

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 9, 2005/Agrahayana 18, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, Q.No. 242.

[English]

Credit to SSI

+
*242. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantum of credit to small scale industries (SSI) units and the number of SSI units assisted has declined during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government has chalked out a new strategy to boost small and medium-sized industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to enhance the limit for credit linked capital subsidy;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which SSIs would be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The year-wise data given below indicates that there has been an increase in the credit

flow to Small Scale Industries (SSI) Sector and the number of registered SSIs has also gone up.

Year	Credit to SSI Amount O/s (Rs. in crores)	No. of Registered SSIs (lacs Nos.)
2002-03	52,988	14.68
2003-04	58,278	15.54
2004-05	67,634	16.38

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A "Policy Package on Stepping up credit to SME sector" has been announced in the Parliament on August 10, 2005 which *inter-alia* includes fixing self targets for funding Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to achieve a minimum 20% year on year growth in credit to SMEs. The objective is to double the flow of credit to the SME sector by 2009-10, *i.e.* within a period of 5 years. The credit to small scale units which stood at Rs. 67,600 crore for 2004-05 is to be raised to Rs. 135,000 crore by 2009-10. Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions in this regard advising all banks to implement the policy measures. The salient features of the policy package are enclosed as annexure.

(e) and (f) The Government of India has enhanced the limit for Credit Linked Capital subsidy for the up-gradation of the Small Scale Industries from Rs. 40 lacs to Rs. 1 crore. The scheme is being administered by SIDBI. Under the scheme 15% back ended capital subsidy is granted to SSI entrepreneurs for loans up to Rs. 1 crore for technology upgradation.

(g) So far, 901 SSI units in the country spread across various products/sub-groups have availed the subsidy to the extent of 23.79 crore. After the extension of the scheme, large number of units coming under various approved products/sub-groups would be able to achieve technology upgradation at subsidized rates.

Annexure

Salient Features of the Policy Package on Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises

- Fixing of self-targets for financing to SME sector by banks

Government of India has indicated minimum 20% year on year growth for credit flow to the SME sector. The

objective is to double the flow of credit from Rs. 67,600 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 135,200 crore to the SME sector by 2009-10, *i.e.* within a period of 5 years.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been emphasizing on enhanced credit flow to this sector through various policy measures from time to time. The recent initiative being the "Scheme of Small Enterprises Financial Centres (SEFCs)" under which SIDBI will be co-financing with commercial bank branches to SMEs in identified clusters.

- **Measures to rationalize the cost of loans to SME sector**

Banks may initiate necessary steps to rationalize the cost of loans to SME sector by adopting a transparent rating system with cost of credit being linked to the credit rating of enterprise. SIDBI has developed a Credit Appraisal & Rating Tool (CART) as well as a Risk Assessment Model (RAM) and a comprehensive rating model for risk assessment of proposal for SMEs. The banks may consider to take advantage of these models as appropriate and reduce their transaction costs.

- **Measures to increase the outreach of formal credit to the SME sector**

All banks, including Regional Rural Banks to make concerted efforts to provide credit cover on an average to at least 5 new small/medium enterprises at each of their semi urban/urban branches per year.

- **Cluster based approach for financing SME sector**

In view of the benefit accruing on account of cluster based approach for financing SME sector due to reduction in transaction costs, mitigation of risk, etc., banks may treat it as a thrust area and increasingly adopt the same for SME financing.

- **Debt restructuring mechanism and a One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for SME sector**

The problem of sickness is prevalent in the SME sector due to globalization/liberalization and stiff competition from domestic and multinational corporates. Further, large number of borrowal accounts in the books of commercial banks are under stress due to various reasons. In order to enable banks to recover old NPAs and clean up their balance sheet and also to provide relief/concessions to SME borrowers, a One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme and Debt restructuring

mechanism for SME sector covering outstanding amount up to Rs. 10 crore in the books of banks have been announced.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the UPA Government is giving top priority to encourage SSI units under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the UPA Chairperson, and the able guidance of our Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram. SSI units are the backbone of heavy industries. Without the presence of SSI and ancillary units, one cannot imagine the existence of heavy industries which are giving employment to many youths. SSI units are facing several difficulties relating to infrastructure, availing of credit from the nationalised banks, marketing, compliance with cumbersome procedures and harassment by banks and by Government officials. The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that credit to small scale units which is, at present, at Rs. 67,600 crore for 2004-05, is to be raised to Rs. 1,35,000 crore by 2009-10.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Has the Minister evolved any mechanism to monitor every year to ensure its objective of doubling flow of credit to SME sector by 2009-10? If so, the details thereof.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the details are contained in the policy which was announced on the 10th August and this is annexed to the Answer as annexure. We have to monitor it on a periodic basis. We are monitoring it. Banks will report every quarter and every half year the progress made and, as everyone knows, I take review meetings of the CMDs of the public sector banks at least twice a year and sometimes more. We will review and we will ensure that we achieve the growth of 20 per cent a year.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: It is stated in the reply that so far 901 units have availed of subsidy of Rs. 23.79 crore. Would the Minister inform the august House how much subsidy has been earmarked for SSI units for the current year? Would the Minister also inform the details of the various products/sub-groups of SSI units which have availed of the subsidy and also the details of SSI units in Andhra Pradesh which have availed of this subsidy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: There are five questions.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the answer itself says that Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme was revised and improved recently. Under the revised Scheme, we had enhanced the limit of the credit linked capital subsidy from Rs. 40 lakh to Rs. 1 crore. We have now said that SIDBI will administer the Scheme. The earlier scheme was not attractive enough. Under the new Scheme, there are more applications.

I have given the number of SSI units which have availed of the subsidy to the extent of Rs. 23.79 crore. Now I do not have the State-wise break up of these 901 units, but if the hon. Minister is keen to know how many of these 901 units are located in Andhra Pradesh, I shall be quite happy to furnish him the details of 901 units all over the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Singh Kaswan—absent.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the manufacturing cost of the commodities produced by the small scale industries which is vital to remain viable in the international market has become higher. Goods are being imported to our country from China and all the countries. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the rates of interest in other countries are quite low. These vary from 2-3 per cent to 4-5 per cent. Whereas it is up to 12, 15 or 17 per cent in our country. Will the Government consider to bring it down to 5-6 per cent and to provide the same facilities to the small scale industries also as are being provided to the multinational companies. Do the Government intend to reduce the production tax, sales tax, internal taxes, etc.?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the rates of interest are by and large market determined subject to RBI's regulations in respect of small loans. The rate of interest is linked to the bank rate, which is linked to the bank rate, which is linked to inflation. If inflation is say between 1 and 2 per cent, then obviously the bank rate would be lower and the rate of interest would be lower. But in a developing country like ours where inflation is around 4 to 5 per cent—I may add here that some years ago inflation was over 10 per cent—it is not possible for the bank rate to be lower than 6 per cent. The bank rate is 6 per cent. Add the administrative cost and the spread. Therefore, the interest rates would have to be at the level at which they are prevalent.

The interest rates are market determined, and the interest rates have come down over the last several years. If we are able to contain inflation, then interest rate will continue to decline. But having said this, I do not think—after having interacted with the Small Scale Industries (SSI) and the lenders—that the interest rate is a deterrent. I am saying this because interest is a small component of the cost of manufacture. The real deterrent is the creditworthiness of the borrower, credit appraisal, and the quantum of credit that is delivered to the SSI, and we are addressing these issues. The interest rate being market determined, if the economy grows and the inflation is contained, then the interest rate will decline in the long-term.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Thank you, Sir. In the current Session the SSI Bill has already been introduced, but if we compare the safeguards for the Small Scale and the Medium Scale, then maximum safeguards are for the Medium Scale, and not for the Small Scale. We have already de-reserved 85 items in the Budget Session. I mean to say that 85 items have already been de-reserved for the year 2005-2006. Therefore, the Medium Scale Industries would produce more, and the SSI would produce less. The rate of growth of the Medium Scale will also be more compared to the Small Scale. How will the SSI compete with the Medium Scale Industries when the verdict has already been given in favour of the Medium Scale Industries?

MR. SPEAKER: Are you partial to Medium Scale?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I do not think any entrepreneur wants to remain small forever, and that—with great respect to the hon. Member—is not the correct approach. The small scale enterprises must upgrade himself to medium enterprise, and the medium enterprises must grow into larger enterprises. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not think that anyone wants to remain small forever.

It is wrong to assume that small enterprises have not increased in number or their output has not increased. Let me give the broad figures related to this issue. The number of registered SSI units has increased from 12.32 lakh to 16.38 lakh between 1999-2000—we take this as the base year—and 2004-2005.

Production increased from a little less than Rs. 2 lakh crore to Rs. 2,93,522 crore. Employment increased from less than 60 lakhs to 73.39 lakhs. Exports increased from Rs. 54,200 crore to Rs. 86,000 crore in 2002-03. I do not have the figures for the subsequent years

compiled. So, the small-scale industry is growing, even while I admit that some small-scale units have closed down. But the philosophy behind the SME Bill, which will be explained by my colleague when the Bill is discussed in the House, is to give room for small to graduate to medium, and for medium to graduate into large. That I think and I submit with great respect, is the correct approach.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that a perusal of the figures submitted by him reveals that in the loans and subsidies provided during the last three years, the percentage of the rural graduate unemployed beneficiaries is negligible. In the new policy declared on 10th August, 2005 the percentage and ceiling of loans and subsidies to be provided to rural unemployed youths should be fixed. Though no other measure can be better to provide employment to the rural graduate, unemployed youths, but the State-wise figures show that until the loan and subsidy ceilings for them are fixed they could hardly be able to avail themselves of the new small scale industry policy.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of rural unemployed youths having been given loan and subsidy during the last three years and the percentage wise special package proposed to be given to them in the States in the time to come.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have given the number of units which have availed of the subsidy, as part of my answer. I agree that young educated men and women must be encouraged to start their own small-scale business. That is precisely why after the UPA Government came into office we have revised the scheme. We have raised the limit from Rs. 40 lakh to Rs. 1 crore. Therefore, today this is a liberal scheme. I would urge the young men and women, educated as well as enterprising, to avail of the scheme, start small scale units. We now have SMERA, which is a rating agency. You can get your creditworthiness rated. If you have a credit rating, you will get loans at a slightly lower interest. We are doing everything that needs to be done, as far as I can see, in order to promote the small scale sector. But, if any further improvement has to be done, please let me know and I am willing to look into it.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Sir, In Punjab, small scale industry is in a very bad condition. When people go to banks for loans, the banks harass them and they are asked to pay bribes. The poor people cannot shell out money for taking loan. The rate of interest is also very high and that has ruined the small scale industry of Punjab. As there are problems even in the marketing sector, that too has destroyed the small scale industry in Punjab. Does the honourable minister know about this problem? If so, what steps have been taken by the Minister to rejuvenate the small scale industry in Punjab?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we have two pictures before us. One picture shows that in 2004-05 the total amount of credit to SSI was Rs. 67,634 crore which is a 16 per cent increase on the previous year.

Now, we have raised the target to 20 per cent every year. That is the positive side of the picture. The negative side is what the hon. Member said. There are still some branches and some branch managers who are insensitive to the requirement of the small-scale sector and there is some corruption. I am not denying that. But all I can do is, push the flow of credit to the small-scale sector, and if any specific complaint is received, take action against the bank or a branch of a bank, which is insensitive or where there is corruption. Therefore, I would only urge the hon. Members to send me any information. I will take action. But on the other hand, please look at the positive side that the credit flow has increased by 16 per cent and the target of this year is 20 per cent.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Reserve Bank of India has given guidelines to the nationalized banks to provide loans to the small scale industries, but despite that banks do not provide loans to the small scale industries.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are putting identical question.

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what action he would take against the banks not following the guidelines of the Reserve Bank. Small scale industries should be provided loans at a lower interest rate.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Send the names to the Minister with particular. Presume that the hon. Minister and the Speaker have answered your question.

[English]

Delay in Sanction of Proposals under P.M.G.S.Y.

*243. SHRI ILYAS AZMI:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to connect all the villages with more than 1000 population with roads by the end of 2006 under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

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

(c) whether the Government is aware of the problem of excessive delay in sanctioning the proposals under PMGSY;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the proposals under the scheme are not held up due to administrative delay; and

(f) the time by which the Government proposes to connect all these villages as envisaged in the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The 'Rural Roads' component of 'Bharat Nirman' programme has a goal to provide connectivity to all habitations with a population of 1000 (500 in the case of hilly or tribal areas) and above with an all weather road by 2009. The number of habitations to be covered under this programme, State wise, is given in the Table at Annexure.

The Ministry of Rural Development has ensured that there is no undue delay in clearing proposals received in the Ministry, if the proposals are complete in all respects. The steps taken to ensure timely clearance include sensitising the implementing agencies of the States, necessary technical advices to the States, periodic review at the level of Union Minister of Rural Development etc. An on-line monitoring system has also been put in place to track the status of proposals and to speed up project clearance.

Annexure

Bharat Nirman—Details of Habitations

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Habitations with population		
		1000+	500-999	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	92	206	298
3.	Assam	5182	3950	9132
4.	Bihar	9956	0	9956

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	1848	4461	6309
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	978	978
8.	Haryana	0	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	138	487	625
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	614	854	1468
11.	Jharkhand	1894	1983	3877
12.	Karnataka	0	0	0
13.	Kerala	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4303	3529	7832
15.	Maharashtra	0	0	0
16.	Manipur	71	110	181
17.	Meghalaya	36	119	155
18.	Mizoram	24	109	133
19.	Nagaland	9	31	40
20.	Orissa	2312	2135	4447
21.	Punjab	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	30	3922	3952
23.	Sikkim	6	114	120
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
25.	Tripura	175	635	810
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3738	1164	4902
27.	Uttaranchal	76	637	713
28.	West Bengal	9932	942	10874
Total		40436	26366	66802

Based on information currently available from the Core Networks of the States and Progress reports received from the States.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, sometimes back the hon. Minister for Rural Development had contended in this very House that in the package for the year 2005-2006, villages having a population of one thousand or more will be connected with roads under the Pradhan

Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Now the hon. Minister is saying that villages with a population of one thousand or more will be connected with road under this scheme by the year 2009. The ground reality is that till now work is going on in respect of the package for the year 2003-

2004, and the package for the year 2004-2005 has not so far been fully approved. Proposal for the package related with the year 2005-2006 has been taken from us in our district one week back. Even out of that most of the villages for which I had proposed in writing during the last one year have been left out in the package for the year 2005-06. The concerned officers in districts make proposal as per their own calculations.

MR. SPEAKER: You ask your question.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Government give clear instructions to the concerned officers deputed in the districts to include villages with a population of one thousand or more in this package as per the guidelines for which the proposal is being given by the Members of the Lok Sabha now? Will the hon. Minister fix a time limit for approval of this proposal?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the budget speech for the year 2005-2006, hon. Finance Minister had announced in this House itself that the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana under the Bharat Nirman Pariyojana is a time bound programme. He had announced that all the villages of the country be they uneven or of hilly areas with a population of one thousand or more or the tribal villages with a population of up to five hundred shall be connected with road by the year 2009. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply to the first one.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Out of the four years, half a year has elapsed. Three and a half years are remaining. Rs. 48 thousand crores will be spent on this scheme. Whereas Rs. two and a half thousand crores were spent earlier, now we will have to spend five times more *i.e.* twelve and a half thousand crores to complete the work of the Bharat Nirman Pariyojana.

The hon. Member is asking about Uttar Pradesh. I am also giving the figures with regard to Uttar Pradesh. Their stipulated allotment till this year is of Rs. 2605 crore, whereas we have sanctioned Rs. 2963 crores till date. So the share is of Rs. 2605 crores and the sanction made is to the tune of Rs. 2963 crores. We have released Rs. 2193 crores. After the concurrence of the Uttar Pradesh Government money has been released.

Sir, it is my request to the hon. Members that they should ask the State Government to use the fund expeditiously. There will be no shortage of funds from the Union Government. We will not let any village remain unconnected by roads.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you demanding monetary help for Uttar Pradesh?

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this scheme was launched earlier with a one rupee surcharge on diesel and now the surcharge is of one and a half rupees. The funds too, has been doubled in the budget, but the progress of work is not commensurate with the funds, being provided. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would ensure that all the villages having a population of 1000 or more are included in this scheme by the year 2005-06. I would also like to know from him whether any time limit will be fixed for granting approval the proposals of the States lying pending for approval for a period up to one year in his Ministry.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what sort of things he is talking about. We have sanctioned more than Rs. 2900 crores instead of Rs. 2600 crores for U.P. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is not replying about the delay in the approval of proposals and not saying whether he would fix a time limit for this purpose.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of delay is concerned, I would like to submit that this is not being done at our level. We are ready to provide money. Meetings have been held twice with the Secretary of the State Government. One of the meetings was held recently on the 3rd of December, 2005. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is not right.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question and is related to the development of the Parliamentary constituency of every hon. Member. The hon. Minister has contended that instead of Rs. 2600 crores, Rs. 2900 crores have already been given

for Uttar Pradesh. For this, I would like to thank the hon. Minister but the point that has been raised here is that the delay in the implementation of the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana'—be it at the level of the State Government or at the level of the concerned department—puts a question mark on the scheme if the ambitious plan fails to get completed in a time bound manner. Our observation is that in regard to roads selected for construction in districts under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, the main problem is that we do not get suitable contractors as per the strict norms fixed by the Central Government for the selection of contractor. That is why we call all the contractors from the State to select the contractors. I would therefore, like to know from the Minister that whether his department would try to relax the norms laid down for contractors and their selection so that the roads can be constructed under this programme without any delay.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, we are keeping an eye over the issues raised by the hon'ble Member. We are aware that roads can not be constructed just by providing funds. We also need contractors. If the State Governments want or they feel necessary to have some relaxations in the conditions and rules we are fully prepared but they should give in writing, what they want. We are always in touch with the State Governments and we repeatedly ask about their problems. We are always ready to provide any kind of help.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ajit Jogi—Not present.

Hon'ble Members, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is a very popular Minister. There are only 31 hon'ble Members who wish to put supplementaries. I can not accommodate all.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should have half an hour discussion in House on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want any supplementaries?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask a very important question. Kindly permit me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader does not agree with you. I will call you later on.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our former Prime Minister Hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana', was such a scheme by which he wanted to construct metallic roads in each village of our country and this scheme, which was implemented from Delhi and reached the hearts of the rural people. The hope was kindled among them that all the villages in the country would be connected with metallic roads.

We would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the UPA Government propose to construct 'Kuccha' roads instead of 'Pucca' roads to connect villages where population is over 1000 with the main roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana? Whether the Government is aware of the fact that all the 'kuccha' roads are washed away during rainy season? Recently orders were issued that the villages, where population is over 1000, construction of 'kuccha' roads will be undertaken. If this is so then whether the UPA Government is punishing these villages, who have implemented Family Welfare Programme, and the rate of growth of population has decreased in these villages. Why they have implemented Family Welfare Programme? Since their population is 1000. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was mentioned in the mandate—that we must have all weather roads. State Governments are also demanding the same, so we have the provision of constructing pucca roads. There is also a provision of constructing roads of PCC and concrete, in the areas where roads are washed away due to water logging. That is why if any one says that this work was commenced by NDA Government is not correct. NDA Government spent nine thousand crores of rupees with in a span of five years where as we will spend 12 thousand crores of rupees in a year. In fact, we will spend five times more than NDA Government. It

is not sufficient to just make declarations. They had a provision of 2.5 thousand crores of rupees in the Budget whereas our Finance Minister has declared that he will provide 48 thousand crores of rupees in four years, *i.e.* 12 thousand crores of rupees in a year or in other words 5 times more than them. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: This is wrong. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If this is wrong you have number of weapons, use them. There should not be any running commentary.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Only Minister's statement and nothing else would be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Lal Singh. Please be brief, to the point.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You stand up time and again, it does not behove of you. You are a very senior person. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not feel well, please move outside. If you are feeling uneasy you may go outside. You should not behave like this. You had been a Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALMUNI CHOBEY: Why are you angry?

MR. SPEAKER: We are not angry, we have regards for you.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You should not set wrong example for others.

[*Translation*]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon'ble Minister with your permission. You know that my State is a hilly State. I have confirmed it from the department that the Government propose to provide roads in the villages with population of one thousand. There are 4-6 villages on the way and is connected to that. You would not find a single village in Jammu and Kashmir, having a population of thousand people. It is requested that population of the villages connecting to the proposed road may also be included in their population. Do you have any such plan so that these roads may be constructed otherwise if you want I can tell you. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You need not tell. I got it.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I am asking question. It is part 'B' of my question. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing Part 'B'.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Part 'B' is there. I am telling you.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no part 'B' there is nothing part 'B' whatever I speak that will prevail.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a question contains part 'a' and 'b', not question 'One' and 'Two'. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

This is very clear. I am also a parliamentarian, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You should frame question in such a manner that there should not be any part (b).

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the plains, a criteria for the population of one thousand has been stipulated for a period of four years. This State falls under hilly area and we are going to

connect the areas having a population of upto 500 within four years. In regard to the question raised by the hon'ble Members, small Tolas are also located there, perhaps it may not be under one revenue village. But if the total population is 500 and one thousand, then we don't have any problem in connecting it. If a proposal to this effect is received from the State Government, then we approve them as well. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You may treat Jammu and Kashmir separately because of its terrain.

[Translation]

Shri Prabhunath Singh, ask a short question, not in a form of part 'a', 'b', 'c' and 'd'.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been listening to the reply of the hon'ble Minister, he has given reference of Finance Minister's speech. He had called a meeting at his place in which I also took part. While assessing the situation of Bihar he had said that in place of small roads, the roads of PWD and REO be covered under it. But only long roads have been covered under it. Roads were covered also and the hon'ble Minister has given his approval to roads also, but I want to know two things through you. The answer of the question. ...*(Interruptions)* It can be divided into two parts....* I will even not do that. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to submit to the hon'ble Minister that....* ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No. That will not go on record. That will go out.

[Translation]

This is not a good thing.

This speech is also good.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: This not unparliamentary. I have not spoken an unparliamentary word. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It does not look nice, everybody is friend.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I want to know, through you, with regard to the roads he has given approval to, more than a year has passed. Whether he has started work in Bihar by floating their tender? Secondly, I want to know from him, it is not an another question, it is related to the first one. I want to tell that the villages with a population of one thousand are to be connected, but as per my knowledge, not a single village has been included in Bihar, therefore, I want to know, through you, whether he wants to include those villages?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, this is the way precious time of the nation is wasted by these Members who has no knowledge of ground realities. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have deleted that.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: He gives wrong reply, it has be come his habit...*...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am challenging it, he has no information. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir...* ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have deleted that now let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: He is speaking incorrectly, how can I listen to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Not a single road has been constructed in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

State Agencies are working there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call both of you to my Chamber one day; over a cup of tea, we will discuss.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, question pertaining to Bihar has been raised, he has done a good thing. Sir, we used to sit that side they used to sit on treasury benches. They had demanded. ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Give the reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am giving the reply. The answer will be according to the question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am controlling. Please allow the hon. Minister to reply. Let us respect each other and let us listen to each other.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I know how to give a befitting reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. It cannot be done like this. Can you intervene in an answer of the Minister? Is this the way to do it? If you want to put a Supplementary Question, you can try to do it. But you cannot compel me. I would not allow this intervention. No. You are a senior member and you were a Minister too.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded; not one word of him will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The hon'ble Member had said in the 13th Lok Sabha that roads under the PMGSY should be constructed by the Central agencies then nobody paid any heed to his demand in his own Government at that point of time. As soon as the UPA Government came to power and gave a green signal and in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

No let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? When you use to give answers as a Minister,

[English]

Did you accept this position?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can only talk about the intervention part of it and not the content part of it.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as soon as the UPA Government came to power, we held meetings with the State Government. Not only with the State Governments but we held meetings with the hon'ble Members from treasury and opposition benches sitting here also.

Five agencies have been assigned the task there including IRCON, the famous undertaking of Railway, CPWD, NHPC, HBCC and NPCC. A scheme worth around Rs. 960 crore has been sanctioned. Construction work of eight roads totalling 80 kilometers have been completed. Work could not start in two districts. Tender has been extended thrice in Siwan and Chhapra districts. Nobody is ready to submit the tender there. I met the hon. Member and have also written to him to see the circumstances there as tenders have been invited there time and again but nobody is submitting the tenders. I have written to him twice and I also met him in this regard. In such a scenario too Shri Lalan ji has a grudge. I want to tell him that nobody is submitting tenders in even one of his districts. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Tell only about the place where tenders have been invited and submitted. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not reply to them. Please address to the Chair.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There are 11747 villages having the population of one thousand. We have written to the State Government to connect them and send the proposal to complete the pending work of Phase-I and Phase-II. We have demanded a plan for the villages having the population of one thousand, where at least ten thousand crore rupees are expected to be spent in the next four years. We are convening meetings regularly and expecting the assistance from the State Governments. Central agencies are also vigilant there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, two elections and model code of conduct has also affected the work. After inviting tenders twice in 6 months, processing work of tenders have been banned. There will be work at rapid pace in Bihar also just like it is being undertaken in other parts of the country. The Union Government is eager to see that Bihar stands among the frontline States in the matter of roads. Sufficient amount has been arranged for the same. These people are feeling restless, because the Union Government is now releasing funds and the work will be completed. People's aspirations will be fulfilled. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': You are not doing any work and only giving speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This can not be done.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We want to give information through you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What information you want to give? When you become the Minister, then we will ask for information.

...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this way supplementary is being asked. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a good tradition.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We have the right to make the submission and we want to give information through you that we have demanded that work should be done through a central agency but we have not asked to stop the work in Bihar. The Hon. Minister is stopping the work there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will invite both of you at tea.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Basudeb Barman. Nothing, except what Shri Basudeb Barman says, will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I first of all appreciate the move of the government for providing all weather road connectivity to all habitations with a population of 1000 and 500 in case of hilly and tribal areas. I would request the Minister to kindly consider along with the hilly and tribal areas, riverine and coastal areas also. My question is, whether for the benefit of the rural people and success of Bharat Nirman Programme, funds could be made available to improve upon the condition of already existing roads in such areas, many of which are in a very bad shape, not at all negotiable, particularly during rainy seasons.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, till now villages having population of more than 500 have been selected in hilly, desert and tribal areas. The hon'ble Member has asked about the riverine area. We will see that what can be done in this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: To see means they will provide the funds, otherwise what else they will do in the matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Munshi Ram.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not Munshi Ram. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in part 'c' of the question, it has been asked from the hon'ble Minister as to what the government is doing about the delay in sanctioning the proposals under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana? I want to say that works under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for the year 2005-06 has not yet been started, whereas remaining work has to be completed next year. I want to know, why the works of this year has not been started, so how they will get the utilization certificate and the Government will not sanction the works related to next year without obtaining utilization certificate. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government sanctions the remaining works of next year without completion the current works?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what can we do if there is delay in completion of works because we don't do the works on our own. The State Governments are supposed to do these works. We only give funds for the same. We have spoken to secretary twice in this regard. We kept on writing to the hon'ble Chief Minister to see that works should be done on rapid pace so that the allocation for State is utilized. In addition to this, we help them by relaxing the norms.

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon'ble Minister that so far what amount has been released to a backward State like Jharkhand? Further, what are the reasons for disapproval of proposals received from Jharkhand despite the National Rural Road Development Authority is on-line system?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, rupees 745 crore are to be sanctioned for Jharkhand and out of it rupees 501 crore have been sanctioned. Moreover, so far rupees 421 crore have been released to the State of Jharkhand and out of which the State has spent just Rupees 371 crore. The Government of Jharkhand is lagging behind. In this regard, we recently invited their Secretary. We have also written to the Chief Minister of Jharkhand that their work is lagging behind and it should be expedited.

[English]

SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Sir, you said that you will give me a chance.

MR. SPEAKER: I said that you might put a supplementary but that does not mean you can interrupt like this. I am sorry Mr. Patil I respect you very much and always give you the opportunity to speak. I do not appreciate this. I cannot go on extending the time on one question. Today, I am very sorry.

Energy from Urban Wastes

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*244. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to generate energy from urban and rural wastes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sought/obtained assistance from other countries and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in this regard; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the assistance obtained/sought to be obtained will be put to use in generation of energy from the above wastes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is already implementing Programmes for energy recovery from urban and rural wastes such as municipal solid waste, vegetable market waste, slaughterhouse waste, sewage gas, cattle dung, etc. These Programmes are mainly based on biomethanation, combustion and gasification technologies.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) have provided partial financial assistance for the development of high rate biomethanation processes. The

project encompasses recovery of energy through biomethanation of urban and industrial wastes. The UNDP/GEF assistance has been utilized to support 16 demonstration projects based on different types of wastes besides training programmes, study tours, workshops, seminars and awareness creation.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Sir, we know three projects of power generation from municipal waste have already been introduced in Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Lucknow. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the plans of Government of India of extending this programme to other States in this country. I would also like to know whether the Government of India is considering to provide any financial support or subsidy to the States which are planning to implement such projects.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you and the hon'ble lady Member for asking this question because this has given me an opportunity to put forth my point of view. The hon'ble Member has asked about three projects. She has also mentioned about Lucknow. In the beginning, the Lucknow project made a good beginning but its biggest problem is segregation of garbage and due to lack of proper segregation, the said project had been shut down after a few days. The efforts to execute the project was to be made by the local corporation. However, when it was not started, we had also tried and there were no progress in that due to lack of sufficient encouragement from the corporation. The Hon. Member raised the issue of financial assistance. I want to state we do give financial assistance. There are different types of financial assistance and in some projects, financial assistance between one and a half crore rupees to three crore rupees per megawatt and in higher limit, financial assistance upto rupees 8 crores is given.

[English]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Sir, what the hon. Minister has replied about was going to be my second supplementary.

Anyway, it seems that the Lucknow project is not doing very well. Along with the Lucknow project, the information I have was that even in Delhi such a project was underway. This has also not done very well. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for its

failure and also what technology was used in the Delhi project.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Sir, the selection of technology is done by the local agency called corporation; they do it and as I have said with regard to the question; the biggest problem is that of segregation. We lack awareness and if the corporation makes provisions for disposal of garbage in that it should be separated and segregated then these difficulties will not arise in near future. These types of difficulties have been removed in Vijayawada and Hyderabad where these projects are marked as waste-to energy; there it is running smoothly and even after that wherever these projects will be implemented; if proper allocation is paid and carried out properly with precaution being taken then I think it is a good project. Not only energy is gained but this project is utilized to keep the environment clean.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid, since you are in the habit of disturbing I did not call you.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. The renewal energy sources are doing a good work. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to start any new project in the hilly areas of Kodaikanal or not.

[Translation]

There is very good movement area between two hills. We will make a good print by starting a new project in that area. For that hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Urban waste.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Yes sir. It is there also. There is sugarcane waste and many other wastes also. So project has to be started there.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything in Kodaikanal?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you better go and see if there are waste in that area.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the Hon'ble Member through you that whenever this effluent waste is there; be it urban or rural. We have got the project with our ministry. We are already in touch with the States continuously and we have informed them fully about our schemes but initiative in this regard should be taken by those bodies, local bodies. We are ready to help them. I would like to tell through you that there is 42 million solid waste and approximately 600 cubic meter of liquid waste in the country. This is urgent and now Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Mission has been set up on the recommendation of 12th Finance Commission. The difficulties being faced by corporations in carrying such wastes have been looked into and a provision of fund has been made under that. As I have told earlier also, subsidy of 8 crore rupees per unit is provided by our ministry but unfortunately only 3 to 4 corporations out of 93 corporations in the country have availed this opportunity. I would like to make an appeal to all the members through you to bring proposals from their respective corporations by using their rights; then we will consider it.

[English]

MD. SALIM: Sir, the hon. Minister has rightly pointed out that this concept of converting wastes into energy involves multiple agencies. From our garbage disposal habits to collection of garbage and disposal, involvement of community is necessary. The Municipal Corporations have to be involved and then the Ministers of Urban Development and Non-conventional Energy Sources would also have to be involved. Without developing a synergy between the agencies of the Central Government, the State Governments and the municipal bodies, this scheme in isolation cannot be implemented. We have seen the failure of this scheme in different parts of the country.

Now, my question is, under the National Urban Renewal Mission whether the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources together with the Ministry of Urban Development and also the State Governments and the Municipal bodies would try and identify at least five cities to have a demonstrative effect. It is because viability is necessary and a Viability Gap Fund is available under the National Urban Renewal Mission. I would like know if the Government would take the necessary initiative for converting garbage waste, solid waste into energy or fuel. In that case, which Ministry, the Ministry of Urban

Development or the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources, would bell the cat?

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, first thing is that Urban Development Ministry and my own ministry has a very good coordination between them in this regard and on our request and recommendation only, it has been announced to help corporation for waste transportation under urban mission set up recently because of the difficulties being faced by corporation to lift urban waste due to lack of resources therein.

Second thing told by Hon'ble Member regarding interaction of State Governments with our ministry, I would like to tell in that regard that we are continuously in touch with State Governments. I would like to tell through you that one year ago we had organized a national conference on this subject of all mayors and municipal commissioners of the entire country and appealed to them. In making a project like this we help by Rs. 10 lakh in TPR and provide subsidy also. Yet corporation do not come forward because their financial condition is not okay, so we plan to provide loan upto 70 percent to them through ERDA. After putting in this much effort also corporations are not responding as per our expectations.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. In spite of the fact that there is a crying need for non-conventional energy, this is one department that does not seem to have got going. If the Government says that the municipal wastes need to be segregated and then only you will be able to do something, then there are so many examples of achievements by the NGOs which have made small Bio Energy Plants. To give one example, in Jhansi Development Alternatives have been running a bio energy based waste plant for 700 kilowatts which is doing extremely well.

Is it not possible for the Department is learn from what they have done and start in areas with high agricultural wastes? For example, my parliamentary constituency Pilibhit will never get proper energy which needs to have bio energy which is decentralised and for which there is ample waste.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: I agree with you. This question was regarding solid waste. We have also got a plan regarding what you are saying.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, you have to understand the word.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: If any such experiment is taking place; it's welcome but as I have told you earlier this initiative got to be taken by local institutions. If any such proposal comes forward we are ready to provide help.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paranjpe, you have been keeping quiet and that is why I am allowing you.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister on one aspect. The production cost of power out of wastes is costlier. Because of that, the Corporations are not getting purchasers for power and, that is why, as you have mentioned, only three Corporations out of 93 Corporations have approached you so far.

What measures would you take to reduce production cost of electricity so that we can easily get purchasers for that power?

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: It has just started. As I have told you earlier also the corporations of Hyderabad and Vijayawada have handed it over to a private party B.O.T. We provide them assistance to the tune of 1.5 crore rupees to 3 crore rupees per mega watt to cover up viability gap. Higher subsidy is upto rupees 8 crore. After that power purchase agreement is made with State electricity board. We do not work exclusively only for energy gain and profit. There are many other benefits. If garbage of the city is taken out, city becomes beautiful and healthy and it helps us in ecological balance. So the power produced is only a bonus.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: It is costly also.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: It is costly because of the higher capital cost. After that recurring cost is lesser.

Wholesale Price Index

*245. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN": Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently expressed its deep concern on the rising trend of the wholesale price index;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to contain the rising rate of wholesale price index;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In the Mid-Term Review of Annual Policy Statement for the year 2005-06 announced on October 25, 2005, the Reserve Bank of India has indicated that "the full effects of the pass-through of the increase in international oil prices have so far been dulled and the underlying inflationary pressures have been contained. Crude price continues to remain the most critical factor in the outlook on domestic inflation. In the remaining part of the year, inflation conditions will warrant continuous vigil in view of the heightened uncertainties surrounding international crude prices and the eventual pressures for fuller pass-through into domestic inflation". The RBI has further indicated that "given the outlook for inflation primarily in the context of the oil economy in India, however, it may be difficult to contain the inflation in the range of 5.0-5.5 per cent projected earlier without an appropriate policy response".

(c) to (e) Anti-inflationary policies of the Government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalization of excise and import duties of essential commodities so

that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of sensitive items through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening of the public distribution system. In the Mid-Term Review of the Annual Policy Statement, in order to keep the inflationary expectations under check, RBI hiked the reserve repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent and the repo rate to 6.25 per cent while keeping the bank rate unchanged at 6 per cent.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government has agreed to this point in its reply that it is revealed through the Mid-Term Review of Reserve Bank of India that domestic inflation is controlled by one of most important component *i.e.* petroleum. It needs constant monitoring. This has been accepted by RBI in its Mid-Term Review. If it is to be monitored then the excise and custom duties on crude oil ought to be rationalised. Please mention the steps taken by the Government during past five to six months to rationalise excise and custom duties in the petroleum sector.

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, crude oil prices are not under our control. As of yesterday, a barrel of crude oil is being quoted as 60 dollars per barrel. What we can do is to moderate the impact of price rise upon the consumers by not passing through the entire price rise.

The other suggestion of the hon. Member is to reduce customs and excise duties. On the fact of it, it is an attractive suggestion. In kerosene and LPG, it has been reduced to zero and zero respectively. In crude, the customs duty is five per cent. Sir, if I accept his suggestion, then I will lose a large amount of revenue. If revenues are lost, then how do we fund roads, power, telecom, *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan*, Mid-day Meal Scheme and irrigation? One has to balance between the needs of revenue and the need to moderate price rise. We are doing a balancing act. In fact, the previous Government also did the balancing act. And every Government will have to do this balancing act. There is no way out of it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is okay but as Hon'ble Minister has said if we put the entire burden on petroleum, then this is the thing

which hurts a major chunk of population and especially the farmers. The domestic inflation is affected by the price rise in food articles also. The effect of price rise in food articles affects more than 50 percent population of the country. The Seventh report presented by National Sample Survey says that 523 rupees per family is utilized which is 75 percent more than the poverty line. It is 225 to 404 rupees per family utilization in the States like Orissa, Bihar and Jharkhand.

12.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps have been taken to control the prices of food-articles?

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the bulk of the contribution to the current inflation—which I submitted is low and I hope it remains low—comes from the oil and fuel sector. Primary articles are not contributing as much to the inflation as one is assuming that they do. For example, the contribution of pulses is only 1.7 per cent out of the total contribution basket of 76.5 per cent; the contribution of vegetables is 4.5 per cent; and the contribution of eggs, wheat and fish is 6.5 per cent. So, it is the mineral oils which are contributing 32 per cent of the 76.5 per cent.

Secondly, on primary food articles, there is hardly any taxation. Sir, the prices of primary food articles are based on supply and demand. If supplies are dislocated, say due to rains or floods, there will be temporary price rise. They are also affected by seasonal variations. But as of now, I am not in a position to agree that primary articles are contributing to the current inflation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

NTPC

*246. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is planning to foray into other business including gas, petroleum and coal mining sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NTPC is participating in international global tenders for construction of power plants in joint venture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the names of countries with which NTPC is actively negotiating for participating in bids?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), apart from its large thermal capacity addition programme, plans to diversify into the following sectors:

(i) Hydro Power: NTPC has envisaged to set up the following projects:

(1) Koldam Hydroelectric Project (800 MW), Himachal Pradesh;

(2) Loharinag Pala HEP (600 MW), Uttaranchal;

(3) Tapovan-Vishnugad HEP (520 MW), Uttaranchal;

(4) Rupslabagar-Khasiyabara HEP (260 MW), Uttaranchal;

(5) Rammam Stage-III. HEP (90 MW), West Bengal; and

(6) Lata-Tapovan HEP (160 MW), Uttaranchal.

(ii) Coal Mining: NTPC has decided to diversify into coal mining. It has been allocated Pakri-Barwadi Coal Mining block in North Karanpura, Jharkhand. It has also decided to set up integrated mining-cum-power projects in Orissa and Chhattisgarh.

(iii) LNG/Gas Value Chain: NTPC is exploring the possibilities of its presence in LNG/Gas value chain apart from typing up gas supplies based on international competitive bidding.

(iv) Exploration of Oil and Gas: NTPC has forayed in acquiring exploration rights. It has participated in bidding for gas and oil block offered under New Exploration & Licensing Policy—V by Government of India. NTPC, as a lead member in Consortium with Geopetrol and Canoro has

successfully bagged the award of Land Block named AA-ONN-2003/2 in Arunachal Pradesh.

(v) Distribution: NTPC has set up a wholly owned subsidiary, the NTPC Electric Supply Company Limited (NESCL), for entry into distribution business.

(vi) Trading: NTPC has set up a wholly owned subsidiary NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. (NVVN) for power trading to leverage the opportunities provided by the Electricity Act 2003.

(vii) Thrust for Services Business: NTPC has already made inroads into the business of providing services in the area of Engineering, procurement, construction supervision, O&M etc., through its Consultancy wing.

(viii) NTPC-SAIL Power Company Private Ltd. (NSPCL): NSPCL (NTPC-SAIL Power Company (Private) Limited—50:50 Joint Venture of NTPC and SAIL) is operating and maintaining the Captive Power Plants (CPP-II) of Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants (120 MW each).

(ix) Bhilai Electric Supply Company Ltd. (BESCL): BESCL (Bhilai Electricity Supply Company Limited—another 50:50 Joint Venture company of NTPC and SAIL) is operating and maintaining the CPP-II (74 MW) of Bhilai Steel Plant. The JV company is also executing Bhilai expansion project of 2x250 MW.

(x) Joint Venture for R&M: NTPC formed a JV Company with ALSTOM Power Generation AG under the name NTPC Alstom Power Services Limited (NASL) for taking up Renovation & Modernization (R&M) assignments of power plants in India and abroad. NTPC holds 50% equity in NASL.

(xi) Joint Venture for Construction/Erection: Utility Powertech Limited (UPL) is a 50:50 Joint Venture Company of NTPC and Reliance Energy that has been taking up assignments of construction, erection and project management in power and other sectors.

(xii) Power Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (PTC): Power Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (PTC) has been formed to trade in electric power in an optimum manner. Shareholding pattern of the company is Powergrid-8%, NTPC-8%, PFC-8%, NHPC-8%, FIs and Public at large-68%.

(c) NTPC, so far, has not participated in any international global tenders for construction of power plant in joint venture.

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

[English]

Hydro Power Generation

*247. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new power policy contemplates a shift in the emphasis from thermal to hydro-power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the actual achievement in hydro-power capacity addition was dismal being only 1,435 MW against a target of capacity addition of 2,585 MW during 2004-05;

(d) if so, the reasons for such performance;

(e) whether Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and North East Region hold rich promise for hydro-power generation;

(f) if so, the special efforts being made to augment hydro-power generation in these States; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government so far to encourage private sector investment in hydro power projects in the country and the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Even with full development of the feasible hydro potential in the country, coal could continue to remain the primary fuel for meeting the future electricity demand. However, the following steps have been envisaged in the National Electricity Policy for increasing hydro generation:

- Maximum emphasis to be laid on the full development of the feasible hydro potential in the country.
- Harnessing hydro potential speedily would also facilitate economic development of States,

particularly North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, since a large proportion of our hydro power potential is located in these States.

- Debt financing of longer tenure would be made available for hydro projects.
- State Governments would review procedures for land acquisition and other approvals/clearances for speedy implementation of hydroelectric projects.
- The Central Government would support the State Governments for expeditious development of their hydroelectric projects by offering services of Central Public Sector Undertakings.
- The National Policy on Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) will be implemented properly so that the concerns of project-affected families are addressed adequately.
- Adequate safeguards for environmental protection with suitable mechanism for monitoring of implementation of Environmental Action Plan and R&R schemes will be put in place.

(c) and (d) During 2004-05, the targeted hydro capacity addition could not be achieved. The hydro projects which had slipped are: (i) Dulhasti H.E. Project (390 MW) of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) due to slow progress in execution of certain civil works and law and order problems; (ii) Dhauliganga H.E. Project (280 MW) of NHPC in Uttaranchal due to non completion of transmission line on account of delay in getting Forest/Environment clearance; (iii) Tehri Stage-I H.E. Project (3 Units-750 MW) of Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) in Uttaranchal due to mishap in Tunnel-T3; and (iv) Pykara Ultimate HE Project (150 MW) of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) in Tamil Nadu due to non-completion of transmission line due to delay in forest clearance from Forest Department of the State Government for felling of trees.

The Dhauliganga H.E. Project and the Pykara Ultimate H.E. Project have since been commissioned while the process leading to commissioning of the Tehri Stage-I H.E. Project has started with the commencement of impounding of the reservoir on 29th October, 2005. The Dulhasti H.E. Project is expected to commence generation in 2006.

(e) and (f) In Himachal Pradesh, the identified hydro capacity is 18,820 MW, out of which about 52.4% of the capacity has either been developed or is under various stages of development.

In Uttaranchal, out of identified hydro capacity of 18,175 MW, about 23.1% has been developed or is under various stages of development.

In North Eastern region, out of the identified hydro capacity of 58,971 MW, about 6.8% of the capacity has already been developed or is under various stages of development.

The Status of the development of the hydro electric potential in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and North-Eastern Region is given in the enclosed Statement.

The Government of India has taken many steps and measures to augment hydro power in the country including Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and in the North Eastern region as given below:—

(i) Under the 50,000 Hydro Initiative, Preliminary Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 162 hydro electric projects with an aggregate installed capacity of 47,930 MW spread over 16 States have been prepared. Out of these, 110 no. of projects aggregating to 39,026 MW are in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and North-Eastern Region. In the first phase, out of these 162 H.E. schemes, 77 of the most attractive schemes with an aggregate installed capacity of 33,951 MW have been taken up for detailed survey & investigation and preparation of Detailed Project Reports for eventual implementation. Out of these 77 schemes, 64 schemes aggregating to 29,801 MW are in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and North-Eastern region.

(ii) The Hydro Policy was announced by the Government in August, 1998 incorporating several steps and measures to facilitate accelerated development of hydro power. The Policy also encourages greater participation by the private sector. It lays emphasis on basin wise development of hydro potential, evolving a consensus on inter-state issues, mitigation of geological risks, simplified procedure for transfer of concurrence, promoting joint venture arrangements etc.

(iii) A number of Hydro Power Corporations in the Central Sector and Joint Ventures with State Governments have been set up for development of hydro power.

(iv) The Government has also approved a 3-Stage clearance procedure for expeditious execution of hydro electric projects in the Central Sector.

(v) As per Section 8 of the Electricity Act, 2003 the Central Electricity Authority before concurring any scheme will examine only the aspects of best ultimate development of the river or its tributaries for power generation consistent with the requirements of drinking water, irrigation, navigation, flood control or other public purposes and satisfy itself that an adequate study has been made of the optimum location of the dams and other river works and that the proposed scheme meets the norms regarding dam design and safety.

(vi) Regular review and coordination meetings are taken with the State Governments to review the development of hydro electric potential in the States.

(g) Some of the steps taken by the Government to attract private sector investment are:

(i) The Electricity Act, 2003 which contains several measures to attract private investment in the power sector. The Act has removed restrictions on setting up of fresh generating capacity and permits direct commercial relationship between generating companies and consumers/electricity traders. The Act also provides the generating companies the right to open access to the State and Central transmission network for wheeling electricity.

(ii) The Government has also initiated the process of reforms and restructuring of power sector which would improve the finances of the power utilities thereby attracting private investments still further.

(iii) Upto 100% Foreign Direct Investment has been permitted on the automatic approval route in projects for generation, transmission and distribution of electricity.

(iv) The Government has issued a tariff notification incorporating several incentives to hydro projects

which broadly covers incentives for better availability of machines, for generation of energy over and above the design energy, compensation for hydrological risks etc.

(v) The Government has also been assisting the private sector power projects in achieving financial closure. An Inter Institutional Group (IIG) comprising senior representative from the financial institutions as well as from the Ministry of Power, has been constituted to facilitate financial closure of IPPs.

(vi) To facilitate setting up of large size hydro power plants in the country and to derive the economies of scale, the Government has further liberalized the mega power policy with effect from 1.3.2003. All inter-state hydel projects with the capacity of 500 MW and above are being treated as mega power projects subject to fulfilment of the required conditions and would be extended the concession of 'Zero' customs duty on import of capital goods. Income Tax holiday has been continued with the provision that the tax holiday

period of ten years can be claimed by a promoter in any block of ten years within the first fifteen years. The State Governments have also been requested to exempt supplies made to mega power plants from sales tax and local levies.

(vii) Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have been set up to fix tariffs in an objective and transparent manner.

As a result of the above efforts and incentives offered to attract private sector investments in hydro-electric projects, the private sector participation in the development of hydro power is expected to increase further.

As per information available with CEA, at present, 14 hydro stations (above 3 MW capacity) with an aggregate installed capacity of 903 MW are in operation and 5 hydro stations (above 25 MW capacity) with an aggregate installed capacity of 2322 MW are under construction in the country in the Private Sector.

Statement

Status of Hydro Electric Potential Development

Region/ State	Identified hydro capacity (MW)	Capacity Developed		Capacity under development		Capacity developed+ Under Development	
		(MW)	(%)	(MW)	%	(MW)	(%)
Northern Region							
Himachal Pradesh	18820	5947	31.6%	3905	20.7%	9852	52.4%
Uttaranchal	18175	1352	7.4%	2854	15.7%	4206	23.1%
North Eastern							
Meghalaya	2394	185	7.7%	84	3.5%	269	11.2%
Tripura	15	15	100.0%	0	0.0%	15	100.0%
Manipur	1784	105	5.9%	90	5.0%	195	10.9%
Assam	680	275	40.4%	100	14.7%	375	55.1%
Nagaland	1574	99	6.3%	0	0.0%	99	6.3%
Arunachal Pradesh	50328	416	0.8%	2800	5.2%	3016	6.0%
Mizoram	2196	0	0.0%	60	2.7%	60	2.7%
Total NER	58971	1095		2934		4029	

[*Translation*]

Allocation of Power from Central Pool

*248. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the actual generation of power from various sources and average demand and supply of power in the country particularly at peak hours at present, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the total power supplied to each State/UT from the Central pool during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 till date;

(c) whether the Government has slashed the allocated quota of power of any State/UT from Central pool;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(e) whether several States including Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu has requested for additional quota of power from the Central pool to meet the increasing demand in their respective State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) State/Union Territory-wise actual generation from various sources during the current year is given in enclosed Statement-I. The latest State-/System-wise power supply position in the country (November, 2005) is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(b) Scheduled drawal of power in respect of various States/Union Territories (UTs) from Central Sector Generating Stations (CGSs) during 2003-04, 2004-05 and the current year (April-October, 2005) is given in enclosed Statement-III.

(c) and (d) The shares of the constituent States/UTs are generally allocated at the time of the commissioning of central generating stations according to guidelines. Shares allocated once are generally not changed, unless surrendered by the State.

(e) and (f) The requests for additional allocation from 15% unallocated quota of central generating stations of the region received from the States/UTs including Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu from time to time are considered keeping in view the nature of request, emergent/seasonal requirements, relative power supply position of States/UTs, generation resources available with them, their payment capacity, etc. As the availability of power in the unallocated quota in various regions is limited, and most of the States are facing shortage of power, it is not possible to accommodate all the requests received for additional assistance from central unallocated pool at the expense of other States/UTs.

Statement I

Actual Generation during April-November, 2005

Northern Region

State/UT	Sector	Type	Actual Generation (MU)
1	2	3	4
Chandigarh	State	Thermal	0
Chandigarh Total			0
Delhi	Central	Thermal	3460.99
	State	Thermal	3688.42
Delhi Total			7149.41
Haryana	Central	Thermal	1994.25

1	2	3	4
	State	Thermal	5964.07
		Hydro	189.83
Haryana Total			8148.15
Himachal Pradesh	Central	Hydro	11048.44
	State	Thermal	**
		Hydro	1105.76
	Private	Hydro	1432.88
Himachal Pradesh Total			13587.08
Jammu & Kashmir	Central	Hydro	4928.93
	State	Thermal	1.71
		Hydro	612.24
Jammu & Kashmir Total			5540.88
Punjab	Central	Hydro	4874.71
	State	Thermal	9848.7
		Hydro	3933.57
Punjab Total			18656.98
Rajasthan	Central	Thermal	1823.08
		Nuclear	3008.37
	State	Thermal	11831.76
		Hydro	378.62
Rajasthan Total			17042.81
Uttar Pradesh	Central	Thermal	33425.67
		Nuclear	1843.68
	State	Thermal	12895.01
		hydro	867.94
Uttar Pradesh Total			48632.3
Uttaranchal	Central	Hydro	596.8
	State	Hydro	2878.64
Uttaranchal Total			3275.44
Grand Total			122033.05

**Generation not monitored.

*Actual Generation during April-November, 2005**Western Region*

State/UT	Sector	Type	Actual Generation (MU)
Chhattisgarh	Central	Thermal	10923.39
	State	Thermal	5836.84
		Hydro	280.49
Chhattisgarh Total			17040.72
Goa	Private	Thermal	207.01
Goa Total			207.01
Gujarat	Central	Thermal	4731.57
		Nuclear	1798.91
	State	Thermal	17190.58
		Hydro	1994.44
	Private	Thermal	8579.26
		Pvt. Imp	Thermal
Gujarat Total			35530.47
Madhya Pradesh	Central	Thermal	11720.55
		Hydro	1993.25
	State	Thermal	8567.18
		Hydro	1731.74
	Private	Hydro	16.58
		Madhya Pradesh Total	
Maharashtra	Central	Nuclear	2302.82
	State	Thermal	28868.34
		Hydro	4119.99
	Private	Thermal	9131.63
		Hydro	1483.23
Maharashtra Total			45906.01
Grand Total			122713.51

*Actual Generation during April-November, 2005**Southern Region*

State/UT	Sector	Type	Actual Generation (MU)
Andhra Pradesh	Central	Thermal	17281.8
	State	Thermal	14036.5
		Hydro	5891.93
	Private	Thermal	3766.81
		Hydro	
Andhra Pradesh Total			40977.04
Karnataka	Central	Nuclear	1958.4
	State	Thermal	5298.16
		Hydro	6410.53
	Private	Thermal	156.2
		Hydro	97.9
	Private IMP	Thermal	811.75
Karnataka Total			14732.94
Kerala	Central	Thermal	248.6
	State	Thermal	96.61
		Hydro	4876.25
	Private	Thermal	40.97
		Hydro	67.7
Kerala Total			5330.13
Lakshadweep	State	Thermal	18.04
Lakshadweep Total			18.04
Pondichery	State	Thermal	180.59
Pondichery Total			180.59
Tamil Nadu	Central	Thermal	11336.85
		Nuclear	1113.18
	State	Thermal	13626.02
		Hydro	4284.06
	Private	Thermal	1868.47
Tamil Nadu Total			32228.58
Grand Total			93467.32

*Actual Generation during April-November, 2005**Eastern Region*

State/UT	Sector	Type	Actual Generation (MU)
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	State	Thermal	27.96
		Hydro	3.74
	Private	Thermal	70.32
Andaman & Nicobar Islands Total			102.02
Bihar	Central	Thermal	4210.15
	State	Thermal	76.52
		Hydro	54.31
Bihar Total			4342.98
Jharkhand	Central	Thermal	2906.41
		Hydro	71.52
	State	Thermal	1353.95
		Hydro	47.75
	Private IMP	Thermal	980.6
Jharkhand Total			5360.23
Orissa	Central	Thermal	15531.47
	State	Thermal	1951.99
		Hydro	3343.61
	Private IMP	Thermal	451.21
Orissa Total			21278.28
Sikkim	Central	Hydro	291.86
	State	Thermal	0.13
		Hydro	22.38
Sikkim Total			314.37
West Bengal	Central	Thermal	12064.5
		Hydro	68.87
	State	Thermal	11305.55
		Hydro	363.66
	Private	Thermal	5404.39
West Bengal Total			29206.97
Grand Total			60604.85

*Actual Generation during April-November, 2005**North-Eastern Region*

State/UT	Sector	Type	Actual Generation (MU)
Arunachal Pradesh	Central	Hydro	1218.72
	State	Thermal	**
		Hydro	0
Arunachal Pradesh Total			1218.72
Assam	Central	Thermal	1098.82
		Hydro	939.53
	State	Thermal	547.7
		Hydro	**
	Private	Thermal	83.29
	Assam Total		
Manipur	Central	Hydro	399.17
	State	Thermal	0
		Hydro	**
Manipur Total			399.17
Meghalaya	Central	Hydro	183.37
	State	Thermal	**
		Hydro	388.3
Meghalaya Total			571.67
Mizoram	State	Thermal	0
		Hydro	**
Mizoram Total			0
Nagaland	Central	Hydro	162.94
	State	Thermal	**
		Hydro	0
Nagaland Total			162.94
Tripura	Central	Thermal	409.8
	State	Thermal	303.52
		Hydro	42.44
Tripura Total			755.76
Grand Total			5777.6

**Generation not monitored.

*Actual Generation during April-November, 2005**All India*

Region	Type	Actual Generation (MU)
NR	Thermal	84733.64
	Nuclear	4652.05
	Hydro	32647.36
NR Total		122033.05
WR	Thermal	106992.06
	Nuclear	4101.73
	Hydro	11619.72
WR Total		122713.51
SR	Thermal	68767.37
	Nuclear	3071.58
	Hydro	21628.37
SR Total		93467.32
ER	Thermal	56337.15
	Hydro	4267.7
ER Total		60604.85
NER	Thermal	2443.13
	Hydro	3334.47
NER Total		5777.6
Bhutan Import/Captive PTC		1607
Total All India		408203.33

Approx. 99% of the Target
Approx. 5% higher than the corresponding period of last year

*Statement II**Power Supply Position (Provisional)*

State/System/ Region	November, 2005				November, 2005			
	Energy				Peak			
	Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus/Deficit (-) (MU)	(%)	Demand (MW)	Met (MW)	Surplus/Deficit (-) (MW)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	87	86	-1	-1.1	174	174	0	0.0
Delhi	1,476	1,445	-31	-2.1	2,903	2,873	-30	-1.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haryana	1,686	1,633	-53	-3.1	3,600	3,415	-185	-5.1
Himachal Pradesh	347	345	-2	-0.6	709	709	0	0.0
Jammu & Kashmir	701	649	-52	-7.4	1,310	1,160	-150	-11.5
Punjab	2,242	2,154	-88	-3.9	4,984	4,284	-700	-14.0
Rajasthan	2,950	2,795	-155	-5.3	4,508	4,208	-300	-6.7
Uttar Pradesh	4,495	3,488	-1,007	-22.4	7,628	6,208	-1,420	-18.6
Uttaranchal	397	389	-8	-2.0	879	831	-48	-5.5
Northern Region	14,381	12,984	-1,397	-9.7	26,044	24,594	-1,450	-5.6
Chhattisgarh	1,124	1,104	-20	-1.8	1,739	1,511	-228	-13.1
Gujarat	5,062	4,766	-296	-5.8	8,159	7,306	-853	-10.5
Madhya Pradesh	3,663	3,182	-481	-13.1	6,182	5,136	-1,046	-16.9
Maharashtra	8,637	6,946	-1,691	-19.6	15,646	11,651	-3,995	-25.5
Daman & Diu	94	94	0	0.0	257	257	0	0.0
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	185	185	0	0.0	315	315	0	0.0
Goa	185	185	0	0.0	343	343	0	0.0
Western Region	18,950	16,462	-2,488	-13.1	31,250	24,656	-6,594	-21.1
Andhra Pradesh	3,680	3,701	21	0.6	6,668	6,609	-59	-0.9
Karnataka	2,580	2,592	12	0.5	4,788	4,732	-56	-1.2
Kerala	1,092	1,097	5	0.5	2,376	2,370	-6	-0.3
Tamil Nadu	3,771	3,789	18	0.5	7,411	7,377	-34	-0.5
Pondicherry	114	114	0	0.0	195	195	0	0.0
Lakshadweep	2	2	0	0.0	6	6	0	0.0
Southern Region	11,237	11,293	56	0.5	20,852	20,736	-116	-0.6
Bihar	655	614	-41	-6.3	1,243	1,090	-153	-12.3
DVC	845	833	-12	-1.4	1,429	1,405	-24	-1.7
Jharkhand	330	310	-20	-6.1	621	623	2	0.3
Orissa	1,231	1,218	-13	-1.1	2,432	2,396	-36	-1.5
West Bengal	1,779	1,748	-31	-1.7	3,867	3,780	-87	-2.2
Sikkim	17	17	0	0.0	40	40	0	0.0
Andaman-Nicobar	20	13	-7	-35	40	32	-8	-20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Eastern Region	4,857	4,740	-117	-2.4	9,173	8,890	-283	-3.1
Arunachal Pradesh	17	17	0	0.0	68	67	-1	-1.5
Assam	341	322	-19	-5.6	697	659	-38	-5.5
Manipur	53	52	-1	-1.9	103	101	-2	-1.9
Meghalaya	126	107	-19	-15.1	257	205	-52	-20.2
Mizoram	20	19	-1	-5.0	71	66	-5	-7.0
Nagaland	33	32	-1	-3.0	83	82	-1	-1.2
Tripura	57	51	-6	-10.5	150	110	-40	-26.7
North-Eastern Region	647	600	-47	-7.3	1,316	1,192	-124	-9.4
All India	50,072	46,079	-3,993	-8.0	88,635	80,068	-8,567	-9.7

#Lakshadweep and A&N Islands stand-alone systems, power supply position of these does not form part of regional requirement and availability.

Note: Both peak met and energy availability represent the net consumption (including the transmission losses) in the various States. Net export has been accounted for in the consumption of importing States.

Statement III

*Scheduled Drawal of Energy from Central Sector Generating Stations for the Years
2003-04 to 2005-06 (Upto October, 2005)*

(Figures in net Million Units)

Region/State/System	2003-04	2004-05	April-October, 2005
1	2	3	4
Northern Region			
Chandigarh	1,363	1,299	998
Delhi,	16,844	16,973	10,058
Haryana	11,526	12,124	7,725
Himachal Pradesh	1,855	2,406	1,401
Jammu & Kashmir	5,545	5,587	3,971
Punjab	12,160	12,095	9,444
Rajasthan	12,009	11,667	7,251
Uttar Pradesh	19,913	22,459	13,833
Uttaranchal	2,209	2,565	1,333

1	2	3	4
Western Region			
Chhattisgarh	2,884	2618	1,230
Gujarat	11,116	10933	6,889
Madhya Pradesh	10,972	11395	8,121
Maharashtra	16,039	16569	9,728
Goa	1,828	1918	1,343
DD+DNH	2,700	2848	1,688
Southern Region			
Andhra Pradesh	15,055	16390	9,787
Karnataka	7,883	8950	5,990
Kerala	6,200	6116	4,119
Tamilnadu	17,965	18850	11,806
Pondicherry	1,490	1641	1,089
Goa	734	600	—
Eastern Region			
Bihar	5,331	6024	3,981
DVC	1,111	1127	267
Jharkhand	6,175	6993	1,074
Orissa	6,588	7221	4,070
West Bengal	7,114	7188	3,049
Sikkim	368	454	287
North-Eastern Region			
Arunachal Pradesh	155	450	275
Assam	2,693	2677	1,588
Manipur	466	623	397
Meghalaya	556	675	430
Mizoram	261	357	230
Nagaland	295	371	219
Tripura	162	420	257

Note: 1. The figures given above include the Drawal from the dedicated and jointly owned central sector generation stations.

2. During 2005-06 Drawal of Goa included in WR.

*[English]***Growth in Mineral Sector**

*249. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether national mineral sector has recorded a positive growth during the last decade according to the latest data available with the Government;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the excavation of minerals?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of change in production of major minerals over ten years is enclosed as Statement-I. Details of mineral production for major States is enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Ministry of Mines are as follows:—

(i) Enunciated the National Mineral Policy in 1993.

(ii) Opened up the non-fuel and non-atomic mineral sector for private sector investment, including foreign direct investment (FDI).

(iii) Permitted 100% FDI under the automatic route, in all minerals except diamond & precious stones; for diamond & precious stones FDI is allowed upto 74% under the automatic route and upto 100% through the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

(iv) Introduced the concept of reconnaissance permit (RP) as a stage distinct from and prior to actual prospecting operations.

(v) Delegated further authority to State Government.

To review the National Mineral Policy, 1993 and further improve the investment environment in the mining sector a High Level Committee has been set up under Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission to recommend appropriate measures in this regard.

Statement I

*Average Index of Mineral Production (Major Minerals)
(Annual index for 1993-94 and 2003-2004)*

(Base year 1993-94 = 100)

Mineral	1993-1994	2003-2004
1	2	3
Minerals Under MCDR 88	100	180.36
(a) Scheduled Minerals	100	188.36
Asbestos	100	24.22
Bauxite	100	197.38
Chromite	100	272.83
Copper Ore	100	57.95
Gold (Total)	100	166.60
Iron Ore (Total)	100	205.95
Lead Conc.	100	135.69
Zinc Conc.	100	203.44
Manganese Ore	100	104.72
Diamond	100	370.72
(b) Top 17 Non Scheduled Minerals	100	164.21
Limestone	100	184.45
Phosphorite	100	138.67
Dolomite	100	117.65
Kaolin (Total)	100	139.03
Gypsum	100	164.57
Magnesite	100	86.49
Barytes	100	137.38
Steatite	100	172.44
Fluorite Conc. (Total)	100	25.64
Silica Sand	100	133.83
Bal Clay	100	227.95

1	2	3
Fireclay	100	153.59
Wollastonite	100	243.13
Sillimenite	100	180.57
Graphite (Romo)	100	103.87
Chalk	100	107.12
Laterite	100	182.09
(c) Other Non Scheduled Minerals	100	182.41

Statement II*Value of Mineral Production*

(Rs. in Crore)

State	1993-94	2003-04
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1747	5941
Assam	1852	3033
Bihar	3655	864
Jharkhand*	—	5967
Gujarat	2492	5264
Karnataka	474	1364
Madhya Pradesh	3445	4027
Chhattisgarh*	—	5015

1	2	3
Maharashtra	1060	3132
Orissa	1195	4004
Rajasthan	922	2760
Tamil Nadu	729	2069
Uttar Pradesh	795	2793
West Bengal	922	2444

*New States have been created since 2000-2001.

