and the Railways were increasingly more outward-looking and

customer-centric. The introduction of fully air-conditioned *Garib Rath*s and the free passenger upgrade facility from lower classes to vacant air-conditioned upper classes had enabled lakhs of people to enjoy the comfort of travelling in air-conditioned class for the first time in their lives.

Giving a performance review of 2007-08, the Minister stated that the Railways have registered a growth rate of 9 per cent. The Railways loaded 794 million tonne which were 66 million tonne more than the previous year, viz., 2006-07. Freight and Passenger Earnings grew at 14 and 15 per cent, respectively to reach Rs.71,645 crore. The cash surplus dividend increased from the 2006-07 level of Rs.20,338 crore to Rs.25,006 crore. The Plan expenditure increased to Rs.28,980 crore compared to Rs.25,002 crore in 2006-07.

Coming to the Revised Estimates for 2008-09, the Minister said that the Railways registered an excellent performance in freight loading and earnings till the end of September 2008. During this period, freight loading and earnings registered a growth of 9 per cent and 19 per cent respectively. Similarly, the passenger earnings increased by 14 per cent. Though the growth in freight loading was adversely impacted by the worldwide economic recession in October and November, the situation in December and January indicated some improvement and the Railways were confident that the Budget targets for passenger and goods earnings would be surpassed. Based on the present trends, the target for goods earnings for 2008-09 had been increased by Rs.1,593 crore. The Revised Estimates for freight had been kept at Rs.54,293 crore; passenger earnings at Rs.22,330 crore; sundry earnings at Rs.3,250 crore; other coaching earnings at Rs.2,420 crore and Gross Traffic Receipts at Rs.82,393 crore. The Revised Estimates of Ordinary Working Expenses had been kept at Rs.55,000 crore and the appropriation to Pension Fund at Rs.10,500 crore. The revised Annual Plan Outlay had also been proposed at Rs.36,773.

Regarding the Budget Estimates for 2009-10, the Minister said that the Budget Estimates for goods earnings, passenger earnings, sundry other earnings and other coaching earnings had been kept at Rs.59,059 crore, Rs.25,000 crore, Rs.6,000 crore and Rs.3,000 crore respectively in 2009-10. The Gross Traffic Earnings had been projected at Rs.93,159 crore, exceeding the Revised Estimates for the current year by Rs.10,766 crore.

The Ordinary Working Expenses had been kept at Rs.62,900 crore in 2009-10 which were more by Rs.7,900 crore than the Revised Estimates for 2008-09. The excess amount was mainly for the payment

for 60 per cent of the arrears to the staff in view of the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission. The Total Working Expenses had been estimated at Rs.83,600 crore. The cash surplus before dividend is expected to be Rs.18,847 crore and the operating ratio, 89.9 per cent. Dividend payable to the General Revenues for 2009-10 is estimated at Rs.5,304 crore based on the current applicable rate.

Regarding Annual Plan for 2009-10, the Minister stated that the amount envisaged for the Plan was Rs.37,905 crore. The Budgetary support from the General Revenue had been proposed at Rs.9,600 crore excluding Rs.1,200 crore to be received from the Central Road Fund. The Internal and Extra Budgetary Resource component would, accordingly, comprise 72 per cent of the Annual Plan. The work of construction of the double-line Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor had commenced on 10 February 2009 and those on the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor would also start in the current month. The work of construction of Rail Wheel Factory at Chhapra was going on in right earnest. Efforts were being made to start work on Diesel and Electric Locomotive Factories at Marhaura and Madhepura in the current month, the Minister said.

Based on demands, the Minister said that survey proposals were made for new 13 Railway Lines; Gauge conversion of 3 Railway Lines and doubling of 8 Lines. He announced the introduction of 36 New Trains, extension of 14 Trains and increase in the frequency of 14 Trains. He also announced reduction of passenger fares, for non suburban mail/express and ordinary passenger trains by one more rupee, for fares costing upto Rs.50 per passenger. Also, fares of AC First class, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier and AC Chair Car would be reduced by 2 per cent.

The Minister said that the Railways were now positioned on a rock solid foundation, more firm than ever, in their resolve to keep ascending new heights. He thanked the august House for their continuous encouragement and support to the Railways. With these words, he commended the Interim Budget to the House.

The Combined discussion on the Interim Budget (Railways), 2009-2010; the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways), 2008-2009; the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), 2008-2009; and the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways), 2006-2007 was held on 18 and 19 February 2009.

Initiating the discussion in the House on 18 February 2009, Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain of the Bharatiya Janata Party said that

much attention was required on Railway security and safety. The NDA Government had made a provision of Rs.17,000 crore for this purpose but it was being neglected now. He suggested that CCTV cameras, video cameras and metal detectors should be installed at all Railway Stations.

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad said that budgetary support was needed for the Railways although it was earning Rs.20,000 to Rs.25,000 crore annually as the Railways invested Rs.13,000 crore in 2004 and as it was going to invest Rs.37,000 crore in 2009. The Railways were using its budgetary support mainly on laying new rail lines and gauge conversion work in the backward and remote areas of the country. He said that more funds were also provided for the safety related works. Similarly, the posts of jawans, sub-inspectors and support staff in the railways were being filled through nation-wide recruitment campaign to ensure the safety of passengers and trains. Keeping in view the increased load of passenger traffic on the Mumbai suburban trains, he said that he had announced 150 new suburban trains while presenting the Railway Budget for 2007-08 and now these had started operating. He also informed the House that the survey work of the new rail lines from Prantik-Sewari and Anandpur Saheb-Garhshanker had been completed and now follow-up action was being taken for their approval. Several new rail lines were also proposed to be surveyed. The Minister stated that he had taken cognizance of all the issues raised by the members and thanked them for their valuable suggestions.

* Those who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Ram Singh Kaswan; Harikewal Prasad; Mahavir Bhagora; Naveen Jindal; Rupchand Pal; Bhartruhari Mahtab; Kishan Singh Sangwan; Bhubneshwar Prasad Mehta; P. Karunakaran; Basudeb Barman; Kashiram Rana; Ramji Lal Suman; Ramesh Dube; Bhanwar Singh Dangawas; Ghuran Ram; Rajesh Ranjan *alias* Pappu Yadav; S. Mallikarjunalah; Anirudh Prasad *alias* Sadhu Yadav; K.C. 'Baba' Singh; Jai Prakash; K.C. Pallanisamy; Sippiparai Ravichandran; Prasanna Acharya; Ananth Paranjpe; A.K.S. Vijayan; E.G. Sugavanam; Brahmananda Panda; Prabodh Panda; Kiren Rijju; Prakash Jadhao; Rewati Raman Singh; Varkala Radhakrishnan; Sunil Khan; Hansraj Gangaram Ahir; Francis K. George; M. Shivanna; Tapir Gao; J.M. Aaron Rashid; P.S. Gadhavi; P. Rajendran; Sitaram Yadav; Hiten Barman; Rakesh Singh; C.K. Chandrappan; Abu Ayes Mondal; Nikhil Kumar Choudhary; Ravi Prakash Verma; D.B. Patil; S.K. Kharventhan; Nihal Chand; Subhash Maharia; Mahesh Kumar Kanodia; Mohan Rawale; Rayapati Sambasiva Rao; Virendra Kumar; A.P. Abdullakutty; Ashok Kumar Pradhan; Ch. Lal Singh; Choudhary Bijendra Singh; Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram Shandil; Dr. Sujan Chakraborty; Dr. Arvind Sharma; Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey; Smt. Minati Sen; Smt. Kalpana Ramesh Nahire; Smt. Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi; Smt. C.S. Sujatha; Smt. P. Sathodevi; Smt. Tejaswani Gowda; Smt. Susmita Bauri; and Smt. Rupatal Diliprao Nilangekar Patil

All the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways); the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways); the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways); the Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2009; the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2009; and the Appropriation (Railways) No.2 Bill, 2009 were passed.

The Interim Budget (General), 2009-2010: Presenting the Interim Budget (General), 2009-2010 in the House on 16 February 2009, the Minister of Finance, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that every effort had been made by the Government to deliver on the commitments it had made. For the first time the Indian economy showed sustained growth of over 9 per cent for three consecutive years. The growth drivers for the period were agriculture, services, manufacturing along with trade and construction.

Giving an outlook for the current year (2008-2009), and the events that had impacted its prospects, the Minister said that the global financial crisis which began in 2007 took a turn for the worse in September 2008. In these difficult times, when most economies were struggling to stay afloat, a healthy 7.1 per cent rate of GDP growth still made India the second fastest growing economy in the world. The negative fallout of the global slowdown were countered with financial stimulus packages announced on 7 December 2008 and 2 January 2009, providing tax relief to boost demand and increasing expenditure on public projects to create employment and public assets. The RBI had also taken a number of monetary easing and liquidity enhancing measures including reduction in cash reserve ratio, statutory liquidity ratio and key policy rates.

Giving a brief review of progress in some important areas, the Minister mentioned that the Eleventh Five Year Plan provided a comprehensive framework and strategy for making growth both faster and more inclusive. Focused attention had been given to the agriculture sector and in the period between 2003-04 and 2008-09, the plan allocation for agriculture had been increased by 300 per cent. Under the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme for farmers, as per early reports, the total debt waiver and debt relief so far, amounted to Rs.65,300 crore covering 3.6 crore farmers. For rural development programmes, the corpus of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) was increased from Rs.5,500 crore in 2003-04 to Rs.14,000 crore for the year 2008-09, ensuring greater availability of funds for its activities.

In the social sector, the UPA Government had launched many

new schemes to provide steady monetary assistance to weak and downtrodden people of the society. Emphasis had also been given to the empowerment of women which had been an abiding objective of the UPA Government. Also, several major initiatives, including a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme to universalise education at secondary stage was launched in 2008-09. The outlay on Higher Education had been increased by 900 per cent in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Government had also created a strong public sector which had evolved in response to the nation's needs and provided stability to the development efforts. When the UPA Government took charge, the turnover of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in 2003-04 was Rs.5,87,000 crore which had grown by 84 per cent to Rs.10,81,000 crore in 2007-08. The number of loss making enterprises had come down from 73 in 2003-04 to 55 in 2007-08, and the number of profit making enterprises had gone up from 143 to 158 during the same period. The UPA Government had undertaken a number of reforms in the last four years to deepen and widen the Securities markets and strengthen the regulatory mechanisms for these markets. It also undertook comprehensive reforms of both the direct and the indirect tax systems with a view to improving its efficiency and equity.

Presenting the Revised Estimates for 2008-09, the Minister said that the Budget Estimates for 2008-09 had placed the total expenditure at Rs.7,50,884 crore. This had now been revised to Rs.9,00,953 crore. The Plan Expenditure for 2008-09 was revised from Rs.2,43,386 crore in the Budget Estimates to Rs.2,82,957. On the Non-Plan side, the additional Rs.1,10,498 crore in the Revised Estimates was accounted for by an increase in the expenditure of Rs.44,863 crore on fertilizer subsidy; Rs.10,960 crore on food subsidy; Rs.15,000 crore on Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme; Rs.7,605 crore on Pensions; and Rs.5,149 crore on Police. An additional amount of Rs.9,000 crore had also been provided for Defence expenditure. So far as Non-Tax Revenues were concerned, as against the Budget Estimates of Rs.95,785 crore for 2008-09, the Revised Estimates for the Non-Tax Revenues was Rs.96,203 crore. The Revised Estimates of tax collection were projected at Rs.6,27,949 crore as against the Budget Estimates of Rs.6,87,715 crore. This shortfall was primarily on account of the Government's pro-active fiscal measures initiated to counter the impact of global slowdown on the Indian economy.

Coming to the Estimates for the Interim Budget 2009-10, the Minister announced the total expenditure for fiscal 2009-10 at Rs.9,53,231 crore. This included a provision of Rs.2,85,149 crore under plan and

Rs.6,68,082 crore under non-plan. He proposed an allocation of Rs.30,100 crore for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Rs.13,100 crore for the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* programme for the year 2009-10. Similarly, the Minister also proposed an allocation of Rs.8,000 for the national programme of Mid-day Meals in schools; Rs.6,705 crore for Integrated Child Development Scheme; Rs.11,842 crore for the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission; Rs.7,400 crore for the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Drinking Water Mission; Rs.12,070 crore for the National Rural Health Mission; Rs.40,900 crore for the Bharat Nirman, etc.

