

# **The Journal of Parliamentary Information**

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**NO. 3**

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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
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# THE JOURNAL OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

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## EDITORIAL NOTE

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The exponential growth of population has posed serious problems and challenges in the world today. The world population has grown from 1.6 billion to 6.1 billion during the last century and is likely to exceed 8 billion people by 2030. The increasing population has been transforming every society at political, social, economic and psychological levels. The lack of safe drinking water, electricity, food, sanitation, hygiene and waste management are problems associated with high population growth. Asia region itself is home to the world's two largest populations, namely, China and India. During the last three decades or so, the Asia-Pacific region has, however, taken a lead in checking the population growth by making significant investments in the health and education sectors, the beneficial results of which could be measured in terms of reduced infant and maternal mortality, acceptance of smaller family norms, higher living standards and eventual improvement in the status of the women. There is no denying the fact that in an increasingly interdependent world, population stabilization and good governance are closely inter-related and these are the key factors which can speed up the pace of sustainable development.

The 22nd Asian Parliamentary Meeting on Population and Development was held on the theme, "Population in the Globalizing Society" in New Delhi on 23 April 2006. The event was organized by the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA). The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered the Inaugural Address at the Meeting. In his thought-provoking Address, he stressed on the need to seriously work out national development strategies in each country so as to achieve sustainable and equitable human development and empowerment of the people. He also urged the parliamentarians to get themselves actively involved in the task who, as people's representatives and opinion moulders, could help in sensitizing the Government on the issue and at the same time educate the masses about the adverse impact of unbridled population growth. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the full text of the Address by Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon and Parliaments across the developing world today are trying to address the urgent task of poverty amelioration. It has now been widely acknowledged that poverty could be most effectively tackled only in a democratic system, where the poorest sections of the society also have the right to franchise and,

thus, have a voice in the Government. Poverty-reduction process is essentially a government-led exercise, yet parliamentarians could play a crucial role by exercising continuous oversight on the governmental actions.

On 5 June 2006, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, delivered the Keynote Address on "What Should Be Parliamentarians' Priorities to Reduce Poverty?" at the CPA/Wilton Park/World Bank Institute Conference, held in Wiston House, West Sussex, United Kingdom. In his Address, he called upon the parliamentarians to build an 'inclusive system of governance' that would facilitate equitable growth, mitigate poverty, and empower the poor to participate in the growth process of their country. Appealing for Global Initiative against poverty, he said that we need to recognise the right of the poor for a dignified existence as not only the most fundamental human right across the world but also as a pressing and urgent precondition to build a stable world order. Campaigns for the eradication of poverty need to be launched as a global one, with full involvement of the parliamentarians, national Governments, international organizations and developmental agencies. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the full text of the Address delivered by Shri Somnath Chatterjee on the occasion.

In addition, the current issue of the *Journal* carries our other regular features, viz. Parliamentary Events and Activities, Privilege Issues, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

It has been our constant endeavour to make the *Journal* more useful and informative. We always welcome 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 political science.

—P.D.T. Achary  
*Editor*

## ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE AT THE 22<sup>ND</sup> ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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On 23 April 2006, Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered an Address at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Asian Parliamentary Meeting on Population and Development in New Delhi. The theme of the Address being a topical one, it has been included in this issue of the Journal.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

—Editor

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*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I am indeed very happy to be here with you this morning at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Asian Parliamentary Meeting on Population and Development, organized to deliberate on an important theme, namely, *Population in the Globalizing Society*, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) for organizing this event. I would also like to take this opportunity to pay my respect to the memory of Shri Sat Paul Mittal ji, a veteran parliamentarian who took the initiative for the establishment of IAPPD, a visionary step in the peculiar context of India. It is significant that this Meeting is being attended by participants from various Asian and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries who will discuss and make their contribution on issues which have impact on sustainable development, going beyond national boundaries and secure the active participation of the elected representatives of the people in population-development integration. The Association's ceaseless endeavours in the last quarter century for sensitizing the elected representatives on the implications of the exponential growth of population and of its consequences deserve appreciation and encouragement. The efforts of the IAPPD in generating awareness among all sections of the population about promoting small

family norms through mass campaigns and on other major issues relating to population and health care, like HIV/AIDS for example, and for facilitating a more pro-active role for parliamentarians in addressing the issues are, indeed, commendable.

During the last century, the world population has grown from 1.6 billion to 6.1 billion, and about 85 per cent of the growth has been witnessed in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The world population trend shows that it is likely to exceed 8 billion people by 2030. In more developed regions the number is expected to grow by less than 2 per cent whereas it is estimated that in the less developed regions it will be by over 40 per cent. Such is the alarming variance in the level of growth of population. But issues relating to population growth should not be seen in isolation. Population stabilization has to become the concern of all. In the long run the whole world will have to reckon with the various dimensions of the problem in the larger perspective of global development.

As we all are aware, the Asian region itself is home to the world's two largest populations, namely, China and India. But, what is, important is, to facilitate the transformation of our population into an asset by converting it into a high value-added workforce.

During the last three decades or so, the Asia-Pacific region has taken a lead to check the population growth by making significant investments in health and education, the beneficial results of which can be measured in terms of reduced infant and maternal mortality, acceptance of smaller family size, higher living standards and eventually the improvement in the status of women. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 reaffirmed the vital role of population in social development strategies and thus emphasized the dynamic relationship among population, social and economic development, poverty alleviation, the environment and the empowerment of women.

Friends, in our country, at the time of Independence, we had a substantial percentage of our population living below the poverty line. With the rapid increase of our population, successive Governments attempted to implement various programmes with mixed results. Now, the priorities have shifted from family planning to family welfare and from family welfare and population control to population stabilization. According to the Planning Commission projection, the total population of India will exceed 1.3 billion by 2020.

The numerical magnitude of population has caused various political, social and economic changes which have to be addressed. The lack of safe drinking water, electricity, food, problems related to pollution, sanitation, hygiene and waste management, certainly pose a grave challenge to many of the countries of the region. Nobel Laureate, Prof. Amartya Sen and Jean Dreze have written about the 'compounding' of the impact of population boom and economic growth; I quote:

... There is a compounding of the impact of population growth and economic growth to which we have to pay attention. Even when the impact of population growth today happens to be small, if we consider the long-run effects of today's population expansion in the light of prospective prosperity in the future, we have to take into account compounded aggregate effects that can be quite large and are likely to grow over time.... In all the spheres of concern to which we have already referred (food and nutritional adequacy, environment degradation, infrastructural pressure, *etc.*) we have to look at the cumulative effects of growth in population size and increase in economic activity. Unquote

In this context, we shall have to seriously work out national development strategies which will suit our respective countries most to achieve sustainable and equitable human development and empowerment of the people. Such strategies require us to think beyond providing social safety nets and to focus directly on providing jobs and raising the incomes of the marginalized sections of the society. I believe if we want to make any policy a success and action programme more purposeful, we will have to involve the people in the policy processes and encourage their participation at all levels and it is essential that the parliamentarians must actively involve themselves in the task, by seeking appropriate allocation and investment of financial resources for the purpose.

In an increasingly interdependent world, population stabilization and good governance are closely inter-related. By factoring our population policies into economic and developmental strategies, we will be able to speed up the pace of sustainable development and poverty alleviation. A more equitable and balanced development of our human resources will be a pivotal component in this regard.

A key factor in this context is education. Our goal should be universal education with special emphasis on girls' education. Women's education will lead to economic independence and will work as a tool for empowering them to decide on issues like spacing childbirth and in

making gender sensitive choices. Education has, in fact, been rightly identified as the best contraceptive. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's comments in the early years of our freedom merits our special attention here. He said, I quote:

We have to come to grips with this problem of population. It does not become some kind of a theoretical concept. We have to plan in terms of food, clothing, housing, education, health, work, *etc.*, and we realize that some kind of limitation of the rapidly growing population becomes an urgent matter for us.

... the most vital thing in India is for us to advance on the economic and social fronts. If in our eagerness for family planning we ignore this major aspect of economic advance or educational advance, we will be building on wholly insecure foundations. For economic and educational progress is the only foundation on which we can have any effective progress in regard to family planning. Unquote.

I believe that the people's representatives, as opinion leaders and opinion moulders, can help in sensitizing the Government on the issue and at the same time educate the masses about the adverse impact of unbridled population growth. In our country, we have in place the National Population Policy, which is one such step in the direction of achieving the national socio-economic goals set for the year 2010. The increasing involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in ensuring inter-sectoral coordination and local participation in planning, monitoring and management of the programmes for population stabilization will prove to be a great impetus for our developmental plans.

A strong societal and political will has to emerge in favour of creating an enabling environment for a holistic, people-centred approach which will broaden local participation in the programmes for development and population stabilization. Political parties and their leaders should mobilize public opinion on population related issues. All of us should recognize the need for a consensual approach on the critical problems, especially in the context of a globalizing society. The forces that are driving the new world order, however, must recognize that there is no easy solution. Each country has to develop its own approach, based on its native realities, historical factors and social mores. The global organizations should play a facilitating role in this task.

With these words, I have great pleasure in inaugurating the

22nd Asian Parliamentary Meet on Population and Development. I am sure the Conference will go a long way in bringing about a new vision for an effective and efficient equilibrium between population stabilization and development in the globalizing society. I compliment the organizers for their laudable initiatives and wish them all success in their endeavours.

Thank you.

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK  
SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE ON 'WHAT  
SHOULD BE PARLIAMENTARIANS' PRIORITIES TO  
REDUCE POVERTY?' AT THE CPA/WILTON PARK/  
WORLD BANK INSTITUTE CONFERENCE, WISTON  
HOUSE, WEST SUSSEX, UNITED KINGDOM**

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On 5 June 2006, Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered the Keynote Address on 'What Should Be Parliamentarians' Priorities To Reduce Poverty?' at the CPA/Wilton Park/World Bank Institute Conference, Wiston House, West Sussex, United Kingdom. The theme of the Keynote Address being a topical one, it has been included in this issue of the Journal.

We reproduce below the text of the Keynote Address.

—Editor

---

*Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates:*

I deem it an honour and privilege to have been given this opportunity to present a keynote paper in this Conference on the theme '*What Should be Parliamentarians' Priorities to Reduce Poverty?*', a subject of immense contemporary relevance and of great importance to us all.

Fighting Poverty is the biggest development challenge faced by humanity. While most countries have achieved varying degrees of success in improving the quality of life of their citizens, the existence of poverty in almost every region of the world is a hard reality that stares us on our face. Globally, about 1.2 billion people, nearly one-fifth of the world population, are still living in extreme poverty, and the majority of them are in Asia and Africa.

**Poverty: a multi-dimensional problem**

Poverty is a multi-dimensional problem. It is being increasingly recognized that being 'income-poor' or 'consumption-poor' is not the only dimension of poverty. In the larger context, poverty is to be seen as a state of deprivation, implying the inability of a person to satisfy his minimum needs, for leading a reasonably productive life.

Seen in this light, poverty can be taken to be a denial of fundamental



human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 states: 'Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services.' Poverty is denial of these basic services.

### **Poverty as denial of opportunities**

The work of Prof. Amartya Sen has given concept of poverty a new dimension, where poverty is treated as denial of choices and opportunities for leading a tolerable life. In Prof. Sen's perspective, poverty denotes a condition in which a person lacks the opportunity to achieve a 'minimally acceptable level of functioning'. This includes not only physical or tangible attributes like nourishment, clothes, shelter and living a disease-free life but also intangible attributes like education, participation in community life, living with dignity and the like.

Given the recognition that poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, the anti-poverty programmes being currently implemented in many developing countries are essentially poverty-amelioration programmes; and, understandably, these can help in only reducing the intensity of poverty rather than eliminate poverty completely. For the eradication of poverty, what is required is the enhancement of people's capabilities.

### **Democracy and Poverty Alleviation**

Democracy and its institutions are seen by many as being too ponderous and slow, and therefore, ill-equipped for mounting an all-out attack on poverty. I subscribe to the opposite view that it is the representative institutions and participatory processes of Democracy that offer the most effective means of addressing a multi dimensional problem like Poverty. Today, Parliaments across the developing world are addressing the urgent task of poverty alleviation, each in its own unique manner, by endeavouring to deliver good governance.

It is now widely acknowledged that poverty can be most effectively tackled in a Democracy, where the poorest sections of society have become enfranchised and, thus, have a voice in the Government. Involving the elected representatives of the people in the process of poverty-reduction is necessary for the sustainability of the process, as also for conferring on it legitimacy. The major challenge before parliamentarians is to build an 'inclusive system of governance' that will facilitate equitable growth and mitigate poverty, and to empower the poor to enable them to participate in the growth process.

**More, and not less, Democracy**

For this, the parliamentarians must work in close cooperation with their respective Governments, civil society organisations and other development partners for providing policy guidance, mobilizing resources and channelising them to pro-poor programmes. The message that parliamentarians need to disseminate is: the more the democracy and accountability, the more robust the attack on poverty; the more inclusive and participatory the decision-making process, the greater its chances of successful implementation. Therefore, National Parliaments must decentralise and delegate more, not less, to sub-national tiers of governance, down to the Village Councils.

As a well-known author has observed, 'democracy is a weapon in favour of the poor, but it has to be deployed with imagination. ... What is important is that governance should not make their lives worse but try and make them better.' In such a scenario, another priority before the parliamentarians in the process of poverty reduction should be the enhancement of the participation of the poor in governance.

**Poverty and political empowerment**

Empowering the poor should be an important priority for parliamentarians. To make the State institutions more responsive to the needs of the poor, it is essential that the political voice of the poor be strengthened. There is no denying the fact that powerlessness in the political realm is both a cause and result of poverty. In many political systems, the poor are politically marginalised, having little opportunity to influence the policies that impact upon their lives. Several studies suggest that civil and political rights are intimately associated with higher rates of economic growth, lower corruption and poverty reduction.

The historic Right to Information Act, passed by the Indian Parliament in 2005, arms ordinary citizens with the power to ask Government agencies for information and have it, through a well-defined procedure. An informed citizenry is an essential pre-requisite of a healthy democracy. It is only appropriate that the Government authorities make disclosures about their decision-making, particularly of decisions that impinge on the lives of the ordinary citizens. I am of the firm belief that greater transparency will render the system more efficient, responsive, equitable and just.

**Millennium Development Goals: International consensus on Poverty Reduction**

With an objective to rid the world of poverty and to improve the lot

of humanity, the leaders of the world adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the UN Millennium Summit, on 8 September 2000. The goals, *inter alia*, call for reducing by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day; reducing by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, between 1990 and 2015.

To achieve this laudable goal, nation States have devised their own Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) processes, to establish a multi-tier framework for national poverty reduction. It has been pointed out by the UNDP and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, in one of their publications in the series—*Parliaments and Poverty*, that while the specifics of the PRS process vary from country to country, they involve four main stages—(i) poverty diagnosis, (ii) poverty policy formulation, (iii) poverty policy implementation, and (iv) monitoring and evaluation. In each of these stages, parliamentarians can create greater space for themselves.

Admittedly, the poverty reduction process is explicitly a Government-led exercise, but parliamentarians have a crucial role to play in exercising continuous oversight of governmental actions. Through this, they can assure the best possible use of the resources for poverty eradication, help maintain financial transparency in the appropriation of poverty-related funds, extend policy advice from time to time and give legislative support to ensure that the interests of the poor are taken care of.

### **Poverty eradication and the IPU**

Reaffirming this, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) unanimously adopted a Resolution at their 108th Conference held in Santiago de Chile on 11 April 2003. The Resolution, *inter alia*, (i) called on all the Parliaments and parliamentarians to enact not only measures that focus on facilitating economic growth, but more particularly those that empower people and promote their welfare and development; (ii) endorsed the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the Decade 2001-2010 and emphasized, in particular, the need for effective implementation of the Programme relating to good governance at national and international levels; and (iii) called on the Parliaments of the developed countries to work towards the goal of earmarking at least 0.7 per cent of GNP as Official Development Assistance for global human development.

### **Poverty status in India**

India has adopted a three-pronged strategy for reducing poverty in

the rural and urban areas. The strategy consists of: (i) Acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes.

In India, the main parameter for estimating the poverty is the 'per capita consumption expenditure' which meets the average per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 calorie in rural areas and 2100 calorie in urban areas, along with a minimum non-food expenditure on vital requirements such as clothing, shelter and transport, etc. Persons with monthly per capita expenditure below the prescribed limit of Rs.327.56 in rural areas and Rs.454.11 in urban areas are considered to be living Below the Poverty Line (BPL).

There has been a significant decline between 1977-78 and 1999-2000 in the proportion of people living below the poverty line from 51.3 per cent to 26.1 per cent, and in the absolute number of poor, from 328.9 million to 210.3 million. However, in spite of the sharp decline in poverty in the country as a whole, there are wide variations in the incidence of poverty across the States. This apart, there is a rural-urban divide, with the problems of unemployment and underemployment more pronounced in the rural areas.

All national governments in India since 1950 have emphasised poverty alleviation as the central plank of their economic policies. Presently, the Indian Government is targeting to cover every village with electricity, telephony, safe drinking water, minor irrigation, and all-weather roads by the year 2009, at an estimated cost of Rs. 1740 billion, to boost rural infrastructure.

Under the Rural Housing scheme, 1.53 million housing units are to be constructed this year at a cost of Rs. 29 billion. Under the Antyodaya Food scheme, 35 kg of food grains per month are being supplied to about 25 million poor families at highly subsidised rates. Another food scheme, 'Annapurna' provides 10 kg of food grains free of cost per month to those senior citizens, who are eligible for pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme but are not covered under it yet.

### **The role of parliamentarians in reducing poverty**

In a representative democracy, it is the responsibility of the Parliament to articulate public grievances and to resolve *tension*, and *maintain equilibrium between competing claims for scarce resources*, in order to enhance cohesion and solidarity in the civil society.

## **To know is to act**

To determine the root causes of poverty-related problems of his constituency, a parliamentarian needs to study the social, political, economic and other obstacles in the way of development schemes and programmes undertaken by governmental agencies. Such an exercise would reveal the gaps in the existing policies and implementation mechanisms, and enable him to come out with suitable correctives.

## **Harnessing the tools of Parliamentary Business**

A parliamentarian can effectively redress problems of the poor people of his constituency, only if he makes full use of the parliamentary devices available to him and also participates energetically and effectively in all legislative, financial and other business of the House. By using various Parliamentary devices as instruments of enforcing accountability and influencing policy, parliamentarians can play a vital role in goal prioritisation, policy formulation, and allocation of resources for poverty reduction.

## **Utilising the Budgetary Process**

Parliamentarians have a significant role to play in influencing the Government's poverty alleviation programmes through the budgetary process. A Budget reflects the fundamental values underlying the national policy of the Government of the day. Parliamentarians, irrespective of party affiliation, can influence the drafting of the budget when it is discussed in the Parliament and can render its provisions more equitable and balanced.

In India, we have been implementing a series of rural and urban poverty alleviation programmes within the framework of the country's national Five-Year Plans. In 2005, rising above their political differences, our parliamentarians unanimously enacted a Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which recognises the right to work as a fundamental legal right and entitles the rural poor to guaranteed employment for 100 days in a year. The Budget provision for this scheme for the current financial year is Rs.113 billion.

## **Standing Committees**

In India, we have a system of Departmentally Related Standing Committees, vested with powers to examine in detail the working of various Ministries and Departments. A parliamentarian's membership in the Parliamentary Committees gives him an opportunity to exchange views and ideas with members of other political parties. Through

these Committees, parliamentarians get a chance to interact with the administration implementing anti-poverty programmes and they strive to ensure that the amounts voted by the Parliament for poverty reduction are spent for the purposes for which they are sanctioned. Strengthening of the Parliamentary Committees can play a crucial role in helping the parliamentarians address the serious challenge of poverty in a more effective and imaginative manner.

### **MPLADS**

In India, we also have a unique scheme called the 'Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme' (MPLADS) which enables every parliamentarian to recommend development works for creation of durable community assets and provision of basic facilities. Through this scheme, our parliamentarians have been meeting the genuine needs of their poor constituents by providing them drinking water facilities, primary school buildings, electricity extension schemes, primary health centres, minor irrigation schemes, non-conventional energy schemes, etc.

### **The role of Non-state actors or civil society in reducing poverty**

In most developing countries, non-state actors *i.e.* civil society has emerged as a viable institutional framework to serve as a catalyst for development and change. It is widely believed that NGOs perform better than the Government in reaching marginalised sections, identifying and responding to their needs, promoting peoples' participation and evolving micro-level, cost-effective alternatives. They are instrumental in organising the poor to enable them pursue their self-development and to fight for their rights.

Parliamentarians will have to recognize NGOs or non-state actors as important players in the fight against poverty. Any strategy of poverty alleviation will be incomplete without the involvement of civil society actors such as NGOs. In the recent past, India has witnessed the emergence of a large number of community-based organisations, self-help groups, cooperatives and trade unions in the unorganised sector. Enabling the poor to form their own organisations is an important step in the process of their empowerment as it gives them a collective voice in the political arena, enhancing their bargaining power.

### **Gender Equity and Poverty**

The real wealth of a nation is its people, both women and men. Gender perspectives are, therefore, also quite important in the process

of poverty reduction. The causes and outcomes of poverty are highly differentiated between women and men, particularly because of the unequal access to and control over productive resources and decision-making. Gender equality is a precondition for, and an indicator of, sustainable development and poverty reduction. There is a global consensus on the need for gender mainstreaming with full involvement of the elected representatives of the people in this vital process. The discrimination against women in health and education at the societal level and their unequal representation in the political and economic decision-making processes are some of the major gender issues that require urgent attention of the parliamentarians. Gender budgeting will be a welcome initiative in this regard.

### **Protection of Child Rights**

Like women, children, particularly those belonging to the deprived sections of society, are the worst sufferers. Growing up in poverty affects their physical, social and psychological development, the long-term effects of which can be crippling. We have to address the problem of child labour, which emanates essentially out of poverty, in country-specific contexts. By advocating children-centric public policies, parliamentarians can meaningfully mitigate poverty among the children and contribute to a healthy and productive human resource base. The Parliament of India passed the historic 86th Constitutional Amendment act in 2002 making education a fundamental right of every child and mandating the State to provide for free and compulsory education up to 14 years of age.

### **Decentralisation of Governance**

The key lesson that has emerged from decades of struggle to reduce poverty is that policies and programmes that originate from the society and whose contents reflect the felt needs and popular aspirations, are more likely to be successfully implemented. For designing, implementing and monitoring policies and programmes, an active and committed leadership on the part of the parliamentarians, individually at the constituency level and collectively at the national level, is an essential input to every country's poverty reduction strategy. Working in close cooperation with the governments and non-state actors, parliamentarians irrespective of their party affiliations, have to tirelessly strive not just to reduce poverty but eventually to eradicate poverty.

### **Good Governance practices**

Adebayo Olukoshi of the Nordic Africa Institute rightly points out

'Democracy is difficult to build on empty stomachs' and that 'effective governance is often the missing link between anti-poverty efforts and poverty eradication.' In the ultimate analysis, as Scott Hubli and Alicia Mandaville have argued in their study on Parliaments and Poverty Reduction: 'Greater parliamentary involvement in the poverty reduction strategy process helps to ensure that a country's poverty strategy is generated, implemented and evaluated through national institutions with adequate political legitimacy to ensure ownership and sustainability.' That being so, parliamentarians, by securing accountability and good governance in the administration and management of all pro-poor activities and programmes, must necessarily become proactive partners in the continuing crusade against poverty.

### **Poverty is a threat to peace**

Fellow Parliamentarians, poverty has both national and international implications. As the world becomes smaller, poverty anywhere becomes a threat to prosperity and peace everywhere, and in the larger sense, it also undermines the foundations of democracy. While on the face of it, the problem of poverty may be seen as a country-specific one, it is in the interest of the international community to recognise that the ramifications are often global.

### **South-South cooperation**

Rather than looking at the developing countries merely as potential markets, helping them along the path of development should also be seen as part of the larger responsibilities of the Developed World. Parliamentarians, representing the people in the Government and as opinion-builders and policy-makers, have to prevail on national governments to work for the establishment of a more equitable world order. South-South co-operation is much more than an expression of solidarity. It can mean tangible benefits in economic terms for the developing world. This is where the member nations of the Commonwealth need to work together through their Parliaments and parliamentaries.

### **Global Initiative against Poverty**

If a small part of the global expenditure on military and arms race is diverted to poverty-eradication programmes, for the poverty-stricken one fifth of the global population, our world would become a better place to live in. Campaigns for the eradication of poverty, to be really effective, need to be launched as a global one, with full involvement of parliamentarians, national governments, international organizations and developmental agencies.



## **Conclusion**

We need to recognise the right of the poor for a dignified existence as not only the most fundamental human right across the world but also a pressing and urgent pre-condition to build a stable world order. Facilitating that is one of the major developmental challenges for the parliamentarians everywhere, more so, in the developing countries. Developing a national consensus on fighting poverty, showing the requisite political will to democratise and decentralise at a greater pace, utilising Parliament as a tool to empower and enable the poor, showing greater commitment to reducing corruption and increasing accountability and transparency in governance systems: these are the priorities that we parliamentarians need to build on, in our fight against poverty.

Let us resolve to work together and make our Parliaments tools of ensuring faster growth and prosperity, along with equity and justice to our peoples.

Thank you.

## PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

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### CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

*The 114th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at Nairobi, Kenya:* The 114th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was held at Nairobi, Kenya from 7 to 12 May 2006. The Indian Delegation to the Assembly was led by the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri P.C. Thomas, Ramji Lal Suman, N.Y. Hanumanthappa, Jesudasu Seelam; Dr. (Smt.) Najma A. Heptulla and Smt. Neeta Pateriya, all members of Parliament. Shri S. Bal Shekar, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.

The Assembly held deliberations on the following subjects and adopted resolutions thereon:—

- (i) The role of Parliaments in strengthening the control of trafficking in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition;
- (ii) The role of Parliaments in environmental management and in combating global degradation of the environment;
- (iii) How Parliaments can and must promote effective ways of combating violence against women in all fields?;
- (iv) The need for urgent food relief in order to combat drought-induced famine and poverty in Africa, for the world's most industrialized nations to speed up aid to the continent and for particular efforts to be made to reach desperate and poor populations (Adopted as Emergency Item).

. Sarvashri Jesudasu Seelam and N.Y. Hanumanthappa represented India in the Drafting Committees on items (ii) and (iii) above.

*Celebrations on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Parliamentary Reform of Finland at Helsinki:* The celebrations on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Parliamentary Reform of 1906 in Finland were held at Helsinki, Finland on 1 June 2006. With the reform of the Parliament Act and Electoral Law, the Unicameral

Parliament of Finland called *Eduskunta* became a modern Parliament in the world as early as 100 years ago.

The Delegation representing the Indian Parliament at the celebrations was led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The other members of the Delegation were: the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary; and the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Yogendra Narain.

*International Parliamentary Conference on "HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Eurasia and the Role of G-8", at Moscow:* The International Parliamentary Conference on "HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Eurasia and the Role of G-8" was held at Moscow, Russia on 8 June 2006. The aim of the Conference was to exchange experiences and to find out further opportunities in addressing global and regional challenges posed by HIV/AIDS.

Dr. R.C. Dome, MP attended the Conference. The Conference deliberated on the following themes:

- (i) The G-8 and AIDS in Eurasia: New partnerships for our common future;
- (ii) HIV/AIDS in Eurasia: Strategic challenges and breakthrough opportunities;
- (iii) Role of the G-8 and the International community;
- (iv) The Power of partnerships against AIDS

*The Second Conference of Women Parliamentarians at Sophia, Bulgaria:* The Second Conference of Women Parliamentarians was organized by the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria at Sophia on 19 and 20 June 2006. The Conference was organised on the theme, "Protecting the Rights of Children and Young People". Ms. Pramila Bohidar and Smt. Kiran Maheshwari, both members of Parliament, participated in the Conference. Smt. Kiran Maheshwari was nominated on the organizing team to represent Asian Continent for the next Conference to be held in 2007 in Jordan. On the concluding day, a resolution was adopted by the delegates on the theme of the Conference.

*Mid-year CPA Executive Committee Meeting at Isle of Man:* The mid-year meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was held at Isle of Man from 2 to 7 May

2006. The Speaker, Lok Sabha and Vice-President of the CPA, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Regional Representative, Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy; the Deputy Speaker, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha, Shri Ram Narain Bishnoi, alternate to the Speaker, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha and Regional Representative, Smt. Sumitra Singh, attended the meeting from the India Region of the CPA.

*CPA (U.K. Branch) Seminar:* The United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association organized a Seminar from 7 to 19 May 2006. The Seminar was basically an orientation programme. Its aim was to make the parliamentarians and legislators from the Commonwealth countries aware of the functioning of the parliamentary system in the U.K. in particular and the Commonwealth countries in general. Four programmes were also conducted to facilitate an on-the-spot study of different parliamentary constituencies in the U.K. Sarvashri Naveen Jindal and Khiren Rijju, both members of Parliament, attended the Seminar from the India (Union) Branch.

*The Eighteenth Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Seminar at Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos Island:* The Eighteenth Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Seminar was held at Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos Island from 28 May to 3 June 2006. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal, attended the Seminar from the CPA India (Union) Branch. With him, Shri Sukhadeo Bhagat, member of Jharkhand Legislative Assembly and Shri Nadendla Manohar, member of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly also attended the Seminar from India.