Debt Recovery Tribunals

*250. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number and details of Debt Recovery Tribunals which are in existence at present;

(b) the number of cases decided by these tribunals upto 30th November, 2005 alongwith the amount of debt recovered tribunal-wise;

(c) the number of cases which are still pending in each of these tribunals; and

(d) the time by which these cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) There are 29 Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) currently functioning in various parts of the Country. The DRT-wise detailed position as on 30.11.2005 regarding the number of cases decided, debt recovered and the number of cases pending in these tribunals is as under:

(Rupees in Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of DRT	No. of cases decided upto 30.11.2005	Debt Recovered	No. of cases which are still pending as on 30.11.2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	3052	3497.55	2172
2.	Allahabad	912	70.41	698
3.	Aurangabad	935	80.00	268

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bangalore	6336	2103.86	1881
5.	Chandigarh	2719	874.20	2097
6.	Chennai DRT No. 1	4555	1294.32	2135
7.	Chennai DRT No. 2	1761	424.46	1035
8.	Coimbatore	1690	296.41	2118
9.	Cuttack	946	186.29	349
10.	Delhi DRT No. 1	2570	1997.41	767
11.	Delhi DRT No. 2	1211	514.31	1398
12.	Delhi DRT No. 3	635	110.18	596
13.	Ernakulam	2779	753.57	1048
14.	Guwahati	743	211.72	98
15.	Hyderabad	3078	1301.28	1209
16.	Jabalpur	2036	304.56	450
17.	Jaipur	2953	1881.55	312
18.	Kolkata DRT No. 1	1843	489.87	1361
19.	Kolkata DRT No. 2	702	115.12	756
20.	Kolkata DRT No. 3	123	118.99	278
21.	Lucknow	501	127.42	944
22.	Mumbai DRT No. 1	3455	3402.40	1017
23.	Mumbai DRT No. 2	4145	1381.54	1213
24.	Mumbai DRT No. 3	2569	4672.32	1090
25.	Nagpur	4311	153.16	967
26.	Patna	1238	189.75	920
27.	Pune	2009	263.64	536
28.	Ranchi	192	79.70	174
29.	Vishakhapatnam	926	258.37	717
Total		60927	27154.36	28604

(d) Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) being quasi judicial bodies, the proceedings are held in accordance with the procedure laid down in Chapter IV of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993. While efforts are made by the tribunals to dispose of cases in accordance with Sub-section (24) of Section 19 of the DRT Act which lays down a time frame of 180 days from the date of receipt of the application, there are instances where it has not been possible for the tribunals to adhere to this time limit and as such a time frame by which these cases are likely to be cleared cannot be indicated as these are quasi judicial proceedings.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

*251. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the funds to the tune of Rs. 7,000 crore are pending with the District Rural Development Agencies as reported in *Dainik Jagran* dated October 4, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government is drawing up any plan to ensure proper and timely utilisation of funds allocated for centrally sponsored schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) According to the progress reports received in the Ministry, the unspent funds with the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) was Rs. 3808.61 crores as on 1.4.2005. State-wise unspent funds with the District Rural Development Agencies are given in the enclosed Statement.

The State Governments and Union Territory Administration are allowed to carry forward the unspent balances upto certain specified limits (10%) and excess amount (if any) is deducted from the releases during the succeeding year. The quantum of opening balance depends on the capabilities of the Executing Agencies to implement the schemes, length of the working seasons and staggered release of financial resources at various stages.

In order to ensure proper and timely utilization of funds, the Ministry of Rural Development has evolved a comprehensive multi-level and multi-tool system of monitoring and evaluation for the implementation of its

programmes. Appropriate objectively verifiable performance indicators have been developed for each of the specific programme, both by the Ministry of Rural Development and the State authorities for effective monitoring of rural development programmes at the District, Block, Gram Panchayat and Village levels so that alarming signals can be captured well in time.

Besides, review of the programmes with the States is being done at the level of the Union Ministers (i) by conducting frequent meetings with the State Ministers and Senior Officials, (ii) through video conferencing, (iii) by writing to Chief Ministers and State Ministers (iv) and also by closely following the Status through on-line monitoring reports.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)	
State Name	Opening Balance As on 1-04-2005
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	162.98
Arunachal Pradesh	12.45
Assam	280.45
Bihar	849.47
Chhattisgarh	76.72
Goa	11.57
Gujarat	150.57
Haryana	32.96
Himachal Pradesh	53.27
Jammu & Kashmir	23.10
Jharkhand	382.64
Karnataka	126.83
Kerala	46.29
Madhya Pradesh	177.83
Maharashtra	130.33
Manipur	12.50
Meghalaya	9.46
Mizoram	6.62

1	2
Nagaland	10.91
Orissa	144.31
Punjab	3.77
Rajasthan	199.32
Sikkim	5.39
Tamil Nadu	71.22
Tripura	23.99
Uttar Praesh	470.49
Uttaranchal	51.58
West Bengal	271.89
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4.57
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.00
Daman & Diu	0.06
Lakshadweep	0.46
Pondicherry	4.62
All India	3808.61

Note: The opening balance pertains to the following schemes
Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)

National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP)

Swaranjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY)

Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)

Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)

Desert Development Programme (DDP)

Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP)

Foreign Exchange Reserve

*252. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign exchange reserves have gone down during the last six months;

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

(c) whether reserves kept with the International Monetary Fund have also gone down during the period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the foreign exchange reserve?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) India's foreign exchange reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCA), gold, special drawing rights (SDR) and the reserve tranche position (RTP) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Total foreign exchange reserves, which stood at US Dollar 1,38,370 million at end-June 2005, have increased to US Dollar 1,42,821 million at end-November 2005. The movements in various components of foreign exchange reserves, as well as total reserves, during the last six months (i.e. June-November 2005-06) are given below:

Movements in Foreign Exchange Reserves: June—November 2005-06 (in US\$ million)

At the end of	FCA	Gold	SDR	RTP	Total
June 2005	132352	4453	4	1561	138370
July 2005	134587	4395	4	1556	140542
August 2005	138107	4535	4	1433	144080
September 2005	136920	4712	4	1423	143059
October 2005	137286	4864	4	1419	143575
November 2005	136582	4925	4	1310	142821

(e) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not have a policy target with regard to level of foreign exchange reserves. However, the broad principles guiding India's foreign exchange reserves management includes a policy of maintaining a level of foreign exchange reserves, which takes into account not only anticipated current account deficits, but also liquidity-at-risk arising from unanticipated capital movements. Taking these factors into account, the current level of India's foreign exchange reserves continues to remain adequate and comfortable.

Power Distribution Companies

*253. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some private power distributing companies are violating the norms laid down by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and cheating consumers in transmitting and distributing power in States particularly by installing fast moving meters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of companies against which such complaints have been received by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against such errant companies?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has not laid down any guidelines regarding installation of consumer meters. Distribution of power is regulated by the concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs).

Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has informed that there have been numerous complaints regarding meters. In response to this the DERC, the Government of NCT of Delhi and also the distribution companies have conducted separate meter testing drive involving independent agencies and according to DERC these meter testing drives indicate that the electronic meters are functioning well within the stipulated limits.

In some cases, wiring of the consumer premises has been found to be defective. DERC had issued a public notice on 01.08.2005 which advised the consumers to get their internal wiring checked in case the meter gives an indication of earth leakage. The DISCOMS have also been directed to check for this problem whenever meters are replaced.

[English]

CBI Raids Against Officers

*254. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:
SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by the CBI on the officers of Income Tax; Customs and Central Excise, Banks and FIs during the last three months;

(b) the details of the outcome of such raids and the quantum of unaccounted movable or immovable property has seized in such raids; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government against such erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) CBI conducts searches as per the provisions of law and as a part of investigation depending on the facts and circumstances of the cases. During last three months CBI conducted a special drive on 30.9.2005 and searches were conducted at various places, countrywide. During the special drive, 3 cases against 3 officers of Income Tax, 13 cases against 17 officers/officials of Customs & Central Excise and 6 cases against 6 officers/officials of Banks have been registered by CBI and 94 places were searched in these 22 cases.

(b) In respect of the Income Tax Department, the CBI registered FIRs in the case of all the three officers. As per the FIR, disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs. 27.41 lakh were alleged to be in the possession of one such officer. He was not arrested by the CBI. In the case of another officer, disproportionate assets of Rs. 43.29 lakh were found. He was arrested by the CBI and the Department has placed him under suspension vide order dated 16.11.2005. So far as the third officer is concerned, disproportionate assets to the extent of Rs. 44.35 lakh were alleged to be in his possession. He was

also arrested by the CBI and is deemed to be under suspension w.e.f. 3.10.2005, the date of his arrest. He has been released on bail on 10.10.2005. The detailed report on the outcome of the search/quantum of unaccounted movable or immovable assets seized has not been received from the CBI.

Such details are not available in respect of officers of Customs and Excise Department and officers of Banks, since these cases are under investigation of the CBI.

(c) Departmental/legal action will be taken against the officers/officials on the outcome of the investigations by CBI, and other facts as per law/relevant rules.

The following steps have been taken to check corruption by the officials/officers of Customs, Excise & Income Tax:

- Instructions have been issued by the Government from time to time to the controlling officers to keep a watch on the life-style of officers in their departments through constant interaction with the trade & the public.
- Lapses and malpractices by officers in the department are dealt with sternly in accordance with prescribed procedure.
- Surveillance on officers posted in key areas especially on those having doubtful integrity is being maintained.
- Emphasis is being laid on making the vigilance machinery more effective.

The following steps have been taken to check corruption by the RBI and the Government:

- Banks have been advised from time to time to strengthen the vigilance set up and introduce preventive and prohibitive measures.
- The functioning of vigilance system is reviewed during the course of on-site inspections.
- Various measures such as periodical rotation of staff within the branch and from one branch to another, prompt disciplinary action, awarding exemplary and deterrent punishment to the delinquent employees and intensive screening of the candidates at the time of recruitment are being taken.

- As and when such irregularities come to the notice, severe action is taken against the delinquent employee(s) under relevant conduct regulations and suitable penalty is imposed.

[Translation]

Categorisation of Earthquake Prone Areas

*255. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether urban areas are categorised on the basis of the intensity of earthquakes;

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

(c) whether there is any action plan with the Government for the safety of such areas in the event of an earthquake as per the said categorisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Urban areas by themselves have not been categorised on the basis of the intensity of earthquakes. However, the country as a whole has been divided into four zones, namely Zone-II to Zone-V as per the seismic zoning map prepared by the Bureau of Indian Standards. Zone-V is considered to be most seismically active, while Zone-II is the least. Broadly, Zone-V includes entire North Eastern India, parts of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rann of Kutch, parts of North Bihar and Andaman & Nicobar Islands region. Zone-IV covers, parts of J&K and Himachal Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, Sikkim, Northern parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan and a small portion of Maharashtra. Zone-III encompasses Kerala, Goa, Lakshadweep Islands, remaining parts of UP, Gujarat and West Bengal, parts of Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Karnataka. The remaining parts of the country lie in seismic Zone-II.

(c) and (d) Since urban areas have not been categorised separately, a process of microzonation of

some of the urban areas have been started. However, the country has been divided into four zones. Taking this as a base, a Committee of Experts was constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs to develop model building byelaws, town and country planning legislations, zoning regulations and development control regulations for earthquake risk mitigation and management. The report submitted by the said Committee, in July, 2004, has already been circulated to the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations with the advice to adopt them to meet the requirements of the States. Two national programmes for capacity building in earthquake risk management have been undertaken for training of 20,000 engineers and architects. The Department of Science and Technology also supports, regularly, specific training courses/workshops to create awareness on earthquakes amongst the masses with a view to cope with a future disaster in a better way.

[English]

Power Transmission by NTPC

*256. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has agreed to transmit power to some States for operation of railway lines on electric traction;

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

(c) whether any MoU has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Power, vide its letter dated 10.02.1998, has allocated 100 MW of power to Railways for electric traction for Dadri-Kanpur Section, from the unallocated quota of National Thermal Power Corporation's (NTPC)'s Dadri and Auraiya Gas Power Stations situated in Uttar Pradesh. Railways are drawing power from these stations in accordance with this allocation. A Power Purchase

Agreement (PPA), in this regard, has been signed between NTPC and Northern Railways on 05.03.1998.

Further Ministry of Power, vide its letter dated 19.02.2002, has agreed, in principal, to allocate 80 MW of power to Railways for meeting traction requirement of the Nagpur-Howrah Section of South Eastern Railways, from the unallocated quota of NTPC's power station, under execution, at Sipat located in Chhattisgarh.

[Translation]

Disinvestment of BALCO

*257. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has suffered huge losses running into crores of rupees on account of disinvestment process in BALCO;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No Sir. BALCO was privatised in March 2001 through strategic sale of 51% equity out of Government's holding of 100% equity in the Company. The Reserve Price for 51% of Government's equity in BALCO was fixed at Rs. 514.40 crore. The bid of M/s Strelite Industries (India) Ltd. for Rs. 551.50 crore, being the higher of the two financial bids received, was approved by the Government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

National Legal Services Authority

*258. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring about improvement in the National Legal Services Authority;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the objectives of the said authority; and
- (d) the success achieved by the authority so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The working of Legal Aid System in the country was one of the agenda items considered in the Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries, which was held in Shimla during 10-11 June, 2005. The Law Ministers have made a number of recommendations for the improvement of the Legal Aid System in the country. Copies of Resolution have already been forwarded to all the State Governments and to NALSA for taking necessary follow up action. Upon receipt of views of the National Legal Services Authority and the State Governments in respect of various recommendations made in the said Conference, the Government will examine as to what further improvement is needed in the National Legal Services Authority and the State Legal Services Authorities.

(c) The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 aims at establishing a nation-wide network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society so that opportunities for securing justice may not be denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

The major objectives of the Authority amongst others are as under:

- (i) to organize legal aid camps, especially in rural areas, for women, children, labour class;
 - (ii) to encourage the settlement of disputes by way of arbitration and conciliation;
 - (iii) to take appropriate measures for spreading legal literacy and legal awareness;
 - (iv) to organize Lok Adalats for speedy disposal of cases.
- (d) 1. Upto 30.09.2005 about 82.51 lac persons have benefited through legal aid and advice programmes throughout the country in which about 12.75 lac persons belonging to Scheduled

Caste and 3.94 lac persons of Scheduled Tribe communities were beneficiaries. More than 8.52 lac persons were women and about 1.27 lac persons in custody were also benefited.

2. Upto 30.09.2005, about 4.86 lac Lok Adalats have been held in different parts of the country where more than 1.83 crore cases have been settled. In about 8.90 lac Motor Vehicles Accident Claims cases, compensation amounting to over Rs. 5501.52 crore has been awarded.
3. **NALSA has undertaken a series of programmes as under:**
 - (i) Launched a National Legal Literacy Mission (2005-2010) to make the citizens aware of their legal rights etc.
 - (ii) Observed a National Legal Aid Week for Women in Delhi and through State Legal Services Authorities in the whole country during 8th—15th March 2005.
 - (iii) Launched Jal Adhikar Abhiyan on 27th April 2005 in Vigan Bhawan.
 - (iv) A National Dialogue on Protection of Legal Rights of Workers was organised on 1st May 2005 at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi.
 - (v) Organised a Regional Initiative of Legal Literacy to Combat Lynching & Witch Hunting of Tribal Women & Protection of Legal Rights of Tribal Communities in the States of Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Chhattisgarh on 20th August 2005 at Ranchi.
 - (vi) A Mobile Legal Aid Helpline Service on Boat was launched on 3rd September 2005 in Sunderbans (West Bengal).
 - (vii) A Regional Initiative has been taken up in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra at Tirupati on 10th September 2005 to generate awareness on the Protection of Rights of Devdasis to save them from degeneration of their mental health, socio-economic crises leading the threat to their basic survival.
 - (viii) Legal Rights Protection and Awareness Programmes have been organised for the People suffering from physical and mental disabilities.

- (ix) Women's Legal Aid Summit was organised for Elimination of violence against Women on 25th November 2005 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

All these activities have proved useful for the poor and disadvantaged people of the country.

FFIs in Indian Share Market

*259. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Foreign Financial Institutions (FFIs)/Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are taking an active part in the Indian share market;

(b) if so, the number thereof as on November 30, 2005;

(c) whether the Government has identified the 10 biggest FFIs/FIIs whose maximum capital was invested in the share market in the first six months of the current year;

(d) if so, the names thereof and the names of the companies in which they have made capital investment; and

(e) the steps taken by RBI and the Union Government to safeguard the share market from undesirable influence from FFIs/FIIs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that as on November 30, 2005, there were 820 foreign institutional investors (FIIs) registered with them. Out of these, 753 FIIs have traded in the Indian securities markets.

(c) and (d) SEBI has intimated that the net investment by the top 10 FIIs (including their sub-accounts) was Rs. 23,225 crores during the period from 1st April, 2005 to 30th September, 2005. During this period, all registered FIIs traded in 1130 scrips. Out of these scrips, the top 10 FIIs have traded in 453 scrips (approximately 40% of total number of traded scrips) during the same period. Information relating to the names of the 10 largest FIIs and the companies in which they have invested is price sensitive.

(e) Investments made by the FIIs in India are regulated under the SEBI (Foreign Institutional Investors) Regulations, 1995.

The SEBI regulations lay down the eligibility criteria for grant of registration, wherein broad-based entities which are regulated by an appropriate securities market regulator in their home countries, are permitted to get FII registration. The regulations impose several limitations on FIIs' investment in Indian companies. Further, FIIs are permitted to do delivery-based trades only, and are prohibited from short selling. Their investments in the derivatives markets are also restricted to the position limits laid down by SEBI.

In addition, there are restrictions on investment by FIIs in debt securities.

In terms of regulations issued under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), data regarding purchases and sale transactions executed by FIIs is reported to RBI by designated branches of Authorised Dealers on a day-to-day basis for the purpose of monitoring the overall ceiling of investment in Indian companies.

Enhancement of Allocation to States

*260. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made by the 12th Finance Commission, sector-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether any State Government has requested the Union Government for enhancement of the allocations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A Statement indicating State-wise and sector-wise allocations recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) for the period 2005-10 is enclosed.

(b) Government of Sikkim had requested for enhancement of their share of Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant.

(c) State Government had pointed out that TFC has recommended Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant of only Rs. 188.67 crore as against Rs. 840.58 crore by Eleventh

Finance Commission (EFC). The lesser grant, the State had contended, is due to over-estimation of revenue under Sales Tax and State Lotteries and under-estimation of revenue expenditure by excluding total departmental expenditure on power and transport and low growth of salary expenditure by the TFC. State Government had requested for restoration of Non-Plan grants of the State to at least the level provided by the EFC.

(d) Finance Commission is a Constitutional body and has always been expected to take an objective view of the Centre's and State's finances and make its recommendations on the Terms of Reference assigned

to it. The Commission's recommendations are based on detailed assessment of the financial position of Central and State Governments. It has been an accepted convention that recommendations of the Finance Commission are accepted without any changes by the Centre. In keeping with this convention, Government of India accepted the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission in full. State Government has been informed that their request cannot be acceded to. However, all genuine problems pertaining to State's finances are being addressed sympathetically even outside the TFC report's framework.

Statement

Estimated Total Transfers Recommended by Twelfth Finance Commission

(Rs. in crore)

States	Share in Central Taxes & Duties (2005-10)	Non-Plan Revenue Deficit (2005-10)	Health Sector (2005-10)	Education (2005-10)	Maintenance of Roads & Bridges (2005-10)	Maintenance of Buildings (2005-10)	Maintenance of Forests (2005-10)	Heritage Conservation (2005-10)	State Specific Needs (2005-10)	Local Bodies (2005-10)	Centrality Relief (2005-10)	Total (Col. 3 to Col. 12)	Total Transfers (2+Col. 13)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1. Andhra Pradesh	45138.88	—	—	—	980.12	242.53	65.00	40.00	500.00	1981.00	1425.93	5214.58	50353.26
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1787.34	1357.88	—	—	44.36	57.42	100.00	5.00	10.00	71.00	112.56	1758.22	3525.56
3. Assam	19850.89	305.67	968.02	1107.37	330.12	230.64	40.00	20.00	130.00	581.00	787.89	4478.71	24329.40
4. Bihar	67871.04	—	1819.69	2883.76	309.36	359.61	5.00	40.00	400.00	1786.00	582.37	7975.79	75646.83
5. Chhattisgarh	18285.76	—	—	—	262.40	183.09	85.00	10.00	300.00	703.00	444.45	1987.94	18273.70
6. Goa	1589.14	—	—	—	39.48	24.18	3.00	20.00	10.00	30.00	8.73	135.39	1724.53
7. Gujarat	21900.47	—	—	—	885.20	203.61	20.00	25.00	200.00	1345.00	1019.47	3708.28	25808.75
8. Haryana	8696.46	—	—	—	182.72	151.80	2.00	15.00	100.00	479.00	515.48	1445.98	8042.44
9. Himachal Pradesh	3203.22	10202.38	—	—	261.64	147.80	20.00	10.00	50.00	155.00	400.52	11247.14	14450.36
10. Jammu & Kashmir	7441.71	12353.46	—	—	117.88	184.54	30.00	10.00	100.00	319.00	343.89	13438.57	20880.28
11. Jharkhand	20624.02	—	380.98	651.73	409.04	159.81	30.00	10.00	330.00	580.00	501.46	3032.82	23858.84
12. Karnataka	27361.88	—	—	—	1458.12	205.12	55.00	50.00	800.00	1211.00	475.18	4054.40	31418.28
13. Kerala	16383.21	470.37	—	—	642.32	103.50	25.00	25.00	500.00	1134.00	354.32	3254.51	19807.72
14. Madhya Pradesh	41180.59	—	181.84	459.58	596.88	443.02	115.00	20.00	300.00	2024.00	1011.27	5141.37	48321.96

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15. Maharashtra		30883.19	—	—	—	1189.68	223.61	70.00	50.00	300.00	2774.00	923.77	5531.06	38194.25
16. Manipur		2221.44	4391.98	—	—	76.96	37.71	30.00	5.00	30.00	55.00	22.11	4848.76	6870.20
17. Meghalaya		2276.61	1796.86	—	—	86.40	35.02	30.00	5.00	35.00	58.00	44.88	2091.16	4387.77
18. Mizoram		1466.52	2977.79	—	—	42.12	23.29	25.00	5.00	65.00	30.00	26.19	3194.39	4680.91
19. Nagaland		1613.67	5536.50	—	—	120.88	46.17	25.00	5.00	45.00	46.00	15.19	5839.74	7453.41
20. Orissa		31669.47	488.04	196.37	323.30	1475.08	389.14	75.00	50.00	170.00	907.00	1199.37	5273.30	36942.77
21. Punjab		7971.00	3132.67	—	—	420.96	151.80	2.00	10.00	96.00	495.00	605.16	4913.59	12684.59
22. Rajasthan		34418.56	—	—	100.00	633.32	213.09	25.00	50.00	450.00	1450.00	1722.50	4843.91	39082.47
23. Sikkim		1392.94	188.67	—	—	18.64	32.15	8.00	5.00	100.00	14.00	69.74	436.20	1829.14
24. Tamilnadu		32552.74	—	—	—	1214.40	242.53	30.00	40.00	300.00	1442.00	866.46	4135.39	36686.13
25. Tripura		2626.09	5494.20	—	—	61.48	50.11	15.00	5.00	49.00	65.00	51.12	5790.91	8417.00
26. Uttar Pradesh		118209.45	—	2312.38	4454.07	2303.16	600.28	20.00	50.00	800.00	3445.00	1177.11	15262.00	133471.45
27. Uttaranchal		5762.22	5114.68	50.00	—	324.56	97.60	35.00	5.00	240.00	198.00	369.28	6432.12	12194.34
28. West Bengal		43303.91	3044.72	—	391.86	412.92	181.23	15.00	40.00	890.00	1664.00	933.84	7573.37	50877.28
Total All States		613112.02	56855.87	5887.06	10171.65	15000.00	5000.00	1000.00	625.00	7100.00	25000.00	16000.00	142636.60	755751.62

IFCI Losses

*261. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) incurred losses due to default by various companies to whom the institution extended the credit and loan facilities;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to recover the principal amount with interest thereon from the defaulters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) IFCI Ltd. began to incur losses due to provisioning on defaults by companies to

whom the institution extended credit as well as due to the high cost of their borrowings. IFCI is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956. Government has no shareholding in IFCI Ltd. The affairs of IFCI Ltd. are managed by the Board of Directors and it is for them to take steps to recover the dues within the legislative and institutional framework which Government has made increasingly conducive for recovery of dues. It is reported that in order to resolve the existing NPAs and to prevent slippage of performing assets into NPAs, following steps have been taken by IFCI:—

1. Restructuring packages have been formulated in 31 cases;
2. 93 cases involving Rs. 707 crores have been settled through Negotiation/OTS during 2004-05;
3. 810 cases have been filed in various DRTs for recovery of Rs. 11845 crores;
4. 96 notices have been issued under SARFAESI Act to recover Rs. 4268 crores.

Setting up of India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)

2492. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up 'India Infrastructure Company Limited (IIFCL)' to fund mega projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which above company is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The IIFCL will be set up in the current financial year.

[Translation]

Watershed Development Programme

2493. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is likely to start 'Watershed Development Programme' at National level to be implemented by Panchayati Raj Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government is likely to extend the 'Hariyali Programme'; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) The Area Development Programmes of the Department of Land Resources under the Ministry of Rural Development are already being implemented on watershed basis in the country under the common guidelines since 1.4.1995. These guidelines have been modified as guidelines for Hariyali w.e.f. 1.4.2003 to provide a pivotal role to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for implementation of these programmes in consonance with the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments. The Area Development Programmes of this Department include the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP). DPAP is being implemented in 972 identified blocks of 183 districts in 16 States of semi-arid/dry sub-humid regions in the

country. DDP is being implemented in 235 identified blocks of 40 districts in 7 States of arid region. IWDP is implemented in areas not covered under DPAP and DDP in 403 districts.

Construction Cost of Pucca houses under IAY

2494. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is large difference in construction cost of new pucca houses in rural areas as compared to urban areas;

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

(c) the steps taken to pay more attention in this regard towards rural areas;

(d) whether the houses constructed for poors have not been allotted at most of the places and are still lying vacant in large number;

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

(f) the steps taken to allot the same to the poors without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware that there is difference in construction cost of new pucca houses in rural areas as compared to urban areas. Such difference can be found between States and also within a State due to various factors like transportation costs, geographical factors, local cost of construction materials etc.

(c) to (f) The Government is implementing Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) since the year 1985-86 to provide financial assistance for construction/upgradation of dwelling units to the below poverty line (BPL) rural households. Keeping in view the construction cost, unit cost of the IAY house has been enhanced with effect from 1.4.2004 from Rs. 20,000/-to Rs. 25,000/-for plain areas and from Rs. 22,000/-to Rs. 27,500/-per unit for hilly and difficult areas. Similarly, the ceiling for upgradation of unserviceable kutchha house to pucca/semi pucca house has also been increased from Rs. 10,000/-to Rs. 12,500/

for all areas. Under the Scheme, lumpsum financial assistance is provided for the beneficiaries to construct houses on their own plots and therefore, the question of not allotting the houses to the beneficiaries, does not arise.

Kota Thermal Power Station

2495. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for repeated failure of electrical units of Kota Thermal Power Station, Rajasthan;

(b) whether advance technology is not being utilized in this project; and

(c) if so, the reasons for continuous decrease in the power production by this Thermal Power Station?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Repeated failure of electrical units of Kota Thermal Power Station (TPS) in Rajasthan during April, 2005 to November, 2005 was not there.

(b) All the generating units installed at Kota TPS are of BHEL make which are being predominantly used in the country.

(c) There has been no decrease in actual generation by Kota TPS.

[English]

Micro Insurance Policies

2496. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) proposes to allow insurance companies to issue composite micro insurance policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas likely to be covered by micro insurance policies;

(d) the steps taken or being taken by IRDA to insure that players do not use composite package as means to avoid payouts; and

(e) the likely benefit by introducing these policies to rural people particularly in the field of health, crop and composite insurance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As informed by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), the insurance companies are not allowed to issue Composite Micro-Insurance Policies. However, they are permitted to sell each other's policies for convenience of the policyholders. It would, therefore, be one point sale for both non-life and life insurance products without risk participation, which has to be borne by the respective insurance companies only.

(c) Micro-insurance policies cover the following areas:

Non-Life: Insurance policies cover hut/dwelling and contents, livestock, tools, implements, other named assets, crop insurance against insured perils, health insurance policies and any personal accident contract.

Life: Insurance policies cover term insurance contracts with or without return of premium, any endowment insurance contract with or without an accident benefit rider.

(d) IRDA has taken adequate care to ensure that there would not be any violation of the existing Insurance Act/Regulations. Hence the question does not arise.

(e) Micro Insurance is targeted to offer insurance protection to the poor and vulnerable sections covering their assets and lives/income-earning capacity due to natural and man-made disasters and is expected to be an effective empowerment tool. The minimum and maximum amount of cover under Micro Insurance policies is restricted to Rs. 5,000/-and Rs. 50,000/-only, so that the payout by way of premium is not very high and remains affordable for the targeted segment.

Export of Cotton Yarn

2497. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of cotton yarn has declined considerably during the last three years and making impact on purchase of cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to promote the export of cotton yarn?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The export and production of cotton yarn during last three years and the current year is given below which shows that there is slight decline in the export but the production is showing an increasing trend:—

Year	(Million kg)				
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Apr-June	
				2005-06	2004-05
Export of cotton yarn	511.08	466.12	416.92	104.46	104.89
Production of cotton yarn	2177	2121	2272	607	557

The consumption/production of cotton has been increasing. As per Cotton Advisory Board (CAB), cotton consumption by textile units increased from 154 lakh bales in 2002-03 to 180 lakh bales in 2004-05.

(c) The important measures taken by the Government, from time to time, to promote production and export of textile items including the Cotton Yarn in the country include:—

- To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission has achieved success in increasing the productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and modernisation of Ginning & Pressing factories.
- The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganized sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- For small scale textile and jute industrial units, Government has enhanced, the rate of Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) from 12% to 15% w.e.f. 13.01.05.

- To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in July 2005.
- In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-added Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.
- To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.
- Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.
- Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the textile sector under automatic route.

Promotion of Sericulture

2498. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to promote sericulture especially Muga, Eri and other ethnic silk varieties of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote Jute and Jute products in Assam;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up offices/centres in Assam to develop silk, jute and textile sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Silk Board (CSB) and the State Sericulture Department, Government of Assam have taken several initiatives to strengthen the muga and eri silk industry in Assam which are the ethnic silks of Assam. The major steps taken in this regard are furnished below:

1. Catalytic Development Programme:

The CSB is implementing the Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) during the X Plan period in collaboration with different State Governments including Assam. Under the Catalytic Development Programme a provision of Rs. 181.00 crores has been made for providing assistance to sericulture farmers/reelers in the form of subsidy/incentive to encourage them to adopt improved technology aiming towards improvement in quality and productivity. Based on the proposals received from the State of Assam, CSB has released Rs. 119.03 lakhs, Rs. 315.28 lakhs and 442.21 lakhs during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

2. Rural Development Programmes for Development of Muga and Eri Silk in Assam:

Two special Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) projects were sanctioned by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and launched during the year 2000-01 in the State of Assam under the name "Sonali Sutha Prakalpa" at a total outlay of Rs. 6.81 crores and Rs. 2.91 crores for development of muga and eri silks respectively for three years. The Department of Panchayat & Rural Development, Government of Assam, is implementing these projects with the help of the Department of Sericulture, Government of Assam & CSB.

3. Development of Muga and Eri Silk Industry in Bodoland Territorial Autonomous Districts, (BTAD) Kokrajhar:

A 10 years perspective plan has been drawn for the development of muga & eri silk industry in Bodoland Territorial Autonomous Districts (BATD) in Assam in 3 phases to coincide with the plan periods. The first phase of the Projects, drawn up for a cost of Rs. 2,750.10 lakhs for implementation during the year 2005-06 to 2007-08 with CSB share of Rs. 385.23 lakhs, under the CDP during the remaining period of the X Plan, was launched

on 20th September, 2005. The CSB has released an amount of Rs. 140.7 lakhs during the current year for the implementation of this project.

(c) Measures taken by the Government to promote jute and jute products in Assam are given as Statement.

(d) and (e) As CSB has many units functioning for the development of all varieties of silk in Assam, new units are not proposed. However, the Government has proposed to set up North Eastern Regional Centre of India Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA) at Guwahati for development of Technology for Natural Fibres in NER States for creation of infrastructure for Research & Development activities there. For the purpose, the Government has released a sum of Rs. 1.40 crores to IJIRA during the current financial year *i.e.* 2005-06.

Statement

Scheme under jute sector being implemented in Assam

National Centre for Jute Diversification:

NCJD is operating the following schemes in Assam for the development of Jute Textiles and other diversified jute products, manufactured by using jute fibre and yarn as the basic raw material:

1. Jute Service Centre Scheme
2. Jute Raw Material bank Scheme
3. Market Support Scheme
4. Design Development Scheme
5. Jute Entrepreneurs (Capital Subsidy) Assistance Scheme (JEAS)
6. Micro Finance
7. NER Special programme.

2. As regards weaving of jute fabric (Hessian), NCJD has assisted 4 units for manufacture of jute yarn, fabric including dyeing, bleaching etc. in the district Kamrup and Nagaon. These units were issued by way of granting interest free loan under earlier JEAS which has now been converted into the jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Capital Subsidy Scheme.

3. Besides, through various skill generation activities, NJCD has trained a large number of artisans for

manufacture of jute diversified products of various purposes. In this venture, NCJD is implementing their programmes in close collaboration of the State Directorate of Industries, Govt. of Assam, DICs and other organizations like Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, (IIE), North Eastern Technical Consultancy Organisation (NETICC), North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEDFI), North Eastern Consultancy Organisation (NECON) etc. NCJD's Jute Service Centres at Guwahati and Silchar and Raw Material Banks at Guwahati, Dhubri and Silchar equally contributing to the development of jute textiles and textile based down stream products in the State of Assam. During 2004-05 an amount of Rs. 1.70 crores was released to NCJD for development activities in North Eastern Region.

Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA)

4. The Ministry of Textiles has approved a Scheme "Strengthening of the Regional Centre for IJIRA in Guwahati, Assam" at a cost of Rs. 7.85 crores in 2003-04. During 2004-05, Rs. 1 Crore was released to IJIRA. IJIRA has taken possession of the land and tender has been called for construction of infrastructure for the regional centre. IJIRA operates a series of activities for processing jute, kenaf, ramie and other natural fibres in Assam and other North Eastern States.

Jute Corporation of India (JCI)

5. The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) operates 25 procurement centres in Assam for conducting MSP operations for raw jute.

O/o the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)

6. O/o the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has been implementing several schemes to promote & develop handicrafts sector including handicrafts jute in the country including State of Assam. The important ones are:

- Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AVHY) for integrated development of craft clusters;
- Design & Technology Upgradation;
- Marketing & Support Services;
- Export Promotion;
- Training and Extension;
- Research & Development & Credit Guarantee Scheme etc.

Scheme for Cotton Textile

2499. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton textile industry has collapsed due to the onslaught of Foreign Multinationals Synthetic and fibre-based textile units;

(b) if so, the details of cotton textile-based industries closed or running under loss during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revitalize these sick industries; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELIA): (a) The data relating to production of cotton textile items for last three years at enclosed Statement shows an increasing trend. This indicates no collapse of cotton textile industry.

(b) The State wise number of cotton/man-made fiber textile mills (Non SSI) closed during the last three years and as on 31/10/2005 along with reasons for closure is furnished below:—

Sl.No.	State	No. of Mills	Reason for Closure				Total
			Strike/ Labour Problem	Lockout	Financial Problem	Other Reason	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	0	0	6	0	6
2.	Assam	1	0	0	1	0	1
3.	Gujarat	5	0	0	4	1	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Haryana	1	0	0	1	0	1
5.	Karnataka	1	0	0	0	1	1
6.	Kerala	5	4	0	1	0	5
7.	Madhya Pradesh	2	0	0	2	0	2
8.	Maharashtra	13	0	0	7	6	13
9.	Orissa	3	1	0	0	2	3
10.	Amritsar	1	0	0	1	0	1
11.	Rajasthan	2	0	0	0	2	2
12.	Tamilnadu	33	3	0	17	13	33
13.	West Bengal	5	0	2	3	0	5
14.	Pondicherry	1	1	0	0	0	1
Total		79	9	2	43	25	79

Government does not maintain data of the mills running under loss.

(c) For the sick mills the Government has set up Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive, ameliorative and remedial and

other measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. BIFR appoints operating agencies for preparation of rehabilitation proposals in respect of potentially viable units. The decision on rehabilitation is taken by BIFR based on its findings.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Textile production

Item	Unit	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Raw cotton*	Mn. Kg.	2312	3043	4131
Cotton yarn	-do-	2177	2121	2272
Cotton fabrics	Mn. Sq. Mtr.	19300	18040	20632
Man made fabrics	-do-	16135	17613	17998

*Cotton year October-September.

National Energy Board

2500. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any National Energy Board has been constituted to integrate the energy related departments of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the tasks assigned to the Board and the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Energy Coordination Committee (ECC) has been set up under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister to enable a systematic approach to policy formulation, promote coordination in inter-Departmental action and function as a key mechanism for providing instructional support to decision making in the area of

energy planning & security. So far three meetings of the ECC have been held and number of decisions with regard to augmentation of fuel supply have been taken.

Licence to Private/International Insurance Companies

2501. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of licences issued to the private/international companies for insurance sector in the country; and

(b) the details of guidelines for issuing licence to private insurance companies including the procedure for selection of such private firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of private sector insurance companies granted licence to commence insurance business in the country by the IRDA, along with the names of the joint venture foreign partners are given below:—

Insurers		Foreign Partner		Insurers		Foreign Partner	
Life:				Non-Life:			
1.	HDFC Standard Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	Standard Life Assurance		1.	Royal Sundaram Alliance Ins.	Royal Sun Alliance	
2.	ICICI Prudential Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	Prudential		2.	Bajaj Allianz General Ins. Co.	Allianz	
3.	Max New York Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	New York Life		3.	IFFCO-TOKIO General Ins. Co.	Millea Asia Pte. Ltd.	
4.	Om Kotak Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	Old Mutual		4.	TATA AIG General Ins. Co. Ltd.	American Intl. Assurance Co.	
5.	Birla Sun life Ins. Co. Ltd.	Sun Life		5.	ICICI Lombard General Ins. Co.	Fairfax through its affiliates	
6.	TATA-AIG Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	American International Assurance Co.		6.	HDFC Chubb General Ins. Co.	Chubb	
7.	SBI Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	Cardiff		7.	Cholamandalam MS General Ins. Co.	Mitsui Sumitomo	
8.	ING Vysya life Ins. Co. Ltd.	ING Insurance International BV		8.	Reliance General Ins. Co.	—	
9.	Metlife India Ins. Co. Ltd.	Metlife International Holdings Ltd.					
10.	Allianz Bajaj Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	Allianz					
11.	AVIVA	Aviva international Holdings Ltd.					
12.	Sahara Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	—					
13.	*AMP Sanmar Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	—					
14.	Shriram Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	Sanlam					

*Reliance Capital Limited has taken over the 100% equity of the initial promoters i.e. AMP, Australia and Sanmar Group (Indian Promoters) w.e.f. September 29, 2005, with the approval of the Authority.

(b) As per Section 3 of the Insurance Act, 1938, the conduct of any class of insurance business in India requires an application for registration to be submitted to IRDA, which will be determined by the regulations made by the Authority. In considering the request for issue of certificate of registration, IRDA is guided by the:—

- (i) financial condition and general character of the management of the applicant;
- (ii) the adequacy of the volume of business, capital and earning prospects;
- (iii) public interest considerations; and
- (iv) fulfilment of other statutory requirements.

World Bank Assistance to REC

2502. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has secured financial help from the World Bank for implementing rural electrification schemes in the villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the extent to which these schemes are likely to help in achieving the target of electrifying one lakh villages covering one crore households by 2007; and

(c) the manner in which the assistance is likely to be utilized in rural electrification?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Technology for Fly Ash

2503. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual Fly Ash emitted from Thermal Power Plants in India is enormous;

(b) if so, whether the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Delhi has developed a number of technologies to utilize Fly Ash and convert it into value

added building materials like bricks, concrete agglomerates etc.; and

(c) if so, details of various developed technologies by CSIR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The fly ash production is reported to be over 110 million tonnes in 2004-05.

(b) Yes, Sir. CSIR laboratories namely, Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee; Central Fuel Research Institute (CFRI), Dhanbad; Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute (CGCRI), Kolkata; Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), New Delhi; Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Bhopal; and Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Thiruvananthapuram have developed technologies for producing value added products utilizing the fly ash.

(c) Technologies developed by CSIR laboratories for utilization of fly ash are enclosed in a statement placed below.

Statement

Details of the technologies developed by CSIR

A. Bricks

Fly ash clay burnt bricks: The process utilizes upto 70% of fly ash. The novel features are: water absorption-15.25% colour-light crimson red; finish-smooth uniform surface; firing shrinkage-4%; bulk density-1.6g/cc; apparent porosity-30-40%; compressive strength-110-150 kg/cm²; and reduced cost of mortar in masonry work and plastering.

Red mud—fly ash clay burnt bricks: The bricks utilizes 40-50% red mud and fly ash each with clay. The compressive strength is 10-150 kg/cm² while water absorption is of the order of 15.25%. They possess apparent porosity of 30-40%.

Red mud—fly ash hydraulically bonded bricks: It has been developed using lime or cement, is hydraulically bonded and cured in mortar. Have a compressive strength of 80 to 100 kg/cm² (7 days) & of 100-140 kg/cm² (28 days).

Clay fly ash bricks: The process developed saves not only precious top soil but also reduces consumption of coal in making conventional clay bricks. Required minimum changes in existing set up at kiln sites and is not much susceptible to quality of ash.

Fly ash sand lime bricks: Produced by mixing lime and fly ash and are chemically bonded bricks, suitable for use in masonry just like common burnt clay bricks. They possess adequate crushing strength as a load bearing member; have cement colour in appearance, are uniform in shape and smooth in finish and require no plastering; and are lighter in weight than ordinary clay bricks. Generally, dry fly ash available from power plants meets the properties specified in IS: 3812 and is suitable for manufacture in accordance with the requirements of IS: 12894.

B. Blocks and Tiles

Flux bonded fly ash bricks blocks and tiles: The process has been developed in association with TNO TPD, The Netherlands. It is based on the formation of low melting fluxes at the firing temperature, which partly react with the fly ash and form a high temperature reactive glass binder phase. The bricks, tiles and blocks are brick red in colour, but a variety of colours can be made by changing the initial composition.

Fly ash based hollow blocks: These utilize upto 50% fly ash with one hole, four holes and nine holes by extrusion process. Have compressive strength of the order of 90-140 kg/cm².

Fly ash based hollow concrete blocks: These blocks replace use of cement by nearly 20% in the product without compromising the strength. The novel feature include: size of the block-225 x 200 x 100 mm; weight of the block-6 kg; apparent porosity-14.15%; bulk density-2.2 g/cc; compressive strength (solid cube); 7 days-160 kg/cm², 28 days-218 kg/cm²; and compressive strength (hollow cube) 7 days-87 kg/cm².

Fly ash clay ceramic tiles: These glazed and unglazed ceramic tiles utilize maximum of 60% fly ash. They could be produced in variety of shades. The tiles have passed IS: 2838-1964 standard.

Red mud—fly ash clay tiles: These could be produced in both unglazed and glazed form. The process developed utilizes two industrial wastes i.e. fly ash and red mud. They are as per IS: 2838-1964 standard.

Fly ash based abrasion resistant tiles: The highly dense, impenetrable and hard abrasion resistant tiles have been produced from fly ash and alumina. Their novel features include: hardness (Moh's scale)-8-9; bulk density-2.8-3.2 g/cc; compressive strength-1,000 Mpa; apparent porosity-0.5%; and abrasability index-8-20.

C. Aggregates

Fly ash based synthetic refractory aggregate: The refractory aggregate produced from fly ash by reaction sintering with alumina consists of mullite bonded corundum material. It possess high temperature properties suitable for refractory application. As its use in high alumina castable composition improves the thermo—mechanical properties significantly. The material thus developed has potential application in iron & steel, petrochemical, cement and other allied industries.

Sintered light weight aggregate: Sintered Light Weight Aggregate is produced by pelletisation or nodulisation of fly ash (75-90%) and sintering of the pellets or nodules at a temperature of 1000°-1300°C. Used for various purposes like the manufacture of structural light weight concrete and pre-cast light weight concrete building units for use as load and non-load bearing elements etc.

D. Others

Fly ash pozzolana cement: The process for fly ash pozzolana cement has been developed in non-sintering route. It has fineness—above 4000 cm²/g and compressive strength (7 days)-130-150 kg/cm² and for 28 days-240-270 kg/cm².

Fly ash based ceramics: These extremely dense, hard, and impenetrable ceramics have superior resistant to abrasion and can be extensively used as a lining in material handling equipment. Use of such ceramics substantially decreases maintenance cost and increases the life of components to almost 8-10 times that of metal.

Manufacture of artificial/synthetic wood: A 100% wood substitute product named R-Wood has been developed and know-how transferred. R-Wood is based on the use of industrial wastes such as red mud from aluminium industries and fly ash from thermal power plants. Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has approved R-Wood products as a substitute for timber.

Use of fly ash in land reclamation: Pilot scale experiments have shown that fly ash could also be used for land reclamation and soil modification.

Agreement between India and Canada

2504. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Canada have decided to sign a comprehensive agreement on Science and Technology to give a boost to research activities in both the countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also considering another agreement with Canada for transfer of technologies from laboratories;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. India and Canada have concluded an inter-governmental agreement at Toronto on 18 November 2005 to facilitate scientific & technological cooperation.

(b) The cooperation would be facilitated by way of:

- (i) Joint research and development activities;
- (ii) facilitation of commercially viable research and development;
- (iii) pooling of research and development projects, already underway with each Party, into Joint Research activities;
- (iv) visits and exchanges of scientists, technical experts and academics;
- (v) exchanges and loans of equipment and materials;
- (vi) exchanges of information on practices, laws, regulations and programs relevant to the Cooperative Activities undertaken pursuant to this Agreement;
- (vii) organization of scientific seminars, symposia, conferences and workshops as well as participation of experts in those activities;

(viii) demonstration of technologies and application development;

(ix) any other mode of cooperation jointly decided in writing by the Parties including as recommended by the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Transfer of technology from laboratories is covered under this Agreement. We have provided adequate safeguards for protection of Intellectual Property emerging out of Scientific collaboration, while facilitating transfer of technology from laboratories.

Setting up of Bio-Gas Plants

2505. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bio-gas plants installed in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has any target for setting up of such plants during the next two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to augment the use of bio-gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Information on State-wise number of biogas plants installed during the last three years, i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05, is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The target of setting up of 25,000 plants, which was fixed in the beginning of the current financial year 2005-06, is being enhanced to 66,000 plants. The target for the next financial year i.e., 2006-07 will depend upon demand for targets to be received from States and agencies concerned and budget allocation.

(d) For promoting biogas plants in the country, the Government have already taken many steps, such as training of women users in the operation and maintenance

of plants; refresher training of masons; technical support through State level Biogas Development and Training Centres; involvement of non-governmental organizations and entrepreneurs to construct plants on a turn key basis with free maintenance warranty for the first three years and publicity and extension through both print and electronic media; besides provision of Central subsidy.

Statement

State-wise number of family type biogas plants installed during the last three years, i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme—National Biogas and Manure Management Programme

State	Number of plants set-up
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	59947
Arunachal Pradesh	662
Assam	6798
Bihar	2872
Delhi	1
Goa	266
Gujarat	22090
Haryana	4036
Himachal Pradesh	844
Jammu & Kashmir	107
Karnataka	44633
Kerala	26211
Madhya Pradesh	36228
Maharashtra	34083
Manipur	172
Meghalaya	1662
Mizoram	552
Nagaland	825

1	2
Orissa	37183
Punjab	9548
Rajasthan	376
Sikkim	1874
Tamilnadu	7379
Tripura	715
Uttar Pradesh	32956
West Bengal	51183
Chhattisgarh	11726
Jharkhand	1195
Uttaranchal	4260
Total	400384

Bongaigaon Power Project

2506. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has decided to set up a 500 MW power plant at Bongaigaon (Assam);

(b) if so, the details and cost of the project; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) National Thermal Power Corporation has prepared a Pre-Feasibility Report for Bongaigaon TPP (2x250 MW) and has initiated action for establishing techno-economic feasibility for setting up 500 MW (2x250 MW) power plant in the existing premises of Bongaigaon Thermal Power Project (Assam). The tentative cost estimate, based on 4th Quarter, 2005 price level is estimated at Rs. 2997.37 crores.

*[Translation]***General Credit Card**

2507. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue General Credit Cards for the villagers involved in non-agricultural activities on the pattern of Kisan credit cards as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated the November 19, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have prepared a plan for mobile banking in such rural areas which lacks the regular banking facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have prepared a plan to extend loans to the villagers throughout the year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A proposal for introduction of a General Credit Card (GCC) Scheme to cater to the credit needs of all types of small borrowers, without hassles and with a simplified procedure, is being examined by the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) and (d) Under the extant Branch Authorization Policy, banks are free to open mobile offices and satellite offices in rural areas where they are unable to open full fledged branches. Reserve Bank of India considers such requests sympathetically.

(e) and (f) The Bank Branches extend loans to eligible borrowers against viable projects all round the year.

Entrance for CA

2508. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has given any proposal to make changes in process of entrance for Chartered Accountants;

(b) if so, whether there is any wide publicity plan in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to utilize services of Chartered Accountants in other spheres in addition to existing responsibility given to them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The changes when approved are notified in the Gazette of India as per procedure.

(c) and (d) A Bill has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 6.12.2005 for amendment to the Chartered Accountants Act 1949. The Bill *inter-alia* includes a proposal to enable the members of the Institute to form and participate in multi-disciplinary firms that may offer multi-professional services in a competitive and commercial manner.

*[English]***Production of Cloth**

2509. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been continuous decline in the production of cloth in handloom sector for the past few years as compared to the target fixed;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the target and to increase the production of cloth?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The estimated cloth production in handloom sector from 1998-99 to 2004-05 compared to target is given below:—

Year	Target (in Million sq. mtrs.)	Production (in Million sq. mtrs.)
1998-99	7336	6792
1999-2000	7795	7352
2000-01	8282	7506
2001-02	8800	7585
2002-03	4005	5980
2003-04	4239	5493
2004-05	4491	5722

The handloom sector is highly decentralized in nature and therefore the production in the handloom sector is estimated on the basis of domestic delivery of hank yarn in kgs. During the four years 1998-99 to 2001-02, the production of handloom cloth has shown an increasing trend. One of the factors for subsequent decline in production of handloom cloth may be related to the fiscal changes, such as imposition of excise duty on hank yarn. Although the estimated quantum of production from the year 2002-03 has shown a decrease compared to the previous four years, it is estimated that the value of handloom cloth production is improving due to production of value added items rather than low value items like Janata Cloth etc. which was prevalent in the past.

(c) The Government is implementing a number of schemes for the development of the handloom sector, with a view to promote product diversification, provide marketing support and technological upgradation. The main developmental schemes are Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Marketing Promotion Programme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Handloom Export Scheme. Further more, new schemes of Integrated Handloom Cluster Development (IHCD), Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana and Health Insurance Scheme have been launched in the current financial year.

The production of handlooms in the year 2004-05 was 5722 million sq. mtrs compared to 5493 million sq. mtrs in 2003-04 which shows an increase. Also in the first quarter of 2005-06 it has registered a growth of 17.9%.

Assistance to Powerloom Sector

2510. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to provide financial assistance to the various decentralised and powerloom units located in Tamil Nadu as they are facing acute financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up Computer Aided Design Centres at Coimbatore, Kannur, Komarapalangam and Somanur in Tamil Nadu for assisting these decentralised and small powerloom units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Doesn't arise.

(c) and (d) The details of Computer Aided Design Centres at Coimbatore, Kannur, Komarapalangam and Somanur set up by the Government for assisting decentralised and small powerloom units are as under:—

1. South India Textile Research Associations
Post Box No. 3205, Coimbatore Aerodrome
R.O. Coimbatore—641104,
Tel. No. 0422-2574367/68/69
2. Powerloom Service Centre,
40/D, Pasupathi Natesan Nagar
Sengunthampuram, Post Office,
Karur—639 002.
Tel No. (04324) 230 829
Tel Fax. (04324) 230829
E-Mail kru_cadkarur@sanchamet.in
3. Powerloom Service Centre,
24. Nachimuthu Street, Ganeshpuram, T.N.
Somanur—641 668, Coimbatore—District
Tel. 0421—2333158
Tel. Fax 0421-2333158
E-Mail-sitrapscsmr@vsnl.net
4. Powerloom Service Centre,
Shivaji Textile Bldg., No. 4-Raghavendra Road,
Namakkal Dist. Komarpalayam, Post Office-
638 183. Tel. No. 04288-261019.
Tel. Fax. 04288-2611019
E-Mail-sittrakpm@sanchamet.in

Unclaimed Insurance Dues

2511. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of unclaimed insurance dues during the last three years; and

(b) the manner in which these resources has been utilized or proposed to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As reported by LIC, the unclaimed insurance dues in the last three years were as under:—

Year	Amount in crore (Rs.)
2002-03	37.58
2003-04	37.63
2004-05	71.22

(b) LIC has informed that unclaimed insurance dues are treated as income and transferred to the Life Fund, which is invested as per IRDA (Investment) Regulations, 2000. This Fund is valued at the end of every year to calculate the annual valuation surplus which is distributed between policyholders and shareholders in the ratio of 95 to 5 under Section 28 of the LIC Act, 1956. Whenever policyholder or claimants are traced out, the amount is paid to them out of Life Fund, after proper verification.

NPA of RRBs

2512. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main causes of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) incurring losses are—limited area of operation, narrow client base, high cost of services, high establishment cost and low margin and high proportion of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) as replied *vide* Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 191 on August 5, 2005;

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government will continue to bear the losses as the above conditions are not going to change;

(c) whether the Government has not consider these facts, before opening of these Regional Rural Banks;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to merge these banks with the Nationalized Banks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir, these are some of the factors responsible for the losses in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

(b) With concerted institutional strengthening measures, development action planning, organizational development interventions and other supportive actions like capacity building of staff etc. by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and sponsor banks, the RRBs have substantially reduced the losses. The number of loss making RRBs has gradually reduced from 40 on 31/03/2003 to 33 on 31/03/2004 and to 29 on 31/03/2005. Similarly the gross NPAs in RRBs have reduced to 8.53% in March 2005 as compared to 14.44% as of March 2003.

(c) and (d) The RRBs were set up to cater to the banking needs of rural areas and providing employment to rural educated youth and to bring down the cost of rural banks by recruiting staff for the banks on the same scale of pay and allowances as of State Government/ local bodies. However, in view of the NIT award in 1990 and the Supreme Court Judgement in the year, 2001 the pay scales of the employees of RRBs were brought at par with the corresponding categories of the employees of nationalized banks. This was an unforeseen development and one of the major reasons contributing to losses in RRBs.

(e) and (f) The provisions of RRBs Act, 1976 do not provide merger of RRBs with sponsor banks.

Doppler Weather Radar System

2513. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Doppler Weather radar in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the said system could not be installed due to scarcity of land in Mumbai; and

(c) If so, the steps taken by the Government to find out a suitable space for its installation at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Due to scarcity of land in Mumbai and because of high rise buildings all around, the suitable site for installation of Doppler Weather Radar in Mumbai could not be finalized so far. In order to detect weather all around the radar site, there is a technical requirement of unobstructed view of radar antenna in all directions.

(c) India Meteorological Department (IMD), through its regional office in Mumbai, has already taken up the case for acquiring a suitable site through the State Government. Simultaneously, the possibility of installing the radar at the existing premises of IMD located at Colaba and Santacruz airports is also being technically examined.

Waiving off Loan of Drought Hit Farmers

2514. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests from farmers of various States who suffered heavy losses due to drought/flood during the current year to waive off the loans and interest;

(b) if so, whether the Government have decided to postpone the recovery of loans and interest thereon from the farmers in the wake of drought/flood situations in the country during the current year;

(c) if so, the period for which the recovery of the loans has been postponed;

(d) the reasons for postponement of recovery of said loans and interest thereon instead of waiving off said loans;

(e) whether the Government proposes to fix a period of ten years for recovery of the said loans; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f)

Keeping in view the difficulties being faced by farmers, Reserve Bank of India has issued standing guidelines dated 1st July, 2005 to banks for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities such as drought, flood etc. With a view to allowing greater discretion to banks to decide upon the quantum of relief assistance to be provided to the affected farmers the modified guidelines, *inter-alia*, permit banks to:

- Convert/reschedule loans and interest accrued thereon in the event of natural calamity for periods ranging from 3 to 9 years, depending upon the successive crop failure/intensity of damage to crops.
- Grant fresh crop loans to affected farmers.
- Convert principal as well as interest due on the existing loans.
- Not to treat portion of converted/rescheduled loans as Non Performing Assets (NPAs).
- Not to compound interest in respect of loans converted/rescheduled etc.
- Relax security and margin norms.
- Provide consumption loans to agriculturists whose crops have been damaged.

Further, the Government announced a policy package on June 18, 2004 which includes providing relief to the farmers who have suffered losses on account of successive droughts, floods etc. In pursuance of this package, Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines on 24th June, 2004 for debt rescheduling/restructuring and fresh loans to farmers affected by natural calamities. As per the guidelines, debts as on March 31, 2004 of all farmers, who suffered production and income losses on account of successive natural calamities, i.e. drought, flood, or other calamities which might have occurred in the districts for two or more successive years during the past five years, may be rescheduled/restructured by banks provided the State Govt. concerned has declared such districts as calamity affected. Accordingly, the interest outstanding/accrued in the accounts of such borrowers (crop loan and agriculture term loans) upto March 31, 2004, may be clubbed with the principal outstanding therein as on March 31, 2004, and the amount thus arrived at shall be repayable over a period of five years, at current interest rates, including an initial moratorium of two years. On restructuring as above, the farmers

concerned will become eligible for fresh loans. The rescheduled/restructured loans as also the fresh loans to be issued to the farmers may be treated as current dues and need not be classified as NPA. While the fresh loans would be governed by the NPA norms as applicable to agricultural loans, in the case of rescheduled/restructured loans, the NPA norms would be applicable from the third year onward, i.e. on expiry of the initial moratorium period of two years.

Purchasing of Cotton

2515. DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA:
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total cotton bales purchased by Cotton Corporation of India during this season, State-wise;

(b) whether all the cotton bales available in all the cotton markets have been purchased;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the rates at which the cotton bales have been purchased;

(e) whether there has been any disparity in fixing MSP in Punjab as compared to Maharashtra and Gujarat; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) State-wise, total cotton bales purchased by Cotton Corporation of India during cotton season-2005-06 is as under;—

Qty. in bales of 170 kgs.		
State	Branch	Quantity in bales
1	2	3
Punjab	Bhatinda	32045
Haryana	Sirsa	4285
Rajasthan	Sriganganagar	53179
	Bhilwara	5730

1	2	3
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	110901
	Rajkot	36826
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	33936
Maharashtra	Akola	6165
	Aurangabad	3639
Orissa	Rayagada	556
Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	2639
	Warangal	3234
	Guntur	621
Total		3,13,756

(b) to (d) Whenever the market prices of kapas (seed cotton) falls to the level of Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government of India, the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. undertakes support price operations. The CCI has been carrying out Minimum Support Price operations in all the cotton growing States where prices are ruling at MSP level. While carrying out MSP operations, the CCI has been purchasing the entire kapas of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) grade kapas offered by the cotton farmers. In order to help the cotton farmers, the CCI has also been purchasing kapas three stages below FAQ grade.

(e) and (f) No Sir, the MSP for cotton are fixed for basic two varieties (F414/H-777/J-34 and H-4) by the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture based on the recommendations made by the Commission on Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP). For other varieties, the MSPs are accordingly fixed by the Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai based on market differentials. While fixing the MSP, the CACP takes into account the cost of production, cost of inputs like seeds pesticides plus a reasonable profit margin to the cotton farmer. The MSP for J-34 for Punjab has been fixed considering the basic staple length 26.5 mm and Micronaire value—3.7 to 4.7 mm.

[Translation]

Generation of Power From Waste

2516. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ex-corporation Company of Japan has sought permission for the generation of Power from fluid waste and Bio Mithenisation Plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has given permission in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has not received any proposal from M/s. Ex-corporation of Japan for setting up any project for generation of power from fluid waste and biomethanation plants.

Survey on Poor Persons

2517. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct any survey with the help of some community based organizations/Non-Governmental Organisations for identifying the extremely poor persons in Maharashtra and other States, particularly in tribal dominated areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the said surveys are likely to be completed with regard to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present in the Ministry to conduct any survey with the help of some community based organizations/ Non-Governmental Organisations for identifying the extremely poor persons in different States. However, the Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to the States and Union Territories to conduct the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census to identify the families living Below the Poverty Line in all

the States and Union Territories including Maharashtra (except Delhi and Chandigarh). The BPL Census is conducted after every five years coinciding with the Five Year Plans. The Ministry had issued detailed guidelines to conduct the BPL Census, 2002 for the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, the results of BPL Census, 2002 could not be finalized because of the order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196 of 2001 in the matter of PUCL Vs Union of India.

[English]

Import of Jute Bags

2518. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to import jute bags from Bangladesh and other foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed imports are being made ignoring the jute bag manufacturers in the country;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the reasons for importing the jute bags when the same are available in the indigenous markets?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Investigation of Ketan Parekh

2519. MOHD. MUKEEM:
SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether securities and Exchange Board of India had conducted investigations in Ketan Parekh groups of companies;

(b) if so, the complete details in respect of each company, the violations and action taken against the promoters;

(c) whether Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has issued notices to companies in respect of investment made in Ketan Parekh Group of companies to manipulate their share values;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of companies; and

(e) the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) As per Statement-I enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The SFIO is investigating into the affairs of 16 companies belonging to Ketan Parekh Group of companies in the backdrop of stock market scam of 2000-01 (list attached as Statement-II). Several other companies, who had dealings with Ketan Parekh Group of companies have also been asked to furnish information in pursuance of Sec. 240 (1A) of the Companies Act, 1956 in connection with the above investigation. Since the investigation is in progress, at this stage it is not feasible to give the names of companies that made investments in Ketan Parekh companies with a view to manipulate share values.

Statement I

1. Pursuant to Excessive Volatility in the stock markets during February-March 2001 and apprehensions of alleged market Manipulation, SEBI had initiated investigations into, the affairs relating to buying, selling or dealings of various scrips including those in which Ketan Parekh Group was active viz. Afftek Infosys Ltd, Adani Exports Ltd., DSQ Software, Global Tele-systems Ltd., Global Trust Bank, Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd. (HFCL), Lupin Lab Ltd., Shonkh Technologies Ltd., Zee Tele-films Ltd., etc.

2. Based on the findings of investigations, SEBI has taken mainly the following actions against entities connected with Ketan Parekh for violation of SEBI (PFUTP) regulations:

(a) SEBI vide interim order dated April 4 2001, Debarred Classic Shares and Stock Broking Service, Triumph Securities Ltd., Triumph International Finance (India) Ltd., NH Securities Ltd., The entities controlled by and connected with Mr. Ketan Parekh, and their directors Mr. Ketan Parekh and Mr. Kartik Parekh from undertaking any fresh business as a Stock Broker or Merchant Banker.

(b) Vide Interim order dated April 10, 2001 SEBI Debarred VN Parekh Securities Ltd. and KNP Securities Ltd. from undertaking any fresh business as a Stock Broker.

(c) SEBI vide order dated May 16, 2002, cancelled the certificate of registration of Triumph International Finance (India) Ltd. as a Stock Broker.

(d) SEBI vide order dated December 12, 2003 Prohibited Ketan Parekh and the following entities (total 9 entities) Associated with/controlled by him from buying, selling or dealing in securities in any manner directly or indirectly and also debarred them from associating with the securities market, for a period of fourteen years.

(i) Shri Ketan V. Parekh

(ii) Kartik K. Parekh

(iii) Classic Credit Ltd.

(iv) Panther Fincap and Management Services Ltd.

(v) Luminant Investment Pvt. Ltd.

(vi) Chitrakut Computers Pvt. Ltd.

(vii) Saimangal Investrade Ltd.

(viii) Classic Infin Ltd.

(ix) Panther Investrade Ltd.

(e) SEBI vide order dated March 8, 2004 cancelled the certificate of registration granted to five broking entities associated with/controlled by Ketan Parekh viz. Classic Shares and Stock Broking Services (CSSB), Triumph Securities Ltd (TSL), NH Securities Ltd. (NH Sec), VN Parekh Securities Ltd (VNP SEC) and KNP Securities Ltd (KNP Sec). This order was passed for their Trading in the Scrips of GTB, Afftek, Lupin, Shonkh, etc.

(f) SEBI vide order dated March 31, 2004 cancelled the certificate of registration of NH Securities Ltd. and Classic Shares and Stock Broking Services for their trading in the scrip of Aftex and DSQ Software.

(g) Prosecutions have been filed on March 7, 2003 vide case no 123/2003 in the court of Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, 8th Court, Esplanade, Mumbai against Ketan Parekh and other entities (total 17 entities) connected/associated with him.

(i) Classic Credit Ltd.

(ii) Panther Fincap & Mgt. Services Ltd.

(iii) Chitrakut Computers Pvt. Ltd.

(iv) Luminant Investment Private Ltd.

(v) NH Securities Ltd.

(vi) Classic Shares & Stock Broker Ltd.

(vii) Saimangal Investrade Ltd.

(viii) Classic Infin Ltd.