The Minister said that the country was going through tough times. The Mumbai terror attacks had given an entirely new dimension to cross-border terrorism. The security environment had deteriorated considerably. In this context, he proposed to increase the allocation for Defence, which was a part of non-plan expenditure to Rs.1,41,703 crore. This would include Rs.54,824 crore for capital expenditure. He also made a provision of Rs.95,579 crore for major subsidies including food, fertilizer and petroleum.

For the fiscal year 2009-10, he said that Gross Tax Revenue receipts at the existing rates of taxation were estimated at Rs.6,71,293 crore and Centre's net tax revenue at Rs.5,00,096 crore. With revenue expenditure estimated at Rs.8,48,085 crore, the revenue deficit amounts to 4.0 per cent of GDP. Fiscal Deficit was estimated at Rs.3,32,835 crore which was 5.5 per cent of the GDP.

The Minister observed that India had arrived on the international economic scene. In the last five years, the Indian economy had grown at an impressive 8.6 per cent which was much faster than ever before. Increased global competitiveness of the Indian enterprise, its resilience to global shocks, and a positive economic outlook had contributed to a marked change in the way the Indian economy was being viewed, within and outside the country. India had made determined progress in finding its rightful place in the Comity of Nations, with a credible voice that matters in the deliberations of the global political and economic order. It had succeeded in dismantling the nuclear *apartheid* that India was subjected to for more than three decades. This has opened up new opportunities for civil nuclear cooperation and cleared the pathways for rapid industrialization of our country. With these words, he commended the Interim Budget to the House.

The combined discussion on the Interim Budget (General), 2009-2010; the Demands for Grants on Account (General), 2009-2010 and

the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 2008-2009 took place in the House on 20 and 24 February 2009.

Initiating the discussion in the House on 20 February 2009, Shri Ananth Kumar of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said that though the Government claimed that inflation had come down to less than 4 per cent, inflation on food prices was still hovering at 11.7 per cent. There was a huge agrarian crisis in the country and from the year 2004 onwards, year after year, the farmers had committed suicides. He said that the prescription of the Government to tide over the present economic crisis was high interest rates. During the NDA Government, credit in the market was available at 6 per cent. The UPA Government had now reversed the whole thing. It raised the interest rate to the extent of harming the common man and that there was no hope for India under the economic misrule of the UPA Government.

Participating in the discussion,* Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) felt that the Interim Budget contained all the sound fundamentals of an Interim Budget. The fundamentals of the Indian economy were very strong. When the economies in the world were growing between 4 per cent and 4.2 per cent, the Indian economy was able to maintain even today a growth rate of 7.2 per cent in spite of the global recession.

Shri Ramdas Athawale (RPI-A) suggested that something should be done to bring about economic and social equality in the country. The number of unemployed people in the country being very large, he wanted that they should be provided unemployment allowance of Rs.3,000 per month.

In the resumed discussion on 24 February 2009, Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) said that the country was facing agrarian crisis, economic crisis, price rise, unemployment problem and unprecedented inflation. He felt no solution was provided in the Interim Budget about all these problems.

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri R. Prabhu, Rupchand Pal, Ram Kripal Yadav, Brahmananda Panda, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, P.S. Gadhavi, Vijay Bahuguna, Tathagata Satpathy, R.L. Jalappa, Bikram Keshari Deo, S.K. Bwiswmuthiary, Mohan Rawale, A.K.S. Vijayan, Harikewal Prasad, Kashiram Rana, Francis Fanthome, C. Kuppusami, Kishan Singh Sangwan, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Nihal Chand, Vijaya Krishna, Harin Pathak, Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, Francis K. George, Harisinh Chavda, Prof. Chander Kumar, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Dr. Meinya Thokchom, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Dr. Sujana Chakraborty, Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan, Smt. C.S. Sujatha and Smt. Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi

Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress) wanted that there should be an immediate package for those agricultural and plantation crop producers facing serious problems due to fall in prices of paddy, coconut, rubber, areca nut, vanilla, vegetables etc. An immediate action needed to be taken to help them tide over their problems.

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) said that due to global economic meltdown, thousands of people were coming back from the Middle East because they were losing their jobs. These people did not get any protection from the Government over there. He urged the Government to make a plan through the NRI Ministry and give directions to the banks so that these people could start small businesses.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Finance, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said in his Budget Speech that, he had expressed deep concern about the impact of the financial crisis and the global meltdown. At the same time, he had expressed confidence on the resilience of the Indian economy that it would overcome the crisis. He said that the Government would not allow the country to deviate from the path of its cherished goal. However, it may take some more time and some more policy changes. The Government had taken corrective steps. Two stimulus packages were announced by the Prime Minister. The RBI had also taken necessary measures. Refuting the contention that there was no impact of the stimulus packages, he said that it would take some time for it to have its impact. The Minister said that the policies of the Government were clear. Economic growth was an instrument for development and not an end in itself. Economic growth had to be both inclusive and equitable. It must provide social justice and lead to empowerment of *aam aadmi*. In the last five years, the UPA Government had moved steadfastly in that direction. It was his earnest feeling that all must walk together in the journey to achieve this shared vision.

All the Demands for Grants on Account and all the Supplementary Demands for Grants were voted in full. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009; the Appropriation Bill, 2009; and the Finance Bill, 2009 were passed.

Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address: On 12 February 2009, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil addressed the members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together. The Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address was moved by Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo of the Indian National Congress on 17 February 2009. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks took place on 17 and 18 February 2009.

Moving the Motion, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo said that the UPA Government had kept most of its promises made in the National Common Minimum Programme. Towards transparency in administration, the Right to Information Act was enacted in the Parliament. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act guaranteed employment for a special number of days to the people. The farm loan waiver of Rs.65,000 crore had provided great relief to 3.7 crore farmers. Health was given a place of primary importance by the Government. Several institutes of excellence had been opened in different parts of the country. The *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* had helped the universal coverage of primary education. The Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission had given a new fillip to the development of urban areas. He said that the mandate given to the UPA Government by the people of India was an endorsement of its governance.

Seconding the motion, Shri Madhusudan Mistry (INC) said that all the programmes of the UPA Government during the last five years had been village-centered. The Government created a conducive atmosphere for everybody, provided stability to the country and launched such programmes and schemes which made the common man hopeful about his future. Stating that no previous Government had taken such measures as taken by the UPA Government during the last 4-5 years, he supported the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

Participating in the discussion*, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani (BJP) said that political considerations in the matter of national security was highly detrimental to the country. India took the Kashmir issue to the UN and consequently it had been suffering for the last 60 years. He asserted that infiltration and illegal immigration was going on in Assam and Eastern India and these were creating a potential danger of another partition of the country. He said that a lot of self praise was manifest in the President's Address. The sordid fact was that the nation was still going through a serious economic crisis. Prices of daily use items, particularly edible items, meant for

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Mohammad Salim, Mohan Singh, Devendra Prasad Yadav, A. Krishnaswamy, C.K. Chandrappan, Tathagata Satpathy, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Thawar Chand Gehlot, L. Ganesan, Rajesh Ranjan *alias* Pappu Yadav, S.K. Kharventhan, Khagen Das, Francis K. George, Vijay Bahuguna, S.K. Bwiswmuthiary, M. Shivanna, Francis Fanthome, Kirip Chaliha, Suraj Singh, Ramji Lal Suman, A.V. Bellarmin, Kiren Rijju, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, J.M. Aaron Rashid, Mohan Rawale, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Kishan Singh Sangwan, Harisinh Chavda, Hansraj Gangaramji Ahir, Naveen Jindal, Dr. Meinya Thokchom, Dr. K.S. Maroj, Dr. Sebastian Paul, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, Dr. C. Krishnan, Smt. Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi, Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan and Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar Patil

the common man had been constantly rising. There was loss of employment of the employed people due to the economic crisis which was really a serious issue.

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete (Shiv Sena) said that the results of the forthcoming elections would determine whether the government was successful or otherwise. The difficulties being faced by the masses are getting harsher with every passing day and therein lies the failure of this government.

Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa (SAD) said that there was a mention of loan waiver worth Rs.70,000 crore but it had not benefitted the small and marginal farmers. Not even one per cent of the farmers of Punjab had benefitted from the loan waiver. Hence, he requested the Government to link the prices of farmers produce either with price index or fixed it as per the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee.

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) said that the terrorist attack which took place in Malegaon and Modasa had been completely forgotten to be mentioned in the President's Address. If ATS, the premier anti-terrorist organization of the country, was claiming that the perpetrators of Malegaon bomb blast were given training and arms by Israel, he questioned as to why the Government had not severed diplomatic relations with Israel.

Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress) pointed out that the prices of many agricultural produces including Rubber had gone down steeply. He suggested that steps should be taken urgently to redress this issue. The amount of the senior citizens fund would have to be enhanced, he added.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Finance, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that in a mature democracy like India, there would be differences of opinion and that he did recognize the principal job of the Opposition Party including the main Opposing Party to oppose, to expose and if possible to depose the ruling party. Regarding the efficacy of the anti-terror legislations passed by the Government, the Minister said that he could not agree with the views of the Opposition. He said that the laws had been carefully crafted to ensure best possible result keeping in view the requirements of national security and protecting the rights of the individuals. So, it was too early to pass a judgment on it. The Government was committed to fully investigate the Mumbai attack.

On the economic front, he said that nobody was denying the depth and magnitude of the global impact and the financial crisis. The Government had admitted that there had been a slowdown of the growth. It would take some more time to recover. As regards public sector, he said that the number of loss-making public sector companies had come down and the number of profit-making public sector companies had gone up since 2004-2005.

Regarding the contention that India's foreign policy had lost its independence, he said that India's foreign policy was independent and it had India's interest to promote in the context of the external atmosphere and external environment. With regard to Pakistan he said that diplomacy has played and diplomacy has not failed. He added that unless the infrastructure available to the terror actors in Pakistan are completely dismantled, India would continue to demand that from Pakistan. In conclusion, the Minister expressed his deep gratitude to the Leader of the Opposition and to all the members who had participated in the discussion.

All amendments moved were negatived and the motion was adopted.

Regarding situation in Sri Lanka: Making a Statement in this regard in the House on 18 February 2009, the Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Finance, Shri Pranab Mukherjee apprised the august House about the present situation in Sri Lanka. He stated that since October 2008, developments had unfolded rapidly in the northern Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Government forces had made significant advances into LTTE-held territory, restricting LTTE cadres to a small area of approximately 150 sq. km. adjacent to the coast. The Sri Lankan forces had captured Kilinochchi, Elephant Pass and Muliativu town and have regained control of the A-9 highway.

The Minister said that a serious source of concern to India had been the condition of the civilians and internally displaced persons (IDPs), mostly Tamilians, caught up in the zone of conflict. The estimates on the number of civilians trapped vary, but 70,000 or so were estimated to be there, presently. The LTTE were reportedly using them as human shields. He assured the members that India's strong concerns for the safety, security and welfare of the civilians caught in the conflict made her to stay actively engaged to prevent a further deterioration of humanitarian conditions. The Government had sent relief supplies to the civilians and the IDPs, facilitated access by international and UN organisations, and had suggested ways for civilians

and the IDPs to escape from the conflict zone. He informed that two batches of relief assistance comprising 80,000 family packs of food and non-food articles, collected and donated by the Government of Tamil Nadu, and medicines had already been sent. Another batch of relief material was being sent.

The Minister said that he personally visited Colombo on 27 January 2009. In his discussions with the Sri Lankan President, His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, he stressed the need to give an opportunity to civilians and IDPs caught up in the conflict to emerge from the LTTE-held areas, and suggested a pause in hostilities to provide the necessary environment. On 29 January 2009, he said that the Sri Lankan President announced a 48-hour period for civilian safe passage to secure areas. He also appealed to the LTTE to allow civilians to leave and assured the safety and security of the civilians who did so.

In the last two weeks, nearly 35,000 civilians had come out of LTTE-held areas. Sadly, some of those escaping from the conflict had been caught in the cross-fire and, in recent incidents, had been stopped and even killed by LTTE cadres. As the conflict entered what might be the final phase of the military operations, the LTTE would best serve the interest of the Tamils by immediately releasing all civilians and laying down arms.

