

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. X contains Nos. 31 to 38)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, May 06, 2005/Vaisakha 16, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to urge upon the Government that a dangerous disease called Meningitis is spreading in Delhi. Hon'ble Member Shri Hannan Mollahji had raised this issue twice in the House and had asked the Government in this regard. I would like to request the Government to look into this issue. Earlier, the number of people who died of this disease was eight...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It can be taken up after Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: But now the number of deaths has increased to sixteen...(Interruptions) Delhi is the capital of the country. So far as this disease is concerned it is a contagious disease. The medicines for this disease have disappeared from the markets. I would like to say that the Government should look into the questions or issues which are raised in the House. But the Government is not paying any attention to this issue...(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a serious issue. We seek your protection...(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you please issue instructions to the Government on this issue.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I can understand the concern of the hon. Members over the issue to which they have drawn the attention of the Government. I will ascertain the position

from the Minister of Health and during the day I will ask him to make a Statement explaining the position which is prevalent.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Hiten Barman—Q. No. 581

Power Shortage

+

*581. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government is aware that several States are reeling under huge power shortage;

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

(c) the quantum of power generated in the country during each of the last three years till date from various sources, source-wise, State-wise, separately;

(d) whether the Government propose to allocate extra power from the central pool to improve this grim situation of power deficit States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There is an overall power shortage in the country. The shortage vary from State-to-State, region-to-region season-to-season and hour-to-hour. The average electrical energy shortage in the country during 2004-05 was 7.3%, and the peak shortage was 11.7%.

(b) State-wise power supply position in the country during 2004-05 is given at Annexure-I.

(c) The electricity generation from utility power stations in the country and rate of annual growth for the last three years are given below:—

Year	Actual Generation (Million Units)	Annual Growth (%)
2002-03	5,31,607	3.1
2003-04	5,58,336	5.0
2004-05	5,87,416	5.2

State-wise and source-wise electricity generation in the country during the last three years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is given at Annexure-II.

(d) and (e) The demand of power in a State is met by generation from its own sources, its share from central sector stations, power availed under bi-lateral agreements and from the 15% unallocated capacity of Central generating stations within the region. The allocation of 15% unallocated power is done by the Central Government keeping in view the relative power supply position as well as the emergent/urgent requirements of a State.

Annexure-I

Actual Power Supply Position

Figures in MU net

State	March, 2005				April, 2004-March, 2005			
	Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus/Deficit(-)		Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus/Deficit(-)	
Region			(MU)	(%)			(MU)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	83	83	0	0.0	1,157	1,148	-9	-0.8
Delhi	1,513	1,507	-6	-0.4	21,157	20,952	-205	-1.0
Haryana	1,714	1,593	-121	-7.1	21,801	20,562	-1,239	-5.7
Himachal Pradesh	335	334	-1	-0.3	4,000	3,917	-83	-2.1
Jammu and Kashmir	744	653	-91	-12.2	8,138	7,387	-751	-9.2
Punjab	2,214	2,125	-89	-4.0	33,393	30,383	-3,010	-9.0
Rajasthan	2,643	2,634	-9	-0.3	29,207	28,974	-233	-0.8
Uttar Pradesh	4,327	3,715	-612	-14.1	52,017	41,565	-10,452	-20.1
Uttaranchal	375	374	-1	-0.3	4,628	4,470	-158	-3.4
Northern Region	13,948	13,018	-930	-6.7	175,498	159,358	-16,140	-9.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chhattisgarh	1,110	1,088	-22	-2.0	11,747	11,553	-194	-1.7
Gujarat	5,275	4,783	-492	-9.3	59,681	52,724	-6,957	-11.7
Madhya Pradesh	3,231	2,578	-653	-20.2	34,810	30,097	-4,713	-13.5
Maharashtra	8,941	7,508	-1,433	-16.0	92,715	81,541	-11,174	-12.1
Daman and Diu	102	102	0	0.0	1,119	1,119	0	0.0
Dadra Nagar Haveli	190	190	0	0.0	1,830	1,830	0	0.00
Goa	203	203	0	0.0	2,146	2,146	0	0.0
Western Region	19,052	16,452	-2,600	-13.6	204,048	181,010	-23,038	-11.3
Andhra Pradesh	4,785	4,721	-64	-1.3	50,416	50,061	-355	-0.7
Karnataka	3,493	3,459	-34	-1.0	35,156	33,687	-1,469	-4.2
Kerala	1,227	1,211	-16	-1.3	12,691	12,540	-151	-1.2
Tamil Nadu	4,775	4,725	-50	-1.0	47,872	47,570	-302	-0.6
Pondicherry	138	138	0	0.0	1,537	1,537	0	0.0
Southern Region	14,418	14,254	-164	-1.1	147,672	145,395	-2,277	-1.5
Bihar	641	526	-115	-17.9	7,201	6,476	-725	-10.1
DVC	779	772	-7	-0.9	9,070	8,988	82	-0.9
Jharkhand	336	326	-10	-3.0	3,630	3,550	-80	-2.2
Orissa	1,273	1,258	-15	-1.2	13,980	13,875	-105	-0.8
West Bengal+ Sikkim	2,160	2,115	-45	-2.1	23,155	22,789	-366	-1.6
Eastern Region	5,189	4,997	-192	-3.7	57,036	55,678	-1,358	-2.4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Arunachal Pradesh	14	14	0	0.0	158	158	0	0.0
Assam	313	293	-20	-6.4	3,787	3,582	-205	-5.4
Manipur	35	34	-1	-2.9	537	523	-14	-2.6
Meghalaya	117	98	-19	-16.2	1,374	1,228	-146	-10.6
Mizoram	20	19	-1	-5.0	236	222	-14	-5.9
Nagaland	29	29	0	0.0	330	324	-6	-1.8
Tripura	57	51	-6	-10.5	700	641	-59	-8.4
North-Eastern Region	585	538	-47	-8.0	7,119	6,674	-445	-6.3
All India	53,192	49,259	-3,933	-7.4	591,373	548,115	-43,258	-7.3

Peak Demand and Peak Met

Figures in MW net

State	March, 2005				April, 2004-March, 2005			
	Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Met (MW)	Surplus/Deficit(-)		Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Met (MW)	Surplus/Deficit(-)	
System Region			(MW)	(%)			(MW)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	156	156	0	0.0	224	224	0	0.0
Delhi	2,875	2,839	-36	-1.3	3,558	3,490	-68	-1.9
Haryana	3,274	3,174	-100	-3.1	4,037	3,621	-416	-10.3
Himachal Pradesh	618	618	0	0.0	678	671	-7	-1.0
Jammu and Kashmir	1,252	1,102	-150	-12.0	1,316	1,166	-150	-11.4
Punjab	4,717	3,948	-769	-16.3	7,122	5,559	-1,563	-21.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rajasthan	4,575	4,375	-200	-4.4	4,786	4,414	-372	-7.8
Uttar Pradesh	7,190	6,124	-1,066	-14.8	7,877	6,268	-1,609	-20.4
Uttaranchal	807	766	-41	-5.1	846	794	-52	-6.1
Northern Region	23,180	21,583	-1,597	-6.9	26,834	24,125	-2,709	-10.1
Chhattisgarh	1,893	1,749	-144	-7.6	1,893	1,749	-144	-7.6
Gujarat	9,170	7,578	-1,592	-17.4	10,162	7,578	-2,584	-25.4
Madhya Pradesh	5,310	4,395	-915	-17.2	5,944	4,846	-1,098	-18.5
Maharashtra	14,986	12,464	-2,522	-16.8	14,986	12,464	-2,522	-16.8
Daman and Diu	168	168	0	0.0	200	200	0	0.0
Dadra Nagar Haveli	299	299	0	0.0	391	391	0	0.0
Goa	347	347	0	0.0	356	356	0	0.0
Western Region	30,732	24,128	-6,604	-21.5	31,085	24,128	-6,957	-22.4
Andhra Pradesh	8,093	7,903	-190	-2.3	8,093	7,903	-190	-2.3
Karnataka	5,714	5,612	-102	-1.8	5,927	5,612	-315	-5.3
Kerala	2,451	2,420	-31	-1.3	2,451	2,420	-31	-1.3
Tamil Nadu	7,647	7,555	-92	-1.2	7,647	7,555	-92	-1.2
Pondicherry	240	240	0	0.0	240	240	0	0.0
Southern Region	22,809	22,364	-445	-2.0	23,075	22,364	-711	-3.1
Bihar	975	850	-125	-12.8	980	980	0	0.0
DVC	1,345	1,345	0	0.0	1,400	1,400	0	0.0
Jharkhand	600	580	-20	-3.3	600	590	-10	-1.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Orissa	2,220	2,220	0	0.0	2,220	2,220	0	0.0
West Bengal+ Sikkim	4,117	3,965	-152	-3.7	4,117	3,965	-152	-3.7
Eastern Region	8,816	8,533	-283	-3.2	8,816	8,533	-283	-3.2
Arunachal Pradesh	63	62	-1	-1.6	63	62	-1	-1.6
Assam	653	570	-83	-12.7	659	621	-38	-5.8
Manipur	95	93	-2	-2.1	103	103	0	0.0
Meghalaya	252	168	-84	-33.3	264	207	-57	-21.6
Mizoram	63	62	-1	-1.6	69	67	-2	-2.9
Nagaland	67	66	-1	-1.5	74	71	-3	-4.1
Tripura	160	123	-37	-23.1	188	159	-29	-15.4
North-Eastern Region	1,263	1,044	-219	-17.3	1,272	1,128	-144	-11.3
All India	86,800	77,652	-9,148	-10.5	87,906	77,652	-10,254	-11.7

Annexure-II

State-wise/Source-wise Generation in Million Units during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05

State	Sector	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05					
		Th	HY	NUC.	Total	Th	HY	NUC.	Total	Th	HY	NUC.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Delhi	State	3496			3496	5161			5161	5708.5			5708.5
	Central	5284			5284	5432			5432	5463.6			5463.6
	Total	8780			8780	10593			10593	11172.1			11172.1
Jammu and Kashmir	State	58	323		381	29	891		920	23.74	731.09		754.83
	Central		5602		5602	6350			6350	5650.41			5650.41
	Total	58	5925		5983	29	7241		7270	23.74	6381.5		6405.24
Himachal Pradesh	State		1317		1317		1360		1360		1273.33		1273.33
	Central		7085		7085		8939		8939		13284.14		13284.14
	Pvt		333		333		1454		1454		1462.82		1462.82
	Total		8735		8735		11753		11753		16020.29		16020.29
Haryana	State	5967	244		6211	6744	256		7000	6877.24	289.55		7166.79
	Central	2697	0		2697	2792	0		2792	3161.9	0		3161.9
	Total	8664	244		8908	9536	256		9792	10039.14	289.55		10328.69

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Rajasthan														
State	14001	14054	15302	643	15945	17473.26	935.5	18408.76						
Central	2760	7807	2777	4323	7100	2785	4577.91	7362.91						
Total	16761	53	21861	18079	643	4323	23045	20258.26	935.5	4577.91	25771.67			
Punjab														
State	13650	3516	17166	14235	4388	18623	14383.83	3354.63	17738.46					
Central	6524	6958	6958	4344.32										
Total	13650	10040	23690	14235	11346	25581	14383.83	7698.95	22082.78					
Uttar Pradesh														
State	20867	1454	22421	20882	2145	22827	19701.82	1171.27	20873.09					
Central	47821	3595	51416	48467	3041	51508	50301.8	2760.06	53061.86					
Total	68788	1454	73837	69149	2145	3041	74335	70003.62	1171.27	2760.06	73834.95			
Uttaranchal														
State	0	3343	3343	0	3392	3392	3111.13							
Central	427	427	427	512	512	496.69	469.69							
Total	0	3770	3770	0	3904	3904	3607.82	496.69						
North Region														
State	58139	10250	68389	62153	13075	75228	64168.39	10866.5	0	150262.9				
Central	58562	19638	8642	86842	59468	22759	7364	89591	61712.3	23775.56	7337.97	182416.8		
Pvt	333	333	333	1454	1454	1454	0	1462.82	0	2916.82				
Total	116701	30221	8642	155564	121621	37288	7364	166273	125880.7	36104.88	7337.97	169323.5		

Gujarat	State	27145	587	27732	25527	858	26385	28299	1088.92	29387.92
	Central	7580	0	3659	7115	0	10291	6856.6	0	2513.53
	Pvt	9310	0	9310	10608	0	10608	12809.24	0	12820.56
	Total	44035	587	48281	43250	858	47284	47964.84	1088.92	2513.53
Maharashtra	State	44249	4034	48283	46161	3989	50150	47045.00	4006.38	51051.38
	Central		2544	2544		2497	2497		2587.06	2587.06
	Pvt	12982	1338	14320	13377	1347	14724	13949.68	1438.04	15387.72
	Total	57231	5372	65147	59538	5336	67371	60994.68	5444.42	2587.06
Madhya Pradesh	State	14546	1857	16403	14015	2712	16727	14359.65	2223.9	16583.55
	Central	16935	0	16935	16377	192	16569	17821.7	1348.76	19170.46
	Pvt								29.75	29.75
	Total	31481	1857	33338	30392	2804	33296	32181.35	3602.41	0
Chhattisgarh	State	7592	247	7839	7621	295	7916	7925.57	385.73	8311.3
	Central	16486	0	16486	16333	0	16333	17049	0	17049
	Pvt									
	Total	24068	247	24305	23954	295	24249	24974.57	385.73	0
Goa	State									
	Central									
	Pvt							335.97		
	Total							335.97	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Western Region	State	93532	6725	100257	93324	7854	101178	97629.22	7704.93	0.00	105334.2		
	Central	40981	0	6203	47184	39825	192	5673	45690	41727.30	1348.76	5100.59	48176.65
	Pvt	22292	1338	23630	23985	1347	25332	27094.89	1467.79	0.00	28562.68		
	Total	156805	8063	6203	171071	157134	9393	5673	172200	169451.41	10521.48	5100.59	182073.5
Andhra Pradesh	State	25073	3665	28738	24376	3210	27586	25350	5812.57		31162.57		
	Central	21813	0	21813	24054	0	24054	25291.93	0		25291.93		
	Pvt	6162	0	6162	6092	0	6092	6180.26	0		6180.26		
	Total	53048	3665	56713	54522	3210	57732	56922.19	5812.57	0	62634.76		
Karnataka	State	11005	7087	18092	11784	7332	19116	10989.07	8747.47		19736.54		
	Central			3317	3317		3123			2926.25	2926.25		
	Pvt	2571	125	2696	2674	127	2801	1424.66	162.61		1587.27		
	Total	13576	7212	3317	14458	7459	3123	25040	12413.73	8910.08	2926.25	24250.06	
Kerala	State	652	4814	5466	579	3917	4496	296.9	6073.37		6370.27		
	Central	2127	0	2127	2118	0	2118	620.5	0		620.5		
	Pvt	453	46	499	1069	40	1109	127.57	70.65		198.22		
	Total	3232	4860	8092	3766	3957	7723	1044.97	6144.02	0	7188.99		
Tamil Nadu	State	22184	2728	24912	22037	2044	24081	22005.06	4413.11		26418.17		

Central	15005	0	1073	16078	16396	0	1577	17973	16742.84	0	1480.48	18223.32
Pvt	4996	0		4996	4616	0		4616	3301.69	0		3301.69
Total	42185	2728	1073	45986	43049	2044	1577	46670	42049.59	4413.11	1480.48	47943.18
Pondicherry	State	265		265	277			277	275.69			275.69
Lakshadweep	State								23.41			23.41
South Region	State	59179	18294	77473	59053	16503		75556	58940.13	25046.52	0	83986.65
Central	38945	0	4390	43335	42568	0	4700	47268	42655.27	0	4406.73	47062
Pvt	14182	171		14353	14451	167		14618	11034.18	233.26	0	11267.44
Total	112306	18465	4390	135161	116072	16670	4700	137442	112629.6	25279.78	4406.73	142316.1
Bihar	State	531	59	590	352	52		404	153.78	50.23		204.01
Central	4995	0		4995	5972	0		5972	6082.1	0		6082.1
Total	5526	59		5585	6324	52		6376	6235.88	50.23		6286.11
Jharkhand	State	2600	79	2679	2412	142		2554	2069.8	148.74		2218.54
Central	4213	155		4368	4019	185		4204	4360.39	147.7		4608.09
pvt									811.43			811.43
Total	6813	234		7047	6431	327		6758	7241.62	296.44		7538.06
Orissa	State	2613	3153	5766	3012	5935		8947	3165.45	6864.03		10029.48
Central	8771	0		8771	13742	0		13742	19444.4	0		19444.4
Pvt	1098	0		1098	1139	0		1139	1094.38	0		1094.38
Total	12482	3153		15635	17893	5935		23828	23704.23	6864.03	0	30568.26

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
West Bengal	State	15411	510	15921	16036	491	16527	17072.51	508.4	17580.91				
	Central	13397	141	13538	15182	118	15300	15926.45	112.82	16039.27				
	Pvt	6343	0	6343	6692	0	6692	7238.48	0	7238.48				
	Total	35151	651	35802	37910	609	38519	40237.44	621.22	0	40658.66			
Sikkim	State	0	35	35	0	36	36	0.17	61.04	61.21				
	Central	0	355	355	0	345	345	0	369.64	369.64				
	Total	0	390	390	0	381	381	0.17	430.68	0	430.85			
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	State	0	0	0	0	0	0	41.15	7.29	48.44				
	Pvt							89.87		89.87				
	Total							131.02	7.29	0	138.31			
Eastern Region	State	21155	3836	24991	21812	6656	28468	22502.86	7638.73	0	30142.59			
	Central	31376	651	32027	38915	648	39563	45813.34	630.16	0	46443.5			
	Pvt	7441	0	7441	7831	0	7831	9234.16	0	0	9234.16			
	Total	59972	4487	64459	68558	7304	75862	77550.36	8269.89	0	85820.25			
Assam	State	743	0	743	707	0	707	755.39	0	755.39				
	Central	1025	847	1672	1591	670	2261	1615.15	913.53	2528.68				
	Pvt	141	0	141	125	0	125	136.33	0	136.33				
	Total	1909	847	2756	2423	670	3093	2506.87	913.53	0	3420.4			

Meghalaya	State	0	573	573	0	525	525	0	615.19	615.19
	Central	0	249	249	0	206	206	0	194.98	194.98
	Total	0	822	822	0	731	731	0	810.17	810.17
Tripura	State	284	56	340	450	67	517	485.37	68.83	554.2
	Central	561	0	561	566	0	566	571.18	0	571.18
	Total	845	56	901	1016	67	1083	1056.55	68.83	1125.38
Manipur	State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Central	0	553	553	0	504	504	0	629.07	629.07
	Total	0	553	553	0	504	504	0	629.07	629.07
Arunachal Pradesh	State	0	10	10	0	11	11	0	2	2
	Central	0	189	189	0	973	973	0	1641.51	1641.51
	Total	0	199	199	0	984	984	0	1643.51	1643.51
Nagaland	State	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Central	0	119	119	0	164	164	0	254.16	254.16
	Total	0	121	121	0	164	164	0	254.16	254.16
North-East Region	State	1027	641	1668	1157	603	1760	1240.76	686.02	1926.78
	Central	1586	1957	3543	2157	2517	4674	2186.33	3633.25	5819.58

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Pvt	141	0	141	125	0	125	3439	3120	6559	3563.42	136.33	0	0	136.33
Total	2754	2598	5352	3439	3120	6559	3563.42	4319.27	0	7882.69				
All India	233032	39746	272778	237499	44691	282190	244481.36	51943.70	0.00	296425.1				
Central	171450	22246	19235	212931	182933	26116	17737	226786	194094.54	29387.73	16845.29	240327.6		
Pvt	44056	1842	45898	46392	2968	49360	47499.56	3163.87	0.00	50663.43				
Total	448538	63834	19235	531607	466924	73775	17737	558336	486075.46	84495.30	16845.29	587416.1		

SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Sir, the figures stated in the Statement which is laid on the Table by the hon. Minister in regard to demand and supply position of power is not factually correct in the case of West Bengal. I want to know how the hon. Minister has come to this figure and what is his source from where he got this figure.

Further, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the following. In reply to Unstarred Question No. 2480, dated 18th March, 2005 on rural electrification, the hon. Minister has stated that the status of village electrification in the State of West Bengal as on 31st March 2004 is 83.63 per cent, which is not factually correct. According to ground situation, only 50 to 55 per cent of villages in West Bengal have been electrified till date, that too not fully. I want to submit to the hon. Minister that a village-to-village and house-to-house survey may please be done immediately to collect the actual figures.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the hon. Member has quoted my reply to an Unstarred Question and he gave some figures. I do not have those figures with me right now.

The Question is with regard to power shortage in the country. In this Question he has asked details on power shortage. I have already stated in the reply that the average energy shortage in the country is over 7 per cent and the peak shortage is 11 per cent. Just a few years ago, this figure was much higher. Now, it is declining. What is the main reason for such a shortage? I would like to share with my colleagues here that during Ninth Plan not even fifty per cent of the target was achieved.

To be accurate, it was 47 per cent. That was one of the reasons why we have faced this situation in the power sector today. Now, this is almost a crisis which we had to revert. Sir, thanks to our engineers, technicians and our workers, they have dedicatedly worked to improve the power plants and its performance. In 1992, the Plant Load Factor was 57 per cent. Now, it

is 75 per cent. Therefore, shortage is there. At the same time, the Government at the Centre have taken effective steps. This crisis was created during the Ninth Plan, that is, 1997-2002, and it was India Shining period according to our Opposition. That was almost leading to the crisis in the power sector.

The second aspect, Sir, is that for the past 10 years, almost major States—we can say most of the more bigger States—have not substantially made the capacity addition. That is also one of the reasons why we are facing the shortages in the country.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Sir, there is shortage of power mainly in North Bengal. We are mainly dependent on Bhutan for electricity. Due to this, there is no proper supply. The Tiesta Barrage Hydro Project is still not complete. I urge the hon. Minister to complete the Project so as to fill up the gap of shortage of power and make North Bengal fully electrified.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, we are doing everything possible to commission the Project, which the hon. Member has mentioned. West Bengal, in many respects, is a model for the country. For example, they have also added capacity addition unlike other States. They have also set the improvement in the Plant Load Factor (PLF). They have also tried to reduce the loss—technical as well as distribution loss—and by arresting the theft. The steps taken by them are commendable. So, in that way, West Bengal is almost a model for the country. As hon. Member has already mentioned that the Tiesta Project should be expeditiously completed, we will try to do everything possible in the minimum possible period.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri P.S. Gadhavi—Not Present.

Shri Ramji Lal Suman—Not present.

Shri M. Appadurai.

SHRI M. APPADURAI: Sir, everyone knows that 20 per cent of the power generated in our country goes waste and other 20 per cent is stolen. Can the hon.

Minister take necessary steps to control the power shortage through power wastage control, power theft control and improve the power generation through non-conventional means?

What are the steps being taken to stop the power theft in our country?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I have just now mentioned about the theft control measure. Even prior to the Electricity Act, 2003, as many as nine States have passed their own laws to contain this menace. So, it is not only the Act which is important but also the Act has to be effectively implemented. For the implementation of the Act, the State Governments which are now facing this menace more will have to take stringent measures. Some States have taken measures and they are finding the solution also. Its results are also available. At the same time, a large majority of the States are yet to act effectively to control the electricity theft in the country.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the power crisis prevailing in the entire country and the entire House is aware of it. Since the subject of power lies in the concurrent list it and falls in the jurisdiction of both the Centre and the States, and if the Union Government wants to formulate any policy in this regard sometimes it faces the opposition from the State Governments.

In the present situation according to the Government figures Uttar Pradesh requires 52.017 million units of power and it is receiving 41.565 million units, which means that there is a shortage to the tune of 20.01 per cent. Through you, I would like to know from the Government that State Governments announce some of their districts as VIP and supply power for 20-22 hours to them at the same time in the same state there are around 95 per cent such districts where power is needed badly but they get power for only 5 to 6 hours and in

this manner approximately 95 per cent districts face the problem of power shortage.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your question? Please put the question.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Sir, as regards Uttar Pradesh, I would like to say that earlier 3 big units viz. Anpara-A, Anpara-B and Anpara-C were set up in the Sonbhadra district but despite the problem of power shortage these were given to the private sector and today the situation is that no production is taking place in these units. I would like to ask the Union Government whether it would provide power directly to those districts in which the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Power Project is being implemented and also whether the revenues from this power supply would accrue directly to the Union Government?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member has very rightly said that the power crisis in Uttar Pradesh is very grave. The reason behind this is that the National average i.e., PLF was 57 per cent in the year 1992 and even today the average remains the same in their plants. Secondly as the hon'ble Member has said and I have also heard that the power supply is not regular at many places. Hon'ble Member has rightly said that the subject of power is in the concurrent list. Both the State Government and Union Government have to work together on this. The NTPC came in this field alongwith the Power Department of Union Government with 200 megawatt generation in the year 1982. Today the Union Government plants are contributing 32 per cent in the power sector of the entire country. We have the capacity to increase it upto 50 per cent in the Tenth Five Year Plan period. We will try to provide upto 50 per cent in the Eleventh Five Year Plan as well. If the State Governments do not upgrade its plants then it would receive power only from three types of sources to achieve its target—first would be their own plants, secondly from those plants set up

under bilateral arrangement and thirdly Centre has been regularly giving 15 per cent of the unallocated power to the most distressed States. Now the question arises as to how much we can spare? Every State should make efforts to fulfill their own responsibilities. Many big States have not contributed anything in the field of power generation during last ten years....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Silence please.

[*Translation*]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: The Centre has been catering to its responsibilities. We provide consultancy to them as per their requirement. We also make services available to their public undertakings. We provide them our services alongwith funds for the plans according to which they wanted to improve their projects. But it can only work if they accept our services otherwise how can we help them? Hon'ble Member has very rightly said about Uttar Pradesh. Their desire to avail this facility as per their own terms, has made the situation very critical over there.

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There is a demand from the State of Kerala for restructuring of Kayamkulam Plant. The NTPC will not lose anything if it is going to be restructured. So, what is the decision of the Government? Not only that. There was a meeting of the several States Ministers Chaired by the Central Minister in which a decision was taken that there will be an additional allocation of power from eastern region in lieu of power shared by Tamil Nadu from Kayamkulam Project. I would like to know whether any decision has been taken and whether any amount is due to Kerala Government for Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme, which they have implemented. There is an incentive pending for the simple reason that audited accounts have not been produced; they are withheld. Now, the audited accounts have been produced. I would like to know whether the Government will take a decision in releasing the amount due to Kerala Government.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, V. Radhakrishnan knows it better that under the Electricity Act, unbundling provision is made. This is going to be over by 9th June, this year. I had representatives in my chamber, and we have had elaborate discussions. On this issue, we are again meeting on 17th of this month to talk about this unbundling issue but as far as Government is concerned, we are not in a position to compromise on the unbundling issue.

As far as the issue of unbundling is concerned, the Government would not like to compromise with it....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: After cutting the hike!...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No disturbance please.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Regarding the dues of State of Kerala, the State Power Minister Shri Aryadan Mohammed was here a couple of days back. He was thoroughly satisfied that not even a single case is pending with the Ministry of Power. I would also like to say that we have very carefully attended the matter of Kerala.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, there is shortage....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in his reply the hon'ble Minister has accepted that there is a power crisis at national level. He has told that there has been an average 7.3 per cent power shortage in the country in the year 2004-05 and 11.7 per cent power shortage during busy hours, which means there is a minimum shortage of 7.3 per cent and maximum of 11.7 per cent. While giving the figures of annual progress for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 he has mentioned that with their efforts a mixmum of 5.2 per cent progress was made during last year.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given statewise figures to explain the availability, consumption and shortage in respective states. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the condition of Bihar in March 2005, about which he has explained in his reply that the requirement of Bihar is 641 million units, availability is 526 million unit and the shortage is of 17.9 million units. I believe that the figures presented by the hon'ble Minister regarding availability of power in Bihar are beyond reality and the amount of power availability that has been shown in his reply is not true at all infact, it is far less than that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Ram Kripal Yadavji, please ask the question.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of hon'ble Minister that the State level Kanti and Barauni Thermal Power Plants in Bihar have either been closed down completely or are on the verge of closure. After the partition of Bihar the power generation plants have gone into Jharkhand and we have not been left with any source of power production, as a result of which, we have an acute shortage of power. Particularly now the shortage has become more acute.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask hon'ble Minister as to what steps are being taken by the Government to increase the availability of power in Bihar so that the shortage of power can be overcome and whether there is any scheme to provide special funds to revive and modernise the Kanti and Barauni Thermal Power Stations so that the problem of Bihar can be resolved and the people there could get some relief?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member is absolutely right. Hon'ble Member has asked about two Thermal Power Plants of Bihar. I would like to say that both the plants belong to State Government. One is situated in Muzaffarpur and the other is in Barauni and both are lying closed at present. Their own capacity is on 30 megawatt and the rest is supplied from the Central Quota. Hon'ble Governor had

also met me recently. He also told that the situation of power is very critical there. Therefore, the Cabinet of Bihar has given us a written consent that we should supply power to 22,400 villages of Bihar under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme. Since this subject lies in the concurrent list therefore, it is the joint responsibility of both the State Government and the Union Government. We are involved in planning and execution on a large scale. Hon'ble Member has very rightly said that people are facing a lot of difficulties due to the shortage of power. The Union government is working on finding a solution for this problem and if the State Government supports us then we will find a solution to this problem and the people would have some relief at the earliest.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I had asked whether for the Thermal Power Plants which are on the verge of closure, the Union Government have any. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has already replied.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: He has not replied anything regarding Kanti and Barauni Thermal Power Stations.

[Translation]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, we lend support for the renovation and modernisation of the old plants. If they require special consultation then our Public Undertakings Engineers would go there and prepare a plan. ...*(Interruptions)* There is no shortage of funds, but there should be the capacity to work and the work should progress.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Power Minister has agreed that the power shortage during 2004-05 was 7.3 per cent and the peak shortage was 11.7 per cent. At a stretch we cannot generate power, but we can control

transmission and theft losses. By controlling transmission and theft losses we can bridge this gap. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, as to what are the top three States that are performing well in controlling transmission and theft losses in our country. Has this Government given any incentive so far for the better performing States in controlling transmission and theft losses under the New Electricity Policy?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Steps are going to be taken.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Yes, Sir. The first step that we have taken is to reduce the technical loss and also the commercial loss. For giving incentive, a scheme is already in operation and that is called APDRP. There are two components in that. One is investment components and the other is incentive components. If a plant owned by any State Government is reducing the overall cash losses to the extent of Rs. 2, they will be getting Re. 1 as cash award. This is already in operation and the entire country is availing of it.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I wanted to know what are the States that are performing well. Some States are performing well. We have to encourage them....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You asked as to what are the steps being taken and he has replied.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, the whole country should know as to what are the States that are performing well.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, I was in a hurry and so I did not reply to his first point. He wanted to know the names of the top three better performing States. For the benefit of the hon. Member and also others, I would like to inform that according to the rating, the first three better performing States happen to be Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Delhi.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me chance to put a supplementary. The demand of electricity in

Punjab is 6,410 megawatt and the supply is 4,800 megawatt. So there is a shortage of 1,610 megawatt. As per the 10th Plan, there will be a shortage of 24 per cent after investing Rs. 1,728 crore and in the 11th Plan, there will be a shortage of 18 per cent after investing Rs. 2,939 crore.

So, there is a shortage of electricity in Punjab and you are well aware of it, Sir. You are also well aware of it that we are the producers of food-grains, but there is a drought this time and the State is not being compensated. The PSEB is under great pressure. The import of coal in Punjab has been put under Category III.

I would request the hon. Minister to remove it from Category III so that the burden of imported coal cost may not be put on to the PSEB and other three States of Haryana, Rajasthan, etc., which also come under that Category. They are far away from the port. So, the NTPC should take care of the additional burden and may distribute it as per the production.

Secondly, there is a penalty on Railway freight, if it is overloaded. On Punjab, especially, the actual transportation cost of coal is Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,200 per tonne, whereas the penalty is Rs. 12,000 per tonne. This is unbearable by the PSEB. My submission to the hon. Minister is to look into the installation of a gas based Central project in Punjab as we have Central projects in other Northern States so that the gas based production is less in cost and the gestation period is also less.