(ix) Panther Investrade Ltd

(x) Shri Arun J Shah

(xi) Shri Kartik K Parekh

(xii) Shri Kaushik C Shah

(xiii) Shri Ketan V Parekh

(xiv) Shri Kirtikumar N Parekh

(xv) Shri Mukesh Joshi

(xvi) Shri Navinchandra Parekh

(xvii) Shri VN Parekh

(h) Prosecutions have been filed on July 29, 2004 against Triumph International Finance (India) Ltd. and their following directors vide case No. 233/M/2004 in the Court of LD for Manipulation in Various Scrips. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's, 47th Court, Esplanade, Mumbai:

(i) Shri Dharmesh Hasmukh Doshi, Managing Director

(ii) Shri Jatin Rajnikant Sarvaiya, Director

(iii) Shri Ketan Vinaychandra Parekh, Director

(iv) Mr. Kartik Kirtikumar Parekh, Director

(v) Mr. Abdul Razzak Kapadia, Director

(vi) Shri Vipul Dinesh Parekh, Director

(vii) Shri Dharmen Bhaskar Shah, Director

Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of Companies
1.	M/s Panther Industrial Products Ltd.
2.	M/s Luminant Investment Pvt. Ltd.
3.	M/s Goldfish Computer Pvt Ltd.
4.	M/s. Panther Fincap and Management Services Ltd.
5.	M/s Manmandir Estate Developers Pvt. Ltd.
6.	M/s Classic Shares & Stock Broking Services Ltd.
7.	M/s Classic Credit Ltd.
8.	M/s N.H. Securities Ltd.
9.	M/s Chitrakut Computers Pvt. Ltd.
10.	M/s Nakshatra Software Pvt. Ltd.
11.	M/s Panther Investrade Ltd.
12.	M/s Triumph International Finance India Ltd.
13.	M/s K.N.P. Securities Pvt. Ltd.
14.	M/s V.N. Parekh Securities Pvt. Ltd.
15.	M/s Saimangal Investrade Ltd.
16.	M/s Triumph Securities Ltd.

[Translation]

Craft Development Institute

2520. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to set up Craft Development Institute in the country, especially in Srinagar to train artisan in the art of making papier mache products;

(b) if so, the time by which the Institute is likely to be set up; and

(c) the other steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote papier mache industry in the country, especially in Kashmir including making it more export oriented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) A Craft Development Institute has been set up at Srinagar with the objective to provide Research & Development facility in the field of material & process testing, field studies, ecological & process related issues, campus linkage for networking with various agencies & to provide training facilities to craftpersons/entrepreneurs etc. in various crafts including papier Machie products.

(c) The other steps taken by the Government to promote papier mache industry in the country, especially in Kashmir to make it more export oriented include: implementation of Baba Saheb Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of craft clusters; Design & Technology Upgradation; Marketing & Support Services; Export Promotion; Training & Extension; Research & Development & Credit Guarantee Scheme etc.

Internal and External Debts

2521. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether both internal and external debts are at a galloping rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years;

(c) the interest paid thereon during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the internal and external debts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The stock of internal debt on Central Government account and India's total external debt together with interest paid thereon during the last three years are given in the following Table.

Table: Internal and External Debt of India

	Debt Outstanding	Increase over the year	Interest Paid
A. Internal debt of Central Government			
			(Rs. Crore)
2002-03	10,20,689	1,07,628	98,555
2003-04	11,41,706	1,21,017	1,03,123
2004-05 (RE)	12,70,272	1,28,566	1,00,399
B. India's Total External debt			
			(US\$ million)
2002-03	104,958	6,115	3,708
2003-04	111,715	6,757	4,401
2004-05 (P)	123,454	11,739	3,746

RE: Revised Estimate, P: Provisional

(d) Government has been following the policy of fiscal prudence which aims at higher tax revenues and moderation in the growth of non-plan expenditure so as to reduce the revenue deficit and gross fiscal deficit thereby containing borrowings. Government is committed to eliminating revenue deficit and moderating public debt in a time-bound manner. Similarly, prudent external debt management policies pursued by the Government have helped in maintaining a comfortable external debt position. These policies include emphasis on raising funds on concessional terms with longer maturities, close monitoring of short-term debt, prepaying high cost loans and encouraging non-debt creating capital flows.

[English]

Land Losers of Mejia Power Project

2522. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement between State Government of West Bengal and Mejia Power House, of the project has been signed to engage 520 land-looser in M.T.P.S. after commissioning of 3rd unit;

(b) if so, whether 238 land-looser are still out of job after commissioning of 4th unit;

(c) whether any law and order problem created by those land-loosers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to appoint at least a member of each family of those land losers?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. However, DVC has agreed to provide employment to 520 land-loosers subject to fulfilment of eligibility criteria in Group 'D' posts and as per actual manpower requirement of the project.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Out of 500 listed land-loosers, 220 are still out of job.

(e) The remaining enlisted land-loosers are expected to get employment against vacancies arising in the project from time to time.

Wind Energy

2523. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the installed capacity of Wind Energy in the country, State-wise;

(b) the names of companies which are producing wind energy with installed capacity;

(c) whether the Government is encouraging the setting up of Wind Power Projects and for also giving incentives to them; and

(d) if so, details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS

MUTTEMWAR): (a) A total wind power capacity of 4228 MW has so far been installed in the country. State-wise information is given in Statement enclosed.

(b) Wind Farms are set up commercially through private investment. There are about 1700 private investors and the installed capacities of their Wind Farms ranges from 0.250 MW to 83 MW.

However, the major five Wind energy manufacturers in the country are M/s. Suzlon Energy Ltd (1417 MW), M/s. Enercon (India) Ltd (665 MW), M/s Vestas RRB (410 MW), M/s. NEG-Micon (India) Pvt. Ltd (589 MW) and M/s. NEPC India Ltd (198 MW).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government is encouraging setting up of wind power projects by providing concessional import duty on certain components of wind electric generator, excise duty exemption, ten years' tax holiday on income generated from wind power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation and loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and other financial institutions. Wind power is being given preferential tariff in potential States. Continuous efforts are under way to identify new wind power potential areas through wind resource assessment studies.

Statement

State-wise wind power installed capacity

State	Total capacity (MW)
Andhra Pradesh	120.6
Gujarat	257.5
Karnataka	443.4
Kerala	2.0
Madhya Pradesh	28.9
Maharashtra	581.2
Rajasthan	359.8
Tamil Nadu	2432.2
West Bengal	1.1
Others	1.6
	4228

Incomplete Construction under Indira Awas Yojana

2524. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of houses for the beneficiaries of victim of Tsunami devastation under Indira Awas Yojana in Andaman Nicobar Islands are incomplete;

(b) if so, the number of such incomplete houses as on date, Island-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to complete the construction of such houses; and

(d) if so, the time by which the construction of these houses is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) As far as assistance on account of tsunami devastation is concerned, since the Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry for disaster management, all assistance to be provided for resettlement in calamities like tsunami is being coordinated by them. However, in order to provide immediate relief to the victims of the tsunami devastation, an advance second instalment amounting to Rs. 186.21 lakh was released to Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for construction of houses under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) during 2004-2005.

As per the reports received from the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, against the target of 1050 houses, 337 houses have been constructed and 72 houses are under construction at various stages under the IAY during 2004-2005. Likewise, in 2005-06, against the target of 1238 houses, 53 houses have been completed and 42 houses are under construction at various stages under the IAY. The Ministry of Rural Development has been informing the A&N administration to expedite the process of construction of houses.

Salary Structure of RRBs Employees

2525. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:
SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued orders for revising the salary structure of the Regional Rural Bank staff as directed by Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revision of "Other allowances" and "Other benefits" have been left to the Sponsor Banks;

(d) if so, the number of the sponsor Banks so far revised/introduced such allowances and benefits so far;

(e) the time required for such revision of all the components of Pay, allowances and other benefits as comparable posts in the Sponsor Banks; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to early implementation of these orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Government under Proviso to Section 17 (1) of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) Act, 1976 issued the letters dated 6/10/2005 and 25/10/2005 to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), sponsor Banks and Chairmen of RRBs to revise the pay scales, Dearness Allowance (DA), House Rant Allowance (HRA) and City Compensatory Allowance (CCA) of the employees of RRBs equal to the corresponding categories of sponsor banks.

(c) to (f) As in the past, Government advised the sponsor banks to negotiate with RRBs for the revision of other Allowances. It is, therefore, for the sponsor banks to initiate the process of negotiation taking all the relevant aspects into consideration for the revision of other Allowances.

[Translation]

Indo-China Cooperation in Power Sector

2526. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to collaborate with China in the field of energy;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the progress made so far in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. China and India signed a joint statement in April, 2005. the two sides, inter alia, agreed to cooperate in the area of energy security and conservation, including the survey and exploration of petroleum and natural gas resources in third world countries.

A task force from the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas visited China in June, 2005 to discuss avenues of bilateral cooperation in the energy sector.

[English]

Power Shortage in Delhi

2527. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Capital may face major power crisis in coming days as reported in *Hindu* dated the November 14, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the total demand and supply of power in the capital as on date; and
- (e) the details of plans being worked out to meet the power shortages?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) As reported by the Government of Delhi, major power crisis in the Capital is not anticipated in the coming days.

(d) During the month of November, 2005, Delhi faced energy shortage of 2.1% and peak shortage of about 1%.

(e) The power supply position of Delhi is regularly reviewed by Central Electricity Authority and actions are being taken for additional allocation of power from unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations in the Northern Region during the peak hours and purchase of additional power by Delhi from the gas based stations of National Thermal Power Corporation on liquid fuel during the peak hours. Delhi Transco Ltd. has already made bilateral agreements for import of power during the peak hours upto March, 2006.

Installation of Handpumps and Supply of Drinking Water

2528. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the three programmes of installation of one lakh hand-pumps in water scarce areas, drinking water facilities to one lakh primary schools in rural areas and revival of one lakh traditional sources of water announced on the occasion of 55th Independence Day Celebrations, 2003 have been completed;
- (b) if so, the details of the projects completed, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the time by which these programmes are likely to be completed; and
- (e) the number of persons assured perennial source of water by these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The three programmes of installation of one lakh hand-pumps in water scarce areas, drinking water facilities to one lakh primary schools in rural areas and revival of one lakh traditional sources of water was announced by the Honourable Prime Minister on the occasion of Independence Day Celebrations, 2002. The programmes named as three programmes of Prime Minister, were for two years period-2003-2004 to 2004-2005 and the funds have been provided to the States for completion of the programmes in these two years.

(b) to (d) As per the reports received from the States/UTs so far, 75798 hand pumps have been installed, 41591 traditional sources of water have been revived and 60117 primary schools in rural areas have been covered

with drinking water supply. The state-wise detail is enclosed as Statement. The States are in the process of completion of the projects taken up from the funds already provided and Central Government is monitoring the progress through monthly progress reports.

(e) As per guidelines, there is a provision of one hand-pump or stand post for every 250 persons. The projects taken up under three programmes of Prime Minister are based on these norms.

Statement

Sl.No.	State/UT	Progress reported by States under Three Programmes of Prime Minister		
		Hand pumps installed	Traditional Sources revived	rural Primary Schools covered
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15030	12811	20092
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	282	241	0
3.	Assam	17520	4242	7948
4.	Bihar	17520	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	1495
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	4732	378	788
8.	Haryana	45	20	27
9.	Himachal Pradesh	598	849	410
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2104	434	773
11.	Jharkhand	199	280	1574
12.	Karnataka	3695	4149	2082
13.	Kerala	1085	73	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	714	0	2811
15.	Maharashtra	3964	2319	2019
16.	Manipur	99	16	28
17.	Meghalaya	909	1099	794
18.	Mizoram	215	382	70
19.	Nagaland	0	91	30
20.	Orissa	0	514	8138
21.	Punjab	1055	0	115

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Rajasthan	11592	1563	3693
23.	Sikkim	0	150	95
24.	Tamilnadu	7784	9588	1220
25.	Tripura	310	213	160
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	3479
27.	Uttaranchal	22	50	577
28.	West Bengal	3886	2149	1908
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0
30.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0	1
31.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
32.	Delhi	0	0	0
33.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
34.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
35.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
Total		75798	41591	60117

[Translation]

Special Purpose Fund

2529. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have formulated/proposes to formulate a scheme for investing the funds to the tune of Rs. 500 crore to set up a Joint Special Purpose Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the purpose for which it has been set up?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Union Cabinet constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) to consider and decided all issues related to Dabhol Power Project. The restructuring

framework approved by EGOM inter-alia included setting up of a Project 'Special Purpose Vehicle' (SPV). Accordingly, a new Company, Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Ltd. (RGPPL) was incorporated on 8th July, 2005 under the Companies Act, 1956 with NTPC and GAIL as promoters. RGPPL is currently having equity contribution of Rs. 500 crores each from NTPC, Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) and Indian Financial Institutions (IFIs) and non-cash equity of Rs. 265 crores of MSEB Holding Company.

(c) The purpose of RGPPL inter-alia includes acquiring, completing and operating the assets of Dabhol Power Company (DPC).

Privatization of Power Supply

2530. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private power distributing companies are not at all willing to supply power in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, distribution of electricity is a licensed activity and the appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission grants the license.

Under the provisions of section 43 of the Act, every distribution licensee is under obligation to supply electricity within the specified time frame to premises located in the area of license on application by the owner of occupier of the premises. Failure to supply electricity within the time frame specified under sub-section (1) attracts imposition of penalty on the licensee.

Under section 57 of the Act, the Appropriate Regulatory Commission is required to specify standards of performance of a licensee. In case the licensee fails to meet the specified standards, he is liable for imposition of penalty or prosecution and also for payment of compensation to the affected person. One of the functions of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, as laid down under section 86(1)(i) of the Act, is to specify or enforce standards with request to quality, continuity and reliability of service by licensees.

[English]

Registration Procedure

2531. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has simplified the registration process and make it comparable with US, Singapore and other countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) The registration process for companies continues to be regulated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, and rules made thereunder. However, the Government is considering, following a comprehensive

revision of the Companies Act, 1956 to enable the Indian corporate laws to keep pace with changes in the national and international economic scenario.

Bio-Fuel Plantation

2532. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes for, formulated for bio-fuel plantation alongwith the funds allocated thereunder, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received any project reports on bio-diesel from certain organizations including TERI;

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

(d) whether certain States have announced a number of schemes for cultivation of Jatropha for development of bio-diesel and have also submitted proposals to the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on each such proposal, State-wise; and

(f) the further steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage the cultivation of Jatropha and other trees for producing bio-fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) No State-wise allocations have been made so far for Jatropha plantation. The Ministry of Rural Development had commissioned The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for plantation of Jatropha in 4.00 lakh hectares wastelands in the country both in forest and non-forest areas and submitted the same to the Planning Commission for "in principle approval". A tentative allocation of Rs. 50 crore has been made to the project in the current financial year (2005-2006).

(d) to (f) States like Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Rajasthan have taken initiatives on their own to popularize cultivation of Jatropha for production of bio-diesel. These and other States have been included for assistance under the proposed "National Mission on Bio-Diesel". In order to encourage cultivation of Jatropha on a large scale, it is proposed to provide necessary subsidy and credit linkages in consultation with State Governments, NABARD, commercial banks, oil processing units and others concerned. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has also announced a Bio-Diesel Purchase Policy on 9th October 2005. Under this policy, with effect from 1.1.2006, the public sector oil marketing companies will purchase bio-diesel at a uniform price of Rs. 25 per litre, which meets the fuel quality standard prescribed by the Bureau of Industrial Standards (BIS) specification formulated vide (PCD3 (2242) C dated 26.7.2004. The uniform price once fixed shall be in operation for six months, at the end of which it would be reviewed.

Mediclaim Insurance

2533. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the general insurance companies providing mediclaim insurance do not provide reimbursement on the excuses and pretext that this or that disease was existing in the policy holder;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up an exclusive specialized health care insurance company to sell healthcare products providing coverage for all risks to the policy holder;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that as a principle, insurance is provided to indemnify losses that are sudden and unforeseen in nature. It is against prudent underwriting practice to provide insurance protection for known or existing losses

or for losses that are sure to occur. Accordingly, all standard Mediclaim Policies have standard exclusion of pre-existing conditions in terms of which the company shall not be liable to make any payment under this policy in respect of any expenses whatsoever incurred by an insured person in connection with or in respect of such diseases which have been in existence at the time of proposing the insurance.

(b) and (c) No Sir.

(d) IRDA has reported that there is already provision under the existing IRDA (Registration of Indian Companies) Regulations in terms of which the Authority will give preference for grant of certificate of registration to those applicants who propose to carry out the business of providing health covers to individuals or groups of individuals. However, in order to start insurance business, it is essential to have Rs. 100 crore capital and Health Insurance being high volumes and low margin business, except one application which has been received by IRDA recently, no insurer has come forward for doing Stand alone health insurance business. Even, a Stand alone Health Insurance Company may not be able to cover pre-existing diseases.

Strengthening of Structure of Science and Technology

2534. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aimed at strengthening and development of the structure and development of Science and Technology in prime areas and to Start Applied Missions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any system of encouragement of Scientist's;

(d) whether the Government is assisting and co-ordinating with foreign based institutions of above experts and to provide other projects to the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF

STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Government has taken several measures for strengthening and development of the structure and development of Science and Technology in the country. Recently the government has instituted the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister under the Chairmanship of an eminent scientist Prof. C.N.R. Rao to put in place systems for the needs of India by 2020 and prepare a future road map for Science & Technology at the policy level and guide the nation towards a direction, which will ensure our preparedness for meeting the challenges of the future. During the 10th Five Year Plan the Government has focused on generating relevant innovative technologies; preserving, protecting and adding value to indigenous resources adopting an appropriate mix of traditional, conventional and modern technologies; developing and nurturing human resource; strengthening basic research in the areas of frontline science & engineering and; promoting S&T interventions in major socio-economic ministries and states so as to make them real stake holders of S&T. The development of prime areas are executed through S&T mission mode programmes, establishment of new research centres of excellence, international collaborative projects, strengthening of R&D infrastructure in academic institutions and research labs, institution of prestigious fellowships like Swarnajayanti Fellowship for outstanding Young Scientists, Ramanna Fellowship for performing scientists, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship for Young Scientists, Ramanujan Fellowships to attract outstanding scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research in our country, J.C. Bose Fellowships to recognize and support active, performing Indian scientists & engineers. These steps ensure encouragement of scientists and technologists and other expert institutions in the country. Some of the major new initiatives in the Mission mode are: National Biotechnology Strategy; Nano Science & Technology Mission; National Mission on Bamboo Applications; Seismology Mission; Drug & Pharmaceuticals R&D; New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative etc.

(d) and (e) The Government has signed inter-governmental agreement for cooperation in the areas of Science & Technology with 66 countries including

multilateral organizations. The cooperation activities are implemented through various methods such as exploratory visits, joint workshops, seminars, joint R&D projects, setting up of joint R&D centres and short term training programmes in the areas of mutual interest of the parties.

[Translation]

Gas Based Power Projects

2535. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Public Sector Power project are not functioning properly owing to shortage of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the Gas based Power projects submitted by various States for approval to the Union Government;

(c) whether the Government has accorded approval to all such power projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The performance of Public Sector during April-November, 2005 vis-à-vis April-November, 2004 are as under:

Sector	Generation (MU)		
	April-November, 2004	April-November, 2005	%over last year
Central Sector	1,57,996	1,71,769	108.7
State Sector	1,95,841	1,96,941	100.8

(b) to (d) As per the Electricity Act 2003, Techno-economic clearance from Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is not required for thermal power projects. Further, as per the Electricity Act 2003, any generating company can set up thermal power plants if it complies with the technical standards relating to connectivity with grid. Proposals for setting up of thermal power projects

including gas based projects are not being received in CEA for techno-economic clearance.

(English)

Coastal Hazards

2536. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has worked out a plan to meet coastal hazards as reported in the Hindu dated the November 14, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total coastal areas likely to be covered there under; and

(d) the measures being taken to prevent loss of life during ocean related coastal disorders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Closure of Jute Mills

2537. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many jute mills are being closed due to high price of raw jute;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to supply raw jute to different jute mills to revive these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir. As per the information furnished by Jute Commissioner's office, no composite Jute Mill has been closed in the country due to high price and shortage of raw jute.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The government has taken several steps to make the raw jute available to different jute mills for

manufacturing of B, Twill bags, used in the procurement of food grains and sugar by the Food Corporation of India and other State Government/Agencies. The Govt. has fixed the Minimum Support Price for 2005-06 for TD-5 Grade of Raw Jute (Ex Assam) at Rs. 910/- per quintal. The corresponding prices for other grades/varieties of Jute and Mesta have been declared by the Jute Commissioner. The Jute Corporation of India (JCI), a Central Govt. PSU is the nodal agency to undertake Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations to procure raw jute from farmers. It operates in seven major jute growing States in India namely, Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura through its 171 regular Departmental Purchase Centres (DPC), in addition to around 250 Apex State Govt./Co-operative Societies. The JCI is also given a Bank Guarantee of Rs. 33 crores to undertake MSP operations smoothly. The Government of India compensates the MSP losses of JCI. The Jute Commissioner links the supply of raw jute by JCI to the Jute Mills against the indents placed by the procurement agencies through DGS&D.

National and State Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes

2538. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Maharashtra has been operating Employment Guarantee scheme for a number of years;

(b) if so, whether the Central National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is overlapping the State Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(c) if so, the nature of anomaly between the two and the repercussions thereof; and

(d) the manner in which the Government proposes to resolve to end this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (c) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and the Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Act are two different legislations.

Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Act is applicable to the rural areas of the State whereas National Rural Guarantee Act is applicable to the rural areas of the country except Jammu and Kashmir. Both the Acts have some common features such as, providing guaranteed employment to unskilled manual worker and payment of unemployment allowance to the applicant subject to provisions of the Acts. The type of work that can be taken up under these two Acts have some similar and non-similar characteristics.

(d) Section-28 of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act provides as under:

"The provisions of this Act (i.e. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) or the Schemes made thereunder shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force or in any instrument having effect by virtue of such law;

Provided that where a State enactment exists or is enacted to provide employment guarantee for unskilled manual work to rural households consistent with the provisions of this Act under which the entitlement of the households is not less than and the conditions of employment are not inferior to what is guaranteed under this Act, the State Government shall have the option of implementing its own enactment;

Provided further that in such cases the financial assistance shall be paid to the concerned State Government in such manner as shall be determined by the Central Government, which shall not exceed what the State would have been entitled to receive under this Act had a Scheme made under this Act had to be implemented."

The Government of Maharashtra may take a decision in this regard.

Rural Electrification

2539. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to provide a special package to some bordering and backward States, particularly to Assam and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding misutilization of funds and corruption in rural electrification programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise.

Major and Minor Ports

2540. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the length of coastal area in the country and the number of major and minor ports along the coastal State-wise; and

(b) the assistance provided by the Government to each coastal State for the development of vast sea coast during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The "Major and Minor Ports" are the subject matter of Department of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways. Hence, the information obtained from Department of Shipping is reproduced as below:

The length of the Indian coastline is 7516.6 kms. The number of major and minor ports along the coastal State-wise are as given below:

Sl.No.	Maritime State	Length of the Coast Line (in Kms)	No. of Major Ports	No. of Minor Ports
1.	Gujarat	1214.7	1	40
2.	Maharashtra	652.6	2	53
3.	Goa	118.0	1	5
4.	Karnataka	280.0	1	10
5.	Kerala	569.7	1	13
6.	Tamil Nadu	908.9	3	15
7.	Andhra Pradesh	973.7	1	12
8.	Orissa	476.4	1	2
9.	West Bengal	157.5	1	1
10.	Pondicherry	30.6	—	1
11.	Daman & Diu	42.5	—	2
12.	Andaman & Nicobar	1962.0	—	23
13.	Lakshadweep	132.0	—	10
Total		7516.6	12	187

Department of Shipping provides financial assistance for meeting the part cost of hydrographic/feasibility/

environmental studies for minor ports and the details of funds provided is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1.	Tamil Nadu	20.00	—	—
2.	Maharashtra	20.00	—	—
3.	Gujarat	20.00	—	20.00
4.	West Bengal	20.00	—	—
5.	Kerala	4.73	8.84	—
6.	Goa	3.17	—	—
Total		87.90	8.84	20.00

*[Translation]***Evaluation of PMGSY**

2541. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
 SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
 MOHD. SHAHID:
 SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
 SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
 SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether contract for construction of rural roads has been awarded for the current year;

(b) if so, the percentage of work that has been completed, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any evaluation has been made regarding the percentage of construction work completed in respect of the roads sanctioned for the year 2004-05;

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

(f) whether any time frame has been fixed for the completion of the construction works and if so, the details thereof;

(g) the total length of the roads in Kilometers for which construction work has been started during the current year;

(h) whether the construction of ongoing road projects is likely to be completed during the current year; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The responsibility of awarding contract for construction of rural roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) rests with the States.

(b) and (c) According to the reports received from the States, the percentages of number and length of

road works completed, out of the road works approved by the Ministry so far, State-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) and (e) The percentages of number and length of road works completed in Phase-IV (2004-05) of PMGSY, State-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(f) According to the guidelines of PMGSY, awarded works are to be completed within a period of 9 working months, but the construction period should not exceed twelve calendar months, in any case.

(g) The Ministry of Rural Development has been approving road works Phase-wise, and not year-wise, and accordingly, the year-wise details of starting works are not maintained in the Ministry.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) Completion of road works depend, inter-alia, on the time of starting the work and other constraints like adverse weather conditions, availability of materials, contracting capacity etc.

Statement I

Sl.No.	State	Percentage number of road works completed (upto September, 05)	Percentage Length of road works completed (upto September, 05)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	77.19	64.88
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	81.89	72.94
3.	Assam	39.10	18.98
4.	Bihar	39.95	31.21
5.	Chhattisgarh	43.18	45.13
6.	Goa	11.06	5.89
7.	Gujarat	78.36	77.65
8.	Haryana	63.06	65.34
9.	Himachal Pradesh	39.14	31.24
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	10.06	5.05

1	2	3	4
11.	Jharkhand	57.02	54.11
12.	Karnataka	78.76	74.37
13.	Kerala	45.66	38.26
14.	Madhya Pradesh	58.14	56.05
15.	Maharashtra	67.93	59.86
16.	Manipur	48.93	44.05
17.	Meghalaya	60.64	46.61
18.	Mizoram	10.74	26.66
19.	Nagaland	89.19	93.89
20.	Orissa	53.45	46.65
21.	Punjab	74.61	58.41
22.	Rajasthan	84.39	78.86
23.	Sikkim	44.35	82.85
24.	Tamil Nadu	66.87	54.92
25.	Tripura	80.71	64.13
26.	Uttar Pradesh	69.39	64.90
27.	Uttaranchal	9.26	9.72
28.	West Bengal	58.83	53.80
Total		67.36	60.82

Statement II

Sl.No.	State	Percentage number of road works completed (upto September, 05)	Percentage Length of road works completed (upto September, 05)
1	2	3	4
1.	Chhattisgarh	31.80	38.50
2.	Haryana	44.40	44.00
3.	Madhya Pradesh	32.60	28.80
4.	Maharashtra	2.50	1.10
5.	Mizoram	0.00	54.90

1	2	3	4
6.	Nagaland	0.00	57.00
7.	Orissa	0.20	1.10
8.	Rajasthan	88.70	87.70
Total		13.30	18.00

Other States have not reported completion of either any road work or length in Phase IV.

[English]

Production of Jute

2542. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether only five percent of jute production in the country went towards making products of jute diversification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the government for diversification towards other products such as carpets and curtains etc?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No Sir. As per the information furnished by the Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC), the diversified jute products account for nearly 8% of total production of jute goods in India.

(b) The production of diversified jute products (125660 tonnes) include decorative fabrics (8400 tonnes) mattings (3000 tonnes), webbing (560 tonnes) soil saver (6700 tonnes) and value added yarn (1,07,000 tonnes) which is used for manufacturing of union fabrics, floor coverings, (carpets, rugs and durries) and wall hangings.

(c) The Government has initiated a number of measures to boost production of JDPs in the country. The measures include programmes run by the National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD) (1) Jute Service Centre Scheme (2) Jute Raw Material Bank Scheme (3) Market Support Scheme (4) Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance

(Capital Subsidy) Scheme (JEAS) (5) Micro Finance/NGO Assistance Scheme (6) Design Development Scheme. The Jute Manufactures Development Council also runs the Capital Subsidy Scheme for Modernisation of Jute Mills, the External Market Assistance Scheme and other Market Development Schemes for promotion of export of diversified jute products.

Boosting of Textile Sector

2543. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India needs to further enhance the capability and infuse technology in the man-made fibre sector keeping in view the increased consumption of man-made fibre in the world market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India even though a major producer of cotton yarn and fabric, the productivity of cotton as measured by yield has been found to be lower than many countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to boost textiles sector in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The consumption of man-made fibres in India is estimated at 2168.94 million kg. In 2004-05, the production of such fibres was 2124.00 million kg., though installed capacity in the country is 2518.67 million kg. Due to increase in domestic and world demand for Indian man-made fibres, there is a need to increase the production of man-made fibres in the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The productivity of cotton in India is approximately 440 Kgs. per hectare, which is lower than the productivity of cotton in many other cotton producing countries like China, Pakistan and USA, which had productivity levels at 1119, 773 and 958 Kgs. per hectare respectively during 2004-05.

(e) The Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time for accelerated growth of textile sector as given in Statement.

Statement

Measures taken by the Government for development of the textile sector

- (i) Cotton development and research programmes like Integrated Cotton Development Programme (ICDP), AICCI have been launched.
- (ii) Bacillus Thuringiensis (BT) cotton has been released commercially w.e.f. 2002-03 cotton season by Government of India to fight pest resistance being faced by cotton farmers in major qualities of the crop.
- (iii) Promoting integrated cotton cultivation (contract farming) involving availability of seeds, pesticides, fertilizers etc. to the farmers for obtaining desired quality of cotton.
- (iv) Setting up of a Cotton Technology Mission in February, 2000 with an outlay of Rs. 593 crores to improve the quality of cotton fibre at a reasonable cost with a view also to export cotton at competitive prices in comparison to other exporting countries.
- (v) Launching of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme w.e.f. 1.4.1999 to facilitate modernisation and upgradation of textile sector.
- (vi) The import of a large number of capital goods of man made fibres/yarns industry has been allowed under concessional customs duty of 5%. Besides the cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures. Except for mandatory excise duty on man made filament yarns and man made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.
- (vii) 100% foreign direct investment is allowed in textile sector under the automatic route.
- (viii) The Government has dereserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.
- (ix) With the objective of imparting a focussed thrust to set up apparel units of international standards and upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, the Government had launched the Apparel Park for Exports Scheme (APES), and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development

Scheme (TCIDs). However, after reviewing the implementation of these two schemes, a new scheme, namely, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks has been launched by merging the two schemes. This scheme is based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP), and would equip the industry with world class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units to meet international environmental and social standards. Government of India support under the scheme by way of grant or equity shall be limited to 40% of the project cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 crore.

- (x) In order to facilitate modernisation of the Powerloom Sector, Schemes such as high-tech Weaving Parks, Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centres, Group Workshed Scheme and Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme @ 20% have been introduced.
- (xi) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 items of machinery appearing in List 49 which attract Basic Customs Duty (BCD) or 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.
- (xii) The Government launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.
- (xiii) The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide leadership and sensitize the Textile Industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.

Insurance Cover for Vehicles in J&K

2544. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government undertaking Insurance Companies have refused to continue insurance cover for vehicles, both carrying passengers and cargo, when plying to Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has approved the pleas, if any, of these Insurance Companies;

(d) if so, the rationale therefor; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to enforce continuation of insurance cover by all Insurance Companies operating in the country for vehicles all over India uniformly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed receipt of complaints from (i) Secretary, All India Motor Transport Association, Guwahati, (ii) All India Motor Transport Congress complaining of refusal of Third Party insurance for commercial vehicles and (iii) Deputy Commissioner, Jammu that National Insurance Company Ltd. (NIC) has stopped insuring the passenger carrying vehicles including all types of taxis/max-cab for Jammu in particular and in some other places in general.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. IRDA is seized of the matter.

(e) IRDA has issued directives to all insurers that no insurer shall deny Motor Third party Insurance to any vehicle having a valid fitness certificate. The Authority has also written a letter to Chairman-cum-Managing Director, National Insurance Co. Ltd. to explain in detail to the Authority the fact and circumstances in the matter and also instructed NIC to direct all its Regional offices not to deny Third Party Liability cover to any vehicle having valid fitness certificate.

Thematic Study

2545. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geological Survey of India has undertaken Thematic Studies in Dang District of Gujarat;

- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the progress of the said study as on date;
- (d) the expenditure incurred thereon till date; and
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Specialized Thematic Mapping commenced in October 2000 and continued till September, 2005. A total of 380 samples have been collected for further studies and analysis.

(c) Geological mapping and field studies have been completed. Laboratory studies of the field samples are in progress. A district resource map of Dangs district has been published.

(d) The expenditure incurred till date is Rs. 88.79 lakhs.

(e) Expected completion date is March, 2006.

[Translation]

Funds for Advertisement

2546. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks have created advertisement fund for the publicity of their functionings;

(b) if so, the details of the advertisement fund, bank-wise;

(c) whether the aforesaid banks have also sent advertisement to Doordarshan, DD News and DD Sports during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the public sector banks have also sent advertisement to private television channels; and

(f) if so, the total amount spent by the public sector banks on the advertisement aired on private television channels during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[English]

Currency Losses during Flood in Mumbai

2547. SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether over Rs. 1,000 crore in currency notes have gone down the drain during recent floods in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of currency notes damaged from currency chests of various commercial banks with the names of banks and value of damaged notes; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take for the safety of currency notes in future in the event of floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) During recent floods in Mumbai, around 78.5 million pieces of banknotes of various denominations amounting to Rs. 781.09 crores were damaged in some of the currency chests under the jurisdiction of Mumbai & Belapur Issue Circles. Details of currency notes damaged from currency chests of various commercial banks with the names of banks and value of damaged notes is given at statement enclosed.

(c) RBI restricts opening of new currency chests in flood prone-areas. It is being stipulated that Banks should submit a certificate from the qualified architect that the chests/strong room area is free from dampness/seepage and that a diesel pump should be installed to pump out water in case of emergency in the cases of opening of currency chests in the basements.

Statement***Flood-affected Banknotes in Mumbai/Belapur Issue Circles***

Banks	No. of affected banknotes	Value (Rs. in crores)
Mumbai Issue Circle		
Bank of Maharashtra, Thakurdwar	99,22,356	130.72
Bank of Maharashtra, Bandra East	82,45,400	113.41
Bank of India, B.K. Complex	21,43,300	14.61
Central Bank of India, Khemagar	37,51,600	57.61
State Bank of India, Kurla West	48,61,184	28.30
State Bank of India, Vile Parle West	69,07,557	94.84
Indian Bank, JVPD	1,26,89,704	84.83
Bank of India, Bandra West	18,66,000	18.17
Allahabad Bank, Bandra East	81,00,000	62.26
State Bank of India Bandra East	11,62,000	7.71
Dena Bank, JVPD	25,50,000	28.00
Total (A)	6,21,99,101	640.46
Belapur Issue Circle		
CBI CBD Belapur	1,08,55,800	102.77
SBI Mahad	8,96,000	9.22
Dena Bank, Kalamoli	44,85,000	27.39
SBI Mangaon	53,000	1.13
SBI Murbad	23,700	0.12
Total (B)	1,63,13,500	140.63
Grant Total (A+B)	7,85,12,601	781.09

*[Translation]***Interim Relief**

2548. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to enhance the limit of interim relief under the Textile

employees Rehabilitation Fund Scheme, set up to provide relief to the employees of the Textile mills closed after 1985;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of employees of textile mills given interim relief as on date from the beginning of the Rehabilitation Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) There is no scheme known as the Textile employees Rehabilitation Fund Scheme. However, under the Textile Worker's Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS), Government of India has enhanced the wage ceiling from Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3500/- retrospectively w.e.f. 1.4.1993 for coverage of textile workers of closed textile mills, subject to their being eligible as per the guidelines.

(c) Since inception, 76817 employees of 44 textile mills have been given interim relief as on 31.10.2005.

Utilization of Funds meant for Rural Housing

2549. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
 MOHD. SHAHID:
 SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
 SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has curtailed the 10th Five Year Plan outlay for housing in rural areas;

(b) if so, the percentage of amount curtailed in the allocation made for the year 2004-2005;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether allocation made for housing in rural areas has been utilized; and

(e) if so, the details of the progress made so far in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government has not curtailed the 10th Five Year Plan outlay for housing in rural areas. An amount of Rs. 8603.00 crore was approved by the Planning Commission for the 10th Five Year Plan in respect of Rural Housing. As against this, Rs. 8875.00 crore have already been allocated during the first four years of the 10th Five Year Plan, as per details given below:

		(Rs. in crore)
Year	Central allocation	
2002-2003	1725.00	
2003-2004	1900.00	
2004-2005	2500.00	
2005-2006	2750.00	

(d) and (e) State-wise details of allocation, Utilization and number of houses constructed for the last three years under the Indira Awaas Yojana are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

State-wise allocation (Central and State) utilisation and number of houses constructed/upgraded under the Indira Awaas Yojana during last three years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	2002-03					2003-04					2004-05				
		Allocation			Utilisation	Number of houses constructed/upgraded	Allocation			Utilisation	Number of houses constructed/upgraded	Allocation			Utilisation	Number of houses constructed/upgraded
Central	State matching Share	Total	Central	State matching Share			Total	Central	State matching Share			Total				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12070.22	4023.41	16093.63	20122.58	126837	13680.37	45546.46	18225.83	19463.50	105295	17981.83	5983.94	23975.77	24813.84	128039
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	588.92	188.97	759.89	685.38	3423	627.75	209.25	837.00	1215.89	6846	825.98	275.33	1101.31	850.76	4182
3.	Assam	12823.65	4274.55	17098.20	10433.82	65587	14124.59	4708.20	18832.79	14318.35	78752	18584.99	6195.00	24779.99	27941.87	129486

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
4.	Bihar	32787.84	10929.28	43717.12	29339.43	172524	37131.83	12377.28	49508.11	37422.41	183792	49846.34	16392.11	65128.45	58275.18	252028
5.	Chhattisgarh	2064.05	989.02	2752.07	2923.19	19255	2337.51	779.17	3116.89	3068.27	18302	3074.96	1024.99	4089.95	3982.75	20194
6.	Goa	77.98	25.99	103.97	49.80	269	88.32	29.44	117.76	83.26	233	116.18	39.73	154.91	194.82	428
7.	Gujarat	3468.85	1158.28	4625.13	5330.60	27053	3928.46	1309.49	5237.95	5817.24	31189	5167.82	1722.61	6890.43	7064.63	33654
8.	Haryana	1172.95	380.98	1563.93	1927.68	9840	1328.34	442.78	1771.12	1833.58	9175	1747.40	582.47	2329.87	2215.56	8845
9.	Himachal Pradesh	518.91	172.97	691.88	628.66	3413	587.66	195.89	783.55	696.12	3841	773.06	257.89	1090.75	1021.75	4749
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	620.72	206.91	827.63	911.35	5749	702.96	234.32	937.28	1253.69	8412	924.74	308.25	1232.99	1404.54	7252
11.	Jharkhand	9833.39	3211.13	12944.51	8084.81	40482	10909.67	3636.56	14548.23	11039.91	60290	14351.50	4783.83	19135.33	18031.16	66081
12.	Karnataka	6243.52	2801.17	8324.69	7502.49	42452	7070.71	2356.90	9427.61	8516.22	49833	9301.41	3100.47	12401.88	10360.19	50707
13.	Kerala	3868.97	1289.66	5158.63	4517.33	32107	4381.56	1460.52	5942.08	5767.37	39825	5763.87	1921.29	7985.16	7839.16	39831
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7202.92	2400.97	9903.89	10206.99	63691	8157.24	2719.08	10876.32	10734.48	65768	10730.71	3576.80	14307.81	13905.33	75365
15.	Maharashtra	11077.83	3892.61	14770.44	22637.13	85970	12545.56	4181.85	16727.41	22787.55	103135	18503.47	5501.16	22004.83	22673.85	105449
16.	Manipur	679.51	226.50	906.01	551.34	2571	748.47	249.49	997.86	286.30	1666	984.83	328.28	1313.11	885.17	5820
17.	Meghalaya	902.85	300.95	1203.80	741.83	3305	994.44	331.48	1325.92	1147.50	6465	1308.47	436.16	1744.83	1080.97	4665
18.	Mizoram	216.73	72.24	288.97	231.06	1305	238.73	79.58	318.31	390.72	2202	314.12	104.71	418.89	435.78	2052
19.	Nagaland	582.84	194.28	777.12	686.73	6698	641.95	213.98	855.93	826.19	5966	844.67	281.56	1126.23	716.11	5099
20.	Orissa	9718.97	3238.99	12955.98	80678.23	444889	11004.35	3888.12	14672.47	35728.98	154205	14476.04	4825.36	19901.99	22620.13	88991
21.	Punjab	777.80	259.90	1038.00	1029.10	5651	879.95	293.32	1173.27	1059.94	6050	1157.58	385.85	1543.41	880.79	4460
22.	Rajasthan	3273.08	1091.02	4384.08	4715.54	37592	3706.70	1235.57	4942.27	5274.69	41888	4876.10	1825.37	6901.47	6581.81	31070
23.	Sikkim	156.25	52.08	208.33	155.17	1149	172.10	57.37	229.47	308.97	2041	226.45	75.48	301.93	348.08	1584
24.	Tamil Nadu	6061.33	2020.44	8081.77	14446.87	62988	6964.39	2288.13	9152.52	11988.64	570969	9030.00	3010.00	12040.00	17892.31	59687
25.	Tripura	1318.25	439.42	1757.67	2050.88	10321	1451.97	483.99	1935.96	2748.89	15003	1910.49	636.63	2647.32	2797.54	12132
26.	Uttar Pradesh	22100.00	7366.67	29486.67	31225.28	177190	25028.00	8342.67	333760.67	34628.98	190950	32923.86	10974.63	43898.51	40536.06	199096
27.	Uttaranchal	2295.43	765.14	3060.57	2297.13	11799	2599.55	866.52	3466.07	3977.92	21666	3419.68	1139.89	4559.57	5579.45	26376
28.	West Bengal	13026.91	4342.30	17369.21	15188.82	86709	14752.84	4917.61	19670.45	15478.41	90801	19407.12	6469.04	25876.16	27296.38	150515
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	146.82	0.00	146.82	188.88	532	166.27	0.00	166.27	108.52	671	218.73	0.00	218.73	43.52	337
30.	Chandernagar	77.05	0.00	77.05	3.48	54	87.26	0.00	87.26	23.98	14	114.78	0.00	114.78	23.71	108
31.	Daman and Diu	31.89	0.00	31.89	8.24	48	36.12	0.00	36.12	0.72	7	47.51	0.00	47.51	2.08	9
32.	Lakshadweep	2.50	0.00	2.50	2.75	5	2.83	0.00	2.83	2.76	14	3.72	0.00	3.72	3.75	16
33.	Pondicherry	72.90	0.00	72.90	57.31	403	82.55	0.00	82.55	45.64	294	108.59	0.00	108.59	7.84	88
	Total	166840.00	55102.83	220742.83	279496.46	1548841	187050.00	62225.02	248275.02	298009.89	1381230	248007.00	81857.82	327824.92	328154.83	1516222

Note: The 'Utilization' includes the additional funds released under 5% IAY, opening balance from the previous year etc.

*[English]***Legal Professional for Vanished Companies**

2550. SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed legal professionals to fight the cases especially in regard to the vanished companies;

(b) if so, the details of such legal professionals appointment so far; and

(c) the further efforts being made to appoint more legal professionals to fight out these cases with a time bound programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Legal professionals are engaged in all the cases of prosecutions filed against the Vanishing Companies and their promoters/directors. These professionals are engaged from the panels' approved/maintained by the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice at various locations through out the country, as per requirement. Number of Vanishing Companies in which such legal professionals have been appointed are given as under:

(i) Northern Region	16
(ii) Eastern Region	3
(iii) Western Region	10
(iv) Southern Region	10

(c) Legal professionals are engaged to pursue these cases as per requirements. However, the Ministry has already issued instructions for engaging "Senior Government Counsels" in cases of companies having vanished after mobilising funds to the tune of Rs. 5.00 crore or above.

Core Banking Branches

2551. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of nationalized banks which have set up core banking branches;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to provide core banking facilities to all branches of nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) On the basis of available information, most of the nationalised banks have initiated the process of implementation of Core Banking solution. All the nationalised banks intend to cover most of their business through Core Banking Branches within a stipulated time-frame and efforts are being made to provide core banking facilities to all the branches where the basic infrastructure facilities such as leased lines and ISDN lines are available.

National Science and Research Foundation

2552. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to set up a world class National Science and Research Foundation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed foundation will be monitored by the Scientific Community on the lines of the National Science Fund of the United States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) A recommendation has been made by the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM) for setting up an autonomous National Science and Engineering Research Foundation on the lines of the National Science Foundation of USA.

Compensation Cases of Workers of Closed Mines

2553. SHRI M. SHIVANA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several mine workers of closed mines are yet to get compensation from the Government;

(b) if so, the number of these retrenched employees who are still to get relief; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) is the only public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Mines which has been closed. Out of 3580 employees on its rolls at the time of closure i.e. on 1.3.2001, 480 employees have taken voluntary retirement. As on date, there are 3100 ex-employees of BGML whose settlement is yet to be made. The Employees' Union challenged the closure orders before the High Court of Karnataka. After prolonged litigation, the Division Bench of Karnataka High Court in its order, dated 26.9.2003, upheld the winding-up/closure orders. The settlement package for the remaining employees is being worked out in the light of observations of the Hon'ble High Court.

Meeting with Chiefs of PSBs

2554. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had called for a meeting with Chiefs of the Public Sector Banks on 18th November, 2005 to discuss *inter-alia* strategy to be adopted to make their functioning competitive with sound financial base; and

(b) if so, the details of decision arrived therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Finance Minister met CEOs of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) on 18th November, 2005. The following major decisions were taken in the meeting:—

- (i) Expeditious merger of RRBs,
- (ii) Enhancing flow of credit to agriculture and greater lending to the 'tenant farmers',
- (iii) Enhancement of targets for credit linking of Self Help Group (SHGs),
- (iv) Bankers to be proactive in relief measures for earthquake victims of J&K,

(v) Bankers to ensure 'zero error' system in On Line Tax Accounting System (OLTAS),

(vi) Keeping in view the Basel II prescriptions, the banks to assess and prepare for Capital Adequacy.

(vii) The PSBs should ensure that fresh slippages do not exceed 1% of Gross NPAs. Further, PSBs to take expeditious steps to clear smaller NPA accounts with outstanding of less than Rs. 25,000/-.

(viii) PSBs have been requested to continue to deepen the dialogue with the employees and officers to obtain a consensus in favour of consolidation of PSBs.

(ix) To provide banking services to all segments of the people, particularly the poor, the PSBs have been advised to adopt innovative methods to extend their services to uncovered areas and people.

(x) PSBs to take measures for stepping up of credit to SMEs.

[Translation]

Pending Loan Application under PMRY

2555. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for grant of loans in various banks under Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojna in the country, during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for early disposal of such applications by these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Applications pending are carried forward to the next programme year. The State-wise details of pending applications under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during 2004-2005 is enclosed as Statement.

(b) The following steps have been taken to ensure early clearance of pending applications:

- (i) Time frames have been laid down for receiving applications from the District Industry Centres (DICs) by banks and thereafter sanction and disbursement of loans by banks.

- (ii) Banks have been instructed to dispose of applications for loans upto Rs. 25000 within 2 weeks and upto Rs. 2 lakh within 4 weeks, provided the loan applications are complete in all respects.
- (iii) Banks have been asked to issue No dues Certificate whenever required, within 15 days, other-wise it is deemed to have been issued.
- (iv) Discussions are held by the concerned nodal Departments with the bank branches in Block Level Bankers' Committee (BLBC) meetings to ensure early sanction of pending applications.
- (v) Regular review meetings are held at District and State Levels to monitor the progress of these schemes.

Statement

State-wise details of pending applications under PMRY scheme as on 31.3.2005

Name of the States/UTs	Pending applications
1	2
Haryana	71
Himachal Pradesh	0
Jammu & Kashmir	15
Punjab	66
Rajasthan	2106
Chandigarh	63
Delhi	378
Assam	1614
Manipur	180
Meghalaya	108
Nagaland	142
Tripura	207
Arunachal Pradesh	59
Mizoram	57
Sikkim	33

1	2
Bihar	684
Jharkhand	424
Orissa	1851
West Bengal	1481
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	106
Madhya Pradesh	1509
Chhattisgarh	108
Uttar Pradesh	2480
Uttaranchal	488
Gujarat	401
Maharashtra	8442
Daman and Diu	0
Goa	1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4
Andhra Pradesh	12367
Karnataka	0
Kerala	1532
Tamil Nadu	2600
Lakshadweep	0
Pondicherry	67
Not Specified	154
All India	39798

[English]

Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana

2556. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal on languishing Crafts for implementation under Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) scheme on Artistic Textiles, Jute and Mirijim Crafts for the benefit of rural artisans in North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the projects submitted during the last three years from Assam, and other NER, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of the Artistic Textiles, Jute, Mirijim crafts mentioned above, only Mirijim craft is a languishing craft. A proposal has been received

for this craft under AHVY from the State of Assam only, which is under consideration.

(c) The projects submitted under AHVY are examined at various levels and considered for sanction based on merit of the proposals. Out of the total 178 projects submitted by various agencies from Assam & other NER States during the last three years, 34 have been sanctioned on merit. The state-wise details are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of Project Submitted			Number of Project Sanctioned		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	3	1	—	2	—
2.	Assam	4	34	20	—	7	7
3.	Manipur	39	23	15	—	2	2
4.	Meghalaya	2	—	2	—	—	—
5.	Mizoram	1	1	1	—	—	1
6.	Nagaland	9	2	7	—	2	3
7.	Sikkim	—	1	—	—	1	—
8.	Tripura	7	2	4	1	3	3
Total		62	66	50	1	17	16

All the above sanctioned projects are on-going projects.

Vaidyanathan Report

2557. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Federation of State Co-operative Banks (NAFSCOB) has submitted any memorandum objecting certain recommendations of the Vaidyanathan panel Report; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestions and observations of National Federation of State Cooperative Banks have been

considered and a revised package has been drafted based on consultation with all States/Union Territories, for implementation.

Promotion to Mulberry Farming

2558. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to promote mulberry farming;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote the interest of the mulberry farmers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of important steps taken for the development of mulberry sericulture in different States are as under:

1. Catalytic Development Programme:

The Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing the Catalytic Development Programme during X Plan in collaboration with different State Governments. Under the Catalytic Development Programme a provision of Rs. 181.00 crores has been made for providing assistance to sericulturists in the form of subsidy/incentive to encourage them to adopt improved technology aiming towards improvement in quality and productivity. During the last three years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, CSB has released/spent Rs. 43.87 crores, Rs. 39.23 crores and Rs. 48.44 crores to different States for the development of sericulture. The state-wise details of release of funds are furnished in Statement-I enclosed.

2. State Specific Projects:

Following projects are under implementation in different States for the development of mulberry sericulture:

- (i) Cluster Development Project in Kerala, Bihar, Mizoram and Maharashtra;
- (ii) Bivoltine Sericulture Technology Development Project with the assistance of Japanese International Co-operation Agency in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu;
- (iii) Manipur Sericulture Project with the assistance of Japanese Bank for International Cooperation;
- (iv) Special Swamajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) for the development of mulberry in Mizoram; and
- (v) Micro projects for the development of mulberry sericulture in Uttaranchal.

Status of mulberry silk produced in different states during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 is given at Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Funds released under Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) during last three years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

(lakh Rs.)

Sl.No.	State	2002-03 Fund Released	2003-04 Fund Released	2004-05 Fund Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Karnataka	1506.05	764.24	825.38
2.	Tamilnadu	62.32	152.33	166.58
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	260.14	313.61	262.84
4.	Andhra Pradesh	1505.86	878.68	1203.59
5.	West Bengal	65.41	48.47	112.63
6.	Maharashtra	92.22	104.48	50.80
7.	Madhya Pradesh	52.59	74.92	79.63
8.	Orissa	50.62	82.29	24.32
9.	Bihar	106.27	38.30	88.99

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Uttar Pradesh	22.86	52.91	92.05
11.	Kerala	38.49	82.30	106.32
12.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.39
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1.45	349.62	308.41
14.	Chhattisgarh	12.13	125.23	156.35
15.	Jharkhand	103.35	83.77	—
16.	Uttaranchal	213.41	112.30	117.43
17.	Sikkim	15.16	16.45	43.27
18.	Assam	119.03	315.28	442.21
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.62	48.79	88.63
20.	Manipur	0.05	24.00	67.24
21.	Meghalaya	33.11	87.39	173.19
22.	Mizoram	84.49	106.97	141.71
23.	Nagaland	2.49	32.31	106.45
24.	Tripura	36.56	28.01	185.73
Total		4386.68	3922.65	4844.14

Statement II

State	Mulberry Production (M.T.)	
	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	6054.00	5084.00
Jammu & Kashmir	85.00	90.00
Karnataka	5949.00	7301.90
Tamil Nadu	285.00	443.00
West Bengal	1453.00	1520.09
Sub-Total (a)	13826.00	14438.99
Non-Traditional States		
Assam	8.00	9.00

1	2	3
Arunachal Pradesh	—	Neg.
Bihar	6.00	8.00
Chhattisgarh	1.00	2.30
Gujarat	No sericulture	
Himachal Pradesh	12.00	12.00
Haryana	—	—
Jharkhand	—	Neg.
Kerala	4.00	8.00
Madhya Pradesh	9.00	14.00
Maharashtra	42.00	37.00
Manipur	27.00	54.00
Mizoram	5.00	5.00
Meghalaya	2.00	2.50
Nagaland	—	0.50
Orissa	2.00	2.00
Punjab	4.00	4.00
Rajasthan	—	0.30
Sikkim	—	—
Tripura	4.00	4.00
Uttaranchal	9.00	9.00
Uttar Pradesh	9.00	9.50
Sub-Total (b)	144.00	181.10
Grand-Total (a+b)	13970.00	14620.09

Outsourcing of Textile Products

2559. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI RAO:

(a) whether the overseas retailers have stepped up outsourcing of textile products from India by striking large export orders with Indian textile companies for the seasons beginning from January, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(c) whether the Indian companies are getting huge export orders for those products for which Chinese

companies face a ban from the United States and the European Union;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the percentage of increase in textile export is expected for the next session?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) After the abolishing of quota system from 01.01.2005, Indian textile exporters have more opportunities for exports in international market. China is major competitor of India in international market in textile sector. Therefore, Indian textile companies will get benefited on those products for which Chinese companies face a ban from the United States and the European Union. The company-wise details of the export order is not centrally maintained.

(e) As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data (provisional), the exports of textile products was US\$ 13039 million during 2004-05. The export target for textile sector for 2005-06 is US\$ 15160 showing an increase of about 16 percentage.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification in Chhattisgarh

2560. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide more than 40 per cent grants keeping in view the topography of Chhattisgarh for electrification of 37 villages located in the remotest and forest areas of the State through non-conventional energy sources; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Under its Remote Village Electrification Programme, the Ministry provides a Central Financial Assistance of upto 90% of the project costs subject to laid down benchmarks, for electrification through non-conventional energy sources, of those unelectrified,

remote census villages, where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective. This rate of Central Financial Assistance is applicable for all the States and Union Territories including the state of Chhattisgarh. No proposal of Chhattisgarh for electrification of villages through non-conventional energy sources is pending with the Ministry.

[English]

Insurance for Mobile Handsets

2561. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Insurance Co. Ltd. (NIC) and Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. (OIC) have suffered heavy losses in the issue of Special Contingency Policies (SCP) on mobile handsets during 2002-05 in the favour of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of losses suffered by OIC;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether C&AG has recommended investigation into the issue of SCPs and for taking departmental and legal action; and

(f) if so, action taken on the recommendation of the C&AG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) National Insurance Co. (NIC) granted cover to M/s Reliance Infocomm for mobile handsets in December 2002 and default liability insurance in June 2003. Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. (OIC) granted only default liability insurance to M/s Reliance Infocomm in August 2003. Towards these policies, the NIC and OIC have paid Rs. 145.56 crores and Rs. 28.13 crores respectively against the total incurred claims of Rs. 241.70 Crores and Rs. 32.00 crores respectively. The details of premium, incurred claims and claims paid for Reliance Infocomm Policies during 2003-05 are furnished below.

(Rs. in crores)

	Handset Insurance			Default Liability		
	Premium	Incurred claims	Claims paid	Premium	Incurred Claims	Claims paid
NIC	29.49	89.36	24.95	60.43	152.34	120.61
OIC				17.03	32.00	28.13

(c) to (f) C&AG, in their report No. 4 of 2005, has recommended that the matter needs to be investigated thoroughly and appropriate departmental action taken. National Insurance Co. Ltd (NIC) has reported that its Vigilance Department, in co-ordination with, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has investigated the matter and has issued a chargesheet against one employee and is in the process of issuing chargesheets against three other employees also. Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd (OIC) has reported that since the policy was issued with the approval of Head Office without any mala fide intention, there is no need for any investigation. However, OIC had received a query from CVC which was replied by the company. Subsequently, there has been no communication from CVC till date.

External Loans to Kerala

2562. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has rejected the proposal of the Government of Kerala for taking external loans; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The status of projects received from Government of Kerala recently is as given below:

- (i) Kerala Health System Development Project—Kerala has been a debt stressed State and under the guidelines issued by Government of India, such States are discouraged from taking recourse to additional external borrowings due to debt sustainability concerns. It has been indicated to the State Government that if they feel that the Project as submitted by them should be given higher priority, then they may substitute

or waive any other source of borrowing that has been agreed upon, and use that space to borrow funds for the Health System Project and also address the fiscal situation and bring it to a sustainable level, for taking up other project proposals with the external agencies.

- (ii) Modernizing Government Programme (MGP)-II: In view of Kerala being a debt stressed State taking a relatively high cost ADB loan for the non-infrastructure MGP-II was not considered.
- (iii) Concept Note on 'Strengthening Local Government in Kerala' as the same is already covered in the ADB assisted 'Kerala Modernizing Government and Fiscal Reforms Programme' which is under implementation.

Sale of Konark Jute Mill

2563. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sold the Konark Jute Mill in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the selling rate of the said mill;

(d) whether the Jute Mill has been sold at throw away price; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Union of India has no stake in Konark Jute Mill, Orissa. Hence the question of selling its stake does not arise.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana

2564. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments including Government of Karnataka have sought financial assistance under Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana for the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon by the Union Government;

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the present status of proposals forwarded for establishment of Apparel Parks in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir. The schemes of the Government for promotion & development of handicrafts including Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) do not envisage any direct assistance to the State Governments. These schemes are being implemented throughout the country as grant-in-aid schemes through Implementing Agencies like State Handicrafts Development Corporations/ Apex Societies & NGOs etc.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) An Apparel Park at Bangalore, Karnataka has been sanctioned by the Government of India with assistance of Rs. 17.00 crores.

[Translation]

Pollution in DVC

2565. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution is spreading in the nearby areas due to the fly ash emitting from Bokaro Thermal Power Station and Damodar Valley Corporation;

(b) if so, whether work to remove the fly ash and make the area pollution free is not being done as per the tender and pollution related serious problems have arisen in people;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken by any effective steps for checking the said pollution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. As per the Performance Guarantee test on the three units of Bokaro Thermal Power Station (BTPS), after installation of additional Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs), pollution was found to be within the permissible limit of 150 mg/Nm prescribed by Pollution Control Board. The details on installation of ESPs and Performance Guarantee Test at three units of BTPS are as under;

Unit	Date of installation of ESP	Date of Performance Guarantee Test
I.	30.06.2005	05.09.2005
II.	16.11.2005	24.11.2005
III.	17.03.2004	13.01.2005

Ambient air quality and effluents are regularly monitored by Central Mining Research Institute, which are stated to be within the prescribed limit of Pollution Control Board.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

NABARD Assistance for Agricultural Projects

2566. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bank of India has tied up with NABARD for funding some agricultural projects;

(b) if so, the States where these projects are located;

(c) whether any such agricultural projects, in Madhya Pradesh are funded by NABARD on the recommendation of Bank of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far, the Bank of India has jointly financed one dairy project in Maharashtra State, whose area of operation spreads over Karnataka and Maharashtra States.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No projects have been co-financed in the State of Madhya Pradesh as no project from that State has been sponsored so far by Commercial Banks, including Bank of India.

Research Vessel

2567. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to acquire state-of-art research vessel for ocean research;

(b) if so, the estimated cost, the amount sanctioned for the same and its main functions thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to acquire the state-of-art research vessel for ocean research by September, 2007. The revised estimated cost of the acquisition of vessel is Rs. 230.72 crores. The vessel will be utilized for various technology demonstrations programmes like deep sea mining, demonstration of remotely operated vehicle, autonomous underwater vehicle and oceanographic surveys.

Package for Textile Sector

2568. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up a textile package for Gujarat or any other State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this textile package will be released;

(d) whether such kind of package has also been considered for the most backward and cash-strapped States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Special Rehabilitation Cells for SSI

2569. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have directed all public sector banks to set up Special Rehabilitation Cells for Small Scale industries Sector;

(b) if so, the guidelines issued in this regard;

(c) whether all banks have complied with the directives;

(d) if not, the names of the defaulting banks; and

(e) the action the Union Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Pending Drinking Water Proposals

2570. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for providing drinking water in villages under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP);

(b) the details of drinking water schemes including Swajaldhara being implemented in each State of the country, location-wise;

(c) the share of State as well as Union Government for funding of such schemes during the last three years and current year, Scheme-wise;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposals from certain States particularly Uttaranchal during the said period for supply of drinking water in villages;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of proposals out of them cleared so far alongwith the villages covered/to be covered thereunder, State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken to clear the pending proposals without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The

1. Coverage	50% Centre and 50% State
2. Quality and Sustainability	75% Centre and 25% State
3. Operation and Maintenance	50% Centre and 50% State
4. Calamity Relief	100% Centre
5. Swajaldhara	90% Centre and 10% Community Contribution
6. *Prime Minister's programmes	90% Centre and 10% Community Contribution
*This programme was for two year (2003-04 & 2004-05)	
7. Desert Development Programme (DDP)	100% Centre

(d) to (f) State Governments are empowered to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural water supply schemes; and such proposals do not require clearance from Central level. Hence, there is no question of pendency of proposals at Central level.

[English]

Global Positioning System

2571. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

criteria fixed for providing drinking water in villages under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) is as under:

- 40 liters per capita per day (lpcd) of safe drinking water for human beings.
- 30 lpcd additional for cattle in the Desert Development Programme Areas.
- One hand-pump or stand post for every 250 persons.
- The water source should exist within 1.6 km in the plains and within 100 mtrs. elevation in the hilly areas.

(b) The Central Government provides assistance to the States under ARWSP for rural water supply based on a laid down criterion, but the details of schemes taken up for implementation are not maintained at Central Level.

(c) The share of Centre and State under various components of ARWSP during the last three years and current year has been as under:—

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Seismic and Global Positioning System (GPS) Monitoring work in Chennai and other parts of the country;

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

(c) the amount earmarked for the above projects; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India Meteorological Department (IMD) is setting up a 17-station Real Time Seismic Monitoring Network as a part of the Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in Indian Ocean being set up by Government of India. Each station will be equipped with seismic and Global Positioning System (GPS) sensors with facility to transmit the data through satellite to a Central Receiving Station at New Delhi (IMD) and Hyderabad (Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Department of Ocean Development) for real time processing and interpretation.

The location of the field stations are: Bhuj, Bhopal, Chennai, Bokaro, Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, Visakhapatnam, Shillong, Goa, Dehradun, Shimla, Port Blair, Diglipur, Campbell Bay, Minicoy, Dharamasala and Hyderabad.

(c) An amount of Rs. 12 crores has been earmarked for the above project.

(d) It is expected that the equipments will be received by March, 2006 and installed shortly thereafter.

[Translation]

Committee on Review of Poverty Alleviation Programmes

2572. SHRI AJIT JOGI;
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA;
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute any committee to review the poverty alleviation schemes/programmes being implemented by different States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to eradicate poverty and rural unemployment within a period of ten years;

(d) if so, the present status of extent of poverty and rural unemployment in the country, State-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the schemes/programmes meant for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Review of rural poverty alleviation schemes/programmes is a continuous process. Recently in the Mid-term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007), the Planning Commission reviewed major anti-poverty programmes. At the time of formulation of Five Year Plans also, various Steering Committees and Working Groups are set up to review the poverty alleviation programmes and to suggest ways for improving the efficacy of the programmes.

(c) The Tenth Plan has established specific and monitorable targets for a few key indicators of Human Development, which include reduction of poverty ratio by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012.

(d) According to the information given by the Planning Commission, a Table showing unemployment rates and percentage of population Below Poverty Line (BPL) in rural areas in selected States (1999-2000) is enclosed as Statement.

(e) With a view to improve the implementation process in more effective manner, the Ministry has evolved a comprehensive multi-level and multi-tool system of monitoring and evaluation for the implementation of its programmes, which include Review by Union Ministers with Chief Ministers and other State Ministers concerned with the programmes of the Ministry, Area Officer's Scheme, Field Visits by State Officials for monitoring of programmes, District Level Monitoring, monitoring by the National Level Monitors, Periodical Progress Reports, Concurrent and Evaluation Studies, Impact Assessment Studies. Besides, appropriate objectively verifiable performance indicators have been developed for each of the specific programme, both by the Ministry of Rural Development and the State authorities for effective programme monitoring at the District, Block, Gram Panchayat and Village levels.

Statement**Unemployment Rates* and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line in Rural Areas in Selected States, 1999-2000**

States/UTs	Percentage of persons Below poverty line Rural	Unemployment Rate* (%) Rural
Andhra Pradesh	11.05	8.1
Assam	40.04	7.4
Bihar	44.30	7.0
Gujarat	13.17	4.7
Haryana	8.27	4.8
Himachal pradesh	7.94	2.5
Karnataka	17.38	4.3
Kerala	9.38	21.7
Madhya Pradesh	37.06	3.8
Maharashtra	23.72	6.6
Orissa	48.01	7
Punjab	6.35	3.7
Rajasthan	13.74	2.8
Tamil Nadu	20.55	13.5
Uttar Pradesh	31.22	3.6
West Bengal	31.85	16.9
Delhi	0.4	4.9
All India	27.09	7.2

*On current Daily Status basis.