The Minister said that India continued to support a negotiated political settlement in Sri Lanka within the framework of an undivided Sri Lanka acceptable to all the communities, including the Tamil community. The LTTE remained a proscribed organization in India and had done much damage to the Tamil community. The Minister assured the members that the Government would continue to stay engaged in the process of bringing enduring peace to Sri Lanka, working with the Government of Sri Lanka and the various communities in Sri Lanka in pursuit of common security and prosperity. He reiterated that the Government of India was committed to providing all help to ensure the safety and security of the civilian Tamilians who were suffering for long because of this conflict. India wanted that the conflict should come to an end. The people of Sri Lanka, particularly the Tamilians must get their rightful place for which an Accord was signed in 1987 and for which a devolution package had been worked out.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2009: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House on 19 February 2009, the Minister of Urban Development,

Shri S. Jaipal Reddy said that Delhi had witnessed an extraordinary phase of a turbulence during the last three years in the form of court orders, ceilings and demolitions. He said that the UPA Government and the Urban Development Ministry had, in the meantime, not only provided protection to all the affected people, but also adopted the Master Plan Delhi 2021. The present Bill sought to provide protection to six categories of development, namely slum dwellers and *Jhuggi Jhopri* clusters; existing farm houses involving construction beyond permissible building limits; schools, dispensaries, religious institutions and cultural institutions; storages, warehouses, godowns used for agricultural inputs or produces including dairy and poultry in rural areas built on agricultural land; those unauthorized colonies including village *abadi* and its extension; and urban villages in addition to village *abadi* and its extension.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJD) said that when the Government comes forward with a legislation, it should be ensured that the legislation would stand the test of law and it would not be rejected in the court. The Government should give details of the number of houses and roads constructed and the number of slum dwellers settled.

Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress) said that cheaper accommodation must be made available to people from all over India who are living in Delhi, especially job-seekers and others who are coming in large numbers.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Urban Development, Shri Ajay Maken said that Delhi is a city which can be broadly divided in two parts—one of service users and the other for service providers. The growth of service users and their living and also that of service providers and poor people should be taken care of. Only 5,596 out of 10,64,000 shops were sealed and none of them was small. All were big showrooms which had violated the laws to the extent that they could not be provided any relief. He informed the House that only in the last two years the MCD had earned Rs.528 crore. It is supposed that the MCD is likely to gain Rs.342 crore every year which would be used for development of the commercial streets of these business centers. There were about 5-1/2 lakh *jhuggis* and slums. They could not be resettled in a single day. The job of resettling had already started. The Minister said that the

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, Sajjan Kumar, Rajesh Ranjan *alias* Pappu Yadav, Sudhangshu Seal, Jagdish Tytler and Smt. Krishna Tirath

Government had initiated the scheme for building 1.13 lakh houses for the poor, of which about 15 thousand houses have already been constructed. He informed the House that the Government was proposing to provide every *jhuggi* dweller, a flat of super built-up area of 40 yards. Besides, 1.13 lakh houses for the poor, work is in progress on 15,660 dwelling units.

The Bill was passed.

The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI)(Amendment) Bill, 2009: Moving the motion for consideration of the House on 24 February 2009, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shri M.A.A. Fatmi said that this was a simple and short Bill which proposed to carry out some amendments in the parent Act of 2004. The Act provided for constitution of the Commission and the key objective was to ensure that the true amplitude of the educational rights enshrined in article 30(1) of the Constitution is made available to the members of the notified minority communities. The Commission, which had been in existence for three years, had faced certain practical difficulties in implementing some of the provisions of the Act. The Ministry of Human Resource Development had also, from time to time, received several suggestions in regard to the Act from various cross-sections of the minorities, which were referred to the Commission. The Commission had considered the views and suggestions expressed by various stakeholders, and had recommended certain amendments to the NCMEI Act. It was accordingly proposed to carry out some of the amendments through the present legislation. In section 2 of the Bill, two amendments were proposed in clause (g). First was to do away with the exclusion of Universities in the definition of "Minority Educational Institutions". The second proposal was to substitute the words "or maintained by" with the words "and administered by".

The NCMEI Act, as at present, had amplified the functions of the Commission manifold, as compared to the original Act, under which the strength of the Commission was fixed at two members besides the Chairman. To meet the expectations of the minority communities who look upto the Commission as the forum for redressal of their grievances, it was proposed that section 3(2) of the Act be amended to increase the existing number of members of the Commission, other than the Chairperson, from the existing two to three. Article 30(1) of the Constitution gives the minorities unrestricted power to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. It was intended to amend section 10(1) of the Act so that it does not circumscribe the

width and ambit of article 30(1) of the Constitution. The proposed amendment would ensure that issuing of NOC, wherever required, is made subject to law in force and not left to the executive discretion in each State. Clause 12(B) of the aforesaid Act conferred power upon the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions to decide on the minority status of an educational institution. It was proposed to do away with the requirement of consultations with the State Government before deciding on the status of the Minority Education Institution.

Participating in the discussion,* Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJD) stated that the Bill intended to amend section 2. It was not for minority students but meant to facilitate the high and rich people of the minorities.

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) felt it was a high time that there is a law which opens the avenues for minorities to open educational institutions. He wanted that the Bill be passed *in toto* and felt that the Commission was not doing its work properly. It was very slow and many applications were pending with them. That had to be expedited, he added.

Replying to the discussion on 25 February 2009, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Smt. D. Purandeswari said that even as the members speak of the importance of education, there were challenges in the educational sector pertaining to quality, equity, relevance and also access to higher education. For a country to be economically sustainable, the gross enrolment ratio in higher education should be 20 per cent. But it could not be achieved overnight. A conscientious decision had been taken to achieve a gross enrolment ratio of around 15 per cent by the end of 2012.

In keeping with the promise under the NCMP, the Minister said that a National Commission for Minority Education Institutions had been established through an Act of Parliament. It provided *inter alia*, the right for minorities to establish and administer institutions and also to seek affiliations to universities of their choice. Wherever it was felt necessary the Government had reverted to the House to seek its consent for ushering in amendments. That was why the phrase "in consultation with the States" was dropped. All the suggestions and recommendations received by the Ministry of Human Resource Development were referred to the Commission. The Commission recommended to

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri P. Karunakaran, Ram Kripal Yadav, C.K. Chandrappan, Chandrakant Khaire, K. Francis George, Santosh Gangwar, J.M. Aaron Rashid, and Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat

the Ministry that such an amendment should be brought in. She assured the members that quality would not be affected and sought the indulgence of the House to pass the Bill.

The Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the Session, in all, 4,515 notices of Questions (3,020 Starred; 1,487 Unstarred; and 8 Short Notice Questions) were received. Out of these, 160 notices were admitted as Starred, 906 as Unstarred; and none was admitted as Short Notice Question.

On the first day of the Session *i.e.* 12 February 2009, the President addressed the Joint Sitting of both the Houses of Parliament. As usual, there was no Question Hour on that day.

No Question Hour was fixed for 16 February 2009, the day of presentation of the Interim Budget (General) at 11.00 a.m.

Due to interruptions in the House on 19 February 2009, Starred Questions were not called for oral answers. Replies to Starred Questions listed for that day were treated as Unstarred and their answers, together with the answer to Unstarred Questions, were printed in the official report for the day.

Daily average of Questions in the List of Questions: The average number of Stared Questions answered orally in each sitting of the House during the Session was four. The maximum number of Starred Questions answered orally on a day was seven on 24 February 2009. The average number of Unstarred Questions appearing in the Lists came to 113 per day against the prescribed limit of 230, the minimum being 52 questions on 13 February 2009.

Half-an-Hour Discussion: Only one notice of Half-an-Hour Discussion was received during the Session and the same was disallowed.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of Shri R. Venkataraman, former President of India, a member of Provisional Parliament and a member of the First, Sixth and Seventh Lok Sabhas; Chaudhari Ranbir Singh, member of the Constituent Assembly, the Provisional Parliament and the First and Second Lok Sabhas; and Sarvashri Periasamy Thiagarajan, E. Balanandan and Bhogendra Jha; Ajitsinh Dabhi, Devendra Bahadur Roy and Prof. (Smt.) Chandra Bhanu Dev, all former members.

Thereafter, members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

RAJYA SABHA**TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH SESSION***

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its Two Hundred and Fifteenth Session on 12 February 2009 was adjourned *sine die* on 26 February 2009. The House was prorogued by the President on 2 March 2009. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the Session is given below:

A. STATEMENTS / DISCUSSIONS

Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address to the Members of Parliament: On 12 February 2009, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil addressed the members of both Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament. The Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address was moved by Shri Jai Parkash Aggarwal (INC). The Motion was seconded by Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik (INC). The discussion took place on 17 and 18 February 2009.

Moving the motion, Shri Jai Parkash Aggarwal said that since the time the UPA Government had come to power, it had chosen a way to protect India's independence, to take the country on the path of progress and to take steps to strengthen the country. He stated that the direction to consolidate democracy taken by the Congress Party since 1947 is still being continued with determination.

Enumerating the achievements of the UPA Government, he mentioned about the waiver of farmers' debt of Rs. 76,000 crore, initiation of 14 irrigation schemes and ensuring guaranteed employment for 100 days to the poor through the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. He also emphasized the measures taken by the Government which included creation of National Investigation Agency and the National Security Guards in different States to combat terrorism; Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, Mid-day Meals Scheme in pursuit of education and benefits to Government employees and teachers through the Sixth Pay Commission. Among other programmes and schemes for the welfare of the common man Shri Aggarwal referred to the Unorganised Sector Social Security Act,

* Contributed by the General Research Unit, LARRDIS, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana, Indira Gandhi National Insurance Scheme, Rural Health Mission, *Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana*. He also pointed out that a new Ministry for the Minorities had been formed and the National Minority Commission had been made a constitutional body. All these were made possible due to efforts of the present Government, he added.

Seconding the motion, Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik (INC) said that ever since independence the country had progressed tremendously. He stated that this Government had succeeded in bringing down the inflation to 5.6 per cent, which had soared to 12.6 per cent due to international factors. He further stated that important legislations like the Right to Information Act, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act had been enacted during the tenure of the present Government. Shri Naik referred to the increased thrust in the field of education, increased attention to problems of overseas Indians, integrated energy policy, amendment to Mines and Mineral (Regulation and Development) Act among other achievements of the present regime.

Participating in the discussion*, the Leader of Opposition, Shri Jaswant Singh (BJP), stated that the security, internal and external, was a single and indivisible entity. He referred to the unfortunate incident of Mumbai and said that there was clearly an absence of maritime intelligence. He drew the attention of the Prime Minister to the number of incidents that had taken place since 1993 and the number of persons punished. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive scientific infrastructure to be developed to avoid any erosion of the country's science and technology base and core nuclear weapons capability. He further stated that in the background of the events happening in our neighbouring countries, the defence set-up should be modernized and inertness in our foreign policy be removed.

Shri Sitaram Yechury (CPI-M) stated that the Left Parties had played a very important role to ensure that many of the flagship

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Prabhat Jha, Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Prasanta Chatterjee, Shreegopal Vyas, Brij Bhushan Tiwari, Ali Anwar Ansari, Tiruchi Siva, B.S. Gnanadesikan, Arun Jaitley, Silvius Condpan, Arjun Kumar Sengupta, D. Raja, Brendra Prasad Baishya, Y.P. Trivedi, Kumar Deepak Das, Rajniti Prasad, Bharat kumar Raut, Biswajit Daimary, Ahmed Saeed Malihabadi, Sardar Tarochan Singh, Dr. V. Maitreyan, Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Dr. Janardhan Waghmare, Dr. Ejaz Ali, Dr. Barun Mukherji, Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Dr. Bimal Jalan, Dr. Radhakant Nayak and Smt. Brinda Karat

programmes were being undertaken and fulfilled and the Left had also stopped the Government from going ahead with matters that were against the country's interests. He further stated that the Left had withdrawn support to the Government because the independent foreign policy that was a part of the Common Minimum Programme (CMP) was not adhered to. Shri Yechury said that more than 36 per cent of the Indian population was under the poverty line and the situation has worsened due to the global recession. The Government should have acted promptly to create massive levels of employment through public investment in the wake of recession. He stated that the Government had not fulfilled the promise of engaging the private sector to ensure that the reservation policy was extended to the private sector. Concluding his speech, he reminded the Parliament of the secular connotation of Bharat in Article 1 of the Constitution of India as visualized by the Constituent Assembly and the necessity to uphold it.

Shri Rahul Bajaj (Independent) thanked the President for her comprehensive address to the nation that covered many national issues. Speaking on behalf of the industrialists, he said that a level playing field had to be ensured for them to be part of the global empire. He stated that he was not worried about the 6 per cent fiscal deficit if there was commensurate outcome. He also emphasized that weaker sections need to be empowered and enabled.