Thirdly,...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, we must have a discussion on this. It is a serious issue. Discussion may be allowed under Rule 193 please.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps he will take in helping the PSEB and the people of Punjab, especially,

the farmers in getting their due share. During the months of October to May, Punjab is not given its due share of Central Allocation. So, I would request the hon. Minister to give Punjab its due share from October to May from the Central Pool.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, now Punjab is getting 1,371 MW of electricity. They are entitled to it and they are getting it. Punjab will also get more power from Rihand, Tehri, Naptha-Jhakhri and Dulhahasti. With regard to incidental charges and the Railway freight, I think, the concerned plant will have to bear the burden.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, just now hon'ble Minister told that the Government provides loan to the State Governments for power generation. I am presenting documentary evidence before you. The center had provided assistance to Uttar Pradesh in the years 1991-92 and 1993-94, but the funds of 1992 were given in the year 1994. Now the Customs Department has asked for depositing Rs. 48.5 crore. They have already told the State Government that their land would be confiscated if they failed to deposit Rs. 48.5 crore. We had to face this problem because the Government provided the loan after a long delay. The payment could have been made immediately if we had received the funds on time therefore, the Government should talk to the Customs Department. Hon'ble Chief Minister had also written to the Minister of Finance in the year 2004, but no relief has been granted so far. Will the Minister extend the recovery period of this loan or announce it as assistance by the Government?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This does not relate to the main question. You need not answer, Mr. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you....(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: My question has not been replied to...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: First let me listen to his question.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: It is a very important issue, hon'ble Minister should give a reply to this.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: They want Rs. 48.5 crore. The delay happened due to late payment received from the Union Government. In case of delay the Government should inform whether they will provide funds or not, since the fault has been on their part. The payments of year 1992 were made in the year 1994. If custom duty is required to be paid on that then it is the responsibility of the Union Government to arrange for that money.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: What does custom duty has to do with this question?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I agree with you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has presented the Statewise figures of Power distribution in the entire country and in those I have seen that there are seven such States where there is no shortage of power. In the remaining States there is shortage of power. Hon'ble Minister has himself expressed his concern in the House about the condition of Uttar Pradesh. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether in view of this the Government will make some arrangements for uniform distribution of power. There is an acute shortage of power in Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh is the biggest state of the country. Whether the hon'ble Minister will make arrangements for providing extra supply of power for ensuring the smooth functioning of the industries there and to check their migration and to improve the pathetic condition of agriculture.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: The allegation made by hon'ble Member that the Union Government is adopting

a biased attitude against the Government of Uttar Pradesh, is completely baseless. Neither the Union Government nor the Ministry of Power has ever done any such discrimination and they would not do so in future also....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Rajaram Palji, you please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: He is saying that the Union Government delays in providing funds over there. A proposal was put before Uttar Pradesh Government for Anpara Power Projects to be funded by Japan Bank but the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent to us in writing that they do not require this.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Since Questions 582 and 590 are dealing with the same issue, I am taking both the Questions together.

Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba'.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please sit down. Speak at your own turn Nothing is going to be recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I gave more than 40 minutes to that question.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. Athawaleji, please sit down. Nothing is going to be recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

Water Supply under Swajaldhara Yojana

*582. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

*Not recorded.

(a) whether there is a lack of co-ordination between the Union and State agencies in respect of implementation of water supply projects;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to address the problem;

(c) the number of districts covered under this programme so far, State-wise;

(d) the time frame by which the remaining districts are proposed to be covered;

(e) the funds allocated under this programme as per cost sharing pattern during each of the last three years;

(f) whether the Government proposes to provide more funds to hilly States particularly the newly created State of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal under different schemes.

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether Sector Reform Programme has been introduced in all the States/UTs to ensure active participation of the community in rural water supply programme; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Rural Drinking Water Supply being a State Subject, State Governments are primarily responsible to provide drinking water to rural areas. Government of India supplement the efforts of the State Governments by extending financial and technical assistance to States under the centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Implementation of centrally sponsored schemes in the rural drinking water sector is governed by detailed Guidelines and reviewed periodically with the State Governments. As such, there is no lack of coordination

between Union and State agencies in implementation of rural drinking water supply projects.

(c) to (e) Under Swajaldhara, Government of India makes state-wise allocation of funds, and the State Governments, in turn, make district-wise allocations. Swajaldhara Guidelines stipulate that while indicating tentative allocation to Districts, the State Government will ensure equitable spread of water supply schemes. Since Swajaldhara is a demand-responsive yojana, a definite time frame for coverage of the remaining districts cannot be specified. The number of districts covered under Swajaldhara Scheme so far, State-wise is given in Annexure I. The funds allocated under Swajaldhara scheme to the States during the last three years as Central share amounting to 90% of the capital cost of schemes are given in Annexure II.

(f) and (g) Funds are allocated to all States, including newly created States, as per the inter-State Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme allocation criterion fixed for the year. The prescribed criterion already provides for weightage to Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) and special category hill States in terms of rural areas.

(h) and (i) With a view to institutionalize community participation in the rural drinking water supply sector Government of India had launched the Sector Reform Project in 1999 wherein Pilot Projects were commenced in 67 districts of 26 States by June 2002. The project implementation period was for three years and after the scaling up of reforms to cover the entire country through Swajaldhara in December 2002, the Sector Reform Pilot Projects have been integrated with Swajaldhara.

Annexure-I

District Covered under Swajaldhara Scheme as on 02-05-2005

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Districts Covered
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20

1	2	3
2.	Assam	14
3.	Chhattisgarh	14
4.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
5.	Gujarat	13
6.	Haryana	10
7.	Himachal Pradesh	9
8.	Karnataka	25
9.	Kerala	12
10.	Madhya Pradesh	30
11.	Maharashtra	24
12.	Orissa	31
13.	Rajasthan	28
14.	Tamil Nadu	29
15.	Uttar Pradesh	70
16.	West Bengal	15
17.	Uttaranchal	11
18.	Nagaland	3
19.	Tripura	4
20.	Jharkhand	21
21.	Jammu and Kashmir	14
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	15
23.	Punjab	11
24.	Bihar	5
25.	Meghalaya	6
26.	Mizoram	3
27.	Sikkim	4
Total		442

Annexure-II**Funds Allocated under Swajaldhara Scheme**

As on: 02-05-2005

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States	Allocation of GOI Share		
		2002-03*	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	12.00	12.69
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7951.43	1616.07	1632.05
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	447.41	473.76
4.	Assam	757.59	754.59	797.36
5.	Bihar	0.00	873.73	923.98
6.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Chhattisgarh	263.00	262.80	332.20
8.	Daman and Diu	0.00	8.00	0.00
9.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	6.35
10.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	9.48	6.00	8.46
11.	Goa	0.00	14.55	15.04
12.	Gujarat	167.97	765.56	826.42
13.	Haryana	21.95	234.23	246.48
14.	Himachal Pradesh	652.78	680.19	677.16
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	1497.90	1560.02
16.	Jharkhand	0.00	356.02	368.12
17.	Karnataka	218.15	1397.03	1253.54
18.	Kerala	535.71	504.03	492.54
19.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Madhya Pradesh	529.01	840.54	966.49
21.	Maharashtra	7427.66	2172.15	1992.80
22.	Manipur	0.00	153.59	182.88
23.	Meghalaya	0.00	176.96	186.12
24.	Mizoram	0.00	126.88	133.23
25.	Nagaland	0.00	130.22	137.48
26.	Orissa	671.68	733.28	865.23
27.	Pondicherry	0.00	6.00	6.35
28.	Punjab	0.00	313.79	351.11
29.	Rajasthan	374.52	2191.77	2544.51
30.	Sikkim	0.00	53.42	57.11
31.	Tamil Nadu	1395.00	673.22	889.10
32.	Tripura	0.00	156.93	164.97
33.	Uttar Pradesh	1132.05	1532.91	1621.06
34.	Uttaranchal	0.00	364.33	378.67
35.	West Bengal	47.76	943.90	1064.06
Total		22155.74	20000.00	21147.95

* For 2002-03, projects were approved by Government of India. Hence the figures relate to the approved GOI share of the sanctioned projects. Swajaldhara proposals during 2003-04 and subsequent years were approved by the respective District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC)/State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM) within the funds allocated to the States as per the inter-State Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme allocation ratio fixed for the year.

[English]

Pending Drinking Water Projects

*590. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received applications under Centrally Sponsored Schemes from various developmental agencies at district/State levels for grants

of drinking water projects during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of such applications are still pending for consideration and approval;

(d) if so, the reasons for such delay; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to clear the pendency?

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

Statement

(a) to (e) For rural drinking water projects, Government of India make State-wise allocation of funds as per the inter-State Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) ratio fixed for the year and the State Governments, in turn, make district-wise allocations. At present projects for rural drinking water supply are not sanctioned by Government of India. Only in the year 2002-03, project proposals were obtained from the nodal agencies of States/UTs and cleared by Government of India under Swajaldhara scheme. Balance proposals which had been received in the Government of India and could not be considered in the year 2002-03,

were returned to respective State Governments for consideration on priority as per the Swajaldhara Guidelines issued in June 2003 within the Allocated amount communicated to the State for the year 2003-04. All projects during 2003-04 and subsequent years were approved by the respective District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC)/State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM). As such, no applications from developmental agencies from district/State level is pending for approval with the Centre. The state-wise details of proposals received and cleared under Swajaldhara in the year 2002-03 are given at Annexure I.

Similarly, for Sub Mission projects for providing safe drinking water to rural habitations facing water quality problems, powers have been delegated to the States to sanction these projects with effect from 01-04-1998 and no applications are pending with the Center for approval.

Annexure-I

Status of Swajaldhara 2002-03

As on 15-4-2005

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Proposals submitted	No. of Schemes approved	Total Cost	GOI Share	Amount Released	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9037	1650	9082.78	7951.43	7840.40	4453.21
2.	Assam	103	53	831.78	757.59	480.37	244.48
3.	Chhattisgarh	266	102	283.10	263.00	242.01	115.85
4.	DNH	1	1	9.98	9.48	4.74	0.00
5.	Gujarat	136	30	184.42	167.97	162.54	92.92
6.	Haryana	45	2	24.55	21.95	10.98	7.85
7.	Himachal Pradesh	495	471	714.66	652.78	335.79	118.15
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	2					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Karnataka	247	55	246.09	218.15	161.01	40.68
10.	Kerala	536	116	616.33	535.72	279.54	128.88
11.	Madhya Pradesh	819	87	563.85	529.01	481.13	222.85
12.	Maharashtra	1491	782	8261.51	7427.66	5836.64	3020.53
13.	Nagaland	14					
14.	Orissa	474	287	725.39	671.68	456.91	108.69
15.	Punjab	53					
16.	Rajasthan	224	35	412.52	374.52	374.52	205.68
17.	Sikkim	1					
18.	Tamil Nadu	1255	389	1521.07	1395.00	1394.63	856.38
19.	Tripura	5					
20.	Uttar Pradesh	5053	655	1236.79	1132.05	814.51	3.10
21.	West Bengal	115	8	52.19	47.76	33.73	9.96
Total		20372	4723	24767.02	22155.74	18909.45	9629.21

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Swajaldhara is an excellent scheme and community participation is an essential ingredient of it. Ten per cent funds under this scheme are contributed by the villagers. I would like to say that geographical condition of hilly areas is quite different. Villages in our area are scattered and not at one place. Almost a dozen houses of a village are spread over 6-7 kms. Because of this, community participation becomes a problem in our area. Poor people can't participate and thus they are deprived of Swajaldhara scheme.

My submission is that in the areas where poor people cannot contribute funds let their share be funded out of MPLAD scheme. I hope all hon. Members would agree to my suggestion. Funds provided to us under said scheme are meager. Rs. 2 crore would be inadequate to fund the project for entire parliamentary

constituency. So we can contribute 10 per cent funds from MPLAD and make the scheme a success. I would like to ask hon. Minister whether or not the Government would allow us to contribute? If not, the reasons therefore. I want all hon. Members to cooperate in this regard and we shall be permitted to contribute from MPLAD's scheme.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, hon. Member agrees with the concept of Swajaldhara Scheme that the public should participate in it. Under the said scheme 10 per cent funds are provided by the public and 90 per cent by the Central Government. It is so because their participation would facilitate its maintenance, monitoring and overseeing. People careless for facilities provided to them free of cost and they do not take interest in maintenance of such things. But if they contribute something they would

take its care. Hence public contribution is fixed at 10 per cent. Even labourers can contribute 10 per cent amount.

Hon. Member has asked a question regarding hilly states. When funds are allocated for hilly and desert areas it is kept in mind that states under the Desert Development Programme, DPAD or the social special category hill states in terms of rural areas are given 35 per cent weightage. More funds are provided to inaccessible areas. It is because they should not face problem of shortage of funds. So far as drinking water crisis is concerned, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission was kept in abeyance and we have revived it. Hon. Finance Minister has announced in the Budget that drinking water is one of six areas covered under Bharat Nirman. It covers all areas, i.e. where water is not available or availability is inadequate, water is unfit for consumption, where water contains arsenic, nitrate or fluoride. In Andhra, Rajasthan and West Bengal water in most of the areas contain fluoride....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He wanted to know especially about Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Government give weightage to desert or drought prone areas of Chhattisgarh so that this state gets more funds. Our distribution criteria is—40 per cent weightage to rural population, 35 per cent to desert, drought prone areas, hilly states and special category states. 15 per cent weightage is given to non-covered, partially covered villages and 10 per cent to quality affected villages. This way, last year Rs. 2930 crore were allocated and spent and in current years' Budget there is a provision of Rs. 4050 crore. It is to ensure good drinking water in the villages. Weightage is given to those states which are in dire need of it and are backward....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Include Punjab also in it.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Whether the Government of Uttaranchal has forwarded proposals of Gangoli hot drinking water lift scheme in Pithoragarh distt. of Kumaon division and proposal of Manila Barminda drinking water scheme in Almorah distt. to the Ministry of Rural Development? If so, by when these proposals are likely to be cleared by the Government?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Chief Minister of concerned state has sent a proposal for non-covered areas. This year, entire funds are to be spent by the State Government. So there is no need to allocate funds separately.

[*English*]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, in the answer given by the hon. Minister, it is clear that the amount released for the approved schemes is Rs. 18,909.45 lakh, but the amount spent is only Rs. 9,629.21 lakh. The drinking water problem is an acute one in almost all the States in one or another season. May I know from the hon. Minister, why almost all the States were not able to spend the released amount in time? Are there any technical or administrative reasons for not utilising the funds in time?

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Funds are being provided under that scheme. Initially people had no awareness but now they are well aware of it. Now they have realised and they give their contribution. Now each state is spending funds on it.

[*English*]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: There are a number of drinking water schemes under the Central and the State Governments. Last year, in the Budget speech itself, it was announced in the House that the Government is going to bring all drinking water schemes under one umbrella. What are the measures that the Government has taken for effective implementation of the scheme? We are losing a good number of water in the monsoon

because of lack of scientific mechanism. So, we have to tap the rainfall. Now, it is done.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Put your question please.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would bring a comprehensive and intensive mechanism to harvest the rainwater in the schools, colleges and the public places, and provide adequate facilities in these places?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has just now told that not many Central Schemes are in vogue. Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, first, Accelerated Rural Water Programme under Swajaldhara Scheme and Second, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme. Both these schemes are covered under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. Under it, the Central Govt. provides funds to the State Governments and they spend it. Earlier, a submission programme was in vogue for ensuring quality but the NDA Government scraped it. We are trying to revive it and the Planning Commission has granted its approval. Finance's EFC meeting is scheduled to be held on 27th. Government is committed to provide clean drinking water. The Govt. has targeted to provide per head 40 litre clean drinking water in villages. In 5920 villages water is not available and in 69 thousand villages per capita availability of water is below 40 litre. Thus 69 thousand plus 5 thousand, in all there are 74,000 much habitations. Hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech has announced that water supply will be made available in not covered or partially covered areas. By 2009, all the villages are targeted to be provided with clean drinking water under Bharat Nirman Special Programme.

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as per the answer given by the hon. Minister, Swajaldhara is a demand-responsive programme. When the programme was conceived, there was a great response from the State of Andhra Pradesh. Though it

has a ten per cent public contribution, the people came forward and they have contributed. The hon. Minister has agreed that the State of Andhra Pradesh is affected with fluorides, nitrates and arsenic. Under these circumstances, it is necessary for the Government to come in a big way to the rescue of Andhra Pradesh.

The Budget allocation in 2002-03 was Rs. 7,951.45 lakh. In 2003-04, it was Rs. 1,607 lakh. In 2004-05, it was Rs. 1,632.05 lakh. I would like to ask the hon. Minister why such a drastic reduction has taken place in the allocation to the State of Andhra Pradesh if such is the case where there is a great demand as per the hon. Minister's answer. When are these schemes going to be completed?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there was no shortage of funds for Andhra Pradesh. Areas like Nalgonda district have fluoride containing water. So we are paying more attention to Andhra Pradesh. The Govt. has considered Andman's case under submission programme. We have allocated Rs. 16 crore 16 lakh for 2003-04 and Rs. 16 crore 32 lakh for 2004-05 and this year allocation has been enhanced because of increased Budget Provision. Government allocates 20 per cent funds under Swajaldhara Scheme. I think, this year it is likely to be enhanced to Rs. 22 crore from Rs. 16 crore.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as per the information provided under Swajaldhara Scheme relating to Bihar, 0.00 funds have been provided to Bihar during 2002-03, and during 2003-04 it is Rs. 873.73 lakhs and for 2004-05 Rs. 923.98 lakh. Clean drinking water is not available in entire Bihar so far, only 5 districts have been covered under Swajaldhara Scheme, whereas in most of the areas ground water contains arsenic. I would like to ask hon. Minister as to why on the basis of population, backwardness or hilly areas, Bihar cannot be covered under this scheme? From Munghyr to Nalanda and Kamoor over half a dozen districts have no drinking

water and flood water from Nepal plays havoc and brings all dirt with it. In post-flood period availability of drinking water becomes a problem. In view of it, I request the hon. Minister to take the case of Bihar on priority.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He said no funds were allocated to Bihar for 2002-03. Swajaldhara entails 10 per cent contribution from public and as public contributed no funds, so funds from Center were not allocated. But now the people are contributing and therefore, Rs. 8 crore 73 lakh have been allocated for 2003-04 and Rs. 9 crore 23 lakh for 2004-05. And for Swajaldhara, ANWS Scheme, 20 per cent funds are provided. Thus Bihar's share comes to Rs. 50-60 crore. Funds under ASWS Scheme have been reduced by Rs. 500 crore during last 4-5 years. And not a single penny was allocated to Bihar. But now funds are being allocated to it and they are making use of it. People of Bihar, too, would be provided drinking water on the lines of other states. The Centre and State Govt. will cooperate with each other in overcoming water crisis.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Arrears of funds of the State Govt. is also pending....(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is pending because the State was not allocated its share of funds during last 5 years. Allocations for this purpose are made on yearly basis and nothing is treated as arrears. If it was so, it would have been allocated to them. But the Government are taking adequate steps to see that Bihar overcomes water crisis.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, 58 years have elapsed since India became free. But the villages still face shortage of drinking water. My submission is that the Government are not implementing the scheme in the areas where it is required. UPA Government are responsible to solve water problem. My question is whether the Government will be able to overcome this problem in its remaining four years and provide drinking water in all the villages? And whether the Government propose to launch any new programme to overcome this problem and how much funds the Govt.

propose to provide to Maharashtra during current year as it is a serious problem in the State?

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Answer has already been given.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Athawale is state was provided with adequate funds....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please sit down.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Thank You, Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir. The Government of India, through the Ministry of Rural Development, is allotting crores and crores of rupees to States under various heads and schemes for improvement of the rural areas. The Ministry has appointed Vigilance and Monitoring Committees in all the parliamentary constituencies to supervise the works and we parliamentarians are appointed as Chairmen and Co-Chairmen of such Committees.

Sir, I wish to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Minister that in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Madurai district and Dindigul district, no Monitoring Committee has been convened for the past one year. We were not invited and we were not consulted before taking up the projects nor were we allowed to inspect the ongoing projects, though we have approached the district authorities. The guidelines are very clear. Since there is no monitoring or supervising machinery, there is lot of scope. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Time is going to be over. Please put the question.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Sir, I am coming to the point. Since there is large scope for malpractices and looting of funds in connivance with the local Ruling Party leaders of the State, the money is wasted. How long are we going to be silent spectators? I want to know

from the Minister what stringent steps he is going to take against the erring district officials. In future, how is he going to stop this looting of public funds and how are we parliamentarians going to be involved in the development works, in future, more effectively for the better implementation of the schemes? Thank you.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon. Member has raised a question on District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee. All hon. Members have been nominated as either Chairman, Co-Chairman or Dy. Chairman in such committees so that they can monitor functioning of all the schemes of Rural Development. Its meeting is mandatory once in a quarter. All hon. Members have been apprised of schemes relating to rural development. (Interruption) Hon. Member will monitor it. A mention of District Vigilance Committees has been made in National Common Minimum Programme. It has been stated that the spending of funds meant for rural development should be closely monitored so that its proper utilisation can be ensured and the poor men are provided facilities.

12.00 hrs.

If there has been some problem in any particular district then hon. Members can write to the Chief Secretary of concerned state. We will ensure full compliance in all the districts.

[English]

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is no time left as the Question Hour is about to end, but I have a few questions to ask from the hon. Minister. In the papers, and the guidelines it is very clear that there are many schemes on this issue. In the Presidential Address also it has been mentioned that all the schemes will be clubbed together in one scheme known as the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Scheme, but the hon. Minister's reply is not very clear with regard to this issue. Therefore, I want to put a question to him. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Konyak, please put your question.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Sir, I am aware that there is not much time left for the Question Hour to end. Are we to follow the guidelines of many schemes in it? The names of the schemes are also in Hindi, which we do not know. We do not understand the scheme's name, because it is in Hindi. Therefore, I want to put a question to the hon. Minister. Are all the schemes going to be clubbed together in the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Scheme or not? I want to get a reply from the hon. Minister on these issues.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all, all the schemes of drinking water are functioning under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. Secondly, we disseminate information in this regards in Hindi and English as well. We would provide details guidelines of this scheme in regional languages also and to Members and public in willages as well ... (Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Debt Burden of States

*583. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total debt burden of various State Governments on the Union Government as on March 31, 2005;

(b) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to provide certain reliefs;

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

(d) the decision taken by the Union Government on each of these requests?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Loans from the Union Government to the States primarily consist of plan loans provided by Ministry of Finance. Additionally, there are some small savings loans given before 1999, medium term loans and loans consolidated earlier. A total amount of Rs. 155147.76 crores was outstanding as on 31st March, 2005 against the States for loans provided by Ministry of Finance. State-wise details are enclosed as statement.

States have requested from time to time for allowing swapping of high cost Government of India loans, waiver of loans rescheduling of loans, reduction of rate of interest etc. Requests of States were considered by the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC). TFC has recommended prospective consolidation of all Government of India loans given to States before March 31, 2004 and outstanding on March 31, 2005 in a new twenty year loan at 7.5% interest subject to States adopting fiscal responsibility law. TFC has further recommended that the principal instalments of consolidated loans to be serviced by the States during 2005-10 may also be waived if the States eliminate their revenue deficits by 2008-09 and do not exceed fiscal deficit from the 2004-05 level. Government of India has accepted these recommendations. Government of India had also allowed the States to swap their loans carrying rate of interest of 13% and above under Debt Swap Scheme. Rs. 102033.59 crores of high cost loans were swapped during 2002-2005.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amounts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15889.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	468.80
3.	Assam	2336.45

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	8984.81
5.	Chhattisgarh	2297.46
6.	Goa	750.26
7.	Gujarat	11269.93
8.	Haryana	2206.60
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1029.69
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2215.30
11.	Jharkhand	2898.70
12.	Karnataka	8697.95
13.	Kerala	5298.11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8874.97
15.	Maharashtra	8253.54
16.	Manipur	1437.66
17.	Meghalaya	359.30
18.	Mizoram	330.22
19.	Nagaland	373.53
20.	Orissa	9037.54
21.	Punjab	7182.29
22.	Rajasthan	7627.98
23.	Sikkim	217.86
24.	Tamil Nadu	6290.23
25.	Tripura	524.62
26.	Uttar Pradesh	24094.70
27.	Uttaranchal	391.69
28.	West Bengal	15807.89
Total		155147.76

Shortage of Cotton Yarn

*524. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many handloom and powerloom units are facing closure due to non-availability of cotton yarn at reasonable prices;

(b) if so, the number of such units closed down in the country till date, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has announced any relaxation in the import of cotton yarn in view of its insufficient availability;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the availability of cotton yarn?

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

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government has not taken any further steps in view of the higher production of cotton yarn this year compared to previous years.

[English]

Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary

*585. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether the Government provides financial assistance to various States for the development of infrastructural facilities for judiciary;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided in this regard during each of the last three years, States/ Union Territory-wise;

(c) the criteria of allocation of such assistance to States/Union Territories;

(d) the details of funds allocated for the purpose during the current Five Year Plan; and

(e) the funds out of such allocation released to various States so far, States-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial Assistance provided during the years 02-03 and 03-04 for development of judicial infrastructure, such as construction of court buildings and residences of judges and judicial officers, is given in the Annexure. In the year 04-05, the plan allocations were reprioritized, and Rs. 103.05 crore was allocated for computerization of district and subordinate courts.

(c) Plan funds the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of judicial infrastructure were allocated to States on the basis of the Planning Commission formula, having reference to the population of the State and the number of courts existing within that State. The Union Territories, as responsibility of Union Government, are also allocated funds for development of judicial infrastructure as per their requirement.

(d) and (e) In the current Five Year Plan (02-03 to 06-07) Department of Justice has been allocated a total amount of Rs. 700 crore. Out of this allocation, Rs. 171.53 crore was disbursed to various States and UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary. The details of allocation are given in the statement enclosed. Further to this, Rs. 142.14 crore have been allocated for development for Information Technology infrastructure, and Rs. 5.10 crore for establishment of Family Courts. In the year 05-06, it is proposed to allocate Rs. 214 crore for computerization of district and subordinate courts, as a part of the project to computerize the entire subordinate judiciary.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Amount Released During 2002-03	Amount Released During 2003-04
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	695.26	283.92
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	106.25	0
3.	Assam	505.25	0
4.	Bihar	489.51	526.66
5.	Chhattisgarh	317.28	234.00
6.	Goa	55.00	0
7.	Gujarat	308.80	324.09
8.	Haryana	129.00	137.20
9.	Himachal Pradesh	68.00	53.20
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	74.60	60.80
11.	Jharkhand	271.52	112.36
12.	Karnataka	436.50	339.26
13.	Kerala	283.86	216.51
14.	Madhya Pradesh	432.70	0
15.	Maharashtra	618.60	708.00
16.	Manipur	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0
18.	Mizoram	106.25	114.00
19.	Nagaland	106.25	114.00
20.	Orissa	360.25	166.35
21.	Punjab	171.89	177.67

1	2	3	4
22.	Rajasthan	258.82	300.07
23.	Sikkim	106.25	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	579.53	416.54
25.	Tripura	106.25	152.00
26.	Uttaranchal	176.00	76.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1277.12	1090.86
28.	West Bengal	857.85	878.07
Total		9198.69	6481.56
Union Territories			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	63.00	60.80
2.	Chandigarh	63.00	167.20
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	30.00	0
4.	Daman and Diu	30.00	0
5.	Delhi	528.70	304.00
6.	Lakshadweep	0	0
7.	Pondicherry	75.00	152.00
Total		789.70	684.00
Grand Total		9988.39	7165.56

Losses to Thermal Power Corporation

*586. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has suffered huge losses due to short supply of coal and gas to the power projects during the last three years;

(b) if so, the total loss suffered during each of last three years on this account, project-wise;

(c) the extent to which the short supply has affected the power generation and plant load factor;

(d) the sectors which have been affected due to short supply of power; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Six out of the fourteen coal based power stations operated and managed by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and all the six NTPC gas power stations have suffered loss of generation on account of shortage of coal and gas respectively. The details of loss of generation and the Plant Load Factor (PLF) lost during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed. These losses are with reference to current gas linkages. However, the loss of generation for gas based power stations, if operated at 90% Plant Load Factors works out to 5,410 million units. NTPC supplies electricity to all State Utilities and almost all the sectors are affected on this account.

(e) The measures taken are as under:—

- (i) NTPC has been directed to import 2.1 million tonnes of coal in 2005-06 to meet the gap;
- (ii) NTPC has been allocated Pakri Barwadih coal block under Government dispensation; also NTPC has sought allocation of more coal blocks for captive coal consumption;
- (iii) NTPC has been asked to identify short-term gas supplies immediately; and
- (iv) NTPC has also been asked to source gas supplies within the country and abroad for long-term supply.

Statement

Stations	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Generation Loss (in Million Units)	Plant Load Factor (%) lost	Generation Loss (in Million Units)	Plant Load Factor (%) lost	Generation Loss (in Million Units)	Plant Load Factor (%) lost
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Coal Stations						
Rihand	0	0.00	0	0.00	67	0.76
Simhadri	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	0.05
Farakka	0	0.00	1659	11.81	996	7.11
Kahalgaon	0	0.00	369	5.00	468	6.36
Talcher Kaniha	0	0.00	83	0.69	2027	10.49
Talcher Thermal	0	0.00	0	0.00	25	0.63
Sub-total	0		2111		3588	
Gas Stations*						
Auraiya	216	3.71	154	2.64	55	0.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dadri (Gas)	510	7.19	100	1.38	145	2.00
Anta	172	4.69	27	0.74	3	0.08
Faridabad	98	2.58	12	0.32	3	0.07
Kawas	189	3.29	366	6.35	115	2.00
Jhanor Gandhar	1796	31.70	2175	37.70	1331	23.11
Sub-total	2981		2834		1652	
Total loss of Generation on account of coal and gas	2981		4945		5240	

*Note: (i) The loss indicated above on account of gas shortage is on the basis of current linkages provided; and
(ii) However, the loss of generation for gas based power stations, if operated at 90% Plant Load Factors works out to 5,410 million units.

Mapping Wasteland

*587. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP) has been helpful in decreasing the wasteland in the country;

(b) if so, the number of projects under IWDP sanctioned from 2000-01 to 2004-05 and new projects proposed to be sanctioned during the 10th Five Year Plan to reduce the wasteland in the country;

(c) the estimated time projected by the Government to develop all wasteland in the country;

(d) whether the Government has decided to distribute unused wasteland to the landless people for multiple usage;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether States have fully utilised funds allocated under wasteland development programme;

(g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during the last three years;

(h) whether the Government propose to devise any programme and enable cultivation of Palm trees in such wastelands; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 692 projects have been sanctioned under IWDP during the period from 2000-01 to 2004-05, IWDP is a demand driven programme, and the number of projects to be sanctioned during the remaining period of the 10th Five Year Plan depends on the fund allocation for the programme and the proposals received from the States. Treatment of wastelands under IWDP will certainly reduce the wasteland in the country.

(c) As per the 'Wastelands Atlas of India, 2000' brought out by the Department of Land Resources in

collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, the total extent of Wastelands/Degraded lands in the country is 638.5 lakh hectares. Out of which 369.85 lakh hectares is treatable non-forest wastelands. DoLR has sanctioned an area of 61.96 lakh hectares for implementation of IWDP projects since 1-4-1995 under the Guidelines for Watershed Development and Hariyali leaving balance area of 307.89 lakh hectares (369.85 lakh hectares-61.96 lakh hectares) for treatment. On an average, an area of about 10 lakh hectares are sanctioned for taking up new projects every year. As such the estimated time required for treatment of all treatable wastelands in the country under IWDP will be approximately 30 years.

(d) and (e) So far, an area of 147.47 lakh acres of Government wastelands has been distributed amongst the landless rural poor. State-wise details are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(f) and (g) IWDP is a demand driven programme and no State-wise allocation of funds is made. The details of funds released (State-wise) under the Programme during the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05) are given in statement-II enclosed. Watershed development projects under IWDP are implemented over a period of 5 years and funds are released in five instalments on project to project basis. First instalment is released at the time of sanction of a project and each subsequent instalment is released after utilisation of more than 50% funds of the last instalment released. The total sum utilized is calculated after the completion of the projects. However, the release procedures ensure utilisation of funds released to the States for the projects under the Programme.

(h) and (i) This Department has no programme for cultivation of Palm trees under IWDP, as such, However, under IWDP, each and every activity is decided by the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) in consultation with the local people living in and around the watershed areas in accordance with the guidelines. There is no restriction to take up cultivation of Palm trees in the watersheds subject to acceptability by the local people and the suitability of the soil condition.