The following topics were discussed at the Seminar:—

- The History and Role of the Commonwealth and the CPA;
- Parliamentary Democracy in the Caribbean Region;
- The Role of the Speaker and the Parliamentary Staff;
- The MP and the Political Party;
- Standing Orders;
- Parliamentary Ethics, Transparency and Accountability;
- The Relationship between Parliament and the People;
- Parliamentary Committees and the Committee System;

- Financial Scrutiny of the Executive; and
- Parliament, the Executive and the Public Service.

*CPA/Wilton Park Conference:* The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, in cooperation with Wilton Park, an executive agency of the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, organised a Conference on the theme "Reducing Poverty: The Role of Parliaments, Government and Non-State Actors" from 5 to 9 June 2006. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee accompanied by Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, attended the Conference.

The Speaker presented the Keynote Address on the topic "What should be Parliamentarian's Priorities to reduce Poverty?" on 5 June 2006.

### **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.

During the period from 1 April to 30 June 2006, functions to pay floral tributes to the following leaders were held in the Central Hall of Parliament House.

*Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a function was held on 14 April 2006. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Jairam Ramesh; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar on the occasion.

*Pandit Motilal Nehru:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Motilal Nehru, a function was held on 6 May 2006. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri B.K. Handique; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes to Pandit Motilal Nehru on the occasion.

*Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, a function was held on 7 May 2006.

The Leader of the House in the Lok Sabha and Minister of Defence, Shri Pranab Mukherjee\*; the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri B.K. Handique; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachauri, members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on the occasion.

*Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar*: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of *Swatantryaveer* Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, a function was held on 28 May 2006. 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 to *Swatantryaveer* Vinayak Damodar Savarkar on the occasion.

## EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

### INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION GOING ABROAD

*Germany*: A 14-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, visited Germany from 25 to 30 June 2006. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri Devendra Prasad Yadav, Mohan Rawale, Venkatesh Naik, Ram Singh Kaswan, Kalraj Mishra, Santosh Bagrodia, Nakul Das Rai, all members of Parliament and Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. Dr. (Smt.) P.K. Sandhu, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

### FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITING INDIA

*Tajikistan*: A 12-member Parliamentary Delegation from Tajikistan led by the Chairman, Majlisi Namayandagon of Majlisi Oli, Mr. S. Khairulloev visited India from 13 to 20 May 2006.

On 15 May 2006, the Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The Delegation also had meetings with the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of

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\* Now Minister of External Affairs

Information and Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi and the Minister of State in the Ministry of External affairs, Shri E. Ahamed the same day. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a Banquet in honour of the visiting Delegation the same evening.

On 16 May 2006, the Delegation called on the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at Rashtrapati Bhawan. It was followed by a meeting with members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation also visited Agra and Mumbai.

### **BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING**

During the period 1 April to 30 June 2006, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training organised the following courses/programmes:

*Lecture Series:* As part of the Lecture Series for members of Parliament—started during the Fifth Session of the 14th Lok Sabha—a Lecture for members of Parliament on “Issues pertaining to the Rights of the Girl Child” by Ms. Razia Ismail Abbasi, Co-Convener of India Alliance on Child Rights was organised on 23 May 2006. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee presided over the Lecture Session. The Lecture was attended by 27 members of Parliament.

*Study Visits:* During the period, the following Study Visits were conducted: (i) Visit by 2 Researchers from UNDP Regional Centre, Bangkok on 10 April 2006; (ii) Visit by 5-member Parliamentary Delegation from Afghanistan headed by Mr. Ghulam Farooq Wardak, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Afghanistan from 9 to 11 May 2006; and (iii) Visit by a 9-member Malaysian Delegation headed by Mr. Dato Abdullah Abdul Waheb, Secretary, House of Representatives of Malaysia, from 19 to 23 June 2006.

In addition, five Study Visits by Officers/Students of Organisations/Institutes/Schools were also organised, which were attended by a total of 205 participants.

*Appreciation Courses:* During the period, the Bureau organized: (a) Appreciation Course for the probationers of (i) Indian Revenue Service, (ii) Indian Ordnance Factories Service, and (iii) Various Central Accounts and Finance Services from 3 to 7 April 2006 attended by 105 participants; and (b) Appreciation Course for Probationers of Indian Administrative Service from 24 to 28 April 2006, attended by 92 participants.

**Management Development Programme:** A Management Development Programme for middle level officers of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats was organized from 5 to 9 June 2006. The programme was attended by 25 officers.

**Training Programmes:** During the period, the following Training Programmes were organized: (i) A Capsule Course for Security Assistants of Rajya Sabha from 1 to 3 May 2006, attended by 27 participants; (ii) Training Course for Officers/Assistants of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats dealing with Questions, Legislative and Budgetary Process from 12 to 16 June 2006, attended by 33 participants; (iii) Training Course for Staff working in the Speaker's Office from 19 to 23 June 2006, attended by 2 participants. Besides, the Bureau processed the request from International Legislative Drafting Institute, Washington D.C. and made arrangements to send two Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat to Washington D.C. (USA) for attending a Training in International Legislative Drafting Institute from 12 to 23 June 2006.

**Attachment Programmes:** Attachment Programmes were organized for: (i) Officers of Bihar Vidhan Sabha working with Question and Budget Branches, from 5 to 9 June 2006, attended by 5 participants; (ii) Officers of LSTV Unit with various Branches of the Lok Sabha Secretariat from 13 to 15 June 2006, attended by 16 participants; (iii) the Staff of the Orissa Legislative Assembly Secretariat working in Departmentally Related Standing Committees from 19 to 23 June 2006, attended by 14 participants; and (iv) the Staff of the Orissa Legislative Assembly working in Departmentally Related Standing Committees from 26 to 30 June 2006, attended by 6 participants.

**Workshop:** A Workshop with practical training was organized for the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat on Questions in Parliament, from 4 to 5 July 2006. The Workshop was attended by 46 participants.



## **PRIVILEGE ISSUES**

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During the period from 1 April 2006 to 30 June 2006, the second sitting of the Committee of Privileges was held on 3 May 2006, in connection with the notice of question of privilege on 23 November 2005 given by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, MP against the District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and Deputy Superintendent of Police, Madhubani, Bihar for allegedly detaining him without genuine grounds. The notice was referred to the Committee of Privileges by the Speaker on 21 December 2005 under rule 227 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha. A sitting of the Committee on the subject matter was held on 20 January 2006.

### **Reflection on Speaker, Lok Sabha**

The Committee of Privileges presented its Third Report to the House on 17 May 2006 regarding question of privilege given notice of by Shri Hannan Mollah, MP on 5 August 2005, against Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap, former Secretary-General, Lok Sabha for casting serious aspersions on the Speaker, Lok Sabha in an interview telecast on the Star News TV Channel on 4 August 2005. The matter was referred to the Committee of Privileges by the Speaker on 8 August 2005, in exercise of his powers under rule 227 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.

The Committee in its Report laid on the Table of the House on 19 May 2006, recommended that Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap, former Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha may be admonished.

On 23 May 2006, the Leader of the House in the Lok Sabha, Shri Pranab Mukherjee moved the following motion in the House:—

“That this House having taken note of the Third Report of the Committee of Privileges, laid on the Table of the House on 19 May 2006, agrees with the findings and conclusions of the Committee and resolves that Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap, former Secretary-General, Lok Sabha has committed a gross breach of privilege and contempt of the House by imputing motives to the Speaker, Lok Sabha in discharge of his duties and casting reflections on his impartiality and admonishes him for his grave misconduct.”

The House adopted the motion on the same day.

### **Reflection on Speaker, Lok Sabha**

The Committee presented its Fourth Report to the Speaker on 17 May 2006 regarding casting reflections on and imputing motives to the Speaker, Lok Sabha in an article captioned "COMRADE SPEAKER—Act of Discrimination Against Mamata Banerjee" published in the '*The Statesman*' datelined 24 August 2005. The notice of question of Privilege was given by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, MP on 25 August 2005 against Shri Bibhuti Bhushan Nandy, the author of the said article. On the same day, Shri A. Krishnaswamy and Shri Madhusudan Mistry, members of Parliament also gave notices of question of privilege in the matter. The matter was referred to the Committee of Privileges on 26 August 2005 by the Speaker, Lok Sabha in exercise of his powers under rule 227 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.

The Report was laid on the Table of the House on 19 May 2006. The Committee, while strongly deprecating the reckless and irresponsible behaviour of Shri Bibhuti Bhushan Nandy, author of the impugned article and Shri Ravindra Kumar, Editor and Managing Director of '*The Statesman*', cautioned them to be more careful in future.

The Committee recommended that the matter be treated as closed.

### **Committee on Ethics**

During the period under report (from 1 April 2006 to 30 June 2006), the Sub-committee of Committee on Ethics held 2 sittings on 15 May 2006 and 22 May 2006, respectively.

Two matters, viz. (i) incorporation in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha the rules regarding constitution of the Committee on Ethics, functions and procedure to be followed by the Committee and procedure for making ethics complaints; and (ii) complaint regarding alleged misuse of car-park label by Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh, MP were under the consideration of the Committee during the period.

No Report was presented by the Committee during the period under report.

## PROCEDURAL MATTERS

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*Instance when the Chair converted the Calling Attention Motion into Short Duration Discussion:* On 16 May 2006 at 1214 hours, a Calling Attention Motion regarding situation arising out of communal violence in different parts of the country was taken up. The Minister of Home Affairs made a statement in regard thereto. While members in whose names the item was listed sought clarifications on the statement made by the Minister, a member, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan submitted that in view of the importance of the subject of Calling Attention Motion the same may be converted into a Short Duration Discussion under rule 193. After hearing the members and the Minister of Home Affairs Shri Shivraj V. Patil, the Speaker, with the consent of the House converted the Calling Attention into Short Duration Discussion under rule 193 to be taken up at a later date.

Subsequently, the Calling Attention Motion was converted into a Short Duration Discussion under rule 193 and listed in the List of Business on 18 May 2006. The names of members appeared in the same order as in the Calling Attention.

*Instance when the Speaker allowed a member whose name did not appear in the List of Business to Call the Attention of the Minister:* On 17 May 2006, a Calling Attention Motion regarding reservation for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the IIMs, IITs and other higher educational institutions was listed in the names of Sarvashri Santosh Gangwar, Ajoy Chakraborty, Devendra Prasad Yadav, K. Yerrannaidu and A. Krishnaswamy. Shri Santosh Gangwar of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who had to call the attention of the Minister made a request to the Speaker that the Deputy Leader of his party, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra might be permitted to raise the matter listed against his name. The Speaker, while agreeing to the request of the member, permitted Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to call the attention of the Minister as a special case and observed that it may not to be treated as a precedent.

*Instances when the Chair allowed members, whose names were not in the List of Business, to ask clarificatory questions on the Calling Attention Motions:* On 19 May 2006, the Chair allowed nine members, Sarvashri Rajesh Mishra, Brajesh Pathak, Rupchand Pal, Major General (Retired) B.C. Khanduri, Shailendra Kumar, Mohd. Salim, Santosh Gangwar, Rewati Raman Singh and Prof. Chandra Kumar, whose names

were not in the List of Business, to ask clarificatory questions on the Calling Attention Motion regarding need for checking water pollution in River Ganga at Varanasi and steps taken by the Government in this regard.

On 22 May 2006, the Chair allowed ten members, Sarvashri Ramji Lal Suman, B. Mahtab, Ram Kripal Yadav, C.K. Chandrappan, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Ilyas Azmi, Kharabela Swain, Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', Adhir Chowdhury and Smt. Karuna Shukla, whose names were not in the List of Business, to ask clarificatory questions on the Calling Attention Motion regarding increasing Naxalite and Maoist activities in the country.

## PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2006)

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

—Editor

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### INDIA

#### DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

*Budget Session of Parliament:* The Second Part of the Seventh Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha and the Two Hundred and Seventh Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 10 May 2006. The two Houses were adjourned *sine die* on 23 May 2006. The President prorogued both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 25 May 2006.

*New Rajya Sabha Members:* During the period (1 April to 30 June 2006), sixty-three members commenced their term of office in the Rajya Sabha. 58 members were sworn in on 3 April, one member each on 10 April, 12 and 13 June while two members took oath of office on 20 June 2006.

*Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Re-elected:* On 12 May 2006, Shri K. Rahman Khan was unanimously re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

*Resignation of Rajya Sabha Members:* On 29 April 2006, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Indian National Congress (INC) member from Jammu and Kashmir resigned.

On 17 May 2006, Shri N.K. Premachandran, Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI (M)] member from Kerala resigned.

On 31 May 2006, Shri R. Sarath Kumar, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) member from Tamil Nadu resigned.

*Death of Rajya Sabha Member:* On 3 May 2006, Shri Pramod

Mahajan, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member of the Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra passed away.

*Lok Sabha By-election Result:* On 11 May 2006, Smt. Sonia Gandhi of the Indian National Congress was declared elected to the Lok Sabha from Rae Bareilly constituency, by-election for which was held on 8 May 2006.

*Resignation of Lok Sabha Members:* On 10 May 2006, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) resigned from his Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh) Lok Sabha constituency.

On 15 May 2006, Shri Nitish Kumar of the Janata Dal (United) resigned from his Nalanda (Bihar) Lok Sabha constituency.

On 16 May 2006, Shri Sushil Kumar Modi of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) resigned from his Bhagalpur (Bihar) Lok Sabha constituency.

On 22 May 2006, Shri Babu Lal Marandi of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) resigned from his Kodarma (Jharkhand) Lok Sabha constituency.

On 30 May 2006, Shri Bir Sing Mahato of the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) resigned from his Purulia (West Bengal) Lok Sabha constituency.

*Death of Lok Sabha Members:* On 8 April 2006, Shri Mahboob Zahedi, [CPI (M)] member of the Lok Sabha from Katwa (West Bengal) constituency passed away.

On 14 April 2006, Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhury, Indian National Congress (INC) member of the Lok Sabha from Malda (West Bengal) constituency passed away.

## **AROUND THE STATES**

### **ANDHRA PRADESH**

*By-Election Result:* On 27 April 2006, Shri Dronamraju S. Rao of the Indian National Congress (INC) was declared elected from Visakhapatnam-I Assembly constituency, by-election for which was held on 24 April 2006.

### **ASSAM**

*Assembly Election Results:* Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held in two phases on 3 April and 10 April 2006. The

party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats: 126; Indian National Congress (INC): 53; Asom Gana Parishad (AGP): 24; Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): 10; Assam United Democratic Front (AUDF): 10; Communist Party of India (Marxist): 2; Communist Party of India (CPI): 1; Nationalist Congress Party (NCP): 1; Asom Gana Parishad (Pragatisheel) (AGP-P): 1; Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC): 1; Loko Sanmilon: 1; and Independents: 22.

*New Chief Minister:* On 14 May 2006, Shri Tarun Gogoi of the INC was sworn in as the Chief Minister.

*Expansion of Cabinet:* On 19 May 2006, Eighteen Ministers, Seventeen with the Cabinet rank while one as a Minister of State with Independent Charge were inducted into the Council of Ministers headed by Shri Tarun Gogoi.

The names of the members of the Council of Ministers with their portfolios is as follows: Sarvashri Tarun Gogoi, *Chief Minister, Home, Political, PWD, Finance, Personnel* and other Departments not allocated to any other Minister; Prithibi Majhi, *Planning & Development, Labour & Employment and Tea Tribes Welfare*; Bharat Chandra Narah, *Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs*; Gautam Roy, *Excise and Border Areas*; Dinesh Prasad Goawala, *Urban Development and Housing*; Chandan Brahma, *Panchayat & Rural Development and Transport*; Kharsingh Engti, *Hill Areas, Mines & Minerals and Veterinary*; Nurjamal Sarkar, *Irrigation, Soil Conservation and Fishery*; Gautam Bora, *Co-operation and Cultural Affairs*; Ripun Bora, *Elementary Education, Secondary Education and Higher Education*; Pradyut Bordoloi, *Industries & Commerce, Power (Electricity), Public Enterprises*; Pranab Gogoi, *Handloom, Textiles & Sericulture, Judicial and Legislative Affairs*; Himanta Biswa Sarma, *Health & Family Welfare, Guwahati Development, Information Technology and Science & Technology*; Rockybul Hussain, *Environment & Forests, Tourism, Printing & Stationery and Information & Public Relations*; Dr. Bhumidhar Barman, *Revenue, Relief & Rehabilitation, Implementation of Assam Accord and Administrative Reforms & Training*; Dr. Nazrul Islam, *Food & Civil Supplies, Minorities Welfare & Development and Haj Affairs*; Smt. Pramila Rani Brahma, *Agriculture and Welfare of Plains Tribes & Backward Classes*; and Smt. Ajanta Neog, *Social Welfare and Jails*.

Shri Rihon Doimari was sworn in as the Minister of State with Independent Charge of the Ministry of *Public Health Engineering*.

*Election of Speaker:* On 29 May 2006, Shri Tanka Bahadur Rai was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

*Election of Deputy Speaker:* On 31 May 2006, Smt. Pranati Phukan was unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

### **BIHAR**

*By-Election Result:* On 27 April 2006, Shri Nitin Naveen of the BJP was declared elected from Patna West Assembly constituency, by-election for which was held on 24 April 2006.

*New Governor:* On 22 June 2006, Shri R.S. Gavai was sworn in as the Governor of Bihar.

### **JAMMU & KASHMIR**

*By-Election Results:* On 27 April 2006, Sarvashri Ghulam Nabi Azad of the Indian National Congress; Mohd. Dilawar Mir of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party (JKPDP); and Sheikh Mustafa Kamal of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) were declared elected from Baderwah, Rafiabab and Pattan Assembly constituencies, respectively, by-elections for which were held on 24 April 2006.

### **KERALA**

*Assembly Election Results:* Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held in three phases on 22 April, 29 April and 3 May 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats:140; CPI (M): 61; INC:24; CPI:17; Janata Dal (Secular):5; NCP:1; Janadhipathya Samrakshana Samithi (JPSS): 1; Kerala Congress: 4; Kerala Congress (M): 7; Muslim Union League: 7; Revolutionary Socialist Party: 3; Congress (Secular): 1; Indian National League: 1; Democratic Indira Congress (Karunakaran): 1; Kerala Congress Secular: 1; Kerala Congress (B):1; and Independents: 5.

*New Government:* On 18 May 2006, a 19-member Left Democratic Front (LDF) Government, headed by Shri V S. Achuthanandan was sworn in.

The names of the members of the Council of Ministers with their portfolios is as follows: Sarvashri V.S. Achuthanandan, *Chief Minister, General Administration, All India Services, Planning and Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, Scientific Institutes, Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Elections, Administration of Civil & Criminal Justice, Information Technology, Sainik Welfare, Distress Relief, State Hospitality, Airports, Inter State River Waters, Information and Public Relations, Non-*



*Resident Keralites Affairs*, and other Departments not allocated to any other Minister; M A Baby, *General Education, Collegiate Education, Technical Education, Universities except Agricultural University, Entrance Examinations, Literacy Movement, National Cadet Corps, Cultural Affairs, Archives and Archaeology, Museum & Zoos, Kerala State Film Development Corporation*; Kodyeri Balakrishnan, *Home, Fire Services, Jails, Tourism, Vigilance*; A.K. Balan, *Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, Electricity*; Binoy Viswam, *Forest, Wild Life Protection, Environment, Housing*; C. Divakaran, *Food & Civil Supplies, Consumer Protection, Dairy Developments, Milk Co-operatives, Animal Husbandry*; P.K. Gurudasan, *Labour, Employment and Training, Rehabilitation, Factories and Boilers, Insurance Medical Services, Industrial Tribunals, Excise, Cashew Industry, Labour Courts*; T.U. Kuruvilla, *Public Works*; Elamaram Kareem, *Industries (Including Industrial Co-operatives) Commerce, Mining and Geology, Handlooms and Textiles, Khadi and Village Industries*; Mathew T. Thomas, *Road Transport, Motor Vehicles, Water Transport, Printing and Stationery*; Paloli Mohamed Kutty, *Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporations, Town Planning, Regional Development Authorities, Kerala Institute of Local Administration, Rural Development, Wakf & Haj Pilgrimage, Welfare of Minorities*; N.K. Premachandran, *Irrigation, Command Area Development Authority, Ground Water Development, Water Supply and Sanitation*; K.P. Rajendran, *Land Revenue, Land Reforms, Survey and Land Records, Legal Metrology*; Mullakkara Ratnakaran, *Agriculture, Soil Conservation, Soil Survey, Agricultural University Warehousing Corporation*; S. Sharma, *Fisheries, Harbour Engineering, Registration*; G. Sudhakaran, *Co-operation, Coir, Devaswoms*; M. Vijayakumar, *Law, Sports and Youth Affairs, Ports, Parliamentary Affairs, Post and Telegraph, Railways*; Dr. T.M. Thomas Issac, *Finance, National Savings, Stores Purchase, Commercial Taxes, Agricultural Income Tax, Treasuries, Lotteries, Local Fund Audit, Financial Enterprises, State Insurance, Stamps & Stamp Duties*; and Smt. P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, *Health, Family Welfare, Medical Education, Indigenous Medicine, Drugs Control, Pollution Control, Homoeopathy, Naturopathy, Social Welfare*.

## MADHYA PRADESH

*By-Election Result*: On 6 May 2006, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan of the BJP was declared elected from Budhni Assembly constituency, by-election for which was held on 3 May 2006.

## MEGHALAYA

*New Chief Minister*: On 15 June 2006, Shri J.D. Rymbai replaced

Shri D.D. Lapang as the Chief Minister. Along with him, Dr. Donkumar Roy and Shri Martle N. Mukhim were sworn in as the Cabinet Ministers.

*Expansion of Cabinet:* On 19 June 2006, Chief Minister Shri J.D. Rymbai inducted nine Ministers into his Council of Ministers.

The names of the members of the Council of Ministers with their portfolios is as follows: Shri J. Dringwel Rymbai, *Chief Minister, Cabinet Affairs, Industries, Personnel, Planning, Political, Programme Implementation and Taxation*; Dr. Donkumar Roy, *Deputy Chief Minister, Border Areas Development, Education (Higher and Technical), Election, Finance, Law, Power and Revenue*, Sarvashri Martle N. Mukhim, *Administrative Reforms, Forests and Environment, Secretariat Administration, Social Welfare, Soil and Water Conservation*; Paul Lyngdoh, *Home (Passport), Municipal Administration, Science and Technology, Sports and Youth Affairs, Urban Affairs*; Robert Garnett Lyngdoh, *Arts and Culture, Home (Police), Information Technology, Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism*; Prestone Tynsong, *District Council Affairs, Education (Elementary and Mass), General Administration, Mining and Geology, Public Health Engineering*; Shitlang Pale, *Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Irrigation and Public Works (Buildings)*; Brening A. Sangma, *Evaluation, Excise, Printing and Stationery, Public Works (Roads), Weights and Measures*; Elstone D. Marak, *Communication, Health and Family Welfare, Information and Public Relations, Labour, Sericulture and Weaving*; Manirul Islam Sarkar, *Agriculture, Horticulture, Reorganisation, Transport*; Sengran Sangma, *Cooperation, Fisheries, Home (Civil Defence and Home Guards), Home (Jails)*; and Smt. Irin Lyngdoh, *Community and Rural Development, Housing, Relief and Rehabilitation, Stamps and Registration*.

## ORISSA

*Resignation of Minister:* On 25 April 2006, Shri Kalandi Charan Behera, the Excise Minister, resigned from the Cabinet.

*Expansion of Cabinet:* On 17 May 2006, Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik dropped four of his Ministers, namely Dr. Damodar Rout, Panchayati Raj and Culture Minister, Shri Bijayshree Routray, Health and Family Welfare Minister; Shri Nagendra Pradhan, School and Mass Education Minister; and Shri Balabhadra Majhi, Tribal Welfare Minister.

The Chief Minister also inducted six new Ministers into the Council of Ministers. The new Ministers are: Sarvashri Chaitanya Prasad Majhi, *STs & SCs Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare*; Bishnu Charan Das, *School & Mass Education*; Raghunath Mohanty, *Panchayati*

*Raj; Debi Prasad Mishra, Excise; Sanjeeb Kumar Sahu, Science & Technology; and Duryodhan Majhi, Health and Family Welfare.*

### **PONDICHERRY\***

*Assembly Election Results:* Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held in two phases on 3 May and 8 May 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats: 30; INC: 10; Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam: 7; All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK): 3; Pudhucherry Munnetra Congress (PMC): 3; Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK): 2; Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK): 1; CPI: 1; and Independents: 3.

*New Chief Minister:* On 18 May 2006, Shri N. Rangasamy was sworn in as the Chief Minister. On 19 May 2006, the Chief Minister Shri N. Rangasamy inducted five Ministers into his Council of Ministers.

The names of the members of the Council of Ministers with their portfolios is as follows: Sarvashri N. Rangasamy, *Chief Minister, Confidential and Cabinet, General Administration, Home, Revenue and Excise, Public Works, Planning and Finance, Co-operation, Town & Country Planning including Planning Authorities, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment* and other Departments not allocated to any other Minister; V. Vaithilingam, *Industries, Electricity, Agriculture, Forest, Animal Husbandry and Economics & Statistics*; E. Valsaraj, *Health & Family Welfare Services, Labour & Employment, Law, Port and Housing*; M.O.H.F. Shajahan, *Education, Art & Culture, Transport, Information Technology and Fisheries*; Malladi Krishna Rao, *Tourism, Civil Aviation, Local Administration Department including Municipalities, Commune Panchayats/Village Panchayats and Comite-de-Bienfaisance, Community Development and District Rural Development Agency*; and P. Angalan, *Social Welfare, Adi-Dravidar Welfare, Women & Child Welfare, Urban Basic Services and Fire Services.*

### **PUNJAB**

*MLA's Election set aside:* On 28 April 2006, the Punjab and Haryana High Court set aside the election of Shri Gobind Singh Kanjhla, an Independent MLA from Sherpur (Reserved) constituency in Sangrur district for indulging in corrupt practices to win the election in the State Assembly polls in 2002.

Shri Gobind Singh Kanjhla's election to the Vidhan Sabha had been

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\* Since renamed as PUDUCHERRY w.e.f. 20.9.2006

challenged by the defeated Congress candidate Smt. Harchand Kaur who had alleged that the respondent resorted to corrupt practices including exercising his influence in getting a large number of his supporters' names into the voters' list. Shri Gobind Singh Kanjhla was also accused of assisting in securing the old age pension to a large number of such persons who were not eligible for the same. He had secured over 32,000 votes as against 19,000 of Congress candidate Smt. Harchand Kaur.

## RAJASTHAN

*By-Election Result:* On 11 May 2006, Maharani Divya Singh of the BJP was declared elected from Deeg Assembly constituency, by-election for which was held on 8 May 2006.

*Suspension of BJP MLA:* On 17 May 2006, the Bharatiya Janata Party suspended its party MLA Shri Gopal Lal Dhobi from primary membership of the party following a public outcry over his alleged attempt to grab community land worth crores of rupees in his Assembly constituency, Kekri, in Ajmer district.

*Death of former Speaker:* On 25 May 2006, former Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Speaker Shri Poonam Chand Vishnoi died in Jodhpur after a prolonged illness.

## TAMIL NADU

*Assembly Election Results:* Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 8 May 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats: 234; Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK): 96; All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK): 61; INC: 34; Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK): 18; CPI (M): 9; CPI: 6; Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK): 6; Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katch (VCK): 2; Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK): 1; and Independent: 1.

*New Government Sworn in:* On 13 May 2006, a 31-member DMK Government, headed by Shri M. Karunanidhi was sworn in.