The Interim Budget (Railways) 2009-2010: The Interim Budget (Railways) 2009-2010 was laid on the table of Rajya Sabha on 13 February 2009. The discussion on the Interim Budget (Railways) 2009-2010 took place on 19 and 20 February 2009. Initiating the discussion, Shri Kalraj Mishra (BJP) stated that the promises of the Railway Minister, viz., introduction of *khadi* and *kulhar*, three storeyed containers on the diesel routes and double storeyed containers on the electrified routes, high capacity wagons, and introduction of trains with a faster speed, were yet to be fulfilled. He stated that the provision of Rs. 36,705 crore made in the Interim Budget was less than the amount that had been provided for the same period during 2008-2009. He further pointed out that provision of setting up private factories (for coach manufacture) with 26 per cent Government investment and 74 per cent private investment would result in having the major say of the business community in decision-making.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia (INC) said that the Budget was definitely a budget of *Aam Aadmi*. He appreciated the fact that the public sector undertaking, had made a profit to the tune of Rs. 90,000 crore and during the past five years the passenger fare had not increased at all. He further requested the Minister to look into the allocation of adequate fund for the replacement of old railway tracks, construction of culverts, bridges and also the application of the new technology.

Replying to the discussion on 20 February 2009, the Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad stated that the railway tracks have been modernized and there had been decrease in the rail accidents. He added that railway safety, productivity and profitability were complementary to each other. He further stated that the security of the Railway Protection Force was being enhanced and the project of green toilets was being tested as a pilot Project. He assured that feasibility report was being prepared and funds being arranged for the implementation of Bullet Train.

The Interim Budget (General) 2009-2010: The Interim Budget (General) 2009-2010 was laid on the table of Rajya Sabha on 16 February 2009. The discussion on the Interim Budget (General) 2009-2010 took place on 25 February 2009. Initiating the discussion, Shri Arun Shourie (BJP) stated that after a phase of denial the country was heading for a slowdown and the Government was now using the international economic slowdown to cover up its own economic mismanagement. He said that the promises of reconstruction of Dharavi slum, rejuvenation of the Mithi River, the National Highways Programme and the Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Programme had not yet been fulfilled. He also mentioned the inadequacies in the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as pointed out by Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). He further said that the financial prudence for effective management of the country's affairs was not being adhered to and the Government had not attended to the issue of rising prices.

* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Tarini Kanta Roy, Nand Kishore Yadav, Shivanand Tiwari, Varinder Singh Bajwa, Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi, Vijay Jawaharlal Darda, Penumalli Madhu, Mahendra Mohan, Shreegopal Vyas, Abani Roy, Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Birendra Prasad Baishya, Matilal Sarkar, Rajniti Prasad, Kumar Deepak Das, Krishan Lal Balmiki, Blewajit Daimary, Gireesh Kumar Sanghi, Tiruchi Siva, Syed Azeez Pasha, Mohd. Ali Khan, Dr. K. Malaisamy, Dr. Janardhan Waghmare, Smt. Viplove Thakur, Smt. T. Ratna Bai, Kumari Sushila Tirya and Kumari Anusulya Uikey

Participating in the discussion*, Dr. K. Keshava Rao (INC) said that despite the shortcomings, the following achievements in the past five years were spectacular: maintaining the growth rate of seven per cent in spite of global meltdown; investment in education being raised to 300 per cent in 2009, as compared to 2004; and the core economy of agriculture being maintained at 4 per cent. He further stated that agriculture had been taken care of even in the Vote on Accounts with allocations made for loan waiver amounting to Rs.10,000 crore for 13 States.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Finance, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that the Budget reflected the economic philosophy and economic programme of the UPA Government. He pointed out that the average rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth during the NDA regime was 5.8 per cent while under the UPA the same was 8.6 per cent, similarly in overcoming fiscal deficit, revenue deficit and annual savings rate as percentage of the GDP the UPA Government fared better. He mentioned that the UPA had created 138.76 crore person days of work that covered 3.51 crore households during the period. He informed that the Government had ensured all corrective measures to contain the economic crisis. The Government, he said, was alert and responsive to the fast changing developments.

Statement on the follow up to the Mumbai terrorist attack: Making a Statement in this regard in the House on 13 February 2009, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee informed the House about the developments that had taken place since the House had last considered the issue. Referring to the solemn resolution adopted by the House on 12 December 2008, he asked that India shall not cease in her efforts until the terrorists and those who had trained, funded and abetted them are exposed and brought to justice. The Minister apprised the House about the diplomatic efforts undertaken to inform Pakistan and the international community which were threefold: firstly, the attack on Mumbai had to be viewed in the

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri, K. Chandran Pillai, Brij Bhushan Tiwari, N.K. Singh, Arjun Kumar Sengupta, Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia, Mahendra Mohan, Rahul Bajaj, Prakash Javadekar, D. Raja, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Naresh Gujral, Kumar Deepak Das, M.V. Mysura Reddy, Biswajit Daimary, Bharatkumar Raut, Dr. Bimal Jalan, Dr. C. Rangarajan, Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya, Smt. T. Ratna Bai and Smt. Vasanthi Stanley

context of global challenge of terrorism; secondly, the investigations had zeroed in on the Pakistani soil as being responsible for planning, executing and launching of the attack and hence the primary onus laid on Pakistan to fully unveil the conspiracy in a transparent and verifiable manner; and thirdly, Mumbai was not the only terrorist attack linked to the infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan and it was imperative that Pakistan had to credibly ensure action against such infrastructure. The Minister informed the House that a full dossier regarding the investigations was prepared and forwarded to all the Foreign Ministers and simultaneously a detailed briefing was held with all the resident Heads of Missions in New Delhi, which was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs. He referred to the prevarication, denial, diversionary tactics adopted by Pakistan in the early days of the Mumbai attack. He also mentioned about the *Jamat-ud-Dawa* being listed by the UN as a terrorist organisation. He further stated that a formal enquiry had been launched by the Federal Investigation Agency of Pakistan and the major onus to eliminate the threat of terrorism rested with the Government of Pakistan.

Statement about the situation in Sri Lanka: Making a Statement in the House on 18 February 2009, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee informed the House about the situation in Sri Lanka. The Minister stated that since the last statement in the House in October 2008 on the same issue, significant advances had been made by the Sri Lankan forces with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) cadres being restricted to a small area of approximately 150 sq. km. adjacent to the coast, and the Sri Lankan forces had taken control over Kilinochchi, Elephant Pass, Mullaitivu town and the A-9 highway. The Minister expressed serious concern over the condition of approximately 70,000 civilians and internally displaced persons (IDPs), who have been caught in the zone of conflict and whom the LTTE was supposedly using as human shields. He assured the House that India was actively engaged with the Sri Lankan Government to prevent further deterioration of humanitarian conditions and the relief supplies had been sent. He further informed that in his discussions with the President of Sri Lanka, Shri Mahinda Rajapaksa, in Colombo on 27 January 2009, he had stressed the need for a chance to be given to the civilians and IDPs to emerge from the LTTE - held areas. On 29 January 2009, the Sri Lankan President provided for a safe passage of the civilians for a 48-hour period. He stated that in the last two weeks nearly 35,000 persons had crossed over, but unfortunately some have been caught in the crossfire and some had been killed by

the LTTE cadres. He said that India strongly supported a negotiated political settlement within the framework of an undivided Sri Lanka acceptable to all communities, including the Tamil Community and the first step towards it was the implementation of the 13th amendment, which would give effect to India-Sri Lanka Accord, 1987. The Minister extended his support to the Government of Sri Lanka in the tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction especially in the north and the east. He stated that steps had been taken to implement developmental projects in the Eastern Province which included 500 MW thermal power project, assistance to a rail bus project and the setting up of IT centers. He assured the members that India would engage in the peace process with the Government of Sri Lanka and the various communities to bring enduring peace, security and prosperity in the region.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*The Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment) Bill, 2008**: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 19 February 2009, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri P. Chidambaram said that the aim to amend the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Act was to extend security cover to private sector and joint sector establishments. He remarked that there were several such establishments, which were vital to the security as well as the economy of the country. He mentioned that the CISF was one of the India's best-trained and well-equipped forces and with the increasing demand; the strength of the force can be increased for deployment. He emphasized that the first claim to the CISF would be of the Government and public sector and there was no question of reducing the CISF cover to the public sector. He stated that risk analysis would be undertaken before accepting engagement. He also emphasized on the use of modern gadgets and technology. He mentioned that the areas affected by Naxalites and also those vulnerable to terrorist attacks would be given priority. He assured that the CISF would remain a security force and there would be no intervention in the land or industrial disputes.

Replying to the debate**, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri P.

* The Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 18 December 2008

** Those who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri S.S. Ahluwalia, Prasanta Chatterjee, Silvius Condpan, Abani Roy and Dr. K. Keshava Rao

Chidambaram, said that CISF would perform critical functions, *i.e.*, they would have striking power and fire power to deter terrorist threat or assault. He also mentioned that the deployment of the force would be according to categorized priority. He clarified that CISF was not organized on a battalion pattern; as such the force did not have a *mahila* battalion. However, he urged more women to join the force.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, its clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

*The Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment) Bill, 2008**: On 19 February 2009, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal moved the motion for the consideration of the Bill on behalf of Shri Pranab Mukherjee. He stated that the Prevention of Money Laundering Act enacted in 2002, came into force in 2005 to prevent money laundering and to provide for attachment, seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crime, obtained or derived, directly and indirectly from money laundering. He stated that the amendment of the Act would further strengthen the legal framework for combating money laundering and financing of terrorism. He said that the proposed amendments *inter alia* cover offences to do with terrorist financing, offences of cross border implications, bringing money changers, money transfer service providers, international payment gateways and casinos under the reporting regime of the Act.

Replying to the debate**, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal pointed out that the Bill had adequate provisions for expeditious disposal of cases investigated by non-police authorities, the training of the banking staff etc. He further pointed out that the SEBI had not yet come across an instance where there was abuse of the Participatory Notes. Regarding cooperation with the German Banks to identify the names of the companies which had their money in the tax havens, he said that the Central Board of Direct Taxes was pursuing the matter. He further informed that with the passage of the law it would be possible to approach the Financial

* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 17 October 2008

** Those who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Tapan Kumar Sen, Brij Bhushan Tiwari, Shantaram Laxman Naik and Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan

Action Task Force of the Asia-Pacific Group and also the Financial Action Task Force of the international organization which was coordinating the efforts in the field of anti-money laundering.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, its clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the session, 2,528 notices of Questions (2,095 Starred and 433 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 160 Questions were admitted as Starred and 1,166 Questions were admitted as Unstarred. The total number of Questions received in Hindi was 644.

Daily average of Questions: For all days, the lists of Starred Questions contained 20 Questions each. On an average, 4.5 Questions were orally answered, for all the sittings having Question Hour. The maximum number of Questions orally answered was six on 19 February 2009 and the minimum number of Questions orally answered was one on 17 February 2009.

The lists of Unstarred Questions contained 106, 135 and 150 on 13, 17 and 27 February 2009 respectively. On rest of the days, it contained 155 Questions each.

Half-an-Hour Discussions: In all, two notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received, out of which only one was admitted and discussed.

Short Notice Questions: In all, 19 notices of Short Notice Questions were received, However, none was admitted.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri R. Venkataraman, former President of India, Sarvashri Rishi Kumar, E. Balanandan, Lakkhiram Agarwal, Ranbir Singh, Ranjan Mazumdar and Smt. Krishna Kaul, all former members.

Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

STATE LEGISLATURES

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Ninth Session of the Twelfth Assam Legislative Assembly which commenced on 5 January 2009, was adjourned *sine die* on 12 January 2009. There were 6 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor, Shri Shiv Charan Mathur addressed members of the Assembly on 5 January 2009. A copy of the Governor's address was laid on the Table of the House on the same day. The debate on the Governor's address was held for three days and the motion was adopted and passed by the House on 9 January 2009.

Financial business: On 5 January 2009, the Lists of Supplementary Demands for Grants and Supplementary Appropriation were presented in the House. After voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants on 10 January 2009, the Assam Appropriation (No.IV) Bill, 2009 was introduced, considered and passed by the House on the same day.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of 23 leading personalities.

The Tenth Session of the Twelfth Assam Legislative Assembly was held for a day on 7 March 2009.

Financial business: On 7 March 2009, the motion for voting on Vote on Accounts for the year 2009-2010 was moved by the Minister-in-Charge Finance and the motion was passed by the House. The relevant Bill—the Assam Appropriation (Vote-on-Accounts) Bill, 2009—was introduced, considered and passed by the House after discussion.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of 10 leading personalities.

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Sixth Session of the Fifth Goa Legislative Assembly commenced on 2 February 2009 and was adjourned *sine die* on 6 February 2009. The House was prorogued on 17 February 2009. There were 5 sittings in all.

* Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Goa Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Address by the Governor: The Governor Dr. Shivinder Singh Sidhu addressed members of the Assembly on 2 February 2009. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was moved by Shri Chandrakant Kavalekar and Shri Francis Silveira seconded the Motion. The discussion on the Motion was held on 3, 4 and 5 February 2009. 94 amendments to the Motion of Thanks were negatived and the Motion of Thanks to the Address of Governor was voted and adopted after discussion on 5 February 2009.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following six Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2009; (ii) The Goa Industrial Development (Amendment) Bill, 2009; (iii) The Goa Administrative Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2009; (iv) The Goa Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2009; (v) The Goa Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2008; and (vi) The Goa Buildings (Lease, Rent and Eviction) Control (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

Financial business: The Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2008-2009 (Second Batch) were presented on 3 February 2009. The same were discussed and passed by voting by the House on 5 February 2009.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri R. Venkataraman, former President of India, Shri V.P. Singh, former Prime Minister of India, Sarvashri Shaba Krishna Faldesai, former MLA from Quepem constituency and former Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Goa, Daman and Diu, Vaikunth G. Desai, former MLA from Quepem constituency and former Deputy Speaker of the fifth Legislative Assembly of Goa, Daman and Diu, Alvin Manuel Coelho, Mukund Mortu Shet, Fabiao De Costa and Narayan Hari Naik, all freedom fighters; Shri Chandrakant Keni, a prominent social worker and writer; and Smt. Kishori Haldankar, renowned theatre artist.

The Seventh Session of the Fifth Goa Legislative Assembly commenced on 23 March 2009 and was adjourned sine die on 24 March 2009. There were 2 sittings in all. The House was prorogued on 1 April 2009.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following three Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009; (ii) The Goa Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2009; and (iii) The Land Acquisition (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2009. -

Financial business: The Chief Minister and the Finance Minister, Shri Digambar Kamat presented the Annual Financial Statement for the year 2009-2010 and the Vote on Account for a part of the Financial Year 2009-2010 to the House on 23 March 2009. The discussion and voting on the Vote on Account was held on 24 March 2009 and adopted by the House.

The Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2008-2009 (Third Batch) were presented on 23 March 2009. The same were discussed and passed by voting by the House on 24 March 2009.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Father Matthew Almeida, a veteran Jesuit Konkani Researcher, writer and founder of Thomas Stephens Konkani Kendra and recipient of the prestigious Goa Konkani Academy's Sahitya Pradnya award; and Shri Jagdish Wagh, former Bureau Chief of UNI, eminent senior scribe, social worker and wild life activist.

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fifth Session of the Eleventh Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly commenced on 12 February 2009. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 27 February 2009. The House was prorogued on 9 March 2009. There were 11 sittings in all.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri R. Venkataraman, former President of India; and Shri Kewal Ram Chauhan, a former member of the State Legislative Assembly.

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Tenth Session of the Twelfth Kerala Legislative Assembly, which commenced on 13 February 2009, was adjourned *sine die* on 3 March 2009. The Governor prorogued the House on the same day. There were 12 sittings in all.

Governor's Address: On 13 February 2009, the Governor, Shri R.S. Gavai addressed the members of the State Legislative Assembly. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's address commenced on 17 February 2009. The discussion on the

* Material contributed by the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Motion of Thanks was held on 17, 18, and 19, February 2009. The House adopted the Motion on 19 February 2009.

Financial business: On 20 February 2009, the Finance Minister, Dr. T.M. Thomas Issac presented (i) the Budget for the year 2009-2010; (ii) the Vote on Account for a period of four months (April to July, 2009) and (iii) moved the motion regarding Demands for Grants on Account towards defraying charges for the months April to July 2009. Discussion and voting on the Vote on Account were held on the same day. Nineteen members participated in the discussion.

On the same day, Dr. T.M. Thomas Issac laid before the House the Final Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2008-2009. Discussion and voting on the Final Supplementary Demands for Grants 2008-2009 took place on 2 March 2009.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri R. Venkataraman, former President of India; and E. Balanandan, former member of Parliament and the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

MADHYA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The First Session of the Thirteenth Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly which commenced on 5 January 2009, was adjourned *sine die* on 13 January 2009. There were 5 sittings in all.

Oath/Affirmation by Members: On 5, 6 and 7 January 2009, 228 elected members of the Thirteenth State Legislative Assembly were subscribed oath/affirmation by the Pro tem Speaker, Smt. Jamuna Devi.

Election of Speaker: On 7 January 2009, Shri Ishwardas Rohani was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

Address by the Governor: The Governor Dr. Balram Jaxhar addressed members of the Assembly on 7 January 2009. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was moved by Dr. Narottam Mishra and seconded by Shri Kedarnath Shukla. In all, 28 members participated in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks held on 12 and 13 January 2009, which was replied to by the Chief Minister and the Motion was adopted by the House on 13 January 2009.

* Material contributed by the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Election of Deputy Speaker: On 13 January 2009, Shri Harvans Singh was unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following four Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) *The Raja Mansingh Tomar Sangeet Evam Kala Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 2009*; (ii) *The Madhya Pradesh Nagar Palika Nigam (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2009*; (iii) *The Rajmata Vijayaraje Schindhia Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 2009*; and; (iv) *The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog Vidheyak, 2009*.

Financial business: The Minister of Finance, Shri Raghavji presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2008-2009 on 12 January 2009. The Supplementary Demands were discussed and the Appropriation Bill for the same was passed by the House on 13 January 2009.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri V.P. Singh, former Prime Minister of India, V.P. Goyal and A.K. Panja, former Union Ministers; Shri L.N. Sharma, member of Parliament; Thakur Mahendra Singh, former member of Parliament; and Sarvashri Sunil Nayak, Madanlal Bhandari, Jagannath Yadav, Ravi Arya, Yashwantrao Khongal, Mahesh Prasad Shukla, Mahesdatt Mishra, Ganpat Singh Uike, Bhuwanlal Pardhi, Motilal Dave, Jagdish Patel, Jagdish Gupta and Shri Pooran Singh Palaiya. Tributes were also paid to the people killed in terrorist violence in Mumbai.

The Second Session of the Thirteenth Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly commenced on 16 March 2009 and was adjourned *sine-die* on 18 March 2009. There were 3 sittings in all.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri R. Venkatraman, former President of India; Shri Lakkhiram Agarwal, former member of Parliament; Shri Naresh Chandra Jauhari and Smt. Vidyawati Chaturvedi, both former members of the State Legislative Assembly.

Financial business: On 17 March 2009, the Minister of Finance, Shri Raghavji presented (i) the Financial Statements for the year 2009-2010; (ii) the Budget (Vote on Account) for the April-July 2009 pertaining to the financial year 2009-2010; and (iii) the Third Supplementary Demand for the year 2008-2009, which were discussed and passed by the House on 18 March 2009. The Appropriation Bills (No. 6 & 7) 2009 were introduced and passed by the House on the same day.

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Third Session of the Eighth Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, commenced on 16 March 2009. The President Rule was imposed on 19 March 2009 and the State Assembly was kept under suspended animation since then. There were three sittings in all.

Governor's Address: On 16 March 2009, Governor, Shri Ranjit Shekhar Mooshahary addressed the House and thereafter a Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was moved and discussed. Debate on the Governor's Address was held on 17 and 18 March 2009.

Financial business: On 16 March 2009, the Finance Minister presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants and the Supplementary Appropriation for the year 2008-2009, Appropriation Accounts, 2007-2008 and Finance Accounts, 2007-2008 to the House.

Political Developments: On 17 March 2009, five members of the House including the Deputy Speaker were suspended by the Speaker during the Session, after examining the complaint lodged by the MPA against the five members for violating the provisions of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution of India.

On the same day, a Motion of Confidence was moved in the House by the Chief Minister, Dr. Donkumar Roy. Announcing the vote after a division, the Ayes had 27 and the Noes had 27 excluding the Speaker in the House of 55 seats. Since there was a tie and as per the provisions and conventions in the Parliament and the State Legislatures, the Speaker cast his vote in favour of the motion.

On the first day of the Session, a resolution for removal of the Speaker was moved by a member from the Opposition under Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly. However, the resolution was not taken up as the Budget Session was adjourned for the 19 and 20 March 2009.

The Speaker adjourned the Session for the 19 and 20 March 2009. Subsequently, President's Rule was imposed in the State of Meghalaya vide Notification No. G.S.R. 178(E) dated 19 March 2009 and order G.S.R. 179(E) dated 19 March 2009, and the Assembly was kept under suspended animation since then.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were

* Material contributed by the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

made on the passing away of Shri R. Venkataraman, former President of India; Shri V.P. Singh, former Prime Minister of India and; Shri D.D. Pugh, former Chief Minister of Meghalaya.

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Sixth Mizoram Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Second Session on 17 March 2009, was adjourned *sine die* on 26 March 2009. There were 8 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor Lt. Gen. (Retd.) M.M. Lakhera addressed members of the Assembly on 17 March 2009.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following seven Bills were introduced and passed by the House. (i) The Mizoram Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2009; (ii) The Mizo District (Transfer of Land) (Amendment) Bill, 2009; (iii) The Mizoram Salaries, and Allowances and Pension of Members of Legislative (Third Amendment) Bill, 2009; (iv) The Mizoram Salaries, and Allowances of Ministers (Third Amendment) Bill, 2009; (v) The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of Speaker and the Deputy Speaker (Third Amendment) Bill, 2009; (vi) The Mizoram Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2009; and (vii) The Mizoram Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2009.

Financial business: The Chief Minister and Finance Minister, Shri Lal Thanhawla presented the (i) Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2008-2009; and (ii) Annual Budget for the year 2009-2010. The Budget was passed by the House as the Vote on Accounts for the months of April-July 2009.

Discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2008-2009 and Vote on Accounts was held on 26 March 2009 and were passed unanimously.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri R. Venkataraman, former President of India and Shri H. Laltanpuia, former member of the State Legislative Assembly.

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Third Session of the Eleventh Nagaland Legislative Assembly

* Material contributed by the Mizoram Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

** Material contributed by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat

commenced on 10 March 2009. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 13 March 2009. There were 3 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor Shri K. Sankaranarayanan addressed members of the Assembly on 10 March 2009. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was moved by Shri Shetoyi and seconded by Shri C.L. John. The debate on the Governor's Address was initiated by Shri K.L. Chishi. Five other members participated in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks which was replied to by the Chief Minister and the Motion adopted by voice vote.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following three Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2009; (ii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2009; and (iii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2009.

Financial business: The Chief Minister and Finance Minister, Shri Neiphu Rio presented the (i) Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2008-2009; and (ii) The Vote on Accounts for the year 2009-2010.

Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2008-2009 was taken up.

Barring Demand Nos. 18, 23, 24, 29, 72 and 77, Demand Nos. 1 to 80 without discussion were passed by a voice vote.

Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Regularization of Excess Expenditure for the year 1996-1997 was taken up.

Barring Demand Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 39, 42, 43, 44, 45, 49, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 63, 68, 70, 71 and 72, Demand Nos. 1 to 73 without discussion were passed by a voice vote.

Discussion and voting on the Vote on Accounts for the year 2009-2010 was taken up.

Barring Demand Nos. 18, 23, 24, 29, 72 and 77, Demand Nos. 1 to 80 with clarifications thereto were passed by a voice vote.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri R. Venkataraman, former President of India and Shri V.P. Singh, former Prime Minister of India.