Statement-I
Distribution of Government Wastelands as on
March, 2004

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Area Distributed (in lakh Acres)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42.02
2.	Assam	5.89
3.	Bihar*	13.21
4.	Gujarat	13.81
5.	Haryana	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.17
7.	Karnataka	13.72
8.	Kerala	4.57
9.	Madhya Pradesh #	0.79
10.	Maharashtra	10.23
11.	Manipur	0.32
12.	Punjab	1.10
13.	Orissa	7.26
14.	Tamil Nadu	2.07
15.	Tripura	1.32
16.	Uttar Pradesh@	24.89
17.	West Bengal	4.32
18.	Goa	0.05
19.	Mizoram	0.74
20.	Rajasthan	0.93
21.	Delhi	0.06
Total		147.47

* Including Jharkhand

Including Chhattisgarh

● Including Uttaranchal

Statement-II*State-wise details of funds released under IWDP during the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Funds released under IWDP during the period		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1395.33	3444.82	2958.32
2.	Bihar	66.00	371.25	434.63
3.	Chhattisgarh	549.54	1197.26	1723.96
4.	Capart (Delhi)	0.00	1000.00	0.00
5.	Goa	0.00	82.50	0.00
6.	Gujarat	1494.42	1733.56	1072.40
7.	Haryana	206.27	388.55	512.49
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1500.73	1349.51	1345.22
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	220.86	241.96	422.92
10.	Jharkhand	41.77	272.25	205.65
11.	Karnataka	1394.38	2319.84	2466.93
12.	Kerala	96.20	314.75	159.70
13.	Maharashtra	705.08	949.41	1660.06
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3089.13	2866.22	2906.39
15.	Orissa	885.06	1940.11	1457.37
16.	Punjab	0.00	50.66	193.88
17.	Rajasthan	772.06	2097.32	2121.18
18.	Tamil Nadu	837.95	1993.50	2470.62
19.	Uttar Pradesh	1657.04	1974.33	1802.86
20.	Uttaranchal	335.90	384.30	1227.52
21.	West Bengal	0.00	82.50	156.90
Total		15247.72	25034.60	25299.00

1	2	3	4	5
NORTH-EASTERN STATES				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	458.54	351.89	804.05
2.	Assam	1440.19	1729.91	3202.78
3.	Manipur	642.18	313.25	545.87
4.	Meghalaya	23.68	443.65	194.38
5.	Mizoram	1156.16	612.44	974.03
6.	Nagaland	1740.56	1868.31	1711.46
7.	Tripura	0.00	31.61	386.63
8.	Sikkim	184.12	268.98	324.27
Total of NE		5645.43	5620.04	8143.48
Total of IWDP		20893.15	30654.64	33442.48

Overseas Expansion of Public Sector Banks

*588. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Public Sector Banks are proposing to expand their commercial activities in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of Public Sector Banks proposing to open their branches abroad, bank-wise, country-wise;

(c) whether any regulatory check has been planned to oversee their foreign venture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Nine public sector banks have opened 95 branches in 26 countries. Four of these banks have proposed to open 11 more branches at overseas centers. The bank-wise and country-wise details relating to number of branches proposed to be opened abroad by public sector banks are as under:—

Name of the Bank	No. of Branches	Name of the Country
State Bank of India	5	Bangladesh, Italy (Milan), Bahrain, USA (Washington and New York)
Bank of Baroda	3	UAE, Hong Kong and UK
Bank of India	2	Belgium and Vietnam
Canara Bank	1	Hong Kong

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India is monitoring the functioning of public sector banks including their overseas operations. The overseas branches of Indian banks are also subject to supervision by the host country supervisors and the Reserve Bank receives regular feed back from these supervisors.

VAT and LSD

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

(a) whether it is a fact that people are forced to pay more prices for the life saving drugs due to imposition of excise duty and VAT;

(b) if so, whether this decision of the Government will hasten the death of the poorer patients;

(c) whether there is a demand from every corner of the country to reconsider the matter to get free the life saving drugs from tax; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) There has been no new imposition of Excise Duty on life saving drugs. A number of specified life saving drugs are fully exempt from Excise Duty.

As VAT is a tax intended to replace the State Sales Tax, it is a State subject. The Central Government has no role to play in the fixation of VAT rates for any product. An Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers decides on all issues relating to implementation of State level VAT. The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has decided that all drugs and medicines, including life saving drugs and medicines, shall attract 4 per cent VAT. Any decision to exempt life saving drugs from VAT has to be taken by the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers and the State Governments.

[Translation]

Development of NCES Programme

*591. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

(a) the number and details of schemes/programmes launched and implemented by the Government under Non-conventional Energy Sources in the country during the last three years; State-wise;

(b) the quantum of electricity generated from each scheme/source during the period; year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the total financial assistance provided to each State during the period; scheme-wise and year-wise;

(d) the target fixed for electricity generation and achieved during the said period; State-wise;

(e) the target fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan and achieved till date;

(f) whether any action plan has been formulated by the Government for expansion and development of NCES;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Details of schemes/programmes of the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources giving therein the level of central financial assistance are given in statement-I enclosed.

(b) The capacity set up during 2002-03 to 2004-05 through the installation of grid-interactive renewable electricity generation and estimated electricity generation are enclosed source-wise and state-wise as statement-II.

(c) The central financial assistance provided state-wise during 2002-03 to 2004-05 for major schemes,

including those for grid-interactive renewable electricity generation, are enclosed as statement-III.

(d) and (e) The target set for the installation of grid-interactive renewable electricity generation during the 10th Plan, i.e., 2002-03 to 2006-07, is 3075 MW, of which 2643 MW has been achieved during the first 3 years of the Plan period, i.e., 2002-03 to 2004-05, details of which are enclosed as statement-IV. State-wise targets are not set for the aforesaid.

(f) to (h) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources is focusing on deployment in the Following Broad areas:—

- (i) **Grid-Interactive Renewable Electricity:** The broad aim is to set up around 10 per cent of the additional power generation capacity from renewable electricity during the 10 year period, 2002-03 to 2011-12, i.e., the 10th and 11th Plan periods, which translates to around 10,000 MW. Of this, 3075 MW is the target for the 10th Plan and the proposed target for the 11th Plan would accordingly be around 7,000 MW.
- (ii) **Renewable Energy for Rural Areas:** Two programmes cover rural areas, namely, Remote Village Electrification Programme (RVEP) and Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP), as detailed below:—
 - (a) Remote Village Electrification Programme covers electrification of 25,000 odd unelectrified census villages, where grid-extension is neither cost-effective nor feasible, termed remote villages. The target for the 10th Plan is electrification of 5,000 such villages, of which around 2,500 villages and hamlets have been electrified during the three years, i.e., 2002-03 to 2004-05; and
 - (b) IREP covers electrified or to be electrified villages in which renewable sources, such as bio-energy, bio-fuels, solar-thermal,

wind, micro-hydel etc., are to be deployed for providing non-electrical energy services of cooking, lighting and motive power, for extension purposes, apart from assisting in planning for an optimal fuel-mix for the aforesaid energy services.

- (iii) **Renewable Energy for Industrial, Commercial and Urban Applications:** Programme has been formulated to comprehensively address the issue of accelerated deployment of renewables in these 3 sectors in furtherance of the aim of conventional energy conservation through fuel-switching apart from providing renewable energy services of cooking, lighting and motive power.
- (iv) **Research, Design, Development and Demonstration (RDDD):** This activity is to facilitate new and renewable energy industry in becoming competitive through indigenous design, development and manufacture of new and renewable energy products and services required for deployment either in programmes of this Ministry or otherwise, with the underlying aim of making this sector a net foreign exchange earner. The RDDD focus areas are:—

1. Technology Mapping and Benchmarking

- Identify gaps in research, design and development effort so as to bridge them in the shortest possible time.

2. Research, Design, Development and Demonstration

- Alternate fuels (hydrogen, bio and synthetic fuels) production, transport, storage, delivery and systems/devices for transport, portable and stationary applications. Characteristics and cost of bio-fuels to match those of petroleum fuels.

3. Indigenous Design, Development and Manufacture

- Multi MW wind electric generator.
- Upto MW scale Solar Thermal (High Temperature) for power generation.
- SPV for power applications.
- Advanced biomass gasification systems for combined heat and power applications.
- Simulators for grid interactive renewable power stations.

4. Standards, specifications and performance parameters to be at par with international levels and costs that are lower.

5. Cost Reduction

- Grid interactive renewable electricity to become cost-competitive through indigenous design, development and manufacture of low cost, high quality and high performance systems apart from raising capacity utilization factor through better siting and improved performance of systems.

Statement-I

The details of schemes and programmes and central financial assistance (CFA) provided under various non-convention energy programmes

Sl. No.	Programmes/Sector	CFA
1	2	3
1.	Wind Power	Only for demonstration Projects: upto 60% of the equipment cost subject to certain benchmark costs.
2.	Aero-Generators and Hybrid Systems	Rs. 2.00 lakhs per kW or 50-75% of ex-works cost, whichever is less. Rs. 2.40 lakhs per kW or 90% of ex-works cost, whichever is less-in unelectrified islands.
3.	Family Type Biogas Plants	Rs. 2100-Rs.11,700 per plant depending upon the capacity of the plant, category of the beneficiaries/areas.
4.	Biomass Gasifiers	For Thermal Applications (upto 3MWe) : Rs. 1.25 lakh/300 kWth For electrical/mechanical applications (upto 1 MWe): Rs. 15.00 lakh/100 kWe 20% higher CFA of the above for Special Category States and Islands

1	2	3
5.	Bagasse Co-generation Projects	Interest subsidy
	(i) Projects by Cooperative/Public/Joint Sector Sugar Mills.	3-6% depending upon configuration.
	(ii) Projects in IPP Mode in Cooperative/Public/Joint Sector Sugar Mills	2-4% depending upon configuration.
	(iii) Projects by Private Sector Sugar Mills	1-3% depending upon configuration.
	Biomass Power Projects	Interest subsidy
	Projects with MW-scale 100% Producer Gas Engines/Advanced Biomass Gasification projects.	2-3% depending upon technology/configuration.
6.	Industrial Waste-to-Energy Interest subsidy	Interest subsidy to reduce the interest rate upto 4% in special category states and upto 6% in other states, to be paid through Financial Institutions. Subject to certain limits based on type of projects.
7.	Small Hydro Power	
	<i>Capital subsidy</i>	<i>Govt Sector:</i> <i>Private Sector:</i>
	— N.E. Region and Sikkim	Upto Rs. 6.00 crores/MW Upto Rs. 3.00 crores/MW
	— Middle Himalayas, Ladakh, Andaman and Nicobar	Upto Rs. 4.00 crores/MW Upto Rs. 2.00 crores/MW
	— Other Hilly areas	Upto Rs. 2.00 crores/MW Upto Rs. 1.00 crores/MW
	Water mills-mechanical	Upto Rs. 30,000/-watermill (mechanical)
	Water mills-electrical+mechanical	Upto Rs. 1.00 lakh/watermill (electrical or electrical cum mechanical)
8.	Solar Photovoltaic Systems/devices	From Rs. 2400/- Rs. 9100/- for SPV lighting systems depending upon system. Rs. 4300/- Rs.16390/- for Special Category States.
9.	PV water pumping systems	Rs. 100/Wp of PV array used subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,80,000 per system for community purposes. 90% of approved ex-works cost of the system for Special Category States.

1	2	3
10.	Power Plants and Other systems	<p>Rs. 1,19,000/kWp of PV array Capacity or 50% of ex-works cost, whichever is less.</p> <p>Rs. 2,14,200/kWp of PV array capacity or 90% of ex-works cost, whichever is less for Special Category States.</p>
11.	Solar Water Heating Systems (SWHS)/ other Solar Thermal systems	<p>For Solar Water Heating systems: Through Banks/FIs (including housing financing org.):</p> <p>Interest subsidy to reduce the interest to 5% to end-user.</p> <p>For solar water heating/air heating systems/ desalination system, steam cooking systems, etc.: through IREDA:</p> <p>Interest subsidy of 5% for non-profit organisations and of 7% for profit-making organizations.</p> <p>For dish/community type solar cookers:</p> <p>50% of cost limited to Rs. 2500/- for dish type cookers; Rs. 25,000/- for Scheffler/community type cooker.</p> <p>For steam cooking systems:</p> <p>50% of actual system cost.</p>

Statement-II

State-wise and programme-wise grid-interactive renewable electricity installed capacity during 2002-03 to 2004-05 and Estimated generation during 2004-05

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Small Hydro Power (MW)					Wind Power (MW)					Biomass Power (MW)				
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.90	8.65	14.55	0.00	6.20	21.80	58.85	37.70	69.50						
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.27	0.13	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
3.	Assam	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
4.	Bihar	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.80	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
7.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.20	28.93	51.53	0.00	0.00	0.00						
8.	Haryana	0.00	14.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1.40	8.80	6.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	9.00	0.00	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
12.	Karnataka	31.53	24.50	61.50	55.70	84.88	201.50	33.78	26.00	16.60						
13.	Kerala	2.50	12.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.20	0.00	0.00	6.25	0.00	1.00	0.00						
15.	Maharashtra	3.75	0.00	0.00	2.00	6.25	48.75	0.00	0.00	11.50						

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
16.	Manipur	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Punjab	4.20	1.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.60	117.78	106.26	0.00	7.80	0.00
23.	Sikkim	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	2.50	0.00	1.30	132.80	371.22	675.46	0.00	44.50	22.50
25.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50	14.00
27.	Uttaranchal	6.45	7.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	3.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36.	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		80.68	84.04	102.31	241.30	615.25	1111.55	102.63	129.50	136.10

No.	(MW)										Generation (Million (KWh)	
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2004-05		
1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.15	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	235.30	2670.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.60	67.80
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	4.52
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	91.84
5.	Chhattisgarh	500.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.31	89.00
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14
7.	Gujarat	0.00	1560.00	1240.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	89.96	1362.03
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.70	151.30
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.24	216.18
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.90	219.68
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	80.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	8.10
12.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	107.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	536.10	2335.75
13.	Kerala	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.11	186.50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.65	271.00
15.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	72.25	3083.83
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75	10.90
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	61.42
18.	Mizoram	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	29.52

	1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
19. Nagaland			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	40.94
20. Orissa			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	15.92
21. Punjab			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	19.40	332.20
22. Rajasthan			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	276.54	216.25
23. Sikkim			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	71.20
24. Tamil Nadu			100.00	0.00	2375.00	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1254.50	11706.72
25. Tripura			0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	34.02
26. Uttar Pradesh			1015.00	0.00	2140.00	2.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.66	334.90
27. Uttaranchal			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	14.35	144.90
28. West Bengal			250.00	3285.00	700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.26	28.71
29. Andaman and Nicobar			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.10	10.83
30. Chandigarh			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32. Daman and Diu			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33. Delhi			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15
34. Lakshadweep			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00
35. Pondicherry			0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.63	0.00
36. Others			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total			2070.00	4845.00	8252.00	3.75	15.65	4.00	500.00	50.00	175.00	2642.65	23796.46

MW=Megawatt; kW=Kilowatt; kWp=Kilowatt Peak; kWh=Kilowatt hour

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	1.35	3.05	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	0.06	0.00	2.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.37	0.00
19.	Nagaland	0.03	1.93	1.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
21.	Punjab	1.74	1.26	0.13	1.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.32
23.	Sikkim	6.72	8.17	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.38	0.38	0.54	0.90	1.94
25.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	1.05	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.33	0.03	0.00	0.07	0.13	0.32
27.	Uttaranchal	1.82	1.44	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.03	0.00
28.	West Bengal	2.79	0.89	0.52	0.06	0.05	0.51	0.53	0.61	0.56
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	3.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.19
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36.	Others	0.13	1.00	0.00	1.88	0.73	4.03	1.44	0.00	0.00
Total		39.49	31.73	36.11	16.78	11.95	6.22	5.55	2.65	4.67

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Energy from Waste					Wind Power					Solar Power							
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05						
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20									
1	2																		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.67	0.84	0.78	0.04	1.05	3.08	0.48	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.64
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.04	4.17	2.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(Rs. in crore)

	1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18. Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19. Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20. Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21. Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.49	0.00	0.36
22. Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.86
23. Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24. Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.56	3.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25. Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26. Uttar Pradesh	8.28	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.26	0.00
27. Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.51	0.00
28. West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.56	0.00	0.48	0.09	0.15	0.00
29. Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.89	0.00	0.00
30. Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32. Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33. Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.84	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34. Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.92	1.52	0.00
35. Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.28	0.00
36. Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	4.60	5.05	7.40	0.11	0.00	0.00
Total	10.00	4.35	4.44	9.76	10.62	13.69	7.58	2.90	1.86		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
17.	Meghalaya	0.25	0.38	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.11
18.	Mizoram	0.35	0.24	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	2.55	4.73	1.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.38	11.95	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	0.07	0.06	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Sikkim	0.25	0.25	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.27	0.63	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.37	0.00
25.	Tripura	0.15	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	1.55	1.47	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.64
27.	Uttaranchal	0.15	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	4.14	6.06	2.41	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36.	Others	14.00	7.04	4.80	0.00	0.00	1.79	0.00	3.03	0.00
Total		44.78	37.23	21.91	2.26	0.90	3.48	12.23	19.84	3.76

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Solar Thermal					Solar Photovoltaic					Remote Village Electrification							
		2003-04		2004-05		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05			
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.48	0.05	0.22	1.67	0.34	0.00	1.09	0.00	0.00	1.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.39	0.36	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.93	4.84	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.37	0.20	0.46	0.00	0.20	0.46	0.00	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.33	0.79	0.71	5.68	0.33	0.71	5.68	3.32	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	0.00	0.38	0.37	2.05	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.09	0.00
8.	Haryana	0.05	0.05	0.20	2.68	1.87	0.00	0.00	1.87	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.84	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.11	0.00	1.20	1.03	0.88	0.00	1.03	0.88	0.00	0.12	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.15
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.06	0.00	1.09	1.31	1.73	0.00	1.31	1.73	0.00	5.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.12	5.12	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.25	2.21	0.00	1.06	2.21	0.00	8.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.37	8.37	0.00
12.	Karnataka	0.00	0.15	0.00	1.21	1.46	1.43	0.00	1.46	1.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.14	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.65	1.09	0.03	0.65	1.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.18	0.27	0.23	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.00	3.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.14	3.14	0.00
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	1.84	0.00	7.30	1.84	0.00	0.33	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.33	0.33	0.79
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.43	0.00	3.23	0.43	0.00	0.00	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	0.00	0.00	1.76

	1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18. Mizoram	0.00	0.02	0.15	0.57	1.62	0.28	0.00	1.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
19. Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20. Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.57	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43
21. Punjab	1.49	0.00	0.04	6.34	3.75	0.00	0.00	1.85	0.00	0.00	1.76
22. Rajasthan	0.27	0.01	0.05	0.21	0.32	0.26	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
23. Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.74	1.68	0.00	0.00	3.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
24. Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.17	0.04	3.78	1.93	0.00	0.00	7.42	0.00	0.00	10.62
25. Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.34	2.30	1.54	0.00	13.43	0.00	0.00	0.01
26. Uttar Pradesh	0.05	0.08	0.22	2.17	3.50	0.00	1.88	7.20	0.51	0.00	0.00
27. Uttaranchal	0.10	0.05	0.03	3.22	3.67	0.37	2.20	23.89	0.72	0.00	0.00
28. West Bengal	0.09	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29. Andaman and Nicobar	0.89	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30. Chandigarh	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32. Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33. Delhi	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34. Lakshadweep	3.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35. Pondicherry	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36. Others	0.11	8.15	5.15	3.98	1.40	2.62	0.00	0.64	10.40	0.00	0.00
Total	7.69	9.90	6.91	40.86	36.56	11.16	24.92	85.79	28.12	0.00	0.00

Statement-IV

Details of target set for the 10th Plan for grid interactive renewable electricity and achievement made during 2002-03 to 2004-05

Name of the Schemes/ Programmes	10th Plan Target	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		Total Ach.
		Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	
i. Wind power	1500	200	241.30	250.00	615.25	300.00	1111.55	1968.10
ii. Small Hydro (upto 25 MW)	600	80	80.68	80.00	84.04	100.00	102.31	267.03
iii. Biomass Power/ Cogeneration	700	100	102.63	125.00	129.50	125.00	136.10	368.23
iv. Biomass Gasifier	50	10	2.07	5.00	4.85	10.00	8.25	15.17
v. Solar Photovoltaic Power*	145	0.75	0.50	0.75	0.05	0.10	0.18	0.73
vi. Waste to Energy	80	10	3.75	10.00	15.65	10.00	4.00	23.40
Total (Power from Renewables)	3075	400.75	430.93	470.75	849.34	545.10	1362.39	2642.66

*Programme discontinued since grid-interactive SPV electricity is not economically viable at this juncture.

Life Insurance Schemes for Weavers

*592. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

MOHD. SHAHID:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of weavers covered under the life insurance scheme launched by the Government in 2004-05 for the handloom weavers, State-wise;

(b) the target set to cover the weavers under the scheme in 2004-05;

(c) the funds earmarked/to be spent for the scheme; and State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has selected certain

areas in the States for the purpose of the insurance scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Life Insurance Scheme called Bunkar Bima Yojana was launched in December 2003. Till now i.e.; upto 31-3-2005, 2,35,999 lives have been covered under the scheme. The statement showing State-wise weavers covered under the scheme is enclosed as statement.

(b) The target for coverage of weavers under the Bunkar Bima Yojana during the year 2004-05 was two lakh weavers.

(c) The budget provision under the scheme for the year 2004-05 was Rupees Three crore. There was no State-wise allocation as the funds are being released to the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

(d) No, the scheme is applicable to all the States.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Number of Weavers covered under Bunkar Bima Yojana during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05

2003-04

Name of the State	Weavers covered
Andhra Pradesh	8,427
Karnataka	8,077
Kerala	862
Orissa	16,613
Total	33,982

2004-05

Name of the State	Weavers covered
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	62,702
Assam	4,010
Gujarat	2,626
Karnataka	25,013
Kerala	1,455
Madhya Pradesh	3,652
Maharashtra	75
Orissa	7,917
Rajasthan	1,077

1	2
Tamil Nadu	78,129
Uttar Pradesh	12,576
Uttaranchal	1,077
West Bengal	1,798
Total	2,02,017

[English]

Guidelines for NPA

*593. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has recently issued draft guidelines for buying and selling Non-performing assets of banks financial institutions and NBFCs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NPAs of banks, financial institutions and NBFCs would be diluted as a result of such steps of RBI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India has issued draft guidelines on purchase/sale of Non-Performing Assets on 12th April, 2005 to all commercial banks, financial institutions and non-banking financial companies. The draft guidelines are available on the website of RBI i.e. www.rbi.org.in/notification.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India and Government of India has taken various steps to reduce the incidence of non-performing assets of scheduled commercial banks etc. The present guidelines being made available to banks is another option for effectively addressing their non-performing assets. It is too early to assess the impact of these guidelines in reduction/dilution of NPAs, as these will be finalized by Reserve Bank of India after receiving the feedback from all concerned.

[Translation]

Expansion of RRB

*594. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expand the network of regional rural banks in the entire country especially in Sikkim, Goa and Delhi;

(b) whether the needy people in rural areas face procedural difficulties in seeking loans from such banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The existing Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) can open new branches within their notified areas with the approval of the Reserve Bank of India. However in terms of Section 3(1) of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) Act, 1976, the Central Government may, if requested so to do by a sponsor bank, establish one or more Regional Rural Banks. No proposal has so far been received from the sponsor banks for the establishment of new RRBs in the Country including the States of Sikkim, Goa and Delhi.

(b) to (d) Various steps have been taken to ensure improvement in the disbursement of loan in rural areas, which inter-alia include:—

- (i) Improving the quantum of credit flow to agriculture and ensure doubling of credit within three years.
- (ii) Financing of new farmers, and enrolling 100 new farmers for every rural and semi-urban branch of commercial bank and RRB in 2004-05.
- (iii) Providing debt relief to farmers in distress and one time settlement for small farmers and

marginal farmers with a view to making them eligible for fresh credit.

(iv) Extending assistance to farmers to provide relief from indebtedness to non-institutional sources (e.g. money lenders).

(v) Simplification of Bank Loan procedure.

Further Government of India announced an agriculture credit package on the 18th June, 2004, envisaging doubling of credit over a period of 3 years. Accordingly, a credit target of Rs. 1,05,000 crore with 30% growth over the credit flow of Rs. 80,000 crore during 2003-2004 was set for the year 2004-05. As against this, according to provisional figures, the achievement was Rs. 1,15,000 crore. For RRBs, the target for 2004-05 and achievement were:—

Target : Rs. 85 Crore

Achievement : Rs. 11,718.17 Crore

[English]

National Policy on Subsidies

*595. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of national policy on subsidies;

(b) steps contemplated thereunder to ensure that the benefits of subsidies reach the poor who really deserve it; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to trim the subsidies, in accordance with the new national policy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The National Common Minimum Programme mandates the Government to target all subsidies to the poor and truly needy sections of the society. In pursuance of this, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) was asked to submit a study on subsidies. Based on this study, a

report, "Central Government subsidies in India", was placed in the Parliament on December 23, 2004. This Report was discussed in a meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance on February 8, 2005. Formulation of a National Policy on Subsidies would evolve out of a broad based consensus through proposed wider discussions with various stakeholders and due process of consultation.

[Translation]

Target for Disbursement of Loan

*596. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Banks have achieved their targets of loan distribution during the last three years as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India

has prescribed a target of 40 per cent of net bank credit (NBC) for lending to the priority sector by domestic scheduled commercial banks, both in the public and private sector. Within this target, sub-targets of 18 per cent and 10 per cent of NBC have been stipulated for lending to agriculture and the weaker sections respectively. For the last three years, the banks in both public and private sector have achieved the target of lending 40% in priority sector. The details are given in the statement enclosed. However, the achievement in agriculture and weaker sections were marginally lower than the sub-targets. There are no targets for lending to non-priority sector by scheduled commercial banks.

(c) and (d) The guidelines on lending to Priority Sector are being adhered by the scheduled commercial banks. Those banks, having a shortfall in lending to agriculture, are required to deposit a large portion of the shortfall into Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) established by NABARD. As a disincentive for non-achievement of agricultural lending target, the rates of interest on the deposits in RIDF have been lowered and are charged in inverse proportion to the extent of shortfall in agricultural lending vis-a-vis the stipulated target of 18%.

Statement

Outstanding Advances to Priority Sector by Public and Private Sector Banks during the last three years

(Rs. in crores)

Banks	March 2002	March 2003	March 2003
Public Sector Banks	171185 (43.1%)	203095 (42.5%)	245672 (44.0%)
Private Sector Banks	25709 (40.9%)	36705 (44.4%)	52861 (47.3%)

Figures in brackets is share of priority sector to net bank credit.

Smuggling on the Borders

*597. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the large scale smuggling of goods the borders;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the value of goods smuggled and seized during each of the last three years till date;

(c) the number of persons arrested in such cases during the said period and the details of action taken

against them; and

(d) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop smuggling from across the border?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Sir, Government is aware of the smuggling of goods along the borders.

(b) and (c) The details of goods smuggled and seized during the last three years, the number of persons arrested and details of action taken against them are given in the following table:—

(Amount in crores of Rupees)

Year	No. of cases of seizure of goods smuggled/ attempted to be smuggled	Value of goods seized	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons detained under COFEPOSA/ NDPSA	No. of persons against whom COFEPOSA/ NDPSA detention confirmed	No. of prosecution cases launched	No. of persons convicted
2002-03	15572	241.16	318	171	204	139	175
2003-04	18489	543.80	367	430	74	131	122
2004-05	16356	323.32	366	105	86	161	93

(d) The steps taken to stop smuggling from across the border are as follows:—

- (i) Government have strengthened anti-smuggling formations by cadre restructuring of the Department of Customs and Central Excise in 2002. To supervise anti-smuggling operations along the porous Indo-Nepal Border, an office of the Chief Commissioner of Customs (Preventive) has been created at Patna to coordinate and supervise the anti-smuggling operations along the border. Further a zonal unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has also been created at Lucknow

with exclusive mandate of collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence relating to smuggling across the Indo-Nepal border.

- (ii) Government have modernised the functioning of Department by effective use of computerisation for collation, analysis and dissemination of actionable intelligence.
- (iii) Bilateral talks with the Government of neighbouring countries are being held regularly on anti-smuggling matters. There is a standing arrangement for Director General level talks on anti-smuggling and allied matters between

India and Nepal. Similarly there is an arrangement of Indo-Sri Lanka talks. These talks are held annually and have been effective in ensuring cooperation in anti-smuggling efforts.

- (iv) Special Services Bureau (SSB) has been deployed along the Indo-Nepal border. Posting of this force has been a deterrent for smugglers.
- (v) The Indo-Pak border has been extensively fenced that has helped curb smuggling.
- (vi) Communication equipments (mobile phones) have been made available to a segment of the Directorate of Revenue officials enabling them to speedily coordinate intelligence gathering and anti-smuggling operations.
- (vii) Mutual assistance agreements (11 in number) covering 36 countries have been signed so far. Such agreements have strengthened cooperation in anti-smuggling efforts.
- (viii) Close liaison by Customs authorities is being maintained with other intelligence/enforcement agencies like Border Security Force, Intelligence Bureau, Enforcement Directorate, the Special Services Bureau and the Coast Guard etc.

In addition the following steps are proposed to be taken:—

- (1) Integrated Check-Posts are proposed to be set up at major Land Customs Stations across Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh border.
- (2) Sophisticated container scanners are proposed to be installed at check-posts like Raxaul and Jogbani in Bihar and Sonauli and Nepal Ganj Road in Uttar Pradesh along Indo-Nepal border and Petrapole, Changrabandha, Hili and Dawaki along Indo-Bangladesh border.
- (3) X-ray baggage inspection machines are already installed at most sensitive Customs locations and more advanced X-ray baggage inspection

systems are proposed to be procured and installed.

- (4) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence is proposed to be further strengthened by creation of additional Regional and Sub-Regional units and by augmenting staff strength in various cadres.

[English]

Decline in Textile Export

*598. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether export of textiles from India has registered steep decline in the period after the abolition of quota system;
- (b) if not, the break up of export of cotton and ready made clothes in terms of rupee in the said period;
- (c) the country-wise quantum of textiles exports made;
- (d) the value of imports of clothes in terms of rupee made during the above period; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the textile export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per available Directorate General of Commerce Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI and S) data, textile and clothing exports during the period January-February 2005 have amounted to Rs. 9,767 crores as compared to the exports of Rs. 12,019 crores during the corresponding period of 2004, showing a decline of 18.7%.

(c) India's textiles and clothing products are exported to more than hundred countries of the world. However, the USA and EU Member States account for more than 50% of India's textile exports. A statement showing India's textiles and clothing exports to various countries during January, 2005 is enclosed as statement.

(d) As per available DGCI and S data, textile and clothing imports into the country during the period of January-February 2005 have amounted to Rs. 1534 crores.

(e) Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to boost the textile exports from the country. Some of the important initiatives taken are:—

- (i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.
- (ii) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.
- (iii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres to give fillip to exports.
- (iv) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.
- (v) 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 excise exemption option.
- (vi) The import of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at 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.
- (vii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.
- (viii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches and Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (ix) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.
- (x) The Government has de-reserved the ready-made garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

Statement

Country-wise Export of Textiles and Clothing

(Value in Million Rs.)

Country	Jan-05
1	2
United State of America	12765.27
United Arab Emirates	3291.01
United Kingdom	3157.94

1	2
France	2380.45
Italy	2325.92
Germany	2043.19
Spain	1941.10
Canada	1078.97
Saudi Arabia	958.55
Netherlands	923.21
Belgium	855.15
Japan	735.17
Turkey	701.57
Korea Republic	668.85
Bangladesh	543.19
Malaysia	531.41
Sri Lanka	404.45
Singapore	230.80
Other Countries	9782.28
Total	45318.48

Source: Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities and Countries).