The names of the members of the Council of Ministers with their portfolios is as follows: Sarvashri M. Karunanidhi, *Chief Minister, Public (Miscellaneous) Department, General Administration, Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, Other All India Services, Prevention of Corruption, District Revenue Officers, Home, Police, Industries, Information Technology, Mines and Minerals, Prohibition and Excise, Molasses, Minorities Welfare, Tamil Official Language and*

*Tamil Culture and Passports; K. Anbazhagan, Finance, Planning, Legislature and Elections; Arcot N. Veerasamy, Electricity, Non-Conventional Energy Development, Rural Industries including Cottage Industries, Small Scale Industries; M.K. Stalin, Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Panchayats and Panchayat Unions, Poverty Alleviation Programmes, Rural Indebtedness, Urban and Rural Water Supply; Ko. Si. Mani, Cooperation and Statistics; Veerapandi S. Arumugam, Agriculture, Agriculture Engineering, Agro Service Cooperatives, Horticulture, Sugarcane Cess and Sugarcane Development; Durai Murugan, Public Works, Irrigation including Minor Irrigation and Programme Works; P.T.R. Palanivel Rajan, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments; K.N. Nehru, Transport, Nationalised Transport, Motor Vehicles Act; M.R.K. Panneerselvam, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities, Overseas Indians, Refugees and Evacuees, Registration, Stamp Act; I. Periasami, Revenue, Revenue Establishment, Deputy Collectors. Law and Courts, Prisons, Legislation on Weights and Measures, Registration of Companies, Debt Relief including Legislation of Money Lending and Legislation on Chits; N. Suresh Rajan, Tourism and Tourism Development Corporation; Parithi Ilamvazhuthi, Information and Publicity, Film Technology and Cinematography Act, Stationery and Printing and Government Press, Urban Development, Town Planning and CMDA; E.V. Velu, Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Protection and Price Control; Suba Thangavelan, Housing, Housing Development and Rural Housing Development, Slum Clearance Board, Accommodation Control and Waste Land Development; K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare; T.M. Anbarasan, Labour, Census, Employment and Training, Iron and Steel Control, Newsprint Control and Urban Employment Schemes; K.R. Periakaruppan, Slum Clearance; N.K.K.P. Raja, Handlooms and Textiles; Thangam Thennarasu, School Education, Archaeology; S.N.M. Ubayadullah, Commercial Taxes; T.P.M. Mohideen Khan, Sports and Youth Welfare, Environment and Pollution Control and Wakfs; N. Selvaraj, Forests and Cinchona; M.P. Saminathan, Highways and Ports; K.P.P. Sami, Fisheries and Fisheries Development Corporation; U. Mathivanan, Milk and Dairy Development; K. Ramachandran, Khadi Board, Bhoodan and Gramdhan; Dr. K. Ponmudi, Higher Education including Technical Education, Electronics, Science and Technology and Ex-Servicemen Welfare; Dr. (Smt.) Poongothai, Social Welfare including Women's and Children's Welfare, Nutritious Noon Meal, Welfare of the Disabled, Orphanages and Correctional Administration, ICDS and Beggar Homes; Smt. Geetha Jeevan, Animal Husbandry; and Smt. Tamilarasi, Adi Dravidar Welfare, Hill Tribes, Bonded Labour.*

**Death of Minister:** On 20 May 2006, Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Shri P.T.R. Palanivel Rajan died following a massive heart attack at Dindigul.

**Re-appointment of Governor:** On 12 June 2006, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala was appointed as the Governor of Tamil Nadu for another five-year term.

## UTTAR PRADESH

**Disqualification of five MLAs:** On 10 June 2006, the Speaker, Shri Mata Prasad Pandey disqualified five rebel Bahujan Samaj Party MLAs who had returned to the party-fold in the wake of the Allahabad High Court (Lucknow Bench) judgment of 28 February 2006, under the anti-defection law. The five MLAs are: Sarvashri Surendra Vikram Singh, Jaiveer Singh, Ram Krishna, Dharampal Singh and Ramji Shukla. They were among the 40 MLAs belonging to the Bahujan Samaj Party who had formed the breakaway faction, Loktantrik Bahujan Dal on 26 August 2003, before merging with the Samajwadi Party when Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav became Chief Minister on 29 August 2003.

These five MLAs were the first elected representatives to be disqualified under the anti-defection law in Uttar Pradesh. In his verdict, the Speaker Shri Mata Prasad Pandey said that the MLAs constituted a group of five which was less than one-third of the members of the Loktantrik Bahujan Dal and less than two-thirds the strength of the Samajwadi Party in the State Legislative Assembly and since they did not fulfil the mandatory requirement no relief could be granted to them under Sections 3 and 4 of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution. "Hence they have ceased to be the members of the Vidhan Sabha under Section 2 (1) of the 10th Schedule."

## WEST BENGAL

**Assembly Election Results:** Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held in five phases on 17 April, 22 April, 27 April, 3 May and 8 May 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats: 294; CPI (M): 176; All India Trinamool Congress (AITC): 30; All India Forward Bloc: 23; INC: 21; Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP): 20; CPI: 8; West Bengal Socialist Party (WBSP): 4; Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF): 3; Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD): 1; Democratic Socialist Party (Prabodh Chandra) DSP (P): 1; Jharkhand Party (Naren) JKP (N): 1; and Independents: 6.

**New Government:** On 18 May 2006, a 44-member Ministry, with 33

Ministers of Cabinet rank, headed by Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, as the Chief Minister, was sworn in.

The names of the members of the Council of Ministers\* with their portfolios is as follows: Sarvashri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, *Chief Minister, Home, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Information & Cultural Affairs, Minorities Development and Welfare, Hill Affairs, Science & Technology and Development and Planning Department*; Abdur Razzak Molla, *Land & Land Reforms*; Ananta Roy, *Forests*; Anisur Rahaman, *Animal Resources*; Asim Kumar Dasgupta, *Excise and Finance*; Asok Bhattacharya, *Municipal Affairs and Urban Development, T&CA Department*; Biswanath Choudhury, *Women & Child Development and Social Welfare and Jails*; Chakradhar Maikap, *Technical Education*; Debesh Das, *Information Technology*; Gautam Deb, *Housing and Public Health Engineering*; Jogesh Chandra Burman, *Backward Classes Welfare*; Kanti Ganguly, *Sundarban Affairs*; Kiranmay Nanda, *Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Resource and Fishing Harbours*; Kshiti Goswami, *Public Works Department*; Manabendra Mukherjee, *Cottage and Small Scale Industries and Tourism*; Mohanta Chatterjee, *Food Processing Industries and Horticulture*; Mortaza Hossain, *Relief and Agricultural Marketing*; Mrinal Banerjee, *Labour and Power*; Nanda Gopal Bhattacharjee, *Minor Irrigation and Water Investigation & Development*; Naren Dey, *Agriculture and Consumer Affairs*; Nirupam Sen, *Commerce and Industries, Public Enterprises and Industrial Reconstruction*; Paresh Chandra Adhikary, *Food and Supplies*; Partha De, *School Education*; Pratim Chatterjee, *Fire Services*; Rabi Lal Moitra, *Law and Judicial*; Rabindra Ghosh, *Co-operation*; Sailen Sarkar, *Parliamentary Affairs and Environment*; Subhas Chakraborti, *Sports, Transport, Youth Services*; Subhas Naskar, *Irrigation and Waterways*; Sudarsan Raychaudhury, *Higher Education*; Suryakanta Mishra, *Health and Family Welfare, Panchayat & Rural Development and Bio-Tech and ESI Department*; Susanta Ghosh, *Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs*; and Smt. Rekha Goswami, *Self Help Group and Self Employment*.

The Ministers of States are: Sarvashri Abdus Sattar, *Minorities' Development & Welfare and Madrasa Education*; Anadi Kumar Sahu, *Labour*; Anwarul Haque, *Public Health and Engineering*; Bankim Chandra Ghosh, *Panchayat and Rural Development*; Binay Krishna Biswas, *Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation*; Manohar Tirkey, *Public Works*; Narayan Biswas, *Cottage and Small Scale Industries*; Srikumar Mukherjee, *Home (CD)*; Tapan Roy, *Mass Education*; Smt. Bilashibala Sahis, *Forests*; and Smt Deblina Hembram, *Backward Classes Welfare*.

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\* As on 13 December 2006

**EVENTS ABROAD****ALGERIA**

*New Prime Minister:* On 24 May 2006, Prime Minister Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia resigned from his post. The President Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika appointed Mr. Abdelaziz Belkhadem as the new Prime Minister.

**ARMENIA**

*Resignation of Speaker:* On 12 May 2006, the Speaker of the National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) Mr. Artur Bagdasaryan resigned from his post.

**CHAD**

*President Elected:* Mr. Idriss Deby was elected as the President of Chad, in the elections for the post held on 3 May 2006.

**COLOMBIA**

*President Elected:* Mr. Alvaro Uribe Velez was elected as the President of Colombia, in the elections for the post held on 28 May 2006.

**COMOROS**

*President Elected:* Mr. Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi was elected as the President of Comoros, in the elections for the post held on 14 May 2006.

**COSTA RICA**

*President Sworn in:* On 8 May 2006, Mr. Oscar Arias Sanchez was sworn in as the President of Costa Rica.

**CYPRUS**

*Election Results:* The elections to the 56-member House of Representatives (the Unicameral Legislature) was held on 21 May 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Progressive Party of the Working People: 18; Democratic Rally: 18; Democratic Party: 11; Socialist Party of Cyprus: 5; European Party: 3; and Green Party: 1.

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

*Election Results:* The elections to the 200-member Chamber of Deputies (Lower House of the Bicameral Legislature) were held on 2-3 June 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Civic Democratic Party: 81; Czech Social Democratic Party: 74; Communist



Party of Bohemia and Moravia: 26; Christian Democratic Union-Czech People's Party: 13; and Green Party: 6.

### **EAST TIMOR**

*Resignation of Prime Minister:* On 26 June 2006, the Prime Minister of East Timor, Mr. Mari Alkatiri resigned from his post.

### **FIJI**

*Election Results:* The elections to the 71-seat House of Representatives (Lower House of the Bicameral Legislature) were held on 6-13 May 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: United Fiji Party: 36; Fiji Labour Party: 31; United People's Party: 2; and Independents: 2.

### **HAITI**

*President Sworn in:* On 14 May 2006, Mr. Rene Preval was sworn in as the President of Haiti.

*New Prime Minister:* On 9 June 2006, Mr. Jacques Edouard Alexis was appointed the Prime Minister by the President Mr. Rene Preval.

### **ISRAEL**

*Prime Minister Sworn in:* On 11 April 2006, Mr. Ehud Olmert was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Israel. The new Government led by Mr. Ehud Olmert secured the approval of the *Knesset* (the Unicameral Legislature) on 4 May 2006.

### **ITALY**

*President Elected:* Mr. Giorgio Napolitano was elected as the President of Italy, in the elections for the post held on 10 May 2006.

### **LAOS**

*Election Results:* The elections to the 115-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 30 April 2006. The Lao People's Revolutionary Party secured 113 seats while the remaining two were won by Independents.

*New President and Prime Minister:* On 8 June 2006, the National Assembly elected Lt. Gen. Choummali Saygnasone and Mr. Bouason Boupphavan as the Country's President and the Prime Minister, respectively.

## NETHERLANDS

*Resignation of Government:* On 29 June 2006, the Government led by Prime Minister Mr. Jan Peter Balkenende resigned.

## PERU

*President Elected:* Mr. Alan Garcia Perez was elected as the President of Peru, in the elections held for the post on 4 June 2006.

## SAN MARINO

*Election Results:* The elections to the 60-member Grand and General Council (Unicameral Legislature) were held on 4 June 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Christian Democratic Party: 21; Party of Socialists and Democrats: 20; Popular Alliance: 7; United Left: 5; New Socialist Party: 3; We San Marinese: 1; San Marinese People: 1; San Marinese National Alliance: 1; and San Marinese for Freedom: 1.

## SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

*New Government:* On 21 April 2006, a new Government with the Prime Minister Mr. Tome Soares da Vera Cruz of the Democratic Movement Force for Change was sworn in.

## SINGAPORE

*Election Results:* The elections to the 84-seat Parliament (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 6 May 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: People's Action Party: 82; Workers' Party: 1; and Singapore Democratic Alliance: 1.

## SLOVAKIA

*Election Results:* The elections to the 150-seat National Council (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 17 June 2006. The party position following the elections is as follows: Direction-Social Democracy: 50; Slovak Democratic and Christian Union: 31; Slovak National Party: 20; Hungarian Coalition Party: 20; People's Party—Movement for a Democratic Slovakia: 15; and Christian Democratic Movement: 14.

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

*Prime Minister Elected:* On 4 May 2006, the National Parliament (the Unicameral Legislature) elected Mr. Manasseh Sogavare as the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands.

## DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

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Being a major centre for economic growth, the National Capital Territory of Delhi attracts a large number of people from across the country, which is estimated at about 5 lakh immigrants every year. This has resulted in a large growth in the demand for housing and commercial space. However, a number of factors such as restricted density norms, slow pace of acquisition and development of land, low supply of built up accommodation and commercial space and inadequate enforcement have resulted in creating a growing gap between the demand and supply of both shelter and commercial space.

All development in Delhi is governed by the Master Plan notified under the Delhi Development Act, 1957 and provisions of the Unified Building Bye Laws 1983. In order to provide for the needs of the increasing population of Delhi with a perspective of year 2021, the Master Plan of Delhi 2001 was taken up for extensive revision. With the approval of the Government, the draft Master Plan of Delhi 2021 was notified by the Delhi Development Authority on 16 March 2005. About 7,000 suggestions and objections are received from the public and other stakeholders and the same were under examination by a Board of Inquiry and Hearing. As the finalisation of the Master Plan might take some time, the Honourable Courts had issued directions for immediate action against unauthorised constructions and misuse of premises including demolition and sealing. Considering the extent and magnitude of the problem, a Committee of experts was constituted by the Union Government on 14 February 2006, to suggest a comprehensive strategy to deal with the issue. The recommendations of the Committee would be considered by the Government for policy options and strategy to deal with the matter.

The gap in the demand and supply of shelters had also given rise to a large number of unauthorised colonies on both public and private land as well as the growth of slums on public land. It was estimated that there were around 1,400 unauthorised colonies in Delhi and over 6 lakh families were living in slums and jhuggi-jhompri. The Government had earlier finalized the guidelines for regularization of unauthorized colonies existing as on 31 March 2002, under certain specific terms and conditions. Based on the representations received in this regard, further revision in the guidelines for regularization of unauthorised colonies is under the consideration of the Union Government.

As regards the slums and jhuggi-jhompri existing in Delhi, the Slum and JJ Wings of Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Delhi Development Authority had been relocating the eligible slum families by providing alternate plots under the current policy for relocation of slum dwellers. In view of the growing scarcity of land in Delhi and in order to counter alleged alienation and speculative transfer of such relocation plots, a revised policy for rehabilitation of slum dwellers in multi-storied tenements as well as through *in situ* regularisation,

was under consideration. In the meantime, various orders and directions were issued by the Honourable Courts for removal of slums, irrespective of the availability of land for their relocation. The agencies, however, found it difficult to implement directions of the Courts in a rigid time limit for removal of slums, within the framework of current policy due to non-availability of land. The removal of slum dwellers who were otherwise eligible for relocation under the policy required protection from their displacement pending finalisation of the revised policy.

There are also a large number of street vendors in different parts of Delhi. In pursuance of the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors, the Court had issued directions to the local bodies to frame specific scheme for street vendors. While the local bodies were formulating schemes in pursuance of the Court's directions, it had to be ensured that the schemes were realistic and took into consideration not only the concerns of hawkers and squatters but also the citizens' right on the public places. This process would also require some time for finalisation.

Since a large number of persons would be affected by the decisions relating to such unauthorised development, there was wide divergence of public opinion and views on the best way to deal with these issues. These had to be taken into account while finalising a comprehensive and balanced strategy, on each of these complex issues. This process would involve ground level survey, collection of requisite data, its analysis, consultation with the Group Housing Societies and Residents Welfare Associations by the local bodies. Professional expert organizations might also have to be involved to formulate a sustainable strategy. This would take some time.

Against this backdrop, it had become necessary to take all possible measures for the finalisation of the norms, policy guidelines and feasible strategies in respect of problems relating to the unauthorised development in respect of the mixed land use, construction beyond the sanctioned plans and encroachment by the slum dwellers, JJ dwellers, hawkers and street vendors in Delhi within a definite time frame. While this exercise had been taken up by the Government and its relevant agencies, it had become necessary to maintain *status quo* in respect of these categories of unauthorised development existing as on 1 January 2006. For this purpose, it was proposed to enact a law to enable the Government to take a balanced and well-considered view on policies involving such unauthorised development so that the development of Delhi took place in a sustainable and planned manner, and at the same time provided temporary relief to the persons residing or carrying out commercial activities or otherwise dependent upon such unauthorised development, till such time as the policy or strategy was finalised. The Government, therefore, considered it necessary and desirable to make a special law for this purpose for the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

In view of the above, it had become necessary in larger public interest to make special provisions providing *inter alia* for taking all measures to finalise norms, policy guidelines and strategies in respect of the aforesaid categories of unauthorised developments and for maintenance of *status quo* for one year to defer punitive action against such unauthorised development, in order to meet the aforesaid objects.

The Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2006 which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 12 and 15 May 2006, respectively. It was assented to by the President on 19 May 2006.

Sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005 provided that, save as otherwise provided, the provisions of the act shall come into effect on the date which the Central Government might appoint through a notification. Section 3 of the said act provided that the amendments to section 24 shall be deemed to have come into force retrospectively with effect from 18 December 1978. For remaining provisions, issue of the said notification bringing the act into force had been kept in abeyance because a number of representations from various lawyers' organizations, mainly from the State of Tamil Nadu, were received protesting against some of the provisions of the Act.

Different provisions of the act could not be brought into force on different dates in the absence of a specific provision to that effect. Considering the fact that the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005 contained several important provisions for streamlining and reforming the law of criminal procedure, it was felt that withholding implementation of the said act due to only a few controversial provisions was not proper. Accordingly, it had been decided to give effect to those provisions of the act which had not been objected to by a large section.

Therefore, sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005 was amended to empower the Central Government to notify different dates for implementation of various provisions of the said Act.

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Amending Bill, 2006 which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 16 May and 19 May 2006, respectively. It was assented to by the President on 2 June 2006.

Proviso to clause (1) of article 164 of the Constitution stipulates that there should be a Minister in charge of Tribal Welfare who might in addition be in charge of the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes or any other work in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.

The new States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand came into being with the enactment of the Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000 and the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000, with effect from 1 November 2000 and 15 November 2000, respectively. Consequent upon the creation of the State of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, a sizable portion of the Scheduled Areas of the erstwhile State of Madhya Pradesh stood transferred to Chhattisgarh and the entire Scheduled Areas of the former Bihar State stood transferred to the newly formed Jharkhand State and the Scheduled Areas were redefined as per the Scheduled Areas (States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh) Order, 2003. Further, as per census figures of 2001, the percentage of the Scheduled Tribes population to total population in the four States were as follows:—

| Name of the State   | Percentage of the Scheduled Tribes population to total |
|---------------------|--|
| (i) Bihar           | 0.9  |
| (ii) Jharkhand      | 26.3   |
| (iii) Chhattisgarh  | 31.8   |
| (iv) Madhya Pradesh | 20.3   |

As there were no Scheduled Areas in Bihar now and the fraction of population of the Scheduled Tribes was very small, it was proposed to exclude Bihar from the purview of the said proviso and also proposed to extend the provisions of clause (1) of article 164 to the newly formed States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

Originally introduced in the Lok Sabha as "The Constitution (One Hundred and Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2006", to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the Constitution (Ninety-fourth Amendment) Bill, 2006 was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 22 May 2006. It was assented to by the President on 12 June 2006. The Short Title of the Bill was changed by the Lok Sabha through an amendment to clause 1.

We reproduce here the texts of the above Acts.

—Editor

## THE DELHL LAWS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 2006

*An Act to make special provisions for the areas of Delhi for a period of one year and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.*

WHEREAS phenomenal increase in the population owing to migration has put tremendous pressure on land and infrastructure in Delhi resulting in developments which are not in consonance with the Master Plan of Delhi 2001 and the building bye-laws;

AND WHEREAS keeping in view the perspective for the year 2021 and emerging new dimensions in urban development, the Central Government has proposed extensive modifications in the Master Plan of Delhi, which have been published and suggestions and objections have been received in respect thereof from the public, and the finalisation of the Master Plan 2021 is likely to take some more time;

AND WHEREAS the Central Government has constituted a Committee of Experts to look into the various aspects of unauthorised construction and misuse of premises and suggest a comprehensive strategy to deal with them;

AND WHEREAS a revised policy for relocation and rehabilitation of slum dwellers in Delhi is also under consideration of the Central Government;

AND WHEREAS a strategy is proposed to be prepared by the local authorities in Delhi in accordance with the National Policy for Urban Street Vendors;

AND WHEREAS action for violation of the provisions of the Master Plan, 2001 and building bye-laws, before a final view is taken in the matter by the Government, is causing avoidable hardship and irreparable loss to a large number of people;

AND WHEREAS some time is required for making orderly arrangements in terms of the proposed Master Plan 2021;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to have a law to provide temporary relief to the people of Delhi against such action for a period of one year within which various policy issues referred to above are expected to be finalised;

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

1. *Short title, extent and duration:* (1) This Act may be called the Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006.

(2) It extends to Delhi.

(3) It shall cease to have effect on the expiry of one year from the date of its commencement, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such cesser, and upon such cesser section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, shall apply as if this Act had then been repealed by a Central Act.

2. *Definitions:* (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “building bye-laws” means bye-laws made under section 481 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 or the bye-laws made under section 188, sub-section (3) of section 189 and sub-section (1) of section 190 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, as in force in New Delhi or the regulations made under sub-section (1) of section 57 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957, relating to buildings;

(b) “Delhi” means the entire area of the National Capital Territory of Delhi except the Delhi Cantonment as defined in clause (11) of section 2 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957;

(c) “encroachment” means unauthorised occupation of Government

land or public land by way of putting temporary, semi-permanent or permanent structure for residential use or commercial use or any other use;

- (d) "local authority" means the Delhi Municipal Corporation established under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, or the New Delhi Municipal Council established under the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994 or the Delhi Development Authority established under the Delhi Development Act, 1957, legally entitled to exercise control in respect of the areas under their respective jurisdiction;
- (e) "Master Plan" means the Master Plan for Delhi 2001 notified under the Delhi Development Act, 1957;
- (f) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette;
- (g) "punitive action" means action taken by a local authority under the relevant law against unauthorised development and shall include demolition, sealing of premises and displacement of persons or their business establishment from their existing location, whether in pursuance of Court orders or otherwise;
- (h) "relevant law" means in case of—
  - (i) the Delhi Development Authority, the Delhi Development Act, 1957;
  - (ii) the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957; and
  - (iii) the New Delhi Municipal Council, the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994;
- (i) "unauthorised development" means use of land or use of building or construction of building carried out in contravention of the sanctioned plans or without obtaining the sanction of plans, or in contravention of the land use as permitted under the Master Plan or Zonal Plan or layout plan, as the case may be, and includes encroachment,

(2) The words and expressions used but not defined herein shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Delhi Development Act, 1957, the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 and the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994.

**3. Enforcement to be kept in abeyance:** (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any relevant law or any rules, regulations or bye-laws made thereunder, the Central Government shall within a period of one year of the coming into effect of this Act, take all possible measures to finalise norms, policy guidelines and feasible strategies to deal with the problem



of unauthorised development with regard to the under-mentioned categories, namely:—

- (a) mixed land use not conforming to the Master Plan;
- (b) construction beyond sanctioned plans; and
- (c) encroachment by slum and *Jhuggi-Jhompri* dwellers and hawkers and street vendors,

so that the development of Delhi takes place in a sustainable and planned manner.

(2) Subject to the provisions contained in sub-section (1) and notwithstanding any judgment, decree or order of any court, *status quo* as on the 1st day of January, 2006 shall be maintained in respect of the categories of unauthorised development mentioned in sub-section (1).

(3) All notices issued by any local authority for initiating action against the categories of unauthorised development referred to in sub-section (1), shall be deemed to have been suspended and no punitive action shall be taken during the said period of one year,

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this Act, the Central Government may, at any time before the expiry of one year, withdraw the exemption by notification in the Official Gazette in respect of one or more of the categories of unauthorised development mentioned in sub-section (2) or sub-section (3), as the case shall be.

**4. The provisions of this Act not to apply in certain cases:** During the period of operation of this Act, no relief shall be available under the provisions of section 3 in respect of the following categories of unauthorised development, namely:—

- (a) any construction unauthorisedly started or continued on or after the 1st day of January, 2006;
- (b) commencement of any commercial activity in residential areas in violation of the provisions of the Master Plan of Delhi 2001 on or after the 1st day of January, 2006;
- (c) encroachment on public land except in those cases which are covered under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 3;
- (d) removal of slums and *Jhuggi-Jhompri* dwellers and hawkers and street vendors, in accordance with the relevant policies approved by the Central Government for clearance of land required for specific public projects.

**5. Powers of Central Government to give directions:** The Central Government may, from time to time, issue such directions to the local

authorities as it may deem fit, for giving effect to the provisions of this Act and it shall be the duty of the local authorities, to comply with such directions.

### **THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) AMENDING ACT, 2006**

*An Act further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure  
(Amendment) Act, 2005.*

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

1. *Short title:* This Act may be called the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Amending Act, 2006.

2. *Amendment of section 1 of Act 25 of 2005.* In the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005, in section 1, in sub-section (2), after the words “by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint”, the words “; and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act” shall be inserted.

### **THE CONSTITUTION (NINETY FOURTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2006**

*An Act further to amend the Constitution of India.*

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

1. *Short title:* This Act may be called the Constitution (Ninety-fourth Amendment) Act, 2006.

2. *Amendment of article 164:* In article 164 of the Constitution, in clause (1), in the proviso, for the word “Bihar”, the words “Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand” shall be substituted.

## SESSIONAL REVIEW

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### FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA SEVENTH SESSION (PART II)

The First Part of the Seventh Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha commenced on 16 February 2006 and was adjourned *sine die* on 22 March 2006. In exercise of the powers conferred on him by rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the Speaker reconvened its sittings from 10 May 2006. The Second Part of the Session commenced from 10 May 2006 and adjourned *sine die* on 23 May 2006. The House was prorogued on 25 May 2006. In all, there were 10 sittings in the Second Part of the Seventh Session.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the Second Part of the Seventh Session, from 10 to 23 May 2006 is given below\*.

#### A. DISCUSSIONS / STATEMENTS

*Adjournment Motion regarding the failure of the Central Government to make adequate security arrangements to protect the lives of Indian citizens in the border areas as evident from the recent killing of 32 persons in Doda and Udhampur districts on 1 May 2006 and killing of two persons by grenade attack on a political dharna in Doda on 13 May 2006:* Initiating the discussion on the Adjournment Motion in the House on 15 May 2006, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani (BJP) said that terrorist incidents had been witnessed in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country time and again over a period of time. But these two incidents that took place in Udhampur and Doda districts were of different category, having a more sinister design to throw out the minorities. The problem of terrorism, he said, could not be tackled in piecemeal. There had to be an approach and there had to be an evidence to the people concerned that the

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\* For resume of some of the important discussions, etc. held during the First Part of the Seventh Session, i.e. from 16 February to 22 March 2006; see the *Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol.LII, No.2, June 2006, pp.248-275

Government would not compromise on the issue of terrorism. He urged the Government to understand that these two incidents were ominous pointer to the designs of the terrorists who had undertaken them. He, therefore, pleaded with the Parliament to stand firm by the Resolution passed by the Parliament which said that the Jammu and Kashmir State as it was comprised in 1947 was an integral part of India and also requested the Government not to consider the issue of demilitarization of Jammu and Kashmir. Referring to the policy of the Vajpayee Government in respect of Pakistan, he said that it essentially had two prongs. The first prong was to make serious effort to bring about normalcy of relations between India and Pakistan and to start a composite dialogue on all issues between the two countries. The second prong was that, even while attempting the first prong of normalcy, the Government never compromised on the issue of cross-border terrorism.

Participating in the discussion\*, Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi said that on the issue of terrorism and cross-border terrorism, the nation stood united. The Government was firmly committed not to compromise an inch of the valley in the hands of the terrorists and to defend the integrity of the country and the unity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, till the last drop of blood.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJD) condemned the incidents and urged the Government to declare Doda and the nearby places in Jammu and Kashmir as disturbed areas and to follow the policy adopted by the Government for the minorities in other parts of India in Jammu and Kashmir also.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta (CPI) demanded that Pakistan should be taken to task for not closing down various terrorist camps on its soil. He stated that the entire country stood against terrorism and infiltration and was committed to protect the Hindus, whether in Kashmir or any other part of India. There would be no compromise on the issue of terrorism. In such a situation, he wondered as to why the Adjournment Motion should have been moved.

Shri Ramdas Athawale (RPI-A) condemned the incident and stated that it was the duty of the Government to protect the people and also

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\* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Mohan Singh, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Ilyas Azmi, Madan Lal Sharma, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Subrata Bose, Mohammad Salim, Prof. V.K. Malhotra and Smt. Sumitra Mahajan

to establish peace in Jammu and Kashmir. He also appreciated the present Government for taking the peace process forward which was started by the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Intervening in the discussion, Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil requested all the parties on the floor of the House to try their best to ensure that these kinds of situations do not take place in future. Regarding steps taken by the Government to help the people who suffered, the Minister said that the injured persons were lifted from Khulak and brought to Jammu and given free treatment. He informed the House about the formation of Village Defence Committees and that rifles had been distributed among the Village Defence Committee members after giving them on-the-spot training. Further, he said that special recruitment drive of youths was being undertaken by the Jammu and Kashmir police, CRPF and SSP and approximately 10,000 young men would be recruited in the armed police.

The Minister said that *ex-gratia* compensation of Rs.5,000 in cash and a cheque of Rs.95,000 had been paid to the next of the kin of the deceased at their respective residences. Regarding withdrawal of forces, he said that the Government was not going to take any decision which was not in the interest of the country.

Replying to the discussion, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani said that in the present situation, Jammu and Kashmir had not yet arrived at that stage where pulling the troops out would be desirable. He desired Pakistan's territory should not be used for cross-border terrorism and also the infrastructure for terrorism set up across the border should also be dismantled. He said that this was something which the Government must keep pressing on and also that Pakistan should know that the peace process could not go on endlessly while it continued with this kind of terrorist activities. Regarding constitution of the Village Defence Committees, he said that the steps that had been taken so far had not been reassuring as yet. As such, he felt that a lot more needed to be done and specific issues needed to be dealt with in order to combat the terrorist activities.