[English]

APDRP

2573. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has carried out a review to expedite the works under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP);

(b) if so, the details of the progress of each scheme launched under the name of APDRP;

(c) whether these schemes have been targeted to be completed in the year 2007;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total number of schemes completed so far till date;

(e) whether said schemes are not being completed due to paucity of funds; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the total amount targeted to be spent on these projects by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) All State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Utilities are required to submit monthly progress report in respect of progress of execution of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) schemes, funds utilization etc. In addition, the Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (Power), Ministry of Power and State Level Distribution Reforms Committee, reviews the progress of works under APDRP and proper utilization of funds released under APDRP from time to time. Secretary (Power) and other senior officers of the Ministry of Power also reviews the progress of the schemes sanctioned during their visit to the States and convening meetings with the States/SEBs/Utilities officers. In the review meetings, the reasons for slow progress are identified and States are requested to take remedial measures to speed up implementation of APDRP schemes.

(b) to (d) The schemes sanctioned under APDRP have a project implementation period ranging from 24 months to 36 months excluding the time required for calling tenders and processing for award. So far 28 schemes have been completed and 21 schemes completed more than 90%. Details of the progress of each scheme sanctioned under APDRP is enclosed as Statement.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The actual level of funding in APDRP is through budgetary support on a yearly basis and based on the need and utilization of funds.

*Statement**Details of the progress of each scheme sanctioned under APDRP*

Sl.No.	Name of ST&D Scheme	Scheme Cost	Scheme approved date	%age of work completion	Total Utilization
1	2	3	4	5	6
Non-Special Category States					
Andhra Pradesh (101)		1460.36		64%	933.22
1.	Hyderabad Circle	307.27	25-Sep-02	32%	98.60
2.	Hindupur	4.62		91%	4.20
3.	Guntakal	3.53		87%	3.06
4.	Dharamvaram	3.25		90%	2.93
5.	Tadipatri	3.34		88%	2.94
6.	Kadiri	2.17		90%	1.95
7.	Rayadurgam	1.09		86%	0.94
8.	Kukatpally	14.05		92%	12.87
9.	Mahbubnagar	5.52		67%	3.71
10.	Gadowal	1.73		91%	1.58
11.	Waanaparthi	1.68		80%	1.35
12.	Narayanpet	1.38		77%	1.06
13.	Miryalguda	2.26		95%	2.14
14.	Medak	1.49	20-Nov-02	76%	1.14
15.	Siddipet	4.16		78%	3.25
16.	Sangareddy	1.92		66%	1.26
17.	Zaheerabad	1.64		81%	1.33
18.	Sadasivapet	1.54		78%	1.20
19.	Naigonda	5.21		84%	4.38
20.	Suryapet	3.41		80%	2.72
21.	Bhongir	2.27		83%	1.89
22.	Qutbullapur	22.89		75%	17.25
23.	L B Nagar	11.51		81%	9.34

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Malkajgiri	4.77		83%	3.94
25.	Shairlingampally	8.78		75%	6.62
26.	Kapra	8.59		87%	7.46
27.	Rajendranga	9.52		70%	6.66
28.	Uppal	16.84		67%	11.34
29.	Tandur	4.20		85%	3.59
30.	Vikarabad	2.29		59%	1.34
31.	Anantpur	20.11	20-Nov-02	68%	13.61
32.	Kurnool	13.96		84%	11.68
33.	Adoni	4.14		77%	3.20
34.	Yemmiganuru	1.70		88%	1.50
35.	Nandial	15.61		59%	9.21
36.	Eluru Circle	211.79	16-Jul-02	55%	116.38
37.	Kakinada Town	20.47		56%	11.53
38.	Rajamundry Town	23.74		61%	14.45
39.	Tuni Town	1.49		67%	1.00
40.	Alampuram Town	4.84		65%	3.16
41.	Samalkot Town	1.90		81%	1.53
42.	Pithapuram Town	1.20		56%	0.67
43.	Peddapuram Town	3.88		61%	2.36
44.	Mandapeta Town	3.65		57%	2.08
45.	RC Puram, Town	2.72		83%	2.27
46.	Srikakulam Town	6.12		53%	3.23
47.	Palasa Town	1.80	20-Nov-02	72%	3.23
48.	Amadalavalasa Town	0.76		90%	0.68
49.	Ittchatnam Town	1.02		73%	0.74
50.	Vishakapatnam Town	52.81		62%	32.76
51.	Anakapalli	4.28		79%	3.37
52.	Bhijmli	0.44		89%	0.39

1	2	3	4	5	6
53.	Vijaynagar	9.29		45%	4.20
54.	Bobili Town	1.76		61%	1.08
55.	Parvatipuram Town	1.48		55%	0.82
56.	Saluru Town	1.57		59%	0.93
57.	Warangal Circle	116.48	16-Jul-02	84%	97.66
58.	Nizamabad	4.89		89%	4.36
59.	Ramagundam	4.90		81%	3.99
60.	Karimanagar	4.91		86%	4.24
61.	Khamam	4.77	25-Sep-02	93%	4.42
62.	Adilabad	4.46		83%	3.69
63.	Mancherial	3.71		64%	2.39
64.	Kophagudum	4.27		67%	2.85
65.	Jagital	3.89		88%	3.41
66.	Nirmal	3.87		82%	3.16
67.	Bodhan	3.37		96%	3.23
68.	Palvonacha	3.24		74%	2.39
69.	Bellampathy	1.55		79%	1.23
70.	Mandamary	0.95	25-Sep-02	83%	0.79
71.	Kamareddy	3.00		87%	2.62
72.	Sirpurkagh	1.53		80%	1.23
73.	Kotutal	1.35		96%	1.29
74.	Ellundu	2.26		69%	1.56
75.	Bhainsa	1.23		85%	1.05
76.	Tirupati Circle	251.42	16-Jul-02	82%	205.19
77.	Cudappa	6.68		100%	6.68
78.	Prodaatur	5.87		100%	5.87
79.	Guntur	21.53		74%	15.97
80.	Tenalli	7.12		89%	6.37
81.	Narasaraopeta	3.99		100%	3.99

1	2	3	4	5	6
82.	Chilakalurpeta	2.93		104%	3.05
83.	Sattenapalli	2.12		105%	2.23
84.	Bapatla	2.57	20-Nov-02	104%	2.68
85.	Mangalgi	2.69		100%	2.69
86.	Kunoor	2.56		102%	2.61
87.	Macheri	1.91		105%	2.00
88.	Repalletown	2.62		87%	2.28
89.	Nellore	13.56		101%	13.69
90.	Kavalli	2.35		105%	2.47
91.	Gudur	1.83		105%	1.92
92.	Markapur	2.07		100%	2.07
93.	Kandukuru	2.26		101%	2.28
94.	Vijayawada	23.61		62%	14.58
95.	Jaggipetah	1.84	20-Nov-02	100%	1.84
96.	Machellipatanam	6.53		92%	5.99
97.	Gudivada	4.21		86%	3.60
98.	Nuzividu	3.11		100%	3.11
99.	IT pilot for 1 circle each of 4 DISCOMs	12.90		0%	0.00
100.	Kuppam Concentrated area	6.80	20-May-03	25%	1.70
101.	Kuppam other area	15.20		44%	6.65
Biher (15)		854.05		26%	219.55
102.	PESU (East) Circle	41.87		60%	25.12
103.	Patna Circle	44.28	16-Jul-02	66%	29.03
104.	Muzzaffarpur Circle	60.53		63%	37.84
105.	PESU (West) Circle	81.70		7%	5.33
106.	Gaya Circle	80.35		17%	13.53
107.	Bhagalpur Circle	35.61		31%	10.97
108.	Chapra Circle	72.40	25-Sep-02	23%	16.90

1	2	3	4	5	6
109.	Darbhanga Circle	59.86		41%	24.53
110.	Rohtas Circle	72.82		30%	21.85
111.	Sahasra Circle	43.41		18%	7.68
112.	Purnea Circle	66.08		21%	13.93
113.	Add. Metering for PESU (E), Patna & Muzzaffarpur	81.02	20-Nov-02	9%	7.00
114.	Darbhanga, Ph-II	30.28		12%	3.58
115.	DMS/SCADA for PESU (W)	20.40	20-May-03	11%	2.26
116.	Munger Circle	63.44	20-Sep-04	0%	
Chhattisgarh (07)		407.70		33%	133.28
117.	Bilaspur Circle	125.82		30%	38.00
118.	Raipur Circle	143.14	16-July-02	36%	51.23
119.	Rajnandgaon Circle	59.07		35%	20.89
120.	Durg City	13.33		36%	4.76
121.	Bhillai City	15.81	20-Nov-02	22%	3.42
122.	Raipur City	47.20		32%	14.98
123.	Jagdalpur	3.33			
Delhi (08)		922.61		94%	863.23
124.	East Delhi (BYPL)	136.14	25-Sep-02	93%	264.05
125.	West Delhi (BRPL)	146.56			
126.	South Delhi (BRPL)	178.81	20-Nov-02	95%	171.02
127.	Central Delhi (BYPL)	148.10		82%	121.91
128.	North-West Delhi (BYPL)	185.19	25-Sep-02	100%	184.40
129.	North & N-West Delhi (NDPL)	128.00	20-Nov-02	95%	121.85
Goa (07)		294.01		33%	96.55
130.	North Goa Circle	59.67	16-Jul-02	58%	34.63
131.	South Goa Circle	51.29	25-Sep-02	42%	21.46
132.	North Goa Ph-II	30.34		13%	4.00
133.	South Goa Ph-II	26.65		15%	4.09

1	2	3	4	5	6
134.	Margao town	32.79	20-Nov-02	50%	16.52
135.	Panjim town	35.47		45%	15.85
136.	Improvement in North & South Goa	57.80	20-Sep-04	0%	0.00
Gujarat (13)		1083.22		62%	673.15
137.	Jamnagar Circle	92.88		68%	63.29
138.	Himmatnagar Circle	59.20	16-Jul-02	70%	41.25
139.	Sabarmati Circle	71.31		61%	43.22
140.	Kutch/Bhuj Circle	102.49		53%	54.52
141.	Bharuch Circle	48.08		42%	20.12
142.	Valsad Circle	54.46		65%	35.65
143.	Surat Circle	120.75		58%	69.98
144.	Baroda Circle	59.26	25-Sep-02	84%	42.38
145.	Junagarh Circle	45.65		70%	32.09
146.	Bhavnagar Circle	69.11		51%	35.39
147.	Baroda City (SCADA)	30.38	20-Sep-04	0%	0.00
148.	Surag Elec. Co. (1)	136.17	20-Nov-02	59%	80.00
149.	Ahmedabad Elec. Co. (1)	202.48		77%	155.26
Haryana (18)		431.95		49%	210.91
150.	Karnal Circle	97.79		57%	55.26
151.	Sonepat circle	27.57	16-Jul-02	75%	20.57
152.	Gohana	2.75	20-May-03	104%	2.87
153.	Yamunanagar & Jagadhari	12.02		31%	3.78
154.	Thanesar	7.70		18%	1.41
155.	Kaithel	3.39	20-Nov-02	20%	0.69
156.	Ambala	15.47		33%	5.06
157.	Rohtak	16.80		25%	4.24
158.	Bahadurgarh	10.35		31%	3.16

1	2	3	4	5	6
159.	Hissar Circle	76.04	16-Jul-02	47%	35.81
160.	Faridabad Circle	118.02		42%	49.65
161.	Narnual (Rewari)	6.34		63%	4.00
162.	Bhiwani	7.45		67%	5.01
163.	Sirsa	9.91		52%	5.15
164.	Hansi	1.72	20-Nov-02	100%	1.72
165.	Hissar-II	7.38		64%	4.70
166.	Fatehabad	5.49		67%	3.68
167.	Tohana	5.76		72%	4.15
Jharkhand (08)		423.65		32%	136.90
168.	Ranchi Circle	108.75		42%	45.80
169.	Hazaribagh Circle	92.08	16-Jul-02	16%	14.39
170.	Dumka Circle	60.58		8%	5.06
171.	Jamshedpur, Ghatella	52.63		59%	31.06
172.	Dhanbad	47.14	20-Nov-02	42%	19.72
173.	Deogarh	8.88		48%	4.23
174.	Katras, Chas, Jharia	22.92	20-Nov-02	26%	6.06
175.	Daltonganj, Garwa, Lathehar	30.67		34%	10.58
Karnataka (35)		1186.31		67%	798.69
176.	Belgaum Circle	146.31		60%	116.45
177.	Bijapur Circle	119.11	16-Jul-02	78%	92.45
178.	Hubli Circle	239.74	25-Sep-02	72%	173.02
179.	Mysore Circle	153.91	16-July-02	62%	96.15
180.	Hassan	10.54	25-Sep-02	11%	1.11
181.	Shimoga	1.92		0%	0.00
182.	Bhadrawathi	1.07		0%	0.00
183.	Sagar	0.67	20-Sep-04	0%	0.00
184.	Chikkamangalur	1.78		0%	0.00
185.	Holenarasipura	0.29		0%	0.00
186.	Mangalore	17.34		6%	1.08

1	2	3	4	5	6
187.	Udupi	8.85		0%	0.00
188.	Gulbarga & Bidar	58.65	25-Sep-02	63%	36.85
189.	Raichur	13.56		42%	5.75
190.	Shahabad	1.32	20-Sep-04	0%	0.00
191.	Robertson Pet	7.76		30%	2.32
192.	Tumkur	16.22		67%	10.92
193.	Bangalore Circle	338.30	25-Sep-02	76%	258.06
194.	Davangere (Town)	9.93		46%	4.53
195.	Anekal	5.47		0%	0.00
196.	Chandapura	6.01	20-Sep-04	0%	0.00
197.	Chitradurga	2.67		0%	0.00
198.	Chikballapur	1.50		0%	0.00
199.	Doddballapura	2.63		0%	0.00
200.	Ramanagara	1.19		0%	0.00
201.	Bangarpet	1.93	20-Sep-04	0%	0.00
202.	Harihar	0.70		0%	0.00
203.	Channapatna	0.68		0%	0.00
204.	Chintamani	1.77		0%	0.00
205.	Hosepet town	2.38		0%	0.00
206.	Baswakalyan town	1.18		0%	0.00
207.	Belary town	6.47		0%	0.00
208.	Koppal town	0.98	23-Mar-05	0%	0.00
209.	Yadgir town	1.82		0%	0.00
210.	Ganavathi town	1.66		0%	0.00
Kerala (52)		863.63		30%	261.80
211.	Kasargod Circle	36.94		93%	34.22
212.	Manjeri Circle	68.10	16-Jul-02	100%	68.10
213.	Pathanmathitta Circle	43.20		92%	39.70

1	2	3	4	5	6
214.	Thiruvananthapuram	30.09		67%	20.04
215.	Kollam	15.75		62%	9.77
216.	Cochin	60.00		63%	38.00
217.	Kozhikkode	14.69	20-Nov-02	77%	11.28
218.	Kannur	18.47		42%	7.74
219.	Thalassary	11.77		28%	3.24
220.	Alappuzha	9.96		86%	8.56
221.	Neyyatinkara	2.99		27%	0.81
222.	Mavellikara	3.30		10%	0.34
223.	Sherthala	2.48		21%	0.51
224.	Chengannur	4.35		8%	0.36
225.	Kottayam	2.77		20%	0.55
226.	Thodupuzha	5.06		15%	0.76
227.	Palakkad	6.54	20-Sep-04	14%	0.91
228.	Shomur	2.32		3%	0.06
229.	Payannur	3.18		10%	0.32
230.	Ottapalam	2.48		2%	0.06
231.	Punalur	5.63		18%	1.02
232.	Kayamkulam	6.56		5%	0.31
233.	Thrippunithura	3.95		24%	0.94
234.	Aluva	5.17		12%	0.64
235.	Angamaly	5.22		7%	0.34
236.	Kalamassery	3.04		17%	0.52
237.	North Paravoor	4.12		14%	0.58
238.	Perumbavoor	5.35		4%	0.24
239.	Muvattupuzha- kothamangalam	7.03		7%	0.51
240.	Kodungallur	4.24	20-Sep-04	21%	0.89
241.	Irinjalakkuda	5.46		23%	1.27
242.	Chalakkudy	4.97		25%	1.26

1	2	3	4	5	6
243.	Guruvayur-chavakkad	5.63		14%	0.80
244.	Kunnamkulam	5.72		12%	0.67
245.	Nedumangad	3.55		31%	1.09
246.	Thrissur	12.80		32%	4.04
247.	Attingal town	3.51		7%	0.24
248.	Varkala town	4.15		5%	0.19
249.	Paravur town	2.76		3%	0.09
250.	Chittur-Tathamang	2.28		6%	0.13
251.	Kalpetta town	3.67		4%	0.13
252.	Koyilandi town	6.44		0%	0.02
253.	Vadakara town	7.83		2%	0.16
254.	Thaliparamba town	7.74		1%	0.04
255.	Pala town	5.58	23-Mar-05	1%	0.03
256.	Changanacherry town	3.47		7%	0.23
257.	Mattanur town	2.89		0%	0.00
258.	Vaikom town	3.72		2%	0.06
259.	Kuthuparamba town	3.15		2%	0.05
260.	Kochi town	149.35		0%	0.00
261.	Trivandum-II	139.85		0%	0.00
262.	Kozikode-town-II	84.36		0%	0.00
Madhya Pradesh (48)		663.20		23%	150.66
263.	Gwalior Circle	86.40	16-Jul-02	32%	27.28
264.	Guna	3.81		47%	1.78
265.	Bhopal	60.16		42%	25.49
266.	Piparia	3.37		14%	0.48
267.	Itarasi	9.19	20-Nov-02	9%	0.84
268.	Hoshangabad	9.49		10%	0.93
269.	Harda	4.81		12%	0.59
270.	Vidisha	6.38		23%	1.46

1	2	3	4	5	6
271.	Shivpuri	5.73	20-May-03	18%	1.06
272.	Mandideep	5.86		19%	1.10
273.	Ashoknagar	2.22	23-Mar-05	0%	0.00
274.	Betul	2.48		0%	0.00
275.	Khaniyadhana	0.29		0%	0.00
276.	Kolaras	0.46		0%	0.00
277.	Pohari	0.13		0%	0.00
278.	Karera	0.56		0%	0.00
279.	Narwar	0.42		0%	0.00
280.	Ujjain Circle	98.75	16-Jul-02	21%	20.82
281.	Indore Circle	167.98		31%	51.73
282.	Ratlam	10.24		1%	0.15
283.	Khandwa	8.32	20-Nov-02	1%	0.10
284.	Burahnpur	10.60		3%	0.28
285.	Dewas	22.86		1%	0.20
286.	khargone	3.78		1%	0.05
287.	Dhar	3.02	20-May-03	2%	0.05
288.	Neemuch	4.86		2%	0.10
289.	Mandsaur	5.24		1%	0.05
290.	Sahajapur	3.64	23-Mar-05	0%	0.00
291.	Shujalpur	2.46		0%	0.00
292.	Sagar	5.59		15%	0.85
293.	Damoh	4.98		15%	0.73
294.	Katni	11.91		16%	1.91
295.	Shahdol	2.58		9%	0.23
296.	Narsinghpur	1.63		21%	0.35
297.	Jabalpur	31.69	20-Nov-02	11%	3.60
298.	Mandia	1.45		23%	0.34
299.	Satna	4.40		25%	1.09

1	2	3	4	5	6
300.	Chhindwara	5.11		26%	1.34
301.	Siwani	3.24		24%	0.77
302.	Reewa	15.56		9%	1.42
303.	Balaghat	2.80		19%	0.53
304.	Waidhan	2.12		29%	0.61
305.	Chhatarpur	4.41		10%	0.42
306.	Panna	2.30		12%	0.28
307.	Tikamgarh	2.31	20-May-03	8%	0.19
308.	Orchha	4.84		5%	0.23
309.	Niwari	10.90		3%	0.29
310.	Morwa	1.87		50%	0.94
Maharashtra (35)		2231.58		33%	742.36
311.	Ratnagiri Circle	40.76		37%	15.19
312.	Sindhudurg Circle	35.11		36%	12.61
313.	Osmanabad	7.19	16-Jul-02	57%	4.13
314.	Sholapur Circle	58.15		50%	29.32
315.	Jaigaon Circle	35.11		31%	10.89
316.	Nasik Circle	106.44		41%	44.14
317.	Latur Circle	79.34		28%	22.40
318.	Nagpur Circle	80.12		26%	20.79
319.	Aurangabad Circle	83.85	25-Sep-02	67%	57.33
320.	Ahmednagar Circle	70.57		38%	26.79
3.21	Amrawati Circle	96.29		64%	61.21
322.	Amrawati City	7.66		29%	2.20
323.	Kolhapur	33.38		46%	15.40
324.	Malegaon	27.50		59%	16.27
325.	Pune	100.50	20-Nov-02	46%	46.28
326.	Pimpri-Chinchwad	28.29		23%	6.60
327.	Sangli	4.44		25%	1.09
328.	Nanded/Waghala	3.98		16%	0.65

1	2	3	4	5	6
329.	Nasik City	70.00	20-May-03	19%	12.99
330.	Nagpur City	170.00		25%	41.82
331.	Buldhana	2.40		0%	0.00
332.	Akola	11.99		0%	0.00
333.	Bhandara	0.68	20-Sep-04	0%	0.00
334.	Shegaon	1.93		0%	0.00
335.	Ulhasnagar	7.15		0%	0.00
336.	Khamgaon	2.50		0%	0.00
337.	Malkapur	2.23		0%	0.00
338.	Yeotmal	2.69	20-Sep-04	0%	0.00
339.	Dombivali	6.59		0%	0.00
340.	Thane City	126.87		0%	0.00
341.	Mulund & Bhandup	72.50		0%	0.00
342.	BEST Phase-I	43.66	25-Sep-02	100%	43.66
343.	SCADA in BEST	96.07	20-Nov-02	73%	69.92
344.	BEST Phase-II	164.90	23-Mar-05	34%	55.79
345.	BSES, Mumbai (1)	550.74	28-Nov-03	23%	125.89
Orissa (7)		592.22		9%	51.68
346.	Burla (WESCO)	87.65		8%	6.94
347.	Balasore (NESCO)	101.81		7%	7.33
348.	Berhampur (SOUTHCO)	106.03		6%	6.83
349.	Bhubneshwar (CESCO)	113.74	20-May-03	10%	11.34
350.	Cuttack (CESCO)	57.85		13%	7.37
351.	Pradeep (CESCO)	67.21		9%	6.05
352.	Dhenkanal (CESCO)	57.93		10%	5.82
Punjab (26)		715.57		33%	238.67
353.	Mohali Circle	25.52		51%	13.01
354.	Khanna Circle	68.17	25-Sep-02	33%	22.77
355.	Patiala Circle	64.61		68%	43.68

1	2	3	4	5	6
356.	Amritsar City	47.39		31%	14.81
357.	Amritsar Sub Urban	93.83		34%	32.26
358.	Bathinda City	12.93		41%	5.36
359.	Ludhiana West City	94.58		27%	25.89
360.	Jalandhar City	108.82	20-Nov-02	29%	31.25
361.	Pathankot City	11.71		22%	2.57
362.	Ludhiana City East	80.03		30%	23.85
363.	Moga City	12.54		31%	3.83
364.	Batala City	15.53		24%	3.73
365.	Muktasar City	7.70		37%	2.87
366.	Abohar	11.35		11%	1.27
367.	Taran Taran	3.44		42%	1.45
368.	Firozpur town	6.48	20-May-03	23%	1.47
369.	Nakador	2.94		16%	0.46
370.	Shokat	2.21		58%	1.29
371.	Gurdaspur	4.80		78%	3.74
372.	Malerkotla	5.78		17%	0.98
373.	Barnala	5.81		2%	0.14
374.	Sangrur	4.87	20-Sep-04	5%	0.23
375.	Fazilka	3.55		18%	0.65
376.	Jagraon	5.05		10%	0.52
377.	Hoshiarpur	9.74		6%	0.60
378.	Dhuri	6.19		0%	0.00
Rajasthan (29)		1193.25		54%	645.96
379.	Jodhpur Circle	204.78	16-Jul-02	49%	100.34
380.	Jodhpur City	52.95	25-Sep-02	75%	40.11
381.	Pali	8.26		58%	4.83
382.	Barmer Urban	13.31		59%	7.83
383.	Sri Ganganagar	18.56	20-Nov-02	73%	13.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
384.	Bikaner City Urban	35.79		75%	26.87
385.	Bikaner Rural	25.65		44%	11.19
386.	Alwar Circle	147.98	16-Jul-02	43%	63.53
387.	Jaipur Circle	277.00		53%	147.35
388.	Kota Circle	79.44		58%	46.05
389.	Kota City	22.36	25-Sep-02	88%	19.78
390.	Bharatpur	15.93		78%	12.43
391.	Jhalawar Circle	45.55		104%	47.36
392.	Jhunjhunu Circle	67.72	16-Jul-02	74%	50.35
393.	Bhilwara Circle	68.00	25-Sep-02	60%	40.94
394.	Ajmer	15.58		34%	5.31
395.	Beawar	8.09	20-Nov-02	22%	1.79
396.	Kishangarh	8.44		63%	5.32
397.	Udaipur	39.08	20-Sep-04	3%	0.98
398.	Nagpur City	3.98		0%	0.00
399.	Merta City	2.74		0%	0.00
400.	Chittorgarh Town	5.98		0%	0.00
401.	Nimahera Town	3.84		0%	0.00
402.	Sikar Town	6.47	23-Mar-05	0%	0.00
403.	Nathdwara town	3.08		0%	0.00
404.	Kankroli town	2.23		0%	0.00
405.	Dungarpur Town	2.93		0%	0.00
406.	Banswara Town	5.02		0%	0.00
407.	Fatehpur City	2.51		0%	0.00
Tamil Nadu (41)		948.12		79%	747.67
408.	Pudukkottai Circle	64.32		86%	55.33
409.	Coimbatore Circle	70.26	16-Jul-02	104%	73.12
410.	Villupuram Circle	103.08		72%	74.41

1	2	3	4	5	6
411.	Coimbatore Metro	22.95		75%	17.30
412.	Salem (Urban)	31.07		67%	20.82
413.	Chingleputtu EDU	52.26	25-Sep-02	65%	33.81
414.	Erode (Urban)	13.83		67%	9.29
415.	Tirunelveli (Urban)	12.11		89%	10.72
416.	Madurai Metro	17.21		78%	13.37
417.	Chennai Circle	419.97		85%	357.54
418.	Trichy	18.25		95%	17.28
419.	Kancheepuram	8.14		93%	7.56
420.	Tiruvallur and Tiruthani	3.10		76%	2.35
421.	Namakkal	2.68		88%	2.37
422.	Sankari Indl. Town	9.35		72%	6.74
423.	Tiruchengode	2.57		57%	1.47
424.	Edapady	0.72	20-Nov-02	75%	0.54
425.	Kumarapalayam	1.39		55%	0.77
426.	Cuddalore	2.69		79%	2.12
427.	Chidambaram	1.46		93%	1.36
428.	Virudhachalam	3.09		57%	1.76
429.	Panruti	1.65		87%	1.44
430.	Nellikuppam	0.76		100%	0.76
431.	Kurinjipady	1.30		100%	1.30
432.	Udumalpet	65.00		53%	34.14
433.	Dharmapuri Town	1.17		0%	0.00
434.	Karur Town	0.67		0%	0.00
435.	Nagapattinam Town	0.92		0%	0.00
436.	Ramnad Town	0.75	23-Mar-05	0%	0.00
437.	Thanjavur Town	2.06		0%	0.00
438.	Thiruvurur Town	0.70		0%	0.00
439.	Udhaga Town	1.15		0%	0.00
440.	Virudhunagar Town	0.95		0%	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
441.	Dindigul Town	141		0%	0.00
442.	Krishnagiri Town	0.86		0%	0.00
443.	Naagercoil Town	1.73		0%	0.00
444.	Tiruanamalai Town	2.07	23-Mar-05	0%	0.00
445.	Thoothukudi Town	1.67		0%	0.00
446.	Vellore Town	1.69		0%	0.00
447.	Shiv Ganga Town	0.53		0%	0.00
448.	Perambalur Town	0.58		0%	0.00
Uttar Pradesh (36)		1091.30		16%	169.76
449.	Moradabad Circle	35.02	16-Jul-02	54%	18.93
450.	Dist. Automation in Moradabad	22.05	20-Nov-02	0%	0.00
451.	Muzaffarnagar	50.19	20-May-03	37%	18.33
452.	Muzaffarnagar Ph-II	3.24		0%	0.00
453.	Ghaziabad	33.40		10%	3.44
454.	Bagpat	14.29		8%	1.21
455.	Meerut	26.62	20-Sep-04	10%	2.64
456.	Saharanpur	19.05		19%	3.54
457.	Rampur	13.33		11%	1.42
458.	Amroha-Gajraula	14.61		8%	1.14
459.	Bulandshar-Khurja	14.16	20-Sep-04	9%	1.26
460.	Noida	15.43		6%	0.93
461.	Sambhal (Moradabad)	7.95		14%	1.10
462.	Noida Phase II	49.99	23-Mar-05	2%	0.93
463.	Gorakhpur Circle	37.73	16-Jul-02	56%	21.03
464.	Allahabad Circle	77.79	20-Nov-02	28%	21.66
465.	Varanasi Circle	84.78		27%	23.03
466.	Bareilly Circle	45.23	16-Jul-02	38%	17.37
467.	Faizabad+Ayodhya	19.83	20-Nov-02	39%	7.76
468.	Shahjahanpur	42.36	20-May-03	7%	3.01

1	2	3	4	5	6
469.	Raibareli	27.75	20-Sep-04	12%	3.20
470.	Sultanpur	28.09		13%	3.59
471.	Hardoi Town	19.08	23-Mar-05	0%	0.00
472.	Badaun & Ujhani	18.62	3-Aug-05	0%	0.00
473.	Aligarh	28.57		3%	0.83
474.	Mathuraa-Vrindavan	23.81		1%	0.25
475.	Jhansi	23.56	20-Sep-04	1%	0.25
476.	Etah	10.49		0%	0.00
477.	Mainpuri	10.41		0%	0.00
478.	Etawah Town	17.56		0%	0.00
479.	Agra Town	85.11		2%	2.08
480.	Ferozabad Town	38.31	23-Mar-05	2%	0.72
481.	Sicohabad Town	19.84		0%	0.00
482.	Agra Urban	22.04		0%	0.00
483.	8 Towns under Manipuri Dist.	26.73		0%	0.00
484.	Kanpur (KESCO)	64.28	20-Nov-02	16%	10.11
West Bengal (21)		442.20		35%	154.46
485.	Howrah Circle	48.09		68%	32.69
486.	24 Pargana(S) Circle	47.12	16-Jul-02	82%	38.51
487.	Bidhannagar Circle	31.20		66%	20.83
488.	Krishnanagar	8.29		66%	5.48
489.	Shantipur	5.60		30%	1.70
490.	Nabadwip	4.80		36%	1.72
491.	Jalpaiguri Phase-I	21.02	20-May-03	52%	10.99
492.	Burdwan	18.66		46%	8.62
493.	Jamuria	3.36		36%	1.22
494.	Kulti	5.66		45%	2.52
495.	Raniganj	4.16		37%	1.54

1	2	3	4	5	6
496.	Haldia	13.90		2%	0.33
497.	Burdwan Phase II	12.97		5%	0.71
498.	Jalpaiguri Phase II	109.37		13%	14.09
499.	Asansol	21.01		16%	3.32
500.	Siliguri Circle	46.54	29-Nov-03	8%	3.50
501.	GIS mapping of power NW in W.B.	6.05		9%	0.54
502.	Augmentation of Div. computer centres	6.47		98%	6.35
503.	Automation of distribution system of Jadhavpur Univ.	0.35		0%	0.00
504.	Creation of IT and Communication Infrastructure	5.08	23-Mar-05	0%	0.00
505.	Zonal Data Storage and Call Centre	22.50	23-Mar-05	0%	0.00
Total for Non-Special States		15804.93		46%	7228.51
Special Category States					
Assam (15)		650.73		14%	90.46
506.	Dibrugarh Circle	29.41	16-Jul-02	13%	3.86
507.	Jorhat Circle	34.28		14%	4.72
508.	Sibsagar Circle	45.46	25-Sep-02	12%	5.42
509.	North Lakhimpur Circle	58.62	23-Mar-05	0%	
510.	Guwahati-II Circle	20.39	16-Jul-02	15%	3.00
511.	Bongaigaon Circle	32.26	25-Sep-02	21%	6.78
512.	Guwahati-I Circle	69.94	25-Sep-02	17%	12.09
513.	Rangia Circle	52.70	20-Nov-02	17%	8.89
514.	Mangoldoi Circle	31.46	20-May-03	22%	6.88
515.	Kokrajhar Circle	34.33	20-May-03	17%	5.93
516.	Cachar-I Circle	50.01	25-Sep-02	13%	6.65
517.	Nagaon Circle	59.63	25-Sep-02	22%	13.03
518.	Tezpur Circle	55.23	20-Nov-02	13%	6.94
519.	Cachhar-II Circle	32.25	20-Nov-02	19%	6.27
520.	KANCH Circle	44.76	23-Mar-05	0%	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Arunachal Pradesh (4)		82.69		7%	5.60
521.	MIAO Circle	22.49		12%	2.77
522.	DIRANG Circle	17.60	20-Nov-02	11%	1.85
523.	Nahariagun Circle	23.90		0%	0.10
524.	Passighat Circle	18.70	20-May-03	5%	0.88
Himachal Pradesh (12)		322.78		47%	152.08
525.	Shimla Circle	22.99		74%	17.10
526.	Solan Circle	20.55	16-Jul-02	58%	11.92
527.	Nahan Circle	24.46		53%	12.93
528.	Hamirpur Circle	32.48		64%	20.84
529.	Una Circle	22.02		40%	8.90
530.	Mandi Circle	40.61		27%	10.92
531.	Rampur Circle	32.88		41%	13.35
532.	Rohroo Circle	14.83		71%	10.52
533.	Bilaspur Circle	25.94	20-May-03	36%	9.25
534.	Kangra Circle	27.24		43	11.75
535.	Dalhousie Circle	27.28		50%	13.63
536.	Kullu Circle	31.50		35%	10.97
Jammu & Kashmir (6)		1100.13		25%	270.16
537.	Jammu-I Circle	174.07	20-May-03	51%	88.99
538.	Shrinagar I & II Circle	227.03		35%	79.37
539.	Jammu-II Circle	145.55	20-Sep-04	25%	36.47
540.	Batote Circle	95.62		34%	32.16
541.	North Circle, Sopore (Baramula & Kupawara)	240.08	23-Mar-05	4%	9.41
542.	Bijbehara (Anantnag and Pulwama)	217.78		11%	23.76
Manipur (5)		141.62		2%	2.67
543.	Manipur-I	10.13	16-Jul-02	26%	2.67

1	2	3	4	5	6
544.	Biahnupur	16.35		0%	0.00
545.	Chur Chandpur	16.41	20-Sep-04	0%	0.00
546.	Greater Imphal	84.66		0%	0.00
447.	Tahoubal	14.07		0%	0.00
Meghalaya (9)		227.43		11%	25.57
548.	Tura Town	6.77	20-Nov-02	31%	2.09
549.	Jowai	2.52		28%	0.70
550.	Shillong	15.70	20-Nov-02	57%	8.95
551.	Shillong (Outer)	15.97	20-May-03	31%	5.00
552.	Central	59.53		0%	0.09
553.	Garó Hills	36.21	20-Sep-04	0%	0.09
554.	Shillong (SCADA)	21.12		0%	4.64
555.	Western (SCADA)	17.99		22%	4.01
556.	Jaintia Hills	51.62	23-Mar-05	0%	0.00
Mizoram (7)		108.74		27%	28.96
557.	Mizoram Ph-I	9.77	16-Jul-02	87%	4.48
558.	Aizwal	20.43		51%	10.35
559.	Chammphai	15.21	20-May-03	37%	5.56
560.	Metering in balance Mizoram	12.50		37%	4.57
561.	Lunglei Power Circle	14.91		0%	0.00
562.	Project Circle	15.05	20-Sep-04	0%	0.00
563.	Transmission	20.87		0%	0.00
Nagaland (3)		122.27		19%	23.61
564.	Nagaland Phase-I	8.81	16-Jul-02	100%	8.81
565.	Nagaland Phase-II	36.58	20-Nov-02	40%	14.80
566.	Nagaland Phase-III	76.88	23-Mar-05	0%	0.00
Sikkim (4)		164.19		77%	126.82
567.	Phase-I	8.06	20-May-03	100%	8.06

1	2	3	4	5	6
568.	Phase-II	52.78	20-Nov-02	100%	52.77
569.	Sikkim (Supplementary)	91.25		72%	65.99
570.	SCADA in Gangtok	12.10		0%	0.00
Tripura (7)		146.74		10%	14.35
571.	Tripura Ph-I	13.27	16-Jul-02	49%	6.54
572.	Agartala Phase-I	14.27	20-May-03	51%	7.23
573.	Kumar Ghat Circle	27.33		0%	0.00
574.	Outer Agartala	19.60	20-Sep-04	0%	0.00
575.	Udaipur	29.63		2%	0.58
576.	Agartala Phase-II	23.65	23-Mar-05	0%	0.00
577.	Dhilai Circle	18.99		0%	0.00
Uttaranchal (6)		310.08		58%	180.12
578.	Rudrapur Circle	101.03		52%	52.75
579.	Dehradun Circle (U)*	32.13		56%	18.10
580.	Roorkee Circle*	75.65	20-Nov-02	53%	40.07
581.	Srinagar EDC	54.88		71%	38.74
582.	Ranikhet	18.24		53%	9.65
583.	Dehradun Circle (R)	28.15		74%	20.81
Total for Special Category States		3377.40		27%	920.40
All India		19182.33		42%	8148.91

[Translation]

Rural Electrification

2574. SHRI ILYAS AZMI:
 SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
 SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
 SHRI B. MAHTAB:
 DR. K. DHANARAJU:
 SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
 SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
 SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
 SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:
 SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
 SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

SHRI M.K. SUBBA:
 SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
 SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:
 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Rural Electrification Programme has not been progressing as envisaged in the National Common Minimum Programme of the Government;

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

(c) whether several villages in various districts of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh have not been electrified so far under various schemes of Rural Electrification Programme viz. Minimum Need Programme (MNP), Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme (AREP), Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), etc.;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken and the directives issued to the State Governments to complete the electrification work within the stipulated time;

(f) whether the Government has set up any monitoring agency to watch the working of rural electrification programme in each State; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Government of India has introduced Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) in April 2005—scheme for rural electricity infrastructure and household electrification for attainment of National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) goal of providing access to electricity to all households by 2009.

This scheme is covering un-electrified villages as well as electrified villages having un-electrified households. It is being implemented in all the states except Goa which has refused to participate. The scheme aims at creating revenue sustainable rural electricity infrastructure which will see to it that each block has one sub-station, each village a distribution transformer and set up Decentralize Distribution Generation (DDG) and supply where grid connectivity is either not feasible or cost effective. 90% of the project cost will be given as capital subsidy and balance 10% as soft loan. Free connections will be given to Below Poverty Line households.

The Rural Electrification programme has gained momentum with the introduction of RGGVY in the country. A total number of 178 projects covering 182 districts/51037 un-electrified villages/6472006 rural households at the cost of Rs. 5860.92 crore have been approved till date. The Government of India has fixed target for electrification of 10,000 villages during the current financial year against which 1419 villages have already been

reported electrified under RGGVY upto November, 2005 of which 898 villages belong to Uttar Pradesh. The state-wise and district-wise details of such villages reported electrified are given as statement-I.

(c) and (d) Government of India has implemented a number of schemes for rural electrification programme which are as under:

- (i) Minimum Needs Programme (MNP)
- (ii) Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)
- (iii) Kutir Jyoti
- (iv) Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme (AREP)
- (v) Accelerated Electrification of One lakh villages and One crore households.

The progress of village electrification during the last three years state-wise is enclosed as statement-II.

The states were finding it difficult to implement the schemes which were having either 100% loan component or were providing only one component of electricity distribution. They were in fact reluctant to take up rural electrification work as they were not recovering the cost of power under the schemes. Difficulties were faced under PMGY on account of no clear cut earmarking of percentage of funds for rural electrification. The States had discretion of utilizing the funds for different components as per their own priorities. It was felt that comprehensive rural electrification programme was required to take care of:—

- (i) Development of rural electrification infrastructure in rural areas.
- (ii) Increase the viability of rural electricity infrastructure by covering all BPL families.
- (iii) To set up a uniform village infrastructure at block level to cater to non domestic demand of power.
- (iv) Definition of village electrification also changed.

Consequently the Government of India has introduced RGGVY in April 2005 which takes care of all the above issues as given in reply to parts (a) & (b) above.

(e) Government of India targets to electrify all villages by 2009 under RGGVY. The scheme provides for 90%

of project cost as capital subsidy. Moreover the scheme is revenue sustainable. Nodal agency for implementation of the scheme is Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). Services of the Central Public Sector Undertakings are being provided not only for assisting in formulation of the projects, but also in the execution and implementation of the projects. Under RGGVY's franchisees system, bulk supply tariff has been incorporated and the states are being mandated to implement in parallel to ensure revenue neutrality for the state utilities.

Request has been made to all the states to notify rural areas so as to get maximum advantage of the scheme. Five states have notified their rural areas.

The nodal agency has circulated draft franchisee documents besides the above mentioned documents to states for formulating their franchisee system. States and implementing agencies State Electricity Boards, DISCOMS, CPSUs, have been asked to nominate their nodal officer

who will be solely responsible for implementation of the scheme in their area.

(f) and (g) States have been asked to set up monitoring system for the scheme at State level, District level (District Committees) and village level.

States have been advised to constitute District Committees as per the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003. States have also been advised to associate elected representatives including the Members of Parliament in the District Committees.

Monitoring Committee has been set up in the Ministry of Power constituting Planning Commission, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Ministry of Finance. Besides the above, Ministry is holding meetings on regular basis with Central Public Sector Undertakings and State Electricity Boards/DISCOMS (Distribution Companies) and REC.

Statement I

Abstracts of list of villages electrified under RGGVY up to November, 2005 in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

Sl.No.	State	Implementing Agency	Name of districts covered	Number of villages	Cumulative total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Powergrid	Rae Barell	125	442
		Powergrid	Deoria	16	
		Powergrid	Mau	6	
		Powergrid	Ballia	18	
		Powergrid	Kushinagar	3	
		Powergrid	Azamgarh	31	
		Powergrid	Sultanpur	243	
			Total	442	442
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Pachinanchal VVNL Meerut	Bijnor	14	8
		Pachinanchal VVNL Meerut	Moradabad	40	
		Pachinanchal VVNL Meerut	Jyotiba Phule Nagar	19	
		Pachinanchal VVNL Meerut	Ghaziabad	8	

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Pachinanchal VVNL Meerut	Bhulandehahar	17	
			Total	119	561
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Aligarh	5	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Hathras	5	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Mathura	4	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Agra	3	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Firizabad	23	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Etah	7	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Mainpuri	5	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Farrukhabad	4	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Kannauj	5	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Etawah	6	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Auraiya	6	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Kanpur Dehat	3	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Kanpur Nagar	4	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Jalaun	8	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Jhansi	9	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Lalitpur	0	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Mahoba	0	
		Dakshinanchal VVNL Agra	Banda	10	
			Total	107	668
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Madhayanchal VVNL Lucknow	Budaun	21	
		Madhayanchal VVNL Lucknow	Bahraich/Shrawasti	11	
		Madhayanchal VVNL Lucknow	Gonda	6	
		Madhayanchal VVNL Lucknow	Ambedkar Nagar/Faizabad	8	
		Madhayanchal VVNL Lucknow	Balrampur	2	
		Madhayanchal VVNL Lucknow	Barabanki	5	
		Madhayanchal VVNL Lucknow	Bareilly	4	
		Madhayanchal VVNL Lucknow	Pilibhit	8	

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Madhayanchal VVNL Lucknow	Shahjahanpur	8	
		Madhayanchal VVNL Lucknow	Kheri	5	
		Madhayanchal VVNL Lucknow	Hardoi	5	
		Madhayanchal VVNL Lucknow	Unnao	5	
		Madhayanchal VVNL Lucknow	Lucknow	5	
			Total	93	761
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Fatehpur	16	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Pratapgarh	7	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Kaushambi	8	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Allahabad	14	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Sidharthnagar	7	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Basti	7	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Sant Kabimagar	6	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Maharajganj	7	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Gorakhpur	18	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Jaunpur	8	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Ghazipur	15	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Chandauli	7	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Santi Ravidasnagar	5	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Mirzapur	8	
		Poorvanchal VVNL Varanasi	Sonbhadra	4	
			Total	137	898
			Total (UP)	898	
6.	Bihar	Powergrid	Vaishali	248	
7.	Bihar	Powergrid	Muzaffarpur	273	
			Total (Bihar)	521	1419
			Grand Total	1419	

These villages were covered under erstwhile GOI scheme, "MNP", which has since been merged with RGGVY. The revised schemes, as per norms of RGGVY, are awaited from Powergrid Corporation of India (PGCIL), the implementing agency in Vaishali & Muzaffar District of Bihar.

*Statement II**Year-wise and State-wise Progress of Village Electrification during Xth Five Year Plan*

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-06 (Upto September, 05)	Total during the plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	●	●	●	●	●
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	189	88	NA	277
3.	Aseam	9	42	269	NA	320
4.	Bihar	94	118	134	32	378
5.	Jharkhand					
6.	Goa	●	●	●	●	●
7.	Gujarat	●	●	7	●	7
8.	Haryana	●	●	●	●	●
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	1	6	Nil	7
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	3	1	NA	9
11.	Karnataka	3	5	Nil	Nil	8
12.	Kerala	●	●	●	●	●
13.	Madhya Pradesh	94	74	Nil	Nil	168
14.	Chhattisgarh (#)	120	219	62	31	432
15.	Maharashtra	●	●	●	●	●
16.	Manipur	6	9	4	3	22
17.	Meghalaya	177	544	474	NA	1195
18.	Mizoram	Nil	4	Nil	NA	4
19.	Nagaland	●	●	●	●	●
20.	Orissa	271	195	NA	NA	466
21.	Punjab	●	●	●	●	●
22.	Rajasthan	482	352	204	10	1048
23.	Sikkim	●	●	●	●	●
24.	Tamil Nadu	●	●	●	●	●
25.	Tripura	2	3	1	NA	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	Uttar Pradesh	279	231	1516	NA	2026
27.	Uttaranchal (#)	218	454	466	NA	1138
28.	West Bengal	866	338	652	93	1949
Total (States)		2626	2781	3884	169	9480
Total (UTs)		●	●	●	●	●
Total (All India)		2626	2781	3884	169	9480

Note: Target not finalized.

● Cent percent village electrified

N.A.—Not available

(#) Newly constituted states in 2000-01

Source: Central Electricity Authority (CEA)

Import Cost In Prices of Petro-Products

2575. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the excise duties on petrol, diesel, LPG and kerosene are determined on the basis of import cost;

(b) if so, the assessment of the import costs of the said products for excise duty during September to November, 2005;

(c) whether LPG and kerosene are made available to the customers in the country at prices lower than the import costs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Kerosene for Public Distribution System (PDS) and LPG for domestic house hold consumers are exempt from excise duty. Petrol and diesel attract excise duty of 8%+Rs. 13.00 per litre and 8%+Rs. 3.25 per litre respectively. *Ad valorem* component of excise duty on petrol and diesel on ex-factory price declared by the oil refineries.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has reported that:

(i) domestic retail sale prices of kerosene for Public Distribution System (PDS) and LPG for domestic household consumers are lower than the import parity prices of these products;

(ii) despite increase in international prices there has been no increase in retail sale prices of LPG for domestic household since November, 2004 and Kerosene (PDS) since April, 2002.

State Electricity Boards

2576. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI SITA RAM SINGH:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed/proposes to review the working of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to evolve any mechanism to monitor the functioning of SEBs;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether some SEBs have been able to reduce the cash losses during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the extent to which the losses of SEBs is likely to mitigate?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) The Union Government has been undertaking rating exercise of power sector in various States by independent rating agencies to evaluate the performance of the States. This exercise is carried out annually for a State as a whole. The result of rating exercise of year 2005 are enclosed as statement-I.

(f) to (h) The trend of increasing commercial losses of Power Utilities has been arrested after 2001-02. The commercial losses (without subsidy) in State Power Utilities had increased from Rs. 4,560 crores during 1992-93 to Rs. 25,259 crores during 2000-01. According to data compiled by Power Finance Corporation, the losses of Utilities have reduced from Rs. 27,068 crores in 2001-02 to Rs. 20,623 crores in 2003-04. The detail of commercial losses in various States is given in statement-II enclosed.

Losses have been coming down in large number of States. However, in certain States, there has been slight increase in losses in year 2003-04. In Jharkhand, losses have been increasing continuously.

These figures are compiled by the PFC on the basis of annual audited accounts of the utilities. Last publication of PFC has given figures up to year 2003-04.

Statement I

Power Sector Rating

Sl.No.	States	Total (100) March, 2005
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57.03
2.	Gujarat	53.61
3.	Delhi	51.91

1	2	3
4.	Karnataka	51.46
5.	Tamil Nadu	50.94
6.	Goa	50.45
7.	Himachal Pradesh	49.91
8.	West Bengal	44.60
9.	Uttar Pradesh	42.14
10.	Chhattisgarh	39.91
11.	Rajasthan	37.50
12.	Maharashtra	37.25
13.	Punjab	36.82
14.	Haryana	35.16
15.	Tripura	31.65
16.	Kerala	31.48
17.	Assam	27.32
18.	Meghalaya	26.72
19.	Madhya Pradesh	22.79
20.	Sikkim	19.07
21.	Uttaranchal	18.60
22.	Nagaland	15.80
23.	Orissa	13.63
24.	Jammu and Kashmir	9.43
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.20
26.	Mizoram	7.88
27.	Manipur	6.55
28.	Bihar	5.78
29.	Jharkhand	3.00

Statement II**State-wise details of Commercial Profit/Loss of Power Utilities**

(Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	SEBs	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Loss reduction (-)/increase	
					In 2002-03 from 2001-02	In 2003-04 from 2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-2948	-1209	-1400	-1739	191
2.	Assam	-696	-776	-655	80	-121
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-93	-117	-82	24	-35
4.	Bihar	-896	-1095	-980	199	-115
5.	Chhattisgarh	204	792	587	*	*
6.	Delhi	NA	-733	-1774	—	1041
7.	Goa	-7	130	153	*	*
8.	Gujarat	-3102	-2250	-3020	-852	770
9.	Haryana	-947	-804	-769	-143	-35
10.	Himachal Pradesh	-107	-53	-46	-54	-7
11.	Jharkhand	-255	-397	-522	142	125
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	35	-1242	-1229	1277	-13
13.	Karnataka	-1844	-1567	-1235	-277	-332
14.	Kerala	-1254	-935	-915	-319	-20
15.	Madhya Pradesh	-1347	-822	-1230	-525	408
16.	Maharashtra	-540	-255	-549	-285	294
17.	Manipur	-129	-128	-125	-1	-3
18.	Meghalaya	-38	-19	64	-19	*
19.	Mizoram	-30	-34	-49	4	15
20.	Nagaland	-52	-55	-42	3	-13
21.	Orissa	-252	-928	215	676	*
22.	Punjab	-1868	-1386	-663	-482	-723
23.	Pondicherry	-44	34	38	*	*
24.	Rajasthan	-1324	-1738	-1777	414	39

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	Sikkim	-10	-30	-15	20	-15
26.	Tamil Nadu	-5175	-2100	-1416	-3075	-684
27.	Tripura	-100	-94	-5	-6	-89
28.	Uttar Pradesh	-2518	-2374	-2848	-144	474
29.	Uttaranchal	-27	32	-35	.	67
30.	West Bengal	-1705	-914	-296	-791	-618
Total		-27068	-21064	-20623		

***Earned profits**

Source: "Report on the Performance of the State Power Utilities for the years 2001-02 to 2003-04" by Power Finance Corporation.

[English]

Procurement of Gas

2577. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether top officials of NTPC have visited various West Asian countries to negotiate the procurement of gas for its power plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether during Eleventh Plan period, Indian power firms aim to add 1,00,000 MW power generation capacity by 2012; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) delegation visited Oman during February, 2005 to explore the possibility of participation in the LNG value chain. During the visit, it was informed by the Oman Oil Company (Government owned) that NTPC's participation in the existing venture is not possible as there is no spare gas available.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the huge power generation capacity requirement, Government of India has proposed 100,000 MW environment friendly thermal initiative. The details are as follows:

- 49 Thermal Projects with aggregate capacity of over 100,000 MW have been included. Out of this, 36 project sites totaling 75,000 MW have been envisaged.
- 13 pit head Coal based plants totaling 36,000 MW have been envisaged and other 10 sites totaling 23,000 MW are finalized.
- 13 Coal/Gas based coastal sites totaling 27,000 MW have been envisaged. Another 3 sites totaling 6,000 MW have been identified.
- Three (3) Gas based projects totaling 7000 MW have been envisaged.
- 7 Lignite projects totaling 5,000 MW have been identified.

[Translation]

FDI in India and China

2578. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign direct investment in India during the last three years is only one tenth as compared with China;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure of the efforts put in by the country to attract foreign direct investment;

(c) the details of foreign direct investment made during the last three years in India *vis-a-vis* China;

(d) the major sectors of foreign direct investment in India; and

(e) the State-wise details where the said foreign direct investment has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) According to World Investment Report—2005, of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, FDI in India and China during last three years was as under:

(billion of US \$)

Year	China	India
2002	52.74	3.45
2003	53.51	4.27
2004	60.63	5.34

Government has put in place a liberal, transparent and investor friendly FDI policy. Under the liberalized economic environment, decisions of the investors are based on techno-economic and commercial considerations.

(d) Sector-wise FDI inflows for the last three years indicate that the major sectors receiving FDI are—electrical equipments (including computer software & electronics), transport industry, telecommunications, services sector, chemicals, cement and pharmaceuticals.

(e) As reported by the Regional Offices of the Reserve Bank of India, the major states receiving FDI in the last three years are—Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, and West Bengal.

Home to Shelterless Persons

2579. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has found any shortage of housing units in the rural areas of the country as per the census of the year 2001;

(b) the amount spent for the purpose during the current year;

(c) the number of housing units estimated to be required each year as per the existing level;

(d) whether any estimate had been prepared regarding number of dwelling units required for the shelterless people during each of the last three years;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether areas have been identified where there is acute shortage of shelter;

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

(h) the number of houses likely to be constituted during 2005-2006 under Indira Awas Yojana alongwith the amount likely to be spent on it; and

(i) the basic amenities proposed to be provided in such houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (e) Requirement of houses for Below the Poverty Line (BPL) families of rural areas is estimated on the basis of the data made available by the Office of the Registrar General of India. As per Census 2001, the housing shortage in rural area is about 148.33 lakh. Under Indira Awaas Yojana, the targets are fixed on year to year basis depending upon the annual budgetary allocation. During the last three years (2002-2003, 2003-04, 2004-05), targets for construction of houses were fixed 13.14, 14.84 and 15.62 lakh respectively. At the rate of present annual allocation (Rs. 2750.00 crore), about 15.00 lakh houses are likely to be constructed. In order to provide shelter to the rural poor, about 60 lakh houses are proposed to be constructed during the next 4 years under 'Bharat Nirman' Programme.

(f) to (i) A statement showing the State-wise Rural Housing shortage is enclosed. The funds under the IAY are allocated to the States/Union Territories on the basis

of poverty ratio and housing shortage by giving 25% weightage to poverty ratio and 75% weightage to housing shortage. Thus, the States with acute housing shortage are getting more funds. During the current financial year 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 2732.40 crore has been allocated under the Indira Awaas Yojana with the target of about 15.00 lakh houses to be constructed. Of this, an amount of Rs. 1452.63 crore has been released and about 5.80 lakh houses have been constructed under the Scheme. Under the Scheme, the houses are constructed by the beneficiaries themselves. Sanitary latrine and smokeless chulha are an integral part of an IAY house.

Statement

State-wise Break up of Rural Housing shortage

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	Housing Shortage based on 2001 Census
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1350282
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	105728
3.	Assam	2241230
4.	Bihar	4210293
5.	Chhattisgarh	115528
6.	Goa	6422
7.	Gujarat	674354
8.	Haryana	55572
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15928
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	92923
11.	Jharkhand	105867
12.	Karnataka	436638
13.	Kerala	261347
14.	Madhya Pradesh	207744
15.	Maharashtra	612441
16.	Manipur	69062
17.	Meghalaya	148657
18.	Mizoram	30250

1	2	3
19.	Nagaland	97157
20.	Orissa	655617
21.	Punjab	75374
22.	Rajasthan	258634
23.	Sikkim	11944
24.	Tamil Nadu	431010
25.	Tripura	174835
26.	Uttaranchal	53521
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1324028
28.	West Bengal	974479
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17890
30.	Chandigarh	1232
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1926
32.	Daman and Diu	787
33.	Delhi	7200
34.	Lakshadweep	190
35.	Pondicherry	7778
Total		14833866

Allocation of Funds to States by CAPART

2580. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for providing assistance to the States for the development of rural technology under the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART);

(b) whether the Government provides assistance to the States in proportionate to their respective rural population;

(c) if so, whether assistance has been provided to all States particularly to Madhya Pradesh in proportionate to its rural population;

(d) if not, whether the Government proposes to provide assistance to the States in proportionate to the rural population; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) CAPART does not provide assistance to the States directly. It, however, provides assistance to NGOs for the development, dissemination and transfer of appropriate rural technologies for the upliftment of the rural poor. The basic objectives of the project proposals under Advancement of Rural Technology Scheme (ARTS) should be upgrading skill, reducing drudgery, reducing physical labour, increasing efficiency, increasing productivity, improving quality, enhancing income, generating employment, improving environment, recycling of waste materials, utilization of local resources, improving hygienic conditions and improving quality of life of rural masses by using advanced techniques and appropriate technologies for increasing rural prosperity. The technologies supported should be simple, easy to learn, easy to demonstrate, easy to maintain, cost effective, environment friendly, culturally and socially acceptable to the target groups. Further, the technologies should utilise locally available human resources and to the extent possible, local materials which are currently unused/under-used or wrongly used. The proposals should not be purely research oriented and for creation of infrastructure for the organization.

(d) and (e) As regards assistance to the States in proportionate to the rural population, no such proposal is under consideration of CAPART.

[English]

Silk Production

2581. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for silk products has increased manifold in the domestic and international markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government/Silk Board has taken any steps to boost silk production in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The demand for silk products has increased in the domestic and international markets. Export earnings from silk goods during the year 2004-05 was Rs. 2897.56 crores (640.90 million US\$) and registered an increase of 3.6% in rupee terms (6.0% in dollar terms) over the previous year's performance, which was Rs. 2779.19 crores (604.70 million US\$). The estimated domestic demand of raw silk has also increased by 4.0% during the year 2004-05 as compared to the previous two years.

(c) and (d) Several programmes and schemes to increase the production in the country has been instituted. The important ones are:

1. During the X Plan period, under the Catalytic Development Programme, a provision of Rs. 181.00 crores has been made for providing assistance to sericulture farmers/reelers to encourage them to adopt improved technology aiming towards improvement in quality and productivity;
2. The Central Silk Board (CSB) has evolved new bivoltine breeds with the assistance from the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). The commercial exploitation of these breeds has resulted in the production of international standard import substitute grade of mulberry raw silk in the country;
3. Through R&D efforts, CSB has made a break through in tropicalising the bivoltine silkworm and has developed new varieties of mulberry plants with higher yields resulting in significant improvement in silk productivity;
4. The CSB has developed improved multi-end reeling units to encourage large-scale production of international grade quality silk. These improved machines are being popularized among the reelers through the Catalytic Developmental Programme at important reeling clusters all over the country and are producing gradable quality

raw silk using the reeling package developed by Central Silk Technological Research Institute of Central Silk Board;

5. The quality of yarn and fabrics in non-mulberry sector has also improved considerably through the introduction of motorized silk reeling/spinning machines and setting up of Common Facility Centres. The CSB has developed new designs in non-mulberry sector and the same are being popularized under the brand "Vanya Silk";
6. The CSB has launched the "Silk Mark" scheme through the Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI), which is a hallmark for the products made from pure natural silk and guarantee the purity of silk products. Silk mark scheme will also play an important role in brand promotion of Indian silk in domestic and foreign markets; and
7. The CSB has recently launched futures trading in cocoon and raw silk through National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange Ltd. (NCDEX), which can be effectively used as a tool to cover the risks associated with price fluctuations to boost the production of silk in the country.

[Translation]

Investment of PF in Capital Market

2582. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to invest employees pensions fund in the capital market;
- (b) if so, the present position of such proposals alongwith the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allow Foreign Direct Investment (F.D.I.) in the employees pensions fund and appoint private funds managers in this area; and
- (d) if so, the details and the current status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The pattern of investment to be followed by non-Government provident funds, superannuation funds and gratuity funds was notified by the Ministry of Finance *vide* notifications dated 24th and 29th January, 2005. This, *inter-alia*, permits investment upto 5% in shares of companies that have an investment grade debt rating from at least two credit rating agencies. However, the investment pattern has not been notified by the Ministry of Labour and Employment as required under paragraph 52 of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952. Accordingly, investment of the funds belonging to the employees pension fund in the capital market does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Human Resource in India

2583. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether unfair trade practices in terms of market access and labour movement adopted by certain developed countries have been hindering the growth of world trade in an equitable manner;
- (b) if so, whether he, in his address to G-20, has asked for free movement of work force from developing countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether India has a large pool of human resource to supply to global markets;
- (e) if so, the response of the developed nations to the appeal of Finance Minister; and
- (f) the strategy adopted or being chalked out by Government to send greater labour force to developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) One way exporting services is through Mode 4 (Movement of Natural Persons), which is the physical movement of

service providers, across the borders. Under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), presently there is very little commitment by developed countries in this mode of supply. Several limitations related to grant of visas, economic needs tests, requirements of work permit, non-recognition of qualifications, etc. restrict easy movement of professionals for supply of services even for short term contracts.

(b) and (c) The address on "Demographic challenges and migrations" to the G-20 Finance Minister and Central Bank Governors, which was in the form of musings touched upon, among others, the need for a coordinated approach to immigration policies in labour importing countries as well as labour exporting countries.

(d) to (f) In the World Trade Organization (WTO) India has been seeking market access under GATS from our trading partners, for our large pool of human resources, in particular, skilled professionals. The mandate of the GATS is only for temporary movement of service providers and there is no provision for seeking access to the labour and employment markets of our trading partners. Negotiations are proceeding in the WTO to get effective market access for our service providers.

Foreign Companies in Andaman and Nicobar

2584. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign companies operating in Andaman and Nicobar Islands since Tsunami devastation; and

(b) if so, the profit earned by the Government from these foreign companies during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) There are no foreign companies operating in Andaman and Nicobar Islands since Tsunami devastation.

(b) Does not apply.

[Translation]

Small Savings Scheme

2585. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government collects a huge amount every year through small savings in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been a continuous increase in this amount during the years 2001-02 to 2004-05;

(d) if so, the average increase for the said period each year;

(e) whether there has been a decline in this amount in the first six months of the year 2005-06;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Details of gross and net collections of small savings during 2001-02 to 2004-05 and the percentage increase each year are as given below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Gross Collections during the year	Percentage increase over previous year	Net Collections during the year	Percentage increase over previous year
2001-02	90442	2.2	43908	-3.2
2002-03	118118	30.6	60334	37.4
2003-04	148929	26.1	70859	17.4
2004-05	177730	19.3	96788	36.6

(e) to (g) The gross collections during the first 6 months of 2005-06 have been Rs. 98,210 crore as against Rs. 85,162 crore during the corresponding period of last financial year. The net collections (gross collections minus repayments) during the same period have been Rs. 43,393 crore as against Rs. 44,529 crore last year.

The marginal decline in net small savings collections during the first half of the current financial year may be attributable to higher repayments relating to deposits mobilized in earlier years.

[English]

Judicial Judgement

2586. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether litigants face great difficulty in receiving copy of the judicial judgment from the courts;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for receiving the copy of the judgement;

(c) whether the Government proposes to computerise the process so that they get the copy at short time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) The Court administration including delivery of judgement is the exclusive domain of Judiciary. The executive does not intervene in the process. Regarding, computerization, it may be stated that about 700 city courts in four metros have been computerized at a cost of Rs. 17.76 crores. A sum of Rs. 24.24 crores were provided in 2003-04 for computerization of 900 courts located in State Capitals. Government has also approved a scheme of computerization of Districts Courts at a cost of Rs. 384.53 crores in 2005.

[Translation]

Setting up of Power Project

2587. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-operative (IFFCO) has made any agreement with the Chhattisgarh State Power Council regarding installation of 1000 MW Joint Thermal Power Project in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed amongst the Energy Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB) and Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-operative (IFFCO) on 4th June, 2005 to set up a pithead 1000 MW power project in District Sarguja of Chhattisgarh State through a Joint venture Company of CSEB and IFFCO with 26% and 74% equity share holding respectively. Commissioning of the power plant is targeted for the year 2009-10 and full capacity utilization by the year 2011-12 in phased manner.

[English]

Incentive for Translation

2588. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any action plan regarding the translation of Science and Technology in vernaculars including official language Hindi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering any translation incentive scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Translation and original writing of science and technology books in vernaculars including Hindi is encouraged. A national Award has been instituted since 2004 for translation of popular science and technology books in Hindi.