Merger of Public Sector Insurance Companies

*599. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to merge four public sector General Insurance Companies into one single corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether recommendation to this effect have been made by some expert committees;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such a merger would help the public sector insurance companies to compete with these in the non-government sector and the overseas insurance companies; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f) Prior to 2002, the four public sector insurance companies were functioning as subsidiaries of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC). To enable these companies to face competition effectively in the post liberalized scenario, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, in March 1999, recommended various options including merger of these four companies. Later, the Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) in July 2001 also recommended for merger of the four public sector insurance companies with GIC. However, in November, 2000, GIC was notified as 'Indian Reinsurer'. So these companies had to be delinked from GIC and made independent through the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Act, 2002 because of the requirement under Section 2(7A)(c) of the Insurance Act, 1938. Since then no Expert Committee has been set upto go into the aspect of merger of four public sector general insurance companies. There is no proposal before the Government for such merger.

Support to Handloom Weavers

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

(a) whether families of the handloom weavers who have traditional knowledge of making hand made embroidery art, are on the verge of extinction because of not getting any Governmental support to preserve this rare art;

(b) if so, whether the Government has drawn any specific package for perpetual existence of such art in textile field or rehabilitation of these traditional weavers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has received any specific proposals from the Government of Karnataka recently; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No such report has been received by the Government that the families of handloom weavers who have traditional knowledge of making hand made embroidery art are on the verge of extinction.

(b) and (c) Handloom weavers and Handicrafts artisans, including those working in embroidery craft, are assisted through various schemes being implemented for development and promotion of handlooms and handicrafts in areas like training and skill upgradation, design and technology Upgradation, marketing and export promotion etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

PMGSY

6163. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is allocating funds for upgradation of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) On the basis of Core Network data furnished by the State Governments, it is estimated that a length of 3,78,869 Kms of roads is required to be taken up for upgradation at an estimated cost of about Rs. 55,604 crore. State-wise details are given in the statement enclosed. States may earmark upto a maximum of 20% of the State's allocation for Upgradation works until all the eligible habitations in the State have been provided with New Connectivity. States may also include for upgradation rural Through Routes associated with New Connectivity in case the condition of such roads is poor and the roads are at least six years old.

(c) The Upgradation of rural roads under PMGSY is to be completed after all the eligible Habitations in the district have been provided connectivity through All-weather Roads. The progress will depend on the funds allocated from year to year.

Statement

State-wise Length and Total Cost required for Upgradation under PMGSY

Sl. No.	Name of State	Road Length for Upgradation (Kms)	Total Cost (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17201	2582
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4123	726
3.	Assam	13046	3332
4.	Bihar	18581	2778

5.	Chhattisgarh	16892	1615
6.	Goa	190	15
7.	Gujarat	9082	972
8.	Haryana	7525	1315
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9431	1660
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5870	1283
11.	Jharkhand	12429	1729
12.	Karnataka	16921	1828
13.	Kerala	2665	303
14.	Madhya Pradesh	37237	5742
15.	Maharashtra	19724	1692
16.	Manipur	2435	375
17.	Meghalaya	9432	1679
18.	Mizoram	1476	265
19.	Nagaland	1705	186
20.	Orissa	28327	4348
21.	Punjab	10147	1284
22.	Rajasthan	26117	1901
23.	Sikkim	846	96
24.	Tamil Nadu	22201	3019
25.	Tripura	2343	476
26.	Uttaranchal	6890	1210
27.	Uttar Pradesh	57074	10022
28.	West Bengal	18958	3172

Total

378869

55604

Vacant Post of GM in Nationalised Banks

6164. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies for the post of General Manager lying vacant in the various nationalised banks as on 31st December, 2004;

(b) the number of vacancies for the posts of General Manager which have so far been filled up by the Government;

(c) the reasons for not filling up the vacant posts; and

(d) the time by which vacant posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) As per the information received from the Public Sector Banks, 23 posts of General Manager were vacant in various banks, as on 31-12-2004, who are responsible for filling them up. These posts are filled up as per their functional and operational requirements, from time to time.

Sick Industrial Units

6165. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of sick units in the country are pending with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction;

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

(c) whether there is any time schedule for disposal of such cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken for early disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At present 1796 cases of sick units are pending

at various stages with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The State-wise details of such units are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (f) Sick Industries registered with Board are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Wherever feasible, rehabilitation schemes are sanctioned for the revival of sick companies u/s 18 of the Act. The Schemes are further required to be modified in some cases. The companies are also free to appeal before AAIFR and High Courts/Supreme Court by invoking constitutional writ jurisdiction. Hence, no definite time frame can be given for finalisation of the cases of sick units.

Statement

States	Number of sick SSI units
1	2
Haryana	31
Himachal Pradesh	05
Jammu and Kashmir	02
Punjab	106
Rajasthan	81
Chandigarh	05
Delhi	164
Assam	04
Meghalaya	01
Nagaland	01
Bihar	13
Jharkhand	07
Orissa	14

1	2
West Bengal	117
Madhya Pradesh	68
Chhattisgarh	07
Uttar Pradesh	91
Uttaranchal	11
Gujarat	186
Maharashtra	407
Goa	13
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	03
Andhra Pradesh	132
Karnataka	84
Kerala	46
Tamil Nadu	194
Pondicherry	03
Total	1796

Nodal Agency on Bio-Fuel

6166. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has been assigned the job to act as the nodal agency for processing the Planning Commission report on bio-fuel;

(b) whether TERI, New Delhi was assigned the job of preparing final report on the subject by January, 2005;

(c) if so, whether the report from TERI has since been received by the Government;

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay and by when report is likely to be received by the Government;

(e) whether Government proposes to offer any incentive to the growers of bio-fuel plants (Jatropha);

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has been identified as the nodal ministry for processing the recommendations of the Planning Commission Report on Development of Bio-fuel. For this purpose, TERI was commissioned to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR), which was submitted in January, 2005.

(e) to (g) The decision on the fiscal and financial incentives will be made at the time of sanction of the scheme by the competent authority.

Dry Land Development

6167. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has made any request to Union Government for financial assistance in connection with dry land development and cultivation on vast tracts of wastelands in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and financial assistance provided by the Union Government to State Government of Tamil Nadu during the last three years for this purpose and the details of the areas developed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Rural Development has not received any specific request from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for financial assistance in connection with dry land development and cultivation on vast tracts of wastelands in Tamil Nadu so far. However, under DPAP programme of this Ministry, 464 watershed projects at a total cost of Rs. 139.20 crores have been sanctioned to the State Government of Tamil Nadu during 2002-03 to 2004-05 to treat an area of 2.32 lakh hectares. An amount of Rs. 62.78 crores as Central share has been released to the Government of Tamil Nadu for implementation of

these projects during the said period. Under IWDP programme, 21 IWDP projects covering an area of 101025 hectares at a total cost of Rs. 60.615 crores have been sanctioned to Government of Tamil Nadu from 2003-04 to 2004-05. An amount of Rs. 13.69 crores as

Central share has been released for implementation of these projects to Tamil Nadu during the said period. The details of projects sanctioned and funds released under DPAP and IWDP programmes during the last three years are given in the statement.

Statement

Details of watershed projects sanctioned and funds released under DPAP and IWDP programmes to State Government of Tamil Nadu during the last three years

Sl. No.	Year	DPAP		IWDP	
		No. of projects sanctioned	Central funds released (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of projects sanctioned	Central funds released (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	2002-03	114	1059.530	—	—
2.	2003-04	160	2401.600	11	453.750
3.	2004-05	160	2816.935	10	915.472
Total		464	6278.065	21	1369.222

[Translation]

Loans to Exporters

6168. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for providing loan to the exporters in foreign exchange at international rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to accept the said proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Energy Conservation

6169. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that energy worth Rs. 1 lakh crore is being wasted annually;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps being taken to check the wastage and conserve the energy through Non-Conventional Energy Sources?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):
(a) and (b) The technical and commercial losses of State Power Utilities, as per data compiled by the Power Finance Corporation, are Rs. 20,232 Crores for the year 2003-2004.

(c) The Government of India has initiated steps to

conserve energy and arrest losses through the following important measures:—

- (i) Enactment of Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- (ii) Enactment of Electricity Act, 2003.
- (iii) Launch of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP).
- (iv) Launch to National Campaign on Energy Conservation, 2005.
- (v) Metering of 11 KV feeders and Consumer Metering.
- (vi) Financial and fiscal incentives for promoting and developing renewable sources of energy.

Demand and Supply of Textiles Items

6170. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of textiles in the country during last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to set up new Textile Mills in private/public/co-operative sectors; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to set up new Textile Mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The details of the production of textiles during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Spun Yarn (Mn. Kg.)	Filament Yarn (Mn. Kg.)	Cloth (Mn. Sq.) (Mtr.)
2002-03	2762	1100	41973
2003-04	3052	1118	42383
2004-05	3220(P)	1106(P)	44687(P)

These items are generally showing an increasing production trend which indicates that the demand for textiles is growing.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Company Registrar Offices in Rajasthan

6171. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of offices of Company Registrars/ Sub-Registrars in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Registrars in Rajasthan have detected irregularities in the annual statements, balance sheets and other documents submitted by the private and Government companies during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the action taken on the irregularities detected, year-wise and company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA):

(a) A statement containing the list of State-wise offices of Registrar of Companies is laid on the Table of the House is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Whenever any irregularity is detected, the prosecution under the Companies Act, 1956 is launched. The prosecutions launched by Registrar of Companies, Rajasthan in the last three years are as follows:—

Year	No. of Cos. involved	No. of cases filed
2001-02	109	823
2002-03	66	230
2003-04	67	299

However, company-wise details of irregularities/offences are not readily available.

Statement*List of State-wise Registrar of Companies*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Location
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2.	Bihar	Patna
3.	Delhi	Delhi
4.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
5.	Goa	Panaji
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
7.	Kerala	Ernakulam
8.	Karnataka	Bangalore
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior
10.	Meghalaya	Shillong
11.	Maharashtra	Mumbai and Pune
12.	Orissa	Cuttack
13.	Punjab	Jalandhar
14.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
15.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
16.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai and Coimbatore
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur
18.	West Bengal	Kolkata

*[English]***Foreign Assistance to Tamil Nadu**

6172. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has sent

any proposal to the Union Government in respect of external assistance;

(b) if so, the details of the projects for which the State Government has sought foreign assistance; and

(c) the present status of the said proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The details and the present status of the project proposals for external development assistance received from the Government of Tamil Nadu through the concerned central sectoral Ministries are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Foreign Assistance to Tamil Nadu*

1. Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project: The proposal was received from Government of Tamil Nadu seeking World Bank assistance. The objectives of the projects are to improve the economic and social conditions for women in 28 districts of Tamil Nadu and to improve their status in the family and the community. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 715 crores (US \$ 157 million). This project is likely to be negotiated with the World Bank shortly for an IDA Credit of US \$ 118 million.

2. Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project-II: The proposal was posed to World Bank on 23-1-2003. The Bank are in active discussion with Government of Tamil Nadu on a follow-on project to the ongoing TNWRCP. In this regard the Bank's mission visited Tamil Nadu to supervise the ongoing Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project (TNWRCP) and to initiate preparation on the possible follow-up investment under Phase II project proposal. The Mission suggested a need to constitute a multi-disciplinary project preparation panel to prepare a successor to TNWRCP.

3. 3rd Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project: Expected funding from World Bank is \$ 300 million.

It was posed on 5-3-2004. Negotiations with World Bank are currently ongoing from 2nd May, 2005 to 6th May, 2005.

4. 3rd Chennai Water Supply and Sewerage Project:

The project was posed to the World Bank on 10-6-04. The Bank has sought fulfillment of certain conditions. The Government of Tamil Nadu has given clarifications which have been sent to the World Bank.

5. Tamil Nadu afforestation Project-II: The project was received from Ministry of Environment and Forests and posed to Government of Japan for ODA loan. Government of Japan has agreed to finance the project and Loan Agreement for an amount of Japanese Yen 9818 million has been signed between Government of India and Government of Japan on 31-3-2005. The loan agreement is now to be effectuated.

6. Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children, Chennai for Improvement of Medical Equipment (estimated cost Rs. 21.30 crores): The project is under consideration of Government of Japan as informed by Embassy of Japan in November 2004.

7. The following two proposal had been submitted by Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation (a wholly owned enterprise of Government of Tamil Nadu) for assistance from Micro-Nutrient Initiative, a Canadian Organization: (i) Augmentation of Capacity at Iodized Salt Plant of TNSC at Valinokkam and Upgradation of Other Facilities (assistance Rs. 50 lakhs) and (ii) Production and Supply of Double Fortified Salt to PT MGR NMP Scheme of Government of Tamil Nadu (assistance Rs. 1,76,40,000): Both the proposals have been approved by Government of India facilitating receipt of assistance by Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation.

8. On 14-4-2005, ADB has approved a grant of US \$ 100 million from the Asian Tsunami Fund (ATF) and a loan of US \$ 100 million from the ordinary capital resources (OCR) of ADB under LIBOR based lending facility for Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project. Out of US \$ 200 million, share of Government of Tamil Nadu

is US \$ 143 million. The loan is yet to be signed and declared effective.

Proposals under SGRY

6173. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINSA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government has submitted any proposal under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana to the Union Government which is still pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing the proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is an allocation based programme which is operational in all the rural districts of the country including those of Punjab. The Scheme is not project based. No proposal of Punjab Government is pending in the Ministry.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Hydro Power Projects

6174. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has received any feasibility report of four power projects of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount required for completing these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The Feasibility Reports of two Hydro Electric Schemes of Karnataka were received from National

Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and their status is given as under:—

(i) Shivasamudram Seasonal H.E. Project (2x135=270 MW)

The Feasibility Report of Shivasamudram Seasonal Hydro Electric Project (2x135=270 MW) was submitted by NHPC to Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 30-4-2002 for commercial viability with an estimated cost of Rs. 55,770.86 lakhs including IDC of Rs. 5,385.79 lakhs at April, 2002 price level. The commercial viability was accorded on 12th June, 2002. The proposal of Stage-II estimates was submitted by NHPC on 17-6-2002 and the same was returned to them on 24-6-2002 for want of inter-State clearance from Ministry of Water Resources/Central Water Commission.

(ii) Upper Krishna Cascade H.E. Project (2x35+2x65+2x35=270 MW)

The Feasibility Report of Upper Krishna Cascade Hydro Electric Project (2x35+2x65+2x35=270 MW) was submitted to CEA by NHPC on 26-9-2003 for commercial viability of the project with an estimated cost of Rs. 98,459.23 lakhs at September, 2003 price level including IDC of Rs. 6,347.57 lakhs. The Feasibility Report was examined by CEA and comments/observations were forwarded to NHPC. NHPC did not reply to CEA's comments/observations raised on the feasibility report. However, NHPC had intimated on 12-4-2004 that the Government of Karnataka had not made any commitment on regulated flow of water and unless the actual data is observed for three years, NHPC has further intimated that the project being unviable with present scenario, it has been decided to close the project.

[English]

Cooperative Credit

6175. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a number of Committees for revitalization of Co-operative Banks in the country;

(b) if so, whether reports have been submitted by the concerned Committees;

(c) if so, details of recommendations made therein;

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) whether Task Force headed by Jagdish Kapoor recommended for ending of dual control, one by State Government and another by RBI/NABARD on co-operative banks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The key Committees have been 'Task Force to study the functioning of co-operative credit system and suggest measures for its strengthening' (Kapoor Committee-1999), 'Joint Committee on revitalization support to co-operative credit structure' (Vikhe Patil Committee-2001) and A Task Force on 'Revival of co-operative Credit Institutions' (Prof. A. Vaidyanathan Committee-August, 2004). All these committees have submitted their reports.

(c) Gist of the recommendations made by the various committees are as under:—

(i) removal of State Government's intervention in administration and financial matters;

(ii) ensuring full voting rights on all users of financial services including deposits;

(iii) Permitting co-operatives registered under parallel Acts (in States applicable) to be

members of co-operatives registered under the Co-operative Societies Act and vice versa;

- (iv) limiting the exercise of powers of the State Governments to supersede Boards;
- (v) bringing co-operative banks at par with commercial banks in terms of prudent financial regulations;
- (vi) prescribing capital adequacy norms for co-operative banks; and
- (vii) prohibiting any co-operative other than co-operative bank from accepting public deposits from any person other than its members.

(d) to (f) The Task Force set up under the Chairmanship of Jagdish Kapoor had recommended for ending of dual control. Simultaneously, the necessity of making necessary legal provisions to tighten the control of RBI and to remove the duality of control over Co-operative Banks were also felt by the Central Government. Accordingly, Banking Regulation (Amendment) and Misc. Provisions Bill 2003 was prepared and recommendations of Jagdish Kapoor Committee were suitably incorporated while preparing the Bill. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha. However, the Bill lapsed consequent to the dissolution of the 13th Lok Sabha.

Kelkar Committee

6176. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations of Shri Vijay Kelkar Committee which are accepted and likely to be implemented by the Union Government; and

(b) reasons for non-accepted ones, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) There were four Reports which were submitted by separately constituted Kelkar Committees/Task Forces relating to Ministry of Finance namely, the Task Force on Direct Taxes, the Task Force on Indirect Taxes, Task Force on Implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility and

Budget Management Act, 2003 and Report of the Committee on Restructuring of Ministry of Finance. The question does not specifically mention which of the Kelkar Committee reports is being referred to. However, as far as Kelkar Committee Reports on Indirect Taxes and Direct Taxes are concerned, the broad recommendations of these Task Forces which are accepted and likely to be implemented by the Union Government and reasons for non-accepted ones are contained in the enclosed as statement.

The details of the reports relating to Task Force on Implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 and the Committee on Restructuring of Ministry of Finance are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Central Board of Direct Taxes

(a) The following proposals of the Kelkar Committee on Direct Taxes have been accepted.

(i) Vide Finance Act, 2003, the following amendments have been made:—

- (1) Block Assessment procedure in search and seizure cases has been abolished;
- (2) It has been provided that stocks found during the course of search and seizure operation may only be inventorized and not seized;
- (3) It has been provided that surveys u/s 133A shall be authorized only by Jt. Commissioners and above;
- (4) Books of Account impounded during a survey operation shall not be retained beyond ten days;
- (5) The system of obtaining a Tax Clearance Certificate before leaving the country and by the contractors has been abolished; and

(6) Dividend tax has been exempt in the hands of shareholders.

(ii) Vide Finance (No. 2) Act, 2004, the following amendments have been made:—

(1) It has been provided that an Annual Information Return (AIR) shall be furnished by assessees or certain Government agencies, in respect of such specified financial transactions which are recorded or registered by him on or after the 1st day of April, 2004; and

(2) It has been provided that long term capital gains arising from transfer of an eligible equity share in a company purchased on or after the 1st day of March, 2003 and before the 1st day of March, 2004, and held for a period of 12 months or more, shall be exempt from tax.

(iii) Vide Finance Bill, 2005, the following amendments have been proposed:—

(1) Withdrawal of standard deduction;

(2) Withdrawal of rebate u/s 88, 88B and 88C;

(3) Reduction of corporate tax rate to 30%;

(4) Reduction of depreciation rate to 15%;

(5) Tax rate for firms to be reduced to 30%;

(6) Withdrawal of deduction u/s 80L; and

(7) Increase in basic exemption limit to Rs. 1 lakh, and to Rs. 1,85,000/- for senior citizens and to Rs. 1,35,000/- for women.

(b) The following proposals of the Kelkar Committee on Direct Taxes have not been accepted:—

(i) Personal income tax:—

(1) Two slabs of income i.e., 1-4 lakhs and above four lakhs with 20% and 30% of tax rate respectively;

(2) Surcharge to be withdrawn;

(3) Existing deduction of Rs. 10,000/- on investment in pension/equity schemes of LIC and other insurance companies to be converted into rebate. The investment amount should be raised to Rs. 20,000/-;

(4) Deduction under sections 80D (medical insurance premium), 80E (education loan) and 80G (donation to charities), to be available as rebate at the rate of 20%. Section 80DDB (treatment of special diseases) to be available for senior citizens only at the rate of 20% rebate; and

(5) Savings incentives u/s 10 relating to interest on post office deposits, relief bonds, public sector bonds, employee scheme etc., may be withdrawn.

Reasons for not accepting: The personal income tax components such as income slabs, tax rates, surcharge, deductions and exemptions are examined as a package and keeping in view the revenue gain/loss and rationalization of personal income tax provisions in mind, the above proposals were not accepted.

(ii) Corporate income tax:—

(1) Exemption/deduction u/s 10A (industries in Free Trade Zones etc.), 10B (100% EOU), 80-IA (infrastructure development providers), 80-IB (Backward areas, scientific projects etc.), 80JJA (power generation through bio-degradable waste) and 80JJAA (employment of new workmen) to be removed with immediate effect and not by any sun-set clause;

(2) Minimum Alternative Tax to be withdrawn;

(3) Withdrawal of incentives u/s 33AB (Tea Development Account), 33AC (Shipping Business), 35 (Scientific R and D), 35AC (Projects by NGOs);

(4) Provisioning for NPAs to be allowed as deduction; and

(5) No dividend tax in the hands of corporates.

Reasons for not accepting: The corporate income tax components such as tax rates, surcharge, deductions and exemptions are examined as a package and keeping in view the revenue gain/loss and rationalization of corporate income tax provisions in mind, the above proposals were not accepted.

(iii) Other tax issues:—

(1) Taxation of agricultural income—the Constitution does not permit the Central Government to levy tax on agricultural income as agricultural income is a State subject;

(2) Section 80P may be omitted—Section 80P provides for 100% exemption of income of cooperative societies from banking, credit facilities, cottage industries, market of agricultural produce, pisciculture, milk, fruits and vegetables etc. This is a very sensitive sector where withdrawal of any benefit may be viewed adversely particularly in the case of village based cooperative societies and hence not accepted;

(3) Interest on borrowing for self-occupied property to be available for Rs. 50,000/- only as against the present limit of Rs. 1,50,000/- not accepted as there are substantial number of cases claiming deduction of an amount upto Rs. 1,50,000/- and this provision gives boost to housing sector;

(4) Wealth tax may be abolished—not accepted as it would be seen as giving benefit to the people in the higher strata of the society;

(5) Long term capital gains on other assets (other than equity shares) to be aggregated with other income and subject to normal rate of taxation—not accepted as there may not be a need for concessional tax rate as the benefit of indexation to long term capital gains exists;

(6) Deduction u/s 80G to be converted to a tax rebate at the rate of 20%—not accepted as this may result in drying up of source of funds to charitable institutions eligible for 100% deduction;

(7) No quantitative ceiling on donations for charities u/s 80G—not accepted as there are instances of misuse of the provision;

(8) Exemptions u/s 10(21), 10(23B), 10(23C) (iiab) to (via) and 10(29A) may be merged with sections 11 to 13—not accepted as the provisions of sections 10(21), 10(23B), 10(23C) (iiab) to (via) and 10(29A) are not identical with sections 11 to 13; and

(9) PAN should be extended to cover all citizens—not accepted as this is not a practical suggestion as the total tax base is about 3% of the total population and is not likely to go beyond 10-15% over the next ten years.

Central Board of Excise and Customs

Central Excise and Service Tax:

Recommendation	Comments
1	2
Multiplicity of taxes should be avoided. There should be only one levy, i.e. CENVAT.	The difficulty in implementing this is because of cesses where the funds are meant exclusively for the Union.

1

2

A two tier excise duty structure of 6% and 14% to be prescribed in the long run.

The tax base should be widened to improve the tax to GDP ratio. As a policy all exemptions must be removed and we should move to a budgetary mechanism for giving the same relief.

Petroleum Sector

- For HSD and Motor Spirit specific rates may be prescribed with quarterly review.
- Duty on Kerosene may be raised by Rs. 1/litre. Additional duty of Rs. 1/litre to be imposed on Light Diesel Oil (LDO)

Textile Sector

- Uniform duty of 16% on fibers and yarn (including on cotton yarn). Duty on Polyester filament yarn to be brought down to 14% in four installments, i.e., 28% in 2003-04, 24% in 2004-05, 20% in 2005-06 and 14% in 2006-07.
- Uniform duty on unprocessed fabrics (knitted or woven) at 12% till 2004-05.
- All exemption other than on hand weaving, hand processing, khadi, polyvastra, jute products, synthetic fabrics manufactured from shoddy yarn and consumed captively, may be removed.
- Excise duty on coated and bonded fabrics should be at 16%
- Deemed credit scheme to be withdrawn
- 12% duty to be maintained on ready made garments and SSI exemption to be removed.

Small Scale Exemption

- Duty exemption limit should be based on the value of total (including exempted but excluding export clearances) clearances.

A 3-tier duty excise structure of 8%, 16% and 24% has been brought into effect. Excise duty on polyester filament yarn, air conditioners and tyres has been reduced from 24% to 16% in this year's budget 2005-06.

The exemptions are being withdrawn as far as possible.

- A combination of ad valorem cum specific rates has been prescribed.
- Excise duty on LDO has been increased to 16% + Rs. 2.50/ltr. Credit of duty paid on LDO is also not allowed.

- In budget 2004-05, Cenvat scheme for textiles has been made optional. There is a mandatory duty only on man made fibres (artificial and synthetic staple fibres and filament yarns). Except for these duties, textile goods (yarn, Fabrics, garment, articles of chapter 50 to 63) have been fully exempted from excise duty, if no credit of input duties is taken under the Cenvat Credit Rules.

- Accepted. The aggregate value of clearances for determining eligibility limit now includes exempted clearances except exports.

1

- Full exemption limit should be gradually brought down from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 50 lakhs by 2005-06, i.e., Rs. 1 crore to continue in 2003-04 and Rs. 75 lakhs in 2004-05 and Rs. 50 lakhs in 2005-06.

Service Tax

- Service tax should be levied on all services except for a negative list.
- Extension of CENVAT and service tax credit to all services.
- Rate of services tax should be enhanced in view of extension of credit. There should be two rates one for those who avail credit and the other for those who do not.
- Value of services upto Rs. 10 lakhs to pay tax at 1%.
- Classification of services to be based on WTO classification

Customs:

- Multiplicity of levies should be reduced. There should be only 3 levies namely, basic customs duty, CVD and anti-dumping duty.
- Removal of SAD should be linked to implementation of State VAT.

2

- Full exemption limit continues at Rs. 1 crore.
- Accepted in principle.
- Credit has been extended across all services. In budget 2004-05, a provision has been made in the Finance Bill for allowing credit of service tax and Cenvat across goods and services.
- Service tax rate has been enhanced to 10%. Different rates, however, were not accepted.
- Small taxable service providers have been exempted upto a turnover limit of Rs. 4 lakhs in a year, provided the value of taxable services did not exceed Rs. 4 lakhs in the previous year.
- A classification scheme has been announced. However, presently only specified services are under tax net. Therefore, it was decided to defer adoption of all encompassing WTO classification.
- Accepted in principle.
- SAD has been abolished. However, enabling power has been taken to levy an additional duty of customs not exceeding 4% on all imported items, so as to counterbalance various internal taxes. To begin with, this additional duty will be charged only on imports of ITA (Information Technology Agreement) bound items and on their inputs/raw materials.

1

2

A Four-tier customs duty structure of:—

- 5% (for basic raw materials)
- 8% (for intermediates used for further manufacture)
- 10% (for finished goods other than consumer goods) and
- 20% for consumer durables.

The tax base should be widened to improve the tax to GDP ratio and improve tax administration. As a policy all exemptions must be removed except in case of:—

- life saving goods,
- goods of security and strategic nature,
- goods for relief and charitable

Peak rate has been reduced to 15% Peak rate of customs duty for metals has been reduced to 10%. This is a continuous process, and will be done taking into account the revenue needs and the need to protect domestic industry.

Exemptions are being removed as far as possible. As a policy, end-use based and sector-specific exemptions are avoided.

Purposes and international obligations.

3. However, there is also a tax force on implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003, headed by Dr. V.L. Kelkar, which submitted its report in July 2004. The broad recommendations contained in the said Report, to the extent pertaining to customs and excise tariffs and service tax are concerned, *include* the following:—

Tax Reforms

- *Widening the tax base.* Expanding the tax base, rather than increasing rates, is the preferred strategy. This involves removing exemptions and broadening the scope of the tax system to bring within its fold economic activities which are presently exempted.
- *Few rates; Low rates.* A rational tax system is one with very few rates and low rates. It is particularly important to have very few rates in the area of indirect taxes. The goal of a rational tax system is to *empower households* to engage in undistorted decision making, driven by market forces.

- *Enhancing equity of the tax system.* Reform of the tax system should further both vertical and horizontal equity.
- *Sift to non-distortionary consumption taxes to increase efficiency in production and enhance international competitiveness of Indian goods and services.* The destination-based VAT on all goods and services is the best method of eliminating distortions and taxing consumption.
- Focus on buoyancy rather than immediate sources of tax revenue.

Goods and Services Tax

- VAT principle should be comprehensively used to tax the consumption of almost all goods and services in the economy.
- The Task Force has proposed a 'grand bargain' whereby States will have the power to tax all services concurrently with the Centre. Consequently, both central and state government would exercise concurrent but independent jurisdiction over common or

almost common tax bases extending over all goods and services, and in both cases, going upto the final consumer. At the same time, both Centre and States would be required—under the proposed grand bargain—to abide by certain principles.

Petroleum products

- Ad valorem rates of excise duties to petroleum products should be converted into specific rates.

Small Scale Sector

- Threshold exemption limit for small scale industries should be reduced from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 40 lakh. This threshold exemption limit should be based on the value of total clearances (including exempted but excluding export clearances).
- In respect of clearances between Rs. 40 lakh and Rs. 1 crore, they should have an option to pay duty @ 4% without credit for integrated GST paid on inputs, or at the standard GST rate and claim credit for GST paid on inputs.

Location based exemptions

- The area based exemption should be grandfathered to units already established.
- Deemed input credit on purchases from exempt areas should be withdrawn.

Countervailing duties (CVD) on imports

- CVD should be replaced by a separate two part levy on imports: the first part should reflect the proposed Central GST and the second part must reflect the State level GST.
- All imports should be charged to the proposed Central GST and State GST at identically the same rate applicable to consumption of domestic goods. There should be no exemption on the ground that the goods are not being produced domestically.

- Since refund of input taxes in the nature of GST embedded in the exports would be processed as part of the normal assessment of the taxpayers' return, scope of duty drawback scheme should be restricted to basic customs duties.

Customs duty

- Basic customs duty should be sharply reduced to a three rate structure of:—
 - 5%—applicable to basic raw materials like coal, ores and concentrates, xylenes etc.
 - 8%—applicable to intermediates goods which will be used for future manufacture (capital goods, basic chemicals, metals etc.), and
 - 10%—applicable to finished goods other than consumer durables.

The rates of duty applicable to most commodities must fall within this 5 to 10 per cent range.

- However, consumer durables may be taxed at a higher rate of 20%, motor vehicles at 50%, and specified agricultural products and demerit goods at 150%.
- The rates of duty on crude oil and petroleum products should be reduced to 5% and 10% respectively.
- All exemption must be eliminated except those relating to:—
 - Life-saving goods.
 - Goods of security and strategic interest.
 - Goods for relief and charitable purposes.
 - International obligations including contracts.
- The DEPB scheme should be merged with the duty-drawback scheme.

4. The Government has implemented these recommendations to the extent already indicated in para 2 above. tax reforms are an ongoing/continuous process. Government consults all the interested segments including industry, trade, administrative Ministries and the field formations, besides taking into account the recommendations in the Kelkar Committee and other relevant reports, before deciding on customs and excise tariffs and the service tax to be made applicable for other commodities/services. In any case, FM has already spelt out the broad policy in respect of indirect taxation in budget 2004-05 speech as follows:—

- (i) India's customs tariff structure to be aligned with those of ASEAN countries.
- (ii) Eventually, there should be a uniform rate of tax on goods and services.
- (iii) The most important goods in the manufacturing sector must therefore bear an excise duty of 16 per cent.
- (iv) Customs tariffs and excise duties are inter-related. While considering the tax regime for any sector, one must look at both customs duties and excise duties applicable to that sector.

Subansiri Hydro Power Project

6177. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has requested the Union Government to review the Subansiri Hydro Power Project which is under construction;

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

(c) the progress made in implementation of the project so far?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Government of Assam have requested the Union Government for giving preference

in allocation of power from the project. Government of Assam have also requested Union Government for allocation of a certain percentage of free power and for advising National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) to execute a memorandum of Understanding, in respect of Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (2000 MW).

(c) Approval of the Government of India was conveyed on 9-9-2003 for implementation of the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (2000 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh in the Central sector by NHPC. The project is scheduled for commissioning in September 2010. Contracts for major civil and electro-mechanical works have been awarded by NHPC and the contractors have mobilized their manpower and equipments.