At the end, the motion was negatived.

*Discussion under rule 193 regarding suicide by farmers in various parts of the country:* A discussion in this regard took place in the House on 16, 17 and 22 May 2006. Initiating the discussion on 16 May 2006, Shri Ramji Lal Suman of the Samajwadi Party said that the Government had not taken any concrete step or made sincere efforts to improve the

condition of the farmers in the country. He opined that long term schemes should have been formulated by the Government to check the suicides being committed by the farmers. A mechanism had to be evolved to make the farmers debt-free. He suggested that there should not be any limit on the loan amount taken by the farmers and the rate of interest should be uniform, irrespective of the loan amount.

Continuing his speech on 17 May 2006, he said that the production costs of agricultural products had doubled in the last two years and prices of seeds, fertilizers and irrigation had increased drastically. He suggested that India should put forth a view before the WTO that the billion-dollar subsidy that was being provided by the developed countries to their farmers should be stopped at once. It was a very sorry state of affairs that Indian farmers were being pushed to compete with global market on unequal terms. Farmers of the country were under stress and some steps in this direction were necessary so that they were not compelled to commit suicide, he concluded.

Participating in the discussion\*, Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) said that it was the duty of the Government to come out with a White Paper on suicides committed by the farmers. One of the reasons for committing suicides by the farmers was that there was always a gap between the cost of production and the prices they got. He suggested that the Government should evolve a package of measures based on scientific study of the phenomenon of suicide committed by the farmers.

Replying to the discussion on 22 May 2006, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Pawar said that the problem of suicide committed by the farmers was taking a serious turn day-by-day. The Home Ministry had been keeping a record of suicides committed by the farmers separately since 1995. Out of the total suicides, 15 to 16 per cent had been committed by the farmers in the country. The Minister said that some expert committees were appointed for a detailed inquiry. In all the reports, the common and foremost reason was found to be the natural calamities causing high indebtedness and failure of the crops. The other reasons were uncertainty of monsoon; non-availability of the term-loan;

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\* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Kishan Singh Sangwan, Adhir Chowdhury, Hannan Mollah, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Mitrasen Yadav, Mohan Rawale, Prasanna Acharya, Prabodh Panda, Dharmendra Pradhan, Jai Prakash, M. Shivanna, Avinash Rai Khanna, Munshiram, Haribhau Rathod, Sankhlal Manjhi, Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala, Dr. M. Jagannath, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam, Smt. P. Jaya Prada Nahata and Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran

high rate of interest; high rate of interest charged by the private money-lenders; diversion of loan for marriage, sickness, education, etc; single crop farming; no supplementary income other than agriculture; and too much pressure on land because of the growing population. After coming to power, he said that the present Government proposed to take the first step as to how the farmer could be given agriculture credit. During the first year, 1,25,309 farmers were given crop loan. In the second year, as against the target fixed to provide crop loan to 1,41,000 farmers, 1,57,479 were given crop loan. Earlier, the farmers were not given crop loan at such a large scale.

The Minister said that the cooperative movement in the whole country was facing a crisis. He assured that the Government would make all the efforts to bring out the cooperative societies out of the crisis so that the farmers might get credit easily. The diversion of credit was one of the reasons for committing suicides by the farmers. There was a need to introduce a new system in the country to provide investment credit and consumer credit to the farmers on the line of agriculture credit. He said that diversification was highly required in the agriculture sector and accordingly to change this set up, a horticulture mission was set up and Rs.1,000 crore had already been allocated this year for the purpose and the Government had decided to sanction more money to the States which were in higher need of horticulture. A machinery had also been set up to fix the minimum support price. It would be announced prior to the sowing operation and the farmers would know as to what minimum price they would be getting, prior to sowing. He informed that in the current year procurement had gone up to the level of Rs.3,600 crore.

The Minister said that, today, the country required about 140 million tonne of total foodgrains. The Government would build up stock so that this problem of shortage might be resolved. Thus, the Government decided to import 3.5 million tonnes of foodgrains initially. He said that the Government could not ignore its responsibility to provide food to the poor through the Public Distribution System (PDS). To strengthen the PDS and to solve the food problem of the poor people, he said that the Government would make its buffer stock better. As the Minister of Food, he said that it was his responsibility to protect the interest of the consumers and provide sufficient food and keep sufficient buffer stock through which the nation could face any eventuality tomorrow. For that, the Government had to take the decision of importing wheat. He also said that the Government had made arrangements for procurement of coarse grain from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka so that the buffer stock could be improved. He

urged the States to pay attention towards the agriculture sector and assured that the Union Government would extend full cooperation to them in this regard.

*Discussion under rule 193 regarding situation arising out of communal violence in different parts of the country:* Initiating the discussion on the subject on 18 May 2006, Shri Basudeb Acharia of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said that the communal violence that took place on 1 May 2006 at Vadodara had its background in the gruesome State-sponsored genocide that took place in the State of Gujarat in the year 2002 where more than 1,000 people were killed, some were burnt alive, thousands of houses were gutted and hundreds of children became orphans. He said that such incidents took place in order to divide the people, to polarize the people, consolidate the vote bank in the State Assembly Elections in Gujarat, in favour of the ruling party there. There was also the incident of Best Bakery case, where 14 workers of that bakery belonging to the minority community were burnt alive. There was a demand to shift all the cases from the State of Gujarat since it was felt that the people would not get justice there, as the entire Administration and the police force were involved. Further, referring to the genocide of 2002, he said that during that period hundreds of religious places were demolished and dismantled. The Mazaar of Bali Gujarati was demolished and some people were arrested under POTA, which was imposed not against those persons who were responsible for the genocide but it was imposed on those who were involved in the Godhra Fire incident of Sabarmati Express. All members then were opposed to the enactment of POTA. Later, the POTA Review Committee was formed, which also recommended that 90 per cent of the cases were not justified in detaining the persons. The Communal Violence Bill had been introduced. It had been referred to the Standing Committee. It was being scrutinized. He demanded that to honour the sentiments of the minorities, the Muslim brothers, the *Dargah* should be protected and that place should not be allowed to be desecrated by anybody. He urged upon the Government to think seriously. He pointed out that in the last Lok Sabha election the mandate of the people was against the communal forces and wanted that that mandate should be respected and honoured.

Participating in the discussion\*, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta (CPI) said that the political leadership of Gujarat had not taken any lesson from

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\* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Harin Pathak, Madhusudan Mistry, Kishan Lal Diler, J.M. Aaron Rashid, Ramji Lal Suman, Ram Kripal Yadav, Ilyas Azmi, Bhartruhari Mahtab, M. Shivanna, Thupstan Chhewang, P.S. Gadhave, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Ch. Bijendra Singh, Prof. K.M. Kader Mohideen and Smt. Jayaben B. Thakkar



the Godhra incident. If they had acted in a judicious way, with a sense of responsibility, the communal violence in Vadodara would not have taken place. He said that something was fundamentally wrong with the dominant political leadership of Gujarat, with the administration as well as with the police of Gujarat. Expressing anguish over such incidents, he said that the country had been paying heavily on account of communalism, whose roots were extremely deep.

Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa (SAD) said that the need of the hour was that all political parties should collectively think over how to stop the communal riots. If the communal riots were to be completely stopped, he said that there was a need for all to work unitedly rising above party politics. If the objective of the debate was only to rake up old controversies, then there was no point in carrying on with such a debate, he added.

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete (Shiv Sena) said that it was illiteracy which was mainly responsible for driving the youth on the wrong path. He, however, expressed his anguish over the fact that instead of giving importance to the biggest threat which the country was facing from the neighbouring country, members were discussing more about Gujarat. He further said that the development work that had been carried out in Gujarat had never been applauded and no problem could possibly be solved by giving it a political colour, he added.

Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) expressed the view that there was no point in blaming one section of the society or the other for the communal violence. He suggested that the greatest remedy for abating communal violence was to promote growth in the country and to distribute the benefits of development and growth equally to every section of the society.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) was of the view that some of the States were not taking much interest in controlling incidents of communal violence. He urged the Government of India to take a holistic view and give more powers to stabilize, strengthen, educate and train the States in order to control such situations arising out of riot and communal violence.

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) pointed out that, under the Central Wakf Act of 1995, all Muslim places of worship, mosques, *dargahs* and graveyards were protected. He wondered as to how any Government could go and eliminate a wakf property. He said that unless and until the lives and liberty of the minorities were safeguarded, the country could not progress and urged the Government to take corrective action.

Shri Ramdas Athawale (RPI-A) said that communal riots had been discussed times and again in the House but to no avail. He demanded that Rs.5 lakh compensation should be paid to the next of the kin of those killed and Rs.1 lakh to the injured. Communal harmony and peace, he said, would be established in the country only when enmity gives way to friendship.

Replying to the discussion, Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil said that some very good points had been made by the members. The correct approach, he said, should be to find out what was the communal situation in the country and why communal harmony was ~~disturbed~~ and what could be done to control the incidents of communal violence in the ~~country~~. In the communal violence in Vadodara on 1 May 2006, the Minister informed ~~that~~ 6 persons were killed, 51 were injured, 53 offences were registered and 1,192 ~~arrests were~~ made. While these incidents were taking place, the State Government and the Union Government were in constant touch with each other. When the State Government demanded assistance for some companies of the Rapid Action Force, para-military forces and military assistance, the Government instantaneously agreed to it and gave that assistance. The Minister also said that the Municipal Corporation of Vadodara should have conducted itself a little differently. If they had waited for some time, probably the situation could have been avoided. What was required of the State Government or the Union Government was to anticipate what could happen in a particular situation and be ready to tackle that. At the local level too, anticipating the situation and taking right action in time was very much necessary.

The Home Minister said that it was true that at different places in the country, communal disturbances had occurred. However, the number of communal incidents, the number of killings and the number of injured persons had come down. He requested the members to avoid making statements which could incite communal violence and to remain vigilant all the time. He said that people in India were peace loving and they wanted tranquility in the society. He warned that there were some people who wanted to create problems and destabilise the unity of the country. There were forces from across the border also which were trying to create problems. There should be a mechanism available to the Governments at the national, State, district and local levels to take rapid and timely action against these things. The Government, he informed, would expand the para-military forces at the national level and give them better equipments and training; communication, transport and welfare facilities; pay and salary and also strengthen them. Funds were

given to the State Governments for expansion and modernization of their police and for providing vehicles, transport and training facilities. He wanted that these funds should be utilised.

The Minister further stated that the Government was bringing a law to control communal violence in the country. The Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha had been referred to the Standing Committee. It provided as to how investigations could be done in a proper manner; how cases could be decided without any delay in the courts, and how the officers who were given the responsibility to control the situation would be held accountable if they did not perform their duties. Most importantly, he said that the Bill provided for the protection of the witnesses. It was going to be a path-breaking Bill since the underlying principle of the Bill made the society responsible to see that there was no communal violence, he concluded.

*Discussion under rule 193 regarding rise in prices of essential commodities:* A discussion in this regard took place in the House on 22 and 23 May 2006. Initiating the discussion on 22 May 2006, Shri Basudeb Acharia of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said that during the tenure of the UPA Government there was a disturbing trend in the price situation. There had been a steady increase in the prices of essential commodities. The rise in the case of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) was 5.5 per cent in the year 2004-2005 and the same had now increased to 28.5 per cent. Also, not only the price of foodgrains, but the prices of pulses and edible oils had also increased. There had been an increase in expenditure in the case of education and health. But there had not been any increase in the real earning of the workers and the people. The Public Distribution System (PDS) was also in doldrums. He wanted that there should be universalisation of the PDS but the Government, on the contrary, was trying to restrict it to persons living below the poverty line.

Shri Acharia said that the price of the petroleum products had increased twice during the last one year. The argument of the Government was that the international price of the petroleum products was steadily increasing. Whenever there was an increase in the price of the petroleum products, there had been a cascading effect on the other commodities. He wanted to know as to why the Government could not restructure the duties on the cess? It was being levied on *ad valorem* basis, which meant that whenever there was an increase in the international price of the crude oil, there was an increase in the collection of cess, duties and custom duties. Once the price was increased or even if there was a deceleration in the price of the crude,

that always did not pass on to the consumer. That was the problem and he, therefore, suggested that it required restructure of the tax system. He also said that a suggestion was also made by the C. Rangarajan Committee in this regard. Stating that a price stabilisation fund might be set up for this, the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas had also recommended it. However, the Action Taken Report on that Standing Committee's report stated that the Ministry of Finance had not agreed to the proposal.

Referring to kerosene and LPG, Shri Acharia said that during the last two or three years, subsidy on the kerosene and the LPG had been reduced by Rs.8,000 crore. As such, the Government had to spend less on providing subsidy on LPG and kerosene. Thus, the Government got benefited both ways, but the common man of the country was being over-burdened. Instead of strengthening the Public Distribution System, he said that the Government had tried to weaken it. The poorer section of the people need succour as well as the essential commodities. Therefore, he urged that all the pro-people programmes which are there in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) should be implemented sincerely.

Participating in the discussion\*, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJD) said that price index of the essential commodities was reflection of the Government's performance in fiscal management. In its election Manifesto, the Congress had assured the country that they would keep the prices stable. However, prices of the essential commodities were soaring up in the country. He suggested that the Government should carefully monitor the price levels of all the essential commodities and undertake measures as required to contain the same.

Replying to the discussion on 23 May 2006, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that in 2001-2002, Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation was as high as 7.1 per cent. Last year, the WPI inflation was contained to below five per cent. In the current year so far, WPI inflation was contained to below four per cent. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was also contained to less than five per cent. All these had been possible because of the number of steps that had been taken by the Government. Gross investment in agriculture had improved. The Government, whenever it was necessary, had not hesitated to import to augment availability of stock. It had followed a dynamic policy. The

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\* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Avinash Rai Khanna, Lakshman Singh, K.S. Rao, Ramji Lal Suman, Ram Kripal Yadav, Mitrasen Yadav, C.K. Chandrappan, Bachi Singh Rawat, Anant Gudhe and Smt. Karuna Shukla

Government's concern was that there must be economic growth. Some inflation which was inevitable required to be contained. In the area of essential commodities, he said that it would be the endeavour of the Government to use every power in its hands to ensure that goods were not only available, but that they were also available at reasonable prices. He requested the State Governments to cooperate by ensuring that the supply channels were not choked. The Government had maintained high growth and low inflation. It would take every step possible to maintain the prices of the essential commodities, he added.

## B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006\**: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House on 16 May 2006, Minister of Law and Justice, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj said that the expression 'office of profit' had not been defined in the Constitution or in any other Act not because it was impossible to define it but because it was not easy to frame an all-inclusive definition covering all kinds of posts which existed under the Government and which might hereafter be created. The main provision in the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 was contained in clauses (a) to (h) of section 3 which listed broadly 14 different categories of offices, the holding of which could not disqualify the holders thereof, or being chosen as and for being a member of Parliament. Recently, the issue was re-visited on account of disqualification of members of Parliament on the basis of holding an office of profit. It was brought to the notice of the Government that over 40 members, from both the Houses, were being affected by such cases of disqualification. With a view to including certain offices in the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, it was proposed to enact this legislation, so as to exempt the holders of such offices from incurring disqualification. The Bill included those offices which firstly were in any statutory or non-statutory bodies specified in the table and secondly, the Office of the Chairperson or Trustee of any Trust, by whatever name called, whether public or private, were exempted. The office of the Chairman, the President, the Vice-President or the Principal-Secretary or the Secretary of the Governing Body of any society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 had also been included. The Bill would thus enable the office-bearers to contribute for the promotion of literature, science or arts and make use of their useful knowledge for charitable

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\* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 16 May 2006

purposes in such institutions, all of which were aimed at securing and achieving public welfare. He then commended the Bill for the consideration of the House.

Participating in the discussion\*, Shri Basudeb Acharia (CPI-M) said that the Bill would not serve the purpose for which it had been brought because the problem would recur in future also. In order to have a clear definition with regard to the Office of Profit, he suggested that a sub-committee be constituted because the Constitution of India had not defined which organisation or which body would be treated as Office of Profit. The recommendation of that Committee should be taken up for consideration and implementation.

Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa (SAD) said that the Constitution of India clearly mentioned that except Ministers, no legislator would hold any Office of Profit. As such there would be no sanctity of the Constitution if members resort to enacting the laws and later on, could not maintain the sanctity of the acts as passed by the Parliament. He, therefore, requested that the Bill in question might not be passed, instead a Committee should be constituted to look into it.

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete (Shiv Sena) said that the law passed by the members of the House was being breached and infringed by themselves. It was the responsibility of the Government to come out with the names of the members who stood to benefit by the passage of the Bill. However, the Government was not willing to expose the names of those 45 members, rather they were being shielded. Hence, on the ground of morality and principles, he said that his party was opposed to the Bill.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJD) said that any further amendment or legislation to exempt a large number of offices of profit would make article 102 and 191 redundant. Article 102 had already been virtually neutralized by providing for legislative exemption in the article itself. Now, it was only to be expected that more and more posts would get exempted. He suggested that no MP or MLA should occupy any office other than those created by the House.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) said that the present step was a hasty

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\* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo, Mohan Singh, Sitaram Singh, Brajesh Pathak, Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, Kharabela Swain, K.S. Rao, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Bikram Keshari Deo and Smt. Maneka Gandhi

one and suggested that a comprehensive law was required. He suggested that the Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee.

Shri Prabhunath Singh (JD-U) expressed the view that if the Government wanted to deprive the members from offices of profit, it should frame a law to the effect that till such time someone was a member, he/she would not do any private or Government job, or argue in the Supreme Court, practice as a physician or execute a contract job.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Law and Justice, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj said that this was a very small Bill with only five sections in it. Section 3 was the most relevant one, which said that whenever any member of Parliament or an eminent person was appointed to an office of profit, he or she had to be exempted under this law. This was an exercise for public good and the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act was meant for this purpose. Article 102 said that all offices of profit could be exempted by the Parliament. Parliament had this competence. He said that he was duty-bound to bring the law before the House to protect all the members across the board. The Minister said that under this law, all trusts whether public or private were exempted. So, members of Parliament should not bother if they were holding any position in any Trust, be it public or private. Similarly, the Bill exempted all the Government bodies and members of societies registered under the Society Act. These were the two major things that had been proposed and a large number of members of Parliament, who were doing some kind of public service, would benefit from these provisions in the legislation. The Government was bringing forward the Bill only to protect the interest of the members of the House who otherwise would be disqualified by the Election Commission.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

*The Constitution (One Hundred and Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2006\**: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House on 17 May 2006, Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil said that the proviso to article 164(1) of the Constitution of India made it mandatory for the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa to have a Minister-in-charge of tribal welfare, who might in addition to his existing portfolio be in charge of the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the backward classes or any other work. The Constitution, however, did not debar the

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\* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 1 March 2006

States, other than the three States mentioned in the State proviso to have such Ministers-in-charge of tribal welfare. The new States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand came into being w.e.f. 1 November 2000 and 15 November 2000 respectively, consequent upon the enactment of the Madhya Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2000 and the Bihar Reorganization Act, 2000, respectively. Consequent upon the creation of these two new States, a sizeable portion of the Scheduled Areas of the erstwhile State of Madhya Pradesh stood transferred to Chhattisgarh and the entire Scheduled Areas of the former Bihar State stood transferred to the newly formed Jharkhand State. The Scheduled Areas (States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh) Order, 2003 specified the Scheduled Areas in respect of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. As per census figures of 2001, the percentage of the Scheduled Tribes population to the total population in Bihar was only 0.9; while in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh the percentages of the tribal population to the total population were 26.3, 31.8 and 20.3, respectively.

As there were no Scheduled Areas in Bihar now and the fraction of population of the Scheduled Tribes was very small, it was sought to exclude Bihar from the purview of the proviso to article 164(1) and to extend the same provisions to the newly formed States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

Replying to the discussion\* on 22 May 2006, Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil said that the Bill sought to make certain provisions mandatory on the States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and continue to have that mandatory provision with respect to Madhya Pradesh and delete Bihar from that mandatory provision. Article 164(1) of the Constitution provided that Bihar and Madhya Pradesh should have a Tribal Minister and this provision had been made mandatory. By moving this amendment and amending the Constitution, Bihar would not be bound by this mandatory provision of the Constitution. With this amendment, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh would be required to have a Tribal Minister in their Governments, and Madhya Pradesh would continue with the existing provision.

The Bill was passed.

*The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2005\*\**: Moving the

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\* Those who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Giridhar Gamang, Tathagata Satpathy and Bikram Keshari Deo

\*\* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13 May 2005



motion for consideration of the Bill in the House on 17 May 2006, Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2005 was introduced to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The Bill, *inter alia*, sought to define the expressions, 'derivative', 'repo' and 'reverse repo', empower RBI to deal in derivatives, to lend or borrow securities and to undertake repo or reverse repo; remove the lower floor and upper ceiling of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and to provide flexibility to RBI to specify CRR; remove ambiguity regarding the legal validity of derivatives; empower RBI to lay down policy and issue direction to any agency dealing in various kinds of contracts in respect of Government securities, money-market instruments, derivatives, etc. and to inspect such agencies. This Bill was referred to the Standing Committee of the Lok Sabha on Finance. The Committee had since presented its report on 1 December 2005. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the Government proposed to amend the definitions of the expressions 'Repo' and 'Reverse Repo'.

Replying to the discussion\*, Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram thanked the members for the generous support they had extended to the Bill. He said that the Indian economy today was larger than what it was a few years ago. It was, therefore, important that the RBI had adequate powers. The Government took note of developments in the financial sector which might have been strange or unanticipated when the RBI Act was passed. The banking system financed about 35 per cent of the GDP. It was growing and it would grow at a very fast rate to keep pace with the growth of the economy. The Government needed regulators with adequate powers and with a considerable degree of autonomy to act quickly. The RBI was one such regulator. In India, there were RBI, SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) and the insurance regulator. There was a High-Level Committee consisting of the Governor, RBI; the Chairman, SEBI; the Chairman, IRDA (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority); and the Secretary, Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance which met periodically, exchanged information and coordinated policy making. With the powers that the Bill was giving to the RBI, he said that the RBI would be armed with greater authority and autonomy to deal effectively with the subjects that had been given to it under the RBI Act.

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\* Those who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Vijayendra Pal Singh, B. Mahtab and Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

### C. QUESTION HOUR

During the First and Second Parts of the Seventh Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, 19 and 10 Sittings respectively were fixed for Question Hour. In all, 28,114 Notices of Questions were received. Out of these, 20,795 were Starred, 7,304 Unstarred and 15 Short Notice Questions. Out of these, 560 Notices were admitted as Starred, 4,933 as Unstarred and none was admitted as a Short Notice Question.

On the first day of the Session *i.e.*, 16 February 2006, the President addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled in the Central Hall. As usual, there was no Question Hour on that day. No Question Hour was fixed for 28 February 2006, the day of the presentation of the General Budget. As per decision taken in the meeting of the Speaker, Lok Sabha with the Leaders of Parties in Lok Sabha held on 8 March 2006, the First Part of the Session was rescheduled. Accordingly, the sitting of the Lok Sabha fixed for 16 March 2006 was cancelled. Since the list of Questions for the same were not printed and circulated, the notices of questions for that day were treated as lapsed. Also, Sittings of Lok Sabha were fixed on 11, 18 (both Saturdays), 20, 21 and 22 March 2006. There were no Question Hour on those days.

Due to interruptions in the House on 23 February, 2 and 8 March, 11, 22 and 23 May 2006, Starred Questions were not called for oral answers. Replies to the Starred Questions listed for those days were treated as Unstarred and their answers together with the answers to Unstarred Questions were printed in the official report for those days.

As the House adjourned for the day after the obituary references on 10 May 2006, Starred Questions were not called for oral answer. Replies to Starred Questions listed for the day were, therefore, treated as Unstarred and their answers together with the answers to the Unstarred Questions were printed in the official report for the day.

*Daily Average of Questions in the List of Questions:* The average number of Starred Questions answered orally in the House during

the Session was 2.93. On 6 March 2006, seven Starred Questions, maximum number on a day during the Session, were answered orally.

The average number of questions appearing in the Unstarred List came to 170 per day against the prescribed limit of 230, the minimum being 95 questions on 17 February 2006.

*Half-an-Hour Discussion:* In all, 11 notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received during the Session. Out of these, only 1 notice was admitted and discussed on the floor of the House.

#### **D. OBITUARY REFERENCES**

During the period, obituary references were made on the passing away of his Highness, Sheikh Jabar Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait; Sarvashri Mahboob Zahedi and A.B.A. Ghani Khan Chowdhury both sitting members; Sarvashri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, K.S. Chavda, S.A. Agadi, Dronam Raju Satyanarayana, Janardan Jagannath Shinkre, Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, Bansi Lal, B.R. Kavade, Pramod Mahajan, Shyam Sunder Mohapatra, Rambahadur Singh and Prof. Shailendra Nath Shrivastava, all former members.

Besides, references were also made to the loss of several lives in the serial bomb blasts in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on 7 March 2006; to the killing of Shri K. Suryanarayan, an Indian Engineer by his abductors on 29 April 2006 in Afghanistan; to the devastating fire at a consumers Goods Fair, Victoria Park, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh on 10 April 2006, causing loss of several lives; to the killing of several persons in a brutal terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir on 30 April 2006; to the loss of several lives in two bus accidents at Thane, Maharashtra and Rampur, Uttar Pradesh on 2 May 2006; and to the terrorist attack on a rally at Sher-e-Kashmir Park in Srinagar on 21 May 2006, resulting in the loss of several lives.

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

**RAJYA SABHA****TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTH SESSION\***

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its Two Hundred and Seventh Session on 16 February 2006, was adjourned on 22 March 2006 to enable the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments assigned to them and report back to the House. The House reconvened on 10 May 2006 and was adjourned *sine die* on 23 May 2006. The Rajya Sabha was then prorogued by the President on 25 May 2006.

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 his Address to Members of Parliament:* On 16 February 2006, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressed the members of both Houses of Parliament together in the Central Hall of Parliament. The Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address was moved by Dr. Karan Singh of the Indian National Congress on 20 February 2006. The Motion was seconded by Shri Raashid Alvi of the Indian National Congress. The discussion took place on 20, 21 and 22 February 2006.

Moving the Motion, Dr. Karan Singh said that the President's Address reflected the remarkable initiatives based upon the Congress Manifesto, 2004 and the National Common Minimum Programme, 2004. It laid down goals and programmes to achieve them. The goals were: growth with equity, poverty alleviation and ultimately elimination, national regeneration and international recognition. He appreciated the Government's dual approach—increase in economic growth along with efforts to alleviate poverty through the five pillars of development, *viz.* the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; the *Bharat Nirman*; the Rural Health Mission; the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission; and the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. Adding infrastructure development to the five pillars of development, he urged upon the Government to improve airport infrastructure and wherever necessary to get international collaboration and expertise to build world class airports.

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\* Contributed by the Research and Library Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

Concluding, Dr. Karan Singh said that the Address mentioned that an Environment Policy was on the anvil. He welcomed the setting up of a Tiger Conservation Authority. He also urged for a special programme for the de-pollution of the Ganga and the Yamuna. Mentioning the Government's position regarding foreign policy, he stated that the Government was trying to strengthen India's relationship with the East and reiterated that the concept of a uni-polar world was not acceptable to India.

Seconding the Motion, Shri Raashid Alvi stated that the UPA Government under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh had achieved a record economic growth of 7.15 per cent during 2004-05 and was expected to achieve 8 per cent during 2005-06, exports rose by 25 per cent in the first nine months of the UPA Government. He added that the Right to Information Act, 2005 was a step towards transparency in governance. The President's Address also mentioned about the reforms in Electoral System, Judicial System, administrative system which he felt were required. The most important thing in the President's Address was about foreign policy. India, he added always wanted friendly relations with the neighbouring countries, though there was a need for being vigilant at the same time. As far as Pakistan was concerned, the UPA Government had started bus service to Muzaffarabad. He claimed that during UPA regime, relations with the United States had strengthened as never before. However, he dismissed allegations that India was working under the American pressure.

As regards internal security, he said that there was decline in the incidence of cross-border terrorism and the Government was doing its best to deal with the problem of naxalism.

Participating in the discussion\* Shri Raj Nath Singh (BJP) enumerated a number of areas where the Government had failed. He alleged that the Government was playing communal politics by providing reservation on religious basis in Andhra Pradesh and by bringing provisions in the Foreigners Act which would obstruct the

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\* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Nilotpal Basu, Santosh Bagrodia, P.G. Narayanan, M. Venkaiah Naidu, C. Ramachandraiah, Motilal Vora, Sharad Anantrao Joshi, Tariq Anwar, Jai Parkash Aggarwal, Ajay Maroo, Janeshwar Mishra, Ram Jethmalani, Dipankar Mukherjee, Kripal Parmar, N.K. Premachandran, Birabhadra Singh, N. Jothi, Rajeev Shukla, M.P. Abdussamad Samadani, Karnendu Bhattacharjee, Abu Asim Azmi, Nandi Yellaiah, Lekhraj Bachani, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Dr. P.C. Alexander, Dr. M.S. Gill, Smt. Prema Cariappa, Smt. Vanga Geetha, Smt. N.P. Durga, Kumari Nirmala Deshpande and Dr. (Smt.) Prabha Thakur.

identification and deportation of illegal Bangladeshi refugees. Moreover, by constituting the Sachar Committee, he alleged that the Government was trying to divide people on religion basis. He stated that since the UPA Government assumed office there was rise in the prices of essential commodities and a fast decline/degradation in the dignity of constitutional institutions and offices.