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APPENDIX I

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK
TRANSACTIONED DURING THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF
THE FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA**

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	12 to 26 February 2009
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	10
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	61 hours 57 minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	2 (on 18.2.2009)
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	35
	(ii) Introduced	15
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Rajya Sabha	3
	(iv) Returned by the Rajya Sabha with any amendment/recommendation and laid on the Table	2
	(v) Discussed	22
	(vi) Passed	22
	(vii) Withdrawn	2
	(viii) Negatived	Nil
	(ix) Part-discussed	Nil
	(x) Returned by Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	9
	(xi) Motion of concurrence to refer the Bill to Joint Committee adopted	Nil
	(xii) Pending at the end of the Session	31
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	271
	(ii) Introduced	5
	(iii) Discussed	1
	(iv) Passed	Nil
	(v) Part-discussed	1
	(vi) Pending at the end of the Session	276
7.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184	
	(i) Notices received	84
	(ii) Admitted	28
	(iii) Discussed	Nil

8. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	80
9. NUMBER OF MATTERS ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED DURING "ZERO HOUR"	125
10. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
(i) Notices received	87
(ii) Admitted	1
(iii) Discussions held	1
11. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling attention to matters of urgent public importance)	3
12. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372 & DIRECTION 73A	33
13. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	10
(ii) Admitted	4
(iii) Moved	4
(iv) Adopted	1
(v) Negatived	1
(vi) Withdrawn	2
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Received	2
(ii) Admitted	2
(iii) Discussed	—
(iv) Part-discussed	1
15. NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Total No. of Notices received	14
(ii) Brought before the House	—
(iii) Consent withheld by the Speaker, Lok Sabha outside the House	14
16. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	7,405
17. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	1,339 issued on 25.2.2009
18. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i) Starred	160
(ii) Un-starred	906
(iii) Short Notice Questions	Nil
(v) Half-an-Hour discussions	Nil

19. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period 1 January to 31 March 2009	No. of Reports presented/
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	—	—
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House	—	—
iii)	Committee on Empowerment of women	6	4
iv)	Committee on Estimates	—	—
v)	Committee on Ethics	—	—
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	2	—
vii)	Committee to Inquire into the complaint made by some members regarding alleged offer of money to them in connection with voting on the Motion of Confidence	—	—
viii)	Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha	—	—
ix)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	1	—
x)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
xi)	Committee on Petitions	—	—
xii)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	—	—
xiii)	Committee of Privileges	—	—
xiv)	Committee on Public Accounts	7	4
xv)	Committee on Public Undertakings	3	3
xvi)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	—
xvii)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	4	2
xviii)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
xix)	House Committee	—	—
	(a) Accommodation Sub-Committee	—	—
	(b) Sub-Committee on Amenities	—	—
xx)	Library Committee	—	—
xxi)	Railway Convention Committee	—	—
xxii)	Rules Committee	—	—

Joint / Select Committee

i) Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	—	—
ii) Joint Committee to Examine the Constitutional and Legal Position relating to Office of Profit	—	—
iii) Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	—	—

Departmentally Related Standing Committees

i) Committee on Agriculture	—	—
ii) Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	—	—
iii) Committee on Coal & Steel	—	—
iv) Committee on Defence	7	3
v) Committee on Energy	2	5
vi) Committee on External Affairs	6	—
vii) Committee on Finance	—	—
viii) Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	—	—
ix) Committee on Information Technology	4	1
x) Committee on Labour	7	3
xi) Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas	2	1
xii) Committee on Railways	1	7
xiii) Committee on Rural Development	1	2
xiv) Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment	4	—
xv) Committee on Urban Development	—	—
xvi) Committee on Water Resources	—	—

CELL ON PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Sl. No.	Name of Forum	No. of Meetings held during the period 1 January to 31 March 2009	No. of lectures held
1.	Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management	1	—
2.	Parliamentary Forum on Youth	1	—
3.	Parliamentary Forum on Children	—	—
4.	Parliamentary Forum on Population & Public Health	1	—
5.	Parliamentary Forum on Global Warming and Climate Change	1	—

APPENDIX II
STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK
TRANSACTIONED DURING THE TWO HUNDRED AND
FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1. PERIOD OF THE SESSION	12 to 26 February 2009
2. NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	10 days
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	55 Hours 1 Minute (10 days)
4. NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	Nil
5. GOVERNMENT BILLS	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	42
(ii) Introduced	2
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Lok Sabha	24
(iv) Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment	1
(v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
(vii) Referred to the Departmentally Related Standing Committees	Nil
(viii) Reported by Select Committee	Nil
(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
(x) Reported by the Departmentally Related Standing Committees	7
(xi) Discussed	16
(xii) Passed	16
(xiii) Withdrawn	Nil
(xiv) Negatived	Nil
(xv) Part-discussed	Nil
(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	9
(xvii) Discussion postponed	Nil
(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	45
6. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	172
(ii) Introduced	9

(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	Nil
(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	Nil
(v) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
(vi) Discussed	Nil
(vii) Withdrawn	Nil
(viii) Passed	Nil
(ix) Negatived	1
(x) Circulated for eliciting opinion	Nil
(xi) Part-discussed	Nil
(xii) Discussion postponed	Nil
(xiii) Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	Nil
(xiv) Referred to Select Committee	Nil
(xv) Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	1
(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session	179
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
(i) Notices received	39
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Discussions held	Nil
8. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
STATEMENT MADE BY MINISTERS	Nil
9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	1 (on 24.2.2009)
10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	1
(ii) Admitted	1
(iii) Moved	1
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Negatived	1
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	1
(ii) Admitted	1
(iii) Moved	1
(iv) Adopted	1
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION	
(i) Received	3
(ii) Admitted	3

(iii) Discussed	Nil
(iv) Withdrawn	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Adopted	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
(viii) Discussion postponed	Nil
13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved & discussed	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Part-discussed	Nil
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i) Received	44
(ii) Admitted	44
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Part-discussed	Nil
(vi) Negatived	Nil
(vii) Withdrawn	Nil
15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
(i) Received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
(viii) Lapsed	Nil
16. NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY	Nil
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	620
18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	1,386
19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	84 (on 19.2.2009)
20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE	283 (on 24.2.2009)

21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED

(i) Starred	160
(ii) Unstarred	1,166
(iii) Short-Notice Questions	Nil

22. DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES

Nil

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of Committee	No. of meetings held during the period from 1 January to 31 March 2009	No. of Reports presented during 215 th Session
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	2	Nil
(ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	4	3
(iii)	Committee on Petitions	6	2
(iv)	Committee of Privileges	1	Nil
(v)	Committee on Rules	Nil	Nil
(vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	Nil	Nil
(vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	2	Nil
(viii)	General Purposes Committee	Nil	Nil
(ix)	House Committee	1	Nil
Department-related Standing Committees:			
(x)	Commerce	1	Nil
(xi)	Home Affairs	6	6
(xii)	Human Resource Development	2	1
(xiii)	Industry	1	Nil
(xiv)	Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	6	2
(xv)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	4	2
(xvi)	Health & Family Welfare	2	1
(xvii)	Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	3	2
Other Committees			
(xviii)	Committee on Ethics	2	1
(xix)	Committee on Provision of Computers Equipments to Members of Rajya Sabha	Nil	Nil
(xx)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	1	Nil
(xxi)	Joint Parliamentary Committee on Wakf Boards	1	Nil
24.	NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	4	
25.	PETITIONS PRESENTED	Nil	

26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN-IN WITH DATES

Sl. No.	Name of Members sworn-in	Party Affiliation	Date on which sworn-in
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	BJP	12.2.2009
2.	Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz	INC	16.2.2009
3.	Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad	INC	-do-
4.	Dr. Farooq Abdullah	J & K National Conference	18.2.2009
5.	Shri Mohammad Shafi	-do-	-do-

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

Sl. No.	Name	Sitting Member/ Ex-Member
1.	Shrimati Krishna Kaul	Ex-Member
2.	Shri Rishi Kumar Mishra	-do-
3.	Shri E. Balanandan	-do-
4.	Shri Lakhiram Agarwal	-do-
5.	Shri Ranbir Singh	-do-
6.	Shri Sudhir Ranjan Mazumdar	-do-

APPENDIX III
STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2009

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills [Introduced (Passed)]	Private Bills [Introduced (Passed)]	Starred Questions [Received (Admitted)]	Unstarred Questions [Received (Admitted)]	Short Notice Questions [Received (Admitted)]
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.	2.3.2009 to 4.3.2009	3	4(4)	—	9	26	4
Assam L.A.	5.1.2009 to 12.1.2009	6	—	—	329(100)	226(250)*	114(105)
Bihar L.A.	24.2.2009 to 4.3.2009	7	5(5)	—	612(431)	279(213)	90(35)
Bihar L.C.	24.2.2009 to 3.3.2009	6	—(5)	—	634(620)	—(5)*	207(171)
Chhattisgarh L.A.	5.1.2009 to 20.2.2009	15	4(4)	—	615(285)	379(206)	—
Goa L.A.	2.2.2009 to 6.2.2009 & 23.3.2009 to 24.3.2009	7	8(9)	1(1)	595(437)	884(835)	—
Gujarat L.A.	17.2.2009 to 27.2.2009	8	5(5)	2	2243(1047)	177(145)	—
Haryana L.A.	6.2.2009 to 20.2.2009	9	16(16)	—	314(204)	37(18)	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	12.2.2009 to 27.2.2009	11	7(7)	—	453(255)	153(85)	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	16.1.2009 to 24.1.2009 & 19.2.2009 to 27.2.2009	14	24(12)	—	421(71)	346	—

Karnataka L.C.	16.1.2008 to 24.1.2009 & 14 19.2.2008 to 27.2.2009	(12)	—	215(72)	153(290)*	—
Kerala L.A.	13.2.2009 to 3.3.2009	2(2)	—	1051(1051)	3060(3060)	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	5.1.2009 to 16.3.2009	7(4)	—	609(237)	410(679)*	—
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.	16.3.2008 to 19.3.2009	—	—	23(22)	7(7)	—
Mizoram L.A.	17.3.2008 to 26.3.2009	8(7)	—	72(61)	18(17)	—
Nagaland L.A.	10.3.2009 to 13.3.2009	3(3)	—	40(38)	18(16)	—
Orissa L.A.	9.2.2008 to 14.2.2009 & 11.3.2009	1(1)	—	450(391)	492(663)*	13
Punjab L.A.	27.2.2008 to 9.3.2009	5(9)	—	375(255)	1(41)*	1
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.	23.2.2008 to 24.2.2009	2(2)	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	21.1.2009 to 26.2.2009	13(5)	—	152(152)	602(602)	1(1)
Tripura L.A.	24.2.2009 to 12.3.2009	11(4)	5	365(191)	810(518)	—
Uttarakhand L.A.	24.2.2008 to 27.2.2009	4(4)	—	360(134)	-(241)	148(1)
Uttar Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	10.2.2008 to 20.2.2009	9(15)	—	707(479)	59(41)	206(172)
West Bengal L.A.	9.3.2008 to 27.3.2009	6(7)	—	490(333)	214(128)	—
UNION TERRITORIES						
Delhi L.A.	24.2.2008 to 25.2.2009	2(2)	—	—	—	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

• Starred Questions and Short Notices admitted as Unstarred

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sikkim L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(2)	—	—	—	2(6)	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	2	-(2)	-(12)	—	2	2	1(1)	—	2	—	1	—	1(8)	—	—	1 ^m
Tripura L.A.	4(4)	—	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
Uttarakhand L.A.	3(3)	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	4	7(1)	3	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	50(7) ^m
West Bengal L.A.	3(2)	10(1)	9	—	5	9(4)	11(1)	—	8	—	9	3	15(6)	1	—	237(7) ^{no}
UNION TERRITORIES																
Delhi L.A.	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

- (a) Tourism Development Committee-11; Internal Resources Committee-10; Members Fund Monitoring and Implementation Committee-10; Agricultural and Industries Development Committee-16; Nivedan Committee-36; Zero Hour Committee-21; Women and Child Development-36; Question and Calling Attention Committee-10; and Zila Panchayat / Zila Parishad Committee-38
- (b) Human Rights Committee-9(1); Committee on Questions and Calling Attention-10; Nivedan Committee-12; Committee on Welfare of Minorities-9; Committee on Zila Parishad and Panchayati Raj-19(1); Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-9; and Committee on State Language-9; and Implementation Committee-10
- (c) Budget Committee-2(2); House Committee for finalization of Sites for Garbage Treatment of Plants/Land Sites-1; and House Committee on Functioning of the Goa State Pollution Control Board-2
- (d) Members' Pay and Allowance Rules Committee-1; Panchayati Raj Committee-3(1); Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Committee-2; and Absence of Members Committee-1(1)
- (e) Committee on Yamuna Accords-2(1)
- (f) Welfare Committee-9(3); Public Administration Committee-5(3); Human Development Committee-4; General Development Committee-4(3); and Rural Planning Committee-5(5)