Smuggling of Cardamom

6178. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the cardamom from Guatemala is being smuggled into India through Nepal and Calcutta Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases booked during each of the last three years, till date;

(d) the number of persons arrested in this connection;

(e) the action taken against them; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Sir, the Customs field formations including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have effected seizures of cardamom while being smuggled from Nepal. These cardamom might be of Guatemala origin or of Malaysian or Indonesian origin imported into Nepal under CTD (Customs Transit Document) procedure or diverted into India enroute to Nepal. The details of seizure of cardamom during last three years are as under:—

Year	No. of cases booked	Quantity (in Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of person arrested	Action taken
2002-2003	116	2616.50	1.51	—	—
2003-2004	248	9589.00	5.42	2	Prosecution Launched
2004-2005	182	11513.50	15.64	6	—do—
2005-2006	5	323.00	.01	—	—

(f) All Customs field formations including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband items including Cardamom.

[Translation]

Inspection of Registered Companies

6179. SHRI ATIQ AHMAD:

SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of the 6,52,000 companies operating in the country, inspection of not even one per cent of the companies is being carried out;

(b) if so, the reasons for casual approach of the Government towards inspection; and

(c) the fresh steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to augment the strength of Indian Company Law Service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA):

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government takes the function of inspection as provided under the Companies Act, 1956 with due seriousness. The inspection function of the Ministry has been geared up by drawing up a framework for regular inspections by all the available inspecting staff. timely completion of the inspections already taken

up and proper follow up, for prosecution of violations/contraventions of the law.

(c) The Cadre Review of the Indian Company Law Service (ICLS) is in process.

[English]

Displaced of Kanniha Power Project

6180. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has set up a thermal power project at Kanniha near Talcher in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of people displaced due to setting up of this project;

(c) whether these people have been given suitable compensation and rehabilitation;

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

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) 144 number of homesteads were displaced due to the setting up of the plant. All the entitled persons have been paid compensation as decided by the Government of Orissa. Further, all the 144 homesteads have also been resettled in line with

the Rehabilitation Action Plan (RAP) drawn for Talcher Kaniha Project. The Resettlement and Rehabilitation benefits include:—

- (i) Transport grant for shifting of house/household items (Rs. 4,000/- per family).
- (ii) Construction assistance and housing plots worth Rs. 26,000/- per family.
- (iii) Purchase of agricultural land worth Rs. 50,000/- per family/Shop Allotment with seed money of Rs. 30,000/-/Self employment with Rs. 50,000/-/Cash Deposit of Rs. 50,000/-/Regular Jobs in National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) subject to suitability and vacancy or Employment with agencies.

[Translation]

Power from Waste

6181. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that energy generation from garbage has become ineffective as appeared in the "Dainik Jagran" dated April 12, 2005;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The news item refers to the potential and progress made in the country in the area of energy recovery from urban and industrial wastes. The progress in energy recovery from municipal solid wastes, in particular, has been slow mainly on account of the problems of collection and segregation of wastes by the municipal corporations; high capital cost of the projects; and, lack of financing, project development capabilities, conducive policies and attractive tariffs for the power generated from these projects.

(c) A National Master Plan is being finalized to tap the available potential in a time bound manner. A National Conference was organized to discuss various aspects of energy generation from municipal solid wastes. The States and Municipal Corporations have been requested to provide greater thrust to the development of these projects, which could be supported by the Ministry. An information package is also being prepared to provide detailed information about the potential, technologies, costs and economics.

[English]

Recommendations of NCAER

6182. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has submitted a report to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, containing suggestions and ways and means for enabling power consumers to select power distribution company of their choice and also to generate more competition among power suppliers;

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

(c) whether as per the recommendations of NCAER the ordinary households consuming less than 1 MW will also be given choice to select their power supplier?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) had commissioned the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) for preparation of a Consultation Paper on "Introducing competition in generation of Electricity" in the month of May, 2004. NCAER has submitted a draft paper on the subject to the CERC.

The draft report of NCAER deals with the issue of choice to select power supplier by consumers. It also refers to sub-section (2) of Section 42 of the Electricity Act, 2003 which provides for open access to distribution networks to all consumers of 1 MW and above within a limit of 5 years.

Expansion of Insurance Coverage

6183. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for expansion of insurance coverage in rural areas through cooperatives; and

(b) the number of persons/groups likely to be benefited through insurance coverage in rural areas of the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The

steps taken by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) for expansion of insurance coverage, inter-alia, include launching of an awareness campaign through all India Radio and Doordarshan, tie-up arrangements with co-operatives for bringing more rural people under insurance coverage, permitting the co-operatives to earn commission/referral fees on the insurance business procured by them, encouraging NGOs and e-choupals to sell insurance products in the rural markets etc. The details of premium underwritten by the life and non-life insurers in rural areas upto February 2005, as furnished by IRDA, is given below:—

Insurers	Premium (in Rs. crs.)	No of Policies	Premium-rural sector (in Rs. crs.)	Policies- rural sector	%age premium rural sector	%age policies rural sector
Life	17262	18728562	1459	4067225	8.45	21.72
Non-life	15841	45998134	1041	4288558	6.57	9.32

National Conference of Investors Associations

6184. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Investors Associations organized a National Conference in Mumbai in March, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith number of officials of Ministry and SEBI attended the Conference;

(c) whether the Government has received Charter of Demands of Small Investors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA):

(a) and (b) The Investor's Grievances Forum, one of the

organisations, registered with the Investor Education and Protection Fund, organized the third National Conference of Small Investors' Associations/Small Investors', in Mumbai, on 22nd-23rd March, 2005 with the objectives:—

- (i) to increase the depth and width of Indian Capital Market;
- (ii) to reach target of two crores demat accounts by 2010;
- (iii) capacity building among small investors;
- (iv) investor Education and Awareness campaign; and
- (v) wealth creation by channelising the household savings into financial instruments and in the Capital Market.

An officer from the Ministry of Company Affairs and three officials from SEBI attended the Conference.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are enclosed as statement.

(e) The Charter of Demands is under examination in the Ministry.

Statement

The Charter of Demands submitted by the Small Investors, Activists and Associations to regulators like SEBI, DCA, RBI, Finance and Company Affairs Ministries, to the Stock Exchanges, AMFI, Business Associations

- (i) Fixing Parameter for Small Investors
- (ii) Involvement of Small Investors in Decision making process
- (iii) Household Savings-Investment in Financial Instruments
- (iv) Stock Exchanges are required to be made more Small Investor friendly
- (v) Demat System
- (vi) Healthy network needed to be developed in depositories
- (vii) Judiciary-Ombudsman
- (viii) Regulatory Reforms
- (ix) Valuation of listed, unlisted Companies
- (x) IPOs
- (xi) Corporate Governance
- (xii) Grievances Redressal Mechanism
- (xiii) Investors' Education and Awareness

**Liquidation of Samasta Nagar
Cooperative Bank**

6185. SHRI SURESH G. WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress towards the liquidation of Samasta Nagar Cooperative Bank of Mumbai;

(b) whether RBI has issued instructions in the year 2004 regarding repayment to the depositors;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the present status of the bank;

(e) the steps being taken by RBI to protect small depositors;

(f) the reasons for delay in liquidation process; and

(g) the steps being planned to repay the small investors/depositors upto Rs. 1 lakh through Depository Insurance Regulatory Corporation/RBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Licence of the Samasta Nagar Co-operative Bank Limited (SNCL), Mumbai has been cancelled on September 9, 2004 and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Maharashtra State, Pune has appointed a Liquidator. Meanwhile, the former directors of SNCL have filed an appeal before the Appellate Authority under Section 22(5) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949(AACS) stating that they are exploring the possibility of merger of SNCL with another sound Co-operative bank.

(b) and (c) The liquidator appointed for liquidation of SNCL has to submit a claim list of depositors to the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) for repayment to the depositors. DICGC settles the claims on receipt of the claim list from the liquidator of the concerned bank.

(d) Licence of the SNCL has been cancelled by RBI and the bank has been prohibited from carrying on banking business.

(e) The steps to protect the small depositors have already been taken as the Liquidator has been appointed, who has to submit claim list to the DICGC for settlement.

(f) The Liquidator appointed for SNCL has to dispose off the assets for realizing the bank's dues by resorting to legal action under different Statutes that govern the recovery process, which is a time consuming exercise.

(g) The process of appointing a Chartered Accountant to certify the claim list prepared by the Liquidator has been initiated. Settlement of claims by DICGC protects the small depositors upto a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh per depositor.

Non-Payment of Service Tax

6186. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that certain couriers and advertising agencies do not deposit the service tax in Government kitty despite its collection from consumers;

(b) if so, whether such companies have been identified during the period 2000-01 to 31-3-2005; and

(c) the details thereof and punishment/action taken by the Government against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the said period about 25 Courier Agencies and 43 Advertising Agencies have been identified. Action as contemplated in law has been initiated against the erring companies.

[Translation]

Market Share of Insurance Companies

6187. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the market share of private insurance companies is constantly increasing in comparison to public sector insurance companies;

(b) if not, the market share of private insurance companies at the end of financial year 2004-05;

(c) whether the constant fall in business of public sector insurance companies is being recorded; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The market share of private insurance companies is increasing after opening up of the insurance sector. During 2004-05, the market share of non life private insurers was 19.65% (provisional) whereas upto February 2005, the share of private life insurers was 22.12% in the total first year premium.

(c) and (d) With the liberalisation of insurance sector and entry of private players, it was expected that the market share of public sector companies would decrease. Accordingly, the share of the public sector insurers has decreased though the companies have recorded an increase in the overall volume of business underwritten by them. The public sector general insurance companies have recorded a business growth of 5.53% in 2004-05. The Life Insurance Corporation of India has recorded a growth of 18.22% in the first year premium upto February, 2005. The Public Sector Insurance companies are board run companies and their business performances are monitored by their boards.

[English]

PMGSY

6188. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise total km. of road, already constructed under PMGSY and future plan thereof;

(b) whether new roads are adopted without completion of the total length of the roads taken up earlier as phase I in Assam;

(c) if so, the details thereof showing the list of such roads and likely time to complete the entire roads length as originally planned;

(d) the action taken to fund repair of the road damaged;

(e) the change of criteria, if any on selection of road and implementation;

(f) whether consideration of MP's recommendation is mandatory; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The total length of roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) upto 31st March, 2005 is about 65,922 kms. The State-wise details are enclosed in the statement. Under the Guidelines of PMGSY, States are required to make Annual proposals which are cleared after consideration by an Empowered Committee. Proposals for each year are cleared after taking into account the progress made in respect of works of earlier years and executional capacity. The details of length of on-going works are given in the statement. Road works are required to be completed within 9 working months.

(d) Under the PMGSY, maintenance and repair of

roads is the responsibility of the State Governments since rural roads is a State subject.

(e) The primary objective of PMGSY to provide all-weather connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations. In order to ensure full farm-to-market connectivity, guidelines now provide that where an existing rural Through Route associated with a proposed new link road is in poor condition, it may be taken up for upgradation alongwith the new connectivity work.

(f) and (g) As per the PMGSY Guidelines, Lok Sabha Members are consulted in respect of their Constituencies and Rajya Sabha Members in respect of that district of the State they represent for which they have been nominated as Vice-Chairman of the District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee of the Ministry of Rural Development. While preparing Annual proposals for road works, the proposals of Members of Parliament are to be given full consideration. The District Panchayat must record the reason in each case of inclusion/non-inclusion of a proposal and the Member of Parliament should be informed accordingly.

Statement

State-wise details of road length completed under PMGSY Phase-I (2000-01) to Phase-V (2005-06)

Name of the States	Length of roads completed (in kms.)	Length of roads cleared but not yet completed (in kms.)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	6821.00	2293.52
Arunachal Pradesh	1012.57	758.02
Assam	803.29	1522.75
Bihar	706.61	2252.75
Chhattisgarh	2584.67	3941.77

1	2	3
Goa	156.86	21.30
Gujarat	1708.65	805.23
Haryana	725.35	488.23
Himachal Pradesh	1305.00	3889.27
Jammu and Kashmir	66.05	569.22
Jharkhand	1711.90	1171.07
Karnataka	4118.79	1323.51
Kerala	275.41	404.57
Madhya Pradesh	6882.88	8512.96
Maharashtra	2899.90	2246.94
Manipur	72.95	637.69
Meghalaya	586.84	224.59
Mizoram	705.40	327.10
Nagaland	1218.11	388.18
Orissa	2894.42	3523.50
Punjab	704.41	578.37
Rajasthan	10327.95	6001.14
Sikkim	1267.31	321.90
Tamil Nadu	2467.01	1729.88
Tripura	433.47	267.13
Uttar Pradesh	11071.40	10342.71
Uttaranchal	409.46	817.93
West Bengal	1984.99	2973.04
Total	65922.65	58133.60

Hedging of Commodities

6189. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI proposes to relax the rules on companies hedging their commodity positions in international markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RBI has set up a committee on the foreign exchange market; and

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations so far accepted by the Government?

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 to the extent available.

Loan to Rural Poor

6190. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that policies of banks

towards rural people are not responsive and is totally rural neglect;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to Union Rural Development Minister's statement in Dakshin Kannada in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In order to augment the credit flow to rural area, the Government announced a credit package on 18th June, 2004 mainly with a view to:—

(i) doubling of credit flow to agriculture within 3 years;

(ii) financing 50 lakh new farmers during 2004-05;

(iii) providing debt relief to farmers in distress and arrears and one time settlement for small and marginal farmers; and

(iv) extending financial assistance to provide relief from indebtedness from non-institutional sources (e.g. Private Money lenders).

The following figures of credit disbursement show positive growth in credit to agriculture sector:—

(Rs. in crores)

Agency	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Co-operative Banks	23636	26875	30638
Regional Rural Banks	6070	7581	11718
Commercial Banks	39774	52441	72886
Other Agencies	80	84	—
Total	69560	86981	115242
	(12.1%)	(25.0%)	(32.9%)

(Figures in Brackets indicate percentage Growth over previous year)

(c) and (d) Attention of the Government has been drawn on performance of some bank branches regarding Swaranajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and rate of interest. The Government has advised the CMDs of all Public Sector Banks and Chairmen of Regional Rural Banks to ensure that the targets under SGSY are fulfilled and stern action is taken against the non-performing branches. As the interest rates on loans by Banks have been deregulated, they have been charging rates of interest keeping in mind their cost of funds, risk premium, cost of intermediation etc. However, the interest rate policy of the Reserve Bank of India provides that interest rates on loan upto Rs. 2 lakh by Commercial Banks should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate.

Monitoring of Urban Co-operative Banks

6191. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had taken stringent measures to closely monitor the operations of Urban co-operative banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the RBI had conducted an inspection of the Bangalore Souhardha Central Co-operative Bank last month and discovered NPA exceeding the mandatory limit of 10 per cent of the deposits to the extent of 48 per cent;

(d) whether the RBI had conducted such inspection/audit of the bank earlier than January, 2005; and

(e) if so, when the work was done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) During the calendar year 2004, RBI had cancelled license of 46 Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs). Further, the RBI is continuously seeking to improve its supervisory mechanism and also consolidate the prudential regulatory framework with a view to building a sound UCB sector. Reserve Bank of India has taken certain

measures to closely monitor the operations of the UCBs:—

- (i) Ban on any type of loans and advances to director and their relatives from 1st October, 2003.
- (ii) The UCBs that were hitherto classified as weak and/or sick are now assigned a grade i.e. Grade-III and Grade-IV. Higher the grade, higher the level of supervisory concern.
- (iii) UCBs have been advised to indulge at least two Directors with professional qualification/background in banking related fields with a view to bring in better corporate governance practices.
- (iv) The UCBs have been advised to refrain from increasing their exposure to sensitive sector like real estate and stock market.

(c) to (e) RBI conducted the inspection of the bank in September, 2004 with particular reference to bank financial position as on June 30, 2004. One of the major irregularities was that the gross Non Performing Assets were Rs. 4653.64 lakh which formed 47.1% and net NPAs were Rs. 3493.04 lakh which forms 40.1% of loans and advances.

Release of Funds under NSAP

6192. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Old Age Pension Scheme and National Family Benefit Scheme are being operated by the Government for poor people under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP);

(b) if so, the amount allocated to various States including Bihar during the last three years and the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the amount allocated for the said schemes has been spent on some other works in Bihar;

(d) whether the target fixed for Bihar and other States have been achieved and the amount surrendered by the said States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development had been administering the Centrally Sponsored National Social Assistance Programme consisting of National Old Age Pension Scheme and the National Family Benefit Scheme until the Programme was transferred to the State Plan alongwith the Annapurna Scheme with effect from the financial year 2002-03. After the transfer of the schemes the total allocation for the transferred schemes is decided by the Planning Commission. The funds are being released by the Ministry of Finance/Ministry of Home Affairs as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States/UTs in accordance with the allocation made by the Planning Commission to States/UTs to augment their efforts in this regard. The States/UTs have requisite flexibility in the choice and implementation of the Schemes. The Ministry of Rural Development has no Budget Provision for the transferred Schemes.

(b) The details of amount of ACA allocated to the States under National Social Assistance Programme including Annapurna during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are enclosed as statement.

(c) No such report has been received by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(d) and (e) The ACA is a combined allocation for NSAP and Annapurna. The ACA provided to the States/UTs under NSAP and Annapurna could be utilized by the States/UTs on Welfare Schemes of Old Age Pension, Family Benefit or free foodgrains to the aged by taking up one or two or all of the three or in any other combination in accordance with their own priorities and needs. Thus, after the transfer of the schemes, the schemes, targets and coverage are determined by the State Governments. The Government of Bihar has reported that an amount of Rs. 4.40 lakhs under NFBS and Rs. 475.94 lakhs under NOAPS was surrendered during the year 2002-03 and Rs. 99.07 lakhs was surrendered under NOAPS during 2003-04. The Government of Jharkhand has also reported that an amount of Rs. 27.46 lakhs and Rs. 216.30 lakhs has been surrendered under the NSAP during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

Statement

State-wise Allocation under National Social Assistance Programme including Annapurna

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Combined Allocation		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6541.26	6540.02	6742.62
2.	Bihar	6227.38	6226.20	13205.06
3.	Chhattisgarh	2042.80	2042.41	2888.60
4.	Goa	38.70	38.69	66.90

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Gujarat	822.96	822.81	3580.34
6.	Haryana	577.38	577.27	1310.94
7.	Himachal Pradesh	273.38	273.33	546.83
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	378.72	378.65	734.65
9.	Jharkhand	2175.23	2174.82	4612.55
10.	Karnataka	3422.13	3421.49	5204.61
11.	Kerala	1763.32	1762.99	2872.43
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5406.38	5405.35	7644.82
13.	Maharashtra	4932.70	4931.77	10227.84
14.	Orissa	4516.85	4515.99	5896.20
15.	Punjab	487.61	487.51	897.34
16.	Rajasthan	1826.60	1826.26	3771.19
17.	Tamil Nadu	4748.64	4747.74	7038.76
18.	Uttar Pradesh	9866.29	9864.43	19839.69
19.	Uttaranchal	608.45	608.34	1223.52
20.	West Bengal	4145.73	4154.94	7988.73
Sub Total		60812.52	60801.01	106293.63
NORTH-EASTERN STATES				
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	256.87	256.83	415.42
22.	Assam	4306.84	4306.00	8217.33
23.	Manipur	431.26	431.20	628.87
24.	Meghalaya	466.79	466.72	684.66
25.	Mizoram	131.62	131.60	195.83
26.	Nagaland	325.60	325.55	446.99

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Sikkim	127.06	127.04	190.68
28.	Tripura	754.16	754.05	1119.23
Sub Total		6800.00	6798.99	11899.00
Grand Total		67612.52	67600.00	118192.63

Stamp Papers

6193. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people coming from far off places to Delhi are facing great problem in procuring stamp papers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for non-availability of stamp paper freely without any problem; and

(d) the steps the Government proposes to take to encounter this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. There are 234 Stamp Vendors who have been authorized to sell Stamp Paper upto a value of Rs. 500/- to public. For Stamp Paper for a value of more than Rs. 500/-, cash is to be deposited in any of the nine branches of State Bank of India located at different parts of Delhi through Treasury Challan. The Stamp papers are supplied on the following day.

The proposal for decentralization and opening of Treasury in nine districts of Delhi is included in the 10th Five Year Plan of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Technical Grant-in-Aid

6194. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any technical grant-in-aid is being received from Asian Development Bank for the Development of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the amount received as grant-in-aid for each town?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

[English]

External Commercial Borrowings

6195. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to relax External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) norms of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the necessities felt for providing such relaxation in the ECB norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) As announced in the Budget 2005-06, a window has been opened to enable qualified NGOs engaged in micro-finance to access the External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) window. Accordingly, NGOs engaged in micro finance activities have been permitted to raise ECB upto USD 5 million during a financial year for permitted end-

use, under the automatic route. Detailed guidelines to operationalise the decision have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

ECB guidelines are reviewed periodically by the Government in consultation with RBI based on current macro-economic situation, challenges faced in external sector management and the experience gained so far in administering ECB policy.

Minimum Support Price of Cotton

6196. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government of Maharashtra and other cotton growing States have approached the Union Government, for seeking assistance for defraying the loss suffered and likely to be suffered this year in procurement of the cotton at the minimum support price under the monopoly procurement system for cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof including action taken in this regard;

(c) the quantum of cotton procured and to be procured this year; and

(d) the minimum support price fixed and the Government's response thereto?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) procures kapas (seed cotton) without any quantitative restrictions. During the current cotton year (October, 2004-September, 2005), till 26-4-2005, the CCI has procured 27.01 lakh bales under support price operations and 0.44 lakh bales under commercial operations.

(d) For the current cotton year 2004-05, the MSP of kapas of Fair Average Quality have been fixed at Rs. 1760/- per quintal for medium staple variety (F-414/J-34/H-777) and Rs. 1960/- per quintal for long staple variety (H-4).

Safe Potable Water in Villages

6197. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prawn culture introduced in the villages along the sea coast of A.P. and other coastal States have played havoc with lives of villages, as the potable drinking water has turned saline, ground water has got contaminated and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) violations have upset the coastal ecology; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to provide potable drinking water to these States affected by prawn culture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Rural drinking water supply is a state subject. Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments through the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for implementation of water supply schemes by the States. 15% of ARWSP grants provided to States can be utilized for tackling water quality problems. With effect from 1-4-1998, the State Governments have been empowered to plan, sanction and implement the water supply schemes by themselves and they need not approach the Central Government for sanction of projects. As per the information available from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, most of the prawn culture affected areas in the coastal region of Andhra Pradesh especially East Godavari, West Godavari and Nellore districts have been covered with Protected Water Supply (PWS) schemes and Comprehensive Protected Water Supply (CPWS) schemes, with safe alternate surface water sources.

[Translation]

Growth Fund

6198. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industries Development

Bank of India proposes to set up a growth fund with an initial amount of Rs. 100 crore which is proposed to be enhanced to Rs. 500 crores later, for the benefit of small scale industries;

(b) if so, the number of sick small scale industries in each State of the country as on date;

(c) the amount of assistance provided to small scale industries from SIDBI and other sources in every State of the country during each of the last three years till date; and

(d) the number of the small scale industries which have been benefited therefrom, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Small and Medium Enterprises Growth Fund (SGF) has been created by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in October, 2004 with the corpus of Rs. 100 crores which will be enhanced to Rs. 500 crores later.

(b) The statement-I showing number of sick small scale industries in each State of the Country as at March 31, 2003 is enclosed.

(c) The State-wise amount of assistance provided to Small Scale Industries from SIDBI and Public Sector Banks as at the end of March, 2001, 2002 and 2003 is enclosed as statement-II.

(d) The State-wise list of number of Small Scale Industry accounts to whom assistance has been provided by SIDBI and Public Sector Banks as at March 31, 2003 is enclosed as statement-III.

Statement-I

The number of Sick Small Scale Industries in each State of the Country as at March 31, 2003

States	Number of sick SSI units
1	2
Haryana	1515

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	618
Jammu and Kashmir	2114
Punjab	3022
Rajasthan	4005
Chandigarh	233
Delhi	1999
Assam	3592
Manipur	1012
Meghalaya	119
Nagaland	154
Tripura	1793
Arunachal Pradesh	15
Mozoram	11
Sikkim	31
Bihar	16479
Jharkhand	2766
Orissa	8489
West Bengal	44496
Andaman and Nicobar	21
Madhya Pradesh	11601
Chhattisgarh	386
Uttar Pradesh	15768
Uttaranchal	467
Gujarat	4723
Maharashtra	4762
Daman and Diu	23

1	2	1	2
Goa	119	Kerala	14133
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12	Tamil Nadu	13517
Andhra Pradesh	6589	Pondicherry	216
Karnataka	3180		

(Data Provisional)

Statement-II

Outstanding Loans and Advances Provided by SIDBI and Public Sector Banks (State-wise) to Small Scale Industries at the end of March 2001, 2002 and 2003

(Rupees in Crores)

States	Amount outstanding as at the end of March		
	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4
Haryana	2064	2253	2347
Himachal Pradesh	251	250	245
Jammu and Kashmir	255	298	221
Punjab	3912	3991	4302
Rajasthan	2173	1996	1987
Chandigarh	319	377	392
Delhi	3967	4287	5084
Assam	280	292	263
Manipur	37	21	22
Meghalaya	25	35	30
Nagaland	23	22	21
Tripura	29	23	35
Arunachal Pradesh	08	08	06

1	2	3	4
Mizoram	10	09	08
Sikkim	07	25	03
Bihar	868	696	623
Jharkhand	318	423	508
Orissa	913	817	767
West Bengal	3249	3545	3704
Andaman and Nicobar	05	05	08
Madhya Pradesh	2037	1703	1490
Chhattisgarh	119	381	477
Uttar Pradesh	4098	4401	4382
Uttaranchal	46	168	332
Gujarat	4069	3638	3524
Maharashtra	10541	14269	11667
Daman and Diu	21	19	12
Goa	257	270	218
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	18	36	24
Andhra Pradesh	3633	3630	4189
Karnataka	3244	4051	3488
Kerala	1789	1952	1865
Tamil Nadu	6147	6154	6856
Pondicherry	48	48	52
Lakshadweep	0.05	0.05	0.1

(Data Provisional)

Statement-III

The State-wise list of number of Small Scale Industry accounts to whom assistance has been provided by SIDBI and Public Sector Banks as at March, 31, 2003

States	Number of SSI units
1	2
Haryana	46048
Himachal Pradesh	17928
Jammu and Kashmir	6897
Punjab	99239
Rajasthan	63906
Chandigarh	3181
Delhi	33371
Assam	22597
Manipur	3341
Meghalaya	2911
Nagaland	2094
Tripura	7573
Arunachal Pradesh	615
Mozoram	953
Sikkim	2586
Bihar	99394
Jharkhand	34564
Orissa	50306
West Bengal	319570
Andaman and Nicobar	488

1	2
Madhya Pradesh	75517
Chhattisgarh	15643
Uttar Pradesh	181228
Uttaranchal	9872
Gujarat	53639
Maharashtra	97643
Daman and Diu	72
Goa	3186
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	146
Andhra Pradesh	111430
Karnataka	69247
Kerala	95032
Tamil Nadu	196682
Pondicherry	1126
Lakshadweep	18

(Data Provisional)

*[English]***Education Loan**

6199. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements have been made to provide bank loans for purposes of getting higher education;

(b) if so, the number of students provided with such loans during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes students of the States amongst the said beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The data generating system of Reserve Bank of India does not provide details of the State-wise and Category-wise information on educational loan. However, the Bank-wise details of number of accounts

and amount sanctioned under educational loan scheme during the last two years, i.e. 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto December, 2004) are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Statement showing the number of accounts and amount sanctioned by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) under educational loan scheme during 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto Dec.-04)

(Rupees in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the Banks	2003-04		2004-05	
		Total Loans sanctioned		Total Loans disbursed	
		No. of A/c	Amount	No. of A/c	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad Bank	3199	38.95	1681	14.95
2.	Andhra Bank	5436	236.35	4548	245.75
3.	Bank of Baroda	4298	118.44	5479	152.70
4.	Bank of India	7329	86.16	7586	87.27
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	1402	30.76	1650	36.46
6.	Canara Bank	13000	158.00	16919	171.00
7.	Central Bank of India	4005	95.18	4342	95.25
8.	Corporation Bank	1782	29.96	1935	30.38
9.	Dena Bank	1030	15.33	1751	23.09
10.	Indian Bank	2881	38.72	7608	93.52
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	5898	141.25	8631	82.74
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2896	50.00	2118	40.00
13.	Punjab National Bank	7287	186.98	7919	204.52
14.	Punjab and Sind Bank	905	27.32	759	22.49
15.	Syndicate Bank	7656	90.55	8551	113.90
16.	Union Bank of India	5016	64.31	5279	113.49

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	United Bank of India	1008	19.09	4266	87.36
18.	UCO Bank	1517	25.05	2153	48.89
19.	Vijaya Bank	2227	31.73	2506	31.85
20.	State Bank of India	16248	364.87	27507	328.51
21.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	1068	19.37	1338	25.40
22.	State Bank of Hyderabad	3428	52.43	3199	54.83
23.	State Bank of Indore	982	22.82	854	21.78
24.	State Bank of Mysore	754	18.41	1590	21.58
25.	State Bank of Patiala	936	19.00	1052	27.00
26.	State Bank of Saurashtra	444	10.38	574	13.43
27.	State Bank of Travancore	5297	80.48	8235	100.73
Total		107829	1982.94	140030	2248.87

Opening up of Pension Sector to Pvt. MNCs

6200. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the time when pension fund would be opened upto private multinationals; and

(b) the likely impact of such privatisation of the sector and particularly on increase in foreign equity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Government proposes to open up pension funds to competing operators, including private operators. The selection of pension funds would be done by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority. No decision has been taken regarding foreign equity participation in the pension sector.

Bank Branches

6201. SHRI RAMKRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are large areas in the country which do not have any banking facility;

(b) whether there are a large number of blocks, particularly, in North-Eastern States and Bihar, where no branches of any commercial banks exist;

(c) the steps proposed to open branches of commercial as well as other banks in these blocks; and

(d) the time by which each block in the country will have at least one branch of a commercial bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The number of branches of Commercial Banks operating in various States/UTs. of the country, including states in the North-Eastern Region and Bihar as on 30-9-2004, as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), are enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) As per the present branch licensing policy of the RBI, it is left to the discretion of the banks

to assess the need for opening bank branches in any area of the country after taking into consideration certain factors such as business potential, viability, infrastructure, security etc. The RBI encourages the Banks opening more branches in rural areas and gives priority to such requests.

Statement

*Number of Branches of Commercial Banks as on
30th September 2004 in Various States/U.Ts.*

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	Number
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	33
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5323
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	66
4.	Assam	1225
5.	Bihar	3568
6.	Chandigarh	193
7.	Chhattisgarh	1043
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12
9.	Daman and Diu	16
10.	Delhi	1586
11.	Goa	335
12.	Gujarat	3676
13.	Haryana	1635
14.	Himachal Pradesh	787
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	850
16.	Jharkhand	1477
17.	Karnataka	4895

1	2	3
18.	Kerala	3459
19.	Lakshadweep	9
20.	Madhya Pradesh	3472
21.	Maharashtra	6400
22.	Manipur	76
23.	Meghalaya	181
24.	Mizoram	78
25.	Nagaland	71
26.	Orissa	2253
27.	Pondicherry	84
28.	Punjab	2667
29.	Rajasthan	3375
30.	Sikkim	50
31.	Tamil Nadu	4790
32.	Tripura	180
33.	Uttar Pradesh	8238
34.	Uttaranchal	871
35.	West Bengal	4475
	All-India	67449

Setting up of Power Projects

6202. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
 SHRI RAJANARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
 SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
 SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
 SHRI TAPIR GAO:
 SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received/cleared/pending for setting up of power projects in private/public sector from the States during the current year till date, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated/proposed to be allocated to each State for the purpose during the said period;

(c) the estimated cost and the power generation capacity of each of such projects; and

(d) the time by which the work on these projects is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (d) As per the Electricity Act, 2003, the requirement of according Techno-economic Clearance by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has been dispensed with for thermal generation. However, any generating company intending to set up a hydro generating station shall prepare and submit to the Authority for its concurrence, a scheme estimated to involve a capital expenditure exceeding such sum, as may be fixed by the Central Government from time to time, by Notification.