He added that despite several terrorist attacks in the country the President's Address made no mention of any effective steps proposed to be taken by the Government to stop it. He sought to know the action proposed to be taken by the Government with regard to the interlinking of rivers. The Address, he said, made no mention about the alarming activities continuing in Nepal and Bangladesh.

Shri Gandhi Azad (BSP) stated that the policies and activities of the Government mentioned in the President's Address were good. However, he cautioned the Government to take effective measures to implement these policies in a time-bound manner. He stated that though the Address claimed that the Government gave topmost priority to the development of rural economy but it made no mention about landless agricultural workers who have no shelter for them and were migrating to the cities in search of livelihood. He urged the Government to implement land reforms in a time-bound manner in order to check rural migration to the cities. Shri Azad also stated that there was a need to fill up reserved vacant posts in all the Departments. He also showed concern over the ill effects of casteism and emphasised the need to eliminate the scourge of casteism.

Replying to the Motion of Thanks, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh assured that the Government was solidly committed to basing its policies and programmes on the Common Minimum Programme. He stated that all the schemes launched and the initiatives taken by the Government were aimed at ensuring acceleration of growth in an equitable, fair and just manner.

Elaborating the achievements made by the UPA Government, the Prime Minister claimed that the Government had delivered eight per cent growth. The present national investment rate of 31 per cent and national savings rate of 29 per cent of the GDP was an all-time high. The UPA Government had economically and socially empowered the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, religious and linguistic minorities, farmers, the working class, etc.

The Prime Minister stated that the flagship programmes of the Government had paid particular attention to the more backward districts

and regions. He added that the efforts were being made to revitalize agricultural economy. In this regard, the Government had launched a massive National Horticulture Mission to diversify the rural economy and also taken measures to upgrade the quality and quantity of rural credit that flowed to the farming community. He assured the House that the Government would take special measures to examine Dr. Swaminathan's report, dealing with the problems of the farm sector, and would come out with a balanced package to revitalize agricultural economy.

In order to revamp the food security system, Dr. Singh said that the scope of the *Antyodaya* Scheme and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme had been expanded. The Mid-day Meal Programme of the Government, he said would cover about 12 crore children. Regarding *Bharat Nirman* programme, he claimed that through this programme the Government would be able to transform the rural economy.

The Prime Minister said that roads, railways, airports and airlines, ports and shipping, telecommunication, each and every sector was now on a high growth path. He stated that the expanded National Highway Development Project (NHDP) programme would cover an additional 37,000 kilometres. He reiterated the commitment of the Government for the welfare of the workers in all sectors of economy and added that not a single unit in the last two years had been closed down.

With regard to the employment situation, the Prime Minister said that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 was a major initiative in that direction. On the status of women, he reaffirmed the Government's commitment to 33 per cent reservation in the Central and State Legislatures.

Regarding internal and international security situation, the Prime Minister said that terrorism would be dealt with firmly. Reiterating the Government's commitment to the welfare of minorities, he said that the creation of a Ministry of Minority Affairs was a step in that direction.

*The Budget (Railways) 2006-2007:* The discussion on the Budget (Railways) 2006-2007 took place on 6, 7 and 9 March 2006. Initiating the discussion, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad (BJP) stated that during the previous Government's regime a number of steps had been taken for economic self reliance and self-confidence. Efforts had been made to increase the entrepreneur ability and enhance creative energy. The scene at the current juncture was almost a result of the work of the previous Government, which had also been indicated in the Economic Survey, he

informed. The present year's Railway Budget had laid special emphasis on freight movement. It had an upward trend from 2001-02 to 2004-05. But it had reduced by April-December 2005 which showed a declining trend. If the Government wanted a change in the picture and fate of the Railways, the Government should have a vision and for that it must have enough money and revenue. Shri Prasad enquired as to many projects were going on for the past three years since the Minister had taken charge and the cost of those project; how much money was available for that purpose and how the present projects announced in the Budget of 2006-2007 were to be financed. Taking a critical view of the Budget, he said that it lacked both mission and ambition.

Referring to the Godhra report, Shri Prasad conveyed that by ordering an administrative enquiry into the case, a fun was made of it and it was indeed unfortunate. Concluding his speech, he said that, one should not play with the sentiments of the people.

Participating in the discussion\* Shri Tarini Kant Roy [CPI(M)] commended the Railway Minister for generating a fund balance of Rs. 11,000 crore without raising the limit of freight and passenger fares during the last year. He further stated that a wide gap existed between the target set for 2005-06 and target achieved in the matters of electrification, gauge conversion, locomotives, Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) coaches, track renewal (secondary stage), etc. He said that the passenger amenities, punctuality and other correlated services to the passengers were the most neglected areas. Shri Roy stated that in 2005, Parliament had approved a Bill for the formation of a Rail Land Development Authority to look into the use of railway land and called for regularisation of railway land used for commercial purposes and as residential colonies in many places since long.

He said that as assured in the Budget (Railways) 2005-06, no tangible step was taken to provide licenses to hawkers who used to sell their goods on local and other trains and the railway hawkers continued to be

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\* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri R.K.Dhawan, Sanjay Raut, B.K.Hariprasad, Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi, V. Hanumantha Rao, Jai Parkash Aggarwal, Motilal Vora, Abu Asim Azmi, K. Chandran Pillai, Ajay Maroo, Vijay J. Darda, Manoj Bhattacharya, Datta Meghe, Sharad Anantrao Joshi, Vidya Sagar Nishad, R. Shunmugasundaram, Lekhraj Bachani, Harendra Singh Malik, Silvius Condpan, B.S. Gnanadesikan, Nandi Yellaiah, Birabhadra Singh, Jayantilal Barot, Motiur Rahman, Matilal Sarkar, V. Narayanasamy, Moolchand Meena, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania, Dr. P.C. Alexander, Smt. S.G. Indira, Smt. Maya Singh, Smt. Kum Kum Rai, Smt. Kamla Manhar, Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal and Ms. Pramila Bohidar.



subjected to all sorts of harassments by the railway, Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel. He further stated that though the Railway Minister spoke against privatization and outsourcing, the Budget this year had proposals for privatization and outsourcing of maintenance of stations, retiring rooms, cleaning, ticketing and even catering system.

Smt. Vanga Geetha (TDP) complimented the Railway Minister for not hiking the passenger fare for sleeper class and also reducing the AC fare. Seeking clarifications from the Minister, she enquired whether the Minister was contemplating private participation in the supply and production of wagons besides reducing the number of slow-passenger trains on trunk routes. She also sought to know whether the Ministry was going to explore the tourism potential of luxury travel. She called for the utilization of maximum portion of surplus balance of Rs. 11,000 crore with the Railways for safety and providing passenger amenities.

Regarding safety and increasing train accidents, Smt. Geetha spoke of rebuilding the bridges which were more than hundred years old. She complained that despite the creation of the Railway Safety Fund, four years ago, there was no significant fall in the number of accidents. She wanted to know the steps taken by the Government to tackle the problem of accidents at unmanned railway crossings and stressed on the need to find out some ways and means to create an independent agency to inquire into the railway accidents.

Dr. K. Kasturirangan (Independent) suggested that for bringing a major technological development in the railways, best of the capabilities of the country were to be exploited. He informed that Rs. 25 crore were provided by the Railway Ministry to IIT Kanpur for specific research and development. He suggested that a few centres of excellence responsible for railway transportation research attached to the IITs and the IISc would go a long way in improving, upgrading and bringing in innovative technologies which were needed by the railway system.

Replying to the discussion on 9 March 2006, the Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad said that since the focus of the Budget (Railways) was the common man, the passengers fares were reduced and the fares of fully air-conditioned "*Garib Rath*" trains would be kept within the reach of common man. He stated that sufficient funds would be provided to the Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF) and there would be no dearth of funds for the railway safety works. Owing to "Look East" policy of the Government, the export-import traffic among India and China, Japan, etc. was likely to be increased. He assured that in order to develop

ports situated near Kolkata, necessary action would be taken for the development of railway infrastructure and freight corridor without any delay. Decision was also taken to introduce additional 40 urban trains in Mumbai in the year 2006-07. An amount of Rs. 68 crore was provided to expedite the track doubling work between Gooty-Renigunta.

Elaborating other highlights of the Budget, he stated that additional funds would be made available for gauge-conversion work between Dharmavaram-Pakala as per the progress made of the project. Proposals for laying new line between Jagiaped-Mallacheruvu and Vishnupuram-Janapahar and a proposal for gauge-conversion between Ankleshwar-Rajpipala was sent to the Planning Commission for their approval. The survey work for laying new Railway line between Darbhanga-Kusheshwar was completed and a proposal for sanctioning this project **was being sent to the Planning Commission**. He further stated that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission conveyed its consent to provide 50 per cent funds for the construction of Panoli Railway over-bridge. The final location survey of Bangalore-Chamrajnagar section of Bangalore-Satuamangalam new railway line was undertaken. He assured that the construction-work for the over-bridges and the under-bridges at Bhopal-Hoshangabad-Itarsi section would be completed at the earliest. The Nagpur-Pune Express train would also be re-started for Nagpur itself. Finally, he requested the House to give its nod to return the Appropriation Bills to Lok Sabha.

*The Budget (General) 2006-2007:* The discussion on the Budget (General) 2006-2007 took place on 9, 10 and 13 March 2006. Initiating the discussion on 9 March 2006, Shri Yashwant Sinha (BJP) expressed his concern about the rising inflation in the country and urged the Government to consider the report of the Rangarajan Committee. He said that the Reserve Bank of India also had warned the Government, the economy and everyone against the rising inflation. He expressed his concern over the decline in the Gross Domestic Savings in the household sector which would be a bad news for the economy. He expressed surprise on the declining industrial production, sales and exports.

He stated that agriculture was the priority area in the National Common Minimum Programme. He said that he could not share the claim of the Finance Minister that an increase in agricultural production had taken place. Taking a critical note, he said that there was no mention of the Farm Income Insurance Scheme. The Scheme, he said, would be of great benefit to the farmers because, it would calculate their income and protect that income through insurance. He suggested a *Sampoorn Sinchai Yojana* to ensure water to every field.

Referring to the Prime Minister *Swasthya Suraksha Yojana*, he said that the planning for setting up of six AIIMS type institutions in other parts of the country for which Budget estimate was Rs.250 crore had been reduced to Rs.75 crore for the next year. He said that the other areas in the health sector had not been adequately provided for.

He also enquired about the status of some other schemes such as '*Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*' of elementary education, highway project, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, *Bharat Nirman* and other protection of Public sectors, etc.

Referring to the Government's policy on the infrastructure front, he said that not even a single major infrastructure project had been taken up by the Government in the last two years. He further mentioned that the financial institutions, had always been willing to lend to viable projects, but what was required was the right kind of policy. He was also critical about the economic reforms for not focussing on pension, insurance, housing and infrastructure. On behalf of his party, he demanded that a Joint Parliamentary Committee be set up to enquire into the huge scam that had taken place with regard to the IPO in which the manipulators had made huge profits and investigation was taking place.

Participating in the debate\* Dr. Bimal Jalan (Nominated) said that the Budget had been presented under very difficult circumstances. He stated that the tax system had been made very complex because every year, a large number of changes were made in it. He suggested that the coming six months could be spent to simplify the tax system. The Capital Expenditure and the Revenue Expenditure, he stated, were very critical issues. He informed that he had already suggested to the Finance Minister in the Consultative Committee that the whole distinction between the plan and the non-plan had become archaic. He was of the view that as regards the distribution of the resources and their more efficient use, it was absolutely essential, to increase Capital Expenditure and contain Revenue Expenditure.

Dr. K. Kasturirangan (Nominated) appreciated the Finance Minister for infusion of massive funds for the growth of Science and Technology.

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\* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Janardhana Poojary, M.P. Abdussamad Samadani, Kalraj Mishra, Suryakantbhai Acharya, Arjun Kumar Sengupta, Vikram Verma, Nand Kishore Yadav, Mangani Lal Mandal, Sharad Anantrao Joshi, Ram Nath Kovind, T.S. Bajwa, Surendra Lath, Shantaram Laxman Naik, Jai Prakash Aggarwal, Sitaram Yechury, Prof. P.J. Kurian, Dr. K. Malaisamy, Smt. Brinda Kaarat, Smt. Hema Malini, Smt. Prema Cariappa, Ms. Pramila Bohidar, Dr. Prabha Thakur and Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya

He emphasised the need for infusion of funds from the industry, in a phased manner, for Research and Development (R&D) and other R&D sectors. He also expected that the recommendations of the M.M. Sharma Report to look at how to strengthen the Science and Technology research in universities would be implemented and reviewed on annual basis. He also suggested for the constitution of an Aeronautics Commission which should also undertake a flagship aircraft design for the country. He appreciated the initiatives taken by the Government in the National Agriculture Innovation Project, Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture and earmarking Rs.100 crore for the Agriculture University in the Budget.

Shri Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy (TDP) said that he was unable to accept the proposals. The Budget, he spoke was neither pro-poor nor pro-farmer. The Budget allocations made for health, education and agriculture had been increased marginally. Speaking about the National Rural Health Mission, he objected that even though the programme covered eighteen States but not even a single State from Southern India had been included in it. He was of the view that marginally increased allocation for the health sector was not sufficient as the killer diseases like Cancer and AIDS were growing. He said that the announcements and the allocations of the funds clearly mismatched.

Speaking about the public distribution system, he said that there was no logic reducing the quantity in all the schemes of public distribution while increasing the issue price for the same. Regarding the Mid-day Meal Scheme, he urged the Government to increase the money allocated per child so as to provide more nutritious meals to them.

Showing his concern for the agricultural sector, he demanded a minimum guarantee price for the farmers instead of the minimum support price. He also urged that insurance procedure be simplified and more farmers including the small and marginal farmers be brought into the national Agriculture Insurance Scheme. He urged the Government to consider the Chandrababu Naidu Committee Report regarding micro-irrigation, and to implement the same, so as to help the farmers. He also urged the Government to promote a policy on water and resolve the disputes among the States at the earliest.

Shri Harendra Singh Malik (INDL) congratulated the Prime Minister for lowering the rate of interest for the farmers. He requested the Government to increase the limit of loan given to the farmers beyond rupees three lakh. He suggested that all the banks should be given instructions to provide loan at lower interest rates on priority for the development of wastelands. Appreciating the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, he

suggested that the scope of the scheme be enhanced and implemented all over the country, since only two hundred districts had been identified for implementation of the scheme.

Supporting the Budget, Shri R.P. Goenka (INC) said that it was a growth-oriented Budget, more specifically a rural growth-oriented Budget.

Participating in the debate, on 10 March, 2006, Shri Lalit Suri (Independent) said that India's economic growth was globally recognised and it was the responsibility of the parliamentarians to help the Finance Minister to accelerate the growth process.

Speaking about the manufacturing sector, he stated this it was this sector that created jobs and thus enabled revenue collection which ultimately accelerated the infrastructure development. It was the Government's responsibility to enable the manufacturing sector to grow rapidly. The infrastructure, he said was required to be globally competitive. He appreciated the Minister for the rationalization of duties and lowering of tariffs. He suggested that full infrastructure status and various incentives be provided to the Tourism Industry.

Replying to the debate on 13 March 2006, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that the fiscal deficit, was 4.1 per cent according to the previous year's Revised Estimates. The fiscal deficit for the coming year would be 3.8 per cent. He was confident that it could be brought down to three per cent. He mentioned that the goal, therefore was to wipe out the revenue deficit and to make sure that the resources could be made available for public investment in agriculture, in manufacturing and in the social sector. There could be two ways to wipe out the revenue deficit, one by controlling the expenditure and the other by revenue enhancement, he stated. A tight control over expenditure was being exercised. As expenditure control could not be taken beyond a certain point, the more appropriate move was to enhance revenues.

He informed that in comparison with the manufacturing sector, the services sector did not pay enough tax, and that is why the services tax net was being expanded. He further informed that the gross tax revenue was growing at an average rate of twenty per cent every year since the UPA Government had assumed office.

He urged the State Governments to spend their cash balances. The message, he wanted to convey to the States, through the House was that the State Governments should begin spending on the first day of April. Thus, many of the targets would be achieved, including the financial and the physical targets, and that would mean more money in the hands

of the people, which would increase their purchasing power. The Central Government was also being forced to spend at least sixty-six per cent of the allocations in the first nine months or face penalty. The idea, he said, was to garner more revenues.

The Minister stated that with regard to the relief to agriculture, the borrower's interest had been lowered from nine per cent to seven per cent. It had been decided to implement it for *Kharif* and *Rabi* crops in 2005-06 and orders in the said regard had already been issued by the Reserve Bank of India, he stated. As there was no refinance by NABARD to the commercial banks, the banks would have to be persuaded to make available the credit at seven per cent. The reason behind the volatility in the agriculture growth rate was because it was monsoon-dependent. One of the ways to make it less monsoon-dependent was to expand the irrigation through the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, the Minor Irrigation Schemes and the Medium Irrigation Schemes. Another untapped opportunity for increasing the acreage under 'assured irrigation' was the repair, restoration and renovation of water bodies. This Project, he said, was at the advanced stage.

Making a mention about the Education cess, he said it was collected and utilised to support education. Apart from the cess collection more money was being provided through the Budget.

As regards the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, he said that a modified Agricultural Insurance Scheme was under preparation. He sought the support of all sections of the House in this regard and said that nothing would be done to hinder investment. Concluding his reply, he requested the Members to extend support to the Budget.

*Statement by the Prime Minister on India's Vote in I.A.E.A on the issue of Iran's Nuclear Programme:* Making a statement in the House on 17 February 2006, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House, Dr. Manmohan Singh stated that India's vote on the Iran nuclear issue at the meeting of the Governing Board of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, on 5 February 2006 did not, in any way, detract from the traditionally close and friendly relations between India and Iran. Emphasising the need to further strengthen and expand India's multifaceted ties with Iran for mutual benefit he said that India's relations with Iran were both bilateral and multilateral. He reiterated the Government of India's commitment to the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. He said that the economics of the project was currently under professional investigation by internationally reputed consultants.

Speaking about Iran's nuclear programme, he reiterated that as a

signatory to the NPT, Iran had the legal right to develop peaceful uses of energy consistent with the safeguards that it had voluntarily accepted upon its nuclear programme under the IAEA. These rights and obligations must also be seen in context of developments since 2003, when IAEA began seeking answers to a number of questions arising from Iran's nuclear activities, some of which had been not declared to the IAEA in previous years. Subsequently, in the context of these demands, Iran did extend cooperation to the IAEA in investigations of some of these activities.

The Prime Minister said that in November 2004, Iran had agreed with the EU-3 (France, Germany, and the UK) to voluntarily suspend all enrichment and reprocessing activities until questions relating to its past nuclear activities were clarified by the IAEA. However, since August 2005, Iran had renewed production of uranium hexafluoride and resumed uranium enrichment.

He stated that the successive reports of the Director-General of the IAEA noted that while Iran's cooperation had resulted in clarifying a number of questions, there remained many unresolved questions on key issues including the use of centrifuges imported from third countries, and designs relating to fabrication of metallic hemispheres. He said that successive IAEA reports revealed the source of such clandestine proliferation of sensitive technologies in India's own neighbourhood.

The Prime Minister clarified that India's stand in this regard was to uphold India's security concerns arising from proliferation activities in her extended neighbourhood while upholding Iran's rights and obligations. India's efforts aimed to find a solution, based on acceptable mutual compromises, in which Iran's interests and the concerns of the international community would be addressed. This was the logic of India's stand at the IAEA Board of Governors Meetings both in September 2005 and February 2006.

Dr. Singh stated that on both these occasions there was no consensus on the Resolution and a vote was necessary. However, the Resolution in February 2006 not only had the support of all P-5 countries including Russia and China, but also of important NAM and developing countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, Singapore, Yemen and Sri Lanka. The resolutions passed in September 2005 and in February 2006 underlined the need for time to be given for diplomatic efforts to continue, he said. The recent resolution of 5 February 2006 asked the Director-General of IAEA to inform the UN Security Council on the status of negotiations with Iran, and the steps that Iran needed to take to address

these questions. It called for continued diplomatic efforts including thorough exploration of the option provided by Russia. Russia had offered to locate a joint venture project on Russian soil to address Iranian needs for enriched uranium, provided Iran suspended its enrichment programme to increase international confidence regarding the unresolved questions of the last two decades.

Expressing concern over the escalating rhetoric and growing tensions and the possibilities of a confrontation over this issue, the Prime Minister stated that the issue was a matter of concern for India as tensions in this region affected India directly. He urged all to exercise restraint, demonstrate flexibility and continue with dialogue, to reach an amicable solution.

Drawing upon India's friendly relations with all the key countries involved, he said that the stand taken by the Government was in keeping with India's well considered and independent judgement of her national interests.

*Statement by the Prime Minister on the civil nuclear energy cooperation with the United States in the context of the visit of the President of United States of America to India:* On 7 March 2006, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh made a statement in the House in this regard. He stated that during the visit of US President, Mr. George Bush to India from 1 to 3 March 2006, a review\* was done on the progress made in deepening Indo-US strategic partnership since the Joint Statement issued during Dr. Singh's visit to Washington in July 2005. The scope of the discussions held between the two leaders covered the expansion of Indo-US ties in the fields of agriculture, economic and trade cooperation, energy security and clean environment, strengthening innovation and the knowledge economy, issues relating to the global safety and security and on deepening democracy.

Throwing light on the outcome of the discussions held with the US President, he said that an agreement was reached between India and the United States on a Separation Plan\*\* whereby India would identify and separate its civilian and military nuclear facilities and place its civilian nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

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\* The Prime Minister also laid the full text of the Joint Statement issued during President Bush's visit on the Table of the House.

\*\* The Separation Plan drawn up by India and agreed between India and the United States in implementation of the India-United States Joint Statement of 18 July 2005, was laid on the Table.



Further elaborating on the Separation Plan, he said that there were twenty two thermal power reactors in operation or currently under construction in India. Out of these, fourteen would be placed under (IAEA) safeguards by 2014 in a phased manner. He claimed that this would raise the total installed thermal power capacity in Megawatts under safeguards from nineteen per cent at present to sixty per cent by the year 2014. He emphasized that the choice of specific nuclear reactors and the phases in which they would be placed under safeguards would be an Indian decision. A list of fourteen such reactors that would be offered for safeguards between 2006 to 2014 was being prepared. He stated that the Separation Plan ensured that India would not accept safeguards on the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) and the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), both located at Kalpakkam.

The Prime Minister also informed that India had decided to place under safeguards all future civilian thermal power reactors and civilian breeder reactors and the Government of India retained the sole right to determine such reactors as civilian. This meant that India would not be constrained in anyway in building future nuclear facilities, whether civilian or military as per its national requirements. He stated that India had decided to permanently shut down the CIRUS reactor, by 2010. The fuel core of the Apsara reactor was purchased from France, and the Government was prepared to shift it from its present location and make it available for placing under safeguards in 2010. He also informed that such steps would not hinder ongoing Research and Development. Re-processing and enrichment capabilities and other facilities associated with the fuel cycle for India's strategic programme had been kept out of the Separation Plan, he said.

Dr. Singh said that one of the major points of address in the Separation Plan was the need to ensure reliability of fuel supplies. The Government had received commitments from the United States for the reliable supply of fuel to India for reactors that would be offered for safeguards. Under the Joint Statement of 18 July 2005, the United States was committed to create the necessary conditions for India to obtain full access to the international market for nuclear fuel, including reliable, uninterrupted and continual access to fuel supplies from firms in several nations.

The Prime Minister stated that to further guard against any disruption of fuel supplies for India, the United States was prepared to take other additional steps, such as incorporating assurances regarding fuel supply in the bilateral U.S.-India agreement on peaceful uses of energy which would be negotiated, the United States would join India in seeking to

negotiate with the IAEA an India-specific fuel supply agreement, the United States would support an Indian effort to develop a strategic reserve of nuclear fuel to guard against any disruption of supply over the lifetime of India's reactors.

The Prime Minister added that despite these agreements, if a disruption of fuel supplies to India occurred, the United States and India would jointly convene a group of friendly supplier countries to include countries such as Russia, France and the United Kingdom to pursue such measures as would restore fuel supply to India. An India-specific safeguards agreement would be negotiated between India and the International Atomic Energy Agency for these understandings with the United States. He assured the House that India would retain its sovereign right to take all appropriate measures to fully safeguard its interests.

He added that the Separation Plan would not adversely affect Indian strategic programme. There would be no capping of Indian strategic programme, and the Separation Plan ensured adequacy of fissile material and other inputs to meet the current and future requirements of the country's strategic programme. No constraint was placed on India's right to construct new facilities for strategic purposes. He further assured that the integrity of the country's Nuclear Doctrine and ability to sustain a Minimum Credible Nuclear Deterrent was adequately protected. The autonomy of the Research and Development activities in the nuclear field would remain unaffected. The Fast Breeder Test Reactor and the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor remain outside the safeguards. India had however, agreed that future civilian thermal power reactors and civilian Fast Breeder Reactors would be placed under safeguards, but the determination of what was civilian was solely an Indian decision.

The 18 July 2005 Statement, the Prime Minister said offered for ending India's nuclear isolation. It would open up prospects for cooperation not only with the United States but with the countries like Russia, France and other countries with advanced nuclear capabilities, including those from the Nuclear Suppliers Group. There would be a quantum jump in the country's energy generating capacity with a consequential impact on the GDP growth.

He also stated that the successful implementation of 18 July 2005 Joint Statement required reciprocal actions by the United States as well as India. India had prepared a Separation Plan which identified those civilian facilities that India was willing to offer for safeguards. The United States Government had accepted the Separation Plan and intended

to approach the US Congress for amending its laws and the Nuclear Supplier Group for adapting its guidelines to enable full civilian cooperation between India and the international community. India would approach the International Atomic Energy Agency to chalk out an India specific safeguard agreement along with its contents at an appropriate time. He further stated that the entire agreement had to be seen in the larger perspective of energy security. The country's energy capabilities must be expanded from clean coal and coal-bed methane, to gas hydrates and wind and solar power. He informed the Parliament about Indian participation in the Future-Gen programme for zero emission thermal power plants and the Integrated Ocean Drilling Programme for gas hydrates. He said that an integrated policy with appropriate mix of energy supplies is central to the achievements of our broader economic and social objectives. Needs of the people of India must become the central agenda for India's international cooperation.

*Statements by the Ministers on the outbreak of avian influenza at Navapur village in Nandurbar district, Maharashtra and on the outbreak of Avian Influenza Virus (H5N1).* On 20 February 2006, Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar made a statement in the House. He stated that large-scale deaths of poultry were reported from Navapur Taluka of District Nandurbar, Maharashtra. Samples tested at High Security Animal Disease Laboratory, Bhopal confirmed H5N1 strain of Avian Influenza in poultry at Navapur, District Nandurbar, Maharashtra.

A series of strategic actions were initiated immediately by the Government on confirmation of Avian Influenza including declaration of infected and surveillance areas, absolute ban on movement of poultry or its products in infected areas, closure of poultry and egg markets and shops in infected areas, destruction of affected poultry followed by proper disposal, etc. The Government of India also provided to Maharashtra, vaccines for poultry, Tamiflu for humans and personal protective equipment. Rapid Response Teams of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also rushed to the affected areas. The teams of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare carried out surveillance of human population in the area. He added that the loss incurred on account of culling and destruction of birds would be shared by the Government of India on a fifty-fifty basis with the State Governments. He assured the House and the public that there was no cause for panic.

Replying to the points raised by the members, Shri Sharad Pawar said that the particular information came from a place called Navapur.

Tracing the origin of the disease, he said that the disease was always carried by migratory birds and since Navapur was near to the water area and was also a forest area, there was every possibility that the birds coming from different parts might have brought this particular disease. He said that initially it was suspected to be New Castle (Ranikhet) disease but tests carried out in a laboratory at Bhopal fully equipped to test Avian Influenza, confirmed that the samples were positive for Avian Influenza.

He stated that disposing off the birds in Navapur had been done as per the WHO guidelines. As far as farmers' interests were concerned, he said that a decision in this regard was taken long back with the approval of the State Governments that if something like this was to happen compensation would be paid by the Government of India and the State Governments on a fifty-fifty basis.

The Minister dismissed apprehensions that samples from Andhra Pradesh tested positive for Avian Influenza. He added that daily media briefing was being done by the Department of Animal Husbandry and the Health Ministry. He urged the media not to create panic. He clarified that the outbreak of the disease was limited to just three-to-ten kilometre area in Navapur and there was no information of its spread beyond that area and steps were taken to prevent its spread to other parts of the State and the country.

He stressed on the need to protect the interests of the poultry industry and the interests of the farming community as the industry was practically worth Rs. 35,000 crores with an annual growth rate of 17 per cent and provided jobs to a lot of people.