*[Translation]***Guidelines for Management of Cooperative Banks**

2589. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines in regard to change of management of cooperative Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases identified by the Government for violating the guidelines issued by the Government, State-wise;

(d) the number of Banks having same management for the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the action taken against such banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Bar-loading In Export**

2590. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to bring bar-loading and radio frequency technologies under the ambit of (TUFS) Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme;

(b) whether textile exporters are also demanding the same in the post quota regime;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether bar-loading will increase and maintain quality and help in identifying the product of export; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Pending Projects of NABARD

2591. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new schemes/projects to be funded by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development pending for approval, State-wise;

(b) the time by when new schemes would be approved;

(c) whether the Government are aware that NABARD have sanctioned loans to different State Governments for construction of school building and other allied activities in the respective State;

(d) if so, the details of the loan sanctioned during each of the last three years;

(e) whether it is not a diversion of the work allotted to the NABARD Bank; and

(f) if so, the action taken against those who are responsible for this and the steps the Government proposes to take to rectify the fault?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) State-wise details of project proposals pending for sanction under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) with NABARD as on 1 December, 2005 are given in the Statement. These projects will be considered for sanction by 31st March 2006 based on the sanctions already availed by the concerned State Governments during the current year (2005-06), their track record in utilization of already sanctioned projects and the suitability of the

projects in terms of economic viability and technical feasibility and availability of NABARD funds for the current year.

(c) Under RIDF-XI (2005-06), Government has

approved 30 activities, including construction of school buildings and other allied activities, for sanction.

(d) The amount sanctioned for projects related to Primary/Secondary Schools by NABARD during last three years (2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05) are as under:—

				(Rs. in crore)
RIDF	For the year	Primary School	Secondary School	Total
VIII	2002-03	40.06	65.36	105.42
IX	2003-04	—	86.46	86.46
X	2004-05	181.96	233.77	415.73

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

RIDF-Project Proposals under consideration at HO as on 1 December 2005

					(Rs. in crore)
Sl.No.	State	Sector	Loan Amount	State Total	
1	2	3	4	5	
1.	Assam	11 MIS Projects (9 ongoing projects	17.96	38.96	}
		Sukla Irrigation Scheme	21		
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Restm. of Dohrighat Pump Canal System	16.35	183.54	}
		Dugcumblast Wells-Micro Irrigation Projects	57.52		
		Flood Protection Projects	19.14		
		Watershed development	90.53		
3.	Punjab	MIP—Banur Canal	35.11	105.6	}
		MIP—Ladhuka Distt. System	28.24		
		Flood Protection Projects	42.25		
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	7—Flood Protection Works	6.23	6.23	}
5.	Meghalaya	10 Rural Bridges	4.23	13.39	}
		4 Rural Bridges	2.58		
		07 Minor Irrigation Projects	6.58		

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Rajasthan	Bhikabhal Irrigation Projects	26.58	} 86.75
		RDWS-cum-Irrigation	50.17	
		1000 VKCs	10	
7.	Kerala	Veterinary Clinical Complex	14.77	14.77
8.	Manipur	01 MIP & 09 MIS	5.19	5.19
9.	Karnataka	Pre-University Buildings	25.36	25.36
10.	West Bengal	Minor Irrigation	13.9	} 33.35
		Rural Roads	19.45	
11.	Orissa	Minor and medium Irrigation	53.82	53.82
12.	Tamil Nadu	256 Roads and Bridges	96.28	96.28
13.	Himachal Pradesh	34 Rural Drinking Water Supply	23.94	23.94
14.	Madhya Pradesh	26 Roads and 02 bridges projects	39.02	} 141.54
		01 Medium Irrigation (Sanjay Sagar)	102.52	
Total			828.72	828.72

Setting up of Units in Foreign Countries

2592. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Textile companies are establishing its units abroad;

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

(c) whether the Government carried out any study for the impact of this aspect on Indian export; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) As a part of business promotion and to take comparative advantages, textile companies establish their units abroad.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to promote textile exports. Some

of the important initiatives taken are as under:—

- (i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.
- (ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.
- (iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector. For the speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced, w.e.f. 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @ 10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- (iv) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). Incentives are provided for better farm practices, quality seeds, improvement in market infrastructure and modernisation of ginning & pressing sector.

- (v) With the objectives of imparting a focused thrust to set up apparel units of international standards and upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, the Government had launched the Apparel Park for Exports Scheme (APES), and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS). Under these two schemes 30 projects have been sanctioned with an estimated support from Government of India of Rs. 462.50 crore. However, after reviewing the implementation of these two schemes, a new scheme, namely, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks has been launched by merging the two schemes. This scheme is based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP), and would equip the industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units to meet international environmental and social standards. Government of India support under the scheme by way of grant or equity shall be limited to 40% of the project cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 crore.
- (vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given an option of excise exemption.
- (vii) The import of specified and garment machinery items has been allowed at a concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.
- (viii) The National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches, and the Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet the skilled manpower requirements of the textile industry, especially apparel, in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (ix) Facilities like eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get garments/textiles pre-tested so that they conform to the requirements of the importing countries.

[*Translation*]

Production of Handloom/Handicraft/Powerloom

2593. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the textiles made by powerloom, handloom and handicraft during the three years;

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

(c) whether there has been a decline in production of textiles by these sectors during the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total number of workers engaged in these sectors;

(f) the total percentage of contribution in manufacturing price rise in this sector; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government for boosting the aforesaid sectors?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of cloth in the Powerloom, Handloom and Handicraft sector during the last three years is as under:

Year	Powerloom (Mn. Sq. mtrs.)	Handloom (Mn. Sq. mtrs.)	Handicraft (Rs. in crore)
2002-03	25954	5980	2998.00
2003-04	26947	5493	3310.00
2004-05	28325	5722	3805.00

(c) and (d) There has been a slight decline in the production of cloth by handloom sector which is highly decentralized in nature and production is estimated on the basis of delivery of hank yarn. Therefore, no single reason can be ascribed for this slight decrease in production. However, the production from the year 2004-05 has again been on the upswing and during the first quarter of 2005-06 it has registered a growth of 17.9%.

(e) The total number of workers engaged in Powerloom, Handloom and Handicraft sectors are as under:

Sl.No.	Sector	No. (in lakhs)
1.	Powerloom	48.08
2.	Handloom	65.51*
3.	Handicraft	63.81

*Joint census of Handloom and Powerloom 1995-96.

(f) No such details are maintained in this Ministry.

(g) The Government through various schemes provides a conducive environment for the promotion and development of Powerloom, Handloom and Handicraft Sectors. Some of the important schemes being implemented in this regard are:

POWERLOOM SECTOR

- (i) Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)
- (ii) Modernization and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centres
- (iii) Schemes for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)

HANDLOOM SECTOR

- (i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana
- (ii) Design Development and Training Programme
- (iii) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana
- (iv) Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

HANDICRAFT SECTOR

- (i) Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana
- (ii) Design & Technology Upgradation Scheme
- (iii) Credit Guarantee Scheme for Handicraft Artisans
- (iv) Workshed Schemes.

[English]

Increase in Taxes, Duties, NPA

2594. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in the collection of the information; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Implementation Report furnishing the information sought in respect of Unstarred Question No. 808 dated March 4, 2005 has already been sent to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Accordingly, the Implementary Report will be laid by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in the House.

(c) and (d) In view of the reply to (a) & (b) above, the question does not arise.

[Translation]

Mineral Reserves

2595. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the mineral reserves in the country, location-wise;

(b) the production of the said minerals during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote the production of these minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Information on mineral reserves in the country, location-wise is given in the Indian Mineral Year Book published by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). A copy has been supplied to the Parliament Library.

(b) The details are enclosed as Statement.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Ministry of Mines are as follows:—

- (i) Enunciated the National Mineral Policy in 1993,

- (ii) Opened up the non-fuel and non-atomic mineral sector for private sector investment, including foreign direct investment (FDI),
- (iii) Permitted 100% FDI under the automatic route, in all minerals except diamond and precious stones: for diamond and precious stones FDI is allowed upto 74% under the automatic route and upto 100% through the Foreign Investment Promotion Board,
- (iv) Introduced the concept of Reconnaissance permit as a stage distinct from and prior to actual prospecting operations.
- (v) Delegated further authority to State Governments.

To review the National Mineral Policy, 1993 and further improve the investment environment in mining sector a High Level Committee has been set up under Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission to recommend appropriate measures in this regard.

Statement

Mineral Production in India (Major Minerals)

(Value in Rs. '000)

Mineral	Unit	2002-03 Qty.	2003-04 Qty.	2004-05(p) Qty.
1	2	3	4	5
Bauxite	t	9867455	10924786	11696773
Chromite	t	3068631	2904809	3839848
Copper Ore	t	3071293	2902972	2931158
Copper Conc.	t	152099	143135	145664
Gold Ore	t	612346	622468	589877
Gold	kg	3153	3457	3528
Iron Ore	'000t	99072	122838	142711
Lead & Zinc Ore	t	3074864	3644263	3928526
Lead Conc.	t	59107	73069	81635
Zinc Conc.	t	486162	590276	666972
Manganese Ore	t	1678372	1776153	2378543
Tin Conc.	kg.	10630	15576	23502
Silver	kg.	59502	37870	10955
Agate	t	96	55	15
Apatite	t	11426	10448	8596
Phosphorite	t	1201408	1435959	1184351
Asbestos	t	14139	10107	5619

1	2	3	4	5
Ball Clay	t	663296	837847	527807
Barytes	t	679628	723075	1161332
Calcite	t	115612	122329	84187
Chalk	t	132775	117185	131599
Clay (Others)	t	164790	790191	1224514
Corundum	kg	7601	117030	18560
Diamond	crt	84407	71260	78315
Diaspore	t	11157	13775	21194
Dolomite	t	3630115	4050906	4308938
Emerald	crt	0	0	0
Felspar	t	239093	332220	373212
Fireclay	t	513980	657080	558716
Felsite	t	1163	947	793
Fluorite (Graded)	t	8825	6555	3733
Fluorite Conc.	t	4198	5838	7717
Garnet (abrasive)	t	432093	490893	587951
Garnet (Gem)	kg	908	544	90
Graphite (R.O.M.)	t	106060	87207	100363
Gypsum	t	2653485	2773813	3554973
Jasper	t	4547	2533	1210
Kaolin (Total)	t	822751	896884	904989
Kyanite	t	5327	9057	7710
Sillimanite	t	13290	19729	28761
Limestone	'000t	155742	153390	161462
Limekankar	t	310435	358468	482013

1	2	3	4	5
Limeshell	t	119931	135782	138380
Magnesite	t	278267	323977	381327
Mica (Crude)	kg	1232467	1075681	1366095
Mica (Waste & Scrap)	kg	2342320	2927662	2801799
Ochre	t	778540	959673	807863
Pyrophyllite	t	147233	176240	269712
Quartz	t	271267	287188	295719
Quartzite	t	39313	66654	92641
Silica Sand	t	2017282	2545969	1904771
Sand (Others)	t	2026477	1191854	1386559
Salt (Rock)	t	1620	1813	3073
Slate	t	6941	11381	4093
Steatite	t	688135	726398	749969
Shale	t	1276207	1897969	2385580
Laterite	t	638220	828179	704290
Dunite	t	27731	31040	21925
Perlite	t	283	279	334
Pyroxenite	t	256381	240391	241749
Selenite	t	18759	19740	6956
Sulphur (3)	t	102977	108856	113904
Vermiculite	t	5499	4493	3273
Wollastonite	t	178298	150814	172530

*[English]***Supply of Stamp Papers**

2596. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a large number of cases of incorrect denominations, excess and short supply of Stamps and Stamp Papers by India Security Press;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the officials responsible for such lapses; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir.

There are very insignificant number of cases where incorrect denominations, excess and short supply of Stamps and Stamp papers by India Security Press have been reported.

(b) Details are given in Statement enclosed.

(c) As the lapse has not been established on the part of ISP, on disciplinary action was taken.

(d) The system is continuously monitored by a procedure in place to check and counter check, to ensure correct supply of stamps/stamp papers.

Statement

Year	Total stamps/ stamp papers supplied during the year (sheets in lakhs)	No. of cases in which incorrect deno./shortage/ excess reported	No. of stamps/ stamp papers in which incorrect deno./shortage/excess reported (sheets in lakhs)	Percentage of incorrect deno./shortage/ excess sheets out of the total sheets supplied
2002-03	1626.26	26	0.00259	0.00016%
2003-04	1962.67	64	0.01846	0.00094%
2004-05	1450.01	50	0.01031	0.00071%

**Foreign Assistance for Poor Persons
in Rural Areas**

2597. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes launched so far and the ones that the Union Government proposes to launch for the development and the upliftment of the poor persons living in the rural areas of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the allocation of funds made by the Union Government as well as that from the State Governments indicating the rural areas likely to be covered, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any assistance earmarked for the above purpose through any Foreign Investment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the new schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of Centrally

Sponsored Schemes for poverty alleviation and rural development in the country. All these schemes are being implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) State-wise Central allocation of funds under major rural development schemes during the current financial year (2005-06) is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) The Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project (APRLP) funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK, is being implemented in 5 districts of Andhra Pradesh *viz.* Anantpur, Kurnool, Mehboobnagar, Nalgonda and Prakasam. The objective of the project is to comprehensively implement pro-poor watershed based sustainable rural livelihoods in the aforesaid 5 districts. The project was sanctioned in June 1999 for a period of 7 years and the total project cost is Rs. 320.00 crore. Under the project, 500 new watershed projects, 100 in each district, are being implemented with livelihoods support. The project is also supporting the enhancement of livelihoods of the identified poor in 2000 ongoing watersheds in the state. During the period 2000-2002 to 2004-05, funds to the tune of Rs. 183.54 crore have been released for implementation of the projects and Rs. 127.22 crore has been utilized. During the current year, against the budget provisions of Rs. 60.00 crore, funds to the tune of Rs. 31.85 crore has so far been released.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

State Name	SGRY Total Allocation	SGSY Total Allocation	NFFWP Total Allocation	IAY Total Allocation	DRDA Admn. Total Allocation	PMGSY Total Allocation	IWDP Total Allocation	Central Allocation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	37519.11	7074.62	27199.63	32532.56	963.48	10000.00	2439.55	21032.00
Arunachal Pradesh	2032.12	369.21	425.26	1265.91	382.39	5200.00	364.18	9080.00
Assam	52747.85	9593.57	37100.61	27992.31	717.71	17600.00	2073.31	15280.00
Bihar	74299.84	16831.72	58812.89	96027.63	1582.95	33200.00	701.25	15324.00
Chhattisgarh	20940.12	3736.60	23181.35	5030.89	604.02	33000.00	1017.11	5154.00
Goa	537.92	66.67	0.00	200.37	69.20	500.00	24.10	193.00
Gujarat	16426.84	2663.03	8895.33	15954.71	966.83	6000.00	1645.41	12339.00
Haryana	8653.88	1566.71	627.75	2240.05	653.74	2500.00	456.07	3590.00
Himachal Pradesh	3644.51	659.80	676.75	790.08	413.21	13200.00	1298.00	10605.00
Jammu and Kashmir	4282.76	816.34	1100.00	2454.03	535.49	6000.00	670.86	20073.00
Jharkhand	50388.56	6343.97	50315.90	8565.24	871.42	19500.00	303.25	5629.00
Karnataka	20818.49	5342.35	6514.20	12533.91	963.48	10500.00	1274.63	17555.00
Kerala	12571.82	2397.23	1218.36	6970.01	571.10	2500.00	479.10	5386.00
Madhya Pradesh	45221.05	8010.55	35201.76	10005.52	1663.57	53500.00	2644.05	15101.00
Maharashtra	55386.35	10560.52	34504.70	19619.41	1330.99	14000.00	1549.62	27591.00
Manipur	3540.24	643.15	889.78	1098.87	230.60	2800.00	479.13	3110.00
Meghalaya	3986.09	720.55	1212.16	1913.84	187.76	4000.00	144.02	3583.00
Mizoram	917.77	166.75	212.89	407.85	200.45	2700.00	1122.00	2589.00
Nagaland	2720.51	494.27	1015.71	1030.43	300.94	2500.00	540.39	2637.00
Orissa	42439.37	8091.90	49621.06	18866.33	1193.26	26800.00	1613.98	12405.00
Punjab	9625.47	761.39	1595.09	2770.28	627.54	3000.00	177.58	3642.00
Rajasthan	21275.61	4056.61	7866.58	6017.48	1176.46	28600.00	1914.19	44034.00
Sikkim	1016.11	184.60	703.70	242.21	30.15	2500.00	74.43	1083.00
Tamil Nadu	32808.16	6255.53	10803.45	13025.30	1225.49	8500.00	1789.07	11875.00
Tripura	6382.64	1161.22	3439.89	2465.89	119.00	3500.00	241.25	3178.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Uttar Pradesh	125390.29	24231.60	58738.53	43131.67	2859.55	44500.00	2099.84	24764.00
Uttaranchal	8374.72	1273.47	2259.88	2162.36	486.44	9500.00	961.81	5725.00
West Bengal	47162.91	8992.56	25496.32	26024.53	815.66	22100.00	175.49	13308.00
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	264.70	25.00	0.00	309.46	82.42	0.00	0.00	9.37
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	174.27	25.00	0.00	51.56	41.21	0.00	0.00	6.25
Daman and Diu	84.46	25.00	0.00	23.07	41.21	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.69
Lakshadweep	132.39	25.00	0.00	20.00	41.21	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	268.30	100.00	0.00	154.14	51.07	0.00	0.00	4.69
Total	719225.33	133266.49	449630.00	36397.90	22000.00	388200.00	28253.65	315750.00

[Translation]

Legal Assistance to Senior Citizens

2598. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide legal assistance to senior citizens, dependent family members of armed forces and para-military forces and the victims of terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the latest position of the said proposal; and

(d) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be approved by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) One of the recommendations made by Law Ministers in their conference held in Shimla during 10-11 June 2005 was that the categories of persons entitled to get legal aid under the 1987 Act be expanded by including therein the following categories of persons:—

(i) Senior citizens;

(ii) Dependent family members of Armed Forces personnel and of personnel of the Para Military Forces, who died in action; and

(iii) Victims of terrorists/extremist violence and riots.

(c) The recommendations of the Law Ministers were forwarded to the National Legal Services Authority for necessary action.

(d) As and when the proposal is received from NALSA the same will be considered. No time limit can be framed in this regard.

Demand of Indian Tussar Silk

2599. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of Indian tussar silk has risen in the foreign markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the cultivable area of tussar silk; and

(d) the funds granted by the Government for the development of the said sector during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The export earnings

from tasar silk goods during the year 2004-05 were Rs. 84.42 crores. This is an increase of 13.7% over the previous years export earnings of Rs. 74.25 crores.

(c) The Central Silk Board (CSB) in collaboration with State Sericulture Departments has taken up various steps for the development of tasar sector and to increase cultivable area of tasar silk in the country. Some of the important steps taken in this regard are given below:

1. Catalytic Development Programme:

The Central Silk Board is implementing the Catalytic Development Programme during X Plan in collaboration with different State Governments. Under the Catalytic Development Programme a provision of Rs. 181.00 crores has been made for providing assistance to sericulturists in the form of subsidy/incentive to encourage them to adopt improved technology aiming towards improvement in quality and productivity. This includes a provision of Rs. 16.37 crores for the development of tasar sector mainly for the on-farm sector.

2. Special Projects:

The following state specific projects are being implemented for the development for tasar sector in different States:

- A. Chhattisgarh Sericulture Project with the assistance of the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC);
- B. Special Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) Project for the development of tasar and eri culture in Bihar;
- C. Special SGSY Project for the development of tasar and eri culture in Jharkhand; and
- D. Micro-project for the development of Oak tasar in Manipur.

3. Research and Developmental Support:

The CSB has established a Central Tasar Research and Training Institute in Ranchi. This Institute alongwith its network of Regional Tasar Research Stations and Research Extension centres in different tasar producing States provides required research support for the development of tasar sector. The Central Silk Technological Research Institute has developed improved

reeling-cum-twisting machines and improved spinning wheel to produce quality tasar yarn. Popularization of these machines and replacement of these machines with traditional natwa reeling has removed drudgery and improved the quality and productivity. The CSB has established demonstration-cum-technical service centres for tasar in different States to provide field oriented training and demonstration in post cocoon technology to the local reelers/spinners.

4. Seed Support:

The CSB has established a Basic Tasar Silkworm Seed organization in Bilaspur. This unit with a network of 21 Basic Seed Multiplication-cum-Training Centres functioning in different tasar producing States produce and supply basic seed required for the production of tasar.

5. Market Support:

The CSB has established a Raw Material Bank in Chaibasa. This unit alongwith its sub depots procure tasar cocoons from tasar cocoon growers to ensure remunerative price to the primary producers.

(d) During the last three years *i.e.* 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, the CSB has released/spent Rs. 1.83 crores, Rs. 2.17 crores and Rs. 2.61 crores respectively to different States for the development of tasar sector under the Catalytic Development Programme.

[English]

Package for Powerloom Sector

2600. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced a powerloom package during the year 2003-04 to enlarge the existing technology upgradation fund scheme;

(b) if so, the funds given to the powerloom sector for modernisation of powerloom under the said package;

(c) the benefits given to the workers of powerloom sector under the new group workshed scheme; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government with the collaboration of States to create better working environment and obtain higher productivity?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the 20% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, Rs. 16.09 crores has been disbursed to 326 cases upto 15th November 2005.

(c) The Government has already announced Group Workshed Scheme for the decentralised powerloom sector, under current Five Year Plan, which aims at setting up of powerloom parks with modern weaving machinery to enhance their competitiveness in the global market as well as to provide better working environment, etc.

(d) Efforts have been made to make the schemes popular, and therefore, powerloom weaving parks are coming up in different locations/powerloom clusters of the country. The programme for awareness about the schemes have been organised with the association of State authorities. State Government have been written about the assistance required under the scheme.

Ban on Loan to Directors of Cooperative Banks

2601. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has imposed ban on loans/advances to the Directors/Employees, Directors/Elective Directors of the Co-operative Banks after the implementation of the recommendations made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam of 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received representations from the Co-operative banks and public representatives regarding lifting of ban on loans/advances to the Directors/Employee Directors/Elective Directors;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the said ban is likely to be lifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had imposed a ban on loans/advances to the Directors/Employee Directors/Elected Directors of

the Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) after the implementation of the recommendations made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam of 2001. As per section 20(1) (b) of the Banking Regulation Act 1949 (AACS), District Central Cooperative Banks are prohibited from granting unsecured loans or advances to any of its directors or to firms or private companies in which any of its directors is interested as partner or managing agent or guarantor or to any individual where any of its directors is guarantor.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Based on various representations received and recommendations of RBI, the ban on sanction of loans and advances by UCBs to their Directors has been relaxed in the following cases:—

- (i) Regular employee related loans to staff Directors on Board of UCBs.
- (ii) Normal loans as applicable to members to the Directors on the Board of salary earners cooperative banks.
- (iii) Normal employee-related loans to Managing Directors of Multi-State Cooperative Banks.

Making Handloom Sector Hi-Tech

2602. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to make the handloom/handicraft sector hi-tech;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) 25 Weavers' Service Centres are functioning in the country with an objective to develop new designs, product innovations and to provide technical assistance to the weavers/exporters/designers/manufacturers, etc. in the field of designing, weaving, dyeing/printing, etc. and these centres are also, equipped with personal computers. Out of these, 18 Weavers' Service Centres are also equipped with Computer Aided Textile Design system with a view to develop innovative designs commensurate with the market requirements. It is also proposed to introduce Handloom Mark and promote

the brand image of handlooms. The Government of India has recently introduced Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme with an objective to develop the cluster in an integrated & holistic manner to build their capacity to meet the challenges of the market and global competition in a sustainable and self reliant manner. This includes assistance towards setting up of Dyeing Unit, Common Facility Centre, Quality Control Lab etc. Besides, various handloom Schemes namely; Handloom Export Scheme, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Daen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, etc. are under implementation for the development of the Handloom Sector. These Schemes *inter-alia* includes assistance towards up-gradation of handlooms, accessories, etc. Under the recently launched Health Insurance Scheme, Identity Cards will be issued to the weavers to avail the benefits of the scheme.

The Handicraft Sector proposed to take various steps to make this sector hi-tech by issuance of multi purpose Identity Cards to artisans with their details on computer; setting up of Facility Centre under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for exporters and entrepreneurs on Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model; promotion of brand image of Indian Handicrafts in the global market on sustained basis; e-commerce facility to artisans, entrepreneurs and exporters in order to have a

wide market access for their products and setting up of Special Economic Zones for Handicrafts and Carpets.

NPAs of Urban Cooperative Banks

2603. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non Performing Assets of Urban Co-operative Banks have been increasing over the last several years;

(b) if so, the details of NPAs of UCBs during the last year, year-wise, State-wise showing debt, slab wise number of NPA debtors account *e.g.* number of accounts in Rs. 50,000 debt slab, Rs. 1,00,000, Rs. 2,00,000 and so on;

(c) the reasons for increase in NPAs and failure of recovery; and

(d) the steps contemplated, for recovery of NPAs within a specific time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No specific trend in increase/decrease of Non Performing Assets (NPAs) is established by the following data of gross and net NPAs of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) for the last five years:—

Year (as at end-March)	No. of reporting UCBs	Gross NPAs (Rs. crore)	Gross NPA as a percentage of total advances	Net NPAs (Rs. crore)	Net NPA as a percentage of total advances
2001	1,942	9,245	16.1	—	—
2002	1,937	13,706	21.9	—	—
2003	1,941	12,509	19.0	6,428	13.0
2004*	1,926	15,406	22.7	8,242	12.1
2005@	1,872	15,409	23.0	8174	12.2

*Revised figures

@ Provisional figures

(b) The data reporting system of RBI does not capture/generate slab-wise data of NPAs as called for. However, the details of state-wise NPAs of Urban Cooperative Banks for the year 2004-05 are furnished as Statement.

(c) The reasons for increase in NPAs and low recovery, *inter-alia*, include-Normal business failure;

Cyclical nature of certain industries resulting in business downturn, Outbreak of natural calamities; Lack of sound lending policies and non-adherence to guidelines/instructions issued by RBI from time to time; Poor quality of pre-sanction appraisal/post-sanction supervision of loans and advances granted by banks; Excessive exposure to certain sectors; Sanctioning of unsecured loans to firms/

companies connected to share/stock brokers in violation of RBI guidelines and Unauthorised credit facilities extended, Diversion of funds out of business, Lack of security and Pending court cases, etc.

(d) Several steps have been taken to encourage recovery of loans UCBs have been advised to initiate penal measures against willful defaulters, implement a

scheme of One Time Settlement of NPAs on the lines of draft scheme approved by RBI; UCB's have been brought under the purview of the Securitisation Act in January 2003; Ban has been issued on loans and advances to directors (except in certain cases): UCBs are not allowed to extend credit facilities to stock/share brokers against shares/debentures/bonds, etc.

Statement

The details of NPAs state-wise for the year 2004-05

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Gross NPAs	Net NPAs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	521.12	396.88
2.	Assam/Manipur/Meghalaya/Sikkim/ Nagaland/Tripura/Arunachal Pradesh	28.38	14.41
3.	Bihar/Jharkhand	2.35	1.90
4.	Gujarat	3788.86	22.52
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	31.54	22.55
6.	Karnataka	1328.82	850.20
7.	Kerala	330.39	182.77
8.	Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	131.96	61.53
9.	Maharashtra/Goa	8349.38	3854.41
10.	New Delhi	54.58	15.37
11.	Orissa	129.18	94.90
12.	Punjab/Haryana/Himachal Pradesh	42.78	19.52
13.	Rajasthan	49.70	23.11
14.	Tamil Nadu/Pondicherry	324.91	244.75
15.	Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	128.87	89.62
16.	West Bengal	166.18	50.08
	Total	15,409	8,174

Closure of Spinning Mills

2604. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cooperative spinning mills in the country specially in Orissa have been closed down;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive these mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, mill-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes Sir. Out of the 160 installed cooperative spinning mills, 75 are reportedly closed including 1 in Orissa.

(b) The closure of the cooperative spinning mills is mainly attributed to:

- Recession in industry during 1995-2002
- Technological obsolescence
- High cost of inputs like cotton, power and labour
- High cost of capital
- Lack of adequate funds, particularly for working capital.

State-wise details of closed mills is given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) NCDC has a scheme for rehabilitation of sick cooperative spinning mills. The scheme is in the form of a package. NCDC provides loan assistance to the extent of 70% of the rehabilitation cost to the State Governments for participating in the equity as well as providing term loan for the rehabilitation of the sick cooperative spinning mills. In addition, capital subsidy to the extent of 20% on the plant and machinery component of the rehabilitation programme is provided, if made available by the Government of India.

(d) Sequel to the introduction in the scheme (March 2000) four programmes have been sanctioned so far-of which 1 has been completed and 3 are in progress. Details are given in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of the States	Number of Closed Cotton Growers/ Handloom Weavers Cooperative Spinning Mills
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11
2.	Assam	2
3.	Bihar	3
4.	Gujarat	4
5.	Haryana	1
6.	Karnataka	5
7.	Maharashtra	26
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1
9.	Orissa	1
10.	Punjab	5
11.	Rajasthan	1
12.	Tamil Nadu	9
13.	Uttar Pradesh	6
Total		75

Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of Mill	Date of sanction	Remarks
1.	Gulabpura Unit of SPINFED, Rajasthan	12.6.2001	Completed
2.	Farmers Cooperative Spinning Mills Ltd., Karnataka	11.9.2003	Under implementation
3.	Gulabpura Unit of SPINFED Rajasthan	6.12.2004	Under implementation
4.	Gangapur Unit of SPINFED, Rajasthan	6.12.2004	Under implementation

Investment by Banks/FIs

2605. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take some special steps to increase investment through financial institutions and banks in the country particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of investment made, State-wise; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help in development in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Investments by Banks and Financial Institutions are subject to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines. In general, these guidelines do not discriminate between one state and another. There is no proposal to interfere with the guidelines.

Research Station in Antarctica

2606. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a another research station in Antarctica;

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

(c) the time by which it is, likely to set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The department of ocean development has selected a site at Larsmann Hill at latitude 69° South and longitude 76° East after conducting preliminary surveys during the Antarctic summer of 2003-04 and 2004-05. Detailed surveys on environmental parameters as mandated under the Environmental Protocol of the Antarctic Treaty and also from logistics and scientific considerations, are proposed to be carried during the Antarctic summer of 2005-06. Based on these survey, proposal for getting clearance under the Environmental

Protocol will be submitted to the Consultative body of the Antarctic Treaty.

(c) At this stage it is not possible to give a time frame for setting up of the station.

Recruitment in Public Sector Banks

2607. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that various public sector banks have set out different eligibility criteria for the Probationary Officers and other recruitment exams after the dissolution of BSRB;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued any directions/guidelines to the banks for the recruitment of the above categories of officers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) After the dissolution of Banking Service Recruitment Boards (BSRBs), Government laid down minimum educational qualifications for the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to stipulate in their recruitment policy for appointment of employees/officers through direct recruitment. While the Government has laid down minimum qualifications for appointments through direct recruitment in the subordinate, clerical and officers' cadres it gave discretion to them to prescribe minimum percentage of marks or any additional qualifications depending upon their requirements with the approval of their boards.

World Bank Report

2608. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has held various policies of the Government responsible for a highly inadequate supply of finance to rural poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in a report titled 'Scaling up access to finance for India's rural poor,' the World Bank report has

pointed out that a combination of various factors has affected both banks and their clients;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the report has observed that the Government policy has created a financial climate that is not conducive to lending in general and to rural banking in particular;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government on the World Bank report and whether they have suggested any measures to be taken in this regard; and

(g) if so, by what time fiscal decision in implementing the suggestions of the World Bank be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) A World Bank Policy Research Working Paper entitled "Scaling-up Microfinance for India's Rural Poor" has *inter alia* identified a combination of factors which explain the lack of access of formal finance by the rural poor. These are the problem of uncertainty about the repayment capacity of poor rural borrowers emanating from their irregular/volatile income streams and expenditure patterns, high transaction costs of rural lending mainly due to the small loan size and government policies creating financial climate that is not conducive to lending in general and rural banking in particular.

Specific Government policies identified are fiscal deficits which have meant that Government is appropriating a large share of financial savings for itself, persistence of interest rate restrictions which reduce the attractiveness of lending inefficiencies arising from weak governance and stringent scrutiny leading to Bankers' risk aversion.

(f) and (g) The suggestions and recommendations made by various multilateral agencies are kept in view by the government while formulating economic policies.

Mutual Fund Players

2609. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Mutual Funds Players in the country are adopting unhealthy and misleading practices to attract business;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received or noticed by Securities and Exchange Board of India in this regard;

(c) whether SEBI has taken action against such mutual fund companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) SEBI has stated that following two types of practices related to sales and distribution of mutual fund products have come to their notice:

(i) They have understood from media reports that some of the distributors are encouraging investors to frequently switch from one scheme to the other in order to enhance their commissions. However, no specific complaint regarding this has been received by them from any investor.

(ii) One of the Mutual Funds namely Principal Mutual Fund was advertising exceptionally high rates of dividends months in advance before actual announcement of dividend in order to attract investors. On noticing, they wrote to the mutual fund to immediately withdraw all such sales material and advertisements. The fund complied with the SEBI directive and also paid the declared dividend to the investors, on November 2, 2005 instead of the advertised date in February 2006.

[*Translation*]

Handpump and Filter Supply of Potable Water

2610. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the newly developed handpump and filter by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research which may be useful in providing safe potable water in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is taking any steps to make it available in rural areas at the earliest possible keeping in view the utility of these new handpumps;

(d) if so, whether necessary directives have been issued to the State Governments to bring it in use everywhere; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (e) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, through its National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), has developed the "Ultra filtration membrane technology" for removal of biological contaminants like viruses, bacterial cysts, spores, etc. However, the same membrane cannot be used for removal of dissolved salts. As informed by CNL, they have transferred the technology to a Pune based firm for commercial manufacture of the membrane.

Rural water supply is a state subject. State Governments are empowered to plan, design, sanction and implement rural water supply schemes. As this product is already available in the market, the State Government can use this technology, if they desire so.

Decrease In Projects under Swajaldhara Scheme

2611. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a continuous decrease in the number of the projects being undertaken under the Swajaldhara Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof since its inception till date along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to undertake any other scheme in place of Swajaldhara Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) No Sir. Swajaldhara is a demand driven scheme. Based on the demand generated during the last three years, 4552 schemes were approved in 15 States and 1 UT during the year 2002-03, 4375 schemes were taken up in 21 States and 1 UT during 2003-04 and 4814 schemes were taken up in 23 States in 2004-05. During the current

year 14194 schemes have been approved for implementation by 13 States till date.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal to replace Swajaldhara scheme, however, review of schemes for modification is a continuous process.

Deep Sea Mining

2612. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any new policy for exploiting mineral resources from the deep sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to increase the area into Deep Sea Mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing Polymetallic Nodules Programme for exploration and development of relevant technologies in the Pioneer area allotted to India in Central Indian Ocean Basin for potential exploitation of polymetallic nodules from deep sea. As a part of development of technologies for deep sea mining under this programme, a crawler based shallow bed sand mining system has been developed and demonstrated for sand mining at a water depth of 410 meters off Tuticorin coast. Government has also set up a semi-continuous pilot plant with a capacity of processing 500 kg polymetallic nodules per day for extracting metals *viz.*, copper, nickel and cobalt at Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Udaipur.

(c) The Government has undertaken the survey for Delineation of Outer Limits of Continental Shelf extending beyond the existing Exclusive Economic Zone of India. The documentations are required to be submitted before the United Nation or delineation of continental shelf by May 2009.

[English]

Revamping of Public Sector Undertakings

2613. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for revamping of public sector undertakings and to provide incentives for corporates and ensure corporate governance as well as accountability; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) An *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts (AGE) on Empowerment of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to consider issues like autonomy, greater delegation of financial powers, corporate governance, R&D, technological upgradation, effective functioning in a competitive environment *etc.* was constituted in November, 2004. Based on the recommendations of the AGE, Government has delegated enhanced powers to the Navratna, Miniratna and profit making CPSEs to incur capital expenditure and formation of joint ventures, as the case may be.

In order to strengthen the management for taking expeditious decisions, the Board of CPSEs have been/ are being professionalized by inducting independent directors particularly in Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs. As regards corporate governance, the listed companies follow guidelines issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). In case of other CPSEs, guidelines have been issued from time to time on composition of Board of Directors, appointment of independent directors, setting up of audit committees etc. There are guidelines in place permitting these companies to make performance related payments to the extent of 5% of the distributable profit in an enterprise.

A Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has been set up to advise the Government on restructuring/revival of sick/loss making CPSEs. Enterprise-specific proposals are submitted by the concerned administrative Ministry/Department before the Board for consideration. The Board has so far recommended 23 proposals of revival/restructuring and of them Government has already cleared 7 proposals.

Investment in Rural Sector

2614. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the assets bases of ICICI, IDBI, IFCI, LIC, etc. as on date; and

(b) the details of the investments made by each of these non-banking financial institutions in the rural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have informed that the assets size of the ICICI Bank Ltd., IDBI Ltd., IFCI Ltd. and LIC are as in the table.

(Rs. in crores)	
Bank Name	Total Assets as at end March 2005
ICICI Bank Ltd.	1,67,659
IDBI Ltd.	81,360
IFCI Ltd.	16,540.32
LIC	4,38,079.22

(b) ICICI Bank Ltd. has informed that the total outstanding of Rural Microbanking and Agri-Business Group in Rural Sector as on 30th September, 2005 is Rs. 6,151.13 crores. For IDBI Ltd. credit flow to rural sector during the year ended March 31, 2005 was Rs. 49.02 crore. IFCI has no specific scheme for rural sector financing. However, as on 31st March, 2005, of the total sanctions of Rs. 46159 crore made by IFCI, 46% has been sanctioned in less developed areas. LIC of India, as on 31st March, 2005 has provided Rs. 2337 crore to rural housing sector and Rs. 3929.48 crore to water supply (rural), these being the only sectors for which bifurcation of LIC's investments into rural and urban is available.

Committee on MAPIN

2615. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has received the report of the Committee appointed on Securities Market Participants and Investors' Identification Number (MAPIN);

(b) if so, the recommendations contained in the report;

(c) the details about the representations, suggestions received regarding MAPIN from Members of Parliament, Investors Association, Ex-Members of Parliament;

(d) whether the Ministry and regulators will see that the present investors, small investors, senior citizens are exempted from harassment and hardship;

(e) whether Demat Account Number are being used; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have intimated that the committee has *inter alia*, recommended that a unique ID for each participant is necessary in the interests of the market but has suggested an alternative system for creating unique IDs based on non-biometrics disclosures only for all market participants who are yet to obtain Unique Identification Numbers (UINs). The report and the recommendations have been made available on SEBI's website (www.sebi.gov.in).

(c) According to SEBI, some representations/suggestions have been received which include wider availability of the facility of registration for MAPIN, avoiding finger printing, exemption for small investors and senior citizens and reduction in charges.

(d) to (f) SEBI has initiated action to examine the recommendations of the committee and some other suggestions that have been made to SEBI and to arrive at a solution that ensures unique investor identity while minimising hardship to small investors.

Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre

2616. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set-up an Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed its working;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has initiated action on the recommendations made in 89th Indian Science Congress for disaster preparedness of the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the progress made thereto; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC) has been set up as an independent wing of India Meteorological Department (IMD). The principle mandate of EREC is to collate and integrate various data sets and to prepare the site specific Earthquake Risk Maps.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Activities of EREC are overseen by the Council of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences of IMD. Also, a Standing Advisory Committee comprising of experts from relevant institutions is responsible for reviewing the activities of EREC and providing overall guidance from time to time.

(e) to (g) Disaster Prevention and Management was one of the areas touched upon by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his opening remarks. However, no specific recommendation was made related to Disaster Preparedness of the country in the 89th Indian Science Congress held during January 3-7, 2002 at Lucknow.

Encouraging Savings amongst Students

2617. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for encouraging savings among students for their study through Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether any Public Sector Bank is extending banking facility to school students;

(d) if so, the names of the bank and the nature of facilities offered;

(e) whether rural students are also covered under this scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) No, Sir. However, Public Sector Banks have extension counters/branches in schools which *inter-alia* facilitate students to utilize their services.

[*Translation*]

Solar Energy

2618. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector undertaking Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has started installing solar energy plant in Jharkhand schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to announce a package for the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Madhya Pradesh to encourage the use of solar energy; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) As per the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited they have installed a total of 174 solar photovoltaic plants in schools and hostels in Jharkhand during November, 2003 to December, 2004.

(c) There is no proposal to announce a package for the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Madhya Pradesh to encourage the use of solar energy.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Grants to NGOs for Drinking and Sanitation Facilities

2619. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) engaged in the research, development and conduct of training in the Drinking Water and Sanitation Sector in the rural areas of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh, State-wise;

(b) the details of grants provided to each of them during the last three years and current year, State-wise; and

(c) the details of rural areas benefited as a result thereof, State-wise and District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) As per Research & Development guidelines of Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM), NGOs are eligible for grants for undertaking Research & Development (R&D) Projects in drinking water and sanitation sector. R&D Project grants are not released State-wise and District-wise. The details of NGOs to whom grants were released during the last three years and current year are given in enclosed Statement.

In Total Sanitation Campaign Programme (TSC), at National level, funds for conducting training were released to two NGOs during the last three years and the current year. The details are given in the Annexure. No NGO from Andhra Pradesh was funded at the National level under the TSC for R&D and training related activity.

The training programmes are organized by these NGOs for project functionaries of almost all States. Capacity Development of TSC project functionaries lead to better implementation of TSC projects for effective rural sanitation coverage. TSC Guidelines also permit engagement of NGOs by District Implementation Agencies and Communication & Capacity Development Units, set up by States, for taking up Information, Education & Communication and training activities. Details of grants provided to NGOs by the District Implementation Agencies and State Governments in the rural drinking water and sanitation sector are not kept at Government of India level.

Statement

(Rs. In lakh)

Name of NGO	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Remarks
Social Work & Research Centre (R&D), Ajmer (Rajasthan)	5.50	—	—	—	For R&D Project
Rama Krishna Mission Lok Shiksha Parishad, Narendrapur, Kolkata (TSC)	—	—	19.80	—	For training of TSC project functionaries
Environmental Sanitation Institution, Ahmedabad (TSC)	100.00	12.50	—	—	For training of TSC project functionaries

*[Translation]***Loan for Tubewells**

2620. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of marginal farmers given loans by Cooperative, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks for installing tubewells during the last three years till date, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether any complaints have been received by the Government in regard to irregularities committed in sanctioning these loans during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken for checking of these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The existing Management Information System (MIS) does not capture category-wise and agency-wise information of the tubewells financed to farmers. However, number of tubewells with pump sets financed to farmers, including marginal farmers, with NABARD refinance assistance and units completed upto 31st March 2003, 2004 and 2005 are as under:

Upto 31st March	Units Financed	Units Completed
2003	1,448	1,445
2004	2,045	2,043
2005	1,501	1,499

(b) to (d) NABARD has not received any complaint regarding irregularities in sanctioning loans for installing tubewells. As and when a complaint of such nature is received by the Government, it is forwarded to the concerned bank for redressal.

*[English]***Setting up of Aluminium Smelter Plant**

2621. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether NALCO proposes to set up new Aluminium smelter plants in the country and abroad;

(b) if so, the number of aluminium smelters plants proposed to be set up by NALCO;

(c) the location thereof with capacity; and

(d) the time by which these smelters plants are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is exploring possibilities of setting up of Aluminium Smelter plant in India/abroad. For exploring such possibilities abroad, NALCO has assigned M/s Engineers India Limited to prepare pre-feasibility report.

(c) Location and capacity of the smelter can be decided after finalisation of feasibility report.

(d) No time frame has been fixed in this regard.

Profit/Loss of Insurance Companies

2622. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the profit/loss earned/incurred by the Government

Year	LIC	National	New India	Oriental	United
2002-03	9761.80	134.92	255.82	63.99	171.00
2003-04	10962.50	71.22	590.22	316.44	380.44
2004-05	15884.26	131.13	402.23	330.53	307.71

(Rs. Crores)

(b) In view of the reply to part (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) and (d) With the opening of the insurance sector in the year 2000, a number of private insurance companies have commenced operations in both life and non-life segments. As on date, there are 8 non-life insurers and 14 life insurers in the private sector. Subsequent to liberalization, the insurance sector has recorded growth in terms of premium underwritten. With a view to sustaining their market position in the industry, the public sector insurers are in the process of restructuring their operations. Various steps in this direction include (i) restructuring the business segments; (ii) introducing innovative products; and (iii) strengthening the underwriting procedures so as to bring down the claims. Insurers are also entering into strategic alliances and tie-ups to strengthen their business development activities.

Profit and Loss of SBI

2623. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

owned insurance companies during the last three years, company-wise;

(b) the reasons for incurring losses;

(c) whether the insurance companies have formulated any schemes to compete with the private players in the field; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to further improve the services and profits of the insurance companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) All the four non-life public sector insurers and LIC have reported net profits during the last three years *i.e.* 2002-03 to 2004-05. The details of net surplus generated by LIC and net profit by non-Life Public Sector Insurers are given below:

(a) the details of profit/losses of State Bank of India (SBI) during the last three years;

(b) whether the profits of SBI during the last quarter is lower than the expectations;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the services and profits of SBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of Net Profit of State Bank of India for the last three years are as under:—

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Net Profit	3105.00	3681.00	4304.52

(Rs. in crore)

(b) and (c) SBI posted a net profit of Rs. 1215.36 crore during the quarter ended September 2005, which is 12.34% higher than Rs. 1081.89 crore earned during the quarter ended September, 2004.

(d) To improve its services and profits, the bank has identified a number of thrust areas and various strategies have been initiated which, *inter-alia*, include focus on marketing, streamlining of processes, continuous upgradation of technology, Multi Product Sales Force, efforts to effect expeditious recovery in NPA accounts, Cost effective processing of increasing volume of transactions, superior risk management architecture, Outbound Marketing teams particularly for SME borrowers and cross selling of 'P' segment products.

Modernisation of Textile Sector

2624. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to modernize some textile mills including NTC mills in the country;

(b) if so, the location-wise details of such mills;

(c) the financial allocation made by the Government during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposal from international institutions including World Bank for providing financial assistance for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government has proposed to modernize and operate 22 viable and best performing mills of NTC. A list of such mills is enclosed as statement.

(c) to (e) The modernization is self financing using the resources generated by sale of surplus land and assets of NTC mills. No proposal in the matter has been received from international financial institutions.

Statement

List of 22 Mills Proposed for Revival

Sl.No.	Name of the Mills	Location
1	2	3
A. 15 Mills to be revived in 1st Phase		
NTC (APKKM) Ltd.		
KARNATAKA		
1.	Minerva Mills	Bangalore
KERALA		
2.	Aligappa Textile Mills	Alagappanagar
3.	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	Cannanore
4.	Kerala Laxmi Mills	Trichur
5.	Vijayamohini Mills	Trivandrum
MAHE		
6.	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	Mahe

1	2	3
NTC (MN) Ltd.		
MAHARASHTRA		
7.	Podar Mills	Mumbai
NTC (SM) Ltd.		
MAHARASHTRA		
8.	Barshi Textile Mills	Barshi
9.	Finlay Mills	Mumbai
N.T.C. (TN & P) Ltd.		
TAMIL NADU		
10.	Cambodia Mills	Coimbatore
11.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	Coimbatore
12.	Pankaja Mills	Coimbatore
13.	Pioneer Spinners Mills	Kamudakudi
14.	Sri Rangavilas S. & W. Mills	Coimbatore
15.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit	Kalayarkoil
<i>B. 7 Mills to be revived in 2nd Phase</i>		
NTC (DPR) Ltd.		
RAJASTHAN		
16.	Udaipur Cotton Mills	Udaipur
NTC (Guj.) Ltd.		
GUJARAT		
17.	Rajnagar Textile Mill No. 1	Ahmedabad
NTC (MN) Ltd.		
MAHARASHTRA		
18.	Tata Mills	Mumbai
19.	India United Mill No. 5	Mumbai
NTC (WBABO) Ltd.		
WEST BENGAL		
20.	Arati Cotton Mills	Dass Nagar
NTC (MP) Ltd.		
MADHYA PRADESH		
21.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	Burhanpur
22.	New Bhopal Textile Mills	Bhopal

FOREX Out Flow

2625. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the annual FOREX out-flow to finance overseas education of Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): The foreign exchange remittances made abroad by the Indian banks for 'education related' purposes as recorded under India's balance of payments statistics by the Reserve Bank of India are given in the Table below for the last few years. Latest data on such remittances are available for the period April-September 2004-05.

Education related Forex outflows

	US\$ Million	Rs. Crore
2000-01	95	435
2001-02	249	1182
2002-03	169	818
2003-04	237	1082
2004-05 (April-September)	291	1337

Aid for Poverty Eradication

2626. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has identified India amongst the most needy for poverty aid;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action plan alongwith quantum of aid promised by the World Bank;

(c) the reforms proposed to be taken up to fight poverty with the support of aid; and

(d) the extent to which these reforms will be helpful in fighting the poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The World Bank in its Country Strategy (July 2004-June 2008) has mentioned that since about one quarter of the World's poor live in India, the Bank's efforts to assist India with best practice knowledge and financing for

development are central to its mission to help reduce global poverty. This is envisaged through up-scaling of Bank's lending to US\$ 2.5 to 3 billion per annum in each of these four years for funding of projects not only for poverty alleviation, but also in the fields of health, education, human development, rural livelihoods and infrastructure development.

(c) and (d) Comprehensive reforms in the areas of Fiscal Policy, Delivery of Public Services, Improved Investment Climate and in Agriculture and Rural development are being carried out. These cross cutting reforms are expected to accelerate growth and rapidly improve other social indicators including reduction of Poverty.

Foreign Operation of LIC

2627. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) proposes to expand its business in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the countries;

(c) whether the formalities in this regard have since been finalized; and

(d) if so, the time by which the LIC is expected to start its operations there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) LIC has reported that it has already been operating in foreign countries, such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, U.K., Fiji and Mauritius. There are plans to expand its activities to some other countries. The names of the countries and status of proposed foreign operations are as under:—

Sl.No.	Country	Status
1	2	3
1.	Saudi Arabia	A Joint Venture Company with New India Assurance Co. Ltd., LIC (International), BSC

1	2	3
		(c) Bahrain & AL Hokair Group of Saudi Arabia has been approved by the LIC Board and Government of India. The proposal is in advanced stage and licence is expected to be issued shortly.
2.	Mauritius	A Joint Venture Company is established in partnership with GIC of India. Operations are expected to start after actuarial evaluation of proposals and finalization of products.
3.	Nigeria	The LIC Board has accorded in principle approval to set up a Joint Venture Company in Nigeria in partnership with New India Assurance Co. Ltd. and Prestige Assurance Plc of Nigeria. The operations are expected to start in 2006-07.
4.	New Zealand	The entry strategy is being evaluated by Actuarial team and operations are expected to start in 2006-07.
5.	Egypt	Options for entry strategy are being examined.

Prices of Cotton

2628. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of cotton have fallen sharply in comparison to international market and the farmers are not getting remunerative prices;

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

(c) whether the Cotton Corporation of India has proposed to set up Cotton Procurement Centers in various parts of the country;

(d) if so, the areas identified and the objectives for setting up such centers; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to assist the cotton growers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) No Sir. The international prices, as measured by Cotlook A index, which were ruling at 56.55 US Cents per lb at the beginning of October, 2005 firmed up for a short period to reach a level of 60.00 US Cents per lb on 17.10.2005 are now ruling at 55.55 US Cents per lb. The domestic cotton prices, which were under pressure in October, 2005 have now firmed by Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000 per candy spot (*i.e.* 4 to 5 US Cents per lb). Similarly, the kapas prices, which were at Minimum Support Price (MSP) level upto first fortnight of November, 2005 are now ruling above the MSP by Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per quintal in all the States except Gujarat. Presently, the domestic cotton prices are almost on par with international prices.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir, in order to ensure remunerative prices to the cotton farmers in the wake of prevailing kapas prices touching the MSP level, the CCI had drawn a contingency plan for conducting MSP operations in all the cotton growing States. The CCI has proposed to set up 255 procurement centers in all the ten cotton growing States. In order to assist the cotton farmers of the country for ensuring remunerative prices, the Government of India from the year 2004-05, besides CCI had also appointed National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) as the nominated agency for undertaking MSP operations.

[*Translation*]

EFC Grant to Bihar

2629. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 11th Finance Commission recommended a grant of Rs. 260.15 crore for the State of Bihar for the period of 2000-05;

(b) whether only a sum of Rs. 211.75 crore has been allotted to Bihar during this period;

(c) if so, the reasons for not allotting the remaining 49 crore Rupees to the State;

(d) whether the facilities, namely, forensic science lab in Patna, procurement of latest weapons, construction of barracks for the police administration, building for schools, computer training for school children have not been provided due to the lack of funds;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to provide the remaining amount of the State; and

(f) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 2000-05 grant amount to Rs. 216.04 crore has been released to the Government of Bihar.

(c) Balance grant could not be released to the State Government due to non-fulfillment of conditionalities attached to the release of grants.

(d) Eleventh Finance Commission had not recommended grant for construction of barracks for police administration. In respect of computer training for school children entire recommended grant was released to the State Government. State Government has not reported utilization of funds by the prescribed date to the extent of grant released in respect of procurement of weapons, buildings for school and in the case of forensic science laboratories no utilization certificate was received from the State.

(e) and (f) As Eleventh Finance Commission award period was over on 31.3.2005 no further grant can be released for the purpose.

[English]

Collection of Service Tax

2630. SHRI HEMMAL MUMRU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the corruption in the Service Tax Commissionerate, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such reports of corruption was revealed by the electronic media;

(d) if so, the details thereof and total number of officers and staff found guilty of such corruption; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government against erring official, category and designation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The TV channel "Aaj Tak" has aired a programme alleging corruption at the CGO Complex Office of Service Tax Commissionerate, Delhi.

(d) and (e) The Directorate General of Vigilance, CBEC, which has been entrusted with the inquiry, has submitted an Interim Report to the Board/Ministry. Although, further action can be taken based on the final report which will reveal the role of individual officers, extent of corruption in the incident, so far, 13 officials (4 Superintendent, 8 Inspectors and One Deputy Office Superintendent (DOS) of Service Tax Commissionerate, Delhi have been placed under suspension.

[Translation]

FDI in Insurance Sector

2631. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assured the American Government that the percentage of foreign investment in the financial sector like insurance, etc. will be increased from the present limit of 26 percent;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the money coming out of additional foreign investment will be utilised for developing infrastructure in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has made it clear that the money coming out of the additional foreign investment will be utilised only for developing the infrastructure in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b), No, Sir.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Milling of Rice

2632. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new system for milling of rice as reported in the 'Danik Jagaran' dated November 07, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether trials were conducted for testing the said new system;

(d) if so, whether the adoption of the Biomass Gasifier System is likely to reduce the cost and time taken in milling of rice;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the manner in which the farmers are likely to be benefited from the said system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Rice mills that are mostly situated in rural areas generally install diesel generating sets to meet their captive energy requirements in view of unreliable supply of grid power. With the continuous hike in diesel prices, the cost of milling has gone up. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a programme which provides partial financial assistance to encourage the installation of biomass gasifiers in rice mills for meeting their captive energy requirements.

(c) A large number of biomass gasifiers have been installed in rice mills in different parts of the country. In West Bengal, in particular, 45 rice mills have already installed such systems that are running successfully.

(d) to (f) In view of availability of reliable energy from the biomass gasifier systems, the cost and time of

rice milling has reduced considerably. The raw material for the gasifier is available from the rice mill itself in the form of rice husk. In the dual fuel gasifier systems that have been installed so far, upto 70% of diesel replacement is obtained. Gasifiers with 100% gas engines have recently been developed and are undergoing trials. They are likely to further reduce the cost of rice milling by completely eliminating the use of diesel. An additional benefit is that the quality of rice does not get affected on account of uninterrupted supply of energy from the gasifiers.

[English]

FDI Proposals Cleared

2633. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of FDI proposals cleared by the Government during each of the last three years including the names of companies, the purpose of investment and the amount involved; and

(b) the actual FDI flows during the corresponding period with the date of the proposal's clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The FDI inflow into India from various countries during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. In crore)
2002-03	12870.67
2003-04	10064.10
2004-05	14652.73
2005-06 (upto September, 2005)	9552.60

Overseas Funds Raised by Companies

2634. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed companies to raise funds from overseas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the names of companies availed the facility during the last two years;

(c) the quantum of funds raised by each of those companies and the manner in which the funds have been spent by them;

(d) the purpose for which such funds were raised;

(e) whether these companies have diverted/misused the funds for other purposes than for which the funds were raised; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) Indian companies are allowed to raise funds from overseas sources in accordance with the guidelines/policies on ECBs and FDI. The amounts raised through these routes, as informed by RBI, is given below:—

(in US\$ million)

Year	ECBs	FDI including GDRs (Provisional)
2003-04	6574	5132
2004-05	8363	6148
2005-06	1773 (April-June)	3141 (April-August)

The information relating to amounts raised by each company is voluminous. Data in respect of FDI approvals/inflows are published in the monthly SIA Newsletter of Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, which is also available at their website—www.dipp.nic.in. The company-wise database for ECBs is available at the website of the Reserve Bank of India—www.rbi.org.in., since February, 2004.

For amounts raised towards capital by Indian companies, reporting requirement to RBI is as per the regulations notified under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA). For amounts raised as debt, the designated Authorized Dealer (AD) is required

to ensure that raising/utilization of ECB is in compliance with ECB guidelines at the time of certification. Any contravention of guidelines invites penal action under the provisions of FEMA. However, as per RBI's records, they have no information on diversion or misuse of funds for purposes other than for which these were raised.

Revenue Collected and Funds Allocated

2635. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue collected from the States directly or indirectly during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) the share of each State out of these revenue during the period, year-wise;

(c) the allocation made by the Central Government to Punjab during the period;

(d) whether the Union Government have received suggestions from any State Government to pass on 50 per cent of revenue collected to the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The revenue collected on account of direct taxes during the years 2002-03 and 2003-04, year-wise, State-wise is enclosed as Statement-I and Statement-II enclosed. Scheme-wise details are not available.

The information in respect of revenue collected on account of direct taxes from the States during the year 2004-05 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

So far as indirect taxes are concerned, state-wise figures are not maintained separately.

(b) The release of share to States during the last three years 2002-03 to 2004-05 is enclosed Statement-III.

(c) The allocation made by the Central Government to Punjab during the last three years is as under:

	Rs. (In crores)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Punjab	649.21	754.91	902.35

(d) and (e) The sharing of Union Tax Revenue amongst the States is done on the recommendations of

the Finance Commission. The Twelfth Finance Commission in its report has stated that Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Nagaland, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have sought as much as 50 percent share. The Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended that the share of the States in the net proceeds of shareable Central taxes shall be 30.5 percent.

Statement I

State and U.T.-wise break-up of Direct Tax collection for 2002-2003

(Figures in crores of rupee)

States	0020	0021	0023	0024	0028	0031	0032	0033	Total
	Corpn. tax	Income tax	Hol Rect Tax.	Interest Tax	Expt. Tax	Est Duty	Wealth Tax	Gift Tax	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	1243.27	1831.07	2.29	-0.14	4.88	0.00	-1.75	-0.02	2879.58
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.75
Assam	388.50	390.30	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.00	0.60	0.00	779.56
Bihar	9.42	292.98	0.00	0.12	0.03	0.00	0.21	0.00	302.76
Chhattisgarh	445.29	218.42	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.14	-0.02	661.89
Goa	43.80	97.30	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.00	141.84
Gujarat	1271.90	1966.14	0.22	0.25	1.45	0.00	4.12	-1.34	3242.74
Haryana	206.95	880.60	0.00	0.16	0.44	0.00	4.18	0.00	872.33
Himachal Pradesh	9.36	160.18	0.00	1.52	0.09	0.00	-0.24	0.00	170.91
Jharkhand	20.32	534.59	0.00	0.12	0.01	0.00	0.30	0.00	555.34
Jammu and Kashmir	148.46	124.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	273.42
Karnataka	2141.50	3181.93	0.00	-5.59	10.32	0.00	7.31	0.00	5335.47
Kerala	573.10	795.95	0.01	-6.05	1.93	0.00	2.20	0.21	1367.35
Madhya Pradesh	809.80	615.67	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.80	0.01	1426.31
Maharashtra	20500.35	10963.09	0.00	2.13	63.61	0.00	74.40	0.13	31603.72
Manipur	-0.01	6.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	6.89
Meghalaya	2.14	20.40	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.04	-0.01	22.59
Mizoram	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11
Nagaland	0.03	6.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.20
New Delhi	8085.93	5125.15	0.00	314.18	40.96	0.00	26.22	0.07	12983.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Assam	688.93	515.96	0.00	0.08	0.05	0.00	0.63	-0.01	1205.64
Bihar	21.28	318.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	340.16
Jharkhand	65.06	537.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	602.28
Goa	178.42	178.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.68	0.00	355.74
Gujarat	1648.20	2125.03	0.00	0.03	1.55	0.00	4.26	0.04	3779.11
Haryana	295.25	831.73	0.00	0.03	0.18	0.00	0.83	0.00	1128.02
Himachal Pradesh	11.72	184.44	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.00	196.21
Jammu and Kashmir	201.25	144.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	345.50
Karnataka	3365.99	3960.98	0.00	-2.78	3.12	0.00	7.42	0.00	7334.73
Kerala	969.32	747.40	0.00	0.04	0.77	0.00	1.79	0.16	1739.48
Madhya Pradesh	1028.27	593.80	0.02	0.00	0.04	-0.17	0.83	0.04	1622.63
Chhattisgarh	483.52	414.94	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.14	0.00	898.69
Maharashtra	28671.36	11985.69	0.00	-73.23	21.61	0.00	67.27	-0.11	40582.59
Manipur	-0.01	8.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	8.45
Meghalaya	1.39	17.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	18.44
Mizoram	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22
Nagaland	0.07	11.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	11.42
New Delhi	10416.80	5722.78	0.00	9.30	9.80	0.00	13.31	-0.04	16171.95
Orissa	1018.55	380.47	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	1399.38
Punjab*	446.76	1036.04	0.00	0.51	0.00	0.00	0.02	-0.08	1483.25
Rajasthan	560.75	835.49	0.00	0.56	0.22	0.00	1.38	-0.01	1398.39
Sikkim	0.07	7.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.09
Tamil Nadu	3164.91	3148.79	0.00	4.59	2.61	-0.09	11.55	1.18	6333.54
Tripura	0.09	27.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	27.86
Uttar Pradesh	388.51	1794.55	0.01	0.13	0.18	0.00	3.28	-0.45	2186.21
Uttaranchal	5151.34	431.34	0.00	0.01	0.06	-0.12	1.34	0.00	5583.97
West Bengal	2730.31	1961.25	0.00	14.79	8.10	0.00	14.87	0.00	4729.32
Total (i)—	63330.37	39871.34	0.07	-46.28	50.28	-0.38	135.15	0.66	403341.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Union Territories									
Andaman Nicobar	1.80	5.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.96
Chandigarh	161.64	238.92	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.02	401.04
Daman	8.01	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	12.63
Diu	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	23.83	18.31	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.11	0.04	42.46
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Silvassa	6.39	2.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.13
Total-(ii)	199.67	271.80	0.00	0.01	0.17	0.00	0.68	0.06	472.39
Total-(i) & (ii)	63530.04	40143.14	0.07	-45.27	50.45	-0.38	135.83	0.72	103813.60
C.T.D.S. (Prov.)	30.86	1243.30							1274.16
Grand Total	63560.90	41386.44	0.07	-46.27	50.45	-0.38	135.83	0.72	105087.76

Statement II*Share of each State during the last three years 2002-03 to 2004-05**(In crore of Rupees)*

Sl.No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4315.81	5068.52	6058.42
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	121.68	160.60	191.95
3.	Assam	1814.36	2162.07	2584.33
4.	Bihar	6559.38	7627.47	9117.13
5.	Chhattisgarh	1349.91	1569.72	1876.28
6.	Goa	114.62	135.59	162.07
7.	Gujarat	1596.69	1856.69	2219.30
8.	Haryana	534.30	621.31	742.62
9.	Himachal Pradesh	347.63	449.54	537.32
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	646.80	817.05	961.00
11.	Jharkhand	1702.52	1979.73	2366.40

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Karnataka	2786.20	3244.73	3878.44
13.	Kerala	1715.21	2012.00	2404.95
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3652.43	4247.14	5076.63
15.	Maharashtra	2621.72	3048.64	3644.02
16.	Manipur	188.12	240.89	287.96
17.	Meghalaya	176.11	225.08	269.04
18.	Mizoram	94.59	130.33	155.78
19.	Nagaland	98.07	144.80	173.08
20.	Orissa	2805.58	3327.68	3977.56
21.	Punjab	649.21	754.91	902.35
22.	Rajasthan	3083.10	3602.14	4305.61
23.	Sikkim	97.11	121.08	144.73
24.	Tamil Nadu	3047.91	3544.20	4236.39
25.	Tripura	249.71	320.52	383.10
26.	Uttar Pradesh	10831.55	12595.30	15055.20
27.	Uttaranchal	374.11	435.03	519.97
28.	West Bengal	4586.74	5341.65	6384.89
	Total	56141.17	65784.41	78616.52

Taxes/Levies from Petro-Products

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

2636. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of taxes/levies collected by the Central and State Government from petroleum products;

(b) the break-up of prices of petrol, diesel, domestic LPG and PDS kerosene respectively;

(c) the comparison of taxes collected per unit of petroleum products in India as against those in other South Asian economies; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) During financial year 2004-2005, an amount of Rs. 56395 crore (Provisional) was collected as customs and excise duties from petroleum products. Details of revenue collection, from sales tax and other levies at the State level, are maintained by respective State Governments.

(b) As per enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Rates of customs and excise duties on petrol, diesel, kerosene for Public Distribution System (PDS) and LPG for domestic house hold consumers (LPG (dom)) are as under:

(Rate of duty)

Sl.No.	Products	Customs* (basic)	Excise
1.	Petrol	10%	8% + Rs. 13/litre
2.	Diesel	10%	8% + Rs. 3.25/litre
3.	Kerosene PDS	Nil	Nil
4.	LPG (dom)	Nil	Nil

*Additional duty of customs equivalent to excise duty leviable is also charged on imports.