Planning Commission has delegated full powers to State Governments for approval of power projects without any ceiling. Clearance from Planning Commission is to be restricted only to those hydro-electric projects where inter-State issues are involved.

Five Hydro Electric Schemes in public sector with an aggregate installed capacity of 1387 MW accorded concurrence by CEA during 2004-05 and current financial year till date. The details regarding project-wise estimated cost, power generation capacity and annual energy generation are enclosed as statement. Commencement of work at Main Plant is subject to investment approval.

Statement

Name of Schemes	Installed Capacity (MW)	Est. Cost (Rs. crore)	Date of DPR received	Date of CEA clearance	Annual Energy Gen. (MU)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chutak, Jammu and Kashmir (NHPC)	4x11=44	655.65 (12/03 Price Level)	1/2004	23-04-2004	216.41
Loharinagpala, Uttaranchal (NTPC)	4x150=600	2471.78 (3/2004 Price Level)	7/2004	11-08-2004	2508
Tapovan Vishnugad, Uttaranchal (NTPC)	4x130=520	2545.53 (3/2004 Price Level)	7/2004	11-08-2004	2558.36

1	2	3	4	5	6
Matnar HEP, Chhattisgarh, State Sector	3x20=60	313.35 (3/2004 Price Level)	7/2004	19-08-2004	177.18
Athirappilly, Kerala, State Sector	2x80+2x1.5=163	385.63 (2004-05 Price Level)	12/2004	31-03-2005	234.33

[Translation]

**EFC Grants for School Building in
Rajasthan**

6203. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned grants for construction of school buildings for primary education in Rajasthan from Eleventh Finance Commission's grants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount utilized out of the aforesaid grants by the State Government till date;

(d) whether the Government has received any request for the release of balance amount at an early date: and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Government of India released grant of Rs. 26.60 crore to Rajasthan for elementary education against grant of Rs. 28.00 crore recommended by Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC).

(c) State Government reported utilization of Rs. 25.49 crore upto 31-3-2005 against these grants.

(d) and (e) No grants can be released for this purpose as E.F.C. award period is over on 31-3-2005.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Affected People of BBMB

6204. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has acquired the land of villagers in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab at the time of construction of Bhakra Dam, and other power projects;

(b) if so, whether there was any proposal to provide alternative land in Rajasthan and constructed houses at Talwada in Hoshiarpur to the affected people of the projects;

(c) whether these people have been rehabilitated; and

(d) if not, the time by which these people are likely to be rehabilitated and provided full facilities?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) About 15,177 acres of land was acquired by the erstwhile State of Punjab in the then Hoshiarpur district of Punjab for the construction of Bhakra Nangal Project out of which about 13,546 acres of land was acquired for the Gobind Sagar Reservoir from 110 villages of the then Una Tehsil in Hoshiarpur district. Now all these 110 villages from part of Una district in State of Himachal Pradesh. The land of these villages was acquired in full including abadi for the formation of Gobind Sagar Reservoir and the affected persons were rehabilitated in the then District Hisar of the erstwhile

State of Punjab (now State of Haryana). Remaining land to the extent of about 1631 acres of land of 29 villages (now forming part of Ropar district of Punjab) was acquired for Nangal Dam, township and other infrastructure on payment of cash compensation.

About 2224 acres of land was acquired by Government of Punjab in Hoshiarpur district for the construction of project Township and Mukerian-Talwara Railway line under the Beas Project Unit-II. The land was acquired on payment of cash compensation. However, 13 oustees of Hoshiarpur district in Punjab were allotted land in Rajasthan.

[Translation]

Cut in the Share of Power

6205. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority cut-down the share of Madhya Pradesh out of central-pool of power;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the said share is likely to be released; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (d) Firm allocation of power from central generating stations (CGSs) to the constituent States in a region is generally not changed unless surrendered by the State or the State is not able to pay the due to the concerned Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU). Consequent to the reorganization of the erstwhile State of Madhya Pradesh, allocation to the successor States, viz. Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh was made on provisional basis in January, 2001. The final entitlements in CGSs in the Western Region of these States were determined by the Ministry of Power in November, 2004, when the provisional allocation of Madhya Pradesh was modified from 1116 MW to 1408 MW.

15% unallocated power in CGSs in a region is kept at the disposal of the Central Government, which is also allocated to the constituent States. The allocation of power from the unallocated power is made, keeping in view the relative power supply position as well as emergent/seasonal requirements of the constituent States/Union Territories within the region and is subject to change from time to time. At present, Madhya Pradesh has an allocation of 162 MW from unallocated quota of CGSs in WR and 200 MW from unallocated/surrendered share from NTPC stations in Eastern Region.

Dues of Workers of Closed NTC Mills

6206. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding dues of workers of the closed textile mills;

(b) the reasons for non-payment of outstanding dues;

(c) the existing market price of the assets of closed textile mills;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to sold the assets of closed textile mills for commercial use; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) There are no outstanding dues of workers of closed textile mills of National Textile Corporation.

(c) The projected value of assets of closed textile mills of National Textile Corporation is Rs. 3829.92 crores.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to sell the surplus assets of closed NTC mills to generate resource for implementation of rehabilitation schemes of NTC subsidiaries.

Employment in Handloom Sector

6207. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase employment in rural areas in Handloom Sector;

(b) the basic facilities provided for handloom industry;

(c) the funds allocated for the rural handloom industry, State-wise;

(d) whether the rural people are getting proper employment in the handloom industry;

(e) whether any special package has been demanded for Rajasthan; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Government of India has been assisting the handloom sector which is decentralized in nature to sustain employment through implementation of various developmental and welfare schemes.

(b) The Government of India has been implementing

various schemes for the development of handloom sector in the country viz. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Marketing Promotion Programme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Weavers Welfare Scheme, Handloom Export Scheme, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Bunker Bima Yojana, Scheme for reimbursement of one time rebate @ 10% given by the Handloom agencies on the sale of handloom cloth, Implementation of Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985.

(c) A statement of funds released during 2004-05 state-wise is enclosed.

(d) The general thrust of the handloom sector schemes implemented by Office of the Development Commissioner for Handloom is to provide support for product diversification, design and skill upgradation and market access to the handloom weavers to augment their livelihood and increase their earnings and not for employment generation.

(e) and (f) The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has released Rs. 186.19 lakhs (Plan and Non-Plan) to the Government of Rajasthan under various developmental and welfare schemes during the year 2004-05.

Statement

Details of releases made during 2004-05 to various States under different Handloom Plan Schemes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Handloom Export Scheme	Deen Deyal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana	Marketing Promotion Programme	Integrated Handloom Training Project	Bunkar Bima Yojana	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme	Weavers' Welfare Scheme					Total
								Health Package Scheme	Thrift Fund Scheme	Group Insurance	New Insurance	2004-05	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	406.09	75.17	0.00	13.26	253.69	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	846.21	
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	1.75	0.00	0.00	120.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	122.25	
3.	Bihar	15.00	0.00	107.29	0.00	0.85	137.67	208.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	469.33	
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5.	Delhi	0.00	11.20	2.41	0.00	0.00	5.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.70	
6.	Goa	0.00	100.00	15.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	115.43	
7.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
8.	Haryana	13.50	4.58	51.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.71	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.75	96.82	7.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	110.59	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	20.42	42.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.41	
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
12.	Karnataka	0.00	104.76	46.33	0.00	8.22	236.45	36.42	40.00	0.00	0.00	472.18	

14. Kerala	6.73	594.10	17.27	0.00	0.36	52.93	17.16	17.98	0.00	0.00	706.53
15. Madhya Pradesh	0.00	40.19	17.25	0.00	0.00	3.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61.22
16. Maharashtra	0.00	38.00	22.71	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.73
17. Manipur	0.00	426.35	4.26	0.00	0.00	50.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	480.70
18. Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	3.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.97
19. Mizoram	0.00	7.76	19.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.74
20. Nagaland	0.00	489.21	42.17	0.00	0.00	371.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	903.13
21. Orissa	20.25	123.36	80.52	0.00	2.15	24.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.33
22. Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23. Punjab	0.00	0.00	5.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.33
24. Rajasthan	0.00	43.37	26.92	0.00	0.05	51.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.61	124.66
25. Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26. Tamil Nadu	5.63	3375.20	28.34	0.00	19.02	172.29	100.07	278.41	0.00	0.00	3978.96
27. Tripura	0.00	34.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.16
28. Uttar Pradesh	34.18	1283.83	48.56	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1366.90
29. Uttaranchal	0.00	53.49	8.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.31
30. West Bengal	14.52	881.37	58.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	961.26
Total	116.56	8134.26	755.95	0.00	45.00	1500.00	369.26	436.39	0.00	2.87	11360.29

Details of releases made during 2004-05 to various States under different Handloom Non-Plan Schemes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Implementation of the HL (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985	MDA Scheme	Janata Cloth Scheme	Reimbursement of CENVAT	10% Special Rebate	Total 2004-05 Non Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.12	227.77	253.89
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	625.40	625.40
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	19.19	75.78	0.00	0.00	13.33	108.30
9.	Haryana	5.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	173.59	179.19
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71.21	71.21
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	16.48	0.00	0.00	95.59	112.07
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	0.00	25.38	0.00	0.00	220.22	245.60
14.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	731.58	731.58
15.	Madhya Pradesh	7.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.20
16.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.05	3.05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Orissa	0.00	172.50	0.00	0.00	243.65	416.15
22.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.49	0.00	13.49
23.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.23	10.23
24.	Rajasthan	23.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.12	61.53
25.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	64.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	630.82	695.42
27.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.13	19.13
28.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	262.12	0.00	0.00	394.31	656.43
29.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	West Bengal	0.00	34.43	0.00	0.00	303.63	338.06
Total		120.00	586.69	0.00	39.61	3826.63	4572.93

[English]

Demand of Handicraft Items

6208. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the increasing demand of Indian handicrafts items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the demand of Indian handicrafts in the overseas markets during the last three years, country-wise;

(d) the names of the items in great demand;

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to grab more overseas markets for the products; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) There is an

increasing trend in demand for Indian Handicrafts in the world market. The Working Group on Jute and Textile Industries for the 10th Plan has assessed that the export of Indian Handicrafts will grow at an annual average rate of more than 20%. The detail of export of Indian Handicrafts in the overseas market during the last three years, country-wise, is as per statement enclosed.

(d) The main items of handicrafts in demand in overseas markets are embroidered and crocheted goods, artmetal wares, shawls as artwares, imitation jewellery, zari and zari goods, wood ware, hand printed textiles and scarves. Handmade carpets in lower range are also in great demand particularly hand-knotted woolen carpets and gabbahs etc.

(e) and (f) The steps taken or proposed to be taken to grab more overseas markets for handicrafts include: participation in international fairs and exhibitions abroad; organizing buyers sellers meets; overseas publicity;

conducting market studies; development of products as per market demand; dissemination of market intelligence amongst exporters; organizing seminars/workshops on export procedure and packaging; opening of showroom/warehouse in Dallas, USA; exploring new markets in

CIS, South Africa, Latin America and ASEAN Countries; setting up of India Exposition Mart at Greater Noida and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) at Moradabad, Gautam Budh Vihar and Jodhpur and organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair at New Delhi.

Statement

Major Country-wise exports of Handicrafts and Handknotted Carpets

(Rs. in crores)

Sl No.	Country	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		Handicrafts	Carpets	Handicrafts	Carpets	Handicrafts	Carpets
1.	Australia	128.48	24.50	158.84	21.85	200.16	21.90
2.	Canada	272.06	37.34	327.76	33.35	392.70	33.95
3.	France	384.95	58.96	482.59	40.44	539.65	41.05
4.	Germany	917.79	642.97	968.43	508.41	1384.82	463.86
5.	Italy	288.97	29.18	356.48	20.99	425.34	21.50
6.	Japan	278.64	50.92	331.21	40.31	381.48	40.61
7.	Netherland	218.82	24.58	291.10	15.85	369.30	16.21
8.	Saudi Arabia	193.87	25.00	241.31	26.50	290.51	—
9.	Switzerland	136.38	37.00	150.94	22.20	198.35	22.80
10.	U.S.A.	2630.14	1203.11	3200.67	1218.01	3556.92	1177.41
11.	U.K.	938.65	127.23	1130.67	93.17	1495.88	90.04
12.	Other Countries	1954.66	329.61	2825.71	258.96	3497.59	293.87
Total		8343.41	2590.26	10465.14	2300.04	13032.70	2223.20
Grand Total		10933.67		12765.18		15255.90	

[Translation]

Groups Constituted under SGSY

6209. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of groups constituted under "Swaran

Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana" in Haryana during the last three years to eradicate poverty and unemployment in rural areas; and

(b) the number of groups out of them graded as first and second and the number of groups to whom grants have been provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) the number of groups constituted during

the last three years and number of groups out of them graded as first and second and SHGs taken up economic activities in Haryana to eradicate poverty through self employment in rural areas is given below:—

Item	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Provisional upto Feb., 05)
Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed (Nos.)	1530	1484	825
No. of SHGs passed Grade-I	1310	1158	971
No. of SHGs passed Grade-II	606	884	701
SHGs taken up economic activities	495	776	663

[English]

Cess on Petrol and Diesel

6210. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount collected as additional cess on diesel has been passed on to the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Ministry of Rural Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for non-allocation of the funds to the concerned Ministries;

(d) whether the Government proposes to allocate funds, collected through additional cess to the above Ministries now; and

(e) if so, the quantum of funds released as on date and the time by which the balance amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Allocation out of the cess collection on Motor Spirit and

High Speed Diesel is made in accordance with the provisions of the Central Road Fund Act, 2000. Expenditure provision from the Central Road Fund in the Demand of the Department of Road Transport and Highways under Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and the Department of Rural Development under Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 4975.69 crore and Rs. 3809.50 crore respectively.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Expansion of Handicraft Sector

6211. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for expansion of handicraft sector in the different parts of the country particularly in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of programmes formulated so far and financial allocation made during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) The steps being

taken by the Government for expansion of handicraft sector include implementation of various schemes for promotion and development of handicrafts in the country including the state of West Bengal. These schemes are Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of craft clusters; Design and Technology Upgradation; Marketing and Support Services;

Export Promotion; Training and Extension; Research and Development; Bima Yojana; workshed and Special Handicrafts Training Project (SHTP). The Government is of the view that these schemes are adequate for the present.

The details of financial allocation made under these schemes during 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	2004-05 Allocation	2005-06 Allocation
1.	Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY)	23.5	29.40
2.	Design and Tech. Upgradation	16.65	19.00
3.	Marketing Support and Services	18.45	19.00
4.	Export Promotion	14.35	12.60
5.	Training and extension including SHTP	3.90	5.20
6.	Bima Yojana	0.62	3.10
7.	Workshed	—	1.30
8.	Research and Development	2.00	3.30

Spl. Category States

6212. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have been declared as special category States as on March 31, 2005;

(b) the privileges and facilities including financial packages sanctioned to those States as special category States; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Special Category States as on March 31, 2005 are Arunachal

Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Uttaranchal.

(b) and (c) 30% of Normal Central Assistance (NCA) is earmarked for Special Category States. NCA is provided to Special Category States in the grant loan ratio of (90:10) as against 30:70 for non-special category States.

Multy-City Cheque System

6213. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India proposes to issue multi-city cheque system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cities likely to be covered in the first phase, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the time by which multi-city cheque system is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The facility will cover select core Banking branches in the initial phase.

(c) Major cities, including State Capitals numbering around 50 are likely to be covered in the first phase.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Benefits of Schemes for Handloom and Handicraft Sector

6214. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the artisans and weavers of handicraft and handloom are not benefiting from the Government programmes due to irregularities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Development Commissioner, Handicraft and the Development Commissioner, Handloom are issuing identity cards to marketing personnel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Government has not received any report that artisans and weavers of handicrafts and handlooms are not benefiting from the programmes and schemes of the Government due to irregularities.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) There are no marketing personnel working in the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) and Development Commissioner (Handlooms) as such the question of issue of Identity Card to marketing personnel does not arise.

12th Finance Commission Action Plan

6215. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and nature of action plans for completion of which provision of funds have been made by the Union Government through the 12th Finance Commission indicating the amount provided for each action plan separately; and

(b) the amount of funds allocated to each State under each action plan during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Union Government, accepting recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC), has agreed to provide grants-in-aid for the following sectors for the period 2005-10:—

Sl No.	Item	Amount (Rs. crore)
1.	Health sector	5,887
2.	Education sector	10,172
3.	Maintenance of roads and bridges	15,000
4.	Maintenance of buildings	5,000
5.	Maintenance of forests	1,000
6.	Heritage conservation	625
7.	State-specific needs	7,100
Total		44,784

(b) A statement of grants allocated to each State for 2005-06 sector-wise is enclosed.

Statement

*Grants-in-aid provided by Union Government on the recommendations of
Twelfth Finance Commission for 2005-06 sector-wise State-wise*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	State	Education Sector	Health Sector	Maintenance of Forests
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh			13.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			20.00
3.	Assam	183.20	153.58	8.00
4.	Bihar	443.99	289.30	1.00
5.	Chhattisgarh			17.00
6.	Goa			0.60
7.	Gujarat			4.00
8.	Haryana			0.40
9.	Himachal Pradesh			4.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir			6.00
11.	Jharkhand	107.82	57.39	6.00
12.	Karnataka			11.00
13.	Kerala			5.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	76.03	28.88	23.00
15.	Maharashtra			14.00
16.	Manipur			6.00
17.	Meghalaya			6.00
18.	Mizoram			5.00
19.	Nagaland			5.00
20.	Orissa	53.49	31.22	15.00

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Punjab			0.40
22.	Rajasthan	20.00		5.00
23.	Sikkim			1.60
24.	Tamil Nadu			6.00
25.	Tripura			3.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	736.87	367.63	4.00
27.	Uttaranchal		10.00	7.00
28.	West Bengal	64.83		3.00
Total		1686.23	938.00	200.00

New Scheme for Farmers

6216. SHRI FURKAN ANSARI:

SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

DR.K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Corporation Bank has formulated a new scheme to provide loan to the farmers for their development;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any maximum loan limit has been fixed under the said new scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether other Public Sector Banks have also launched special incentives scheme for providing loan to farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Corporation Bank has launched "Corp Agriculture Produce Loan (CAPL) Scheme" for the farmers under

which the farmers can avail loan against the warehouse receipt covering the agriculture produce to avoid distress sale by the farmers. The scheme is aimed at mitigating the potential losses being incurred by the farmers and to expand the scope for extending finance to the traders in agriculture commodities. The salient features of the scheme are as under:—

- (i) Eligibility—Farmers who have availed crop loan facility from Corporation Bank for raising crop or farmers who have availed crop loan facility from any other banks and their accounts are regular or Traders holding valid licence for carrying on the trade for a minimum period of 1 year.
- (ii) Loan amount—Minimum loan amount is Rs. 10,000/- and the Maximum limit is Rs. 20.00 lakh, against the agriculture produce stored only in the warehouses of the Central Warehousing Corporation, State Warehousing Corporation and the warehouses having approval of the national level multi commodity exchanges.
- (iii) Rate of interest—Loans upto Rs. 2.00 lakh can be availed at 9% and loans above Rs. 2.00 lakh will attract 9.50% p.a.

(d) and (e) All the Public Sector Banks are implementing one or the other agriculture credit scheme under which credit/advance is extended for farm sector and its allied activities.

Self Assessment by IT Assesseees

6217. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has adopted measures to promote self assessment of income by the assesseees;

(b) the manner in which such assessment would be beneficial to the tax payer;

(c) whether the Government has implemented any scheme to improve the image of the Income Tax Department; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Under the Income Tax Act, every assessee is required to make a self-assessment of his income and pay tax due thereon if the income is above taxable limit.

(b) Such self assessment, if correctly made, saves the tax-payer from interest/penalty/prosecution under the Income Tax Act.

(c) and (d) Following measures have been initiated by the Income Tax Department to provide better tax-payer service thereby improving its image:—

- (i) Computerised processing of returns has resulted in faster issue of refunds.
- (ii) Income Tax Department's website "www.incometaxindia.gov.in" provides general information about income tax law. From this site, tax-payers can easily find and download up-to-date information and various tax return forms and challans, etc. A free return preparation software called 'SAMPARK' is also

available on this website with the help of which non-business tax-payers can prepare their returns.

(iii) Facility for on-line filing of PAN/TAN application is available and the applicants can also ascertain the status of the application on line.

(iv) Under a scheme notified by the Department, e-filing of returns has been introduced.

(v) A dedicated phone-in assistance for tax-payer information and services has been launched by the name of 'ASK' (Aayakar Sampark Kendra).

Closure of Hosiery Units

6218. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many hosiery units in the country have been closed or are on the verge of closure;

(b) whether the Government has received any representation from these small scale industrial units;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote these small scale units?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Government has not received any information/representation from any stakeholder/Hosiery Industry Association about closure of hosiery units.

(d) Government has launched various schemes for promotion of hosiery industry. These are:—

- (i) Undertaking Cluster Study under Cluster Development Programme for Technology Upgradation.
- (ii) Conducting various Training Programmes like Entrepreneurship and Management

Development Programme to impart Training to the Entrepreneurs.

- (iii) Prepare various technical reports to disseminate information to the Entrepreneurs.
- (iv) Fiscal duty concessions given on yarns and capital goods required by the hosiery industry.

Modernisation of Powerloom Sector

6219. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

MOHD. SHAHID:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for modernisation of decentralized powerloom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any efforts for modernisation of centres of this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the cloth in terms of million metres produced by this sector during the last three years, year-wise; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For modernisation of powerloom sector, the Government of India has implemented with effect from 06-11-2003, a 20% credit linked capital subsidy scheme for the benchmarked technology pertaining to weaving and preparatory machinery in the powerloom sector. The investment limit on this machinery has been raised to Rs. 1.00 crores with effect from 13-01-2005 from the previous limit of Rs. 60.00 lakhs. Further, a 5% interest subsidy under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme is also available to the powerloom sector. The powerloom sector is free to choose between benefits under 20%

credit linked capital subsidy scheme or the 5% interest subsidy under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has initiated a scheme for modernisation and strengthening of Powerloom Service Centres (PSC). The scheme provides for upgrading the infrastructural facilities in the PSC's with improved looms, accessories, training and teaching aids and other associated facilities. Out of total 44 PSC's in the country, 21 have already been modernized and 14 are presently under modernisation.

(e) and (f) The quantum of fabrics produced by powerloom sector during the last three years, year-wise, is as under:—

Year	Production (in million square metres)
2002-2003	25954
2003-2004	26947
2004-2005	28526 (Provisional)

[English]

Unit Trust of India

6220. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India (UTI) has terminated Monthly Income Plan-2000 (second) scheme w.e.f. 31st March, 2005;

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

(c) whether UTI has not returned the principal amount to its policy holders even after the termination of the scheme; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to return the principal amount with interest on the delayed payment to its unit holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Monthly Income Plan 2000(II) was launched in June 2000 as a scheme where the dividend is reset annually and the capital is assured at maturity. The scheme was terminated on maturity on 31st March, 2005.

(c) Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India (SUUTI) has informed that the principal amount has been refunded to the unit holders of MIP 2000(II) and there was no delay in payment of maturity proceeds to the unit holders of the scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

Code of Conduct by SEBI

6221. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has laid fresh code of conduct to bring more transparency about the participants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) other measures being taken to create a friendly climate to boost healthy trade in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Plantation Companies

6222. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various plantation companies operating collective investment schemes has been directed by the SEBI to refund the amounts raised from investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of the companies refunded the money and the name of the companies against whom criminal prosecution under SEBI Act has been launched;

(d) the estimates public money collected by such companies;

(e) the action taken against the companies prosecuted; and

(f) the amount of public money refunded to investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Participation of MP in Development Work

6223. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of participation of the Member of Parliament in development works being carried out by the Government in rural areas of the country;

(b) whether complaints have been received for not taking Members of Parliament in confidence by the State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure proper participation of Members of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) The major development schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development are implemented through the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishads. The Members of Parliament are the Members of the Governing body of DRDAs, which provide policy directions to the DRDAs as may be necessary from time to time, approve the Annual Plan and also review, and monitor the implementation of different programmes.

The Ministry of Rural Development have also reconstituted the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees to ensure quality expenditure and monitor the implementation of Rural Development Schemes at the District level under

the Chairmanship of Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha). All Members of Parliament have been assigned a crucial role in the reconstituted Vigilance and Monitoring Committees so as to make the programmes more effective and result oriented.

Some of the Members of Parliament have been raising concern that some State Governments/District authorities have not taken adequate steps to hold timely meetings of the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees. State/District authorities have been impressed upon by the Ministry of Rural Development to facilitate holding regular meetings of the Committees and ensure that follow up action taken may be reported in the format prescribed for the purpose.

[English]

Konark Spinning Mill

6224. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to revive the Konark Spinning Mill established at Kesinga in Kalahandi district, Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Funds from Asian Development Bank

6225. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank is releasing 250 million dollars for the multi sector project in Jammu and Kashmir;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has any share in the project; and

(d) if so, the details of the contribution of the Union Government in the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Asian Development Bank has approved on 21-12-2004 a loan of US\$ 250 million from its ordinary capital resources. The loan amount is to be utilised in five years, i.e. upto 31-12-2009. The loan amount is to be repaid in 25 years including a grace period of 5 years.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government of India will be providing counterpart funding for the ADB project as part of Jammu and Kashmir Reconstruction Plan. An amount of Rs. 1200 crore has been allocated for financing of Reconstruction Plan of Jammu and Kashmir.

Reforms in Rural Water Sector

6226. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of crisis-hit habitations where Union Government has started reforms in rural drinking water supply sector, State-wise, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) the number of water schemes initiated during the Ninth Five Year Plan period and the number of villages benefited thereby during the same period;

(c) the target set for Tenth Five Year Plan under these schemes to include more habitations alongwith the progress made so far; and

(d) the financial assistance provided to each State under different water schemes particularly in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) With a view to institutionalise community participation

in the rural drinking water supply sector, Government of India had launched the Sector Reform Project (SRPs) in 1999 wherein pilot projects were commenced in 67 districts of 26 States by June 2002. The project implementation period was for three years and, after the scaling up of reforms to cover the entire country through Swajaldhara in December 2002, the Sector Reform Pilot Projects have been integrated with Swajaldhara from the current financial year. Since these were demand-driven projects, no target of coverage as such was fixed for either the Ninth Plan or the Tenth Plan period. Upto 20 per cent of the Budget provision for rural water supply programme of Government of India is earmarked for

Swajaldhara projects. Under Swajaldhara, Government of India makes State-wise allocation of funds as per the inter-State Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) allocation ratio fixed for the year and the State Governments, in turn, make district-wise allocations.

The State-wise list of names of districts taken up under Sector Reform Project, financial assistance provided and number of water supply schemes taken up and completed so far, including Karnataka is enclosed as statement-I while details of funds allocated and released to States/Union Territories under Swajaldhara 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is enclosed as statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise list of districts taken up under Sector Reform Project, funds released by Government of India and number of water supply schemes taken up and completed

Sl. No.	Name of the district	Total funds released by (GOI) (Rs. in lakh)	Total No. of Schemes	Schemes Completed
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chittoor	2244.00	1641	1163
2.	Khmmam	3403.66	1601	1600
3.	Nalgonda	3581.89	965	602
4.	Nellore	2244.00	394	303
5.	Prakasam	3366.00	504	494
6.	Guntur	3893.45	381	204
7.	East Godavari	1113.56	176	67
Total—Andhra Pradesh		19646.56	5662	4433
8.	Lohit	252.45	79	41
9.	West Siang	428.17	102	28
Total—Arunachal Pradesh		680.62	181	69

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Jorhat	472.34	871	863
11.	Kamrup	422.52	1312	719
12.	Sonitpur	331.04	2244	2219
	Total—Assam	1225.90	4427	3801
13.	Vaishali	1122.00	6403	4869
	Total—Bihar	1122.00	6403	4869
14.	Durg	1122.00	1293	1267
	Total—Chhattisgarh	1122.00	1293	1267
15.	Mehsana	3708.00	320	320
16.	Rajkot	3043.23	272	267
17.	Surat	3366.00	343	262
	Total—Gujarat	10117.23	935	849
18.	Karnal	844.71	93	55
19.	Yamuna Nagar	546.44	252	233
	Total—Haryana	1391.15	345	288
20.	Sirmour	607.36	193	106
	Total Himachal Pradesh	607.36	193	106
21.	Srinagar	1384.07	98	24
22.	Udhampur	813.92	123	92
	Total—Jammu and Kashmir	2197.99	221	116
23.	Dhanbad	1122.00	141	5
	Total—Jharkhand	1122.00	141	5

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Bellary	1122.00	710	677
25.	Mangalore	3660.08	2243	1713
26.	Mysore	3554.00	1124	1020
Total—Karnataka		8336.08	4077	3410
27.	Kasaragod	2742.88	255	255
28.	Kollam	2244.00	148	109
Total—Kerala		4986.88	403	364
29.	Gwalior	821.29	968	883
30.	Hoshangabad	1122.00	1104	1057
31.	Narsinghpur	1122.00	1139	982
32.	Raisen	1269.01	768	545
33.	Sehore	503.44	244	163
Total—Madhya Pradesh		4837.74	4223	3630
34.	Amravati	1184.10	891	481
35.	Dhule	1763.43	191	132
36.	Nanded	2244.00	360	120
37.	Raigad	3439.14	340	146
Total—Maharashtra		8630.67	1782	879
38.	Ri-Bhoi	272.10	111	111
Total—Meghalaya		272.10	111	111
39.	Serchhip	223.35	11	11
Total—Mizoram		223.35	11	11

1	2	3	4	5
40.	Dimapur	333.22	7	4
	Total—Nagaland	333.22	7	4
41.	Balasore	1572.00	2286	2286
42.	Ganjam	2244.00	1340	1340
43.	Sundergarh	2244.00	2598	2502
	Total—Orissa	6060.00	6224	6128
44.	Bhatinda	210.28	22	0
45.	Moga*	344.00	23	0
46.	Muktsar	872.41	31	0
	Total—Punjab	1426.69	76	0
47.	Alwar	2244.00	512	205
48.	Rajsamand	422.00	54	25
49.	Jaipur*	2944.00	391	218
50.	Sikar	1191.62	143	10
	Total—Rajasthan	6801.62	1100	458
51.	Sikkim South	363.02	0	0
52.	Sikkim West	244.95	0	0
	Total—Sikkim	607.97	0	0
53.	Coimbatore	3366.00	1650	1650
54.	Cuddalore	3366.00	2355	2355
55.	Perambalur	2934.30	1184	1184
56.	Vellore	3701.20	3411	3411

1	2	3	4	5
57.	Kancheepuram	2855.99	536	536
58.	Virudhunagar	2764.32	505	505
	Total—Tamil Nadu	18987.81	9641	9641
59.	West Tripura	2310.21	14141	13760
	Total—Tripura	2310.21	14141	13760
60.	Agra*	897.83	4885	3285
61.	Chandauli	1286.63	4222	2862
62.	Lucknow	1122.00	4061	3878
63.	Mirzapur	862.41	1015	946
64.	Sonebhadra	1387.69	6012	5705
	Total—Uttar Pradesh	5556.56	19995	16676
65.	Midnapur	1847.79	1847	1267
66.	N. 24 Parganas	1749.82	2305	2011
	Total—West Bengal	3597.61	4152	3278
67.	Haridwar	1122.00	136	121
	Total—Uttaranchal	1122.00	136	121
	Grand Total	113323.32	85880	74274

Statement-II
Details of State/UT-wise releases under Swajaldhara Scheme

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	2002-03*			2003-04			2004-05		
		Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release	Additional Allocation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	12.00	0.00	12.69				0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7951.43	7840.40	1616.07	1333.00	1632.65				1224.49
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	447.41	223.71	473.76				0.00
4.	Assam	757.59	490.37	754.59	377.30	797.36				132.74
5.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	873.73	0.00	923.98				587.24
6.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00
7.	Chhattisgarh	263.00	242.01	262.80	0.00	332.20				247.12
8.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00				0.00
9.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.35				0.00
10.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	9.48	4.74	6.00	4.00	8.46				0.00
11.	Goa	0.00	0.00	14.55	0.00	15.04				0.00
12.	Gujarat	167.97	162.54	765.56	765.56	826.42			1173.67	1500.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13.	Haryana	21.95	10.98	234.23	117.12	246.48		184.86
14.	Himachal Pradesh	652.78	335.79	680.19	340.11	677.16		507.87
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	1497.90	748.95	1560.02		1170.02
16.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	356.02	178.01	368.12		0.00
17.	Karnataka	218.15	161.01	1397.03	1048.02	1253.54	261.50	1311.91
18.	Kerala	535.71	279.54	504.03	349.57	492.54		366.93
19.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
20.	Madhya Pradesh	529.01	481.13	840.54	570.27	966.49		724.54
21.	Maharashtra	7427.66	5836.64	2172.15	1086.07	1992.80	942.66	2201.59
22.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	153.59	0.00	162.86		0.00
23.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	176.96	0.00	186.12		139.59
24.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	126.86	0.00	133.25		96.84
25.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	130.22	65.11	137.48		216.76
26.	Orissa	671.68	456.91	733.28	387.45	865.23		648.92
27.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	6.35		0.00
28.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	313.79	168.76	351.11		263.33
29.	Rajasthan	374.52	374.52	2191.77	1560.77	2544.52	322.30	2144.64
30.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	53.42	0.00	57.11		0.00
31.	Tamil Nadu	1395.00	1394.63	673.22	673.20	869.10	229.70	839.10

32. Tripura	0.00	0.00	156.93	104.36	164.97	123.73
33. Uttar Pradesh	1132.05	814.51	1532.91	766.46	1621.06	1215.80
34. Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	364.33	182.00	378.67	401.01
35. West Bengal	47.76	33.73	943.90	571.50	1064.06	582.20
Total	22155.74	18909.45	20000.00	11641.30	21147.94	2929.83
						16831.29

* For 2002-03, projects were approved by Government of India. Hence the figures relate to the approved GOI share of the sanctioned projects. Swajaldhara proposals during 2003-04 and subsequent years were approved by the respective District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC)/State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM) within the funds allocated to the States as per the inter-State Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme allocation ratio fixed for the year.