- (g) Committee on Yuva Khel Sanskritii and Library Development-1; Nivedan Committee-5; Zero Hour Committee-2; Zila Panchayat / Zila Parishad Committee-2; Question and Calling Attention Committee-3; Compassion Family Benefit and Displacement and Rehabilitation Committee-2; Undertaking Question Implementation Committee-2; Tourism Development Committee-1; Environment and Pollution Control Committee-2; Scheduled Tribes, Backward and Feeble Class Welfare Committee-2; Committee on Land Revenue, Excise Duty, Transport and Commercial Taxes-1; and Committee on Agriculture Fertilizers, Irrigation and Development of Water Preservation-2
- (h) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-7(1); Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-7; and Committee on Backward Classes and Minorities-8
- (i) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children and Physically Handicapped-5; Committee on Environment-5; Committee on Welfare of Backward Class Communities-4; Committee on Official Language-5; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-2; Committee on Local Funds Accounts-6; and Subject Committees (I to X)-21
- (j) Ethics Committee-1
- (k) Standing Committees-12; Ethics Committee-5; House Committee on Environment-3; House Committee on Power Generation-1; and House Committee on Submission-5(1)
- (l) Committee on Papers Laid/to be Laid on the Table of the House-5; Committee on Questions and References-11(1); Committee on Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions-7(3); House Committee to Examine Pollution being created by Sugar Mills and Distilleries in the State-2
- (m) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-1
- (n) Committee on Reference and Question-5; Committee on Financial and Administration Delays-5; Committee on Parliamentary Study-7; Committee on Enquiry of Housing Complaints of UP Legislature-7; Parliamentary and Social Welfare Committee-4; Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, Zila Panchayats and Municipal Corporation-7; Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arrangement-6; Committee on Regulation Review-6; Committee on Enquiry of Ragging in Colleges/Engineering Institution in Provincial-1; Daivee Aspada Prabandhan Samiti-1; and Committee on Commercialization of Education-1
- (o) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-10(1); Committee on the Entitlements of the Members-1; Committee on Affairs of Women and Children-9; Standing Committees-205(6); and Committee on Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakaipa-12

APPENDIX IV**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE
PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD****1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2009**

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent by the President
1.	The Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Amendment Bill, 2008	2.1.2009
2.	The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2008	7.1.2009
3.	The Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 2008	7.1.2009
4.	The Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2008	7.1.2009
5.	The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2008	7.1.2009
6.	The Limited Liability Partnership Bill, 2008	7.1.2009
7.	The Collection of Statistics Bill, 2008	7.1.2009
8.	The South Asian University Bill, 2008	11.1.2009
9.	The Science and Engineering Research Board Bill, 2008	17.1.2009
10.	The Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2008	5.2.2009
11.	The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2008	5.2.2009
12.	The National Jute Board Bill, 2008	12.2.2009
13.	The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2009	2.3.2009
14.	The Appropriation (Railways) No.2 Bill, 2009	2.3.2009
15.	The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2009	3.3.2009
16.	The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009	3.3.2009
17.	The Appropriation Bill, 2009	3.3.2009
18.	The Jharkhand Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009	6.3.2009
19.	The Jharkhand Appropriation Bill, 2009	6.3.2009
20.	The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2009	6.3.2009
21.	The Prevention of Money-Laundering (Amendment) Bill, 2009	6.3.2009

22.	The Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment) Bill, 2009	16.3.2009
23.	The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2009	16.3.2009
24.	The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2009	16.3.2009
25.	The Central Universities Bill, 2009	20.3.2009
26.	The Finance Bill, 2009	20.3.2009
27.	The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Bill, 2009	20.3.2009
28.	The Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2009	20.3.2009

APPENDIX V**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES
OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES
DURING THE PERIOD****1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2009**

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Arunachal Pradesh Municipal Elections Bill, 2009
2. The Arunachal Pradesh Municipality Disclosure Bill, 2009
3. The Arunachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2009
4. The Arunachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Assam Appropriation (No.IV) Bill, 2009
2. The Assam Preventive Detention (Amendment) Bill, 2009
3. The Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 2009
4. The Assam Don Bosco University Bill, 2009
5. The Assam Entry Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2009
6. The Assam Taxation (Liquidation of Arrear Dues) (Amendment) Bill, 2009
7. The Assam professions, Trades, Calling and Employments Taxations (Amendment) Bill, 2009
8. The Assam Taxation (On Specified Lands) (Amendment) Bill, 2009
9. The Assam Agricultural Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2009
10. The Assam Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2009
11. The Assam Amusements and Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2009
12. The Registration (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2009
13. The Guwahati Metropolitan Drinking Water and Sewerage Board Bill, 2009
14. The BODO Land University Bills, 2009
15. The Assam Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Bihar Appropriation Bill, 2009
2. The Bihar Appropriation (Vote of Account) Bill, 2009
3. The Bihar Special Court Bill, 2009
4. The Bihar Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2009
5. The Bihar Co-operative Society (Amendment) Bill, 2009

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Bihar Viniyog Vidheyak, 2009

2. The Bihar Viniyog (Lekanudan) Vidheyak, 2009
3. The Bihar Vesheh Nyayalaya Vidheyak, 2009
4. The Bihar Rajkhosya Uttardayitva aur Budget Prabandhan (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2009
5. The Bihar Sarkari Society (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2009

CHHATTISGARH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Chhattisgarh Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2009
2. The Chhattisgarh Lok Ayog (Sanshodhan) Bill, 2009
3. The Chhattisgarh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009
4. The Chhattisgarh Shaskiya Sevak (Adhivarsniki Ayu) (Sanshodhan) Bill, 2009

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2009
2. The Goa Industrial Development (Amendment) Bill, 2009
3. The Goa Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2009
4. The Goa Administrative Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2009
5. The Goa Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2009
6. The Goa Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
7. The Goa Buildings (Lease, Rent and Eviction) Control (Amendment) Bill, 2009*
8. The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009
9. The Goa Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009
10. The Land Acquisition (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2009
11. The Goa Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2009

GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Gujarat Special Investment Region Bill, 2009
2. The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2009
3. The Gujarat Educational Innovations Commission Bill, 2009
4. The Gujarat (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2009
5. The Gujarat Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009

HARYANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Punjab Scheduled Roads and Controlled Areas Restriction of Unregulated Development (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2009
2. The Haryana Legislative Assembly Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2009
3. The Haryana Shri Mata Mansa Devi Shrine (Amendment) Bill, 2009*
4. The Haryana Shri Kapal Mochan, Shri Badri Narain, Shri Mantra Devi and Shri Kedar Nath Shrine Bill, 2009*
5. The Haryana Fire Service Bill, 2009
6. The Haryana Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2009
7. The Haryana Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009

8. The Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas (Amendment) Bill, 2009
9. The Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma University of Health Sciences Rohtak (Amendment) Bill, 2009
10. The Haryana Service of Engineers, Group-A, Public Health Engineering Department Bill, 2009
11. The Haryana Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2009
12. The Haryana Private Universities (Second Amendment) Bill, 2009
13. The Haryana Preservation of Sub-Soil Water Bill, 2009
14. The Haryana Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Bill, 2009
15. The Haryana Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2009
16. The Haryana Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2009

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2009
2. The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009
3. The Himachal Pradesh Sports (Registration, Recognition and Regulation Associations) Repeal Bill, 2009
4. The Himachal Pradesh War Awards (Amendment) Bill 2009
5. The Himachal Pradesh Municipality Disclosure Bill, 2009
6. The Himachal Pradesh Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2009
7. The Himachal Pradesh Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2009

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Karnataka Prohibition of Violence Against Medicare Service Personnel and Damage to Property in Medicare Service Institution Bill, 2009
2. The Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) (Amendment) Bill, 2009
3. The Kaginele Development Authority Bill, 2009
4. The Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2009
5. The Karnataka State Law University Bill, 2009
6. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2009
7. The Karnataka Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2009
8. The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2009
9. The Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill, 2009
10. The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2009
11. The Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2009
12. The Karnataka Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2009

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Karnataka Prohibition of Violence Against Medicare Service Personnel and Damage to Property in Medicare Service Institution Bill, 2009
2. The Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) (Amendment) Bill, 2009
3. The Kaginele Development Authority Bill, 2009

4. The Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2009
5. The Karnataka State Law University Bill, 2009
6. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2009
7. The Karnataka Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2009
8. The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2009
9. The Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill, 2009
10. The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2009
11. The Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2009
12. The Karnataka Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2009

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Kerala Appropriation Bill, 2009
2. The Kerala Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009

MADHYA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Raja Mansingh Tomar Sangeet Evam Kala Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 2009
2. The Madhya Pradesh Nagar Palika Nigam (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2009
3. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog Vidheyak, 2009
4. The Rajmata Vijayaraje Sindhia Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 2009
5. The Madhya Pradesh Rajkoshya Uttardwitya Evam Budget Prabandhan (Sanshodhan), Vidheyak, 2009
6. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (Kramank-2) Vidheyak, 2009
7. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (Lekhanudan) Vidheyak, 2009

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Mizoram Parliamentarians (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2009
2. The Mizo District (Transfer of Land) Bill, 2009
3. The Mizoram Salaries, Allowances and Pension of Members of Legislative Assembly (Third Amendment) Bill, 2009
4. The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Third Amendment) Bill, 2009
5. The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker (Third Amendment) Bill, 2009
6. The Mizoram Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2009
7. The Mizoram Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Industrial Disputes (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2009*
2. The Punjab Package Deal Properties (Disposal) Amendment Bill, 2009*
3. The Punjab Tax on Luxuries Bill, 2009*
4. The Punjab Entertainments Tax (Cinematograph Shows) Amendment Bill, 2009*
5. The Punjab Preservation of Sub-Soil Water Bill, 2009*
6. The Punjab Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2009*
7. The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2009*

8. The Punjab Appropriation Bill, 2009*
9. The Punjab Appropriation (Vote-on-Account) Bill, 2009*

SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Sikkim Ecology Fund and Environment Cess Bill, 2009
2. The Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2009
3. The Sikkim Regulation of Societies, Associations and other Voluntary Organizations (Amendment) Bill, 2009

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Appointment of Special Officers) Amendment Bill, 2009
2. The Tamil Nadu Farmers' Management of Irrigation Systems (Amendment) Bill, 2009
3. The Tamil Nadu Arunthathiyars (Special Reservation of seats in Education Institutions including Private Educational Institutions and of appointments or posts in the services under the State within the Reservation for the Scheduled Castes) Bill, 2009
4. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation Bill, 2009
5. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tripura Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009
2. The Industrial Disputes (The Tripura Amendment) Bill, 2009
3. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Tripura Eight Amendment) Bill, 2009
4. The Tripura Appropriation Bill, 2009

UTTARAKHAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Uttarakhand Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009
2. The Uttarakhand (The Uttar Pradesh Entertainment and Betting Tax Act, 1979) (Amendment) Bill, 2009
3. The Uttarakhand (The Uttar Pradesh Public Service (Reservation for Physically Handicapped, Dependents of Freedom Fighters and Ex-servicemen) Act, 1993 (Amendment) Bill, 2009
4. The Uttarakhand (The Uttar Pradesh Town Planning & Development Act, 1973) Adaptation and modification order 2006 (Amendment) Bill, 2008

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Uttar Pradesh Vinlyog (2008-2009 ka Dwitiya Anupurak) Vidheyak, 2009
2. The Uttar Pradesh Chini Upkram (Arjan) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2009
3. The Dr. Shakuntala Mishra Purnavas Vishwavidyalaya (*Bhinnrupen Yogya hetu*) Uttar Pradesh Vidheyak, 2009
4. The Uttar Pradesh Shahabhangi Sinchai Prabandhan Vidheyak, 2009
5. The Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Rashtriya Vidhi Vishwavidyalaya, Uttar Pradesh (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
6. The Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008

7. The Uttar Pradesh Gramin Ayurvigyan Evam Anusudhan Sansthan, Saifai (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2009
8. The Society Registration (Uttar Pradesh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2009
9. The Uttar Pradesh *Shira Nyantran* (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2009
10. The Uttar Pradesh Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samajik Parivartan Sthal (Nirasan) Vidheyak, 2009
11. The Uttar Pradesh Sthaniya Kshetra Main Maal ke Pravesh Par Kar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2009
12. The Uttar Pradesh Mullya Samvardhit Kar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2009
13. The Uttar Pradesh Sahkari Samiti (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2009
14. The Sharda Vishwavidyalaya, Uttar Pradesh Vidheyak, 2009
15. The Uttar Pradesh Viniyog Vidheyak, 2009
16. The Uttar Pradesh Aarbi Pharshi Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 2009

APPENDIX VI
ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND
STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2009

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
UNION GOVERNMENT					
1.	The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 2009	9.1.2009	13.2.2009	—	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	10.1.2009	13.2.2009	—	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Central Universities Ordinance, 2009	15.1.2009	13.2.2009	—	Replaced by Legislation
ASSAM					
1.	The Assam Entry Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	5.1.2009	—	—	—
2.	The Assam Taxation (Liquidation of Arrear Dues) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	5.1.2009	—	—	—