On the same day, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss also made a statement in this regard in the House. He stated that ever since the World Health Organisation (WHO) issued an alert after an outbreak of Avian Influenza Virus (H5N1) was first detected in the Republic of Korea in December 2003 the Government of India took adequate measures to be prepared in this regard. A joint Monitoring Group was set up on 27 January 2004, under the Chairmanship of the Director General of Health Services to review the situation regularly. The Chief Secretaries of all the States/Union territories and the Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry were requested to keep a close watch on fatality among bird population and to inform any such occurrence to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Other Ministries like Home, Shipping, External Affairs, Environment and Forests were also alerted. A contingency plan to manage human cases of Avian Influenza was

prepared and discussed with the State Health Secretaries. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Delhi, had been identified as the nodal agency to investigate any suspected cases/outbreaks. The National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, was also identified for laboratory support. Rapid Response Teams were constituted and kept in readiness. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) strengthened Influenza surveillance network. A task force under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was constituted to ensure availability of drugs and vaccines for management of Avian Influenza in the country.

Throwing light on the response of the Government to the information of this virus, he said that information was received from the Department of Animal Husbandry about large scale mortality in poultry from Navapur taluk of Nandurbar District, Maharashtra on 15 February 2006. Though the preliminary reports revealed the possibility of New Castle (Ranikhet) disease, but test reports of some samples from affected poultry were confirmed as positive for H5N1 strain of Avian Influenza on 18 February 2006.

As a follow-up action, the Rapid Response Team (RRT) of NICD was deputed to Navapur, Maharashtra, on 16 February 2006. The team assisted the State Health authorities in carrying out active surveillance (house-to-house search) to identify suspected cases among contacts of infected poultry. Another RRT was sent to Surat District, Gujarat on 19 February 2006. On 19 February 2006, the Department of Animal Husbandry started culling the birds as per their contingency plan. The Health Ministry dispatched 11,000 doses of Tamiflu and 3,000 sets of Personal Protective Equipments to Maharashtra and Gujarat besides meeting the immediate requirement of Department of Animal Husbandry. He assured the House that the situation was being closely monitored and was under control.

Replying to the points raised by members, Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss reiterated the state of preparedness to meet any such eventuality and to check its spread. Results from the Bhopal labs confirmed a positive case of H5N1.

Tracing the root cause of the origin of the disease in the country, the Minister said that the only pattern could be due to migratory birds. As a precautionary step he said that import of poultry and poultry products from other countries had been banned. He added that approximately 16 poultries where there were symptoms and signs of bird flu and deaths had taken place were quarantined. He stated that the Government was following the WHO protocol of international regulations.

*Short Duration Discussion on the communal violence in Vadodara and other parts of the country:* The discussion in this regard took place in the House on 16 May 2006. Initiating the discussion, Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya (Indian National Congress) blamed the Government of Gujarat for recurring communal riots. She said that even before the Godhra issue could die, violence broke out once again in Vadodara between the two communities with the demolition of a holy tomb. She said that had the tomb been demolished for development, it would have been a different issue but the demolition took place for political gains. She wondered that when there was an agreement between the Government and the community in this regard, how could the demolition take place.

She said that even if there was a fight, it was between the Muslim Community and the Government, and wondered how could it turn into a fight between the two communities.

She stated that if the administration, police force and the Government wish it could stop riots anywhere. But since the Gujarat Government was insincere, communal riots repeatedly occurred in the State. She said that despite a law that no temple, mosque or building built before 1947 can be demolished, the Gujarat Government still demolished the 150 year old tomb as a result of which communal riots broke out. She alleged that ever since the BJP came to power in Gujarat, riots were occurring repeatedly. She urged for restoring peace in the State.

Participating in the discussion\* Shri Vijay Kumar Rupani (BJP) said that the development work was going in a very good manner in Gujarat. In the last two years, all the municipalities and the corporations in Gujarat have earnestly started a programme to remove encroachments. In Vadodara alone 3,300 encroachments had been removed. The Gujarat Government had taken action only after issuing warnings and serving legal notices to the concerned people. All those affected had been called for a meeting. Referring to the *Dargah* which was removed, he stated that the people who were linked with the *Dargah* were called for meeting. These people did not accept the solution formula and threatened that if encroachments were removed, riots would occur.

He stated that there had been riots in Gujarat from 1965 to 1995. The BJP came to power in the State after 1995, and since then no riots had occurred.

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\* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Abu Asim Azmi, Manohar Joshi, Praveen Rashtrapal, Arun Jaitley, Vinay Katiyar, Dharam Pal Sabharwal and Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary

He informed that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Jaiswal had admitted that the local administration had taken the necessary steps to control the situation. The riots, he said, had been controlled within two days. The riots he stated were being given a political shade. The Gujarat Government was in fact waging a war against terrorism.

Shri Sitaram Yechury of the [CPI (M)] said that the issue of communal violence was a very serious issue. The question that arose was how communal harmony could be maintained in the country. Whatever had happened in Gujarat in the year 2002 was a background to what occurred in Vadodara. He urged the entire House to have a serious discussion on the topic. He said many cases were pending in the Supreme Court and CBI was directed to conduct re-investigation so that those cases could be re-opened. Many of the riot victims had still not received justice. Quoting the conclusions of the POTA Review Committee, he said that it was unfair to arrest the people under POTA. The Gujarat High Court and the Supreme Court had directed the public prosecutor to abide by the decisions of the Review Committee. He opined that in Vadodara, action had been taken in haste and that was the reason for the outbreak of communal riots and thus the atmosphere was spoilt.

He requested that care should be taken so that the places of Worship Act passed in 1993 was not violated. He further added that action should be taken against those who were involved in the initiation of the incident.

Speaking on the issue Shri C. Ramachandraiah (TDP) felt that Indian people were more secular than the Indian politicians and the politicians had been trying to take advantage of every situation to garner votes. He admitted that the particular incident would have been manageable if the administration had behaved with a sense of objectivity. He stated that although most of the communal incidents were perpetrated by the local elements, they were abetted by outside forces. He believed that if the politicians tried to take advantage of the situation for their survival in politics, such situations which would be detrimental to the nation would arise. He further added that India's secular image had to be reflected to the outside world, since it was very difficult to attract investments.

Replying to the debate, Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil explained that the Municipal Corporation in Vadodara had decided to remove some structures which were standing at some places in the

city in order to implement their plan and removed some structures which stood at the places where they should not have been and caused some obstruction to the traffic. When the *Dargah* concerned was approached by the municipal authority for demolishing that structure, people who had collected there, objected to it, and the situation became difficult. It had been decided that the situation would be controlled with determination, and without giving any opportunity to anybody to cause any damage to any property or to any individual, and the following day the curfew was clamped.

He informed that on the request of the State Government, nearly twenty-one companies had been given to them, eight companies of Rapid Action Force and some companies of Border Security Force (BSF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were given by the Central Government. It was also decided the following day that the Army columns would stage a flag march in the city to give an indication that the situation had to be controlled and fortunately, the situation was controlled.

While discussing the issue, he said, so many points had been raised, and it was tried to indicate that for development, demolition of certain structures was necessary. However, for such purpose the character of the structures had to be taken into consideration. If a structure was constructed, say, a few months back, or, one or two years back, removal of that structure did not cause any difficulty. But if the structure was ancient and was worshipped by the people, the people belonging not only to one section of the society but to all sections of the society, the removal of that kind of structure had to be done in a careful manner. If necessary, it should be removed. If it could be done in agreement with the people who respected that structure, it was better. But if it was not possible then, one should not be in a hurry to demolish that kind of structure because demolishing that structure was not only demolishing the structure, but was also hurting the feelings of some of the people who respect that structure. He added that it was to be borne in mind while dealing with structures of such kind. As far as the issue of Vadodara was concerned, he thought that the Municipal Corporation could have dealt with the issue in a more responsible manner. If it had not done so, it could be asked to look into all the matters and see as to how it could compensate or it could help the people in that area.

He opined that sometimes, politicians, for reasons known to them were not, as secular as the people of the country. The administrators and the people who were on the spot had to behave in a responsible manner.



The Minister added that the statistics on the communal situation in the country indicated that there was an improvement in the situation. Some of the incidents which had taken place had attracted the attention so much that one felt that the situation was deteriorating.

Replying further to the queries raised by some members, Shri Patil informed that the decision in the particular matter had been taken before the Gujarat High Court's judgement and the demolition was based upon the Municipal Corporation's plan. Speaking about the fact as to how old the building was, he said that such information could only be provided by the Municipality. Regarding compensation to the victims, he said, that the Government would try to ensure that it was given. About the role of the Police force, he stated that if at all an enquiry was conducted, the guilty would be punished at any cost.

*Short Duration Discussion on the import of wheat and agrarian distress:* Initiating the discussion on 18 May 2006, Shri Tapan Kumar Sen of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) stated that the import of wheat undertaken by the Government and the whole approach behind such import drive was going to multiply the distress of the agrarian population. The distress of agriculture and the rural economy was quite visible from all indicators, and the crisis was occurring for the last one and a half decade with little prospect of improvement given the policy framework pursued by the successive Governments on the agricultural economy.

He said that during the last three years, as per the Economic Survey 2004-05, the index of agricultural production and the foodgrains production had really dipped which was an absolute decline.

Referring to the suicides which had become a single revealing indicator of all other indicators of the state of the rural people and, particularly, agriculture, he said that as per the official estimate, during 2001 to 2006, 8,900 people had committed suicide and as per the real estimate, he thought that since 1997 onwards, more than 25,000 people had committed suicide and suicides were not only restricted to the four States. Even the most agriculturally rich State, Punjab, had also started being affected by this serious phenomenon of suicides.

Shri Sen while citing a report of the Government of Karnataka analysing the reasons of the farmers' suicide in five districts concluded that suicides were more for a psychological reason than an economic one. The same report had also published a survey of 105 cases of suicides and out of that 93 persons were mostly indebted from the loans taken from the private moneylenders. But still the suicides were projected as a psychological case and not an economic one. This, he thought,

reflected the bent of mind; the policy approach, a reluctance to change the policy approach, which was at the root of the present agrarian distress. The recent import also indicated that even after so many suicides the persons in authority were yet to be sensitised to take a serious remedial step to address the most distressing problem of the major part of the populace. The wheat import undertaken after six years was preceded by a consistent four years of export of wheat, export of wheat at a price sometimes below the BPL price which was available to the BPL families.

Drawing the attention of the House, he said, that the wheat import had been resorted to manage the crisis on account of rising prices in the market. However, the manner in which the wheat import was taking place was not in the interest of the country and the producer and he requested the Government to sincerely reconsider it. The distortion that was taking place in the Indian economy was more important than radical land reforms and change in the land holding pattern in the country by active initiative of the Government, the improvement of the loan facilities with low rate of interest. He believed that if agricultural economy was allowed to remain in such a terminal distress and if suicides were allowed to continue, the urban economy could not be insulated from its disastrous impact and it would affect the country's economy as a whole.

Participating in the discussion\*, Shri Kalraj Mishra (BJP) said that India, being an agrarian country was expected to frame such a policy and to implement it on priority basis so that no farmer committed suicide in the country.

He said that the farmer community could be divided into four categories. The first category constituted such farmers who own the maximum land, the second category are those farmers who have marginal land, the third category constitutes the landless farmers and the fourth and the last category constituted the farm labourer. These were such farmers who were always over burdened with loans and they committed suicide because they could not repay the loans. They took loans from private moneylenders who charged interests more than the principal amount. As per the report of National Sample Survey, forty-eight percent farmers were under debt. Of these, eighty two per cent farmers were

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\* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Gandhi Azad, Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy, Ramdas Agarwal, Ram Narayan Sahu, Sharad Anantrao Joshi, Arjun Kumar Sengupta, Janardhana Poojary, E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Harendra Singh Malik, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary and Smt. N.P. Durga.

from Andhra Pradesh alone. He said that during the year 2004-05, the number of suicide cases in Andhra Pradesh alone was 1,068. During the NDA rule some positive steps had been initiated for farm labourers. The agricultural income insurance scheme, crop insurance scheme, etc. had been started. He added that since they were in the unorganized sector, it was decided to give them some relief.

Opposing the decision of import, he said that the stipulated standards and processes of import had also not been followed. He urged upon the Minister to take revolutionary steps in this regard and give a message to the whole country that the Government was not working at the direction of any foreign company.

Replying to the discussion the same day, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Pawar said that despite having a vast population, India had achieved success in solving the problem of food security during the last few decades. He gave the credit for this to the farmers and the agricultural scientists. The problem of insufficient stock of food grains was due to the fact that the growth rate of agriculture sector was not up to the mark in the last few years, as a result of which the Government was compelled to go in for import of wheat.

The Minister informed that out of the total figures of suicides in the country in the last few years, the suicide by farmers had ranged between fifteen and sixteen per cent. He said that a number of detailed studies on suicides by farmers had been carried out by professional organizations, management institutions and the expert committees appointed by the concerned State Governments. He inferred that all the reports of different States showed that indebtedness, natural calamities, uncertainty by failure of the monsoon and the failure of the crops were some of the reasons for the suicides committed by the farmers. He informed that all the farmers except the defaulters could avail the facility of crop loans. He added that the Government had to take some steps for provision of investment credits to the farmers in the country. Further, the rate of interest of investment credit and its repayment period was required to be worked out. He stated that in view of the serious problems faced by the agrarian sector, an Agricultural Co-ordination Committee headed by the Prime Minister has been constituted to review the sector on a regular basis.

Referring to the problem of non-availability of credit to farmers, which had been one of the reasons for farmers' suicide, the Minister said that the Government had given due attention to it. Regarding the

rate of interest on crop loan, he stated that many States had agreed to provide the loan at six per cent interest rate. He added that those farmers who had paid a higher interest rate during the last two years, would receive a refund of two per cent interest credited directly in their bank account before 30 March.

The Minister admitted that the cooperative societies were defaulters and they were unable to disburse loans to the farmers. A task force under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan had been constituted which had submitted its report in this regard and said that if the condition of the cooperative societies had to be improved there was a need to compensate the losses incurred by them. He informed that a package had been prepared in this regard and out of the total losses, the Centre would take the responsibility of Rs.12,000 crore and the remaining Rs.2,000 crore would be borne by the concerned State Governments and reputed banks where the societies or the cooperative banks were located. The total amount would be deposited in the District Central Cooperative Banks, which would in turn improve the health of the district Central Cooperative Bank and ultimately the farmers would be able to get credits through the cooperative societies.

Regarding the allocation for irrigation in the Budget, he said that it was for the first time a provision of Rs. 7,127 crore had been made for the purpose. Speaking on the aspect of Minimum Support Price, he said that if the market price dropped below the minimum support price announced by the Government, the Centre could not ignore its responsibility to save the farmers from distress sale.

The Minister said that there was a need for the normal movement of the foodgrains and the agricultural produce. The Government had enacted the Model Agriculture Produce Act which needed to be accepted by all the States in the country. The present Act permitted the farmer to sell the agricultural produce anywhere. As a result of this, the amount of wheat that reached the *mandis* was very less, he inferred. Thereafter, all the concerned State Governments were contacted and it was suggested that there was a need to increase the purchase price as the traders had offered twenty-five rupees more than the Government's offer. Alarmed by the situation, he said, disbursement of bonus was declared on the sale for which the Ministry had to bear an additional burden of Rs. 780 crore. He said that this resulted in an advantage that for the first time the farmers received an increased price for their agricultural produce and nowhere there was distress sale. He further added that to avoid a situation where the consumer was exploited, a need was felt to enhance

the buffer stock. Keeping in view the eventuality of a monsoon failure or famine in some States, it was decided to import wheat so that buffer stock was adequate. It was also decided that the quantity to be imported would be increased in phases, he said.

Replying to the clarifications sought, the Minister said that the interest rate on loans had been brought down to 6 to 7 per cent after dialogue with the World Trade Organisation. In a year or two it could be improved further. As long as the stock of grains earmarked for the Public Distribution System was adequate there was no fear from traders, multinationals and big holders. The interests of farmers would be fully protected. He also informed that the Government was implementing the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme. He admitted that production in Punjab and Haryana had decreased. He said that steps would have to be taken to improve the situation and simultaneously, the cropping pattern was also required to be changed there. He said that the suggestion regarding the system of growing wheat and rice alternately, had been sent to both the State Governments. He assured that at no cost the price of the grains would be allowed to fall below the minimum support price level in the market.

*Calling attention to the grave situation arising out of rampant female foeticide and resultant imbalance in sex ratio in the country:* On 19 May 2006, Kumari Anusuiya Uikey (BJP) called the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss in this regard. Replying to the motion, the Minister stated that the sex ratio in India had been declining since 1901, though it went slightly up to 933 in 2001 as compared to 927 in 1991. However, the child sex ratio for the age group of 0 to 6 years showed a decline during the same period and the 2001 census revealed that the child sex ratio was lower particularly in different States like Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

He elaborated some of the common reasons for the consistently low levels of sex ratio. These were: preference for a son, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide, higher maternal mortality and male bias in enumeration of population. In addition to it, the latest trend of having preference for a small family of one son and one daughter, easy availability of the sex determination tests and abortion services were also responsible for the declining trend, which was further stimulated by pre-conception sex selection facilities.

He stated that though sex determination techniques, prevalent in the country since 1975 were meant to determine genetic abnormalities, these techniques were widely misused to determine the sex of the foetus and subsequently abort the foetus if it was found to be female. He said that since both the person who sought the illegal service and the service provider (doctors) were gainers in the process it was difficult to punish the errant doctors.

As a corrective measure the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, was brought into operation from 1 January 1996. The Act was later amended to make it more comprehensive and was renamed the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, which came into force with effect from 14 February 2003.

Use of ultrasound machines was brought within the purview of this Act to curb their misuse for detection and disclosure of sex of the foetus lest it should lead to female foeticide. The Central Supervisory Board (CSB) and the State level Supervisory Boards had been introduced for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Act in the Centre and in States/UTs.

He elaborated a number of steps taken by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the implementation of the Act and directions of the Supreme Court. A National Inspection and Monitoring Committee had been constituted at the Centre to take stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problem States. In addition, a 'National Support and Monitoring Cell' was approved for effective implementation of the Act by appointing professionals from police, medical, law and social sciences as full time consultants who were expected to help in putting the mechanism in place so that actual wrong doers who are committing or abetting female foeticide are apprehended by the appropriate authorities. The Act empowered the appropriate authorities for search, seizure and sealing of machines, equipments and records. Training programmes and sensitization workshops had, therefore, been organized to sensitize these appropriate authorities.

To supplement the legislation various activities were undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through radio, television, and print media units. Workshops and seminars were also organized through Voluntary Organizations at State/regional/district/block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation was sought from religious/ spiritual leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice.

The Government of India launched 'Save the Girl Child Campaign' by highlighting achievements of young girls. With a view to sensitizing the Judiciary, the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, provided training to trainers from the state judicial academies who in turn would provide training to the Judiciary in the area under their jurisdiction.

Replying to the points raised by members, Dr. Ramdoss stated that the issue of declining sex ratio was not merely a medical issue. He stated that the Government decided to give Rs. five lakh each to every member of Parliament of the five most problematic States, like Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Chandigarh, in the first phase for creating an awareness for this declining sex ratio issue.

Refuting the charge that the ultrasound machines were responsible for the declining sex ratio, the Minister claimed that the ultrasound machines were saving millions of lives in this country and stressed on the need for more machines in this country, particularly in the North-East because maternal mortality rate in the country was one of the highest in the world, and infant mortality was one of the highest in this region.

He assured that the Government had taken notice of the National Commission for Women (NCW) complaints which were forwarded to the States. But some States took action while others did not. However, the Government was trying to persuade the States to initiate action.

He said that it was not possible to outrightly ban abortions as there were a lot of medical cases which needed the abortions. The Government was also trying to have adolescent health programmes to improve the nutritional status of the girl child.

*Discussion on the working of the Ministries of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development:* A discussion on the working of the Ministries of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development took place on the 18, 20 and 21 March and 12 May 2006.

Initiating the discussion on 18 March 2006, Shri Mangani Lal Mandal (RJD) said that the *Panchayats* were given a constitutional status after the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act. Thereafter, an independent Ministry was constituted for the purpose at the Centre as well as in the States. He requested the Minister of Panchayati Raj and the Minister of Rural Development to make the self help groups a compulsory part of the *Panchayati Raj* system. He said that the *Mukhiyas* should be trained and the members of the *Zilla Parishads* should be given the responsibility for the implementation of the various programmes launched under the

District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). He further said that specific targets should be set for the *Panchayats* and the *Zilla Parishads* so that employment opportunities could be created in the rural areas and poverty could be eradicated. He also mentioned that the five basic needs of a person *i.e.* Food, Clothing, Shelter, Education and Medication must be guaranteed. He also requested the Minister to provide basic facilities such as potable water, toilets, electricity and roads in the rural areas.

Participating in the discussion\* Shri V. Narayanasamy (INC) said that Rural Development and Panchayati Raj was the lifeline of the country. Referring to the development of the rural areas, he said that the UPA Government, under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh, and under the Minister of Rural Development and under the Minister of Rural Development and the Panchayati Raj had done a lot in this respect. A thrust had been given by the Government for rural development in the Budget 2006-07 also, which was rural oriented. Appreciating the *Bharat Nirman* scheme, he said that it was a very noble scheme and it practically got into the root cause of the problems faced by rural development. He suggested that there should be a monitoring machinery to look after the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme through the public representatives. Otherwise, he thought the scheme would be diluted and the purpose would not be achieved. He commended the Ministry of Rural Development which had done a lot of work and had brought more land under cultivation, and had also worked for wasteland development and desert land development. He said that the funds provided to the North-Eastern Region should be compatible with those provided to other regions of the country.

Speaking about the Panchayati Raj Institutions, he said that unless and until they functioned effectively and independently, it would be very difficult to achieve the purpose for which they were created. Therefore, the Panchayati Raj Institutions were required to be given more powers, more financial autonomy so that they were not dependant on the Secretary of the State Government to obtain sanctions for the implementation of various schemes for the development of *Panchayats* and municipal areas.

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\* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Suresh Bhardwaj, Matilal Sarkar, Bashistha Narain Singh, K. Malaisamy, Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi, Nandi Yellaiah, Abani Roy, Suryakantbhai Acharya, Silvius Condpan, Harendra Singh Malik, B.S. Gnanadesikan, Moolchand Meena, Kalraj Mishra, Jayanti Lal Barot, Dr. P.C. Alexander, Dr. Faguni Ram, Smt. Prema Cariappa, and Dr. Prabha Thakur



Dr. Radhakant Nayak (INC) said that the participatory mechanism that had developed through *Panchayati Raj* System has not got into any kind of effectiveness because either the women or the untouchables or the tribals remained outside the *Panchayati Raj* System. He also said that the *Panchayati Raj* system should help to build social and rural capital at the ground level.

Replying to the discussion on 21 March 2006, Minister of Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh said that it was high time for a discussion on the issue as it was the last year of the Tenth Five-Year Plan and it would be the basis for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan. Speaking about the definition of poverty, he said that in 1979, the people consuming less than 2,200 calories were considered below the poverty line. In 1991 the people having income less than Rs. 11,000 were considered below the poverty line and in 1997 the people having income less than Rs. 20,000 were regarded as B.P.L. In the year 2002, a new survey was conducted on a scientific basis determining 13 parameters. Under these parameters, poverty is judged on the basis of possessing land, facility of food security, consumer durables, literacy, etc.

The country, he said, was facing two major problems, viz. poverty and unemployment. The topmost priority was required to be given to employment. If the country had to come to the forefront by 2020, the BPL families would have to be brought above the poverty line. The basic facilities, such as potable water, employment, etc. had to be provided to them. Under the UPA Government's Common Minimum Programme, a 15-point programme of the Ministry of Rural Development was being implemented successfully.

Replying to the queries of the members regarding the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, the Minister explained that agriculture, the backbone of our economy, did not require work for the whole year. Thus, when there was no agricultural work, farmers would be provided jobs during such a lean period. This would also help check their migration to urban cities. He informed that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme had already been introduced with effect from 2 February 2006 in 200 districts of the country. He added that priority would be given to water conservation, water management, flood proofing, drought proofing, desert land development and rural connectivity. To monitor progress in this direction, a four-point programme had also been formulated.

Referring to the non-availability of potable water, the Minister said that there were problems as to availability, sustainability and quality of water and that there were water related problems in 2,16,000 habitations

in the country. The Government was committed to get rid of these problems under the *Bharat Nirman* Programme. The construction of roads and arrangement for potable water were its major components. A Water Quality and Surveillance Programme had been launched in the country. Under the Employment Guarantee Scheme, Self Productive Employment Scheme, which is a Self Help Group movement, had been introduced to solve the problem of unemployment. Women were given priority in such groups. In the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, a target had been set that at least one person from each poor family would become member of Self Help Group under the Self Employment Programme. The Ministry of Rural Development, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), women corporations and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) were setting up these self-help groups.

Speaking about the Panchayati Raj Institutions, the Minister said that a number of Commissions had been set up and they had presented their reports. It had been requested by many members to provide funds to the Panchayati Raj Institutions directly and there should be a provision to redress their grievances. That is why a provision has been made for imparting training in this regard. Panchayati Raj members should be involved in employment guarantee programme and other such programmes. Referring to the development of desert and drought prone areas in Rajasthan, he said that 1.17 crore hectare of land has been made cultivable. All the States have been requested to make master plans to tackle the problems of water scarcity, wasteland development in drought prone areas, water conservation, watershed management, etc.

In conclusion, the Minister said that the Finance Minister had himself revised the amount of old age pension from Rs. 75 to Rs. 200 per month. Under the *Annapurna Yojana*, poor people were being given 10 kg. of cereal per month free of cost.

Replying to the discussion on 12 May 2006, the Minister of Panchayati Raj and the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar said that he was glad that all the members who participated in the discussion had supported the *Panchayati Raj*. He said that a revolution was going on through the *Panchayati Raj* in the country and the Parliament involved itself in that revolutionary movement. The objective of *Poorna Swaraj* through *Gram Swaraj* which Gandhiji had placed before us, would be truly attained only through such involvements.

Substantiating his statement, the Minister said that it was an amazing

achievement that in a country, which, till 1995, had less than 5,000 directly elected representatives of the people, the number of directly elected representatives in governance had risen to 20,73,715. The highest number of elected representatives was in the State of Uttar Pradesh, viz. 3,77,518 and the lowest was in Sikkim viz. 46. In the *Panchayats* and *Gram Panchayats*, the total number of women representatives was 8,90,605. This, he believed fulfilled Rajiv Gandhi's instruction of changing from being merely the world's largest democracy to the world's most representative democracy. Empowerment on this scale was unparalleled in the world.

Regarding the empowerment of the *Panchayats*, the Minister said that it should be left for the *Panchayats* to decide as to what developmental works should be undertaken in their respective villages. The States, he said should evaluate the structure of the *Panchayats* as well as their functions and the way they function. He stated that it was the promise of the National Common Minimum Programme that there would be devolution of the three 'fs'- viz. functions, finances and the functionaries. Everybody should be aware of which work was to be taken up at which level and the money be directed there only. The *samitis* should act as coordinators and the *Gram Sabhas* should decide whether the work had been taken up or not and who was accountable for it.

A few years back, the Minister said that it was thought that the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) should be merged with the *Zilla Parishads* and there should be no difference between the two. There were only five States where this merger was complete. The Minister informed that the Planning Commission had sent an advisory to all the States that the 11th Five Year Plan would be based upon district planning and such plans would be made as per the constitutional provisions. Thereafter, the committee constituted in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj had submitted its report stating as to how the district planning could be done. The District Planning Committees had to complete their work in the month of November and every *Gram Panchayat*, District *Panchayat* and the Municipalities had to prepare their plans by September-October. The Centre had to complete its work in every State by July. He informed that there were eleven such States where such committees had been constituted. The Minister hoped that the district plans would be complete in the current year and would come up before the 11th Five Year Plan commenced.

Referring to the Panchayats Empowerment of Scheduled Areas Act (PESAA), which was passed in December 1996, the Minister said that

the *Gram Sabhas* had been given a legal right that they should express their views in respect of at least three areas. The first was the identification of the beneficiaries. The second was the approval of all the plans, programmes and the projects prepared by the *Panchayats*. The third and the most important was the issue of the utilization certificates authorized by the *Gram Sabha*. It was the misuse of the utilization certificate, which was largely responsible for corruption at the lowest level.

The Minister informed that important proposals regarding the preparation of District Level Credit Plans, the *Panchayats* to be included in the State-Level Bankers' Committee and the Bank Services areas to be restricted to the *Panchayat Areas*, were being worked upon. He further added that the Ministry was working upon two major plans—one was the *Gram Swaraj* and the other was the Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Fund. The *Panchayat* empowerment, he said was to be incentivised for the States and Panchayat accountability was to be incentivised for the Panchayats. By bringing the two together, he thought, a much stronger *Panchayati Raj* System would be there. He said that the Prime Minister had already ordered that all the Central Ministries should recast their Centrally sponsored schemes to ensure the centrality of the *Panchayats*. In those schemes, a considerable measure of success had been achieved with regard to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, where, in Section 13, it was stipulated that the *Panchayats* should be the principal authority for planning and implementation. He also informed about the 150 action points for *Panchayati Raj* System where there was unanimity and which was to be implemented in future.