LIC' Business

6227. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has revised its strategy for securing business following the withdrawal of saving incentives in the budget;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the total number of agents and officers associated with procuring business; and

(d) the number of branches/offices all over the country and abroad, State-wise, Country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As informed by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the strategy adopted by them for securing business includes introduction of Unit Linked Pension Plan Future Plus, strengthening of alternate distribution channels with tie-ups with more banks for distribution of Life Insurance products and improvement in the services of the policy-holders.

(c) The total number of agents and officers associated with procuring business is as follows:—

(i) Total number of agents	—	10,40,372
(ii) Total number of Development Officers	—	19,529

(d) The number of branches/offices in the country, state-wise, and abroad is as follows:—

State/UT	No. of Branches
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	176
Bihar	60
Chhattisgarh	30

1	2
Goa	11
Haryana	31
Jammu and Kashmir	17
Karnataka	138
Madhya Pradesh	110
Orissa	56
Rajasthan	110
Assam	49
Chandigarh	05
Delhi	70
Gujarat	142
Himachal Pradesh	23
Jharkhand	41
Kerala	85
Maharashtra	250
Punjab	64
Tamil Nadu	174
Uttar Pradesh	215
West Bengal	138
Arunachal Pradesh	02
Meghalaya	03
Nagaland	03
Tripura	04
Uttaranchal	32
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	01
Manipur	04

1	2
Mizoram	01
Sikkim	01
Pondicherry	02
<hr/>	
Total No. of Branches:	2048

Offices Overseas—

— Fiji	— Suva and Lautoka
— Mauritius	— Port Louis
— United Kingdom	— London

Group Companies abroad—

— LIC (International) B.S.C. (C)	Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Dubai, Oman
— LIC (Nepal) Ltd.	— Kathmandu
— LIC (Lanka) Ltd.	— Colombo
— LIC Mauritius Offshore Ltd.	

Vanished Companies

6228. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:
 SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
 SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of companies are vanishing with investors money as reported in 'Punjab Kesari' dated April 19, 2005;

(b) if so, the number of such companies came to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has started prosecution of such companies;

(d) if so, the number of FIRs so far filed by Government against those companies;

(e) whether the Government is taking other steps to check the activities of such companies in consultation with State Governments;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to amend Companies Act to take stern action against such companies; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. In the past, companies, which came out with public issues during the period 1992-1998 and subsequently vanished, have been identified. At present, 115 companies stand identified as vanished companies. No such case, meeting the criteria of vanished companies, has been reported during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Prosecutions have been filed against the unscrupulous companies, their promoters/directors under various provisions of the Companies Act. Similarly, action has also been initiated by filing First Information Reports (FIRs) against these promoters/directors under the Indian Penal Code. So far, FIRs have been filed against 100 vanishing companies.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Company Affairs has set up, in August, 2004, a Monitoring Committee for closely monitoring all cases of prosecutions launched under the Companies Act, 1956 and FIRs filed/registered under the Indian Penal Code against vanishing companies and their Directors. This Committee is co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Company Affairs and Chairman, SEBI and includes senior officers of various State Governments.

(g) and (h) The Government has taken a comprehensive review of the Companies Act, 1956 with a view to revise it. A Concept Paper on Company Law has been released by this Ministry in August, 2004 to

enable wide exposure and consultations in evolving a comprehensively revised Companies Bill. A Committee of Experts headed by Dr. J.J. Irani has also been set up to advise the Government on issues relating to the proposed new Company Law, including on legal action for violations of Company Law and Protecting the interests of investors.

Contaminated Drinking Water

6229. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from West Bengal regarding contaminated drinking water in certain districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. Government of West Bengal vide letter dated 15th July 2004, has submitted 6 project proposals pertaining to Mushidabad, Nadia and North-24 Paraganas districts for drinking water supply in quality affected habitations (excess arsenic) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1166 crore.

(c) Rural drinking water supply is a state subject. Government of India assist the State Governments financially and technically in this endeavour through the centrally sponsored "Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)". 15% of the annual ARWSP allocation to the States could be utilized on sub-mission projects for tackling water quality problems on 75:25 funding pattern between the Centre and the State. With effect from 1-4-1998, the State Governments have been empowered to plan, design, sanction and implement sub-mission projects for supply of safe drinking water in water quality affected habitations. If the States/UTs have achieved full coverage of habitations as per the national

norms, they may utilize more funds to tackle quality problems with prior approval of the Central Government. The six project proposals received from the Government of West Bengal do not require approval of Government of India.

[Translation]

Approval of Special Proposals under PMGSY

6230. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to grant approval to the special proposals sent by the State Governments under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana; and

(b) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The PMGSY Scheme, inter-alia, provides for meeting the requirements of Special Problem Areas namely, districts with international borders, areas affected by left wing extremists, backward districts which can be categorised as Special Problem Areas and Research and Development Projects for innovations. Accordingly, funds are earmarked notionally for special allocation to States for this purpose.

(b) State-wise details of special proposals of States approved by the Ministry of Rural Development are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of road works	Amount (Rs. crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	3.82
2.	Gujarat	5	2.90
3.	Mizoram	1	9.39
4.	Punjab	29	9.46

[English]

Vacancies of Judges

6231. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study has been conducted by the Government to know the requirement of Judges in different Courts for a population of one lakh people;

(b) if so, the details of the study conducted;

(c) whether the judges are as per the requirement of population in India; and

(d) if not, the steps Government propose to take to appoint more judges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Judge strength in Supreme Court is as per the Constitution of India. The Judge strength in the High Courts is reviewed once in three years, as per prescribed norms, on the basis of figures of institution, disposal and pendency of cases in each High Court. As regards District and Subordinate Courts, the Judge strength is worked out by State Governments in consultation with the concerned High Courts.

The Supreme Court, in its Judgment of 21st March, 2002, in All India Judges' Association and Ors. Vs. Union of India and Ors, has directed that an increase in the judge strength from the existing ratio of 10.5 to 13 per 10 lakh people to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented within a period of five years in a phased manner to be determined and directed by the Union Ministry of Law. The Central Government has filed application before the Supreme Court, seeking modification of its directions for increase in Judge strength on the basis of population in respect of Union Territories, and permit the Union Government to determine the appropriate judge strength based on relevant factors including pendency of cases. The matter is subjudice.

(d) The service conditions, including filling up of vacancies, of the members of Subordinate Judiciary of

the State, are governed by their respective State Governments. The filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a collective consultative process among the constitutional authorities. The process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Courts. The Central Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and anticipated vacancies during the following six months.

Port Trust Insurance

6232. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received offer from General Insurance Companies to provide risk cover to port trust in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith terms and conditions;

(c) whether Public Sector Insurance Companies also have substantial capacity to provide risk covers to the port trusts on competitive terms;

(d) if so, the reasons for offering huge premium to private sector companies; and

(e) the details of the ports which are likely to be brought under risk cover fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) General Insurance Companies have a "Comprehensive Port Package Policy" for covering the risks of physical damage, business interruption, liability, port blockage and wreck removal for all the ports in the country.

(c) The four public sector general insurance companies have the capacity to underwrite risks upto Rs. 25 crores. Beyond this limit, they approach overseas reinsurers for necessary reinsurance support.

(d) Private insurers can also compete for this business and it is for the individual port management to decide about the choice of their insurers.

(e) All the ports in India can be covered under this policy.

Economic Package

6233. SHRI A.F.G. OSMANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of special economic package separately announced for States of Jammu and Kashmir, North East States and Uttaranchal with cut off date;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide level playing field for small manufactures located in other States in respect of concession in Central Excise Duty; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Excise duty exemption for new industries and existing industrial units undertaking substantial expansion in the States of Jammu and Kashmir and North East is provided for a period of ten years without any cut off date as regards establishment/expansion. In the case of Sikkim, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh however such units commencing commercial production on or before 31st March, 2007 get eligible for excise duty exemption for a period of ten years.

(b) and (c) Small manufacturers, producing specified goods are given full exemption of excise duty for first clearance of goods for one crore rupees in a financial year in case they have a aggregate clearance of less than Rs. 3 crores during the preceding year.

Pending Writ Petitions

6234. SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Writ petitions pending in the High

Courts and Supreme Court against Union of India, Ministries and Public Sector Undertakings, separately;

(b) the number of writ petitions for less than one year, less than two years and above five years;

(c) the percentage of Writs against Union of India, Ministries and Public Sector Undertakings out of the total writ petitions pending in High Courts and Supreme Court, separately; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on these writ petitions during each of the last three years?

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

Guidelines for SHG under SGSY

6235. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the guidelines of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), each Self Help Group (SHG) should assist at least 10 persons belonging to families below poverty line; and

(b) if so, the number of SHGs formed under the Scheme during the last three years alongwith total number of Swarozgaries assisted by the SHGs, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the SGSY guidelines, generally a self-help group may consist of 10 to 20 persons. However, in difficult areas like deserts, hills and areas with scattered and sparse population and in case of minor irrigation and disabled persons, this number may be from 5-20. The difficult areas have to be identified by the State Level SGSY committee and the above relaxation in membership will be permitted only in such areas. The number of Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed under the scheme during the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05) alongwith total number of SHGs swarozgaries assisted is given below:—

Item	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed (Nos.)	398873	391966	214539
SGHs Swarozgaries assisted (Nos.)	414419	576639	594281

Criteria for Allocation under IAY

6236. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed by the Union Government for allocation of funds under Indira Awas Yojana to the States and Union Territories;

(b) the funds allocated to the States during each of the last three financial years and for 2005-2006, State-wise; and

(c) the district-wise number of houses constructed in the State under IAY during each of the last three financial years and proposed to be constructed during 2005-2006, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The funds under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

are allocated to the States/Union Territories on the basis of poverty ratio and housing shortage by giving equal weightage to both the indicators. The poverty ratios prepared by the Planning Commission are used for this purpose while housing shortage is determined on the basis of the Census Data provided by the Registrar General of India.

(b) Details of year-wise and State-wise funds allocated to the States/Union Territories during each of the last three financial years and for 2005-2006 under the Indira Awaas Yojana is enclosed as statement-I.

(c) Details of district-wise number of houses constructed in the State under IAY during each of the last three years are being compiled. The State-wise number of houses, which are proposed to be constructed during 2005-2006 under the IAY, is enclosed as statement-II.

Statement-I

Statement showing state-wise Allocation (C+S) and Releases (C+S) made during the last 3 years and current years
i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 under the Indira Awaas Yojana

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		Allocation (C+S)	Releases (C+S)	Allocation (C+S)	Releases (C+S)	Allocation (C+S)	Releases (C+S)	Allocation (C+S)	Releases (C+S)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16093.63	16476.20	18225.83	17262.21	23975.77	25587.57	28286.67	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	759.89	984.57	837.00	1062.81	1101.31	1474.71	1196.48	409.28
3.	Assam	17098.20	13316.44	18832.79	19603.67	24779.99	29441.27	27699.17	0.00
4.	Bihar	43717.12	26306.53	49509.11	34464.13	65128.45	122044.17	77277.84	457.79
5.	Chhattisgarh	2752.07	2703.80	3116.68	3360.51	4099.95	4181.27	6956.23	3255.76
6.	Goa	103.97	52.00	117.76	92.75	154.91	120.23	226.67	113.33
7.	Gujarat	4625.13	7357.34	5237.95	4982.84	6890.43	7221.35	13536.25	0.00
8.	Haryana	1563.93	1586.35	1771.12	1821.12	2329.87	2380.13	2982.96	1491.48
9.	Himachal Pradesh	691.88	1143.45	783.55	765.55	1030.75	1023.47	1153.75	546.79
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	827.63	611.53	937.28	930.89	1232.99	1237.91	2381.00	951.05
11.	Jharkhand	12844.51	7274.45	14546.23	11591.52	19135.33	15947.15	14357.05	6235.33
12.	Karnataka	8324.69	6469.63	9427.61	8773.55	12401.88	10442.45	13211.72	0.00
13.	Kerala	5156.63	3960.40	5842.08	5697.00	7685.16	7788.43	6833.89	3416.95
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9603.89	9357.35	10876.32	11111.39	14307.61	14126.05	14444.16	0.00

(Rs. in lakhs)

15. Maharashtra	14770.44	13479.60	16727.41	16420.84	22004.63	20758.84	22646.45	10593.48
16. Manipur	906.01	346.68	997.96	594.73	1313.11	1228.73	1330.44	0.00
17. Meghalaya	1203.80	1208.20	1325.92	641.57	1744.63	1914.20	1952.59	0.00
18. Mizoram	288.97	232.77	318.31	426.55	418.83	458.24	434.49	0.00
19. Nagaland	777.12	388.56	855.93	898.59	1126.23	1154.51	1307.69	542.95
20. Orissa	12955.96	43391.26	14672.47	36974.73	19301.39	18606.24	19931.44	9197.16
21. Punjab	1036.00	798.06	1173.27	1070.29	1543.41	1386.48	3505.04	1439.64
22. Rajasthan	4364.08	4199.08	4942.27	4997.33	6501.47	6628.95	9023.08	4511.55
23. Sikkim	208.33	199.83	229.47	215.61	301.93	334.01	335.37	0.00
24. Tamil Nadu	8081.77	8273.91	9152.52	9230.65	12040.00	13228.32	14359.27	0.00
25. Tripura	1757.67	2636.51	1935.96	1787.95	2547.32	3061.00	2730.43	1365.21
26. Uttar Pradesh	29466.67	27995.78	33370.67	32897.09	43898.51	42012.23	50405.65	24723.80
27. Uttaranchal	3060.57	2682.12	3466.07	4350.72	4559.57	4533.37	2882.92	1441.47
28. West Bengal	17369.21	13548.11	19670.45	17189.89	25876.16	25446.00	25553.20	12776.60
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	146.82	40.32	166.27	110.44	218.73	352.93	253.21	0.00
30. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	77.05	0.00	87.26	33.35	114.78	33.35	64.09	0.00
31. Daman and Diu	31.89	0.00	36.12	0.00	47.51	0.00	30.22	0.00
32. Lakshadweep	2.50	2.50	2.83	2.84	3.72	3.86	36.42	0.00
33. Pondicherry	72.90	74.63	82.55	41.28	108.59	94.43	149.63	0.00
Total	220742.93	217097.96	249275.02	249414.39	327924.92	384251.85	367475.47	83469.62

(C+S) Central Plus State Matching Share.

Release upto 2-5-2005, during the current year 2005-06.

Statement-II

Statement showing state-wise number of houses proposed to construct during the year 2005-06 under the Indira Awaas Yojana

(Unit in Nos.)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Nos. of houses proposed to construct during 2005-06
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	113147
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4351
3.	Assam	100724
4.	Bihar	309111
5.	Chhattisgarh	27825
6.	Goa	907
7.	Gujarat	54145
8.	Haryana	11932
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4195
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8658
11.	Jharkhand	57428
12.	Karnataka	52847
13.	Kerala	27336
14.	Madhya Pradesh	57777
15.	Maharashtra	90586
16.	Manipur	4838
17.	Meghalaya	7100
18.	Mizoram	1580

1	2	3
19.	Nagaland	4755
20.	Orissa	79726
21.	Punjab	14020
22.	Rajasthan	36092
23.	Sikkim	1220
24.	Tamil Nadu	57437
25.	Tripura	9929
26.	Uttar Pradesh	201623
27.	Uttaranchal	10483
28.	West Bengal	102213
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1013
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	256
31.	Daman and Diu	121
32.	Lakshadweep	146
33.	Pondicherry	599
Total		1454120

Regulatory Systems

6237. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have planned to review the working of regulatory systems put in place in various segments/systems in the economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to bring the Indian Independent Regulatory System in line with international best practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Government proposes to strengthen and facilitate

professional functioning of regulatory institutions to ensure free and fair competition. Consultations are on to develop an underlying prudent regulatory philosophy for implementation across sectors, with necessary sectoral variations.

[Translation]

Surcharge of 2% in Gujarat

6238. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a surcharge of 2 per cent was imposed after earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the period for which the said surcharge was effective and the total amount collected on this account till date; and

(c) the amount of funds provided by the Union Government for NCCF and CRF in addition to normal contribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The surcharge levied in the wake of earthquake in Gujarat was effective for the financial years 2000-01 and 2001-02. An amount of Rs. 2,744.71 crore has been reported as collections under various surcharges in financial years 2000-01 and 2001-02 by the Controller General of Accounts. It is not ascertainable as to what was the amount attributable to 2% surcharge levied after Gujarat earthquake.

(c) The following amounts have been provided to Gujarat under NCCF and CRF in financial years 2000-01 and 2001-02:—

(In Rs. crore)

Financial Year	NCCF	CRF	Total
2000-01	500.00	131.14	631.14
2001-02	967.37	117.01	1084.38
Total	1467.37	248.15	1715.52

[English]

Setting up Regional NIRD Centres

6239. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up more Regional Centres of National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) in different parts of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Restructuring Rural Schemes

6240. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received by the Union Government for restructuring the rural development schemes; and

(b) the amount provided by the Union Government to the State of Arunachal Pradesh for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development has not received any proposal for restructuring the Rural Development Schemes.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Thrift Fund Scheme for Weavers

6241. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

MOHD. SHAHID:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a thrift fund scheme has been launched for the handloom weavers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of weavers covered under this scheme till date, State-wise;

(d) the total funds disbursed out of the funds targetted to be disbursed by the Government under the said scheme, State-wise;

(e) whether the funds provided to the States under the said scheme have been fully utilised;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes Sir, the Thrift Fund Scheme has been launched for the handloom weavers by the Government of India during the year 1985-86.

(b) The Scheme envisaged creation of a fund in the nature of a provident fund to meet medical expenses of the subscriber or of his/her family members; expenses in connection with marriage, confinement, funeral or religious ceremonies which are incumbent upon the subscriber to perform; expenses in connection with the purchase of a house site, construction or purchase of a house, or additions, alternations or repairs to his/her house; expenses in connection with his/her children's education including tuition fees/admission fees/Hostel fees for School/College and also temporary advance for marriage of their children. Under the existing funding pattern weaver is to contribute at the rate of 8% of the annual wages earned by him and 4% each is being contributed by the Central and State Government.

(c) to (g) Since inception of the scheme in the year 1985-86 till 2004-05, 3716757 weavers have been covered under the Thrift Fund Scheme and an amount of Rs. 4623.65 lakh have been disbursed to various State Governments. Statement showing State-wise number of weavers covered under the scheme and the funds disbursed is enclosed.

Statement

Number of Weavers covered and the funds released under Thrift Fund Scheme during the year 1985-86 to 2004-05

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amount Released (Rs. in lakh)]	Weavers Covered
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	673.54	494458
2.	Assam	3.71	3435
3.	Bihar	53.00	56742
4.	Delhi	6.73	6531
5.	Gujarat	36.42	16461
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.54	150
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.69	1314
8.	Karnataka	210.04	133416

1	2	3	4
9.	Kerala	63.62	23725
10.	Madhya Pradesh	55.28	43179
11.	Maharashtra	90.24	177674
12.	Manipur	2.65	2650
13.	Orissa	233.98	213596
14.	Rajasthan	7.57	6438
15.	Tamil Nadu	2993.24	2278710
16.	Tripura	0.90	386
17.	Uttar Pradesh	78.00	96334
18.	West Bengal	112.50	161558
Total		4623.65	3716757

[English]

Guidelines for Hariyali

6242. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any plan to amend the guidelines for Hariyali 2003 under DPAP/ IWDP;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the agency that is monitoring the Hariyali Yojana alongwith the role of Sarpanch therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) The task of revision of guidelines for any rural development programme is a continuous process and is

taken up from time to time as dictated by field realities. Accordingly, the Guidelines for Watershed Development that became operational with effect from 1-4-1995 were revised in August 2001. Subsequently, the guidelines were again revised and renamed as Guidelines for Hariyali in April 2003 to empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in all aspects of watershed development activities.

(d) At the district level, the Zilla Parishad or the District Rural Development Agency, as the case may be, is responsible for monitoring the progress of implementation of watershed projects under Hariyali. The Watershed projects under Hariyali guidelines are to be executed by the respective Gram Panchayats under the chairmanship of the Sarpanch.

NPAs of Punjab and Sind Bank

6243. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) below Rs. 10 lakh have been settled during the last one year by Punjab and Sind Bank (PSB);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether even after settlement of accounts below Rs. 10 lakh, the bank has not returned the security papers of guarantors; ,

(d) if so, the details of cases where security papers deposited by guarantors have not been released so far;

(e) the action Punjab and Sind Bank propose to take against officials responsible for withholding security papers of guarantors; and

(f) the time by which all security papers are likely to be released to the guarantors?

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.

Dollar-Rupee Exchange Rate

6244. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI intervenes in the market to maintain a dollar-rupee exchange rate that would not be unfavourable to export;

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

(c) its impact on inflow of forex?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not have a fixed or pre-announced target, or bank. in its intervention operations in the foreign exchange market in India. The exchange rate of the rupee is determined by demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market and generally reflects the economic fundamentals, which, inter-alia, include external competitiveness of the Indian rupee.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foreign Assistance for Safe Drinking Water

6245. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has obtained grants/loans from World Bank and other countries for the rural water supply and sanitation projects during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of allocation/utilization/completion thereof alongwith the cases of diversion of such funds during the above period, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether Japan has extended grants to certain NGOs to support water/sanitation projects during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details of allocation/utilization thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken for proper utilization of such funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details regarding projects, their outlay and present status is enclosed as statement-I. The funds are released to the States directly by the external funding agencies and utilised by the State implementing agencies. The data in this regard is not maintained at Central Level. However no instance of diversion has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The details regarding projects, their outlay and purpose is enclosed as statement-II. The funds are released to the NGOs directly by the Japanese funding agencies and utilised by the NGOs. Japanese embassy co-ordinates these programmes.

Statement-I**A. World Bank funded Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Projects**

Amount in US \$ million

State	Project Period	Approved Project Cost	World Bank Loan Component
Kerala	Jan. 2001-Dec. 2006	89.80	65.50
Karnataka	Feb. 2002-Dec. 2007	193.44	151.60
Maharashtra	Oct. 2003-Sept. 2009	268.65	181.00

B. Bilateral (Foreign) funded Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Projects

Name of the Project	Total Project Cost (Rs. in Crores)	Project Period
Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project— Phase-II in Karnataka under Danish Assistance	35.20	Dec. 2002-March 2006
Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JIBC) Aided Kerala Water Supply Project	1787.45	Sept. 2003-Aug. 2007
Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project with financial assistance from Govt. of Germany through KFW being implemented in 3 districts (Pune, Ahamadnagar and Aurangabad) of Maharashtra	152.44	June, 2002-June, 2008
Netherlands assisted Community Managed Ghogha Regional (Bhavnagar district) Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project in Gujarat	59.60	Aug. 1997-December, 2004 (extended upto June, 2005)
Netherlands assisted Community-managed development of water and sanitation programme in earthquake-affected villages of Gujarat	172.27	Oct. 2002-August, 2007
Netherlands assisted Institutional support to Water and Sanitation Management Organisation (WASMO) in Gujarat	5.49	Sept. 2002-August, 2007

Statement-II**Water Supply Projects funded to NGOs by Government of Japan**

Sl. No.	Name of NGO	Amount
2002-2003		
1.	Bengal Engineering College (Deemed University)	US \$ 27,005
2.	Antyodaya Surja Sangh	US \$ 26,929
3.	Lok Sewa Samiti, Jethana	Rs. 37,64,915
2003-2004		
1.	Upkar Sanstha	Rs. 22,00,000
2.	Shri Krishna Club	US \$ 42,983
2004-05		
1.	Centre for Rural Development and Consultants	Rs. 21,72,750

Viability Gap Fund**Statement**

6246. SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

(a) whether there is a viability gap fund rests with the Ministry of Finance;

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(INFRASTRUCTURE SECTION)

(c) the guidelines for use of this fund on different projects undertaken by Ministries and Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

GUIDELINES

(b) An allocation of Rs. 1500 crore has been made to provide support to Public Private Partnership projects in infrastructure during the year 2005-06.

ON

SUPPORT TO PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS
IN INFRASTRUCTURE

(c) Copy of the guidelines is attached as statement.

AUGUST, 2004

**GUIDELINES FOR
SUPPORT TO PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS
IN INFRASTRUCTURE**

1. Government of India recognizes that there are significant shortcomings in the availability of critical infrastructure in the country at Central as well as State and local level and that this is hindering rapid economic development. In addition, the development of infrastructure requires very large investments that may not be possible out of the budgetary resources of Government of India alone. In order to remove these shortcomings and to bring in private sector resources as well as techno-managerial efficiencies, the Government is committed to promoting Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure development.
2. It is also recognised that Infrastructure projects have a long gestation period and may not all be fully financially viable on their own. On the other hand, financial viability can often be ensured through a mechanism that provides government support to reduce project costs. The Government of India therefore proposes to set up a special facility to provide such support to PPP projects. This support is generically termed as 'viability gap funding' throughout this document. This facility will be housed in the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA). Suitable budgetary provisions will be made on a year to year basis.
3. In order to operationalise this facility the following guidelines are now issued.

Criteria

4. In order to be eligible for funding under this facility PPP projects shall meet the following criteria:—
 - (i) The project must be implemented, i.e., constructed, maintained and operated during the project term, by an entity with at least 40% private equity.

- (ii) The project must belong to one of the following sectors:—
 - (a) Roads, railways, seaports, airports;
 - (b) Power;
 - (c) Water Supply, Sewerage and solid waste disposal in urban areas; and
 - (d) International convention centres.
- (iii) The projects should have been vetted/endorsed by the concerned line ministries in the Government of India.
- (iv) All central projects should have received requisite Government approval at the appropriate level.
- (v) The total Government support required by the project, including support from the Government of India under this facility, or any other sources of the Government of India and its agencies, as well as support from state governments and its agencies, must not exceed twenty percent of the total project cost as estimated in the preliminary project appraisal, or the actual project cost, whichever is lower.
- (vi) The implementing agency must be selected through a transparent and open competitive process. The main criterion for selection will be the extent of viability gap funding required by the private partner to successfully implement the project. The extent of viability gap funding shall be determined on the basis of the net present value of the actual viability gap funding required. For this purpose and for all calculations under these guidelines, the rate of discount shall be the rate of interest on 10-years gilts on the date of submission of the bid.

Funding

5. Viability gap funding can take various forms, including but not limited to, capital grant, subordinated loans, Operation and Management (O and M) support grants or interest subsidy.

A mix of capital and revenue support may also be considered.

6. The funding will be disbursed contingent on agreed milestones, preferably physical, and performance levels being achieved, as detailed in funding agreements.
7. The funding will be provided in instalments, preferably in the form of annuities, and with at least 15% of the funding to be disbursed only after the project is fully functioning.
8. In the first year of the facility, funding will be allocated to projects on a first-come, first served basis subject to meeting the eligibility criteria. In later years funding will be provided based on an appropriate formula that balances needs across sectors.

Appraisal and Approval Procedures

9. An Empowered Committee chaired by the Additional Secretary(EA) and including Financial Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Joint Secretary (Budget), Joint Secretary (PF-II), JS (Banking) and Joint Secretary of the concerned ministry, with Joint Secretary (FT), DEA as member-Secretary, will consider project proposals for viability gap funding. This Committee will be authorised to sanction viability gap funding upto Rs. 50 crores. Viability gap funding proposals beyond Rs. 50 crores will be approved at the level of the Finance Minister.
10. Project proposals may be posed by either of the following:—
 - (a) The concerned public agency, being either a central ministry or a Government of India agency, or the concerned state government, or urban local body, which owns the underlying assets.
 - (b) A private party, with sponsorship from the relevant central or state government agency.
11. Project proposals must be accompanied by a preliminary project appraisal, carried out by a public financial institution, as well as a commitment letter on behalf of the lending institutions that they agree to fund the project. The appraisal will cover the following:—
 - (a) Techno-economic viability of the project;
 - (b) Financial appraisal and project financing arrangements; and
 - (c) Extent and nature of viability gap funding that is proposed.
12. Within 30 days of any project being submitted to the Government, the Committee will inform the sponsor whether the project is qualified for funding under this scheme.
13. The project will then be put to bid by the concerned public agency through a transparent and open competitive process. The result of bidding will indicate the extent of viability gap funding that is actually required.
14. The lead financial institution shall present its detailed appraisal of the technical and economic viability of the project as proposed by the successful bidder, for the consideration and approval of the Committee/Finance Ministry.
15. The transfer of the viability gap funds and the schedule of such transfers will be approved by the Committee.
16. The lead financial institution will be responsible for regular monitoring and periodic evaluation of project compliance with agreed milestones and performance levels.
17. The lead financial institution will release the viability gap funding support to the project authorities when due and obtain reimbursement from DEA.
18. These guidelines will be reviewed in the light of experience gained after the first year of operation of the facility.

New Proposal/Schemes for Rural Development

6247. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new proposals/schemes proposed to be implemented for rural development for which funds have been allocated in 2005-06 Budget; and

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development propose to launch a new scheme viz., National Mission on Bio-Diesel during 2005-06. A provision of Rs. 50.00 crore has been made during the year. The detailed project Report has been submitted to the Planning Commission for their in principle approval.

Employment to Local People in NHPC

6248. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHPC provide employment to the local people in its projects;

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

(c) the number of persons given employment in various NHPC projects in the country till date;

(d) the number of surplus staff from completed/ on-going projects of NHPC as on date; and

(e) the manner in which the NHPC is going to adjust such staff as well as employment to local people?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recruitment is conducted by the Central Public Sector Undertakings under the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959, read

with Rules 1960 notified by the Government. Under these Rules, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) notifies vacancies of all such posts which fall under Group 'C' and 'D' and carrying scales of pay the maximum of which does not exceed Rs. 13,100/- to the concerned employment exchanges and conducts recruitment accordingly.

(c) As on date, NHPC has 7990 persons in workman cadre, which includes 4548 number of local persons who have been provided with employment.

(d) As on date, NHPC has 811 numbers of surplus staff.

(e) After redeployment of surplus staff, recruitment is done by NHPC as per the agreement with the concerned State Government, if any, and also as per extant provisions in the law/rules.

Legislation on Insurance Sector

6249. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes a comprehensive legislation on insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Law Commission and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority have provided some inputs in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Law Commission of India, in its 190th Report, has recommended, inter alia, merger of Insurance Act, 1938, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) Act, 1999, deletion of redundant provisions in these Acts and setting up of Grievances Redressal Mechanism. The report was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 10th December and 13th December, 2004

respectively. The Government has asked for the views of IRDA, which has set up a Committee of Experts on 7th March, 2005 to study the report of the Law Commission, specifically the provisions relating to Investments, sufficiency of assets, insurance surveyors, Tariff Advisory Committee, Shareholders' Fund and Policyholders' Fund. The views of IRDA are awaited.