3.	The Assam Don Bosco University Ordinance, 2008	5.1.2009	—	—	—
CHHATTISGARH					
1.	The Chhattisgarh Lok Ayog (Sanshodhan) Ordinance, 2008	1.10.2008	9.1.2009	—	—
2.	The Chhattisgarh Saskiya Sevak (Adhivashiki Ayu) (Sanshodhan) Ordinance, 2008	10.10.2008	16.2.2009	—	—
GOA					
1.	The Goa Industrial Development (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	1.10.2008	3.2.2009	5.2.2009	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Land Acquisition (Goa Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	28.2.2009	23.3.2009	24.3.2009	Replaced by Legislation
GUJARAT					
1.	The Gujarat Special Investment Region Ordinance, 2009	6.1.2009	18.2.2009	27.2.2009	Replaced by Legislation
HARYANA					
1.	The Punjab Scheduled Roads and Controlled Areas Restriction of Unregulated Development (Haryana Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	3.1.2009	6.2.2009	17.2.2009	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Haryana Fire Service Ordinance, 2009	8.1.2009	6.2.2009	18.2.2009	Replaced by Legislation

3.	The Haryana Private Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	24.1.2009	16.2.2009	20.2.2009	Replaced by Legislation
4.	The Haryana Private Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	24.1.2009	16.2.2009	20.2.2009	Replaced by Legislation
KERALA					
1.	The Kerala Land Conservancy (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	3.1.2009	17.2.2009	26.3.2009	—
2.	The Kerala Sports (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	3.1.2009	17.2.2009	26.3.2009	—
3.	The Pamba River Basin Authority Ordinance, 2009	3.1.2009	17.2.2009	26.3.2009	—
4.	The Kerala Advocates' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	3.1.2009	17.2.2009	26.3.2009	—
5.	The Kerala Toddy Workers' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	18.1.2009	17.2.2009	26.3.2009	—
6.	The Kerala Land Conservancy (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	26.3.2009	—	—	—
7.	The Kerala Toddy Workers' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	26.3.2009	—	—	—

8.	The Kerala Sports (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	26.3.2009	—	—	—
9.	The Pamba River Basin Authority Ordinance, 2009	26.3.2009	—	—	—
10.	The Kerala Advocates' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	26.3.2009	—	—	—
11.	The Kerala Temporary Stay of Eviction Proceedings (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	26.3.2009	—	—	—
ORISSA					
1.	The Orissa Government Land Settlement (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	25.2.2009	—	—	—
2.	The Code of Criminal Procedure (Orissa Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	25.2.2009	—	—	—
PUNJAB					
1.	The Punjab Entertainment Tax (Cinematograph Shows) Amendment Ordinance, 2009	14.1.2009	4.3.2009	—	Replaced by Legislation
UTTAR PRADESH					
1.	The Uttar Pradesh Chini Upkram (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2008	—	10.2.2009	—	—

2.	The Society Registration (U.P. Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2008	—	10.2.2009	—	—
3.	The Uttar Pradesh Sathbhagi Sinchai Prabhandhan Adhyadesh, 2008	—	10.2.2009	—	—
WEST BENGAL					
1.	The West Bengal Government Land (Regulation of Transfer) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	27.1.2009	16.3.2009	20.4.2009	Replaced b Legislation

APPENDIX VII
A. PARTY POSITION IN 15TH LOK SABHA (AS ON 18.5.2009)

States	No. of Seats	INC	BJP	SP	BSP	JD(U)	AITC	DMK	CPI (M)	BJD	SS	NCP	AMAD MK	TDP	RLD	CPI	SAO	RJD	JMNC	JD	AMFB
Andhra Pradesh	42	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	40	2	12	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	11	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	11	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	14	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	28	6	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala	20	13	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Madhya Pradesh	29	12	16	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	48	17	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	21	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	13	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	26	20	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	80	21	10	23	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																					
A & N Islands	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The NCT of Delhi	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	543	268	116	23	21	20	19	18	16	14	11	9	9	6	5	4	4	4	3	3	2

Abbreviations used for Parties:

AGP-Asom Gana Parishad; AIADMK-All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; AIFB-All India Forward Bloc; AIMEIM-All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen; AITC-All India Trinamool Congress; AUDF-Assam United Democratic Front; BJD-Biju Janata Dal; BJP-Bharatiya Janata Party; BSP-Bahujan Samaj Party; BPF-Bodoland Peoples Front; BVA-Bahujan Vikas Aaghad: CPI(M)-Communist Party of India (Marxist); CPI-Communist Party of India; DMK-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; HJC(BI)-Haryana Janhit Congress (BI); INC-Indian National Congress; IND-Independents; J&KNC-Jammu & Kashmir National Conference; JD(S)-Janata Dal (Secular); JD(U)-Janata Dal (United); JMM-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha; JVM(P)-Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajaantarik); KC(M)-Kerala Congress(M); MDMK-Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; MLKSC-Muslim League Kerala State Committee; NCP-Nationalist Congress Party; NPF-Nagaland Peoples Front; RJD-Rashtriya Janata Dal; RLD-Rashtriya Lok Dal; RSP-Revolutionary Socialist Party; SAD-Shromani Akali Dal; SDF-Sikkim Democratic Front; SP-Samajwadi Party; SP-Swabhimani Paksha; SS-Shiv Sena; TDP-Telugu Desam Party; TRS-Telangana Rashtra Samithi; VCK-Viduthalaai Chiruthaigal Katchi

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 5 MAY 2009)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	SP	CPI (M)	JD(U)	AIA-DMK	BSP	NCP	*Others	IND	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
STATES														
1.	Andhra Pradesh.	18	14	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3 ^(a)	—	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
3.	Assam	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 ^(a)	—	7	—
4.	Bihar	16	1	3	—	—	7	—	—	—	5 ^(a)	—	16	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
6.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
7.	Gujarat	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
8.	Haryana	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 ^(a)	1	5	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 ^(a)	—	4	—
11.	Jharkhand	6	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1
12.	Karnataka	12	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 ^(a)	1	12	—
13.	Kerala	9	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3 ^(a)	—	9	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
15.	Maharashtra	19	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	5 ^(a)	1	19	—
16.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
18.	Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 ^(a)	—	1	—
19.	Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 ^(a)	—	1	—
20.	Orissa	10	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4 ^(a)	—	10	—
21.	Punjab	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 ^(a)	—	7	—
22.	Rajasthan	10	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
23.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 ^(a)	—	1	—

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
24. Tamil Nadu	18	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	7	—	—	6 ^m	—	18	—
25. Tripura	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
26. Uttarakhnad	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
27. Uttar Pradesh	31	—	5	13	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	1 ^m	1	30	1
28. West Bengal	16	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	5 ^m	2	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES															
29. The NCT of Delhi	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
30. Puducherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
31. Nominated	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9 ^m	—	12	—
TOTAL	245	70	53	13	15	13	15	7	7	10	6	55	7	243	2

*OTHERS

(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

- (a) Telegu Desam Party-2; and Communist Party of India-1
- (b) Asom Gana Parishad-2; and Bodoland People's Front-1
- (c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-4; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1
- (d) Indian National Lok Dal-1
- (e) Jammu and Kashmir National Conference-2
- (f) Janata Dal (Secular)-2
- (g) Muslim League-1; and Communist Party of India-1
- (h) Shiv Sena-4; and Swatantra Bharat Paksh-1
- (i) Mizo National Front-1
- (j) Nagaland Peoples' Front-1
- (k) Biju Janata Dal-4
- (l) Shiromani Akali Dal-3
- (m) Sikkim Democratic Front-1
- (n) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-4; Pattali Makkal Katchi-1; and Communist Party of India-1
- (o) Rashtriya Lok Dal-1
- (p) All India Trinamool Congress-2; Revolutionary Socialist Party-1; All India Forward Bloc-1; and Communist Party of India-1
- (q) Nominated-9

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE / UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

State/Union territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI(M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A. (1.4.2009)	60	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 nd	14	60	—
Assam L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A. (1.4.2009)	243	8	55	1	3	1	4	89	—	67 th	10	243	5
Bihar L.C. (1.4.2009)	71	3	14	2	3	—	—	18	—	10 th	20	70*	—
Chhattisgarh L.A. (1.4.2009)	90	38	50	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	90	—
Goa L.A. (1.4.2009)	40	18	14	—	—	3	—	—	—	3 rd	2	40	—
Gujarat L.A. (1.4.2009)	182	58	117	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	2	181	1
Haryana L.A. (1.4.2009)	90	65	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	10 th	10	89*	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A. (1.4.2009)	68	23	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	68	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A. (31.3.2009)	82	8	27	—	—	1	—	4	—	34 th	4	79	3
Karnataka L.A. (6.3.2009)	225	76	114	—	—	—	—	—	26	1 st	6	223*	1

Appendices

Karnataka L.C. (16.4.2009)	75	28	28	—	—	—	—	1	13	—	3	73*	1
Kerala L.A. (1.4.2009)	141	24	—	60	17	2	—	—	5	27 ^m	5	140*	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A. (1.4.2009)	230	71	142	—	—	—	7	—	—	6 ⁿ	3	229*	—
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A. (1.4.2009)	60	26	1	—	—	15	—	—	—	12 ⁿ	5	59	1
Mizoram L.A. (26.3.2009)	39	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8 ⁿ	—	39	—
Nagaland L.A. (1.4.2009)	60	19	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	26 ⁿ	7	56	4
Orissa L.A. (1.4.2009)	147	38	32	1	1	—	—	—	—	67 ^m	8	147	—
Punjab L.A. (1.4.2009)	117	43	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	47 ^m	5	114	3
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A. (1.4.2009)	32	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31 ^m	—	32	—
Tamil Nadu L.A. (1.4.2009)	235	35	—	9	6	—	—	—	—	180 ^m	1	231*	3
Tripura L.A. (31.3.2009)	60	9	—	46	1	—	—	—	—	3 ⁿ	—	59	1
Uttarakhand L.A. (1.4.2009)	71	20	34	—	—	—	8	—	—	7 ⁿ	—	69	2
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C. (1.4.2009)	100	3	21	—	—	—	17	—	—	50 ^m	5	96	4
West Bengal L.A. (1.4.2009)	295	19	—	175	7	—	—	—	—	90 ^m	2	293	2

UNION TERRITORY	70	42	23	—	—	2	—	—	1 st	1	69	1
Delhi L.A. (1.4.2009)												
Puducherry L.A.**												

- * Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report
- ** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures
- Excluding Speaker/Chairman
- (a) Arunachal Congress-2
- (b) Rashtriya Janata Dal-52; Lok Jan Shakti Party-9; Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation)-5; and Akhil Jan Vikas Dal-1
- (c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-9; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1
- (d) United Goans Democratic Party-1; and Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party-2
- (e) Indian National Lok Dal-9; and Haryana Janhit Congress Party (BL)-1
- (f) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-17; Rashtriya Janata Dal-7; All Jharkhand Students Union-2; United Goans Democratic Party-2; All India Forward Bloc-2; Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)-1; Jharkhand Party-2; and Nominated-1
- (g) Nominated-1
- (h) Muslim League-7; Kerala Congress (M)-7; Kerala Congress-4; Revolutionary Socialist Party-3; Congress (Secular)-1; Kerala Congress (Secular)-1; Kerala Congress (B)-1; Janathipathya Samrakshana Samithi-1; Indian National League-1; and Nominated-1
- (i) Bharatiya Jan Shakti-5; and Samajwadi Party-1
- (j) United Democratic Party-9; Hill State Peoples Democratic Party-2; and Khun Hymniewrep National Awakening Movement-1
- (k) Mizo National Front-3; Mizoram Peoples' Conference-2; Zoram Nationalist Party-2; and Mara Democratic Front-1
- (l) Nagaland Peoples Front-26
- (m) Biju Janata Dal-61; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-4; and Orissa Gana Parishad-2
- (n) Shiromani Akali Dal-47
- (o) Sikkim Democratic Front-31
- (p) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-95; All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-60; Pattali Makkal Katchi-18; Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-3 Viduthala; Chinuthaigal Katchi-2; Desia Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam-1 and Nominated-1
- (q) Uttar Pradesh Socialist Party-2; and Indigenous Nationalist Party of Twipra-1
- (r) Uttarakhnad Party-3; Nominated-1; and Others-3
- (s) Samajwadi Party-35; Rashtriya Lok Dal-5; Samajwadi Janata Dal (Rashtriya)-1; and Sikhhak Dal (Non-Political)-9
- (t) All India Forward Bloc-23; Revolutionary Socialist Party-20; West Bengal Socialist Party-4; Marxist Forward Bloc-2; Democratic Socialist Party-1; Rashtriya Janata Dal-1; All India Trinamool Congress-32; Gorkha National Liberation Front-3; Socialist Unity Centre of India-2; Jharkhand Party (Naren)-1; and Nominated-1
- (u) Lok Jan Shakti Party-1

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