## **B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

*The Government of Union Territories and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2006\**: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 24 February 2006, Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil said that article 81 read with article 82 of the Constitution provides that the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as the Parliament may by law determine. Further, such readjustment of territorial constituencies is required to be done on the basis of 2001

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\* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 20 February 2006

census figures. The second proviso to article 82 of the Constitution provides that such readjustment shall take effect from such date as the President may, by order, specify and until such readjustment takes effect, any election to the House of the People may be held on the basis of the territorial constituencies existing before such readjustment, *i.e.* on the basis of the 1991 census figures. Article 170 contains similar provisions in respect of readjustment of each State into territorial constituencies in respect of representation in State Legislative Assemblies. However, there is no such enabling provision either in the Constitution or in the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 or in the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 in respect of the Union territory of Pondicherry and the National Capital Territory of Delhi empowering the President or the Central Government to issue an order by means of which the coming into force of the readjustment of territorial constituencies in respect of the Union territory of Pondicherry and the National Capital Territory of Delhi could be specified. In other words, the Delimitation Orders issued by the Delimitation Commission constituted under the Delimitation Act, 2002, in respect of the aforesaid Union territories would be operative from the date of such order. The delimitation exercise in respect of the Union territory of Pondicherry and certain States was over but in case of the majority of States and the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the exercise was not over. Hence, an anomalous situation whereby elections might have to be conducted on the basis of two different census figures in respect of the Union territory of Pondicherry *vis-à-vis* the rest of the country would arise unless necessary provision was made in the concerned Acts.

The Bill sought to rectify the aforesaid anomalous situation arising out of lack of a suitable enabling provision in the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 and the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, by inserting a provision similar to the corresponding provisions under the second proviso to article 82 and the second proviso to clause (3) of article 170 of the Constitution in the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 with retrospective effect, that is from 31 March 2005, and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, from the date of assent of the Bill.

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

*Statutory Resolution seeking Disapproval of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 and the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment)*

**Bill, 2005\*:** On 1 March 2006, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi moved the Statutory Resolution stating that the House disapproved of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 promulgated by the President on 23 January 2006.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Md. Ali Ashraf Fatmi moved the motion for consideration of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

Replying to the debate\*\* the Minister said that when the Bill was passed earlier on 11 November 2004, at the implementation stage, it was felt that certain shortcomings were still there. One aspect that created problem was the issuing of the 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) by the States. In the previous Act, the minority institutions were allowed to affiliate only six universities. The present Bill, he stated, sought to expand the scope of such affiliation. He assured that the cases of NOC would be dealt with in an appropriate manner. It would be issued only where it was required. He further stated that the National Commission for Minority Education would not interfere in the functioning of the Medical Council, All India Council For Technical Education (AICTE) or the National Council for Technical Education (NCTE). The norms which were applicable to other institutions would also be applied to the minority institutions. As regards the definition of a minority community, he clarified that whichever community was in minority in any particular State, would be recognised as a minority in that State and a separate notification would be issued for the same.

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

***The Companies (Amendment) Bill 2006\*\*\*:*** On 21 March 2006, the Minister of Company Affairs, Shri Prem Chand Gupta moved the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House. The Ministry of Company Affairs had decided to implement a comprehensive e-Governance system and programme to enable the operations carried out by the Ministry and its field offices for being performed more efficiently and

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\* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 23 August 2005

\*\* Those who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Balvant *alias* Bal Apte, A. Vijayaraghavan, Shahid Siddiqui, Ravi Shankar Prasad, M.P. Abdussamad Samadani, Motiur Rahman, N.K. Premachandran, Ram Jethmalani, Tarlochan Singh, Abu Asim Azmi, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Dr. K. Malaisamy, Dr. Radhakant Nayak and Smt. N.P. Durga

\*\*\* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 6 March 2006

effectively through the use of contemporary information technology and computers. The implementation of the project named 'MCA-21' on the recommendations of the Department of Information Technology would also result in efficiency in statutory supervision of corporate processes and efficient professional services under the Companies Act, 1956 (the Act). The Bill, *inter alia*, proposed to insert new sections in the Companies Act, 1956 so as to make provision for electronic filing system and for payment of fees through electronic form under the said Act. The Bill also provided for allotment of a unique Director Identification Number to any individual intending to be appointed as a Director in a company or to any existing Director of a company for the purpose of his identification as such, through electronic or other form and to provide for penalty for any violation in that regard. The motions for the consideration of the Bill, clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

*The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Amending Bill, 2006\**: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 16 May 2006, Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil said that the Bill did not propose to amend any of the provisions of the principal Act that is the Code of Criminal Procedure. In consultation with the Law Ministry, the Bill was prepared to amend the sub-section 2 of section 1 of the Act so as to enable to give partial effect to the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005. Considering the fact that the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005 contained several important provisions for streamlining and reforming the law of criminal procedure, it was felt that withholding the implementation of the said Act due to only a few controversial provisions was not proper and it was decided to give effect to those provisions of the Act which had not been objected to by a large section.

Replying to the debate\*\*, the Minister said that all the issues pertaining to the Act had been considered and the matter was with the Law Ministry which was drafting the Bill on that basis. The Bill may then go to the Standing Committee which would look into it. The Government, he said, was of the view that the provisions should be there in the Criminal Procedure Code so that the witnesses did not give different versions before the police and also in the court. But the matter was for the Standing Committee to decide. The Government, he stated was

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\* The Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 21 March 2006.

\*\* Those who participated in discussion were: Sarvashri Shantaram Laxman Naik, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Moinul Hassan.

trying to handle it in a piecemeal and did not want to wait till the time when it became possible for the Government to consider all the recommendations given by all the Commissions relating to all the provisions in the Criminal Procedure Code.

The motions for the consideration of the Bill, Clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

### C. QUESTION HOUR

During the Session, 9,440 notices of Questions (7,930 Starred and 1,510 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 559 Questions were admitted as Starred and 4,105 as Unstarred. The total number of notices of Questions received in Hindi was 2,220.

*Daily average of Questions:* For all days, the list of Starred Questions contained 20 Questions each except on 1 March 2006 which had 19 Questions. On an average, 3.80 Questions were orally answered per sitting. The maximum number of Questions orally answered was 14 on 20 February 2006 and the minimum was three on 17 February, 1 March and 17 May 2006. The list of Unstarred Questions contained 90, 95, 120, 98, 154, 151 and 142 Questions on 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27 February and 6 March 2006 respectively and on the rest of the days, it contained 155 Questions each.

*Half-an-Hour Discussion:* In all, thirteen notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received during the Session. Out of these, four notices were admitted but only two notices were discussed on the floor of the House.

*Short Notice Questions:* In all, fourteen Short Notice Questions were received, out of which two were admitted and one was taken up for discussion.

### D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Pramod Mahajan, sitting member of the Rajya Sabha; and Sarvashri Satyanarayana Dronamraju, Khemchandbhai Somabhai Chavda, Narendra Singh, C.D. Natarajan, Lachhman Singh, Golap Barbora, Bansi Lal, Maulana Asad Madni, Dr. Shyam Sundar Mohapatra and Shrimati Sarla Bhadauria, 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 Twelfth Assam Legislative Assembly commenced its First Session on 29 May 2006, which was adjourned *sine die* on 31 May 2006. There were three sittings in all.

*Oath or Affirmation by new members:* Being the first Session of the Twelfth State Legislative Assembly, 123 newly elected members subscribed their oath and affirmation before the *Pro tem* Speaker on 29 May 2006.

*Election of Speaker:* On 29 May 2006, Shri Tanka Bahadur Rai was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

*Address by the Governor:* The Governor of Assam Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Ajai Singh addressed the House on 30 May 2006. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor's for his Address was moved on the same day. The Motion was adopted on 31 May 2006 after a debate in the House.

*Election of Deputy Speaker:* On 31 May 2006, Smt. Pranati Phukan was unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

### KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL\*\*

The Karnataka Legislative Council commenced its One Hundred and Fourth Session (Adjourned Meetings) on 24 February 2006 which continued up to 3 March 2006 and again from 16 March to 6 April 2006. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 6 April 2006. There were 20 sittings in all.

*Address by the Governor:* The Governor of Karnataka, Shri T.N. Chaturvedi addressed the Joint Sitting of both the Houses on 24 February 2006.

*Legislative business:* During the Session, out of the 14 Bills as passed by the State Legislative Assembly, 10 Bills were passed by the Legislative Council.

*Financial business:* On 20 March 2006, the Budget Estimates for the year 2006-2007 were placed before the House and 14 members participated in the discussion on the Budget Estimates.

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\* Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat

\*\* Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Council Secretariat

*Obituary references:* During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of former members of the Legislative Council and other important dignitaries.

The Hundred and Fourth Session (Adjourned Meetings) of the Karnataka Legislative Council, which commenced on 5 to 6 June 2006 and again on 19 June 2006 was adjourned *sine die* on 19 July 2006. There were 25 sittings in all.

*Legislative business:* During the Session, out of the 3 Bills as passed by the State Legislative Assembly, 2 Bills were passed by the House and the Karnataka Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2006 was not passed by the House.

*Obituary references:* During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of former members of the Lok Sabha, former Ministers of State, former members of the State Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, famous writers, film personalities and other dignitaries and people who lost their lives in the bomb explosions in Mumbai and Srinagar.

### **KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY\***

The Twelfth Karnataka Legislative Assembly commenced its Third Session (Adjourned Meetings) on 24 February 2006, which continued up to 3 March 2006 and again from 16 March to 6 April 2006. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 6 April 2006. There were 20 sittings in all.

*Address by the Governor:* The Governor of Karnataka, Shri T.N. Chaturvedi addressed the Joint Sitting of both the Houses on 24 February 2006. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was adopted by the House.

*Legislative business:* During the Session, 15 Bills including the Appropriation Bill were passed by the House.

*Financial business:* On 20 March 2006, the Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Shri B.S. Yediyurappa presented the Budget Estimates for the year 2006-07 before the House. The General Discussion was held for five days and the Vote on Account up to July 2006 was adopted. The Supplementary Estimates (II and III instalments) for the year 2005-06 were presented to the House and was adopted.

*Obituary references:* During the Session, obituary references were

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\* Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Secretariat

made on the passing away of Sarvashri R.T. Patil, V.S. Heeroji, Andanaiah, H.A. Veeregowda, Govindappa Hanumathappa Juttal, all former members of the State Legislative Assembly and Shri Hanji Veerabhadrapa, former member of the Mysore Representative Assembly.

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The Adjourned Meetings of the Third Session of the Twelfth Karnataka Legislative Assembly were held again on 5 to 6 June and 19 June to 18 July 2006. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 18 July 2006. There were 23 sittings in all.

*Legislative business:* During the Session, 4 Bills including the Appropriation Bill were passed by the House. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill (No.3), which was rejected by the State Legislative Council was laid before the Legislative Assembly and was again passed by the House.

*Obituary references:* During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri Ashokanath Banerji, former Governor of Karnataka, Margada Mallappa, S.P. Talwalkar, S.T. Samrajya, K. Harshakumaragowda, P. Mudlegowda, K.C. Modigekar Desai, S. Ramesh, A.S. Doodhya Nayak, M. Veerannagowda, T.B. Balekai and Dr. C.M. Churchihalmutt, all former members of the State Legislative Assembly; famous persons of the State like Dr. Rajkumar, Kaginele Mahasamsthana Peetadhyaksha, Veerendra Keshava Tarakanandapuri and a famous litterateur Sri Hassan Raja Rao. The House also paid homage to the people who lost their lives in the series of bomb explosions in Mumbai.

### **KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY\***

The Twelfth Kerala Legislative Assembly commenced its First Session on 24 May 2006, and was adjourned *sine die* on 30 June 2006. There were 13 sittings in all. The Governor prorogued the House on 30 June 2006.

*Pro tem Speaker appointed:* Shri V.J. Thankappan was appointed *Pro tem Speaker* by the Governor on 23 May 2006.

*Oath or Affirmation by new members:* Being the first Session of the Twelfth State Legislative Assembly, 138 newly elected members subscribed their oath or affirmation before the *Pro tem Speaker*, Shri V.J. Thankappan on 24 May 2006.

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\* Material contributed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly Secretariat

*Address by the Governor:* The Governor of Kerala, Shri R.L. Bhatia addressed the House on 16 June 2006. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address commenced on 19 June 2006 with Shri Anathalavattom Anandan moving the motion. 61 members participated in the discussion on the motion, which was held 19, 20 and 21 June 2006. The motion was adopted by the House on 21 June 2006.

*Election of Speaker:* On 25 May 2006, Shri K. Radhakrishnan was elected as the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

*Election of Deputy Speaker:* On 20 June 2006, Shri Jose Baby was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

*Obituary references:* During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri K. Gopalan, former member of the Rajya Sabha; T.K. Ramakrishnan and B. Wellington, former Ministers; K.T. Kumaran and C. Kannan, former members of the State Legislative Assembly and T.S. Ramaswamy, former member of Travancore Cochin Legislative Assembly.

### **MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY\***

The Eighth Manipur Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Fourteenth Session on 26 May 2006, was adjourned *sine die* on 5 July 2006. There were three sittings in all.

*Legislative business:* During the Session, the Manipur Legislature (Removal of Disqualifications) Fourth Amendment Bill, 2006 was passed by the House.

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\* Material contributed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

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**APPENDIX I**

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED  
DURING THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE  
FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA**

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|   |  |     |
|---|--|-----|
| 1. PERIOD OF THE SESSION  | 16 February to 22 March 2006 and<br>10 May to 23 May 2006 (Recess from<br>23 March 2006 to 9 May 2006) |     |
| 2. NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD  |  | 35  |
| 3. TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS  | 194 hours, 38 minutes  |     |
| 4. NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD   | 3 on 22 May 2006<br>[on Constitution 105th Amendment Bill, 2006]                                       |     |
| 5. GOVERNMENT BILLS   |  |     |
| (i) Pending at the commencement of the Session  |  | 22  |
| (ii) Introduced   |  | 22  |
| (iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Rajya Sabha  |  | 8   |
| (iv) Returned by the Rajya Sabha with any<br>amendment/recommendation and laid on the Table       |  | 3   |
| (v) Reported by Standing Committee  |  | 10  |
| (vi) Referred to Departmentally related<br>Standing Committee by Speaker/Chairman,<br>Rajya Sabha |  | 1   |
| (vii) Discussed   |  | 29  |
| (viii) Passed   |  | 28  |
| (ix) Part-discussed   |  | 1   |
| (x) Returned by Rajya Sabha without<br>any recommendation   |  | 8   |
| (xi) Pending at the end of the Session  |  | 25  |
| 6. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS   |  |     |
| (i) Pending at the commencement of the Session  |  | 156 |
| (ii) Introduced   |  | 24  |
| (iii) Discussed   |  | 3   |
| (iv) Withdrawn  |  | 2   |
| (v) Part-discussed  |  | 1   |
| (vii) Removed from the Register of pending bills  |  | 10  |
| (vii) Pending at the end of the Session   |  | 168 |
| 7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184  |  |     |
| (i) Notices received  |  | 387 |
| (ii) Admitted   |  | 166 |
| (iii) Discussed   |  | 2   |

## *Appendices*

435

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 8. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377   | 415                            |
| 9. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR                                   | 349                            |
| 10. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193<br>(Matters of Urgent Public Importance)                     |                                |
| (i) Notices received   | 487                            |
| (ii) Admitted  | 9                              |
| (iii) Discussions held   | 6                              |
| (iv) Part-discussed  | 1                              |
| 11. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197<br>(Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance) | 6                              |
| 12. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372  | 63                             |
| 13. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS  |                                |
| (i) Notices received   | 7                              |
| (ii) Admitted  | 1                              |
| (iii) Moved  | 1                              |
| (iv) Negatived   | 1                              |
| 14. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS   |                                |
| (i) Notices received   | 3                              |
| (ii) Admitted  | 3                              |
| 15. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS   |                                |
| (i) Received   | 6                              |
| (ii) Admitted  | 6                              |
| (iii) Discussed  | 1                              |
| (iv) Part-discussed  | 1                              |
| 16. MOTION REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULES   |                                |
| (i) Received   | 1                              |
| (ii) Admitted  | 1                              |
| 17. NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS  |                                |
| (i) Notices received   | 25                             |
| (ii) Admitted  | 1                              |
| (iii) Consent withheld by the Speaker, Lok Sabha<br>outside the House                                      | 24                             |
| 18. NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE(S)<br>CONSTITUTED, IF ANY, DURING THE SESSION                        | 4 (EC, PAC,<br>PU and SCTC)    |
| 19. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED<br>DURING THE SESSION  | 17,020                         |
| 20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES<br>ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE<br>ON WHICH ISSUED         | 803 issued on<br>10 March 2006 |

## 21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED

|  |      |
|--|------|
| (i) Starred                            | 560  |
| (ii) Starred Questions answered orally | 85   |
| (iii) Unstarred                        | 4933 |
| (iv) Half-an-Hour discussions          | 1    |

## 22. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE 4

23. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS  
SWORN-IN, WITH DATE

Three members  
(sworn-in on 16, 23 February  
and 15 May 2006)

## 24. NUMBER OF PRIVILEGE MOTIONS

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| (i) Notices received | 9 |
|----------------------|---|

## 25. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

| Sl. No. | Name of the Committee   | No. of sittings held during the period 1 April to 30 June 2006 | 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   | —  | —                        |
| iv)     | Committee on Estimates  | 5  | 1                        |
| v)      | Committee on Ethics   | —  | —                        |
| vi)     | Committee on Government Assurances  | 4  | 2                        |
| vii)    | Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) | 2  | —                        |
| viii)   | Committee on Papers Laid on the Table                                     | —  | —                        |
| ix)     | Committee on Petitions  | —  | —                        |
| x)      | Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions                       | —  | —                        |
| xi)     | Committee of Privileges   | —  | —                        |
| xii)    | Committee on Public Accounts  | 4  | —                        |
| xiii)   | Committee on Public Undertakings  | —  | —                        |
| xiv)    | Committee on Subordinate Legislation                                      | —  | —                        |
| xv)     | Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes         | 2  | —                        |
| xvi)    | General Purposes Committee  | —  | —                        |
| xvii)   | House Committee   | —  | —                        |
|         | a) Accommodation Sub-Committee  | —  | —                        |
|         | b) Sub-Committee on Amenities   | —  | —                        |
| xviii)  | Library Committee   | —  | —                        |

|                                   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| xix) Railway Convention Committee | — | — |
| xx) Rules Committee               | — | — |

**JOINT / SELECT COMMITTEES**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| i) Joint Committee on Offices of Profit                                 | — | — |
| ii) Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament | — | — |

**DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES**

|   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| i) Committee on Agriculture                                       | —  | — |
| ii) Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers                        | 2  | 2 |
| iii) Committee on Coal & Steel                                    | 8  | 3 |
| iv) Committee on Defence  | —  | — |
| v) Committee on Energy  | —  | — |
| vi) Committee on External Affairs                                 | 5  | 2 |
| vii) Committee on Finance   | 13 | 7 |
| viii) Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution | —  | — |
| ix) Committee on Information Technology                           | 7  | — |
| x) Committee on Labour  | —  | — |
| xi) Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas                        | 4  | 3 |
| xii) Committee on Railways  | 9  | 2 |
| xiii) Committee on Rural Development                              | 7  | 4 |
| xiv) Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment                  | 4  | 3 |
| xv) Committee on Urban Development                                | —  | — |
| xvi) Committee on Water Resources                                 | 4  | — |

**26. CELL ON PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**

| Sl. No. | Name of Forum  | No. of Meetings held during the period 1 April to 30 June 2006 | No. of lectures held |
|---------|--|--|----------------------|
| 1.      | Parliamentary Forum on Children                          | —  | —                    |
| 2.      | Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management | —  | —                    |
| 3.      | Parliamentary Forum on Youth                             | —  | —                    |

**APPENDIX II**

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED  
DURING THE TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTH  
SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA**

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|   |   |     |
|---|---|-----|
| 1. PERIOD OF THE SESSION  | 16 February to 22 March 2006 and<br>10 May to 23 May 2006 |     |
| 2. NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD                                      |   | 35  |
| 3. TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS                                | 180 Hours and 56 Minutes                                  |     |
| 4. NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD                                     |   | 5   |
| 5. GOVERNMENT BILLS   |   |     |
| (i) Pending at the commencement of the Session                  |   | 43  |
| (ii) Introduced   |   | 9   |
| (iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Lok Sabha                  |   | 21  |
| (iv) Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment                   |   | 3   |
| (v) Referred to Select Committee by Rajya Sabha                 |   | Nil |
| (vi) Referred to Joint Committee by Rajya Sabha                 |   | Nil |
| (vii) Referred to the Department-related<br>Standing Committees |   | 5   |
| (viii) Reported by Select Committee                             |   | Nil |
| (ix) Reported by Joint Committee                                |   | Nil |
| (x) Reported by the Department-related<br>Standing Committees   |   | 15  |
| (xi) Discussed  |   | 32  |
| (xii) Passed  |   | 30  |
| (xiii) Withdrawn  |   | 2   |
| (xiv) Negatived   |   | Nil |
| (xv) Part-discussed   |   | Nil |
| (xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any<br>recommendation |   | 11  |
| (xvii) Discussion postponed                                     |   | Nil |
| (xviii) Pending at the end of the Session                       |   | 43* |
| 6. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS                                       |   |     |
| (i) Pending at the commencement of the Session                  |   | 192 |
| (ii) Introduced   |   | 32  |
| (iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha              |   | Nil |

---

\* Including the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006 which has been returned by the President for reconsideration by both the Houses of Parliament



|   |     |
|---|-----|
| (iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table                                       | Nil |
| (v) Reported by Joint Committee   | Nil |
| (vi) Discussed  | 4   |
| (vii) Withdrawn   | 3   |
| (viii) Passed   | Nil |
| (ix) Negatived  | Nil |
| (x) Circulated for eliciting opinion  | Nil |
| (xi) Part-discussed   | 1   |
| (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   | 120 |
| (xvi) Pending at the end of the Session   | 101 |
| <b>7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)</b>                     |     |
| (i) Notices received  | 98  |
| (ii) Admitted   | 5   |
| (iii) Discussions held  | 5   |
| <b>8. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)</b> |     |
| Statements made by Ministers  | 2   |
| <b>9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD</b>   | Nil |
| <b>10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS</b>  |     |
| (i) Notices received  | 1   |
| (ii) Admitted   | 1   |
| (iii) Moved   | 1   |
| (iv) Adopted  | Nil |
| (v) Negatived   | 1   |
| (vi) Withdrawn  | Nil |
| <b>11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS</b>   |     |
| (i) Notices received  | 2   |
| (ii) Admitted   | 2   |
| (iii) Moved   | Nil |
| (iv) Adopted  | Nil |
| <b>12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS</b>   |     |
| (i) Received  | 8   |
| (ii) Admitted   | 8   |
| (iii) Discussed   | 3   |
| (iv) Withdrawn  | 1   |
| (v) Negatived   | 1   |
| (vi) Adopted  | Nil |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| (vii) Part-discussed   | 1   |
| (viii) Discussion postponed  | Nil   |
| <b>13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS</b>  |   |
| (i) Notices received   | Nil   |
| (ii) Admitted  | Nil   |
| (iii) Moved and discussed  | Nil   |
| (iv) Adopted   | Nil   |
| (v) Part-discussed   | Nil   |
| <b>14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS</b>  |   |
| (i) Received   | 48  |
| (ii) Admitted  | 1 (but discussed as<br>Short Duration Discussion) |
| (iii) Moved  | Nil   |
| (iv) Adopted   | Nil   |
| (v) Part-discussed   | Nil   |
| (vi) Negatived   | Nil   |
| (vii) Withdrawn  | Nil   |
| <b>15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION<br/>OF STATUTORY RULE</b>  |   |
| (i) Received   | 3   |
| (ii) Admitted  | 1   |
| (iii) Moved  | Nil   |
| (iv) Adopted   | Nil   |
| (v) Negatived  | 1   |
| (vi) Withdrawn   | Nil   |
| (vii) Part-discussed   | Nil   |
| (viii) Lapsed  | 1   |
| <b>16. NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY<br/>COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY</b>                          | Nil   |
| <b>17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED</b>   | 2,580   |
| <b>18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS</b>  | 3,802   |
| <b>19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES<br/>ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE<br/>ON WHICH ISSUED</b> | 206<br>(on 25.5.2006)                             |
| <b>20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY<br/>SINGLE DAY AND DATE</b>                                     | 227<br>(on 25.5.2006)                             |
| <b>21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED</b>  |   |
| (i) Starred  | 559   |
| (ii) Unstarred   | 4,105   |
| (iii) Short-Notice Questions   | 2   |

22. DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES

4

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Ministry of External Affairs

Ministry of Labour and Employment

Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

| Sl. No.                                       | Name of the Committee   | No. of meetings held during the period 1 April to 30 June 2006 | No. of Reports presented |
|---|---|--|--------------------------|
| 1   | 2   | 3  | 4                        |
| (i)   | Business Advisory Committee                                     | 2  | Nil                      |
| (ii)  | Committee on Subordinate Legislation                            | 3  | 1                        |
| (iii)   | Committee on Petitions  | 2  | 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                           | 1  | 4                        |
| (viii)  | General Purposes Committee                                      | 1  | Nil                      |
| (ix)  | House Committee   | 1  | Nil                      |
| <b>Department-Related Standing Committees</b> |   |  |                          |
| (x)   | Commerce  | 3  | 2                        |
| (xi)  | Home Affairs  | 2  | 11                       |
| (xii)   | Human Resource Development                                      | 5  | 5                        |
| (xiii)  | Industry  | 6  | 13                       |
| (xiv)   | Science and Technology, Environment and Forests                 | 7  | 7                        |
| (xv)  | Transport, Tourism and Culture                                  | 5  | 6                        |
| (xvi)   | Health and Family Welfare                                       | 8  | 2                        |
| (xvii)  | Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice                   | 5  | 2                        |
| <b>Other Committees</b>                       |   |  |                          |
| (xviii)                                       | Committee on Ethics   | Nil  | Nil                      |
| (xix)   | Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha   | 2  | Nil                      |
| (xx)  | Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme | Nil  | Nil                      |
| (xxi)   | Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Functioning of Wakf Boards | 2  | 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.      | Shri Jai Prakash Aggarwal   | INC               | 16.2.2006              |
| 2.      | Smt. Shobhana Bhartia       | NOM               | 20.2.2006              |
| 3.      | Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan | NOM               | 22.2.2006              |
| 4.      | Shri Shyam Benegal          | NOM               | 23.2.2006              |
| 5.      | Shri Ongden Tshering Lepcha | SDF               | 24.2.2006              |
| 6.      | Shri Syed Azeez Pasha       | CPI               | 10.5.2006              |
| 7.      | Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao     | INC               | -do-                   |
| 8.      | Shri K. Keshava Rao         | INC               | -do-                   |
| 9.      | Shri M.V. Mysura Reddy      | TDP               | -do-                   |
| 10.     | Shri Ramdas Agarwal         | BJP               | -do-                   |
| 11.     | Shri Virendra Bhatia        | SP                | -do-                   |
| 12.     | Shri Mahendra Mohan         | SP                | -do-                   |
| 13.     | Shri B.J. Panda             | BJD               | 12.5.2006              |
| 14.     | Shri Jabir Husain           | RJD               | 23.5.2006              |

## 27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

| S.No. | Name                               | Sitting Member/ Ex-Member |
|-------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.    | Shri Pramod Mahajan                | Sitting Member            |
| 2.    | Shri Satyanarayana Dronamraju      | Ex-Member                 |
| 3.    | Shri Khemchandbhai Somabhai Chavda | -do-                      |
| 4.    | Shri Narendra Singh                | -do-                      |
| 5.    | Maulana Asad Madni                 | -do-                      |
| 6.    | Shri C.D. Natarajan                | -do-                      |
| 7.    | Shri Lachhman Singh                | -do-                      |
| 8.    | Shri Golap Barbora                 | -do-                      |
| 9.    | Shri Bansilal                      | -do-                      |
| 10.   | Dr. Shyam Sundar Mohapatra         | -do-                      |
| 11.   | Smt. Sarla Bhadauria               | -do-                      |

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2006

| Legislature              | Duration               | Sittings | Govt. Bills | Private Bills | Starred Questions | Unstarred Question | Short Notice Questions |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1                        | 2                      | 3        | 4           | 5             | 6                 | 7                  | 8                      |
| <b>STATES</b>            |                        |          |             |               |                   |                    |                        |
| Andhra Pradesh L.A.**    | —                      | —        | —           | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
| Arunachal Pradesh L.A.** | —                      | —        | —           | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
| Assam L.A.               | 29.5.2006 to 31.5.2006 | 3        | 1(1)        | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
| Bihar L.A.*              | —                      | —        | —           | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
| Bihar L.C.               | 27.2.2006 to 4.4.2006  | 21       | —(14)       | —             | 1043(988)         | —(3)               | 420(361)               |
| Chhattisgarh L.A.*       | —                      | —        | —           | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
| Goa L.A.**               | —                      | —        | —           | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
| Gujarat L.A.**           | —                      | —        | —           | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
| Haryana L.A.**           | —                      | —        | —           | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
| Himachal Pradesh L.A.**  | —                      | —        | —           | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
| Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**   | —                      | —        | —           | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
| Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**   | —                      | —        | —           | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
| Jharkhand L.A.*          | —                      | —        | —           | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
| Karnataka L.A.           | 5.6.2006 to 6.6.2006   | 2        | —(6)        | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
|                          | 19.6.2006 to 30.6.2006 | 22       | —           | —             | 298(298)          | 1180(1163)         | 2(—)                   |
| Karnataka L.C.           | 5.6.2006 to 6.6.2006   | 2        | 2           | —             | 702(225)          | 662(662)           | —                      |
|                          | 19.6.2006 to 30.6.2006 | 22       | —           | —             | —                 | —                  | —                      |
| Kerala L.A.              | 24.5.2006 to 30.6.2006 | 13       | 2(2)        | —             | 868(236)          | 2561(1514)         | —                      |