As regards details of duty structures of other countries, the same are not maintained.

Statement

Particulars	Break-up of retail price at Delhi (Rupees per litre)			
	Petrol	Diesel	Kerosene PDS	LPG domestic
Retail selling Price (RSP) at Delhi	43.49	30.45	9.05	294.75
Excise duty	14.93	5.07	0	0
Sales tax	7.25	3.39	0.35	32.75
Total of excise duty and sales tax	23.91	10.27	0.35	32.75
Retail sale price (RSP) net of excise duty and sales tax	31.31	20.18	8.70	262.00

Handloom Sector under FBT

2637. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation for exemption of traditional handloom sector from the purview of Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) is received by the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(c) whether the matter is taken up/being taken up with the Ministry of Textiles;

(d) if so, the details thereof and achievements made therefrom;

(e) whether any study on this issue has been conducted at the instance of the Ministry of Finance; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. We have received a Pre-budget Memorandum from The Tamil Nadu Handloom Industry and Trade Association seeking abolition of the Fringe Benefit Tax. The memorandums and representations received from various sectors will be examined during the budgetary exercise and the Government's response will be reflected in the Finance Bill, 2006.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

Computer Training to Unemployed Rural Youths

2638. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plans to give computer training to unemployed youths in rural areas under the World Bank Programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) There is no such plan to provide Computer training to unemployed rural youths under the World Bank Programme.

Request from Maharashtra and Others

2639. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra and other State Governments have requested the Union Government for a one time grant or soft loan and forwarding their Structural Adjustment Loans (SAL) to the World Bank, to help them overcome the current financial crisis;

(b) if so, the extent of one time grant or SAL sought by Maharashtra and other States; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Orissa, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have sought SAL assistance. The amount requested varies from US\$ 200 million to US\$ 750 million.

(c) The revised guidelines for availing Structural Adjustment Loan assistance, drawn up in consultation with the states have been issued by Department of Expenditure on 24th October, 2005. The State Governments are now required to send their proposals in terms of the revised guidelines.

Penalties on Economic Offences

2640. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people arrested for violation of laws regulating/governing collection of each of Income

Tax, Customs, Excise and Sales Tax etc., during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the rate of conviction and amount of recoveries made during the period, year-wise under each scheme of tax;

(c) the recoverable amount outstanding against violators of each of these laws;

(d) the break-up of the number of cases of economic offences of these nature lying pending with the courts of law and departments of Income Tax, Customs, Excise and Sales Tax etc., as on date;

(e) whether the Government is considering/proposing a law to make people deposit a proportion of amount of taxes levied/calculated by the Tax Enforcement Agencies/ Departments before their appeals are admitted for consideration in any court of law or in any other platform for adjudication;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, any alternative arrangement in place to deter unreasonable litigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cases Pending under PCA and FERA

2641. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases under Prevention of Corruption Act, (PCA) and the erstwhile Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) has been pending in various courts, including the special courts since long;

(b) the details of number of cases pending and volume of money/assets accrued to the accused in respective instances by their alleged acts of violation of law as per the complaint in each prosecution case, age-wise;

(c) whether steps have been taken to track down the funds/assets so accrued with details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Japan's Investment in India

2642. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Japan is very keen to tap the investment potential in India, particularly in automobiles, IT, Textile and Agricultural sectors, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any feasibility study has been conducted in the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Consequent to the visit of the Prime Minister of Japan, a Joint Study Group (JSG) has been launched, which *inter-alia* will suggest ways to encourage higher levels of foreign direct investment by Japanese Companies.

[Translation]

Transfer Pricing Irregularities

2643. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income Tax evasion worth crores of rupees has been involved in irregularities in transfer-pricing;

(b) if so, the details of companies/banks and amount pending against such companies against whom tax demands of more than Rs. 1 crore is outstanding;

(c) the action taken against such companies/banks upto November, 2005, company-wise and bank-wise; and

(d) the details of appeals made against such tax demands by such companies/banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir. Income Tax evasion worth crores of rupees has been involved in irregularities in transfer-pricing.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected from the field units spread all over the country and shall be laid on the table of the House on compilation.

[English]

Energy Audit

2644. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bureau of Energy Efficiency has carried out any energy audit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) measures taken to save energy?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Energy audit was conducted through the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, in 9 Central Government Buildings, namely—Rashtrapati Bhawan, Prime Minister's Office, Sanchar Bhawan, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Transport Bhawan, R&R Hospital, Delhi Airport, All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Rail Bhawan. Energy saving potential ranging from 20% to 46% was identified in these buildings.

Based on the energy audits carried out, the work of implementing energy saving measures has been awarded by the CPWD to Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) in the following buildings: Rashtrapati Bhawan, Rail Bhawan, Shram Shakti Bhawan and Transport Bhawan. The work in Rashtrapati Bhawan has been completed.

Performance of India in Development

2645. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that in recent report on performance of the nations doing business for 2006 by International Finance Corporation (IFC), India is depicted as most business unfriendly nation and its ranking in the development is shown at 116;

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

(c) whether in view of this report the Government has taken up any review of its economy's growth; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the annual survey on 'Doing business in 2006', conducted by the International Finance Corporation on the ease of doing business in various countries, India's rank out of 155 countries is 116. This is an independent assessment by the authors of the survey based on some selected indicators, which measure government regulation the protection of property rights. As stated in the survey, these rankings do not tell the whole story in view of the limited scope of the indicators, which do not take into account factors such as country's proximity to large markets, the security of property, macroeconomic conditions, and the underlying strength of institutions.

The Government is aware that there are certain areas, which need improvement and the investment climate is continuously improving in India. World Investment Report 2005 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) rated India as the second most attractive investment destination.

(c) and (d) Review of the economy's growth is continuous process, and the Government is making concerted efforts to improve the investment climate in the country by upgrading physical and institutional infrastructure and by simplifying the procedures.

Interest on Foreign Loans

2646. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is losing by way of paying more interest on the liabilities of foreign loans than receiving on investing the Foreign Exchange reserves;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to lend a part of Foreign reserves to Indian corporate sector or PSUs interested in undertaking projects in Gulf, African countries etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the foreign reserve can be doubled in less than three years through such investments;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether it can provide employment to many of our skilled personnel and create market for Indian machinery and other products; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) India's foreign exchange reserves are invested as per the relevant provisions of the RBI Act, 1934, based on the considerations of safety, liquidity and return. Accordingly, they are invested in deposits of other countries central banks, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), and top-rated foreign commercial banks, and in securities representing debt of sovereigns and supranational institutions with residual maturity not exceeding ten years. The investments have a strong bias towards capital preservation and liquidity. However, it may be stated that while the effective rate of interest on India's external debt during 2004-05 was estimated at 3.08 per cent, the rate of earnings on foreign currency assets for the same year was estimated at 3.1 per cent.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) to (h) Does not arise.

Widening Service Tax

2647. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected as service tax from the year of its inception, year-wise, item-wise up to November, 2005;

(b) whether the Government propose to further widen tax base;

(c) if so, the details of services so far covered under the service tax net and additional services which are proposed to be included under the net;

(d) whether the Government propose to strengthen the service tax rules to ensure strict compliance of the rules; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The levy of service tax was introduced in the budget, 1994. Revenue collected as service tax (all India) year-wise and service-wise since 1994 and up to the financial year 2004-05 is placed as Statement-I enclosed. For the financial year 2005-06 service-wise data is available for the period April to October, 2005 in respect of twenty

major revenue paying services and the same is placed as Statement-II enclosed.

(b) and (c) It is the stated policy of the Government to improve the tax to GDP ratio and to widen the tax base. At present, service tax is leviable on eight four services specified in section 65 (105) of the Finance Act, 1994.

(d) and (e) Appropriate steps are being taken to improve the compliance level of service tax payment.

Statement I

SERVICE TAX: Year-wise and Service-wise Revenue Collection

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Service liable to tax	1994-95 Actuals	1995-96 Actuals	1996-97 Actuals	1997-98 Actuals	1998-99 Actuals	1999-00 Actuals	2000-01 Actuals	2001-02 Actuals	2002-03 Actuals	2003-04 Actuals	2004-05 Actuals
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Tax on telephone billing	210.0	511.0	596.5	686.4	875.7	1025.8	1087.2	1522.1	1575.5	2672.5	3934.4
2.	Tax on General Insurance Premium	173.0	310.0	354.0	379.5	425.0	369.0	473.0	553.7	644.5	1039.6	1260.5
3.	Tax on Stock brokerage commission	36.0	41.0	49.6	55.5	69.8	329.5	282.2	84.9	101.2	250.1	375.9
4.	Advertising Services	—	—	2.2	85.6	94.2	76.7	110.5	161.2	174.7	226.6	351.8
5.	Consulting Engineer Services	—	—	—	35.5	88.1	60.6	97.2	107.4	148.2	282.4	469.7
6.	Courier Services	—	—	18.7	43.0	48.1	70.8	110.4	117.1	127.2	228.1	391.5
7.	Air Travel Agent Services	—	—	—	21.5	39.0	28.6	42.9	50.4	51.5	87.2	157.8
8.	Management Consultant Services	—	—	—	—	4.5	20.1	42.2	52.9	65.5	123.2	208.1
9.	Clearing and Forwarding Agent Services	—	—	—	16.7	39.1	21.0	52.2	55.5	59.1	116.7	178.1
10.	Security/Detective Agency Services	—	—	—	—	5.6	19.5	37.4	44.0	62.1	118.6	200.1
11.	Custom House Agent Services	—	—	—	16.3	25.4	19.6	23.1	32.1	32.7	60.4	97.3
12.	Mandap Keeper Services	—	—	—	15.1	24.6	25.0	41.8	50.9	35.1	53.5	112.0
13.	Chartered Accountant Services	—	—	—	—	2.9	13.7	37.1	65.3	74.6	114.3	187.9
14.	Architect Services	—	—	—	—	1.4	5.6	15.2	19.2	22.1	36.6	74.1
15.	Steamer Agent Services	—	—	—	12.3	18.6	12.4	13.9	12.2	12.4	32.1	34.2
16.	Radio Paging Services	—	—	14.9	8.5	13.3	23.0	68.8	4.5	6.3	3.1	3.4
17.	Man Power Recruitment Services	—	—	—	4.2	8.7	8.3	12.7	14.3	20.5	38.8	64.4
18.	Market Research Agency Services	—	—	—	—	2.2	4.3	9.5	11.8	14.5	22.5	31.4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
19.	Real Estate Agent/Consultant Services	—	—	—	—	1.0	3.7	7.8	9.8	11.4	29.1	85.1
20.	Rent A Cab Scheme Operator Services	—	—	—	1.2	2.5	0.3	7.1	11.4	15.4	28.7	53.1
21.	Tour Operator Services	—	—	—	7.8	4.3	0.3	8.2	14.8	12.5	31.0	43.2
22.	Credit Rating Agency Services	—	—	—	—	0.6	1.8	2.6	3.8	11.3	11.4	11.6
23.	Interior Decoration/Designer Services	—	—	—	—	—	1.3	1.9	2.1	4.9	6.2	11.3
24.	Underwriter Services	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	1.8	2.3	2.5	2.2	1.1
25.	Cost Accountant Services	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.2	1.1	1.9
26.	Company Secretary Services	—	—	—	—	—	0.5	0.2	0.5	3.1	5.2	8.0
27.	Scientific & Technical Consultancy Services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.4	15.1	29.0	73.4
28.	Photographic Services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12.0	31.8	48.6	71.0
29.	Convention Services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.6	4.7	8.2	17.0
30.	Leased Circuit Services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18.2	36.7	77.2	135.1
31.	Telegraphic Services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9.2	4.5	23.3	97.1
32.	Telex Services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.5	2.9	5.4	3.8
33.	Facsimile Services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.7
34.	Online Information & Database access Service &/ or retrieval service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14.4	40.5	67.1	98.7
35.	Video Tape Production Services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.8	8.1	11.8	21.2
36.	Sound Recording Services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.8	5.9	12.5	9.3
37.	Broadcasting Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13.4	90.5	177.6	273.0
38.	Insurance Auxiliary Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34.7	104.8	283.3	713.3
39.	Banking and other Financial Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63.3	174.6	307.5	1046.8
40.	Port Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	96.0	194.5	359.5	610.7
41.	Service or repair produce by authorized service station for motor car & two wheeled motor vehicle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18.5	50.6	79.5	147.8
42.	Insurance Auxiliary Service relating to life insurance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23.5	324.5	295.7
43.	Cargo handling (only inland cargo)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.5	39.1	95.1
44.	Storage and warehousing services (except for agriculture produce and cold storage)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9.7	53.3	92.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
71.	Outdoor Catering	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14.6
72.	Other Services since withdrawn (Arrear Payments)	—	—	—	66.0	80.0	16.0	25.0	7.5	6.0	38.2	5.2
73.	Cess on Education	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	186.9
Total		419.0	862.0	1035.9	1455.1	1874.6	2158.0	2812.1	3301.9	4122.2	7890.7	14196.2

Statement II*Service Tax Revenue Collection from Major Services*

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	Service	Revenue collected 2004-05 April-October TR6	Revenue collected 2005-06 April-October TR6	%age Excess/short TR6
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Telephone Services	1920.87	2152.92	12.08
2.	General Insurance Business	695.09	976.36	40.47
3.	Port Services	291.45	482.02	65.39
4.	Life Insurance Services	209.56	68.82	-67.16
5.	Banking & other Financial Services	247.07	912.39	269.29
6.	Consulting Engineering	214.43	304.79	42.14
7.	Stock Broker	147.91	361.56	144.45
8.	Advertising Agency	148.23	206.85	39.54
9.	Insurance Auxiliary	147.90	439.56	197.20
10.	Courier Agency	155.64	134.47	-13.60
11.	Broadcasting Service	142.63	191.72	34.41
12.	Security Agencies	92.53	136.53	47.55
13.	Management Consultants	92.32	158.33	71.51
14.	Clearing and Forwarding Agency	69.34	97.42	40.49
15.	Chartered Accountancy	91.83	86.15	-6.19
16.	Maintenance or Repairs	148.80	338.39	127.41

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Leased Circuits	87.65	167.03	90.57
18.	Air Travel Agent	68.43	84.43	23.37
19.	Servicing of Motor Vehicles	59.63	78.86	32.24
20.	Online Information & Database	72.21	68.10	-5.70
21.	Other Services	861.16	2838.18	229.58
22.	Total	5964.68	10284.87	72.43
23.	Refunds	0.17	1.53	
24.	Net Revenue	5964.52	10283.33	72.41

Revenue in respect of Meerut-II, Noida, Ludhiana, Mangalore, Vishakhapatnam-I, Madurai and Tiruchirapalli are provisional.

Assistance to Kerala

2648. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to provide special assistance to Kerala for the rejuvenation of industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) 100 clusters of traditional industries are being taken up. Of the 100 clusters proposed 5 would be in Kerala for benefiting coir, khadi and village industries. Provision is being enhanced for the Mahila Coir Yojana Scheme for Kerala and for the release of arrears under Market Development Assistance.

[Translation]

Waiver of Outstanding Dues

2649. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan outstanding under the head 'other liabilities' with the various State Governments as on March 31, 2005;

(b) whether any of the State Governments have made any request to waive off the outstanding amount of loan under the head 'other liabilities'; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly for the State of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Other liabilities of the Central Government include National Small Saving Fund (NSSF), State Provident Funds, other accounts such as Special Deposits of Non-Government Provident Fund, other items etc., reserve funds and deposits bearing and not bearing interest. These are liabilities owned by the Central Government to the depositors and do not include loans advanced to the State Governments. However, against NSSF deposits of Rs. 321421.17 crore as per Revised Estimates (RE) of 2004-05, assets in the form of Special Securities issued by the State Governments to NSSF amount to Rs. 298773.29 crore as per RE 2004-05.

(b) and (c) Requests have been received from the State Governments from time to time in regard to their securities issued to NSSF. These requests have provided valuable inputs in deciding the issues relating to NSSF. Such decisions take into account, *inter alia*, outstanding liabilities to the depositors.

[English]

Second Generation Reforms and Senior Citizens

2650. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is bringing forward a comprehensive law to usher in the second generation of reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposed legislation is likely to be introduced;

(c) whether the Government is aware that a low interest regime all-round combined with the stringent provision of special income tax is proving difficult for the pensioners, particularly senior citizens, to garner wherewithals for their very subsistence; and

(d) if so, what measures likely to be brought forward for their relief and sustenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Reforms is an on going process and necessary measures in this regard are taken from time to time as and when considered necessary.

(c) and (d) The provisions of Income-tax Act, as applicable to senior citizens, are not stringent. Senior citizens have been provided a basic exemption limit of Rs. 1,85,000 by the Finance Act, 2005. Further, they also have the option of availing deduction of Rs. 1,00,000 from their income by investing in the various saving schemes specified under section 80C of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

World Bank Study on Economic Reforms

2651. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has lately come out with the World Development Report, 2006, with Equity and Development as its theme;

(b) the position held by India, in terms of "equality" and how it compares with inequality status of China, Pakistan and other Asian economies alongwith the world average;

(c) whether the Government have draw out a plan of action to bring "inequality" status in India to the average level in developed world;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether license and quota system still exist in the country; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to give phase to economic reforms in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Inequality measures for India and selected Asian countries including China and Pakistan are indicated in enclosed Statement-I. It may be observed from Annexure-I that inequality in India is one of the lowest in Asia.

(c) to (f) Growth with social justice has been one of the basic objectives of Indian planning since its inception in 1951. Over the years, Government has adopted various anti-poverty and employment generation programmes. The ongoing economic reforms with a human face have strengthened measures to reduce poverty and unemployment. Other measures for reduction of inequality include adoption of progressive rates of direct taxation, exemption of duties and taxes on mass consumption goods and provision for food, fertilizer and petroleum subsidies, particularly for the people in the lower income groups.

Statement

Income/consumption inequality measure

Country	Survey year	Income/ consumption (Gini index)	Comment*
1	2	3	4
India	1999/2000	0.33	c
Bangladesh	2000	0.31	c
China	2001	0.45	c
Indonesia	2000	0.34	c
Japan	1983	0.25	y
Korea, Republic	1998	0.32	y
Malaysia	1997	0.49	y
Nepal	1996	0.36	c

1	2	3	4
Pakistan	2001	0.27	c
Philippines	2000	0.46	c
Sri Lanka	2002	0.38	c

*'c' indicates that the inequality measures refer to distribution of consumption expenditures, and 'y' indicates that the inequality measures refer to a distribution of income.

Note: Gini index ranges in between 0 and 1, and high Gini index indicates higher degree of inequality.

Source: World Development Report 2006.

Surcharge on All Central Direct Taxes

2652. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal to impose one per cent surcharge on all central direct taxes to fund its health care activities and run a National Health Insurance Scheme for the poor as reported in the 'Times of India' dated November 22, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the National Health Insurance Scheme for the poor is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the names of the items subsidised through cess?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been made to introduce a levy of two per cent as Health Cess on all taxes on the lines of Education Cess. However, the Government has not taken any decision in this regard.

[Translation]

Import Duty on Cotton

2653. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers' unions in the country have demanded an increase in import duty on cotton;

(b) the reasons for not increasing the import duty on cotton despite demand for the same;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to give protection to the Indian farmers against import prices of cotton; and

(d) the year-wise quantum of cotton imported during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) This Ministry is not aware of whether farmers' unions have sought increase in import duty. However, the Ministry of Agriculture had recommended for increase in customs duty on cotton.

(b) and (c) While fixing the import duty rate on cotton, Government takes into account factors such as the need to protect the domestic producers, and also the need to make available raw materials to user industry at reasonable prices. For the present, an import duty of 10% is considered adequate for this purpose.

(d) The year-wise quantum of cotton imported in last three years is as follows:

Cotton year*	Quantity (in lakh bales)
2001-02	25.26
2002-03	17.67
2003-04	7.21
2004-05 (Oct-June) (p)	10.94

*Cotton Year: October-September

Source: Ministry of Textiles

[English]

Setting up of Hydro Power Projects

2654. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up additional Hydro-electric Power Projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of projects likely to be set up in the country State-wise, especially in Uttar Pradesh during the current Plan;

(c) the capacity of power likely to be generated by proposed additional power projects and the cost thereof; and

(d) the policy formulated by the Government for the implementation of these projects and also to clear the projects involving two or more States?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of the projects likely to be commissioned during the current Plan alongwith installed capacity and sanctioned cost thereof are enclosed as Statement. No Hydroelectric Project of capacity above 25 MW is planned to be commissioned in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the current Plan.

(d) Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) set up Hydroelectric Projects in the State(s) either by themselves or by way of Joint Venture with State Governments and provide 12% free power to the State(s). The CPSUs which require assistance for raising equity are provided budgetary support by the Government of India (GOI). The CPSUs raise debt from the Financial Institutions/bi-lateral/multi-lateral agencies and the projects are set up following the guidelines of the Ministry of Environment and Forests on matters relating to environment and forests and the Ministry of Rural Development on Rehabilitation and Resettlement matters in consultation with the State Government(s). The GOI also assists the State Governments through the Annual Plan Process by providing Central assistance including additional Central assistance and market borrowings for implementing various plan projects and schemes including hydro power projects. It also facilitates funding through bi-lateral/multi-lateral agencies as well as through institutions like the Power Finance Corporation, Rural Electrification Corporation and other financial institutions.

Technical guidance is also provided by Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission.

In order to speed up the construction of hydro projects, the Government of India has approved a three-stage clearance procedure for hydel projects to be executed by CPSUs. Under Stage-I, survey, investigations and preparation of pre-feasibility report is undertaken; under Stage-II, activities relating to detailed investigations and preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), pre-construction activities, infrastructure development and land acquisition are undertaken; and, under Stage-III, the investment decision is accorded after obtaining the approval of PIB/CCEA.

CWC had formulated guidelines for examination of projects from inter-state angle for its internal use in Feb. 1996. As per these guidelines, in case of hydro-electric or thermal projects, requirements for consumptive uses (evaporation, transmission losses, etc.) has to be within the allocated shares of the States. In cases where allocations are not decided through Agreements/Tribunal Awards, the consumptive uses have to be concurred by the other co-basin States.

Disputes between States on water sharing are generally being resolved through mutual discussions and agreements arrived at without the direct intervention of the Central Government. Wherever this is not possible, Central Government intervenes and helps in resolving the dispute. In addition to such mutually negotiated settlement there are two formal dispute resolution mechanism available:—

- (i) National Water Resources Council chaired by the Prime Minister with Union Minister of Water Resources as the Vice Chairman and Union Ministers of Finance, Agriculture, Rural Development, Planning, Urban Development, Power, Surface Transport and Science and Technology, Chief Minister of States and Administrators/Lt. Governors of Union Territory as the members.
- (ii) Adjudication through Tribunals set up under the provisions of Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

Statement

*Hydro Electric Projects—Sanctioned/Ongoing on the Country scheduled for commissioning in the Current Plan
(Excluding Renewable under MNES)*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Projects	Installed Capacity		Sector	Sanctioned Cost (Rs. Crores)	Likely date of commission
			No. X MW	MW			
1.	Assam	1. Karbi Langpi	2x50	100	State	539.06	2006-07
2.	Gujarat	1. Sardar Sarovar	6x200+ 5x50	1450	State	5502.00	2005-06
3.	Himachal Pradesh	1. Larji	3x42	126	State	1221.42	2005-06
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	1. Dulhasti	3x130	390	Central	4819.16	2005-06
		(NHPC)	3x150	450	State	3810.00	2006-07
5.	Kerala	2. Baglihar-I					
		1. Kuttiyadi Addl. Ext.	2x5	100	State	168.28	2006-07
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Madikheda	2x20	40	State	177.39	2006-07
		2. Bansagar Tons. PH-IV	2x10	20	State	133.10	2006-07
7.	Maharashtra	1. Ghatghar PSS	2x125	250	State	1184.60	2006-07
8.	Orissa	1. Balimela Extn.	2x75	150	State	212.40	2006-07
9.	Sikkim	1. Teesta St. V NHPC	3x170	510	Central	2198.04	2006-07
10.	Tamil Nadu	1. Bhawani Barrage-I	2x15	30	State	194.53	2005-06
11.	Uttaranchal	1. Tehri St. I (THDC)	4x250	1000	Central	6621.32	2005-06
		2. Maneri Bhali-II	4x76	304	State	1714.41	2006-07
		3. Vishnu Prayag	4x100	400	Private	1614.66	2006-07

Bogus Voters

2655. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

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

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to find out bogus voters in the country;

(b) If so, the details in this regard, state-wise;

(c) whether the States like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan where bogus voters have been registered from Pakistan and Bangladesh on the basis of Smart Cards issued by private firms; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to immediately stop the issuance of such Smart Cards in order to prevent the issue of bogus cards?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The expression 'bogus' voter

literally means 'fictitious' voter and in this connection the Election Commission of India is of the view that there are hardly any fictitious electors in the electoral rolls. However, the possibility of duplicate or multiple entries of names, names of dead electors in the elector rolls cannot be denied. The main reason for duplicate or multiple entries in electoral rolls is that the electors, who shift their residence from one place to another, do not take care to get their names deleted from the previous electoral roll, before enrolling their names at new places. This is all the more true where the labour migrates either within the State or even to the other States in search of seasonal employment. However, some times during house to house enumeration or during the period of filing claims and objections, some names of ineligible persons find their way into the electoral rolls due to false information provided by the applicants and might have procured the Elector's Photo Identity Cards. The Election Commission has no data of such cases. The Election Commission has taken several measures to remove the duplicate/multiple entries and names of dead persons from the electoral rolls. The electoral rolls are now being furnished to the Gram Sabhas, Resident Welfare Associations, local authorities, Non-Government Organisations, etc., apart from the recognized political parties. The names of electors of the concerned areas are being read out in the meetings of the Gram Sabhas, Resident Welfare Associations, etc. and they are now assisting the electoral registration authorities in getting the names deleted of those persons who are no longer residing in their areas or those who have died. The authorities concerned with the registration of births and deaths have also been directed to furnish lists of dead persons to the electoral registration authorities twice in a year—January and July. The Computer technology is also being used extensively and intensively to identify and weed out the duplicate/multiple entries. The electoral rolls are being revised now almost every year. During such revision, the draft rolls are displayed at a large number of designated locations very near the localities concerned enabling the residents to scrutinize those rolls and file claims and objections at those designated locations themselves. Special campaign drives are also carried out at a large number of designated locations on specified days, which are normally holidays for the general public. Apart from the other designated locations, even the post offices are now being used as designated locations and the assistance of the postal authorities is being utilized for displaying the rolls, receiving claims and objections and even for the local verification of those claims and objections.

(c) and (d) The Election Commission of India has informed that as per the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, only Indian citizens are eligible for inclusion into electoral roll and only persons registered as such can obtain an Elector's Photo Identity Card. As proof of residence documents like Bank/Kisan/Post Office Pass Book, Ration Card, Driving License, Passport, Gas Connection, Telephone/Electricity/Water Bill, etc. issued mostly by Government agencies are considered. The Election Commission has further informed that neither it has issued instructions for accepting Smart Cards issued by private firms as an evidence of proof of residence for the purpose of registration in the electoral roll nor it is aware of registration of electors in the electoral roll of the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on the basis of Smart Cards issued by the private firms and as such the Commission is not concerned with the issuance and/or stoppage of issuance of such Smart Cards.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance

2656. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name and status of the projects being implemented with the assistance of World Bank, State-wise especially in tribal and backward areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several proposals have been received by the Government from the Government of Gujarat to introduce some such projects with the assistance of World Bank during the last two years till date;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of projects lying pending for the approval; and

(f) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Statement*Details of World Bank Assisted Ongoing Projects in India with Utilization Status as on 31st October 2005*

(in US \$ Million)

Sl.No.	Project Name	Loan/Credit Amount	State	Utilization as on 31.10.2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh Community Forest Management Project	108.00	Andhra Pradesh	47.67
2.	Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Project	150.03	Andhra Pradesh	89.21
3.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project	543.20	Andhra Pradesh	485.00
4.	Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project	111.00	Andhra Pradesh	88.24
5.	Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project	154.00	Assam	12.78
6.	SME Financing & Development	120.00	Central	41.00
7.	India Immunization Strengthening Project-Supplement	83.41	Central	83.41
8.	Rural Roads Project	399.50	Central	38.76
9.	Lucknow-Muzaffarpur National Highway Project	620.00	Central	0.00
10.	Food and Drugs Capacity Building Project	54.03	Central	4.75
11.	Allahabad Bypass Project	240.00	Central	46.41
12.	Integrated Disease Surveillance Project	68.00	Central	6.80
13.	Technical/Engineering Education Quality Improvement Project	250.00	Central	27.94
14.	Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project	589.00	Central	298.69
15.	Immunization Strengthening Project	142.60	Central	142.60
16.	Elementary Education Project	500.00	Central	138.80
17.	Telecommunications Sector Reform Technical Assistance Project	42.00	Central	30.53
18.	Second Renewable Energy	130.00	Central	64.00
19.	National HIV/AIDS Control Project (02)	191.00	Central	178.78
20.	Second Powergrid System Development Project	450.00	Central	345.00
21.	Malaria Control Project	164.80	Central	96.44
22.	Tuberculosis Control Project	142.40	Central	110.75
23.	Third National Highways Project	516.00	Central	328.93
24.	Chhattisgarh District Rural Poverty Reduction Project	112.65	Chhattisgarh	7.66

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Gujarat Emergency Earthquake Reconstruction Project	442.80	Gujarat	255.00
26.	Gujarat State Highway Project	381.00	Gujarat	196.90
27.	Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project	39.50	Karnataka	2.47
28.	Karnataka Community-Based Tank Management Project	98.90	Karnataka	20.45
29.	Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project	360.00	Karnataka	201.21
30.	Karnataka Watershed Development Project	100.40	Karnataka	28.27
31.	Second Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	151.60	Karnataka	51.61
32.	Kerala State Transport Project	255.00	Kerala	89.47
33.	Kerala Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	65.50	Kerala	31.09
34.	Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	394.02	Madhya Pradesh	22.19
35.	Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project	110.10	Madhya Pradesh	62.62
36.	Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project	325.00	Maharashtra	30.00
37.	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Sanitation "Jalewarajya" Project	181.00	Maharashtra	30.73
38.	Mumbai Urban Transport Project	542.00	Maharashtra	52.50
39.	Mizoram State Roads Project	60.00	Mizoram	29.20
40.	India: Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project	485.00	Multi-State	50.00
41.	Hydrology Project Phase II	104.98	Multi-State	0.00
42.	Technical Assistance for Economic Reform Project	37.00	Multi-State	15.00
43.	Third Technician Education Project	64.90	Multi-State	60.55
44.	District Primary Education Project (03)	152.00	Multi-State	108.35
45.	Woman and Child Development Project	300.00	Multi-State	236.11
46.	Orissa Health Systems Development Project	76.40	Orissa	66.70
47.	Rajasthan Second District Primary Education Project	74.40	Rajasthan	46.29
48.	Rajasthan Health Systems Development Project	89.00	Rajasthan	4.87
49.	Rajasthan District Primary Education Project	85.70	Rajasthan	77.33
50.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	140.00	Rajasthan	38.68
51.	Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring Project	180.00	Rajasthan	121.00
52.	Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives Project	100.48	Rajasthan	61.86
53.	Third Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project (TNUDP III)	300.00	Tamil Nadu	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
54.	Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction	120.00	Tamil Nadu	0.00
55.	Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project	110.83	Tamil Nadu	7.51
56.	Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project	348.00	Tamil Nadu	47.25
57.	Uttar Pradesh State Roads Project	488.00	Uttar Pradesh	89.28
58.	Uttar Pradesh Third District Primary Education Project	182.40	Uttar Pradesh	153.90
59.	Uttar Pradesh Health Systems Development Project	110.00	Uttar Pradesh	45.63
60.	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	149.20	Uttar Pradesh	23.22
61.	Uttar Pradesh Sodic Lands Reclamation Project (02)	194.10	Uttar Pradesh	170.18
62.	Uttaranchal Decentralized Watershed Development Project	69.62	Uttaranchal	4.25

Rural Development under Indo-Holland Scheme

12.01 hrs.

2657. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work under various developmental schemes under the Indo-Holland scheme is going on in rural areas of some of the States;

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

(c) whether the said scheme is likely to be started in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

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

(e) the steps taken or being taken to ensure the proper utilization of funds received for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Mid-Year Review-2005 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2995/05]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited and The Ministry of Textiles, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2996/05]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited,

Lucknow, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2997/05]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) Annual Report of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2998/05]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):
Sir, on behalf of Shri P.M. Sayeed, I beg to lay on the
Table—

(1) A copy of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 362 in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2005 under sub-section (3) of section 97 of the Punjab Re-organization Act, 1966.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2999/05]

(2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, under section 101 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3000/05]

(3) A copy of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. L-5/25(5)/2003-CERC in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 2005 under section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3001/05]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Electricity Act, 2003:—

(i) Notification No. Eco. 1/2005-CERC published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2005 notifying and updating the rates mentioned therein for six months for the purpose of bid evaluation.

(ii) Notification No. L-7/25(7)/2004-Legal published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2005, extending the validity of the Notification No. L-7/25(7)/2004-Legal dated the 30th September, 2005 upto 3rd March, 2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3002/05]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3003/05]

(7) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3004/05]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3005/05]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bar Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bar Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3006/05]

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3007/05]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, on behalf of Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3008/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3009/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3010/05]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3011/05]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pratichi (India)

- Trust, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pratchi (India) Trust, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3012/05]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3013/05]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3014/05]
- (8) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3015/05]
- (9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:—
- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of any Foreign Security) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 552 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2005.
- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 663(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2005.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3016/05]
- (10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—
- (i) G.S.R. 547(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to further amend the Import Manifest (Aircraft) Regulations 1976.
- (ii) G.S.R. 548(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to further amend the Export Manifest (Aircraft) Regulations 1976.
- (iii) G.S.R. 619(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002, dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (iv) G.S.R. 568(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding maintenance of security of India, prohibiting import of the book entitled. "The True Furqan", sub-titled "The 21st Century Quran" published in the United States of America by Omega, 2000 and Wine Press, including any extract therefrom any, reprint or translation thereof or any document reproducing any matter contained therein.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3017/05]

- (11) A copy each of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of India, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Saurashtra, and State Bank of Indore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3018-3022/05]

- (12) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Punjab and Sindh Bank for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon under sub-section (8) of section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3023/05]

- (13) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

- (i) G.S.R. 689(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend levy of anti-dumping duty up to the 25th day of June, 2006, on imports of Sodium Hydroxide, originating in, or exported from, Iran, Saudi Arabia, United States of America, France and Japan, pending the results of the Sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and allied duties.
- (ii) G.S.R. 690(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing anti-dumping duty on imports of all grades of Cold Rolled Flat Products of stainless steel, originating in, or exported from the European Union, United States of America, Canada and Japan.
- (iii) G.S.R. 696(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on acrylonitrile butadiene, originating in, or exported from the European Union (excluding Germany), Brazil and Mexico and imported into India.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3024/05]

- (14) A copy each of the Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the following Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 2005, together with Auditor's Report thereon:—

- (i) Akola Gramin Bank, Akola

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3025/05]

- (ii) Alaknanda Gramin Bank, Pauri Garwal

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3026/05]

- (iii) Aligarh Gramin Bank, Aligarh

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3027/05]

- (iv) Aravali Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sawai Madhopur

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3028/05]

- (v) Banaskantha Mehsana Gramin Bank, Patan

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3029/05]

- (vi) Balasore Gramya Bank, Balasore

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3030/05]

- (vii) Ballia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ballia

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3031/05]

- (viii) Baster Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jagdhalpur

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3032/05]

- (ix) Bhagirath Gramin Bank, Sitapur

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3033/05]

- (x) Bhojpur Rohtas Gramin Bank, Ara

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3034/05]

- (xi) Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bikaner

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3035/05]

- (xii) Bolangir Anchalik Gramya Bank, Bolangir

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3036/05]

- (xiii) Buldhana Gramin Bank, Buldhana

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3037/05]

- (xiv) Chikmagalur-Kodagu Grameena Bank,
Chikmagalur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3038/05]
- (xv) Cauvery Grameena Bank, Mysore
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3039/05]
- (xvi) Cachar Gramin Bank, Silchar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3040/05]
- (xvii) Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Morena
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3041/05]
- (xviii) Chaitanya Grameena Bank, Guntur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3042/05]
- (xix) Durg Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank,
Rajnandgaon
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3043/05]
- (xx) Etah Gramin Bank, Etah
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3044/05]
- (xxi) Faridkot Bathinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Bathinda
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3045/05]
- (xxii) Gomti Gramin Bank, Jaunpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3046/05]
- (xxiii) Golconda Grameena Bank, Hyderabad
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3047/05]
- (xxiv) Gwalior Datia Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Datia
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3048/05]
- (xxv) Gurgaon Grameen Bank, Gurgaon
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3049/05]
- (xxvi) Godavari Grameena Bank, Rajahmundry
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3050/05]
- (xxvii) Gopalganj Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Gopalganj
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3051/05]
- (xxviii) Gaur Gramin Bank, Malda
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3052/05]
- (xxix) Gorakhpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Gorakhpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3053/05]
- (xxx) Howrah Gramin Bank, Howrah
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3054/05]
- (xxxi) Himachal Gramin Bank, Mandi
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3055/05]
- (xxxii) Indore-Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ujjain
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3056/05]
- (xxxiii) Jammu Rural Bank, Jammu
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3057/05]
- (xxxiv) Jamuna Gramin Bank, Agra
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3058/05]
- (xxxv) Kashi Gramin Bank, Varanasi
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3059/05]
- (xxxvi) Kanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kanpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3060/05]
- (xxxvii) Koraput Panchabati Gramya Bank, Koraput
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3061/05]
- (xxxviii) Kakathiya Grameena Bank, Hanamkonda
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3062/05]
- (xxxix) Kosi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Purnia
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3063/05]
- (xl) Kutch Gramin Bank, Kutch
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3064/05]
- (xli) Ka Bank Nongkyndong Ri Khasi Jaintia,
Shillong
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3065/05]
- (xlii) Krishna Grameena Bank, Gulbarga
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3066/05]

- (xliii) Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank, Mainpuri
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3067/05]
- (xliv) Kanakadurga Grameena Bank, Gudivada
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3068/05]
- (xlv) Kolar Gramin Bank, Kolar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3069/05]
- (xlvii) Kamraj Rural Bank, Sopore
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3070/05]
- (xlviii) Malwa Gramin Bank, Sangrur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3071/05]
- (xlviii) Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Darbhanga
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3072/05]
- (xlix) Mizoram Rural Bank, Aizawl
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3073/05]
- (i) Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jabalpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3074/05]
- (ii) Manjira Gramin Bank, Sangareddy
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3075/05]
- (iii) Mayurakshi Gramin Bank, Birbhum
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3076/05]
- (liii) Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Munger
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3077/05]
- (liv) Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Murshidabad
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3078/05]
- (iv) Mallabhum Gramin Bank, Bankura
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3079/05]
- (lvi) Marwar Gramin Bank, Pali
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3080/05]
- (lvii) Marathwada Gramin Bank, Nanded
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3081/05]
- (lviii) Manipur Rural Bank, Imphal
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3082/05]
- (lix) Muzaffarnagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarnagar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3083/05]
- (ix) Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Madhubani
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3084/05]
- (lxi) Nagarjuna Grameena Bank, Khammam
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3085/05]
- (lxii) Netravati Grameena Bank, Mangalore
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3086/05]
- (lxiii) North Malabar Gramin Bank, Kanpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3087/05]
- (lxiv) Pravatiya Gramin Bank, Chamba
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3088/05]
- (lxv) Pinakini Grameena Bank, Nellore
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3089/05]
- (lxvi) Pragjyotish Gaonlia Bank, Gaonlia
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3090/05]
- (lxvii) Pandyan Grama Bank, Virudhunagar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3091/05]
- (lxviii) Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Pithoragarh
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3092/05]
- (lxix) Raigarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Raigarh
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3093/05]
- (lxx) Ratlam Mandsaur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandsaur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3094/05]
- (lxxi) Rayalseema Grameena Bank, Cuddapah
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3095/05]

- (lxxdi) Sagar Gramin Bank, Kolkata
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3096/05]
- (lxxiii) Sri Sathavahana Grameena Bank, Karimnagar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3097/05]
- (lxxiv) Sree Anantha Grameena Bank, Anantapur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3098/05]
- (lxxv) Surendranagar Bhavnagar Gramin Bank, Surendranagar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3099/05]
- (lxxvi) Sahyadri Gramin Bank, Shimoga
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3100/05]
- (lxxvii) South Malabar Gramin Bank, Malappuram
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3101/05]
- (lxxviii) Surguja Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ambikapur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3102/05]
- (lxxix) Sangameshwara Grameena Bank, Mahabubnagar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3103/05]
- (lxxx) Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank, Dumka
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3104/05]
- (lxxxi) Sharda Gramin Bank, Satna
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3105/05]
- (lxxxii) Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Samastipur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3106/05]
- (lxxxiii) Saran Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chapra
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3107/05]
- (lxxxiv) Sarayu Gramin Bank, Lakhimpur Kheri
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3108/05]
- (lxxxv) Shahjahanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Shahjahanpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3109/05]
- (lxxxvi) Thar Anchalik Gramin Bank, Jodhpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3110/05]
- (lxxxvii) Tripura Gramin Bank, Agartala
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3111/05]
- (lxxxviii) Varada Grameena Bank, Kumta
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3112/05]
- (lxxxix) Vindhya vasini Gramin Bank, Mirzapur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3113/05]
- (xc) Visveshvaraya Grameena Bank, Mandya
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3114/05]
- (xci) Yavatmal Gramin Bank, Yavatmal
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3115/05]
- (xcii) Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Cooch Behar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3116/05]
- (xciii) Ellaquai Dehati Bank, Srinagar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3117/05]
- (xciv) Palamau Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Palamau
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3118/05]
- (xcv) Etawah Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Etawah
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3119/05]
- (xcvi) Shri Venkateswara Grameena Bank, Chittoor
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3120/05]
- (15) A copy each of following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956:—
- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class I Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 559(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2005.
- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Development Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment

Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 560(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2005.

(iii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class-III and Class-IV Employees (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 561(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2005.

(iv) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Special Area Allowance) Amendment Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 562(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2005.

(v) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class-III Employees (Special Allowance for Passing Examination) Amendment Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 563(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2005.

(vi) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Special Allowance for In-House Development of Actuarial Capability) Amendment Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 564(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2005.

(vii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III and Class IV employees (Promotion) Amendment Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 565(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3121/05]

(16) A copy of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman and other Members) Amendment Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1261(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2005 under sub-section (3) of section 36 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3122/05]

(17) A copy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Recruitment of Apprentice Development Officers) Amendment Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. 143 in Gazette of India dated the 18th October, 2005 under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Life Insurance Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3123/05]

(18) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 697(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 32/2005-CE, dated the 17th August, 2005 under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3124/05]

(19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3125/05]

(20) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Development Bank of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3126/05]

12.02 hrs.

[*English*]

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES— SUMMARY OF WORK

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Parliamentary Committees (other than Financial and Departmentally related Standing

Committees)—Summary of Work (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the period from 1st June, 2004 to 31st May, 2005.

12.02¹/₄ hrs.

[English]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Punjab General Sales Tax (As in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh) Repeal Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th November, 2005 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th December, 2005 agreed without any amendment to the National Tax Tribunal Bill, 2005 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th November, 2005."

12.02¹/₂ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Fifth Report

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): I beg to present a copy of the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances on the subject Investigation of Airports Authority of India.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Sixteenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to present Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways—(2005-2006) on 'Expansion of Railway Network—New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Electrification.'

12.03¹/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI KALYAN SINGH (Bulandshahar): I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Rural Development:—

- (1) Fourteenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development); and
- (2) Fifteenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Seventy-fifth Report

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): I beg to lay on the Table of the Seventy-fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce on 'India and the Sixth Ministerial'.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of Implementation of Recommendations in Sixth report of Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Textiles

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): Sir, in pursuance of direction 73(A) of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha published in Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated September 01, 2004, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Textiles.

The Standing Committee on Labour examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2005-06 and presented their Sixth Report in this regard to the Lok Sabha on 25th April, 2005. The Report contains 13 recommendations.

The recommendations of the Committee focus mainly on the need to increase the allocation of funds and utilization thereof. This was with a view to improve the implementation of the developmental and welfare schemes of this Ministry, and raise productivity and quality in various segments under the Ministry of Textiles. The recommendations contained in the report have been examined in the Ministry of Textiles, and a Statement on the action taken/proposed to be taken on these recommendations was submitted to the Standing Committee on Labour in July, 2005. The Ministry of Textiles is making all efforts to implement the recommendations of the Committee in their true spirit.

I also lay herewith the status of implementation of these recommendations on the Table of the House.

12.06 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):

*Also placed in the Library, See No. LT 3127/05.

Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 12th of December, 2005 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2005-06 and introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bill.
3. Discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) (Second) for 2005-006 and introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bill.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:-
 - (i) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003;
 - (ii) The Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2005;
 - (iii) The Cost and Works Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2005; and
 - (iv) The Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu—Not present.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I would like to submit that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Central Government shall take steps for giving exemptions in guidelines for starting Kerala Airlines as proposed by the State.
2. Immediate steps be taken towards the establishment of a bench of Kerala High Court at Trivandrum.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): The people of Bina town are facing a lot of problems due to non-availability of a Doordarshan centre at thereof. It is requested that appropriate action should be taken to install

a Doordarshan centre at Bina. A hospital for Bidi workers is about to be completed in Sagar, which will help Bidi-workers a lot. I, therefore, request to appoint the doctors and specialists at the earliest in the interest of patients.

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Pension facility should be provided to the staff and teachers of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samitis working in the rural areas. Improving the unsatisfactory communication-services of BSNL in Marathwada region and providing SIM-cards for its mobile services.

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU (Rajmahal): Probe into 92.5% advance payment of tender-deposit by Jharkhand Vidyut Board to an inexperienced local company Ramji Power Construction in violation of the rules of sublet-tax and directives of CVC, after despite awarding tender of Rs. 300 crore for rural electrification in 4925 villages of Jharkhand to a company, 'RITES' under Rail Ministry in 2003 and requesting for completion of rural electrification work in Jharkhand in a fixed time frame.

Re-starting allotment of foodgrains under 'food for work programme' in 16 districts of Jharkhand and ensuring regular procurement and supply of grains under the scheme in Pakur, Sahib Ganj, Godda etc. districts of Jharkhand.

*DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I would like to deliver my statement in Sanskrit.

The Social Security Scheme for Farm Labourers launched by the Union Government in 2001 needs sufficient funding. Farmers and their dependents should be financially helped during trying circumstances, especially when they meet with accidents.

The interests of the under-developed and developing countries should be protected in the Hongkong summit of the World Trade Organisation. In line with the spirit emerged during the Doha summit efforts should be made to do away with the imbalances and incongruities detrimental to the promotion of agricultural produce and non-agricultural products of these countries.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I was a good student of Sankrit but I have forgotten it now.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Sanskrit.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, people of Rajbhar, Mallah, Bind, Prajapati and Kewat castes in U.P. are in a pitiable condition. They are living a very miserable life and are very backward. The Government of U.P. has issued notification requesting inclusion of 14 castes into the SC list and requested the Union Government for inclusion of these castes in the SC class but this proposal is pending for a long time. I request for approval to this proposal.

The Union Government is requested to provide financial assistance through a special package to 40 villages in the Deoria district in my constituency, Salempur for saving them from submerging due to incidence of soil-erosion by Ghagra-river.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a need for early commencement of approved work under sewerage scheme involving an amount of Rs. 28 crore in Pithoragarh district of Uttaranchal.

Need for early commencement of work on NH projects with amount approved by the former Government index Central Road Fund for Almora, Pithoragarh, Bageshwar and Champawat districts of Uttaranchal.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an estimated amount of Rs. 77 crore for laying down rail-track on the surveyed Badsa-Armodi-Garhchiroli line. This laying of rail-track is a necessity toward of the instruction in the development process in this tribal-dominated area which lacks rail-facility. More efforts are needed to make available rail-services in tribal belt.

Despite Chandrapur district's being a district headquarters and industry-dominated area, the stoppages of long distance trains are negligible here. Keeping in view of the importance of this station, a shuttle train is needed between Chandrapur Station and Vagpur alongwith stoppages of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Rajdhani Express.

SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chirmiri-Bilaspur local train in Chhattisgarh should be extended upto Mangengarh-Bilaspur-Raipur-Durg. It will help people of at least 100 villages of the area to travel upto Manendragarh.

[Shri Punnulal Mohale]

Arpamesa Lake Irrigation project of Chhattisgarh is under consideration of the Union Government. After completion of this project it will irrigate 2 lakh acre of land and farmers of Tarwarpur, Gugell, Lorpi, Kota and Bilha blocks in Bilaspur district would be benefited.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday three-four such disclosures took place which are of very serious nature and which throw light on several things related to oil scam—one is that the Ex-Indian Ambassador to Croatia....* gave two statements to the media—the other is that the Congress Party was fully aware about this scam. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): They were not aware at all.

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on? Why are you making running commentary?

[*English*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the Congress was aware of the presence of* in Iraq in November.

[*Translation*]

As regards, giving the statement to a magazine he said that before publication of that statement in the magazine, the Congress Party and Congress leaders had approached him. He detailed the entire episode to those leaders and also revealed that at such and such places the scam took place. He had already given that information to the Congress Party. Therefore, this contention of Congress Party's that it did not have any idea, seems to be completely unconvincing...* has revealed this case as he was lone member, and that is why the revelations has been done in that case. Mr. Speaker, the thing he has said is that he has given to some statement to the Enforcement Directorate as he gave to the magazine.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement given by Shri Natwar Singh ji yesterday has been published in which he has stated that the entire Congress Party has conspired against him and encouraged the BJP to raise this issue to frame him and given these documents to them. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the American Congress has also expressed the opinion that it has also accepted the report of the enquiry Committee constituted in this regard. In this report it has been mentioned that Shri Natwar Singh and other Congress leaders had been bribed.

*Not recorded.

12.14 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL)—2005-06

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2005-06.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3129/05]

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, now, I am coming to the important matters being raised. I have received several notices. I shall try to allow everyone. But my earnest request to all of you is to listen to each other. Let every hon. Member—who wishes to speak—speak as briefly as possible. So that, if necessary, any response is to be made, I will also give opportunity. But please do not interrupt each other. That is my earnest appeal to all of you.

[*Translation*]

I will call you one by one all of you cannot speak at the same time.

[*English*]

Let us listen to each other.

12.15 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: New disclosure in the Oil for Food Programme alleging Involvement of Indian Entities

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Give it to me. I will see.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say only this much that after this revelations, some of the people here have mischievously and falsely put some allegation on our leaders so as to close this chapter. I request you to constitute a JPC consisting of members of both the Houses. All the facts should be brought before that Committee so that things may become clear in this regard. It is because neither Justice Pathak nor Shri Virendra Dayal has any letter or document. ...(*Interruptions*). Whatever enquiry is now being conducted after Justice Pathak Commission, is being done by the Directorate of Enforcement which is working under Finance Minister and the Prime Minister. Thus, there is an effort to conceal the facts. It has been seen that when we put allegation on them there is counter allegation on us from their side so that the cases of crimes, misdeeds and corruption committed by the Congress could be pushed behind. I, therefore, request you to constitute a JPC. Until the demand to constitute a JPC is met Smt. Sonia Gandhi should resign from the post of Chairperson of National Advisory Council. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on, what is the matter? I am calling Dr. Rajesh Mishra.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Congress party shall not let the JPC be constituted then we will suppose that they are trying to cover up this case. The Congress will have majority in the JPC, UPA will have two third majority in it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to say something in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given notice.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir. Despite the Congress Party being in majority in the Committee, let this Joint Committee take a decision on submission of the report, they will be exposed.

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important subject. Consequent upon submission of the Volckar Committee report one point has become clear. In the Volckar report it has been mentioned that four other persons had gone with Shri Natwar Singh. The person who has given some statement is one among them. After giving that statement, on the ground of morality Shri Natwar Singh resigned from his post so that the proceedings of the House could go on smoothly and the hard earned money of the people could not go waste.

Sir, after that all these facts were highlighted. I request the Government through you that Shri Romesh Bhandari ji who was ex-Ambassador to Iraq has given this statement and linked all the events of the case. One thing which is very clear that at that time NDA Government was there at the centre and the Congress was in the opposition. If Hon'ble Shri Natwar Singh ji and his four colleagues were invited to visit Iraq on a friendly visit and they were given oil coupons then it is certain that no one can invite a member from the opposition party without taking the ruling party into confidence and without giving them more coupons, because they needed help from India at that point of time. Hence, in his statement Shri Romesh Bhandari has stated that at that time Shri Ram Nalk, the then Petroleum Minister and the Members and Dealers of all the oil companies had accompanied him. Many a time, they visited Iraq by chartered planes. As there was no ordinary flight service to Iraq at that time so they went there by chartered planes. In addition to that the most important thing Shri Ramesh Bhandari said. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on? Everything is going on smoothly.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Shri L.K. Advaniji, the then Deputy Prime Minister was aware of that and the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji and the other Member living at this residence..* had maintained friendly relations with the son of Shri Saddam Hussain and ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No names will become part of the proceedings. I have not allowed.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All right, when you spoke, everyone heard you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I made them listen to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: We would like to point out that who had friendship with the son of Shri Saddam Hussain and due to which. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Now, it is your Government, that will consider it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How will we listen, whether it is right or wrong.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: That will not go on record. I have deleted it.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Go to your seat Mr. Ramdas Athawale. It is enough.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Pasad Yadav.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is your Government, that will held enquiry into to. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am extremely grateful to you. I am really thankful to you. This is the way it has to be done. A little interruption in unavoidable.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They should listen to you and you should also listen.

[Translation]

Interruption to some extent is desirable.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You can inquire. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I am expressing my gratitude to you. This is the way it has to be done. The country will decide. The Government is there. That is why, I am expressing my gratitude. This is the way to function.

[Translation]

A little interruption is a must.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale ji, your speech will not go on record.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): The issue that has been raised by Mr. Malhotra, the hon. Leader of the House would like to respond on this.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, we had made a request to you in the forenoon meeting and you had accepted our request.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I had accepted. But you have not given any notice. Those who have given notices, I will call them only. I thought that you have given notice, but you have not given any notice. How do I know? I assumed that you had given notice, but you have not given any notice.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had acceded to our request on the basis of it we would like to be given a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then all will start speaking one by one.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Each should get two minutes time. This is a very important point.

MR. SPEAKER: A discussion lasted for full five hours. We have given time to the main opposition party.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at least 2 minutes should be given to every speaker. We had requested to you in the meeting of leaders. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath ji, Please forgive me today. I appeal you to give notice on Monday.

[English]

They had given notice in time. He has given notice, I have called him.

[Translation]

Please give notice on Monday, I will give you a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is not on this issue. He is on a different matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Come full of energy on Monday, I will permit you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Then give me the first opportunity to speak on Monday.

MR. SPEAKER: You will get the first opportunity provided you give a proper notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House is speaking. Please cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Deputy-Leader of the Opposition, Shri Malhotra, has raised an issue. It is not known why this issue is being debated on the floor of the House when full-fledged discussion took place. Apart from the full-fledged discussion, almost on everyday, these issues have been raised in some form or the other.

A Commission or an Inquiry Authority has been instituted under Section 11 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act. The Authority is at its job. The material, relevant and necessary, for inquiry has been collected. Those are being analysed and those are being made available to the Inquiry Authority. As it has been explained on the floor of this House, the scope of the Inquiry Authority is very wide. Whatever power the Inquiry Authority wants under the section of Commissions of Inquiry Act, already the powers have been given under Section 11. It has also been pointed out that if additional powers are required that will be provided as and when it is demanded by the Authority.

The Commission of Inquiry is already functioning, the materials are being collected and those are being provided to them. I do not understand what is the rationality of demanding of JPC at this stage. Let the Inquiry Authority complete its job and then the truth will come out. We did not even wait for the demand from the Opposition. The Government decided to set up this Inquiry Authority under the Commissions of Inquiry Act when the matter was

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

revealed. All the facts which are to be considered by the Inquiry Authority will be considered. A very eminent personality is heading that Inquiry committee who was not only the Chief Justice of this country but was also a Judge of the International Court of Justice.

I do not see whether any purpose would be served by setting up a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). Most respectfully, I would like to submit that even there should be some rationality in the demand of the Opposition. Sometimes they are demanding CBI should be put into an investigation; sometimes they are demanding a straight FIR to be lodged; and now suddenly they are coming out with a demand of JPC.

MR. SPEAKER: It is because of developing situation.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes, there may be a developing situation, but there is nothing outside the purview of the Inquiry Authority. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): A J.P.C. was constituted on the Harshad Mehta Scam. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please, Shri Pathak, I am on my legs. ...*(Interruptions)* Whatever they can demand that they can suggest. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that it is a comprehensive Inquiry, according to the Government.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That these matters, new relevant factors which have come in, should also be sent to the Commission or Inquiry Authority for its consideration. That demand could be justified. But just to suggest a completely new set of mechanism to look into the matter is not acceptable to us. Most respectfully, I would like to submit that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: A J.P.C. was constituted on the Harshad Mehta Scam. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, we are not satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister. We

protest very strongly and we are walking out of this House.

12.30 hrs.

At this stage, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members left the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No please. Only Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav's submission should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: All precedents are not applicable in all cases.

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. He is raising an important issue. Kindly allow him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not right.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not right. Please keep silent.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharput): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important matter. In Indian History, particularly the Indian Judicial History the observations

*Not recorded.

coming from the Supreme Court of India are not only unprecedented but an article by an eminent legal luminary of the country Shri A.G. Noorani has appeared in the English Daily—The Hindustan Times dated 6.12.2005. I would like to seek your permission to quote some parts of that article. It clearly states:

[English]

"Atal Bihari Vajpayee did not hold a press conference on the day he relinquished office as India's Prime Minister, nor did his successor, Manmohan Singh, summon the press on the day he assumed office in order to unveil his plans. Justice R.C. Lahoti held a press conference on October 31, on his last day as Chief Justice of India (CJI), and let himself go. The incoming CJI, Justice Y.K. Sabharwal, spoke to the press the very next day with greater circumspection, but the exercise was of debatable propriety, though not unprecedented."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would, therefore, like to refer to it because the way Judiciary is intervening in the sphere of legislature is quite amazing.

Secondly the Supreme Court of India itself are giving observations and are also not complying to those observations.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Justice Lahoti was not Chief Justice then. It is only after his retirement. Donot refer to some sitting judge.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, the other point I would like to raise is that the rulings which the Supreme Court gives are not even followed. That is why I would like to say:

[English]

"Our Supreme Court has ruled repeatedly that no court can direct a legislature to enact a particular law. Yet, on September 6, Justice Y.K. Sabharwal, A.R. Lakshmanan and C.K. Thakkar asked the Union to file a report on the current status of the Lok Pal

Bill. On September 19, another Bench sought the Union's stand on guidelines for elections to students' bodies."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a pending matter. Do not refer to the merits of the pending matter.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Please listen to me. It is most unfortunate. I would like to draw your attention because the Union Government have been asked to file a report on the current status of the pending legislation by the Supreme Court of India. A very unprecedented situation is obtaining. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is Court's order. You cannot comment on the Court order.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The Constitution of our India is the Supreme. Under the Constitution the Executive and the Judiciary are frequently encroaching upon the sphere of legislature.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, our Judiciary is independent. Our Judiciary is entitled to certainly exercise their jurisdiction as the Constitution has provided.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: That is not being complied. I am raising this point.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The only thing is that the Legislature has also been given certain powers under the Constitution and the Legislature will be entitled to discharge those powers and responsibilities. Nobody can take away the power of the Legislature to legislate according to the Constitution of India. Judiciary has its area; we have our area.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I would like to request that an assurance be given in this Supreme House that the demarcations of jurisdictions as laid down by the Constitution are followed.

Sir, the Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary have got their own jurisdictions and it is their duty to stick to them. The three organs of the democratic system are Supreme and independent in their respective spheres. Therefore, they should stick to their respective spheres. One organ should not interfere with the jurisdiction one another. Who will regulate this?

Sir, I would expect you to give you regulation in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It has been laid down by the Constitution not by us.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the crisis of the Constitution. This is what I want to say that the directions under the Constitution are not being complied with. Our Constitution is supreme but that is not being complied with. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, we should not say anything which may cast reflection on any of the important Constitutional organs in our country. We have the highest respect for the Judiciary.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indian democracy can remain strong only when the Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary—all of the three organs—perform within their designated Jurisdiction and your ruling is required for this.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the ruling that.

[English]

Constitution must prevail. We must discharge our functions in a manner not only consistent with the

Constitutional obligations but also in keeping with the people's expectations from us. Thank you very much.

Now, Mr. Hannan Mollah, you can raise only one matter. You can either raise the issue of kerosene or SBI.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, one is mine also.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot see you. I cannot hear you. You are encroaching on somebody's seat. You are not visible to me. If you are visible, then you have to go out.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this issue relating to the Foreign Exchange Department of the State Bank of India that has been functioning efficiently from Kolkata since its inception.

Sir, in this present age of computerisation and modern communication, handling foreign exchange business from Kolkata is not a problem but repeatedly an attempt is being made to shift the Foreign Exchange Department from Kolkata. This matter was discussed once when the Chairman of the SBI, Mr. G.G. Vaidh met the then Chief Minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, and he assured that this would not be taken up further because it was decided in a joint meeting that 50 per cent would be shifted and the work would be done on 50:50 basis. But it was never done. The Kolkata office could not do more than 23 per cent work in spite of the decision.

But again an attempt is being made. There are some lobbies which are trying to scuttle the Kolkata office and shift it from Kolkata. It will create a problem. It will create problem for the employees. It will damage the business. Many people, who have foreign exchange business dealings in Kolkata, have already closed their offices. If it is totally shifted, then many such offices will be shifted and it will create further problems. So, I request the Government that it should take note of this matter, and it should check those lobbies which are both inside and outside the banking system and also those scrupulous business people who are trying to shift the office from Kolkata to other places. That office should be allowed to function from Kolkata. That is my demand.

MD. SALIM (Kolkata—North East): Sir, the erstwhile Imperial Bank, which was a part of the State Bank of India, used to function from Kolkata. ...(*Interruptions*) It was a political decision to shift the banking capital from Kolkata to Mumbai. Now, the Foreign Exchange Department is also being shifted.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am sorry. I would not allow this. I cannot allow this.

MD. SALIM: Sir, I associate with this.

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, association is allowed.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to the fact that the water of the Bhagirathi from the Himalaya is coming to the Ganga due to the closure of Tehri dam and this has caused a serious situation. This matter is linked with the religious sentiments of all the people of Hindustan. Whatever water emanates from the Bhagirathi to the Ganga is used even for the purpose of worship. This matter is also linked with the sentiments of the people to emancipate their fore-fathers with the water of the Ganges. All the saints and hermits are observing fast unto death in Prayag of Allahabad of Uttar Pradesh. Water has become polluted there due to the non-arrival of Ganga water. You and the entire House is well aware that the water of the Ganges remains pure and uncontaminated despite being kept in bottle for years; and also it remains germ-free. A number of medicines are made of it; so this has posed a serious problem for us. In case of the non-arrival of water in the canals of Uttar Pradesh, this very water of the Ganges is lifted to those canals. In addition to wheat, other crops are also grown in Uttar Pradesh. Due to the absence of water in these canals, all the crops are getting devastated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Union Government to issue directives to the Government of Uttaranchal, as it has been stopped under a conspiracy. The non-arrival of water in the canals of U.P. will be a matter of shame for the Government and it would bring bad name to the Government. So our demand is to get the Tehri dam opened so that the sentiments of public, the feelings of the saints and hermits observing fast unto death might not get hurt. I conclude my speech with these few words.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, birthday gift!

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Thank you, Sir, Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to convey a fact to the House that the Union Government receives 40 thousand crores of rupees per annum as sales tax from Mumbai city. As per a report of the Maharashtra Government, 4 lacs people visit Mumbai every year. This mounts pressure on us in terms of electricity, water, roads and medical facilities. 45 lacs people reside in slums which causes filth. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is also present here; through you, I request him to provide at least 10 per cent of Rs. 40 thousand crore received by the Union Government to Mumbai city, and same should be provided as soon as possible.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Rest of the urgent matters will be taken up after 6 o'clock. Now, we will take up Item No. 15—Calling Attention by Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu.

12.42 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Situation arising out of the continued treatment of
Punjab as a 'Disturbed Area' despite peace
prevailing in the State**

[*English*]

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU (Amritsar): I call the attention of the hon. Minister for Home Affairs to following matter of urgent public matter, and I request that he may be making a Statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of the continued treatment of Punjab as a 'Disturbed Area' despite peace prevailing in the State."

MR. SPEAKER: It has been admitted. I have to go through it. But it seems that there has been some

[Mr. Speaker]

misinterpretation and misunderstanding. It was felt that there was a 'Disturbed Area in Punjab' already in force.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: There is none, Sir. I can clear it. I can clear the fog.

*THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): In order to effectively deal with militancy in Punjab, the Central Government had enacted the Punjab Disturbed Area Act, 1983 and the Armed Forces (Punjab and Chandigarh) Special Powers Act, 1983. Both the Acts confer powers to declare areas to be disturbed areas. Disturbed areas as defined in Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Punjab and Chandigarh) Special Powers Act, 1983 provides that:—

"If in relation to the State of Punjab or the Union Territory of Chandigarh, the Governor of that State or the Administrator of that Union Territory or the Central Government, in either case is of the opinion that the whole or any part of such State or Union Territory, as the case may be, is in such a disturbed or dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary, the Government of the state or the Administrator of that Union Territory or the Central Government, as the case may be, by notification in the official gazette, declare the whole or such part of that State or Union Territory to be a Disturbed Area."

In pursuance of the provisions of the said Acts, the Government of Punjab declared from time to time the whole of Punjab as well as some districts of Punjab as Disturbed Areas. The last Notification was published by the Government of Punjab declaring the whole of Punjab as Disturbed Area upto 17.05.1997.

Thereafter, no Notification has been issued by the Government of Punjab declaring either the whole of Punjab or its certain areas as Disturbed Area.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has not received any representation from any quarter for revoking the Disturbed Area tag from various districts in Punjab and as per available information, no representation has so far been received from any district unit in Punjab for revoking the disturbed area tag because it is not there.

In any case, as I mentioned, after 17.5.1997, no area in Punjab has been declared as Disturbed Area. As

*Also placed in Library, See No. LT 3128/05.

on date, there are no disturbed areas notified in the State of Punjab.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, skimmed milk masquerades as cream but things are seldom as they seem. He has put the cart before the horse. All I have to say

[Translation]

If you cut off two or three branches of Banyan tree, the tree will not be extinct, not at all.

[English]

I am talking about the Disturbed Area Act, 1993, which hangs like the sword of Damocles on the neck of Punjab.

[Translation]

This act is terrorizing the Punjab like a ghost.

[English]

It has been used as handle by the Central agencies to pulverize and pummel Punjab and push it on the back foot; and Punjab is down on its knees.

[Translation]

If you are saying like that, then what about the statement of your Chief Minister which according to me was issued just 15 days back and what about the statement of the President of PHDCCI which has been issued in Pakistan and in India as well.

[English]

He has expressed dismay over the continuation of the disturbed area status in Punjab and said that the Government must immediately review this anomaly which was present. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whose statement is that?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: This is the Chief Minister, Punjab and the Chairman, PHDCCI, whose name is K.N. Memani. ... (Interruptions)

Listen to it. I would prove it to you.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: He is attributing that statement. He would have to authenticate it.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think, it is not Chief Minister's statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: It is the Chief Minister. Just hold on. Do you know what the Chief Minister says?
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Would you be able to authenticate that?

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Yes, most certainly. He cannot deny that. I am talking about Punjab rising about party politics. We are not getting petty politics into it.

MR. SPEAKER: It is required only for the purpose of our records. You know that such a procedure is there.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Absolutely.

Why do I say that the Central agencies have used it as a handle? I am going to ask some questions. Let the hon. Minister answer them and I would be satisfied.

[Translation]

One bus runs from Lahore to Delhi, and I am giving you all these details; so that you may be aware of how the Central Government agencies handle these things. This bus travel a distance of 900 kilometres. If someone get down from this bus in Punjab or Haryana he becomes a robber but the person gets down in Delhi after traversing a distance of 900 kilometers and becomes a saint. Please tell me why the traders, industrialists or a human being has to come 900 kilometres far to travel 22 kilometres, why do they require special permission of the agencies? Why do our security vans escorts the bus? Here, a number of gentlemen are sitting and they are bearing a saffron Tilak on their head but a black one on Punjab head. Tell me why is it so? We make excuses and say that

[English]

Indo-Pak trade is flourishing.

[Translation]

Our Samjhauta Express had not been in operation for the last 25 years.

[English]

It has not been allowed to stop in Punjab for the last 25 years. If you talk of the visa norms,

[Translation]

If anyone has to travel 22 kilometres from Kandia to Lahore and vice-versa, he first of all, has to come here.

[English]

There was a common man who came to my office. Listen to this. This is a very important thing. He says

[Translation]

The price of meat is Rs. 75 in India and the same is sold at about Rs. 280 in Pakistan. If I take a goat to that side, I can earn Rs. 4 thousand a day. But I have to transport the goat to Delhi after traversing 900 kilometre. I have to get it tested and also to pay bribery. Thereafter the goat of 50 kg is reduced to 20 kg till they traverse the distance of 900 kilometre. Again I have to go 22 kilometre back. I want to know the ground on which you have framed this rule? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot follow.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I could not follow as to why do I have to come to Delhi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: The only thing I am saying is that the visa norms are so stringent and because of this, no business man and no FDI can come to Punjab.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: From Pakistan.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: I am not talking about Pakistan. No tourist can come. If the tourist has to go

[Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu]

into Punjab, he used to take permission from the Ministry of External Affairs. That is my question. Why should he take that permission? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I see. I did not know that.

[Translation]

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, second thing is that the Government of India sends nearly one lakh Muslims to Haj at an expenditure of Rs. 250 crores. Everybody knows it. The Airline traffic is disrupted. Everything gets disrupted. However, we are very happy and agree that two Muslims should visit Haj. There is no limit to our joy. If the Government sends them to Mecca at its own expenditure then my Mecca 'Nankana Sahib' is also just twenty kilometers away in Pakistan. I would like to go there barefoot and I do not require any money from the Government but even then I am not all allowed to go there ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): Recently, a 'Palki' had been taken there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Only Chief Minister has gone there. They can not bypass the common man. Actors, officers and leaders are allowed but why the common man is not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not reply to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: You cannot bypass the common man. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He does not have to reply. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs will reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: One Lakh Muslims are sent to Mecca, then why is it that I am not allowed? What is the fault of Punjab? Please tell me why a Hindu is not sent to Mansarovar on Government's expenditure? Why is he not sent to Katra Sarai? Why is it that a Christian is not sent to Jerusalem on Government expenditure? It is very critical.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, please restrict to Punjab. Why are you going to different places? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: I am restricting to Punjab. I am saying because the Congress MP. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please do not bring Mecca here.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: The Congress MP, Shri M.S. Gill, has gone on record time and again why am I not allowed to visit my Mecca? This is the big question.

MR. SPEAKER: That is a different aspect. Why should not people be able to go to different places?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: I come to the third point. Kashmir is a disturbed area and Punjab also had the tag of disturbed area. Bus service has been started from Kashmir to Muzaffarabad. Sir, you know about partition. You understand partition. There was a partition of Bengal also and now buses are plying upto Bangladesh. But when the issue comes up regarding introducing bus service upto Nankana Saheb or from Amritsar to Lahore, the question of technical snags comes up. Whether any space shuttle is going to moon, the technical snags come up. I want to know why bus service has not been started for that place since last twenty years? If bus can go to Muzaffarabad, almost 300 kilometers. ...*(Interruptions)* Who is talking about NDA? I am not talking about any party. I am making this submission rising above political lines. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sidhu, you speak only about the special problems relating to Punjab. Do not get misled by them.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not one word is recorded. No other statement will be recorded except what Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu says.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Legislation cannot be blind. It cannot speak the same language whether in war or in peace. What was correct about 25 years ago cannot be correct today. Hard laws are made out of compulsion. They have to be transient and temporary. They cannot be permanent. If they become permanent and become a perpetuity, then, they are bad laws. What was a good law during the times of terrorism, is a draconian law in this time.

[Translation]

He must tell us. They have given an economic package to Himachal Pradesh under the Gadgill Committee. We are very happy that Himachal Pradesh has been given an economy package. Now Kashmir is a disturbed area. We are all aware about how much funds were allocated to Kashmir under that Committee. We are also aware as to how many industries were set up there. Now Punjab has been termed as a disturbed area but so far, it has not received even a single penny. Punjab has also not been given a single thing under Gadgill Committee or outside that.

[English]

We have been destroyed economically, we have been destroyed politically. We have been destroyed.

[Translation]

and for what. He must tell me that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody can destroy Punjab.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Well, Sir, it has already been done. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are all proud of Punjab and Punjab's contribution to our freedom struggle and towards the development in the country.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Sir, my question to the hon. Minister is this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You put your questions now.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARI LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Punjab and Gujarat States have been allocated eight thousand crore rupees. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No hon. Member's intervention will be recorded unless permitted by me. Only Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu is permitted to speak. We have started well this morning. Let us continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Who gave it and where? Let me also know about this. ...*(Interruptions)*

Punjab carries a debt of Rs. 40 thousand crore. Who gave this money, please tell me about this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not take note of other Members. You now put your questions.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Sir, I am putting my question.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask hon'ble Minister a very simple question.

[English]

If terrorism has become obsolete, then this law has become obsolete.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Sir, all I want is that this law should be revoked and repealed lock, stock and barrel.

[Translation]

Nearly 1100 Laws were kept before P.C. Sen Committee.

[Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu]

[English]

There were about 800 laws which were repealed. Why is this law hanging like a sword of Damocles? We have borne the brunt of war.

[Translation]

Punjab has made sacrifices, it has faced bullets on their chest, Sir, if someone speaks from Punjab.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have admitted from the Chair, nobody can deny it.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Sir, I will end it with a couplet.

[Translation]

Hai Andhera Bahut, Aab sooraj nikalana chahiye,

Jaise bhee ho, yeh mausam badalna chahiye,

Jo chehre roz badalte hai, Nakabo ki tarah,

Aab janaja dhoom se unka nikalna chahiye.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you must give one minute's time to Shri Avinash Rai Khanna ji also. He also hails from Punjab. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This procedure is becoming common now. I do also give. But not even a notice is coming. Just raising your hand is not the way of doing it.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given in writing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have given in writing just now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: I had given in writing at Eleven O' clock. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Giving at 11 o'clock does not help.

...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Muzaffarabad is situated in POK. That is our area. ...*(Interruptions)* We have to take it back that is why buses are going there. ...*(Interruptions)*. Buses can not go to Sialkot. Muzaffarabad is our area. We have to take it back. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking? Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit you as an exception and this is not to be treated as a precedent. Only one hon. Member is allowed because you had given some notice although not in time. You put only one question and do not make any speech.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all of us have borne the brunt of terrorism in Punjab. We all know about how terrorism was combated. I would only like to mention three instances of Punjab. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: I would only like to quote three instances of Punjab that on 1st December. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not tell, you only ask.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: On 1st December, a cowshed of Hindu's was destroyed in Amritsar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not about disturbed area.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, efforts are being made to make Punjab a disturbed area once again. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow it. Hon'ble Minister to reply now.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: I would only like to mention three instances. ...*(Interruptions)* It is just a matter of one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You put your question.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Speaker, I want to tell that in Amritsar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Do not misuse the opportunity. You are a very considerate Member. I know that. I have got your letter. This is a matter that you have mentioned.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has covered everything.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring three instances of Punjab to the notice of Mr. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no mention of three instances in the notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, once again efforts are being made to disturb Punjab. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the hon. Minister now. Please cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The only thing is you are not going to put a question. You are only making a statement. Hon. Minister to speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the Calling Attention Motion relates to the situation arising out of the continued treatment of Punjab as a 'Disturbed Area' despite peace prevailing in the State. I have very specifically said, Sir, that since 1997, this area is not treated as a disturbed area. So, there is no question that we are treating the people living there as the people living in a disturbed area. Now, the Disturbed Areas Act is there and the Special Armed Forces Act is also there, but it is provided in these two laws that these two laws became applicable after the Governor of the State or the Union Government declared these areas as disturbed areas. Now, please understand that since 1997, there is no notification issued by the State Government or the Union Government.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, he means that there are certain special restrictions for Punjab. That is what he is saying.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, that is altogether a different thing.

MR. SPEAKER: That is right. It is a different matter.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The real Calling Attention Motion which has come to me is this.

MR. SPEAKER: Its language is little unclear.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Even on the other point, there is no restriction for any foreigner going to Punjab and working there or staying there. As he can go to other States, he can go to Punjab also. Let us understand this thing.

Without verifying the facts, if matters of this nature are raised on the floor of the House, they give very wrong impressions and they create problems. So, the responsible Members of this House are requested to first verify the facts and then come before the House. When this is not there at all, how can he say that it is a disturbed area? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Sir, facts will not cease to exist just because they are ignored. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You should tell me as to on what grounds you have prohibited people from going to Punjab? On what grounds have we to come 900 kms away to seek your permission? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: No body has prohibited.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: No, you have prohibited. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister does not need your support. Shri Rashid, has he asked for your support?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you raise your voice or if you continue speaking like that, it does not mean that it is a fact. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: You are a man of words and not of deeds. ...* Let me tell you that. ...* That is what I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Such comments will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is the level of debate that we are having.

MR. SPEAKER: I will deal with that. Therefore, you say that there is no restriction.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I am saying very responsibly that this Act is not applicable and there is no restriction for anybody to go to Punjab and work there. Unnecessarily, this kind of issues should not be raised and should not be allowed to create any misunderstanding in the country. That is my submission.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.11 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Launch at Eleven
Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nineteenth Report

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Gangwar.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, I beg to present the 19th Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

14.12 hrs.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT BILL, 2005

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 17—Shri Shivraj V. Patil.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): I beg to move:

“That the Bill to provide for the effective management of disasters and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

India is a very big country and at many places disasters do take place. We have been helping the people who suffer from these disasters. But it was thought that helping the people after the disasters take place is one thing, and preparing to meet the disasters and to help the people before the disasters take place is something different.

Making preparation to meet the contingency, making policies and plans to tackle the disasters is supposed to be very important in the present times. That is why the concept of ‘disaster management’ has been accepted. The Congress Party manifesto mentions that if the party came to power it will enact a law to manage the disasters.

*Not recorded.

Not only in the last manifesto, but also in three General Elections manifestos, this was mentioned. The previous Government also had appointed a Committee to see that a mechanism or a system is created to manage the disasters and a report has been given. After this Government came to power, this Bill is drafted and it is presented to this House. I would like to say that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi took a lot of interest in seeing that the Bill is drafted and a Bill is presented. She is encouraging passage of the Bill. Without her help, cooperation and guidance, probably, this Bill would not have come to this House at this point of time. Before the Bill could be prepared and drafted, the Government took a decision to create the National Disaster Management Authority. For this purpose, Cabinet took a decision and now a National Disaster Management Authority is in existence.

While deciding in the Cabinet that the Authority should be created, it was stated that the functions of the Disaster Management Authority would be the same that have been mentioned in the Bill that is prepared and which has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha. That National Disaster Management Authority is in existence.

The Bill which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee gave its Report suggesting that certain provisions should be amended. Some of the suggestions given by the Standing Committee have been accepted by the Government while discussing on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha and they have been incorporated in the original Bill. The Bill which is presented to the Lok Sabha has come with the amendments made by the Rajya Sabha.

What are the salient features of this Bill? This Bill provides for creating a National Disaster Management Authority at the national level. It is also suggested that at the State level, there shall be a State Disaster Management Authority. At the third level, it is suggested that there shall be a District Disaster Management Authority and at the fourth level, it is suggested that there shall be a Local Disaster Management Committee. At the fourth level, we have not called it an 'Authority' but a 'Committee'. The National Disaster Management Authority is presided over and Chaired by the Prime Minister himself. The State Disaster Management Authority is presided over and Chaired by the Chief Minister. The District Disaster Management Authority is presided over by two chairpersons—one is the District Collector and the other one is the head of the elected body of the

district. They will co-chair that Authority. At the local level, the local body which has a representative of the people will function to see that the policies made are implemented. There are nine members to be appointed in the National Disaster Management Authority. It is left to the State Governments to appoint not more than ten persons. At the district level, they can appoint a few persons to look after this.

What are the functions which have to be discharged by the authorities and committees. The main job of the National Disaster Management Authority is to visualize as to how the disasters can be managed, if they occur. For this purpose, they are expected to formulate the policies. Policies are bigger than the plans. They shall have to decide the kind of policies which can be adopted at the national level and which can be followed at the State and district level. Then, they are expected to prepare the plans also. The National Disaster Management Authority shall take into consideration the plans prepared by the local disaster management bodies, the district disaster management bodies and the State Disaster Management Authority. While preparing the national plan, the plans prepared at the lower level, at the grassroots level, at the cutting edge level, should also be considered. These plans will be kept ready to be followed.

There are two kinds of disasters which have been taking place in the country and in the world. One of the type of disaster is the nature made disaster.

Cyclones also have been occurring in different areas; and then, people have been suffering because of floods also. Recently, the heavy rains have affected the people, and Tsunami also occurred this year. Tsunami occurred, they say, after a period of more than 500 years.

But these disasters have been occurring, and we shall have to prepare. As to how to prepare to tackle these disasters will be decided by these Authorities. They shall have the equipments that are necessary. If the earthquake has to be tackled, then the plan which is going to be made by the Government is to see that the rules are made for construction of the houses and those rules will be given to the local bodies, and according to the rules, the houses will be constructed so that when there is an earthquake, the Houses would not collapse.

There are areas affected by the floods. They will give them the boats; and they will give them other equipments also which can be easily used.

About cyclones, generally when cyclones occur, the people living in the coastline are affected and they find themselves without any shelter. So, it is suggested that permanent shelters should be constructed a little away from the coastline so that they can go there and live when cyclones occur. I am just giving an idea as to what can be done in these things.

Manmade disaster can occur. What do we mean by the manmade disaster? For example, radiological disaster. If any radiating material is thrown in a city, it can cause damage to many people. So, it is a manmade disaster. Biological disasters and chemical disasters are also manmade disasters, and they are also expected to be tackled by this National Disaster Management Authority.

It is also provided that there shall be funds, which will be kept at the disposal of the National Disaster Management Authority, at the State Disaster Management Authority and at the District Disaster Management Authority. The funds may not be easily available to the local bodies. The district bodies would be able to give the funds, but these funds are not going to be very big funds; they are going to be small funds. These funds will be used for giving the relief.

When a disaster occurs, the first step is to give the relief. The second step is to give a temporary shelter or some temporary relief for a period of say, one month, two months, three months, one year also or two years also. And, the third stage is to reconstruct all that has been damaged. The roads get damaged; the ports get damaged; the airports get damaged; the houses get damaged; and big installations get damaged. They have to be repaired. For this purpose, this fund will not be used. For this purpose, separate funds can be given by the Government of India for the State Government. So, this kind of funding arrangement has also been provided.

It is also provided that the people, who are actually in the field and trying to help the people affected by disasters, should have some special authority. So, they are given special authority. District Collectors are given special authority to acquire pieces of land or houses or vehicles or equipments etc. So, whatever is required for this purpose, they are given authority to acquire, and once they start working, they can call upon anybody. They can ask anybody to come to their help and assistance. Their orders have to be obeyed. Anybody not obeying their orders makes himself liable to be punished under this law. This kind of arrangement has been provided in this law.

Sir, this arrangement is like the arrangement we have in the area of planning for the country as a whole. We have a Planning Commission and that Planning Commission is headed by the Prime Minister of India. The Planning Commission plans for the entire country in consultation with the State Governments also.

The nature of the work to be done by this Authority is going to be something like the Planning Commission, and the second organisation, which is in existence in the country which can be compared with this, is the Atomic Energy Commission. It is also Chaired by the Prime Minister, and once the Prime Minister is Chairing or the Chief Minister is Chairing these organisations, it becomes easy to discharge the duties and to help the people.

So, this kind of an arrangement has been made and once this law comes into existence, we will have a full-fledged National Disaster Management Authority and State Disaster Management Authority.

There are one or two points which are likely to be raised during the course of discussion. One is that the Members may ask whether I am limiting the power, the authority and the jurisdiction of the State Governments by making this law. The reply to this kind of a query would be 'no'. This law will help them. If the State Governments want to make use of this law, they can make use of this law. If they want to have their own law, they are at liberty to do so, but the only thing is that their law should not be contrary to the law which is made by the Union Government. If they want to have their own policies and their own laws, they will be allowed to do this.

The second question that is likely to be raised—which was raised in the other House—is, how much of authority is given to the representatives of the people, in this Authority or Body. One of the charges made was that the people's representatives are not allowed to play the role that they are expected to, in the National Disaster Management Authority. I am trying to explain this point because during the course of the debate which will take place on this, the very same point need not be raised again.

The National Disaster Management Authority is to be Chaired by the Prime Minister himself and he is the representative of the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): The plan is to be prepared by the officials, as per the Act. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, you should have sought the permission of the Chair before making your point. You may please sit down now. It is not to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can make your point when you get your chance to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I want to facilitate his speech. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have gone through and studied the entire Bill, and you are wrong. You have completely eliminated the representatives of the people. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Please just have little patience; I will try to explain. The National Disaster Management Authority is to be Chaired by the Prime Minister; and the Prime Minister is people's representative. He represents all the representatives of the people. That is one thing.

Secondly, in the National Disaster Management Authority, which we constitute, there will be one of the former Ministers and then there are others. Out of ten, there are only six members. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You have provided for Advisory Committees; even in those Committees, you have not included the representatives of the people. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: What I was trying to say is that at the national level, where planning has to be done and where the policy-making has to be done, the Prime Minister is sitting. Then, there are people's representatives also. Suppose, you want to prepare a plan to meet the contingency of cyclone in an area, it is not the representatives of the people who would be helpful, but the experts in that area who would be helpful. That is why, we have provided that if this Authority wants

to get any assistance or any advice or any guidance, they can get that assistance and guidance from the experts. And they are not going to be the members of that Authority; they would be temporarily assisting the National Disaster Management Authority. This is the first point.

Secondly at the State level, the Chief Minister will be Chairing that Authority. He is the representative of the people. At the third level, the Co-Chairman is also a representative of the people. What is not really understood and I would like my learned friend to understand is that the job of really helping the people has to be done, not in Delhi nor in the Capital of a State, but it has to be done in the field or at the local body level.

We have said that the corporations, the municipalities and the Gram Panchayats shall carry on the function of providing help and assistance to the people. There is no official sitting there. Every member of that body is people's representative. It is not realised by the hon. Members that when we have nearly 1000 Members of Parliament and 6000 Members of the State Legislatures, we have three million members of the local body.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, he want to ask whether MLAs will be included in the Committee or not.

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: MLA is a member of the National Disaster Management Authority.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should speak when your turn comes.

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: No representative is there in the district committee. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can speak when your turn comes. This is not the way.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We have to say all these things.

*Not recorded.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You are at liberty to say anything.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is saying that you are excluding MLAs.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am trying to explain to him and I hope he understands that in the field. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I hope no disaster is created. I am trying to explain that at the local level where actual job is to be done, the number of people who are involved is more than 3 million, 30 lakhs, whereas in the National Disaster Management Authority there are only 10 representatives. In the States also there are only 10 representatives and if you take into consideration all the States, not more than 500 people are there but at the local, lower, cutting edge level, at the level where actually help is provided to the victims 3 million people are involved in it. Moreover, how is the plan be made? I hope the hon. Member was attention to what I am saying and does not get up. The State Government has to make the plan after taking into consideration the plan made at the district level. The district level plan has to be prepared after the suggestions are received at the local level and the plan at the national level has to be prepared after taking into consideration the plan suggested at the State level. There are areas in which people at the local level are not in a position to contribute. Supposing, radiological disaster is going to be tackled. It will be too much to expect a member of the Gram Sabha suggesting something to the national level authority. In this respect it is only the experts who have to be consulted. The body at the national level has to be supported and helped by the advisory committee. If you consider the totality of the scheme under this law, you will have no apprehension. But if you will just concentrate on one aspect, you will be misled in thinking that this will not allow the people's representatives to help. Moreover, I would say that even after this law has come

into existence, at any time if Members feel that something different has to be done, we will do. We have not allowed the Members of Parliament or the Members of the Legislative Assembly to sit in Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad. Why? It is because they have their duty to perform over here. Rather than sitting here and making policy for the entire nation as such, if a Member of this House wants to go and work at the Gram Panchayat level, he is at liberty to do so.

Now that is not the scheme of our Constitution. We have to understand it. Now what is the constitutional arrangement? At the national level, there is a national Government; at the State level, there is a State Government; and at the district level, you have Panchayati Raj, Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samitis and district bodies. Without comprehending as to how and why this kind of a thing has been made, if you are trying to assess the principle which has been incorporated in this Bill, we are likely to commit some mistakes. My request to the learned hon. Member is to apply his mind to this aspect also. He is most welcome to say whatever he wants to say in the course of his speech when he gets up to speak. If it is possible, I will try to persuade and convince him.

These are the two objections which were taken and I am speaking on these objections first because if once they are explained and if the Members are convinced, they would not raise it. If they are not convinced, certainly they are at liberty to raise it. I do not have anything more than this to say.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the effective management of disasters and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we welcome the Disaster Management Bill moved by the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. The Hon'ble Minister has said that need for something like this was being felt for a long time. A discussion took place during the regime of Hon'ble Atalji's Government and at that very time in 1999 a High Powered Committee for Disaster Management was constituted. This department was under the Ministry of Agriculture at that time. Thereafter, it was brought under the Ministry of Home

*Not recorded.

Affairs and under this Ministry its work progressed further. This is indeed a very important Bill.

Our country's geographical position is such that 60 per cent of land is earthquake prone and almost 68 percent of land is affected by drought. Keeping all these in mind, there is a need to make such a mechanism which can help us in countering these problems properly in future. I want to bring this to your notice that Gujarat is the only state which has a Disaster Management Authority. Work was carried out there under the Authority and their results are there to be seen. These are a few things which we can understand, which we can see. Generally, these problems are such in our country that some preventive measures are also necessary for them. We feel that all through the year it is flood somewhere and it is drought somewhere else and if we look back at the last 15 years, we find that our country faced 6 major earthquakes, 4 major, and as regards floods they are a perennial phenomenon. Meanwhile we have also witnessed Tsunami. There is a huge difference between a preventive measure and the measures taken after the disaster. As the hon'ble Minister was saying that the kind of atmosphere that is developing in the country, the kind of factories we have, if anytime any accident by chemicals etc. occur then there will be a need for immediate action. For that, we need such a mechanism which could be activated immediately and we can work accordingly. It is necessary for us to implement such a Bill properly to further its cause.

Sir, disaster management is not a new thing. Such mechanism had been there in our country during the ancient times, such great persons had been there who were well aware of the social scenario and setup. They had given the remedies in maxims. Even animals used to give indications that some major disaster was impending. Some under sea activities also indicate the impending disaster. Even cattles try to break free when a disaster is coming. We follow these hints. I remember, when the Latur incident took place, the hon'ble Home Minister was then Speaker of the Lok Sabha. We all know of that incident well, and how people came out of that situation, that too is known to us. It is true that we first establish a proper mechanism in our country as compared to other countries and then carry out works. The incident of Gujarat is there. We restored the things there is a very short span and showed to the world that we can come out of a crisis so smoothly. Today I am putting forth my views before you in this very same context.

Have we been successful in solving the crisis of Bhopal Gas tragedy even today? Still we come across one case or the other which suggests that something is yet to be done in Bhopal. You have told many things and the provisions made are also known to me. Many things have been told in the Standing Committee, but one thing I could not understand as to what prompted you to make Chairman at the district level in the country. Don't you consider Zila Panchayat Chairman competent enough? My submission is that MLAs and MPs take care of their works at the state and the Central levels. They should have some say in the affairs of the districts as well. MLAs and MPs cannot participate in Village Panchayat Committees, but they should be allowed to intervene and give suggestions or to air their views with regard to district level affairs. I want you to consider it and take a suitable decision in this regard.

I also feel that these days most of the incidents are manmade. Somewhere somebody is carrying out explosions as a human bomb, and somewhere accidents are caused deliberately. Accidents call for immediate actions. As LPG tanker is going somewhere and an explosion takes place or an explosion takes place in some chemical, then to minimize the aftermath of such accidents quick and rapid action has to be taken. As regards the committee we are going to constitute, we should take care as to how many scientists are there and how they are making efforts to take steps in the right direction. The need is that we should make efforts to stop accidents at any cost. Today, one gentleman was suggesting that we can do so through school children also. He was saying that today it was guardians' day and the guardians and children were being informed of the steps to be taken in case of any eventuality. My submission is that we should involve the common man in this task. A child should know after growing up that how to react if any accident takes place anywhere. We remember that in the wars of 1962 and 1965, the school children were taught the ways to react in case of blowing of the siren?

Many people do not want to take any kind of assistance after the accident, for example they do not demand clothes and other things. People want permanent solution of the problem of accidents. When they know that floods are regular phenomenon then permanent solution should be found out to check floods. When they know that this is a flood prone area, steps should be taken for the development of that area. It is unfortunate that we do not do many things deliberately. If any tanker bursts or if there is any accident in our whole nautical

[Shri Santosh Gangwar]

miles area, then how we will tackle that, because all the marine species will die, how we will be able to present that? What kind of an arrangement should be made if there is any accident in hilly areas? We have not been able to stop the cutting the trees. Several problems are emerging because of deforestation. We, people are not understanding all these things, that's why we have brought this Bill here. Its needs to be implemented effectively and it should not remain only on papers, only then common people will feel that Government is trying to prevent the accidents. Accidents can be prevented only when their solution is founded before hand. As accidents can take place anytime, anywhere and most of times we know about them after accident takes place.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as one hon'ble Member earlier mentioning that Tsunami occurred after 500 years. God forbid, such incident will never occur here. We know that floods and drought are perennial phenomenon in some of the areas. There is a discussion in the House is every Session on this issue and lots of funds are spent every year to check floods and drought, despite that such calamities occur year after year. If we take some preventive action in this direction and set up a system, then to some extent we can prevent the damage due to such calamities.

Sir, although we know that which part of the country is affected by which kind of calamity every year, even then we are unable to take any effective step and action is taken only after the damage has been done. Every year people die of hunger in Orissa. People sell their children for food there. Concrete measures should be taken to overcome this problem in the State.

Sir, I think there is comprehensive scope for prevention of such calamities in the Disaster Management Bill, 2005, but it depends on the fact that how we will implement it after its passage. We can implement it properly through the system available in the country.

Sir, our country has produced many famous poets, Sufis and saints and they have put their point through various maxims. Much has been done to make people environment conscious and about contribution of plants in their lives. For example the benefits of Pipal and Banyan tree are being explained to them. Thus, we have done the work of connecting the society to nature *i.e.* environment.

Sir, if we implement this Bill in proper form and according to the aim of this bill, we will prepare a system

to implement it effectively in the country and this will reduce the effect of natural calamities occurring in future in the country. This bill has come here after Rajya Sabha passed it. I do not know that the Government is going to accept how many amendments but I would definitely like to say that people's representatives at district level should be consulted. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I whole heartedly welcome the Disaster Management Bill, 2005, presented in this House by the hon'ble Minister. I support this bill. I want to tell that our country is surrounded by hills, rivers and trees etc. If we look in the past, then we will understand that we have some drawbacks, which are responsible for the earthquakes in the country. We are obstructing the nature at several places resulting in ecological imbalance. We have to understand these things. I request to the hon'ble Minister through you to make a provision in the Disaster Management Bill so that anyone going against the nature will be affected by the bill, so that people avoid doing the same.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention to my State Jammu and Kashmir and would like to tell you that people started going upwards when there were no avalanches there for some years. They cut all the trees, they started living there, they build hamlets there and they covered the forest. Similarly, if there is no snowfall for two to four years, people would start to understand that there will be no snowfall in the future and they encroach the area and started living there. Similarly, if there were no floods for some years, people encroach the river land for agriculture and try to encroach the area.

Sir, the number of our rivers, nallaus and forests and their location is properly defined since ancient times. When we encroach upon there, definitely something happens there and we call it a natural calamity. Now, in the absence of nallaus, rain, water directly flows into the cities. Recently we have witnessed the devastation caused by rain water in Mumbai. When there is a rain in Jammu and Kashmir, the river water overflows. It devastates the area coming in between. The water have access even in the hills, forests where man do not live. Sometimes when we go to remote areas, we find small nallaus there and big trees between them, they do not allow the trees to grow and felling of these trees causes floods immediately after the rainfall and these are termed as avalanches,

which further causes landslide. Thus, my submission is that it needs to be taken care of.

It's very kind of you that you are going to put a disaster management authority in place and have brought in a Bill to this effect. As my friend was saying this found its beginning during the regime of Atalji. He is referring to the year 1999. Who took the initiative is not the issue. Of course, he launched it but he failed to give it a final shape. They must take pride in having launched this concept, it needs to be told. But they focus on getting the credit. One need not get credit. Disaster Management is the need of the hour and needs to be put in place. Vehicles, transports, heavy vehicles have increased tremendously. So many Railway tracks have been laid, the number of trucks have gone up like anything, the number of small vehicles has risen to several lakhs. Accidents are a common sight now. Hospitals are not well equipped. No disaster management is there. When there was no act or bill, no legislation existed, blasts were quite common. In the current scenario, one more dimension has been added to it, the problems of Naxalism, Militants, Terrorists have come up to the scene. It's also a mini disaster. We stay quite unconscious of the measures as which one we have to embark upon in situations when blasts, planting of IDs, take place concomitantly and as may as 50 persons are killed in one go, four bombs are planted at some locations and the entire building collapses.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs not to underestimate a Member of Parliament. An IAS officer who is the District Magistrate is considered to be deserving enough for assuming the position of a Chairman. He is taken to be more deserving than an MP. He knows everything and can prevent disaster. He is all competent but a Member of Parliament who is so down to earth is considered to be unaware of the whole thing. They are also qualified persons. Even today a bill has been moved by an MP whether it be the persona of Hone Minister or some other persona. It's a welcome move that you made Prime Minister the Chairperson of the Authority. It's a nice thing that they are in the role of representatives. When the Prime Minister and the CMs of states are there, they themselves will represent, why should there be as many as 543 or a thousand MPs—let one single individual undertake the whole exercise. As regards the nine numbers I would like to suggest that only those should be allowed to continue who have interest in this field. The Technical Scientists sorted out by you are essentially required, and

there should, of course, be representation of different departments, there is nothing unusual about it but without having excluded MPs and MLAs. They do not number in Lakhs. There can be lakhs of Sarpanchs or Panches. Disasters do not take place in Panchayats or a certain village rather, they occur in states and in certain areas. In case there is disaster in a village won't the MPs pay their visit to the site of occurrence? So, it's my humble submission that the MPs should be made Chairmen of their respective constituencies. If a district magistrate is appointed Chairman he will call for the MPs also to know their opinion. We are gradually eroding our own standard. I think MPs should supervise and monitor the progress of work. So, I think that Members of Parliament should be made representatives at all levels not only in districts but in the entire country as well. I would also like to make one more submission that it is a conspiracy that by and by MPs are being removed from the scene. It is also going to be a kind of disaster. The element of domination can well be viewed in the present scenario. The formal respect attached to the MPs from aeges is on the downturn at every level. For example in this letter the word "Hon'ble" has not been prefixed even before the Prime Minister. Imagine what will be in case of other MPs. The respect and honour attached to the MPs is diminishing substantially this is my submission.

This is also some sort of a disaster. There is a difference between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. This is to be kept in mind. The Lok Sabha MPs are directly elected down to earth people while in the Rajya Sabha, there is representation of a few intellectuals. Some of them are actors, many parties have elected scientists also. But the larger question is that we are not government servants we are representatives of the people.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): We are not Government servants.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: As we come to see, that day too, you passed the bill in a hurry taking the plea that the opposition is voicing protest. ...*(Interruptions)*. What happened therein. I.A.S. and sitting MPs were included and Ex. MPs as well as Ex. I.A.S. officers were prohibited from using emblems. While every body is well aware of the working style of the sitting MPs. It is thought

[Chaudhary Lal Singh]

that Ex-MPs and Ex-I.A.S. officers will misuse emblems. Why this comparison? It is very sad that the position of MPs is being undermined like anything. One should not underestimate oneself. Lal Singh does not underestimate himself. It is as simple as that. I am people's representative, I talk of the masses. I am not a servant. Those who are servants should be treated as servants but the representatives are honourable. So my submission is to keep this in mind while making legislations. You have rendered your service for so long. This is why I put forward my request to you to elect MLAs and MPs as members and Chairmen respectively.

Therefore, I request you to make certain changes in the Bill and accommodate the MPs attaching some significance to their status. Please do not ignore the MPs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to associate with what the hon. Member has spoken. I just wanted to share with my colleagues in the House the recent experience we had in a natural. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Only the Member can. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): The Minister should be called for later on. She is intervening but is simply offering suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: No, Sir. I sought the permission both from Shri Priya Ranjan ji and ...*(Interruptions)* We can speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given her the permission.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I am supporting the Bill and just adding the experience. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She is intervening with my permission.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I am just making an intervention.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She is intervening with my permission.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please. Mr. Patil Saheb.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I am not negating. I am only adding. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Association is all right.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: We are allowed to. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Patil Saheb, she is intervening only.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The Chair is telling you something.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She is intervening with my permission.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I just wanted to share an experience with all of you as an elected representative. When we are in a disaster situation, the Election Commission also has to be notified. That is my request. What has happened, is, they said, that under the flood that was happening in my Constituency, I was standing there physically. When relief measures were being handed out, we were told that we had no right to hand out any relief measure even during the flood when the town was evacuated, because the Election Model Code was applicable. I think, that is an extreme case that we need to address.

15.00 hrs.

We need to address that aspect. We are not untouchables by becoming Members of Parliament. We are not removed from the society. If we could evacuate persons and help them, we should be allowed to do that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it's a point of order. Now we are at a point of order. It is the collective responsibility of the Cabinet. After the advice of the Council of Minister, it is the Cabinet that first address then only my bill is introduced in the House. In the House, can ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under what rule, are you raising it?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name is on the list of speakers.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: It is not an issue of name. It is point of order. I am raising this question as point of order. Can any Minister suggest for making amendments in the bill passed by the Cabinet and forwarded to the House? It is dilution of collective responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She can intervene. She has not given any amendment. She is only intervening. She can intervene.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I am within my right to speak. I am first an elected Member of Parliament. I am within my right to speak here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You are an elected Member. You will have to observe the rules of the House. But you are violating the rules. The hon. Minister has already spoken. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I have not spoken against the rules. ...*(Interruptions)* You are speaking against the rules.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, you have to address the Chair.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: He does not allow me to speak. I just wanted to share my experience with the Members.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: This means that you are not minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you should give the ruling. How can dual rules be allowed to the House? Two contradictory roles cannot function simultaneously. Such thing do not figure in the rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Show me that rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The Minister have a collective responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Can I not support my own Government? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, you can speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do not interrupt now. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I have supported the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, it is such a pity that my colleagues do not listen to women Members when we speak! It is, through you, Sir, that I wanted to share with the Members my experience. I now realise that it is useless to share with them. ...*(Interruptions)* I wanted to say that I support this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, technically is it possible to do that?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Please sit down now.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Yes. It is to support this Bill that I am speaking. It is to endorse that when there is a natural disaster happening, all of us must play a crucial role in alleviating the human misery. We should be responsive at that time. I stand to support the Bill of my hon. colleague. In case the rest of you do not understand it, I cannot help. ...*(Interruptions)*

I think the disaster management has to be done here.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan ji now you can speak what you want to.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the Disaster Management Bill requires a close study. It requires some amendments also. The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha. The hon. Minister has stated in the Objects and Reasons of the Bill that public cooperation from top to bottom is highly essential for the implementation of the provisions of this Bill. But, unfortunately, the drafting of the Bill was in such a way that they forgot about public cooperation.

When a disaster occurs, no Government worth the name can meet it without public cooperation in the sense that people's representatives should be given a say in the matter. Their participation at every stage must be there. But I am sorry to say one thing. Of course, in principle, I support this Bill because it is quite essential. This Bill will not get public cooperation. As I may not get sufficient time, I may point out certain matters which require our deep study and concentration. Sir, Chapter VI deals with functions of the local authority. That is the only place where public is allowed to participate. This local authority is functioning under the direction of the District Collector who is the Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority. So, there shall be a District Disaster Management Authority and the Collector or the District magistrate will be the Chairman of that District Authority. That Authority includes no people's representation. There are MLAs, elected representatives in the State Assemblies. There are Members of Parliament who are representing the State in the Parliament. None of them is allowed to participate anywhere in the State. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this law does not prohibit from allowing a Member of the Parliament or Member of the Legislature taking part in it. He says that it is not allowed. That is not the case.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: No, I will read the section.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Just wait! ...*(Interruptions)* It does not say the State Government cannot appoint anybody as a Member of the District body. If you want *ex officio* to have them as the Members, then we have 6,000 Members of the State Legislatures and 1,000 Members of this House.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, if we see the District Authority, it says: 'Every State Government shall, as soon as may be after issue of notification, establish a District Disaster Management Authority for every district in the State.' The District Authority shall consist of the chairperson who shall be the District Collector or the District Magistrate. The following persons shall be the members of the District Authority:

- (a) the Collector or District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner, as the case may be, of the district who shall be Chairperson, *ex officio*;
- (b) the elected representative of the local authority who shall be the Co-Chairperson, *ex officio*;

The local authority will elect a person—only one person. That is all the municipalities and panchayats themselves together elect one person who shall be a member of this committee and not more. Now, there are about nine or seven members. The Chief Executive Officer of the District Authority; the Superintendent of Police; the Chief Medical Officer; not exceeding two other district level officers, to be appointed by the State Government. No other representative is there. There is no place for MPs. There is no place for the MLAs. Only an elected representative of all the panchayats, district panchayat, block panchayat, gram panchayat, all these taken together, if I am correct, can elect one person to be the member of the District Authority and nobody else. Are we not entitled to cooperate with this committee? Where is the public cooperation? Where can the MLA and MP cooperate with District Disaster Management Authority? It is provided nowhere. Only the Collector is the Chairman. My learned friend, hon. Home Minister will say that there is cooperation without any provision in the statute? Is it

proper? Are we not elected representatives? Is it a legislation meant for an emergency? If an emergency is required this is all right. But in a democratic State, it is quite unsuitable. So, I would request him to get the cooperation, participation of MLAs and MPs in the State level and the district level. I do not say that all will be invited. At least one or two persons may be invited or may be included in the statute giving the representation to peoples' elected representatives in the district. That has not been done. That has not been done. Now, the person representing the local authority will have to be elected by themselves and not by the people. The people's representatives will not get any chance in this Scheme.

Now, Chapter III deals with the State Disaster Management Authorities. There also, the Chief Minister of the State shall be the *ex-officio* Chairperson. There is no MLA or MP. Nobody is given representation in the Scheme at the State level. If there is any provision, I will submit to you. You have not made any provision. Moreover, there will be an Advisory Committee. Even in that Committee, no mention is made about MLA or MP. Now, I would like to say something about the National Disaster Management Authority. The Prime Minister of India shall be the *ex-officio* Chairperson. Chapter II deals with the National Disaster Management Authority. The other Members, not exceeding nine, will be nominated by the Chairperson of the National Authority. There also, we do not find any people's representatives.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is there.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is there in your mind but not in the statute.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The Prime Minister, who is people's representatives, is the Chairman. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Prime Minister is the Executive head.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: In the National Disaster Management Authority, one of the MLAs from Andhra Pradesh is Mr. Reddy.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There is no provision here. I am only referring to the provisions and not the whims and fancies of the person who is in authority. I am concerned with the provisions of the

statute. Now, I am talking about the Prime Minister of India who shall be the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the National Authority. The other Members, not exceeding nine, will be nominated by the Chairperson of the National Authority. The Chairperson of the National Authority may designate one of the Members nominated under clause (b) of Sub-Section (2) will be the Vice-Chairperson of the National Authority. The Chairman, of course, becomes the head of the State Disaster Management Authority. He has powers to execute, but again there is no MP or MLA in the statute. There is a provision in the Advisory Committee. At least, give a place for MLAs and MPs in the Advisory Committee. Are we living in a state of emergency? We are living in a democratic State, and we are expected that there must be people's participation. Why did I insist on this?

With all modesty, I would like to say something about tsunami which had affected my State Kerala and also Tamil Nadu. It was a national disaster. If I am correct, Rs. 5,000 crore have been donated by the philanthropic people throughout the world. There were non-official agencies collecting money. What happened? No account was maintained. Nobody is liable or made accountable. The matter went to Lokayukta. He found that the money was misused and diverted for other purposes. The matter went to the Kerala High Court. The High Court also found out that the Tsunami Collection Fund was misused by the State Government. The State Government used that fund for some other purposes and not for the development of the people affected by tsunami. It was spent for some other purposes and the High Court was also constrained to make some observations against the State Government that they had misused the money. Why was it so? It was so because it was dealt with by bureaucracy. The bureaucracy dealt with it and they are not accountable. The money was not properly used or properly utilised and the result was that the people did not get any help.

Even today, the development works could not be completed. The development works could be taken up only after Maa Anandmai came to the forefront of the people and that the development works were conducted by her. That is why, I insist that in Disaster Management Schemes, there must be people's representatives. We have our own experience in the matter of tackling tsunami disaster that money was misutilised and there is an observation of the High Court also.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to provide for people's representation in such matters. There must be

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

people's check at every stage when the disaster management is being considered and taken into effect. This is a very important matter. Recently, we had floods in Tamil Nadu and earthquake in Kashmir and in Pakistan. So, nobody knows when will it occur. No human knowledge or scientific development could predict about the occurrence of these disasters. The net result is that thousands of lives will be lost and property worth crores of rupees will be lost. People are helpless in such circumstances. So, we should evolve a formula not in India alone but with the help of foreign countries also. We should evolve scientific methods to finding these out so that at least precautionary steps should be taken.

In the matter of tsunami, we felt the same difficulty. The hon. Minister will remember that there were two Ministries involved in that. One was the Ministry of Science and Technology headed by Shri Kapil Sibal. He had given a different version and the hon. Home Minister gave a different version that it will not happen in future. The Minister of Science and Technology said that it would recur and that people would have to vacate the areas. I had to run along with the people to safer areas as it was stated that tsunami would recur. This was the prediction made by the Ministry of Science and Technology. But the Home Ministry was correct that it would not be repeated.

So, even in such circumstances, it is not so easy for the Government as to what will happen in the next moment. It is a matter of caution. So, we should have some arrangement. We should have some specific method by which it can be foreseen. I do not suppose that it is possible to predict exactly, but we must make a sincere effort in this regard. Even the American people claimed that they knew beforehand that tsunami would occur. It may be fantastic. But the claims were there. In all these matters, we will have to get previous information about the disaster that will occur in the near future. For that purpose, a fund should be set up. We should have a global cooperation in these matters for which provisions should be made in the Act also. It is very highly essential even about the disaster management. So effective steps should be taken up.

The Bill also provides for a permanent fund. It is provided in the statute. How it is collected and how it is maintained is another matter. That will be decided later on. But the fund should be there.

Clause 46 of the Bill says that there will a National Disaster Response Fund. I welcome that suggestion.

There is also another provision that there will be a National Disaster Force. We will have a separate Force which will be trained in dealing with such situations. It must be trained. It must be a permanent feature of our administration to have a national force to deal with such emergent situations that may arise during disaster. That provision is also included. I fully agree with it.

The Act is there but people's representation is not solicited. That is the only defect. I tell you very sincerely. As far as provision regarding funding is concerned, it is good. The provision regarding Force is also good. The only difficulty is that we have not given sufficient provision for eliciting public cooperation. Boasting public cooperation is not sufficient. We can claim that we have public cooperation but people should see that they are given chance to cooperate. That is the important issue. By a local authority you can claim that people are participating, they are given grass-root cooperation. It is all right.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point has come now. Please conclude your speech.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: But, they are only acting under the instruction of the district collector. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister, who is well-experienced in this matter, to see that some provision is made for people's representation at all levels in dealing with disaster management issues.

With these words, I fully support you, and I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome this bill and fully support it. In our country, the necessity of a separate authority to deal with national disasters has been long-felt. In different States of the country, there were conditions of flood and drought which was dealt with by the Rehabilitation Commissioners and Relief Commissioners at State Level. The revenue laws in a state would deal with such conditions under this system. The District Magistrate happened to be the Chairman of the District Relief Committee and he was known as 'Relief Commissioner'. The Revenue Secretary in a State was ex-officio Commissioner looking after relief and rehabilitation works in that state. I feel that this Bill is virtually a compendium of Revenue Acts of different states and on that basis this authority has been constituted. But which ever form they exist in, it is fine.

The Parliament reserves the right to amend the Bills it passes from time to time, if need be. Whenever and whatever amendment is needed, the Hon'ble Home Minister may bring it in, inter-alia. But I feel that any grave responsibility accorded to a Member of Parliament often returns him misappreciation and disface. We can see a recent example of this in Bihar where a district magistrate is in jail under prosecution in a similar matter of relief-distribution and his disface is likely to malign the image of a hon'ble Member too.

So, there may be a dispute on it. There may be a controversy on this as well that we are constituting a 10 members committee and we have 750 members in our stock. In my state UP, there are about 750 members from both the legislative *i.e.* Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. Now, how many members can you appoint into a Committee? It is my personal view, others may differ as they may be having their own opinion on such matters. When we think that such and such is not appointed in the committee, we feel a sense of deprivation and cutting short our rights. But there has to be a committee and you have to very justly see as to how many members can you appoint as advisors or supervisors? This Committee will have supervisory powers to see whether the relief material is properly distributed or reconstruction work is going on well or not. It will monitor the proper utilization of the relief material by the official machinery in public interest. A monitoring Committee comprising of MPs at district level by the Ministry of Rural Development is an example in this regard. It's object is to monitor and assess the work and will of the district administration to suitably use the financial provisions accorded to it in order to implement the Central Government Schemes at district level. I suggest that we should constitute a committee of MPs and elected public representatives to monitor the relief and rehabilitation work after the constitution of the authority you have just proposed to constitute and I request you to consider this point.

Earlier it was seen that a major part of relief would go to the states of Eastern UP, Northern Bihar and some parts of Bengal as they were most prone to the floods and other disasters. But the condition is now different. Even the prosperous and safe states and cities are now victims of natural calamities. A big part of my state is drought-prone, so is a major part of India, like-Rajasthan has been facing drought situation for the last ten years continuously. But the calamities in poor states invariably do not make such impact on the Centre as is desired.

What has been the trend, let me tell you, the funds from Planning Commission for five-year relief and rehabilitation would be spent off in a single year. The Centre Government used to shoulder off its responsibility on the matter of funds for rehabilitation in a five-year plan and the states availed themselves lump sum amount. They went to spend it in a year and were subjected to public abuse for empty stock for four full years. I hope, henceforth this trend will be set right. Today there is environmental imbalance in the country and we see phenomena of cyclones in the Southern part of the country, more often, say, four or five times in a year. The tempest is a known name now-a-days and the world cycle.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mohan Singh ji, please conclude within two minutes, Private Members Business is to be taken up.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I have barely started.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: OK, you may continue on Monday.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I support this Bill for now and would give rest of my suggestions later.

15.30 hrs.

MOTION RE: FIFTEENTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

(English)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House would take up item No. 23. Chaudhary Lal Singh.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): I beg to move the following:—

"That this House do agree with the Fifteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 7th December, 2005."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

Resolutions presented to the House on the 7th December, 2005."

The motion was adopted.

15.30¹/₂ hrs.

(I) CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL, 2005*
(Insertion of new article 262A)

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.31 hrs.

(ii) PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES
IN ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BILL, 2005*

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for infrastructural facilities in all educational institutions in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for infrastructural facilities in all educational institutions in the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 9.12.2005

**Introduced with the Recommendations of the President.

15.31¹/₂ hrs.

(iii) MEGA PROJECTS (TIMELY COMPLETION)
BILL, 2005*

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for timely completion of mega projects and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for timely completion of mega projects and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

(iv) CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL, 2005*
(Insertion of new article 51B)

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 9.12.2005

**Introduced with the Recommendations of the President.

15.32½ hrs.

(v) CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL, 2005*
(Amendment of article 174)

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

(vi) CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL, 2005*
(Amendment of article 158)

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.33½ hrs.

(vii) FISHERMEN (WELFARE) BILL, 2005*

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 9.12.2005

for fishermen and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures for fishermen and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

(viii) PETROL PUMP WORKERS (WELFARE),
BILL, 2005*

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures for petrol pump workers and for matters connected therewith

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures for petrol pump workers and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

(ix) CHILDREN OF PARENTS LIVING BELOW
POVERTY LINE (SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL
FACILITIES) BILL, 2005*

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 9.12.2005

**Introduced with the Recommendations of the President.

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

educational facilities to children of parents living below poverty line throughout the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special educational facilities to children of parents living below poverty line throughout the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004
(Insertion of new article 47A)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item number 34 further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Survavam Sudhakar Reddy on the 12th August, 2005, Kunwar Manvendra Singh to continue his speech.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, by this time the Health Minister should be present here.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): The Health Minister has some health problem, that is why he is not in the House. But the Minister of State concerned is present.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You want that Minister must be present here.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, I am present here.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member Shri Sudhakar Reddy who has introduced this Bill is stating that

[English]

State shall set up the primary health centre in every village with all necessary medical facilities

[Translation]

I most heartily welcome his this move with gratitude. But he should have also involved the Centre in it.

[English]

This is not only a State matter but this is a matter of Central Government as well

[Translation]

I would like to urge the hon'ble Health Minister to consider the provisions contained in this Bill for extending medical facilities to each and every village as it is very essential and as this Bill states

[English]

The private hospitals are charging exorbitantly which is beyond the reach of poor people.

[Translation]

The Private hospitals are very costly and out of reach of poor people

[English]

That is a very serious matter which is mentioned in this Bill. This is obvious from the fact that the allocation of expenditure on public health services has been declining over the successive years. It is, therefore, necessary to make an amendment in the Constitution with a view to making it the duty of the State,

**Introduced with the Recommendations of the President.

[Translation]

In my view it should be done.

[English]

Centre to set up one primary health centre in every village with all necessary medical facilities including necessary infrastructure, staff, medicine etc., to provide basic health care to the people.

[Translation]

It has been mentioned in the Bill. A demand has been made in it for remote places and villages. Through you, I request the Government of India and the Ministry of Health to formulate a national policy on health services. It should be nationalised because medical facility is highly inadequate in rural as well as in Urban areas. Today, we are talking about villages. Medical facilities are inadequate at block and Tehsil level and in district headquarters. There are no hospital buildings. I am talking of Tehsil headquarters and district headquarters. The buildings there are dilapidated and medicines are in short supply. Doctors there do no report for duty. Neither potable water or electricity is available there. When a patient is being operated upon light goes off. Hospitals do not have generators. There are no facilities for blood test. Blood if needed, cannot be made available to the patients. This condition of health facilities in district headquarters, even after 55 years of independence, is shocking and shameful. The Government should look into it. Rural India is poor. They can not go to cities for treatment for want of roads. Women in labour give birth in bullock-carts or trollies. At times, they give birth on roads. This is the reality. Recently, it was published in the newspapers about Agra Medical College where women give birth alongwith dogs under their beds. Such things also happened in several other hospitals. This must be set right.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill in itself is very important. In primary health centers, doctors remain absent. Separate Rural Health Services should be set up under with doctors should exclusively be given rural appointment. Lodging arrangements should be made for them. Salary and allowances for such postings should be made more attractive. Neither the states or the Central Government have made such provisions. It is the Midwife (Dais) who traditionally helps in delivery. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you might be knowing it. Hon'ble Members might have seen such interviews on T.V. Several times.

Treatment by quacks results in deaths in several cases. Action could not be taken against them under any section. The Minister of Health is present. I want to know whether action has been taken against any Quack? Today we talk of health safety. What is the guarantee that syringes are destroyed after use? Their re-use can result in AIDS or Hepatitis-B. You have no arrangements for this. You talk of villages. It was reported in the newspapers that syringes used in AIIMS, resurfaces in the market. When we do not have means to end this, how can we talk of providing quality health services to the people? We hear almost everyday about spurious medicines being made in the factories. Such medicines are available in the market. When a doctors prescribes a medicine or an injection, the patient is given spurious medicines and injections which results in patients death.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during my last stint in Parliament, a racket of fake glucose was unearthed. In my view the Health Ministry has no control over this. In all the existing Hospitals, like AIIMS, it takes several days to get admission or an appointment. Such is the rush. I request the Government, through you, to set up hospitals, on the pattern of AIIMS in each state capital well-equipped with all the facilities. Patients from all over the country flock to AIIMS. If such hospitals are set up in the State capitals of the country, people will not face hardships to get quality treatment. I accept, private hospitals are mushrooming. Most such hospitals are allotted land and given licence on the condition that the poor would get free treatment. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Health the number of poor patients given free treatment. Such private Hospitals are run commercially. They have no concern for the poor. I demand that in view of the expensive medicines, high fees charged by doctors and high charges for hospital rooms, medical insurance should be made compulsory for those below poverty line so that they can avail free treatment. In fact, I would go so far as to suggest compulsory medical insurance for the middle class too. They should be given a card. There is no such provision at present. Today, we talk of providing health services in the villages. It is my thinking that if they are given cards, at least, they can go to the cities for free treatment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we talk of CGHS. Patients run from pillar to post. There is no arrangement for giving treatment to the retired and the old. There is the complication involving procedural permission from various quarters. Why can not a CGHS card holder get treatment easily in hospitals? Even MPs face difficulty in getting

[Kunwar Manvendra Singh]

medicines in such hospitals. Their payments have not been made. And we talk of providing treatment facilities in villages. Blood test facility under CGHS is restricted. Only certain test are allowed. Similarly, only certain types of X-ray are permitted. Why so? Today a person suffers from various ailments. You would be surprised to know that the doctors fee under CGHS fixed at Rs. 80, 20 years ago remains the same. Why was it not revised? In which hospital can a CGHS patient get treatment for Rs. 80? Similarly, there are several other medicines and tests which the Hospitals refuse to perform. We were also refused. For such tests we had to pay from our pocket. The Government should revise this. Today, prices have risen. Accordingly, rates for all medicines have risen. Only yesterday we discussed the test rates increased by AIIMS. Through you, I request the hon'ble Minister of Health that it is very essential to revise the by-laws of CGHS. These should be at par with the reputed hospitals.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Manvendra Singh, please allow me to say something at this point. Hon. Members, the time allotted for this Bill is over, but I have got a list of eight speakers who wish to speak, on this very Bill. If the House agrees, then the time for discussion on this Bill may be extended by one hour.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I agree with you. The time for this Bill can be extended upto 6 o'clock as it is a very important Bill.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Yes, Sir, it is a very important subject. Therefore, we all agree with this suggestion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

[Translation]

Shri Manvendra ji, please listen to me, whenever you have to speak, please speak from you seat. If you want to come forward than you seek permission to come forward. Today, I allow you but you should have taken prior permission.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: I am sorry, Sir, through you, I am requesting to the hon. Minister that why permission is required under C.G.H.S. As a result of it the patient keeps going here and there and then it is realized that the patient has lost his life. If the patient has a C.H.G.S. enrollment.

[English]

The person is entitled to get treatment in a hospital anytime and anywhere in the country.

[Translation]

If I go to Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata or Bangalore and fall sick there,

[English]

then it is not possible for me or the C.G.H.S. Card holder to get treatment there will he come back from that place to Delhi to take permission to get treated in that particular hospital at that place? Is this procedure some kind of a joke?

[Translation]

You have made it cumbersome. A lot of people come to us. The Government should think about how much complicated it has become for retired people if they have to take treatment, make payment and visit hospitals, and about those people who are leading a retired life and who do not have children or any other person at home to take care of them, then how is the Government going to provide treatment to those people. If these people will go to the hospital for a blood test, they will say that this hospital is not there in the panel list. If one has to go for an Eco test, heart test or any other test then they say that according to the list it is two thousand Rupees but they will charge eight thousand rupees for the same test. Therefore, I would request the Government to revise this. These days the Doctor's fees in a good hospital or residence is respectively about Rs. 80 and Rs. 60. People laugh at that. Why is it that nothing was done about revising these charges? Suppose a patient goes to a good hospital or to Mumbai after taking permission then he will have to pay extra money because the rates

[English]

that have been specified are far less compared to the prices that are prevalent in those hospitals over there.

[Translation]

I would request the hon. Minister to convene a meeting in this regard. I have been an MP a number of times and have been saying this again and again that the Government should nationalize the health services in hospitals. The State Governments should be included in

[English]

this but I believe that its funding should be direct, and these hospitals should get involved with the Health Department, Government of India.

[Translation]

A number of times X-ray's cannot be done because there is no electricity and there are no generators. I am talking about villages where a person from village will reach to a district or Tehsil with great difficulty and they will find that there is no electricity and no x-ray can be done. Then he is taken to another hospital in a neighbouring city by a tractor or bullock cart but the treatment there is so costly that he cannot afford. The Government is required to nationalize these and build better hospitals in districts. Hospitals like AIIMS and other good Hospitals should be set up in State Capitals at least, so that the people there can have better treatment at low cost.

15.56 hrs.

[SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*]

Besides this there is another important issue which is related to health. These days we are listening about milk made from urea. Recently, we heard on Diwali that a number of people died after consuming sweets. It was found in investigations that chemicals were mixed into kyoya. Use of urea milk is increasing day after day. All of us including the hon. Health Minister and the entire Health Department is aware of this fact. The milk that we are consuming is also not free of urea because the purchasing centre's are in rural areas and urea milk is getting supplied over there. Through you, I would like to know as to how many raids were conducted by the Health Ministry, how many people were arrested and punished? Does it not create any double if no raids were conducted and no one was arrested and punished? Further whether some Ministry people are also a part of it at district level also? It may be possible that he may say that this matter is concerned with the region only but the Union Government is also responsible. I want to know why strict orders were not issued for selling urea milk? Why did not the Government issue strict orders after convening the meeting of the Chief Ministers? Are we going to remain mite spectators to all this and the people will keep dying and urea milk will continue to be sold like this? What kind of system in this?

We talk about good health. Today adulteration is increasing. Medicines are spurious and milk is adulterated. If mothers are going to give this kind of milk to their children then the children instead of taking good milk and nutritious food will loose their lives. What can be more shameful than this? This is a matter of serious concern. How are we going to give good health to the children today? It may be possible that the milk containers containing baby milk powder, may also be adulterated. No raids are conducted. Newspapers report everyday as to how many medicine shops were raided. Every month or two news comes that someone has been caught but culprits are never punished. As a result these factories are started again and spurious medicines keep selling, because the chemists get more money by selling those medicines. How many licences were cancelled of these chemists from where spurious medicines were recovered? We never heard of any licence being cancelled. Why not are mass raids conducted? How are these problems going to be solved if no strictness is adopted? Today we talk about providing good health and good hospitals. Quality of medicines in hospitals is not good. In fact, I was asking yesterday only that the Government is not giving any funds and CGHS medicines are not being purchased, so, is there any scam taking place. We are scared of all this. The Government should make such arrangements that people should get good medicines for good health. The Government cannot pure water. The water we believe to be pure and sold in bottles is actually taken from drains. In fact the purity of 'Rail neer' has also been questioned.

16.00 hrs.

How can we talk about good health if the government cannot even provide pure drinking water. We cannot even expect that villages are getting pure water. The water that is sold in bottles in cities is also not good, then where will the common man go? On what basis can we talk about health? There is adulteration in food articles and spices and urea is mixed in sugar, cow dung is mixed in Dhania power. Advertisements are given in the newspapers and talks are held, but how many people have been actually arrested. So far, how many cases have been filed against people and how many were put into jails and how many licences were cancelled? If nothing was done then what are the reasons for this? We all know that blood urea is becoming a dangerous disease.

[Kunwar Manvendra Singh]

[*Translation*]

Action should be taken to ban on blood Urea. Such poison has been selling openly. This is a slow poison, that we all are drinking. DMS gets its milk from villages where urea is added into it which works as a slow poison. And this contaminated milk is being consumed by children, young and old as well as patients. Recently 400 students from a school in Delhi became sick after taking meal and drinking milk.

16.02 hrs.

[SHRI AJAY MAKEN *in the Chair*]

Sir, through you, I would like to urge upon the hon'ble minister to give special attention in this regard. Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, as you have seen that there is no provision to dispose off the hospital waste and whatever means are available, they are useless. There are always possibility of spreading different types of diseases in colonies from this waste. I therefore, would like to know the provisions being adopted to dispose off the waste in big hospitals?

We observe that the hospitals wastes are strewn over the roads and there is no provision to dispose off that waste. I would like to request the hon'ble Health Minister that he should issue a strict direction in this regard and make such arrangements so that there is no waste stream in the colonies of the country's Capital Delhi. You are the member from Delhi and here the diseases are spreading from the hospital waste. The provisions should be made to stop the spread of such diseases.

Besides, this, Health Ministry is not paying attention in regard to population control earlier we used to see the messages of Health Ministry regarding family planning on T.V. and in newspapers and there were some schemes regarding population control run by Health Ministry and awards were also distributed, but all this is stopped today. This work is not being expedited. No matter how much progress we have made but the problem to control the population is remains the same.

Mr. Chairman Sir, there is no denying that our country has progressed in every field but when we compare it with our population explosion, then we find ourselves trailing behind. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Health Minister to encourage propagation and promotion

to check the growth of population by paying special attention towards this. The grants that were provided by the Government to the people as an incentives should be continued. Government should encourage its employees to adopt two child family norms and also promote and give other incentives to those employees who adhere this norms so that they adopt the two child family norms. There is also an urgent need to educate villagers in this regard.

Sir, a few days ago I was watching a T.V. programme in this regard, where interview was being taken of some pradhan of Gram Panchayat. Although it is not related to the subject but it relates to health hence I want to tell you that when pradhan of panchayats were asked about the population of their villages, everybody stated the population of their respective villages. But when the same question was asked to another pradhan he stated the population of his village, which was much higher. When he was asked the reason for higher population of the village he replied that the reason for higher population is due to the train which crosses the village at 4.00 a.m. The villagers have not been educated in this regard and there is no provision of entertainment except such work in the village hence population of the village is increasing. Those who are educated they understand but in villages and rural areas there is need to introduce a programme to control the population.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is good that we are providing licenses to private people for running hospitals and they are building good hospitals in different places. I request the hon'ble Minister of Health through you that there should be provision to provide treatment free of cost to the people living below poverty line or people belongs to middle class in such private hospitals. If hon'ble Chief Minister, Minister of Health, member of Parliament of Member of Legislative Assembly recommends that the said person is poor and he should be given treatment in Appolo Hospital then he must get the treatment in that hospital. You have to make appropriate provision in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to request you that when we talk about people of our constituency we find that treatment for serious diseases costs lakhs of rupee in AIIMS, or other Government hospitals and then we write to hon'ble Prime Minister for financial assistance but Prime Minister Relief Fund provides only Rs. 50 thousand instead of required Rs. 2.50 lakhs rupees. Help of Rs. 50 thousand does not bring any relief to the poor

where he required Rs. 2.50 lakhs. It is my humble request that said limit should be increased. I have received a letter from PM office wherein I have been told that the letter regarding providing help to the poor for treatment was my 13th letter and not more than 12 letters of mine will be accepted. I would like to ask what would happen if MP would not write letter to help the poor for their treatment from the Prime Minister, Chief Minister or Health Minister relief fund. Poor person who is unable to carry out his treatment should be provided with the assistance. If it will not happen, from where he will get the treatment? He is also a citizen of India and has the right to get his treatment done from a good hospital.