APPENDIX III (Contd.)  
COMMITTEES AT WORK / NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED  
DURING THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2006

| STATES                   | 9                           | 10                            | 11                     | 12  | 13                      | 14                               | 15                                   | 16                                      | 17                     | 18                         | 19                            | 20                | 21                        | 22              | 23                     | 24               |   |   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh L.A.**    | —                           | —                             | —                      | —   | —                       | —                                | —                                    | —                                       | —                      | —                          | —                             | —                 | —                         | —               | —                      | —                | — | — |
| Arunachal Pradesh L.A.** | —                           | —                             | —                      | —   | —                       | —                                | —                                    | —                                       | —                      | —                          | —                             | —                 | —                         | —               | —                      | —                | — | — |
|                          | Business Advisory Committee | Committee on Govt. Assurances | Committee on Petitions | Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions | Committee of Privileges | Committee on Public Undertakings | Committee on Subordinate Legislation | Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs | Committee on Estimates | General Purposes Committee | House/Accommodation Committee | Library Committee | Public Accounts Committee | Rules Committee | Joint/Select Committee | Other Committees |   |   |

|                         | 9    | 10    | 11   | 12    | 13 | 14    | 15    | 16    | 17    | 18 | 19   | 20 | 21    | 22 | 23   | 24                    |
|-------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|------|----|-------|----|------|-----------------------|
| Assam L.A.              | 2    | —     | —    | —     | —  | —     | —     | 1     | —     | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —    | 71 <sup>(a)</sup>     |
| Bihar L.A.              | —    | 12    | —    | —     | —  | 10    | 10    | 11    | 31    | —  | —    | 9  | 56    | —  | —    | 89(8) <sup>(a)</sup>  |
| Bihar L.C.              | 1(1) | 24    | 11   | 11(1) | 7  | —     | 13    | 10(1) | —     | 9  | 11   | 10 | —     | —  | —    | 2 <sup>(a)</sup>      |
| Chhattisgarh L.A.       | —    | 1     | 1    | —     | —  | —     | —     | 1     | 1     | —  | 2    | 1  | 3     | —  | —    | —                     |
| Goa L.A.**              | —    | —     | —    | —     | —  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —    | —                     |
| Gujarat L.A.**          | —    | —     | —    | —     | —  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —    | —                     |
| Haryana L.A.            | —    | 9     | 9    | —     | 17 | 9     | —     | 12    | 10    | —  | 3    | 9  | 11    | —  | —    | —                     |
| Himachal Pradesh L.A.** | —    | —     | —    | —     | —  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —    | —                     |
| Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**  | —    | —     | —    | —     | —  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —    | —                     |
| Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**  | —    | —     | —    | —     | —  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —    | —                     |
| Jharkhand L.A.          | —    | 9     | 12   | —     | —  | 14(1) | 6     | 8     | 17    | —  | 6(2) | 7  | 8     | —  | —    | 103(2) <sup>(a)</sup> |
| Karnataka L.A.          | 4    | 9(1)  | 5(1) | 7     | 8  | 10(2) | 6     | 7     | 8     | —  | 6    | 3  | 9     | —  | —    | 36 <sup>(a)</sup>     |
| Karnataka L.C.          | 3    | 9(1)  | 7    | —     | 6  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —  | 7    | —  | —     | —  | —    | —                     |
| Kerala L.A.             | 1(1) | —     | —    | —     | —  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —  | 1    | —  | —     | —  | —    | 1(3) <sup>(a)</sup>   |
| Madhya Pradesh L.A.**   | —    | —     | —    | —     | —  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —    | —                     |
| Maharashtra L.A.        | 1    | 17(1) | 2    | —     | 6  | 17(1) | 11(1) | 16(2) | 12(1) | —  | —    | 1  | 18(1) | —  | —    | 62(7) <sup>(a)</sup>  |
| Maharashtra L.C.        | 1    | 9     | —    | —     | —  | 17(1) | 11(1) | 16(2) | 12(1) | —  | —    | 1  | 18(1) | 3  | —    | 62(7) <sup>(a)</sup>  |
| Manipur L.A.            | 2(1) | 1     | 2    | 2     | —  | 1     | 1     | 2     | 4     | —  | —    | —  | 2     | —  | —    | 1                     |
| Meghalaya L.A.          | 2    | 1     | 2(1) | —     | —  | 5(2)  | 1     | 1     | 2     | —  | —    | 3  | 8     | 1  | 2(1) | —                     |
| Mizoram L.A.            | —    | 1     | 2    | —     | —  | 2     | 3     | —     | —     | —  | —    | —  | 7     | —  | —    | 8 <sup>(a)</sup>      |
| Nagaland L.A.**         | —    | —     | —    | —     | —  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —    | —                     |
| Orissa L.A.             | 1(1) | 7     | 2    | —     | —  | 6     | 10    | 4     | 4     | —  | —    | 4  | 1     | —  | —    | 57(2) <sup>(a)</sup>  |
| Punjab L.A.**           | —    | —     | —    | —     | —  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —    | —                     |
| Rajasthan L.A.          | 18   | 18    | 16   | —     | 16 | 17    | 18    | 34    | 32    | —  | 19   | 20 | 16    | 19 | —    | 58 <sup>(a)</sup>     |
| Sikkim L.A.             | —    | —     | —    | —     | —  | —     | —     | —     | 1     | —  | 2    | —  | 3     | —  | —    | —                     |
| Tamil Nadu L.A.**       | —    | —     | —    | —     | —  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —  | —    | —  | —     | —  | —    | —                     |
| Tripura L.A.            | —    | 2     | 2(1) | —     | 1  | 2     | —     | 6     | 2     | —  | 2    | 2  | 6(4)  | —  | —    | —                     |



|                          | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24              |
|--------------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------------|
| Uttaranchal L.A.         | — | 2  | 1  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | 1  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —               |
| Uttar Pradesh L.A.**     | — | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —               |
| Uttar Pradesh L.C.       | 3 | 14 | 2  | —  | 12 | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | 5  | —  | 50 <sup>0</sup> |
| West Bengal L.A.**       | — | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —               |
| <b>UNION TERRITORIES</b> |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |                 |
| Delhi L.A.*              | — | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —               |
| Pondicherry L.A.**       | — | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —               |

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

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

- (a) Zila Panchayat, Zila Parishad Committee-10; Internal Resources Committee-10; Nivedan Committee-11; Women and Child Welfare-10; Agriculture Development Industry Committee-11; Members Fund Monitoring and Implementation Committee-9; and Question and Call Attention Committee-10
- (b) Question and Call Attention Committee-10; Human Rights Committee-18(3); Committee on State Language-10(1); Implementation Committee-13; Nivedan Committee-10(3); Committee on Welfare of Minorities-8; Zila Parishad & Panchayati Raj-10(1); and Paper's Laid on the Table-10;
- (c) Question & Reference Committee-1; and Women and Children Welfare Committee-1
- (d) Zila Panchayati/Zila Parishad Committee-4; Question & Call Attention Committee-9; Implementation Committee-8; Undertaking Question Implementation Committee-6; Nivedan Committee-15; Jhugi Jhopari Committee-5; Tourist Development Committee-11; Women & Child Welfare Committee-7; Environment and Pollution Committee-8(2); Internal Resources Committee-9; Scheduled Tribes Language Development Committee-9; Compassion & Employees Benefit Committee-7; and Aadim Jan Jati Vikas Samiti-5
- (e) House Committee on Vinivinc-5; Committee on Backward Classes & Minorities-7; Library Sub-Committee-7; Committee on Welfare of Women & Children-10; and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-7
- (f) Committee on Local Fund Accounts-(2); and Subject Committees-I-X-1(1)
- (g) Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis & Nonadic Tribes-10; Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-8; Panchayati Raj-21(4); Catering Committee-2; Women Rights and Welfare Committee-11(1); and Other Backward Class Committee-10(2)
- (h) Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis & Nonadic Tribes-10; Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-8; Panchayati Raj-21(4); Catering Committee-2; Women Rights and Welfare Committee-11(1); Other Backward Class Committee-10(2)

- (i) Subject Committee-1-3; Subject Committee-II-1; Subject Committee-III-2; Subject Committee-V-1; and Ethics Committee-1
- (ii) Committee on Ethics-9; Committee on Women & Child Welfare-4; Committee on Linguistic Minorities-1(2); Committee on Power Generation-1; Committee on Cyclone & Flood-1; Committee on N.G.O.-1; and Departmentally related Standing Committees I-X-40
- (k) Committee on Welfare of Women & Child-20; Question & Reference Committee-18; Committee on Welfare of Backward Class-18; and Select Committee on the Rajasthan Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Bill, 2006-2
- (l) Committee on Equal Rights of Legislature-5; Committee on Reference & Question-6; Committee on Financial & Administrative Delayed-5; Committee on Parliamentary Study-5; Committee on Enquiry of Housing Complaints of U.P. Legislature-2; Parliamentary & Social Welfare Committee-3; Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, Zila Panchayats & Municipal Corporation-22; and Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arrangement-2

**APPENDIX IV**  
**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF**  
**PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE**  
**PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD**

**1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2006**

| Sl.<br>No. | Title of the Bill  | Date of Assent |
|------------|--|----------------|
| 1          | 2  | 3              |
| 1.         | The Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2006  | 7.4.2006       |
| 2.         | The Finance Bill, 2006   | 18.4.2006      |
| 3.         | The Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2006                 | 19.5.2006      |
| 5.         | The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2006                           | 29.5.2006      |
| 6.         | The Cess Laws (Repealing and Amending) Bill, 2006              | 1.6.2006       |
| 7.         | The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Amending Bill, 2006 | 2.6.2006       |
| 8.         | The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2006               | 12.6.2006      |
| 9.         | The Constitution (Ninety-fourth Amendment) Bill, 2006          | 12.6.2006      |
| 10.        | The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2006 | 16.6.2006      |

**APPENDIX V****LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES  
OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES  
DURING THE PERIOD****1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2006**

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**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The Assam Repealing Bill, 2006

**BIHAR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

1. The Bihar Bhoomi Sudhar Adhikatan Seema Nirdharan Tatha Adhikosh Bhoomi Arjan (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2006
2. The Bihar Single Window Clearance Vidheyak, 2006
3. The Bihar Jal kar Prabandhan Vidheyak, 2006
4. The Aadhar Bhoot Sanrachana Samarthyakari (Enabling) Vidheyak, 2006
5. The Bihar Panchayati Raj Vidheyak, 2006
6. The Baandh Suraksha Vidheyak, 2006
7. The Bihar Kshetriya Vikas Pradhikar (Sanshodhan), Vidheyak, 2006
8. The Bihar Vidhi Nirsan (Jo Aavashyak Athava Suragat Nahin Rahe Gaye Hain) Vidheyak, 2006
9. The Patna Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2006
10. The Bihar Rajya Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2006
11. The Bihar Rajkoshiya Uttardayitva Aur Budget Prabandhan Vidheyak, 2006
12. The Bihar Viniyog Vidheyak, 2006
13. The Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya-2) Vidheyak, 2006
14. The Bihar Vitta Vidheyak, 2006

**KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The Bangalore Development Authority (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005
2. The Mysore (Religious and Charitable) Inams Abolition Karnataka Amendment), Bill, 2005
3. The Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005
4. The Karnataka Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) Bill, 2006
5. The Visweswaraiah Technological University (Amendment) Bill, 2006
6. The Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (Amendment) Bill, 2006

**KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The Kerala Professional Colleges (Prohibition of Capitation Fees, Regulation of

Admission, Fixation of Non-Exploitative Fee and other Measures to Ensure Equity and Excellence in Professional Education) Bill, 2006

2. The Kerala Appropriation (Vote on Account No.2) Bill, 2006

#### **MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Ceiling on Holdings) (Amendment) Bill, 2006
2. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2006
3. The Maharashtra Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Bill, 2006
4. The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2006
5. The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2006
6. The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2006
7. The Regularisation of Unauthorised Developments in the city of Ulhasnagar Bill, 2006
8. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2006
9. The Bombay Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2006
10. The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006
11. The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2006
12. The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2006
13. The Bombay Entertainments Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2006
14. The Maharashtra State Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments (Amendment) Bill, 2006
15. The Maharashtra Government Servant's Regulation of Transfers and Prevention of Delay in Discharge of Official Duties Bill, 2003
16. The Maharashtra Devdasi System (Abolition) Bill, 2005
17. The Factories (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2006
18. The Maharashtra State Enterprises (Restructuring and Other Special Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2006
19. The Prevention of Food Adulteration (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2006
20. The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2006

#### **MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

1. The Factories (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2006
2. The Maharashtra Self-Financed Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 2006
3. The Maharashtra State Enterprises (Restructuring and other Special provisions) (Amendment) Bill, 2006
4. The Maharashtra Government Servants' Regulation of Transfers and Prevention of Delay in Discharge of Official Duties, Bill 2003 (As submitted by Joint Committee)
5. The Prevention of Food Adulteration (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2006
6. The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2006
7. The Regularisation of Unauthorised Developments in the city of Ulhasnagar Bill, 2006
8. The Maharashtra Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Bill, 2006

9. The Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Ceiling on Holdings) (Amendment) Bill, 2006
10. The Bombay Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2006
11. The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2006
12. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2006
13. The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2006
14. The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2006
15. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2006
16. The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2006
17. The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006
18. The Bombay Entertainments Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2006
19. The Maharashtra State Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments (Amendment) Bill, 2006

#### **MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The Manipur Legislature (Removal of Disqualifications) Fourth Amendment Bill, 2006

#### **MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The Meghalaya Appropriation (No.II) Bill
2. The Meghalaya Appropriation (No.III) Bill
3. The Prevention of Disqualification (Members of the Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya) Amendment Bill, 2006
4. The Meghalaya Transfer of Land (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2004

#### **ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The Orissa Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2006
2. The Orissa Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2006
3. The Orissa Agricultural Produce Marketing (Amendment) Bill, 2006
4. The Orissa Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2006

#### **SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The Sikkim State Legislators Appointment to Different Authorities Bill, 2006
2. The Sikkim Public Service Commission Bill, 2006
3. The Sikkim Legislative Assembly Members Removal of Disqualification Bill, 2006
4. The Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2006
5. The Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2006
6. The Sikkim Public Demand Recovery Bill, 2006
7. The Sikkim State Disaster Management Bill, 2006

#### **TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE BILL**

1. The Tripura Appropriation Bill, 2006

#### **UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Supplementary of 2006-2007) Bill, 2006

2. The Uttar Pradesh Technical University (Amendment) Bill, 2006
3. The Uttar Pradesh King George's University of Medical (Amendment) Bill, 2006
4. The Uttar Pradesh Krishi Evam Prodyogic Vishwavidyalaya (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006

**UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

1. The Uttar Pradesh Adhinasth Sewa Chayan Aayog (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2006
2. The Uttar Pradesh Gannan (Purti Tatha Viniyaman) (Sansodhan), 2006

**DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The Delhi Members of Legislative Assembly (Removal of Disqualification) (Amendment) Bill, 2006

**APPENDIX VI**  
**ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS**  
**DURING THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2006**

| Sl. No.            | Title of Ordinance  | Date of Promulgation | Date on which laid before the House | Date of Cessation | Remarks                 |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>BIHAR</b>       |   |                      |                                     |                   |                         |
| 1.                 | Bihar Panchayati Raj Adhyadesh, 2006  |                      |                                     |                   | Replaced by Legislation |
| 2.                 | Bihar Rajkoshiya Uttardayitva Aur Budget Prabandhan Adhyadesh, 2006                       |                      |                                     |                   |                         |
| <b>JHARKHAND</b>   |   |                      |                                     |                   |                         |
| 1.                 | Jharkhand Mulyavardit Kar (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2006                                    |                      |                                     |                   | Replaced by Legislation |
| <b>MAHARASHTRA</b> |   |                      |                                     |                   |                         |
| 1.                 | The Regularisation of Unauthorised Developments in the city of Ulhasnagar Ordinance, 2006 | 14.1.2006            | 13.3.2006                           | 23.4.2006         | Replaced by Legislation |
| 2.                 | The Maharashtra Contingency Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006                              | 15.2.2006            | 13.3.2006                           | 23.4.2006         | —                       |



|    |   |            |            |            |                         |
|----|---|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 3. | The Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Ceiling on Holdings) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006  | 17.2.2006  | 13.3.2006  | 23.4.2006  | Replaced by Legislation |
| 4. | The Maharashtra Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control), Ordinance, 2006  | 27.2.2006  | 13.3.2006  | 23.4.2006  | Replaced by Legislation |
| 5. | The Maharashtra Private Professional Educational Institutions (Reservation of Seats for admission for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Denotified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis), Nomadic Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Ordinance, 2006 | 16.6.2006  | 03.7.2006  | 14.8.2006  | Replaced by Legislation |
| 6. | The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2006   | 20.06.2006 | 03.07.2006 | 14.08.2006 | Replaced by Legislation |
| 7. | The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006  | 20.06.2006 | 03.07.2006 | 14.08.2006 | Replaced by Legislation |
| 1. | The Bihar and Orissa Excise (Orissa Amendment) Bill, 2006   | 30.5.2006  | 03.08.2006 | 10.08.2006 | Replaced by Legislation |

ORISSA

**APPENDIX VII**  
**A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 14 DECEMBER 2006)**

| States                   | Seats      | INC        | BJP        | CPI (M)   | SP        | RJD       | DMK       | BSP       | SS        | BJD       | CPI       | NCP       | JD(U)    | SAD      | PMK      | JMM      | TRS      | TDP      | MD MK    | LUSP     | AIFB     |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Andhra Pradesh           | 42         | 30         | —          | 1         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | 1         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | 5        | 4        | —        | —        | —        |
| Arunachal Pradesh        | 2          | —          | 2          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Assam                    | 14         | 9          | 2          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Bihar                    | 40         | 3          | 5          | —         | —         | 22        | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | 6        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | 4        | —        |
| Chhattisgarh             | 11         | 1          | 9          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Goa                      | 2          | 1          | 1          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Gujarat                  | 26         | 12         | 14         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Haryana                  | 10         | 9          | 1          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Himachal Pradesh         | 4          | 3          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Jammu & Kashmir          | 6          | 2          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Jharkhand                | 14         | 6          | —          | —         | —         | 1         | —         | —         | —         | —         | 1         | —         | —        | —        | —        | 4        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Karnataka                | 28         | 9          | 16         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | 3         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Kerala                   | 20         | —          | —          | 12        | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Madhya Pradesh           | 29         | 3          | 24         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | 12        | —         | —         | 9         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Maharashtra              | 48         | 13         | 11         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Manipur                  | 2          | 1          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | 1         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Meghalaya                | 2          | 1          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Mizoram                  | 1          | —          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Nagaland                 | 1          | —          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | 11        | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | 1        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Orissa                   | 21         | 2          | 7          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | 8        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Punjab                   | 13         | 2          | 2          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Rajasthan                | 25         | 4          | 21         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Sikkim                   | 1          | —          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Tamil Nadu               | 39         | 10         | —          | 2         | —         | —         | 16        | —         | —         | —         | 2         | —         | —        | —        | 5        | —        | —        | —        | 4        | —        | —        |
| Tripura                  | 2          | —          | —          | 2         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Uttaranchal              | 5          | 1          | 3          | —         | 1         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Uttar Pradesh            | 80         | 9          | 10         | —         | 36        | —         | —         | 15        | —         | —         | —         | —         | 1        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | 3        |
| West Bengal              | 42         | 6          | —          | 26        | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | 3         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Nominated                | 2          | 2          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| <b>UNION TERRITORIES</b> |            |            |            |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| A & N Islands            | 1          | 1          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Chandigarh               | 1          | 1          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli     | 1          | —          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Daman and Diu            | 1          | 1          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| The NCT of Delhi         | 7          | 6          | 1          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Lakshadweep              | 1          | —          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | 1        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| Pondicherry              | 1          | —          | —          | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —         | —        | —        | 1        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>545</b> | <b>148</b> | <b>129</b> | <b>43</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>3</b> |



**Abbreviations used in respect of parties represented in the Lok Sabha:**

AGP-Asom Gana Parishad; AIFB-All India Forward Bloc; AIMIM-All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen; AITC-All India Trinamool Congress; BJD-Biju Janata Dal; BJP-Bharatiya Janata Party; BNP-Bharatiya Navshakti Party; BSP-Bahujan Samaj Party; CPI(M)-Communist Party of India (Marxist); CPI-Communist Party of India; DMK-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; INC-Indian National Congress; IND-Independents; J&KPDP-Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party; J&KNC-Jammu & Kashmir National Conference; JD(S)-Janata Dal (Secular); JD(U)-Janata Dal (United); JMM-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha; KC-Kerala Congress; LJSP-Lok Jan Shakti Party; MDMK-Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; MLKSC-Muslim League Kerala State Committee; MNF-Mizo National Front; NCP-Nationalist Congress Party; NLP-National Loktantrik Party; NPF-Nagaland Peoples Front; PMK-Pattali Makkal Katchi; RJD-Rashtriya Janata Dal; RLD-Rashtriya Lok Dal; RPI(A)-Republican Party of India(A); RSP-Revolutionary Socialist Party; SAD-Shiromani Akali Dal; SDF-Sikkim Democratic Front; SJP(R)-Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya); SP-Samajwadi Party; SS-Shiv Sena; TDP-Telugu Desam Party; TRS-Telangana Rashtra Samithi.

## B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 20 NOVEMBER 2006)

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

| 1                        | 2             | 3   | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15               | 16 | 17  | 18 |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|------------------|----|-----|----|
| 24.                      | Tamil Nadu    | 18  | 3  | —  | —  | 12 | —  | — | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | 3 <sup>0</sup>   | —  | 18  | —  |
| 25.                      | Tripura       | 1   | —  | —  | 1  | —  | —  | — | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —                | —  | 1   | —  |
| 26.                      | Uttaranchal   | 3   | 3  | —  | —  | —  | —  | — | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —                | —  | 3   | —  |
| 27.                      | Uttar Pradesh | 31  | 1  | 6  | —  | —  | 15 | — | —  | 6  | —  | —  | —  | 2 <sup>(m)</sup> | —  | 30  | 1  |
| 28.                      | West Bengal   | 16  | —  | —  | 9  | —  | —  | — | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | 6 <sup>(n)</sup> | 1  | 16  | —  |
| <b>UNION TERRITORIES</b> |               |     |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |                  |    |     |    |
| 29.                      | NCT of Delhi  | 3   | 3  | —  | —  | —  | —  | — | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —                | —  | 3   | —  |
| 30.                      | Pondicherry   | 1   | 1  | —  | —  | —  | —  | — | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —                | —  | 1   | —  |
| 31.                      | Nominated     | 12  | —  | 3  | —  | —  | —  | — | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | 7 <sup>(e)</sup> | —  | 10  | 2  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             |               | 245 | 72 | 49 | 14 | 12 | 15 | 6 | 7  | 6  | 4  | 5  | 5  | 39               | 8  | 242 | 3  |

**OTHERS**

(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

- (a) Communist Party of India-1  
 (b) Samata Party-1  
 (c) Indian National Lok Dal-3  
 (d) Jammu and Kashmir National Conference-1; and People's Democratic Party-1  
 (e) Janata Dal (Secular)-2  
 (f) Muslim League-2  
 (g) Shiv Sena-4; and Sadbhavna Party-1  
 (h) Mizo National Front-1  
 (i) Nagaland Peoples Front-1  
 (j) Shiromani Akali Dal-2  
 (k) Sikkim Democratic Front-1  
 (l) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-2; and Pattali Makkal Katchi-1  
 (m) Rashtriya Lok Dal-1; Expelled from B.S.P.-1  
 (n) Revolutionary Socialist Party-1; Forward Bloc-2; and All India Trinamool Congress-3  
 (o) Nominated-7

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE / UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

| State/Union territories         | Seats | Cong.(I) | 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.**           | —     | —        | —   | —      | —   | —   | —   | —              | —              | —                 | —    | —                 | —         |
| Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**        | —     | —        | —   | —      | —   | —   | —   | —              | —              | —                 | —    | —                 | —         |
| Assam L.A.<br>(1.6.2006)        | 126   | 53       | 10  | 2      | 1   | 1   | —   | —              | —              | 36 <sup>(a)</sup> | 22   | 125               | 1         |
| Bihar L.A.<br>(24.8.2006)       | 243   | 9        | 55  | 1      | 3   | 1   | 4   | 88             | —              | 72 <sup>(b)</sup> | 10   | 243               | —         |
| Bihar L.C.<br>(1.8.2006)        | 75    | 4        | 14  | 2      | 3   | —   | —   | 15             | —              | 13 <sup>(c)</sup> | 23   | 74 <sup>(d)</sup> | —         |
| Chhattisgarh L.A.<br>(1.8.2006) | 91    | 35       | 51  | —      | —   | 1   | 2   | —              | —              | 1 <sup>(e)</sup>  | —    | 90                | 1         |
| Goa L.A.**                      | —     | —        | —   | —      | —   | —   | —   | —              | —              | —                 | —    | —                 | —         |
| Gujarat L.A.**                  | —     | —        | —   | —      | —   | —   | —   | —              | —              | —                 | —    | —                 | —         |
| Haryana L.A.<br>(1.8.2006)      | 90    | 66       | 2   | —      | —   | 1   | 1   | —              | —              | 9 <sup>(e)</sup>  | 10   | 89 <sup>e</sup>   | —         |
| Himachal Pradesh L.A.**         | —     | —        | —   | —      | —   | —   | —   | —              | —              | —                 | —    | —                 | —         |
| Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**          | —     | —        | —   | —      | —   | —   | —   | —              | —              | —                 | —    | —                 | —         |
| Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**          | —     | —        | —   | —      | —   | —   | —   | —              | —              | —                 | —    | —                 | —         |
| Jharkhand L.A.<br>(1.8.2006)    | 82    | 9        | 30  | —      | —   | —   | —   | 5              | —              | 34 <sup>(m)</sup> | 3    | 81 <sup>e</sup>   | —         |
| Karnataka L.A.<br>(15.8.2006)   | 225   | 64       | 79  | 1      | —   | —   | —   | 5              | 57             | 4 <sup>(a)</sup>  | 12   | 222 <sup>e</sup>  | 2         |
| Karnataka L.C.<br>(22.6.2006)   | 75    | 40       | 14  | —      | —   | —   | —   | 3              | 14             | —                 | 4    | 75                | —         |





| UNION TERRITORY    | 70 | 47 | 20 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | 70 | — |
|--------------------|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|
| Delhi L.A.         | —  | —  | —  | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | —  | — |
| Pondicherry 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) Asom Gana Parishad-24; Assam United Democratic Front-9; Autonomous State Demand Committee-1; Asom Gana Parishad (Pragatisheel)-1 and Loko Samilon-1
- b) Rashtriya Janata Dal-54; Lok Jan Shakti Party-10; Communist Party of India (ML)-5; Samajwadi Party-2; and Akhil Jan Vikas Dal-1
- c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-12; Lok Jan Shakti Party-1
- d) Nominated-1
- e) Indian National Lok Dal-9
- f) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-17; Rashtriya Janata Party-7; All Jharkhand Students Union-2; United Goans Democratic Party-2; All India Forward Bloc-2; CPI(Male)-1; Rashtriya Congress Party-1 and Jharkhand Party-1; Nominated-1
- g) Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha-1; Kannada Naadu Paksha-1; Republican Party of India-1; and 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; Democratic Indira Congress (K)-1; Indian National League-1 and Nominated-1
- i) Shiv Sena-56; Jan Surajya Shakti-4; Peasants and Workers Party-2; Bharip Bahujan Mahasangh-1; Republican Party of India (A)-1; Swatantra Bharat Paksha-1; Aakhil Bharatiya Sena-1; and Nominated-1
- j) Shiv Sena-9; Peasants and Workers Party of India-1; Peoples Republican Party-1 and Lokbharti-10
- k) Meghalaya Democratic Alliance-48 and United Democratic Front-12
- l) Mizoram National Front-22; Mizoram Peoples' Conference-2; Zoram Nationalist Party-2 and Mizoram Congress Party-2
- m) Biju Janata Dal-61; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-4 and Orissa Gana Parishad-2
- n) Indian National Lok Dal-3; Rajasthan Samajik Nayaya Manch-1; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1
- o) Revolutionary Socialist Party-2
- p) Uttarakhnd Kranti Dal-4; Nominated-1 and Others-3
- q) Samajwadi Party-39; Rashtriya Lok Dal-6; Samajwadi Janata Dal (Rashtriya)-1; and Sikhhak Dal (Non-Political)-10

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