Sir, I want to request the hon'ble Minister, through you to fix a quota so that poor could take treatment free of cost. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken 40 minutes. So, please conclude.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Sir, besides this, the abrupt increase in number of Cancer patients is equally important. I have written to the hon'ble Health Minister regarding establishment of a cancer Hospital in a city like Delhi on the lines of All India Institute during the period of NDA Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. This should be your last point.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Hon'ble then Prime Minister started that hospital. That is a four Storeyed building. Out of four three storeys are closed and treatment is being done on one of the storey. I talked to the Director of the hospital. When I send the patients there, they show their helplessness saying we cannot admit them as we do not have the arrangements. There should be at least state-wise hospital like this for the treatment of Cancer. You should have to make proper arrangements for the treatment of Cancer in Delhi using the rights of the Health Ministry.

Sir, with these words, I thank you.

[English]

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Sir, I rise to support the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004, moved by Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, seeking to insert a new article, 47A to the Constitution of India, for providing health care facilities to the people in the rural areas.

Why should I support this Bill? It is because the health scenario in our country is very much disappointing and it is disproportionate, not because of non-availability of medical expertise or not because the infrastructure is less, but because the priority and its location is very different.

To cite a few facts and figures today, there is one doctor per 800 population. But in the rural areas, this is not so. On an average, there is one medical graduate per 800 population, but our demographic population distributed in the rural areas is different.

In this Bill, it is proposed to provide village level basic health facilities to improve the rural health conditions. Our rural population is spread at almost 68-70 per cent, health problems are rampant in rural areas and medical expertise is not available there. The bed-strength in urban areas is more and there is one bed for 455 population in urban areas, whereas in rural areas it is one per 10,000 population. likewise, there is a division; there is disproportion and there is injustice to those rural masses in providing health care. So, this Bill is relevant in the context of providing village level health care system, by way of insertion of a new article to the Constitution. To go into the facts and figures, as it is said, on the fact of it the overall situation seems to be hopeful and satisfactory one but the real situation is just otherwise. As is said, the health situation of a village or a nation as a whole cannot be calculated by the number of medical colleges, the number of hospitals or by the number of doctors. It is calculated based on the basis infrastructure provided to the people.

Our village is not a single entity. Our village consists of five, six or ten hamlets surrounding it. So, instead of saying per village, population should be made the criteria. Our villages do not have proper drinking water facility,

[Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam]

proper sanitation, housing or any other basic facility to live in a healthy condition. Our villages are miserably neglected for so many years. All our planning and its implementation are concentrated in the urban centres and that is why villages are deprived of the minimum basic facilities. Therefore, providing drinking water is one of the essential factors in providing basic infrastructure for health. These are the health indicators.

Villages are highly susceptible to epidemics. We have the statistics to prove this. So far as Malaria is concerned, it is said that we have completely eradicated malaria from our country. We had a National Eradication Programme also but the fact is that Malaria got modified and converted into other disease. Resistance to Malaria is developed but now Falciparum malaria is rampant in villages. In hilly areas, this brain Malaria is very much rampant. In villages where sanitation and other basic facilities are not available, the mortality due to this Malaria is very high. The morbidity is also very high in rural areas. People are deprived of the minimum facilities. There are no preventive measures also. There are other such diseases also.

To prevent this, the Bill proposes to have a village level health infrastructure like the PHC. PHCs and such other systems are highly appreciated. WHO and other such world health organisations have appreciated our infrastructure. We have got 1,45,000 sub centres in the country. One sub centre must be there for every 5000 population but in practice there is one sub centre for 15,000-30,000 population. The norm is to have five to six sub-centres under one PHC. For every 30,000 population one PHC must be there but at present one PHC is dealing with 1 lakh population. Likewise, there is a referral hospital, the community health centre above the PHC. In altogether five to ten PHCs refer cases to the Community Health Centre where specialists and super specialists are supposed to be available. There are almost 3000-3,500 Community Health Centres in India but there are no specialists or super specialists available in these centres. People are deprived of the expert health care. Then there are other big research oriented hospitals like AIIMS where teaching aspect is also attached. The entire system, as was proposed a few years back, is not functioning well. Our population almost crosses more than 100 crore. We should have 50 lakh sub-centres but we have only 1,45,000 centres which is why the villagers are devoid of basic medical facilities. In this connection, I want to stress that such a Bill to provide basic health

facilities as a right, is necessary. Therefore, this insertion of article 47A is indeed a dire need of our country to improve health facilities at the village level.

Apart from this, there is another problem of malnutrition which is linked with the food scarcity and scarcity of the nutritious food. We have got a Public Distribution System. This System has not been able to cater to the needs of every village. Therefore, the nutritious food supplements are not available to the villagers. That is why, they are susceptible to the malnutrition. Today, the Indian population, especially women and children are suffering due to this. Almost 40 to 48 per cent of women are suffering from anemia which is basically caused due to malnutrition. But we are just distributing folic acid and iron tablets and there ends the health care. But it is not so. People must be provided with plenty of food stuffs through Public Distribution System. The malnutrition problem is linked with the land reforms and the rural consumption pattern. Today, what the rural poor is eating and what is their condition? All these things come under the rural health system.

At the end, I would say that this is better to have this article in our Constitution to provide basic health facilities to our population. If people have this right, they would be able to ask the Government to set up a hospital at the Gram Panchayat level with all the basic facilities to tackle the primary health problems. Thus, the health condition in the rural area will improve.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you that you have given me an opportunity to speak. I rise to speak in support of the constitution amendment Bill introduced by Shri Sudhakar Reddy.

[English]

This will actually provide a legal framework for all our villagers to be equipped with a health centre having all basic amenities for providing medical facilities which are much needed. However, this would probably be the culmination of a lot of other things that need to be done before this can actually become a reality. I am in no way trying to detract from the importance of the Bill. I am lending it my wholehearted support but I would like to inform this house and everybody concerned, especially the Minister of Health that there would be a lot of things

which are required before this can be put in place. If we go by our present health set up, we will see that on paper it looks to be an extremely efficient set up. We have three levels of primary health centres. But unfortunately in most of the States, except some of the Southern States where I found it working very well, it just does not work. There are no doctors, no facilities, no amenities and nothing really is being done to ensure that one day, in the foreseeable future, we will get it.

Madam Health Minister, I would like to draw your attention to this rather unfortunate dichotomy that we have for a country of India's size to be spending less than one per cent of its GDP on health care.

It is actually shameful for India to be a leading manufacturer of generic medicines for medicines are not made available to the poor which is extremely shameful. My efforts in this direction to try and improve the situation has met with a response mostly that it is a State subject and therefore, the Centre cannot intervene directly in this sector. I would like to take this opportunity to ask you as to how foolish we will appear to our constituents if we tell them that though I have become a Member of Parliament, there is nothing more I can do about your health care because I am not an MLA. Now, this is something where the Central Government must wake up and decide as to how effectively it can intervene and interfere in actually providing health care facilities to the rural poor. Otherwise, even when this amendment is enacted and made part of the Constitution, it will remain more on paper than effectively used which, I am sure, is not the idea of all the hon. Members who support this Bill.

The first thing that we need to do is to find doctors. Where are the doctors? When we actually go into the details, we are told that there is shortage of doctors. And why is there a shortage of doctors? It is because there is a shortage of medical colleges. So, as I said, the object of this Bill would be the culmination of a lot of things that need to be done. Unfortunately, it is not only this Government but even the earlier Governments have not really given importance that health sector deserves as a sector. I would request the UPA Government to actually take this matter very seriously and see that nothing is more serious than this sector.

I am a Member of Parliament from Purnea of Bihar. Nearly 90 per cent of the people who come to see me are people seeking medical care. They have not come

here directly from villages. From the villages, they have graduated to various levels of medical care made available to them, spent tremendous amount of money and probably extinguished their life savings before they come to meet me in Delhi. And I take them to AIIMS or RML where, more often than not, they tell that they have come to them very late.

There was a plan regarding this and I think it was a welcome plan of setting up more number of All India Medical Institutes of Science in various State Capitals. But nothing much has happened. We keep badgering and requesting the Health Minister but there seems to be a budgetary problem. Yet, when we hear the Finance Minister in the House, we go back satisfied that we do not lack money, and resources are not going to stand in the way of infrastructure development. But when we see things practically, they are something completely different.

Therefore, I repeat that I support the object of this Bill. But I would like the Government to wake up to the fact that before the objects of this Bill become a reality, other things necessary to happen should also be quickly be taken up.

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar):
Hon. Chairman Sir, I support the Constitution (Amendment) Bill for insertion of new article 47A proposed by hon. Member, Shri Sudhakar Reddy regarding primary health centres. I strongly feel that article 47 of the Constitution should be amended with insertion of new article 47A so that every State will set up one health centre in every village providing all basic facilities as the duty of the State towards its citizens. It is high time that every citizen is guaranteed good health as a fundamental right and the Government should implement it by bringing up the basic infrastructure. There should be improvement indeed from the present 1,45,000 sub centres which cater to the needs of only 20 per cent population.

The Expert Committee on Public Health System constituted by the Government of India in 1996 emphasised the need to provide public health centres in all districts in order to provide basic health to every individual. When the individual is green, the jungle is also green. When the individual of the society is healthy, the country is also healthy. The problem lies with us. Most of the people in my State, Orissa, are below poverty line. The ratio of children dying in my State is the highest in the country. The biggest lake of Asia, Chilika, which lies in my constituency, where birds used to chant Om

[Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani]

are in silence now. Every year we get super cyclone or super drought or super floods which gets converted into super poverty. Poverty is the property of our State. Children are dying particularly in KBK district, particularly in Koraput. Mother is selling her own baby for Rs. 5. Even the price of onion is Rs. 30 a kilogram. This is the state of affairs in our State. The Constitution guarantees that health facilities should be provided to everybody, not only in the urban areas but also in the rural areas.

The meteorological disasters and rural catastrophe mingling together create great havoc and poverty. We are the proprietors of that poverty. During the NDA regime, the Government verified the registers of the AIIMS, New Delhi. It was found that mostly those who visit this Hospital are poor people from both urban and rural areas, particularly from the State of Orissa. They are poor people. Accordingly, the NDA Government was ready to set up AIIMS in my constituency, that is Bhubaneswar. I do not know why it is delayed, why the work has not started, why the money was not allotted. I have been praying to the hon. Minister. Madam, the hon. Minister, is present here. She has to do it immediately. Could you kindly show me a Capital of a State which does not have a Government medical college, except Bhubaneswar? I represent Bhubaneswar, the Capital of my State, Orissa.

For your kind information, I would like to say that recently one Shri Tirupathi Panigrahi established one medical college. I am grateful to the Government for having given this college approval and affiliation. There is one KITT. Shri Achuta Samanta has applied for permission. He has already constructed the building, but the Government has not given its approval to it. He has already constructed the building and he has already appointed the doctors. But the Central Government is not giving the permission. Why is it delayed? That is the tragedy. I, through you, pray that it should be done immediately. We should encourage private people in this sector. They can also construct beautiful hospitals. The Central Government should recognise them immediately.

For your kind information, I would like to say that dengue and malaria are rampant in the rural areas. Young girls are not getting married because of elephantiasis. It happened particularly in my State. Could you show any place in the world where about ten lakh people are not sleeping in the night because of malaria? It happens in my constituency. There is no health facility at all. I can give you an example from my constituency. There is a

village called Bhusundupur, where the population is more than 25,000. They live together. They are the fishermen. But they do not have a single hospital. That is the greatest tragedy. Even after 58 years of Independence, we do not have a hospital, particularly, the primary health centre in the rural areas—not only in my Constituency and in my State as a whole but also throughout India. What about the *adivasi* and the downtrodden people?

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that allopathy cannot cure everything. There are poor people who need homeopathy hospitals. They should encourage opening the homeopathy hospitals in the rural areas. We should also encourage opening the Ayurvedic hospitals in particular. The entire world goes for herbal treatment. The entire scientists have already realized that any disease of any patient cannot be cured through allopathy doctors. The only reason by which one can be cured is by practising naturopathy. That is our Yoga. That is 'Union with Absolute' where our knowledge is structured in consciousness. One should be conscious of one's own self. That is:

"Nikhila, Nilima, Parishat,

Siddham Viddhat Nisham,

Srimatshri Lashitam

Jagatguru padam

Natwatam Truptim Gataha

Lok, Gyana, Pyoda,

Patam, Dhuram,

Sri Sanskaram Saramdam."

That is the only way that one cure oneself by Ayurveda and by chanting this mantra. It is Veda of Itself, Veda of Ism, Veda of Living, Veda of Ageing. It should be processed and examined. One should be knowledgeable. In this august House there is an assembly of parliamentarians who are knowledgeable and seers. Sir, you are one of the luminaries who are presiding today. You should realize that under the Constitution you cannot provide and open centres. I know it. The Government is paying great money on those doctors who are educated in the medical colleges. But, what has happened? The West, the Americans, are paying them in dollars. They are exploiting them. After completion of their education, they are going to the West. We are suffering here without doctors. Even in the hospitals, there are no doctors and nurses. What is use of this facility? Therefore, a law should be framed that after the

completion of their education, the doctors should at least serve in the rural areas for five years. Otherwise, people are dying. It happened not only in my State but as a whole throughout the country. I pray, through you, that primary health centres with basic amenities be established in every village. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: I will be concluding within 2 minutes. Out of the 60-70 per cent of the population of this country who are living in villages, only 22 per cent of them are getting medical facilities. That is the whole tragedy of our country. Out of 10,000 women, there are about 385 pregnant women who die during delivery. This is the greatest tragedy. In our hospitals there are no doctors and nurses. There is no medicine at all. How will it be done? I would like to request the hon. Minister to allot more money, particularly to my State, because people living in my State are still below the poverty line. Their ratio is the highest in Orissa in the whole country. The ratio of children who are dying is the highest in Orissa. In malaria, it is the highest ratio. Of course, in AIDS, the number is less because of Lord Jagannath—the Lord of Universe. AIDS is a more deadly weapon but it is less in our State. I pray, through you, to Madam to kindly allot more money to start the AIIMS there which you have already sanctioned. The money should be allotted immediately in this coming Budget according to the commitment of the hon. Minister.

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI (Tiruchendur): Sir, at the very outset, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion. Also, I thank our beloved leader Dr. Kalaingar Karunadhi and the Tamils' Jupiter, our Talapathy Thiru M.K. Stalin without whom I will not be here. I support this Bill on behalf of the DMK party.

As per Article 47A of the Indian Constitution, providing basic health-care to the Nation is and should be the responsibility of the State. Many of the State Governments have miserably failed to do this. The infrastructure facility in the Primary Health Centre is very poor in terms of quality. Maybe, there are some exceptions. But, by and large, the quality of health-care across the rural Public Health Care Infrastructure is not good and it is marked by high levels of absenteeism, poor availability of skilled medical and para-medical professionals.

There is careless attitude. Medicines are not available and there is inadequate supervision and monitoring. The

fact is that when people at the grass-roots level first seek diagnosis and treatment for the illness, they go to the private sector health providers. An estimated 70 to 85 per cent among them visit a private sector health provider for their health-care needs. All of this yield enormous variation in the quality of diagnosis and treatment. Nevertheless, the private sector health providers have become the dominant health-care providers. The poor people continue to avail of the costlier services provided by the private practitioners.

Next, even when we have access to subsidised or free public health-care, people do not use public health care due to the reason of distance. But more importantly, it is on account of unpredictable availability of service or very low quality of health care services provided by the rural public health centres.

Sir, the private sector health-care providers are preferred because they are nearer to the people's homes and they are available at convenient hours. They are more considerate and usually more responsive. The State Governments very often fail to provide essential operational staff and equipment at the Primary Health Centres. In many villages, we do not find the Primary Health Centres. And even if doctors are there, we do not find the medicines and staff.

Further, adequate staff-strength is not there in each and every Primary Health Centre. The recruitment of staff has not taken place and the doctors are forced to carry out their job with minimum staff. We need to energise the Health System at the Public Health Centres for improving the health outcome.

More importantly, there is non-availability or irregular attendance of doctors in the PHCs. The distance is very long to reach the PHCs. These are the reasons for the people choosing the private health-care providers. On an average, a person travels about 5 kilometres to the PHCs in many States. People travel longer distances to avail of the health services.

There is lack of regular and routine check-up of pregnant women and infants. There is non-supply of essential medicines. These are the root causes for people choosing the private health providers. Most of the PHCs have inadequate facilities to check the pregnant women in respect of weight, blood pressure and haemoglobin. These are some of the reasons for the dissatisfaction that need the Government's attention. The Government

[Shrimati Radhika V. Selvi]

has a rectify the shortcomings. At the same time, intensive Health Education Programme needs to be initiated. Radio, television, local newspapers, folk songs etc., need to be utilised for this purpose.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should be involved by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry to organise quiz competitions based on information about sanitation and nutrition. Such programmes can provide proper information on these subjects and create an interest among the villagers.

Village Health Committee should be set up in each village with representation from all sections of the people. It should also include as many women members as possible.

Sir, the PHCs are established on the basis of population. This norm can be modified by having PHCs on the basis of distance also.

In my Tiruchendur constituency, Blood Bleeding Centres are not there. Blood donors find it very difficult to donate blood. So, the Government should take proper steps to have the Blood Bleeding Centre in each and every taluk headquarters. Only then pregnant women and trauma care patients can be handled effectively.

Sir, Tiruchendur is a pilgrim centre. The floating population is very high. In Tiruchendur Government hospital itself, there is no CT Scan or surgeon and not even an emergency ward. The Government should take initiative to provide emergency ward with surgeon and CT Scan. In Tuticorin, which is the district Headquarters, the state of patients who undergo operation is very pathetic. Many of them do not even get a bed after operation. Then, they are placed on the floor. The Government should take proper steps to increase quality and infrastructure in all Government hospitals. The Government may also make legislation to provide good health through PHCs. Health is everybody's ultimate concern. 'Health is wealth' which is an age-old saying. A healthy citizen is an asset to the nation. To make India a strong, vibrant and economic super power, our public health service needs to be improved. Then only India will figure in the list of the developed countries.

With these words, I support this Bill which was brought by our hon. Member Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Thank you, Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. Sir, this Bill states that the State shall provide Primary Health Centre in each village of the country with all the basic medical facilities. While I appreciate the aim of the Bill and the objective that the hon. Member Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy has, who has moved this Bill, at the same time I am sorry to say that I cannot appreciate that our Constitution needs to be amended to achieve this objective. Sir, I completely agree that health is wealth and it is very, very important that we provide better health care to all our citizens and, specially, to our children, to our younger generation. All of us will agree that the health services must be made available to the people living in the villages. I am very happy that our Government is fully aware of this. That is why under the National Common Minimum Programme undertaken by the Government, it lays great emphasis on health care in line with Article 47 of the Constitution, which says that the State shall regard the improvement of public health as among its primary duties. The Government has already initiated several health schemes for the rural areas. Take for example, a National Rural Health Mission has already been launched and in its due course of time, it will take care of a lot of problems being faced by the people. Its main focus, to start with, will be in all the 18 States which have poor health indicators and weak health infrastructure. The Government proposes to increase the expenditure in the health sector to 2 per cent to 3 per cent of GDP which is under 1 per cent at present. Since the country is so large and we have to cater to a vast multitude of people, a lot more still needs to be done. While, nearly 70 per cent of our population lives in the villages, the best of medical facilities are there only in big cities. It is because of this imbalance, a lot of rural population is always coming to the cities to get better medical care. A few Members were speaking before, even I experience at least like forty to fifty people every month come to us, to be able to go to better institutes in Delhi. In these institutes also like All India Institute of Medical Sciences or Safdarjung or all these good hospitals there is so much of rush that you have to use pull and push to be able to get admission over there which I feel is very, very unfortunate. A lot more needs to be done in the rural medical health centres so that people do not have to spend so much money to come to the cities to get better health care.

Sir, we have more than 600,000 villages in our country and to have a health centre in each and every village, as the Bill proposes, it may not be possible. A

cluster of villages comes under a medical health centre, but these health centres are not manned properly. This is a serious problem. Even in smaller cities, leave alone villages, there is a big problem of finding doctors to man these health centres. You can build a hospital spending crores of rupees. It is very difficult to motivate doctors to go and live in those villages or in far-flung areas to man these hospitals. That really needs to be addressed how to motivate doctors to stay in these villages and serve rural population over there.

Luckily, under the Bharat Nirman Programme, the Government of India is spending a huge amount of money in Pradhanmantri Sarak Yojana which aims to connect all the villages to the cities, and with good road network, people will be able to come to cities, to the smaller cities. If we improve the health care in the smaller cities, people will be able to go there to get better health services. Sir, it is very-very important that we will open smaller AIIMS all over the country. I think that needs to be encouraged, and it is very important to have all those kinds of hospitals all over the country. In a large number of villages, primary health centres are already functioning. But, in many other hospitals, there are no doctors, nurses and helpers and neither do they have proper stocks of medicines.

Another important idea is that there are mobile hospitals in the smaller cities and they can go to the villages once in a week or twice a week, especially to take care of the elderly people and the children who are unable to come to the cities. These kinds of mobile hospitals will be a very good idea, and we would be able to motivate doctors to go to villages on a weekly basis and provide medical care to people at their doorstep.

I would like to suggest that free health insurance may be provided in the villages, particularly to the poor people under the National Health Insurance Scheme. We all know that 'Prevention is better than cure'. On the one hand, we are talking about expensive solutions of providing medical care in each and every village and, at the same time, we are unable to provide them clean drinking water. It is very much important that we provide drinking water to all our villages so that water-borne diseases may not be developed or should be taken care of. Sanitation in the villages needs to be drastically improved. I believe that more than 70 per cent homes in the country do not have toilets. They have to go and defecate in the open which also increases a number of diseases. So, Sir, under the total sanitation programme

of the Government—the Government is laying a lot of emphasis—toilets for each and every household may be developed for the people who are living below the poverty line. Even in this effort, people have to play a very-very active role because a lot of time we, the people, expect that everything can be done by the Government. I guess that is another reason why things take so much time to happen. If people also participate at the village level, we would work on keeping the villages clean, work on providing safe drinking water and work on having toilets for each and every household. I think that will improve the sanitation of the villages drastically, and as a result the health would automatically improve.

Sir, another thing, it was my experience, we got health check-up done for the children in the cities. We tested eyes of 10,000 school-going children. We were able to detect fault in the eyes at an early stage. When you detect a defect at an early stage, you can do something about it. Similarly, in the villages also, we have to be able to detect diseases at an early stage whether it is cancer, whether it is problem with the eyes or any other problem. So, detection at an early stage and at an early age is very important. We have to lay a lot of emphasis on that.

I think all of us, the whole House, shares its view that for a stronger India, we need healthy population. If there is a healthy population with a healthy mind, then we can only hope for the healthy India, a strong India. For that we have to lay a lot of emphasis on providing good health care to the people. I am sure with the efforts of all the agencies, that is, the NGOs, the Government of India, the State Governments and the sincere efforts of all, we can improve the health care in India. Even now, I feel that a lot of money is spent, but when the kind of facilities that we see in Government run hospitals in smaller cities, one is not very proud to see all that. So, I think, it is everyone's responsibility to see that all those hospitals run properly.

We find a lot of difference in medical facilities that are provided in other countries, if we compare ourselves with them. When we see on television the kind of medical facilities they have in case of a catastrophe or in case of an accident and the kind of medical facilities that we have when there is a bomb blast or an epidemic or food poisoning, we find a lot of difference in that. The condition that we see in our country, in majority of the hospitals, is appalling. If anyone of us meets with an accident or something happens in a remote place, where are the

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

very facilities or hospitals that we will be taken to? So, it is very important that we need to, in general, improve the quality of health care centres all over the country and we need to lay a lot of emphasis on that.

In conclusion, I again submit that I fully subscribe to the view that health care should be extended in full measure to all the villagers through Government schemes, through NGOs and through people's participation. But we do not necessarily need to amend the Constitution for that. Once again, I say that, in principle, I support the objectives of the Bill, which has been introduced by Shri Reddy, to provide better health care to the population at large, especially in the villages where the real India lives.

Even in my constituency, Kurukshetra, in areas like Yamunanagar, Kaithal etc.

[Translation]

We find in villages that even today the medical facilities over there are lacking. For this purpose, we have to work together to make available medical facilities to the people. If the citizens will be healthy, only then our country can remain healthy. For this purpose all of us have to work together. In the existing hospitals and health care centres, there is a shortage of Doctors. I had a talk with Member of Parliament from Delhi, who told me that there is a shortage of 300 Doctors in Delhi. First we have to meet the shortage. We have to run well the medical care centres and rural health centres already set up. Once these are run properly a sea change would be witnessed.

[English]

The hon'ble Minister of State is also listening to all this and I am sure the Government will further give a lot of attention to improving the state of health care, especially in the villages.

[Translation]

The soul of our country resides in the villages. I hope that you would pay more attention towards the medical centres of the villages so that the citizens of our country could remain healthy.

I thank you very much for the opportunity you gave me to speak and hope that the Government would take concrete measures in this regards.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you Shri Jindal. It was a well-prepared speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Before saying anything, I would thank Shri Sudhakar Reddyji for the Constitutional Amendment Bill introduced by him to provide an opportunity for discussion on an important topic concerning the citizens of the whole country. Though he is himself quite healthy, but it is good that he is concerned about the health of the country as well.

Sir, if the health of the citizens of a country is good the country is deemed healthy. This is the symbol of advancement of a good country. There is a general apathy towards health in our country and as there are deficiencies in all the Departments and areas, so is the condition of the health services.

17.00 hrs.

Whereas all other deficiencies could go on to some extent but the shortcomings in the health management system are dangerous. If the malaise is not properly diagnosed and treated, good doctors and facilities are lacking then human beings easily fall prey to the fatal diseases. The most worrisome fact is that a huge population of India resides in the villages. India is considered a country of Villages and the Villages are having an acute shortage of health services today. The Bill introduced here has got an objective that at the primary level health services be made available and all those services should have required facilities. Today, there are no hospitals in the villages. If there are hospitals in the villages, there are no doctors or medicines and the people are not having any type of facilities. Most of the people depend on the district hospitals. If the district centres find themselves unable to serve the patient, they refer them to the medical college. It means that upto 100 to 150 kilometers away from the villages, health services are not such as to save the people from fatal diseases. Such a situation is prevailing in many of the villages that not to say of medicines, people are not even getting powder (Churna) which is causing the people lose their lives from simple diseases as well.

Sometimes back, there was encephalitis prevailing in Uttar Pradesh. Thousands of children and other people died due to this disease. I have come to know that its medicines are quite cheap but the State Government failed to make available these cheap medicines. As a result, several children and old age people fell a victim to this disease. There are several other such diseases. We have tried to eliminate malaria. We ran a campaign to eradicate the mosquito? Menace to wipe out malaria but it could not be done and the mosquitoes continued to breed. The results of this campaign were not good. Sometimes, it appears that the campaign for the eradication of something fails which is a shortcoming of our endeavour of the treatment. It is my request that the Union Government should ensure that the people living below the poverty line are provided facilities for medicines. The destitutes, the poor living below the poverty line have been issued green cards by the Government. They have been said to be provided the facility of ration as well as medicines but these have not been made available to them. There are no medical equipments available in the hospitals of the villages and there are no doctors as well.

You know that even small accidents lead to fractures of hand and feet. Fractures are caused during quarrels that take place too often. The people are forced to visit distant places to get medical certificates for common ailments. In case of fracture, they have to visit hundred kilometres away to the district head quarters for X-Ray. On the one hand the person having fracture remains disabled and on the other hand he is forced to visit hundred kilometres away. Many a disabled person are compelled to furnish disability certificate to get the facilities meant for the physically handicapped persons. For that also, one has to visit the district headquarters. For providing medical certificate to the blind and the physically handicapped they are made to travel 100 kilometers because such a certificate cannot be issued by a village. A physically handicapped or blind person with hardly sufficient money or means of transportation is made to travel 100 kilometers. This shows their plight. Besides that, in cases of heart attack, kidney or liver failure or other such ailments, even two-four hours time is crucial for a person's life. You just imagine how much time is required to take people to hospital to save them from such ailments.

Health services are needed in our country. While we need food, clothing and housing, we should also have

guarantee of proper medical treatment, education and health security. In the country where guarantee for the basic things is not available to the poor, weak and disabled, the citizens of that country can never progress. They cannot develop in the field of education or in any other area. Therefore, health services is our fundamental requirement. These services can be made available only if they are managed by the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the health services are being privatised. If the hospitals are privatised from where will the poor people get medicines? The medicines in private hospital will become very costly. There are prominent private hospitals in Delhi like Apollo. Lakhs of rupees are required to get treatment in Apollo. Now the situation is such that poor people give applications to the Prime Minister for financial assistance for kidney transplantation. We also request the Prime Minister to provide financial assistance from Prime Minister's fund to the needy people who are not able to meet the expense of treatment for fatal diseases. Thus one may understand what will happen to more than 40 percent people living below poverty line if the hospitals are privatised as they will not be able to afford the cost of treatment and remain healthy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the present Bill which has been moved to amend the Constitution is worth accepting. It should be obligatory for the Government to provide health facilities to the people and it should be treated as the fundamental right of the people. It is the fundamental requirement and the Government is committed to it and such provision should be made in the constitution. We monitor the health of women and children. The doctors are unemployed in our country. If it is advertised for the appointment of doctors, thousands of applicants will apply for the same. On the one hand doctors are unemployed and on the other hand the posts of doctors are lying vacant in the hospitals. Similarly, on the one hand while the Government have all type of medical facilities available with itself for those who are about to die and on the other hand it do not have medicines for children. Many of the doctors of our country are going abroad to earn more. Whether it is America or England, Indian doctors are famous for their competence and ability in foreign countries. However, their ability and competence is not being utilized in India because the Government of India is not able to employ those doctors in the country and provide medical services to the people. Presently, this is serious challenge before the Government of India to provide health facilities to the people and present

[Shri Mitrasen Yadav]

Constitutional Amendment Bill moved in the House does not demand mere discussions and debate but a great deal of deliberation on the part of the Government. The Government of India need to ponder over as how to provide medical facilities to 45 to 50 percent people of this country who are not able to afford the expense of medical cost and are deprived of medical facility.

17.12 hrs.

[SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*]

The Government should make full arrangement to make available health services to those people of the country who are unable to afford medical expenses so that they may take benefit of these facilities. The constitution amendment bill that has been moved in the House today by hon'ble Member, Shri Sudhakar Reddy is a commendable effort. I would like to submit in this regard that the Government should express its views on this important issue and should ensure the House that some concrete steps are being taken by the Government on such a serious and moot question. I feel that the Government should assure the people of the country that complete health facilities will be made available to the entire citizens of the country.

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to support this Bill for an amendment to our Constitution.

When our Constitution was enacted, there were provisions for two types of Fundamental Rights—one for justiciable Fundamental Rights and another for non-justiciable Fundamental Rights. Freedom of speech, as per Article 19, is a justiciable Fundamental Rights. Whenever there is an infringement on the right of speech, a person could seek remedy through a court of law. So, that is the provision.

The right with regard to education, health, etc., has been included in the Directive Principles of State Policy under Chapter IV. Though they are fundamental rights, the aim of the State is to make them essential so far as the citizen is concerned. Moreover, we all know that the United Nations has declared that there should be 'Health for All'.

In matters of health, our position is very much deplorable when compared with the developed countries.

The situation is very alarming that we are far behind them in every respect, particularly in rural areas.

After the enforcement of the three-tier system or the *panchayati raj* system, it has become much more necessary for having a hospital within each *panchayat* because nowadays the primary health centres are under the administrative control of block *panchayats* and district hospitals come within the purview of district *panchayats* but the *gram panchayats* do not get administrative control because the primary health centres function beyond the area of singular *panchayat*. They would be catering to two or three *panchayats*. Hence, the control would be with the block *panchayat*. That is the position. So, when we take into consideration the decentralisation of power, it is only just and proper that we should have decentralisation in the matter of public health also. So, it is quite pertinent that we must have a primary health centre in every village.

Nowadays, as we all know, treatment is very costly and public health has become a costly affair.

If a citizen has to get speedy and effective treatment he will have to approach the private hospitals. The private hospitals conduct themselves as an industry. So, health has become an industry so far as the present condition is concerned. It is a very sorry state of affairs. We find mushrooming development of hospitals in the private sector which are charging thousands and thousands of rupees even for treating a normal disease. For treating the serious and abnormal diseases the position is entirely different.

Considering the expensive nature as well as the lack of facilities in Government hospitals, the poor citizens in the rural areas are put to difficulties. We will have to think over of decentralising the health matter. The United Nations have declared 'Health for all' long before. But in the matter of giving health facility to the poor rural folk in India, the position is far, far below the standards.

Today we had a discussion in the morning about the child welfare. There it was pointedly brought out about the condition of the children. The infant mortality is highest in the world so far as India is concerned, barring Kerala State where the figure is less than that prevalent in the developed countries. But taking the all India figures, the infant mortality is the highest and it is a deplorable situation and there is no justification for such a state of affairs in our country.

In order to mitigate these difficulties in regard to health sector, it is quite essential and most justifiable to have a primary health centre in every village. Moreover, this can be achieved not by putting the health in the Directive Principles of State Policy but it has to be made a justicable fundamental right. We should have it that every village should have a primary health centre. It cannot be just a part of Directive Principles of State Policy. It has been a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy for the last half-a-century when the Constitution came into effect. It was more than 50 years ago. We have celebrated the golden jubilee of our Constitution. But even after 50 years we could not achieve this goal though it was enunciated in the Directive Principles of State Policy that 'health for all' is our goal. But we could not achieve the goal. It will take another 50 years if things go on like this to provide health facilities in each and every village.

So, to make the position better and clear and statutorily binding, I would suggest that it must be included as a justicable fundamental right. With that objective in mind, my learned friend introduced this Bill for having primary health centre in every village. Even the conditions of the existing primary health centres are also very deplorable. It will close exactly at one O'clock. Thereafter there will be no doctor available and there will be no dispensation of medicine. Nothing will be available. It will be a closed affair so far as our present primary health centres are concerned after one o'clock.

So, developing the health centres is the need of the hour. We should have all facilities of treatment in these centres and there should be 24-hour treatment. We cannot predict whenever any disease will affect the people which may occur at any time. The facility should be there. The services of a doctor should be available throughout the day and not as it is there at present. As I said, at present by one O'clock the doctor will close the shop and go. That should not be the position. There should be a doctor available for treatment throughout the day for the benefit of the rural folk.

By developing the present system, the primary health centres will have to be developed giving them much more infrastructure development. At the same time, it should be made compulsory that every village should have a primary health centre.

With these words, I strongly support the Bill moved by Shri Suravaram Sudhakara Reddy.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support the Constitution Amendment Bill 2004 that has been moved by Shri Sudhakar Reddy ji to further amend the Constitution of India. I am very sorry to say that the directive principles of state policy contained in Article 46 of the constitution regarding the duty of the Central Government and the State Government has been grossly neglected and whether it is the issue of prohibition or education or health the Government have shown apathy towards them. So, through you, I would like to request the Government to include right to health as the fundamental right as has been done with the right to education. Indian is a country of villages, however, crores of people living in the villages are deprived of health facilities. The efforts should be made by the Government so that they may get at least primary health facilities. That is why it has been provided in the Bill that the primary health centres along with basis infrastructure should be set up in each of the Gram Panchayat and villages. I strongly support this provision. It has been mentioned in our scripture that—

"Pashyem Sharadah Shatam,
Jiwem Sharadah Shatam,
Shrinuyam Sharadah Shatam
Prabvam Sharadah Shatam
Shradinashyam Sharadah Shatam."

That means we may survive for hundred years, hear hundred years, see hundred years and should not depend on others for our survival for hundred years. Our culture stipulates "Sarve Bhawantu Sukhinah Sarve Santu Niramayah. Sarve Bhadrani Pashyantu Ma Kashchid Dukhabhaghawate", that means all people may remain free of disease, none should suffer from any diseases and all should lead happy life. It was envisaged in our scriptures and culture and was said that Aarogyam Param Dharma—health is the greatest wealth. We normally say that health is wealth. In villages it is said that first happiness emirates from healthy body and the wealth in the house is but only the second source of happiness. Wealth come after health otherwise wealth will be of no avail. "Sharirmadhya Khalu Dharmasadhan" that means that only a healthy body is the vehicle for observance of 'Dharma'. So good health makes good citizens. The ideal citizens can only be produced when there will be healthy mind in healthy body. The environment of the country will be good when the citizen will enjoy healthy body and healthy mind.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

[Translation]

I am sorry to say that medical facilities at present are confined to urban areas only. They have come to be at the disposal of the rich only. "Maya se maya mile, kar-kar lambe haath, Tuisi haye garib ki poochhe nahin koi baat." The poor man can't afford to have treatment in expensive city hospitals. In villages, there are fake doctors. The poor are left to the mercy of the R.M.P., L.M.P. doctors. The Union Government have to spend crores of rupees for the students to become doctors. A major part of our budget is spent over medical education. Medicos of our country are offering their services to America and England after getting education in their country. They are earning fame there, which is like nearer the church farther from the god. India is deprived of their services. The doctor of our country prefers to live in city only. He tends to start his own private practice. But if he is assigned duty in village, he doesn't go there. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Government to at least frame rules seeking ban on the practice by the fake doctors in villages. At present, the villagers continue to be caught in the vicious circle of different types of superstitions due to ignorance and illiteracy. Consequently, in severe condition, they come to us with a request to get them admitted in some big hospital at Delhi, Jaipur or other such cities. So, they should be got rid of those fake R.M.P., L.M.P. doctors practicing in villages because little knowledge is a dangerous thing. There is also a danger posed by the use of fake medicines. Being literate, the city dwellers are at least aware of what the expiry date of a medicine is and which company manufactured it. But, even the expired medicines are sold to the poor villagers. They think that their disease will be treated with the intake of medicines. He gets injections, takes pills but he is not able to understand why his condition does not improve. Here we have a large-scale business of spurious medicines. I would pray to the God that sale of spurious medicines is stopped and health and life of the rural people are saved. Strict action should be taken against the quacks who do not have degree and any recognized diploma and have not passed any course but who do treatments through Allopathy displaying large size sign-boards.

Sir, thirdly I would request that Primary Health Centres should be opened at the Panchayat level. May be we do not have costly medicines of Allopathy and X-Ray Machines but there are some other systems of medicines like Ayurveda and Homoeopathy, through which

villagers can get treatment. The 'Vaidyas' who diagnose diseases by feeling the pulse can treat with indigenous medicines and herbs so that cost of treatment will be reduced accordingly. In our indigenous system of medicines, there are various systems like Ayurvedic, Homoeopathy, Naturopathy, Yoga therapy, etc. These systems of treatment are easy, cheap and effective too. The wise people have rightly said, "the air, water and nourishing food grains of rural area are 100 times more effective than the medicines available in urban area."

Sir, in the past, clean air and water was available in the villages but now both the air and water have been polluted due to the use of fertilizers like urea and even the food grains produced are less nutritious. Due to illiteracy, unhealthy environment has been created and it is causing various diseases. There is an old saying:

"Shwano Koo Milta Dudh
Balak Bhukhe Akulate Hain
Maa Kee Chhati Se Chipak Kar
Sisak-Sisak Rah Jate Hain."

Because of this, even the children of our country and their mothers are getting afflicted with anaemia. Treatments for these diseases are so costly that common man is unable to get treatment. Population is increasing at a fast pace. So, I want to make an earnest appeal through the Chair to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare that the facility of Primary Health Centre should be included in Fundamental Rights of the citizen. The facility of Primary Health Centre should be provided in the same manner in which the population criteria for having a Primary Education Centre has been stipulated in the constitution.

Sir, in the present scenario of the country, there are many places without Primary Health Centre, Community Health Centre and Referral Hospitals. Wherever such centres have been established, they lack essential facilities like buildings, doctors, medicines, nurses, compounders, mid-wives etc. at various centres. There is no medical facility during nights. Because of this, the village folks pass away all of a sudden and thus the villagers have to face a lot of difficulties.

Sir, when Shri Rajnarain ji was the Health Minister, a target had been fixed to make medical facilities available to all by the year 2000. I do not want to go into politics but the reality remains that we just kept thinking and I wish had we made any efforts in that direction, the dream might have been materialized by now.

Sir, I pray to the Almighty God that the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2004 moved in the House by Shri Survaram Sudhakar Reddy moved is accepted and Primary Medical Centres and Primary Health Centres are made available under the provision contained therein so that villagers can get medical facilities in the villages itself and they do not have to come into the cities as there is the problem of accommodation, drinking water and the problem of costly medicines. Due to these problems, the rural people have to spread out their hands before the urban people and in spite of it, there is no treatment and they are pushed to the jaws of death. Just now, one of our colleagues has pointed out that prevention is better than cure. Taking prevention is better than cure so that diseases do not generate at all. This is absolutely correct but we are not making any efforts in this regard, consequently diseases are constantly spreading.

Sir, there is a tale in the Ayurveda I would like to relate that. It will not take much time. The Father of Ayurveda, Maharishi Charak had written a very comprehensive treatise on Ayurveda. He wanted to test as to who were following the principles of Ayurveda and who were not. He assumed the form of bird and visited the alchemy and medical stores of the country where Ayurvedic formulations were being prepared. Having assume the form of bird, he pronounced the word 'Kadruk' meaning thereby who is free from diseases. The 'Vaidyas' (Medical professionals) present there named a particular medicine. Some of them named 'Praval Pishti' and there were some who claimed that there were certain 'rasayans' and 'bhasams' which could make a person immune to diseases. Maharishi Charak was disappointed to find that they had not been able to gain any thing despite his hard work. With a heavy heart, he went to sage Chyawan. He is the same sage in the name of whom. 'Chyawanprash' has become so famous and it is still selling in the market. The Bird said-'Kadruk', who is immune to diseases? The sage Chyawan replied Rit Bhuk, Hit Bhuk, 'Mit Bhuk' i.e. the one who is righteous and sweats it out through hard work, people who take their meals after putting labour or those who take healthy meals enriched with Protein, Calcium, Carbohydrate, Salt in a balanced manner are less likely to fall ill. People who take their meals in a controlled way are also less likely to fall ill. In our childhood our teacher used to say "Bhojan adha pet kar, doguna pani peev teeguni hanshi, chauguna shram, varsha sava sau jeev" meaning thereby that people who take their meals in a controlled way and drink plenty of water and enjoy life full of happiness are more likely to live for more than one hundred and twenty

five years, that was his prescription for living a long life. It also finds place in our culture which suggests the same thing. People should be educated about such thing through primary centres. So that they can live together and take medicines, they can also avail the facility alongwith the services of the doctors and exploitation should be stopped and minimal loss is occurred to them by spurious medicines. Efforts should also be made to make available the Ayurvedic, Naturopathy of Yogic system of treatment.

Sir, with these words, I thank Shri Sudhakar Reddy, who has paid his attention towards the millions of poor people living in the villages of the country and I may also quote the famous couplet of Poet Rahim who has said that "Deen Sabhko Lakhai Hai, Deenahi Lakhai Na Koi, Jo Rahim Deen Ko Lakhe Deen Bandhu Sam Ho"-the poors look upon all but none look upon them. O Rahim those who look upon the poors are equal to the Lord' I think Shri Reddy has introduced this Constitution (Amendment) with noble intentions. The directive principles should be amended and new provisions may be added in it, I support his intentions and the basic intention that is there that primary treatment should be made available in the villages so that they can live not only at the mercy of God by becoming a powerful component of independent India thus enabling themselves as true son of the country by rendering their services.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I rise to speak in favour of the bill introduced in the House i.e. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004 which has been introduced by Shri S. Sudhakar Reddy. India is a poor and mainly agricultural country. As all the hon. Members have said that about 70-75 percent of the population of the country lives in villages, slums of the towns but there is no full fledged health centre is available for their health. Even if some centres exist nothing, from medicines to Doctors, Specialists, X-ray Centre, or lab for blood or urine tests is available there. It is important to have the facilities available there only after then we may think that India, which is a developing nation has to progress further and it is important to have a healthy India to achieve the same. It is said 'Health is Wealth' and following this mantra, we may develop our country further. It is very important to be healthy but nothing can be said with regard to diseases. It can afflict anyone, it has got no boundries. Bit hospitals are there in the cities but the Central Government of this democratic country have introduced a bill which envisages establishment of health

[Shrimati Krishna Tirath]

centres in villages equipped with medicines and lab facility to keep them healthy. They are also to be informed about the importance of healthy diets enriched with protein, Calcium, Iron etc. which are equally important to keep them healthy. The role of women is important for a healthy child. The expecting woman or a healthy woman can deliver a healthy child. It is very important to have a healthy mother because mother's milk is like nectar. Today we are informed that a disease like Cancer can be prevented by taking mother's feed, and it has been recognised by not only India but the whole world as well. The uneducated women of the villages do not know the details of diet that would keep them healthy.

Many things are connected with the education in health centres. We have to impart education, make arrangement for water so that there is no outbreak of diseases and the environment remains clean. Industries should be there but expansion of it should not change the basic aesthetics of villages. It is important to have such primary health centres in villages and slums of the cities. The Government should strive to provide primary health centres in such areas by providing better doctors and medicines where poor people live and cannot afford such to buy medicines especially in the poor, dalit and slum villages. Every facilities should be made available to them and as I have said earlier facilities for X-Ray, Lab tests should be made available to diagnose the disease in a more pointed manner.

One more problem in this regard is that doctors do not want to work in the villages. We should make it mandatory to post a doctor for three years in villages. Another thing as my other friends too have mentioned, we spend crores of rupee in training a doctor but after obtaining the degree the doctor migrates to foreign country for better opportunity. The feeling that is there in his heart for his country gives way to his searching jobs in other countries. I request the hon'ble minister to drive a system wherein such doctors would give it on bond to perform duty in villages and hospitals of big cities for a fixed period and we would provide them the basic facilities needed for the same.

Likewise, as I had said earlier, it is important to keep the women of our country healthy. We have Anganwadi Centres running in the country numbering into lakhs. Lakhs of workers work in these anganwadis. Pregnant women are provided medicines and iron tablets folic acid tablets, protein and nourishing food on weekly and fortnightly basis after medical checkup. I want to say

that the Ministry of Health should ensure that regular doctors and medicines are provided there. Nourishing food is provided by the welfare department apart from the Ministry of Health. The food that is needed for them should be nourishing and it is the responsibility of our welfare department to provide it.

I remember that when the ICDS programme was introduced, it was introduced by late Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1965. We had envisaged that birth of a healthy child would only be achieved when the mother delivering it is provided with nourishing food. A healthy child after growing up will lead the country on the path of progress and will become either a doctor, an engineer or would occupy some important post. The dream of prosperity of the nation can only be fulfilled if its children are healthy. Therefore, my submission is that Primary Health Centres should be set up in villages. These should also be opened for general public. Medical check up of everybody, especially after one's recovery from illness, should be conducted. Medicines should be made available to patients free of cost. Proper arrangements of doctors should be made in the said centres, including specialists. A generator should be provided in case the village is not electrified or a mobile dispensary facility should be provided. Said mobile van should be available there from dawn to dusk. Proper arrangements for electricity in PHCs should be made. Primary Health Centres should be set up in industrial areas also for workers who work in factory. In addition to allopathic medicines, ayurvedic and unani medicines should also be made available in said centres as suitability of medicines of either allopathic or ayurvedic or unani system differs from man to man. Therefore, the Government should ensure availability of said kinds of medicines in said centres.

I would like to make more suggestions with regard to Primary Health Care Centres. Primary Health Centres should be equipped with facilities so that women and children can do physical exercise there as there is a need to keep them physically fit. And their fitness can be only be ensured if facility for doing exercise is made available in said centres.

With these words, I strongly support the said Bill. The Bill introduced by Shri Sudhakar Reddy will help the people of our country and will pave the way for setting up of Health Centres. With these words, I thank you for having given me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE (Wardha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Bill brought by Shri Sudhakar Reddy. Though 58 years have elapsed since our country became independent, yet the Government have failed to provide medical facility to everybody. Every individual in the country has a right to avail medical facilities, but we are merely discussing it.

Firstly, everybody should have access to medical facilities. Each village should have a dispensary. But in the present scenario, we are apprehensive about the ability of the Government in providing said facilities even after passing of this Bill. The Government should ponder over as to why general public do not have access to primary medical facilities. The main issue is lack of sanitation and scarcity of clean drinking water. Had these two things been available in the country, the need to discuss the issue of primary health centres would not have arisen. Though 58 years have elapsed since our independence, yet, the Government could not provide sanitation and clean drinking water to the villages. Meanwhile, I would like to add the issue of roads in villages. If we want to set up health centres in villages, we should construct good roads for employees and doctors working in said centres. Today, in addition to health services there is an urgent need of these three things in villages—roads, water and electricity. These days the irony is that in some of the villages, if the building for health centre exists, the doctor is not available, if building and the doctor is available, medicines are not available. At some of the places, all these three things are available but patients are not there. Therefore, I urge the Government that apart from health services, villages should be provided with metalled roads, clean drinking water and proper sanitation facilities. Then only primary health services can be provided in real sense.

Just now, Shrimati Krishna Tirath has submitted that breast milk is quite essential for babies. We consider milk as nectar, but today the condition is that synthetic milk is being sold in the country on a very large scale which plays havoc with the people. Good quality milk is hardly available for poor. How surprising it is that the water is sold at the rate of Rs. 14 a litre whereas milk at Rs. 9 a litre. Breast milk is the best baby food. Cow milk has medicinal properties also, so, its use should be promoted.

Often, it is talked that the doctors do not render services to the country after completion of their studies.

Until and unless they are physically fit, how can they provide facilities to the people. I would quote an example. In my constituency, there is a public health centre in a remote area wherein two doctors are employed. When I had been there to see them, they said that they themselves have fallen sick. The said centre was quite away from city. They said that they would die there only as there is no facility over there, such as roads or a vehicle with the PHC. So when doctor himself is unhappy how can he provide good service to the patients. So physically well being of doctors looking after the patients is quite essential.

We had discussion on the spurious drugs. It has been observed that if an officer recommends 100 medicines his subordinate officer replaces 40 medicines and recommends fresh one's, means if a senior officer recommends 100 medicines manufactured by good companies, the junior level officers make several changes in it. Reason—corruption is involved in it. Therefore, there is a need to check it. At the same time, the problem being faced by the doctors need to be addressed. People say that doctors get trained in India and migrate to America for earning more bucks but we forget that even today, there are doctors who serve in remote areas. The Government should render every possible help to them and honour them.

If the doctors get desired facilities and prestige here, they may be ready to work in the country. The Government should see that every citizen has access to medical facilities. The issue of malnutrition came up in Maharashtra. It was revealed during a survey, which was conducted to ascertain the reasons for death of children because of it, that supply of non-nutritious food to children and mothers is its main cause. It results in death of children. If mothers are provided nutritious food children no doubt will remain healthy. It means there is a need to increase awareness about food and primary health. We cannot expect a healthy nation by merely providing good primary health services. We need to create new infrastructure in place of old one. My submission is that good road connectivity, provision of clean drinking water, electricity and sanitation is essential for it. If said facilities are provided every citizen living in remote areas will be able to avail the said facilities.

I conclude my speech with thanks to Shri Sudhakar Reddy for having brought the Amendment Bill.

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Ours is a big country. Our people should get good medical treatment. But many hospitals are not provided with latest equipments. For even a small blood test, doctors ask the patients to get the test done in some private hospital or private lab. I do not know why the Government hospital doctors are doing like this. Are they benefited in some way if the patients get these tests conducted outside the Government hospital?

Nowadays, only BPL family members are going to the Government hospitals. They cannot afford huge money to buy tablets or injections from outside. More so, they get adulterated or duplicate costly medicines from medical shops outside. Normally, the Government hospital stores are empty. X-Ray labs, Operation Theatres and scan centres should be kept under strict vigil and care. The poor citizens of the country should not be cheated.

In Chennai city Royapettah hospital, the operated parts of human beings are thrown into the dustbins. They are carried away by the street dogs. It may cause great health hazard. It has to be taken care of. I once visited Kodaikanal city hospital. That hospital was in dark. Even in the operation Theatre no proper equipment were provided. The Operation Theatre was not in good condition. There was no proper drinking water facility. Poor people go to the Government hospitals, which lack in proper nursing care and proper doctors. If a pregnant lady goes to that hospital, the doctor will say that there is no gynaecologist so, better go to Madurai or Dindigul hospital. She will have to travel around 100 kms. from uphill to down hill. It has happened many times that half the way the pregnant lady gave birth to the baby. The patients have to travel for two to three hours from uphill to down hill.

The poor people cannot afford to pay huge bills of the big private hospitals. So, they go to the Government hospitals. If an ordinary person enters into a big hospital like Apollo for a knee pain, to extract money from him the doctors will check his abdomen, chest, do ECG Scan and such other unwanted tests. They extract more money from average persons.

They are cheated by big hospitals. It should be checked and some norms should be followed to control them. The Government should monitor them regularly through a strict vigilance team. Otherwise, the poor

people, middle class people, and BPL families will not be able to get any kind of medical treatment. For example, 10 days ago a poor middle class worker had met me. He told me that he took his young baby to the hospital. The baby was admitted in the hospital for three days. They charged about Rs. 90,000. That person was having only Rs. 10,000. He came to save his child from high fever. Unfortunately, the doctors at the Apollo Hospital conducted many unwanted tests and medical check ups. They prepared a very huge bill. On seeing that bill that man was literally in tears.

[Translation]

As regard to big hospital, I would say that Kumarmangalan ji who was a Minister in NDA Government

[English]

he also died in Apollo Hospital.

[Translation]

Recently, one person from the constituency of our friend Kharventhanji

[English]

who was an advocate was admitted in Apollo Hospital. But he was not given proper post-operation care. With the result, he also died after six days

[Translation]

the person died for lack of post operation care in a hospital that charges lakhs of rupees.

[English]

Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Health to take a serious view of such incidents to save the poor people from this kind of atrocity by the so called big and popular hospital like Apollo of Chennai. Better care should be given to the local poor people. If they go to the small hospitals in the villages, they do not get proper water.

[Translation]

Even the drinking water in the hospital is not upto the mark which further aggravates the problem.

[English]

I would urge upon the hon. Minister to see all these things.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

I support the Constitution Amendment Bill presented in the House by hon'ble Sudhakar Reddy ji regarding the health services in rural areas. Expressing my thanks to Shri Reddy ji for his concern towards the people living in rural areas, I would like to say that it is really unfortunate that we have failed to provide adequate health facilities to the people living in more than 7 lakh villages of the country despite the passage of 58 years of independence. I am very sorry to say that there exists huge disparity between the health facilities being enjoyed by the people in urban areas and those living in rural areas. There is a need to bridge this gap that we have failed to reduce during these 58 years of independence. The people living in urban areas get all the health facilities while those living in rural areas do not. I hail from Maharashtra, primary health centres there are situated at an average distance of 25 kms. due to which hundreds of villages do not get the health facilities. Even the sanctioned posts of the doctors and other medical staff are not fulfilled. Consequently the people living in rural areas failed to get the adequate health facilities. I would like to affirm that each village should get the adequate health facilities and I am of the opinion that the bill presented here would definitely ensure that the villagers get the health facilities. It is the prime duty of the Government to provide health facilities in rural areas but, unfortunately, it is yet to happen.

18.00 hrs.

I would like to draw your attention towards an other subject. Sir, the problem of mal-nutrition in children has become a common feature in rural areas of Maharashtra. Our Government had constituted a Commission to study the various reasons for the increase in the number of children suffering from mal-nutrition. Unfortunately, there are lakhs of children suffering from mal-nutrition even today. If we look at the problem carefully, we find that pregnant women do not get nutritious food which results in birth of underdeveloped babies. Keeping in view all

these things, it becomes clear that people of rural areas are still to get justice.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is 6 o'clock now. We will continue it next time. If the House agrees, the sitting of the House can be extended for half-an-hour for Special mentions.

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS: All right.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we will take Special Mention.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of this House to an important matter which requires immediate legislation.

Now, we all know that Assembly elections are fast approaching in some States, particularly Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala. Lakhs of people from Kerala are working in the Middle East. They are termed as Non-Resident Indians. They do not acquire any citizenship right in the Gulf countries and the law would not permit it also. They would not get citizenship right in the countries where they are working. Now, whenever these NRIs come to India, they are not able to exercise their right to vote. They are our citizens but they lose their rights to vote because they are outside the country for more than six months. It is quite unjust to deny them the right to vote and contest also. These NRIs are Indian citizens. But they are not given the right to vote during elections. There is a request from the State Government of Kerala and other States for giving voting rights to these NRIs. I understand that the Central Government had approved it in principle and they have also almost drafted an amendment to the Representation of Peoples Act. If the report is correct, then let them bring the Bill in this Session itself. Their idea is to promulgate an ordinance.

That is not a good thing. The Central Government will be bypassing the Parliament if they do it. As soon as this House is adjourned *since die*, I am sure they will do it by promulgating an ordinance. This is very unjust. If the draft Bill is ready, let them bring it before the

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

House before this Session ends and get it passed. We do not have any objection. We will pass it. But bypassing the Parliament and promulgating an ordinance when the House is adjourned *sine die* is not proper.

I would request the Central Government to bring in the legislation in this Session itself. The Government has been repeatedly promulgating ordinances. I am sure the Government will issue an ordinance immediately after the House is adjourned *sine die*. That is the Government's idea. The Government will bring it next time. Now, the Government will promulgate an ordinance as soon as the House is adjourned *sine die*. I am sure about it. That is the process of the Government. The Government issues ordinances even in the case of Bills which have been referred to the Standing Committee and it has also submitted the Reports. Even in the case of Bills which have been discussed in the Rajya Sabha and referred to the Standing Committees, the Government is issuing ordinances. When it was in that process, the Government issued the ordinance.

So, in the instant case also, the Government's idea is to issue an ordinance immediately after the Session. That is not correct. If you want to do it, do it properly. Bring it before the House and have a discussion. We will pass it without any difficulty. I would again request the Central Government not to issue an ordinance, but to bring the legislation now itself. We will pass it.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No cross talks please.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important subject. Gauge conversion work has been going on all round the country. There exists a broad gauge line from my constituency Dhandhuka to Bhavnagar via Ahmadabad. However, all the level crossings that earlier used to exist on the meter gauge railway line have been closed due to which the people have to face a lot of inconvenience in carrying their vehicles like tractors etc. and they have to travel additional distance to reach their destination. There are several unmanned level crossings among the existing level crossings. Therefore, I demand that the requisite staff should be deployed at the level crossings and all of those should remain open for 24 hours.

Besides, there is one more problem. The crops of farmers are getting damaged because during the gauge conversion the level of the track has become much higher which is leading to water logging in the fields on one sides of the track and complete lack of water on the other side. I also demand that the platforms on the station should also be elongated and their level should also be raised because the low level of platforms has been resulting in the death of elderly and children. Besides there is a need to construct new sheds at the platforms. Though the new tracks have been laid down and several of the railway lines have been converted into broad gauge, facilities and amenities have not kept pace with it. There exists meter gauge line between Borat to Ahmedabad and I have been raising the demand to convert it into broad gauge since 1989 but it neither any survey has been conducted nor any other development has taken place in regard thereto. Most of the Railway Ministers in our country have either been from Bihar or other Southern State. Gujarat has yet to give any railway minister to the country. Perhaps this is the reason why Gujarat has been meted out unjust treatment in regard to railway facilities despite the fact that there are minimum incidents of ticketless travelling in the State and it being one of the largest revenue earner for the railways. Still the people of Gujarat are not getting adequate facilities. A large number of people including employees, labourers etc. are the daily passengers and holders of monthly seasonal ticket and they have to face a lot of inconvenience due to the shortage of boggies in the trains. Therefore, the people have a travel standing. Our women do not get seats. The trains do not have the facility of lighting and water. All these factors sometimes contribute to resentment among the people and the agitation like Rail Roko Agitation take place. It results in the cases registered against the names of daily passengers and pass holders and these cases are tried in Mumbai not in Gujarat which itself is a cause of great inconvenience to the people. Sometimes the schedule of the trains is changed to harass the people. Therefore, I demand that the change in time table of the trains should always be introduced by taking into confidence the daily passengers. Only then we would be able to benefit the common people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hope that the Government would pay attention towards the issues that have raised.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the disease named sickle cell anemia is

prevalent among a large number of people in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Vidharbha, Gadchiroli and Chandrapur region of Maharashtra. The people suffering from this disorder have to get their blood changed in either every 15 days or per months. Hundreds of children of poor families die of this disease. Through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister of Health that the Government is not paying that much serious attention towards tackling this disease that it is paying towards cancer despite the former being even a more serious and threatening disease. The children suffering from this disease do not survive much and it is a kind of blood disorder like thalassaemia. The Union Government have provided several facilities for the patients suffering from thalassaemia. But the patients suffering from sickle cell anemia are not getting any facilities.

The maximum prevalence of this disease is in the tribal areas of central India and poor people. The lack of adequate information regarding the disease has prevented the serious efforts to contain the said disease. The parents of the blood group 'A's are most likely to produce the offsprings at the maximum threat of having the said disease. If the adequate infrastructure is developed to identify the potential patient groups in the areas where the prevalence of this disease is maximum, success can be achieved in regard to containing the spread of the disease which results from decreasing the probability of producing the offsprings most likely to suffer from this congenital disease. The patients suffering from this disease need to get their blood changed in a month one or twice but these facilities are not available in rural areas. Certain medicines like folic acid, penicillin, hydroxy urea and calfer etc. are prescribed for the disease. Some of which are costly and some are comparatively cheaper. I demand that these medicines should be made available free of cost to the patients at the respective PHCs or RH. I request the hon'ble Minister of Health to provide those facilities to the patients suffering from the said disease which are provided to the patients of thalassaemia.

[English]

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Thank you, Sir. There is fairly as much as 1.35 lakhs of employees and workers covered under the Employees Provident Fund Act. They are working in nearby 2000 establishments in Kanyakumari District. Moreover, lakhs of workers are there in unorganized sector and it is learnt that the Government of India is contemplating to bring them also in the purview

of EPF Act. These workers, at present, have to solely depend upon the Sub-Regional provident fund office at Tirunelveli, some 150 kilometres away from Nagercoil for their PF needs. This involves unnecessary expenditure and loss of time for the lowly paid workers. The EPF contributors will be much obliged if a Sub-Regional Office of Provident Fund is opened at Nagercoil, the Headquarters of Kanyakumari District. It will be much more economical for the Government also, as it is not a new establishment. It is only a bifurcation of the existing Sub-Regional Office at Tirunelveli.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards non-availability of post-paid and pre-paid card of BSNL in the Department of Telecommunication, Chhattisgarh. As regards BSNL phone in the Chhattisgarh state, I would like to say that the coverage area of mobile phone should be extended in regions like Bilaspur, Chamugeli, Muvelli, Jagagaon for a range of upto 21 kms so that the mobile service of the BSNL is available to the entire region. There is a shortage of pre-paid and post-paid cards of BSNL in Mananjar, Kharagpur, Lormi, Khindaria, Sarguja, Raipur and in Kawarhat region of Chhattisgarh. Around ten thousand people needed these cards however the facility has been withdrawn. People approach MPs and representatives of people and make a demand for these cards. Hence a quota may be fixed for both legislators and representatives of people to enable people to get these cards on our recommendation. There is a need to apprise about all these things so that the people could get there facility of mobile service. Transformers of other mobile services like Tarang be increased and installed at the earliest. Applications of 10,000 people regarding pre-paid and post-paid cards are pending since long. In Vilaspur District alone 5,000 applications are pending. Hence, I request the Union Government that the coverage area of the BSNL telephone should be extended to meet the demand of the people for a better landline and mobile service. Quota may be fixed for MPs for grant of pre-paid and post-paid cards. Many people have got their registration done by depositing some amount and their applications have been accepted but have not got these cards due to its shortage. I request the Government to issue orders to remove the shortage of pre-paid and post-paid cards and provide the said facility to the people of that area.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the founder of the Sagar University, Dr. Harisingh Gaur is known as a renowned educationist, donator and an ace legal luminary. He made an unprecedented contribution to the field of education by injecting his life time earning into the setting up of the Sagar University at Sagar, Madhya Pradesh and thus brought this backward area of Bundelkhand on the map of Centres of educational excellence. The town of Sagar has today earned a place of pride because of the presence of the Sagar University. This University is considered as the largest university in Madhya Pradesh. A demand is being made since long by the people of Sagar, the people of Bundelkhand area, Professors of the University and by the State to honour him with the 'Bharat Ratna'. The Executive Council of the University has also passed a proposal in this regard and sent it to the Union Government. Hence, through you, I request the Union Government to honour Dr. Sir, Harisingh Gaur with the Bharat Ratna.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnore): Sir, recently elections of District Panchayat were held in my Parliamentary constituency of Bijnore in Uttar Pradesh the counting of which was started on 25th October, 2005. Counting was done on each block Headquarters from where a comparative statement of votes polled for each candidate was sent to the district headquarter. The District Electoral officer announced the names of the winning candidates. in many regions, there were discrepancies in the number of votes polled, as declared at Block Headquarters and in the list sent to the District Headquarter regarding votes polled to each candidate, the statement of which was

handed over by me to the officiating District Magistrate, Bijnore on 27th October, 2005 at 12.00 noon and it was demanded to get the counting done again in the disputed polling areas. In those regions where people raised objections regarding incorrect list and demanded for re-counting in all the areas, the officiating district magistrate did not conduct re-counting of all the controversial areas, but of only one area which led to the declaration of results in a fair manner. But in other areas where district panchayat elections were held despite my request, the officiating district Magistrate, while showing his whimsical and stub-borne attitude, declared results after 3 hours about which I informed the Election Commissioner, Uttar Pradesh through fax and phone. I request you to ensure that such kind of incidents may not take place in future. The countings should be done once again under the supervision of CBI in my District Bijnore where District Panchayat elections were held recently and those officers who have discriminated in declaring results should be punished.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 12th December, 2005 at 1100 a.m.

18.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 12, 2005/Agrahayana 21, 1927 (Saka).

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