Impact of PMGSY

6250. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey on socio-economic impact of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) on the lives on rural people of the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Bihar and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development commissioned a quick independent study to assess the socio-economic impact of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in 10 States on a sample basis. Since only a sample of States were included in the study, the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Bihar and Maharashtra were not covered.

External Market Development Scheme

6251. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to restructure the External Market Assistance Scheme for export of diversified jute products of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the study undertaken to

evaluate the contribution of External Market Assistance Scheme in export of jute goods;

(c) the details of the modifications proposed by Jute Manufactures Development Council in the scheme; and

(d) the details of the Minimum Support Price of raw jute/mesta announced during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Government of India had extended the External Market Assistance (EMA) Scheme for the period from 01-04-2004 till 31-03-2007 sinkeet to certain conditions.

(b) No such study has been undertaken by the Government to evaluate the contribution of EMA Scheme in export of jute goods.

(c) JMDC had proposed to the Ministry to reconsider the matter of raising the EMA eligibility cap, per claimant from Rs. 20 Lakhs to Rs. 1 Crore for the year 2004-05.

(d) The details of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of raw jute for the last three years are as under:—

Unit: For/Kolkata
Rs./Quintal
Variety: TD5/W5

Year	Raw Jute		Mesta
	TD5	W5	
2002-03	850	800	760
2003-04	860	810	770
2004-05	890	840	800

[Translation]

Procurement of Cotton by NAFED

6252. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton has been procured by the NAFED at minimum support price;

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

(c) whether any Global tender was floated for the sale of the cotton procured by NAFED;

(d) if so, the amount of cotton sold by NAFED till date; and

(e) the cost of the cotton per bundle?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State-wise procurement is as under:—

State	Quantity (In quintals)	Value (Rs. in Lacs)
Gujarat	1,31,522.52	2413.37
Punjab	42,822.05	763.53
Maharashtra	2,760.01	47.91
Madhya Pradesh	6,524.38	115.01

(c) Global Tender had been floated for export of cotton.

(d) Nil.

(e) The cost cotton after the processing of raw cotton purchased is as under:—

State	Variety	Cost Per Bale (In Rupees)
Gujarat	V-794	6166
	S-6	8148
Punjab	J-34	7664
Maharashtra	LRA	5768
	NH-44	5297
— Madhya Pradesh	LRA	7535 to 7786

Kota Thermal Power Plant

6253. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of electricity being generated in Kota Thermal Power Plant in Rajasthan, at present;

(b) whether the power being generated from this plant is according to its installed capacity;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) The quantum of electricity generated in Kota Thermal Power Plant in Rajasthan during 2004-05 was 7749.58 Million Units.

(b) to (e) Kota Thermal Power Plant generated 100.6% of the target during 2004-05. The Plant Load Factor (PLF) was 84.7% as against the national average PLF of 74.8%.

[English]

Setting up of PFRDA

6254. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Separate Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn in regard to possible diversion of pension fund by authorities for other purpose;

(d) whether pension is a long-term resource for the development of the economy especially in the infrastructure sector;

(e) whether pension involves management of long-term risks and funds and was always integral part of the Life Insurance Company;

(f) if so, whether Government have examined the matter of entrusting responsibility of pension reform to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) An interim Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) was constituted through a Government resolution dated 10th October, 2003 and began functioning on 1st January, 2004. Government proposes to have a legislative framework providing, inter alia, for a statutory regulator with adequate powers for regulation of intermediaries and protection of the interests of subscribers of the New Pension System.

(c) Pension funds would be selected by PFRDA. The proposed legislative framework has stringent provisions for dealing with any violations including diversion of pension funds.

(d) Long-term funds for various purposes can be mobilized, inter alia, through the capital market, banks, pension funds and superannuation funds.

(e) to (g) Pension and insurance are two different benefits and two different businesses. While pension products are for the long-term and address the need for old age income security, insurance products are essentially for safeguarding against risk and unforeseen events. The pension business comprises three phases, namely, accumulation of funds, management of funds and payout. While the payout phase requires skills of actuarial evaluation, the management of funds requires different skills of asset management and should therefore, be done through selected pension fund managers. In view of the different nature and objectives of pension and insurance, and the significant efforts required to develop the pension sector, Government is

of the view that there should be a separate regulator for the pension sector.

(h) Does not arise.

ADB Loan for Rural Roads

6255. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aisan Development Bank has offered a Rs. 300 crore loan for construction of rural road in Assam;

(b) if so, the Union Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the number of villages and habitations with more than 1000 population in Assam still unconnected with link roads to the nearest road and the total length of the link roads required to provide such links and to the rural population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (b) The Asian Development Bank has agreed to provide a Loan of US \$ 400 million for construction of rural roads under PMGSY. The States of Assam, Orissa and West Bengal will be the project States for the purpose.

(c) As per the Core Network Survey conducted by the Assam State Government, 4692 habitations with population of more than 1000 are still to be provided connectivity in Assam. Based on the Core Network, average length required for connectivity per habitation is approximately 1.44 km. and as such the total length of the link roads required to provide connectivity to such villages will be approximately 6756 kms.

Hi-Tech Parks

6265. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up the Hi-tech parks exclusively for weaving sector in the country;

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

(c) the total cost likely to be involved in setting up of these parks; and

(d) the main benefits for the weavers from these parks?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) The Government

of India have announced a scheme for establishment of Hi-Tech Weaving Parks involving modernised powerlooms through assistance under three existing schemes for powerloom sector, namely, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), the Group Work Shed Scheme (GWSS) and the Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS). The Government have recently given in principle approval for setting up of five Hi-Tech Weaving Parks as detailed below:—

Sl. No.	Name and Location of the Park	Total Project Cost (Rs. in lakh)	Government of India's Share in the Project Cost as Approved (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Rabkavi Hi-Tech Weaving Park, Rabkavi, District Bagalkot, Karnataka.	236.26	115.31
2.	Vaigai Hi-Tech Weaving Park, Aundipatti, Tamil Nadu.	1731.00	704.03
3.	Palladam Hi-Tech Weaving Park, Palladam, Tamil Nadu.	1643.61	649.65
4.	Cauvery Hi-Tech Weaving Park, Kornarapalayam, Tamil Nadu.	1412.09	595.02
5.	Hyderabad Hi-Tech Weaving Park, Kothur, Andhra Pradesh.	2818.16	1848.92

(d) With the setting up of Hi-Tech weaving Parks with modern weaving and preparatory machines, the powerloom workers will get better job opportunities and better working environment.

Watershed Projects

6257. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing watershed projects in the country, State-wise;

(b) time by which all these ongoing projects will be completed;

(c) whether new watershed projects have been initiated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The Department of Land Resources is implementing three area development Programmes namely the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP) in accordance with their respective guidelines on watershed basis w.e.f. 1-4-1995. 804 projects under IWDP, 14,629 projects under DPAP, and 8,980 projects under DDP are on-going and at various stages of implementation. State-wise details of ongoing watershed projects under these Programmes in the country, are enclosed as statement.

(b) Watershed development projects under these Programmes are implemented over a period of 5 years from the date of sanction and funds are released in five instalments on project to project basis under Hariyali guidelines. First instalment is released at the time of sanction of a project and each subsequent instalment is released on submission of the proposals by the concerned State Governments alongwith the requisite documents

as well as utilisation of more than 50% funds of the last instalment released.

(c) and (d) Under IWDP, project proposals are prioritised for sanction in consultation with the State Governments every year. In case of DPAP and DDP, new projects are sanctioned suo moto to the identified blocks in the country by the Ministry.

Statement

State-wise details of ongoing watershed projects under IWDP, DPAP and DDP

Sl. No.	State	Number of ongoing watershed projects		
		IWDP	DPAP	DDP
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44	1814	566
2.	Bihar	19	262	—
3.	Chhattisgarh	28	651	—
4.	Goa	2	—	—
5.	Gujarat	44	1410	1730
6.	Haryana	14	—	710
7.	Himachal Pradesh	32	264	378
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	374	438
9.	Jharkhand	13	956	—
10.	Karnataka	39	1399	943
11.	Kerala	5	—	—
12.	Maharashtra	39	1992	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	56	1698	—
14.	Orissa	43	784	—
15.	Punjab	7	—	—
16.	Rajasthan	44	672	4215

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Tamil Nadu	38	726	—
18.	Uttar Pradesh	57	848	—
19.	Uttaranchal	24	515	—
20.	West Bengal	7	264	—
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	30	—	—
22.	Assam	89	—	—
23.	Manipur	24	—	—
24.	Meghalaya	21	—	—
25.	Mizoram	27	—	—
26.	Nagaland	27	—	—
27.	Sikkim	12	—	—
28.	Tripura	11	—	—
Total		804	14629	8980

**Foreign Financial Assistance to
Tamil Nadu**

6258. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the cities of Tamil Nadu which have received financial assistance provided by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank for developmental works during the last three years separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Two State Sector projects in Tamil Nadu received financial assistance from World Bank during the last three years. (i) Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project, which was signed on 28-8-2003 connecting the road between Arcot-Ulunderpettai and Vriddachalam-Thiruvavur corridors and Bypasses, Karaikal-Kattumavadi, Kattumavadi-Ramanathapuram, Ramanathapuram-Tuticorin and Ramanathapuram and Kumbhakonam Bypasses, and (ii) Tamil Nadu Health

System Development Project, which was signed on 5-1-2005 covering whole State.

ADB has not provided any assistance to Tamil Nadu during the last three years.

Violation of Guidelines

6259. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain public Sector and Private Sector Banks are not following the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India scrupulously;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the norms of banks;

(c) whether at a given point of time such banks have been punished by RBI/Government for making such a default;

(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) to (e) Both public and private sector banks are following the guidelines prescribed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time on different aspects of banking/financial dealings. There is a system in place in RBI, which regulates the functioning of these institutions. RBI regularly conducts Annual Financial Inspections to diagnose violation of guidelines or any kind of irregularities. RBI takes up these findings with the respective banks, if considered necessary for corrective action.

[Translation]

Rural Works under Indo-Dutch Schemes

6260. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether work is being done under various development plans as per the Indo-Dutch scheme in the rural areas of some of the States;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken to ensure proper utilization of the funds received for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) A Community-managed Ghogha regional water supply and sanitation project is under implementation in Gujarat with assistance from the Royal Netherlands Government. The project is under implementation in 82 villages of Bhavnagar, Talaja and Ghogha talukas of Bhavnagar district. The project envisages drinking water facilities, environmental sanitation and local water resource management in all the project villages. The project started from 4-8-1997 and after introduction of reforms, the project was revised in the year 2002. The proposed completion date of the revised project is 30th June, 2005.

(c) The project is a part of the State Plan. There is a Steering Committee, which periodically reviews the

project. Three NGOs help village community as Implementation Support Agencies, facilitated by a Community Management Support Unit located in the project area. The State Government has reported that audit by an independent auditor is carried out to ensure proper utilization of funds. Assessment of performance of Implementation Support Agencies and impact of their activities has also been carried out by an independent agency.

Closure of Small Textile Mills

6261. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote textile mills in the country particularly in Jharkhand and Bihar so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a carpet weaving centre in Jharkhand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The important steps taken by the Government to promote textile mills in the country including the states of Jharkhand and Bihar are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Important steps taken by Government to promote textile mills in the country

- To improve the productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched 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 and Pressing factories.
- The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of 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 speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f. 20-04-05, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @ 10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
 - "Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme" has been launched with a view to imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports. Under the Scheme, Government gives grant upto Rs. 17 crores per apparel park for infrastructure work, training and common facilities.
 - 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-aided 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.
 - Liberal Foreign direct investment (FDI) policy has been introduced for attracting investment in the textile sector. Government has allowed foreign equity participation upto 100% through the automatic route with certain exceptions.
 - In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Government is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs).
 - National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set upto provide the leadership role in sensitizing the 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.
- Export of Handicraft**
6262. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
- Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of registered handicrafts exporting units in the country;
 - (b) the details of facilities being provided to the export houses to boost export of handicrafts items;
 - (c) whether the Government proposes to launch any new scheme to promote handicrafts items;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The total number of handicrafts exporters registered with Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) and Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) are 7114 and 2350 respectively.

(b) The details of facilities being provided to the export houses to boost export of handicrafts include:— license/certificate/permissions and customs clearances for both imports and exports on self-declaration basis; fixation of input-output norms on priority within 60 days; exemption from compulsory negotiation of documents through banks; 100% retention of foreign exchange in Exchange Earner Foreign Currency (EEFC) account; enhancement in normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days; entitlement for consideration under the target plus scheme; exemption from furnishing of Bank Guarantee in schemes under the Exim Policy; duty drawback on exports; entitlement for duty free import of trimming and embellishment and other items.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Government is of the view that the existing schemes are adequate for the present.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Excise Duty Outstanding against ITC

6263. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that between March 1, 1983 to February 28, 1987, the ITC Limited have 803 crores rupees outstanding as excise duty;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to recover the same from ITC;

(c) the details of various taxes/duties outstanding against the ITC Ltd. till date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) It is a fact that a Show Cause Notice was issued to M/s. ITC Ltd. and its outside contract manufacturers demanding Central Excise duty of Rs. 803 crores for the period March' 1983 to February 28, 1987. This matter was adjudicated by the Commissioner of Central Excise, New Delhi, vide order dated 29-12-1995 confirming an amount of Rs. 683.5 crores on M/s. ITC Ltd. Penalty of Rs. 6.5 crores against M/s. ITC Ltd. and Rs. 3.5 crores against its directors was also imposed.

Aggrieved by the said order, M/s. ITC Ltd. and all other parties to the proceedings filed appeals before the Tribunal. The Tribunal directed for payment of Rs. 350 crores as pre-deposit in terms of section 35F of the Central Excise Act which M/s. ITC Ltd. had complied. By order dated 04-09-1998 the Tribunal set aside the demand against M/s. ITC Ltd. and directed for requantification of the demand in terms of the observation contained in their order. The Commissioner Central Excise, New Delhi and M/s. ITC Ltd. filed appeals before the Supreme Court challenging the said order on all counts. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 10-09-2004 allowed the appeal filed by M/s. ITC Ltd. and set aside the demands. A review petition was filed by the Government which was also dismissed by the Supreme Court on 2nd March, 2005. The Central Excise laws (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance 2005 came into force on 25th January, 2005, to cure the infirmities pointed out by the Supreme Court in the relevant notifications and to validate the actions taken thereunder. During the currency of the

Ordinance M/s. ITC Ltd. Expressed their willingness to forgo their claim for refund of the deposit of Rs. 350 crores and requested the government to waive the demand for the balance under the Ordinance or otherwise. After carefully considering the matter and having regard to suggestions that the tax dispute should be settled on a reasonable basis the government accepted M/s. ITC Ltd.'s offer. The adjudicating authority by an order dated 5th April, 2005 accepted the settlement and adjudged the payment of Rs. 350 crores as Central Excise duty. The Ordinance has lapsed on 8th April, 2005.

(c) and (d) The reply to these two parts requires updated information from the records of various field formations and will require adequate time. The same is being collected and will be submitted at the earliest.

Donation Racket in Public Schools

6264. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI D.P. SAROJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income Tax department has unearthed donation racket in some Public Schools in the National Capital of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these public schools are running the racket through the societies managing these schools and illegally granting tax exemption certificates;

(d) whether Income Tax Department has also unearthed bungling in land allotment to these societies by DDA; and

(e) if so, 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 (c) Yes, Sir. Instances of receiving conditional donations from parents/relatives of students of Bal Bharati Public School, Pitampura, New Delhi being run by Child Education

Society and issue of tax exemption certificates under section 80G of the IT Act have been noticed during a survey operation carried out under Section 133A of the Income-tax Act, 1961. Further investigation is in progress.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

Training to Youth for Jobs

6265. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Rural Development and leading firms have entered into an agreement to train 35,000 youths in seven States over the coming years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States where this scheme is likely to be implemented;

(d) the total cost involved for training these youths;

(e) the percentage of cost likely to be borne by the Government and the private firm for this scheme; and

(f) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented and nature of trade included in this training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry has sanctioned a Special Project under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) in March 2005 titled 'Livelihood Advancement Business School (LABS)' submitted by Dr. Reddy's Foundation (DRF). The objective of the project is to identify and make available the potential livelihood options in rural areas for 35,000 Below Poverty Line (BPL) youth in the age group of 18-35 years. The project will be

implemented in 7 States namely, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Jharkhand.

(d) and (e) The total project cost is Rs. 14 crore, which would be shared between Centre and the Dr. Reddy's Foundation (DRF) in the ratio of 75:25.

(f) The project is supposed to be completed in a year. Skill development training to the unemployed youth would be given for a period of 3 to 6 months according to the market requirements and it would include life skill development, job related technical skills, workplace competencies, work readiness preparation, job shadowing etc.

Directorate for Company Secretaries

6266. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Directorate to deal with penal cases of Company Secretaries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA):

(a) and (b) A Bill titled "the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2003" was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 23-12-2003, which inter-alia contains proposals

for a revised disciplinary Mechanism for the members of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India including establishment of a directorate to deal with cases of professional misconduct.

M RTP Commission

6267. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending for consideration with MRTP Commission as on date;

(b) the present status of these cases;

(c) whether MRTP Commission has carried out any review in regard to the cases pending and cases filed and settled during the last three years as on date;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the MRTP Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA):

(a) and (b) The number of pending cases for consideration with the MRTP Commission as on 31-03-2005 is 2145. These cases are at various stages of consideration.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The total number of cases pending, registered/instituted and disposed of during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Number of Cases			
	Pending at the Beginning of the year	Registered/Instituted during the year	Disposed of during the year	Pending at the end of the year
2002	2677	335	760	2252
2003	2252	218	364	2106
2004	2106	198	200	2140

(e) The MRTTP Commission has been administratively enabled to discharge its responsibilities under the statute.

[Translation]

Non-Banking Finance Companies

6268. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI JIVABHAI AMBALAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-banking finance companies registered in the country;

(b) the number of companies functioning out of them;

(c) the number of companies which have vanished after collecting money from the investors;

(d) the number of companies traced so far and the number of investors helped to get their money back; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to trace these vanished NBF Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) After cancellation of 537 Certificates of Registration, the number of registered Non-Banking Finance Companies with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stands at 13238 as on March 31, 2005.

(c) 351 companies are reported to have vanished.

(d) and (e) RBI have reported that whenever a company is identified as vanishing, the case is referred to Economic Offences Wing of the concerned State Government. The onus is on State police machinery to investigate the case and take legal action as deemed appropriate including penal action as per Indian Penal Code/Criminal Procedure Code.

[English]

Plight of Small Investors

6269. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the measures taken by the government to safeguard the interest of general investors particularly minority shareholders in stock market;

(b) whether the government have taken steps in this regard recently;

(c) if so, how these measures are different from the measures taken earlier,

(d) the role of the SEBI in this regard during the last year;

(e) the reaction of government on the role of SEBI and protection of investors; and

(f) the stand of the Government on the issues of higher demand cost and shifting of depository charges from small investors to company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The focus of reforms in the Stock Market has been to reduce market risks, operational risks and systemic risks. SEBI has been continuously reviewing its policies and drafting new policies and programmes to mitigate these risks, thereby enhancing the level of investor protection and catalyse capital market development. Some of the key measures implemented by SEBI in the secondary equity market are reduction in settlement cycle of transactions, risk management framework, issuance of electronic contract notes, prescription of a risk disclosure document, uniform documentary requirements for transactions across stock exchanges, uniform implementation of surveillance measures across the stock exchanges, issuance of comprehensive guidelines for investor protection fund/customer protection fund, rationalization of demat charges, specification of modalities for margin trading and securities lending and borrowing, operationalization of the first phase of the BSE Indonext trading, platform to impart liquidity to the stocks of small and medium cap enterprises, etc.

(e) SEBI functions within the legal framework of the SEBI Act, 1992 with the objective of, inter-alia, protection

of the interests of investors in securities. Accordingly SEBI strives to assure that the rights of investors are protected and they are able to make informed choices and decisions.

(f) In order to address the various representations received from investors seeking a reduction in the charges incurred by them for dematerialization of securities, SEBI rationalized the dematerialization charges by abolishing account opening charges, charges for credit of securities into his account and recovery of custody charges from the issuer companies instead of from the investors.

Review of Total Sanitation Programme

6270. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the total sanitation programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Panchayats selected for consideration of awards under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government of India regularly review the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) programme in the country by way of online monitoring system, meetings/conferences with State Government officials, and through Review Missions sent to TSC project districts.

(c) 38 Gram Panchayats and one Panchayat Samiti were selected for the Nirmal Gram Puraskar instituted under the Total Sanitation Campaign for achieving full sanitation coverage. In addition, one Panchayat Samiti was given a special award.

Bonds from Cooperative Banks

6271. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue Rs. Seven hundred crores bond to save Cooperative Banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Allocation of Power

6272. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of power made available by NTPC during the last two years till date, State-wise;

(b) the names of the States where power cuts were made during the above period from Central Pool along-with the reasons and details thereof;

(c) the demands of power of each State and the quantum of supply against the demand;

(d) whether power supplied to Madhya Pradesh was cut twice during the said period; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Energy drawal by various States/beneficiaries from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) stations during 2003-04 and 2004-05 is given in statement-I enclosed.

(b) 85% capacity from Central Power Plants is generally allocated to the constituent States before the commissioning of the power plant. Shares allocated once are generally not changed unless surrendered by the State or the State is not able to pay requisite dues to the concerned Central Public Sector Undertaking. 25 MW share of Goa in Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station in the Southern Region has been reallocated to Union Territories (UTs) of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu on temporary basis keeping in view the power supply position in these State/UTs. The remaining 15%

capacity is also allocated to the States within the region by the Central Government keeping in view relative power supply position as well as for meeting the emergent requirements of the States from time to time.

(c) State-wise demand and supply of power during the year 2004-05 is enclosed as statement-II.

(d) and (e) Consequent to reorganization of erstwhile Madhya Pradesh, allocation to the successor States, viz. Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh was made on provisional basis in January, 2001. The final entitlements in central generating stations (CGSs) in the

Western Region (WR) of these States were determined by the Ministry of Power in November, 2004, when the provisional allocation of 1116 MW of Madhya Pradesh was modified to 1408 MW. As mentioned above allocation from unallocated quota of CGSs is reviewed from time to time and is liable for changes. The allocation from unallocated quota of CGSs of Madhya Pradesh was revised in May 2004, September 2004 and December 2004. At present, Madhya Pradesh has an allocation of 162 MW from unallocated quota of CGSs in WR as well as 200 MW from unallocated/surrendered share from NTPC stations in Eastern Region which is highest amongst all States.

Statement-I

Energy Drawal During 2003-2004 and 2004-05

(Figures in MUs)

State/Beneficiary	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	17619.70	19312.28
Uttaranchal	1811.51	1838.30
Rajasthan	5570.40	5763.57
Delhi	9331.38	9036.54
Haryana	6693.36	6984.45
Himachal Pradesh	877.40	953.28
Jammu and Kashmir	2639.68	2669.73
Chandigarh	588.19	560.50
Punjab	4731.04	4967.41
Madhya Pradesh	11080.56	11347.31
Maharashtra	13264.03	14350.71
Goa	1828.77	1917.09
Gujarat	9143.25	9032.32

1	2	3
Daman and Diu	1048.68	1125.79
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1524.55	1729.65
Chhattisgarh	2737.04	2559.61
Andhra Pradesh	13043.67	13272.25
Karnataka	4273.30	4904.14
Kerala	4278.87	3658.62
Tamil Nadu	7034.67	7297.80
Pondicherry	727.12	830.51
Goa	734.36	546.98
West Bengal	3452.51	3633.63
Bihar	4798.48	5471.34
Orissa	6302.79	6975.03
Jharkhand	636.01	1022.68
Sikkim	291.57	372.97
Assam	67.00	14.00

Statement-II*Actual Power Supply Position*

Figures in MU net

State/System/Region	April, 2004-March, 2005			
	Requirement	Availability	Surplus/Deficit(-)	
	(MU)	(MU)	(MU)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5
Chandigarh	1,157	1,148	-9	-0.8
Delhi	21,157	20,952	-205	-1.0

1	2	3	4	5
Haryana	21,801	20,562	-1,239	-5.7
Himachal Pradesh	4,000	3,917	-83	-2.1
Jammu and Kashmir	8,138	7,387	-751	-9.2
Punjab	33,393	30,383	-3,010	-9.0
Rajasthan	29,207	28,974	-233	-0.8
Uttar Pradesh	52,017	41,565	-10,452	-20.1
Uttaranchal	4,628	4,470	-158	-3.4
Northern Region	175,498	169,358	-16,140	-9.2
Chhattisgarh	11,747	11,553	-194	-1.7
Gujarat	59,681	52,724	-6,957	-11.7
Madhya Pradesh	34,810	30,097	-4,713	-13.5
Maharashtra	92,715	81,541	-11,174	-12.1
Daman and Diu	1,119	1,119	0	0.0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1,830	1,830	0	0.0
Goa	2,146	2,146	0	0.0
Western Region	204,048	181,010	-23,038	-11.3
Andhra Pradesh	50,416	50,061	-355	-0.7
Karnataka	35,156	33,687	-1,469	-4.2
Kerala	12,691	12,540	-151	-1.2
Tamil Nadu	47,872	47,570	-302	-0.6
Pondicherry	1,537	1,537	0	0.0
Southern Region	147,672	145,395	-2,277	-1.5
Bihar	7,201	6,476	-725	-10.1
DVC	9,070	8,988	-82	-0.9

1	2	3	4	5
Jharkhand	3,630	3,550	-80	-2.2
Orissa	13,980	13,875	-105	-0.8
West Bengal+Sikkim	23,155	22,789	-366	-1.6
Eastern Region	57,036	55,678	-1,358	-2.4
Arunachal Pradesh	158	158	0	0.0
Assam	3,787	3,582	-205	-5.4
Manipur	537	523	-14	-2.6
Meghalaya	1,374	1,228	-146	-10.6
Mizoram	236	222	-14	-5.9
Nagaland	330	324	-6	-1.8
Tripura	700	641	-59	-8.4
North-Eastern Region	7,119	6,674	-445	-6.3
All India	591,373	548,115	-43,258	-7.3

Peak Demand and Peak Met

Figures in MU net

State/System/Region	April, 2004-March, 2005			
	Peak Demand	Peak Met	Surplus/Deficit(-)	
	(MW)	(MW)	(MW)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5
Chandigarh	224	224	0	0.0
Delhi	3,558	3,490	-68	-1.9
Haryana	4,037	3,621	-416	-10.3
Himachal Pradesh	678	671	-7	-1.0

1	2	3	4	5
Jammu and Kashmir	1,316	1,166	-150	-11.4
Punjab	7,122	5,559	-1,563	-21.9
Rajasthan	4,786	4,414	-372	-7.8
Uttar Pradesh	7,877	6,268	-1,609	-20.4
Uttaranchal	846	794	-52	-6.1
Northern Region	26,834	24,125	-2,709	-10.1
Chhattisgarh	1,893	1,749	-144	-7.6
Gujarat	10,162	7,578	-2,584	-25.4
Madhya Pradesh	5,944	4,846	-1,098	-18.5
Maharashtra	14,986	12,464	-2,522	-16.8
Daman and Diu	200	200	0	0.0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	391	391	0	0.0
Goa	356	356	0	0.0
Western Region	31,085	24,128	-6,957	-22.4
Andhra Pradesh	8,093	7,903	-190	-2.3
Karnataka	5,927	5,612	-315	-5.3
Kerala	2,451	2,420	-31	-1.3
Tamil Nadu	7,647	7,555	-92	-1.2
Pondicherry	240	240	0	0.0
Southern Region	23,075	22,364	-711	-3.1
Bihar	980	980	0	0.0
DVC	1,400	1,400	0	0.0
Jharkhand	600	590	-10	-1.7
Orissa	2,220	2,220	0	0.0

1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal+Sikkim	4,117	3,965	-152	-3.7
Eastern Region	8,816	8,533	-283	-3.2
Arunachal Pradesh	63	62	-1	-1.6
Assam	659	621	-38	-5.8
Manipur	103	103	0	0.0
Meghalaya	264	207	-57	-21.6
Mizoram	69	67	-2	-2.9
Nagaland	74	71	-3	-4.1
Tripura	188	159	-29	-15.4
North-Eastern Region	1,272	1,128	-144	-11.3
All India	87,906	77,652	-10,254	-11.7

*[English]***Negotiation with Employees of GIC**

6273. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the inordinate delay in completing the bipartite negotiations with the employees by the General Insurance Corporation Management; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Wage negotiation is basically a management function and it is for the management of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) to reach a negotiated settlement with Associations/Unions. GIC had invited Unions/Associations representing officers/employees in the Corporation for discussion on wage revision and in seized of the matter.

*[Translation]***Scrap Metals**

6274. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Customs keep record, monitoring and verification of goods coming into the country via water, land and air routes from other countries;

(b) whether scrap of explosives in huge quantity has been imported due to the negligence and carelessness of this Department in the recent past which has reached in various parts of the country;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard, the names of places where scrap has been found and quantity thereof;

(d) whether live rockets, bombs, explosives, anti aircraft, anti tank have been reached in various parts of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether detailed enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(g) if so, the outcomes thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Goods imported in terms of Foreign Trade Policy 2004-2009 are allowed to be cleared into the country by the Department of Customs on the basis of documents produced namely, Bill of Lading, Invoice, packing list etc. and after examination and payment of duty where applicable.

(b) and (c) No. In terms of the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-2009, import of metal scrap is allowed without a licence but subject to certain conditions. Such metal scrap was being allowed to be cleared by the Department of Customs after checking of the documents produced and percentage of examination and after payment of duty as applicable. In the background of an explosion at the premises of a scrap importer at Ghaziabad on 30th September, 2004, the entire clearance procedure of scrap was reviewed and streamlined in consultation with the concerned Ministeries. Accordingly, importation and clearance of metal scrap in unshredded, compressed and loose form is now allowed only at twenty one specified ports and Inland Container Depots provided the goods are accompanied by a pre-shipment inspection certificate in the prescribed format and further that examination of 25% of the containers will be carried out in respect of manufacturer importers and 50% in respect of traders for each consignment subject to examination of a minimum of one container which will be 100% examined.

(d) and (e) In certain cases live rockets, bombs, explosives etc. were found in the metal scrap but have been detained by the Department of customs for necessary further action.

(f) to (h) The enquiry conducted in this regard did not reveal any bid to clandestinely induct terrorist hardware amidst scrap being imported into India. Most of the ordnance and ammunition was outmoded/not fit for use.

Health Insurance Schemes for Weavers

6275. SHRMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
MOHD. SHAHID:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give a package to handloom weavers under the Health Insurance Scheme;

(b) the number of weavers covered under the scheme during the current year;

(c) the target set for 2005-06;

(d) the amount to be spent under the scheme;

(e) whether the areas in the State have been ensured for the distribution of the Scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes Sir, the Government of India is proposing to launch Handloom Insurance Scheme for the handloom weavers.

(b) to (d) In the Budget announcement for 2005-06, made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, it has been proposed to increase the coverage to Two-lakh weavers under the proposed Health Insurance Scheme at a recurring cost of Rs. 30 crore per year. The scheme is yet to be finalised.

(e) and (f) The scheme will be applicable to weavers throughout the country.

[English]

Sales Tax Rates on Petro Goods

6276. SHRI RQOPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has requested to all the Chief Ministers to lower sales tax on petro goods;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the name of the States which are having the highest local taxes and cess on petro goods;

(d) whether States have reduced sale tax on petro products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas had requested the State Chief Ministers and the Chairman of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers to reduce sales tax rates on petroleum products with a view to contain the impact of high international prices on the domestic consumer prices of these products.

(c) Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Madhya Pradesh have the highest rate of local taxes on petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG respectively.

(d) and (e) The Government of Orissa reduced sales tax on LPG from 12% to 8% in September, 2004. In March, 2005, Kerala has reduced the sales tax rates on petrol from 44% to 28% and on diesel from 40% to 24%.

[Translation]

Strike by Bank Employees

6277. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working of the banks was affected due to strike by bank employees on March 22, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the revenue loss suffered due to this strike; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

employees owing allegiance to the four Officers Associations and five Workmen Unions were on strike on 22nd March, 2005 protesting against merger and consolidation of Public Sector Banks and Foreign Banks/ Institutions/Investors taking over the Indian Banks. Banking operations throughout the country were affected, the extent of which cannot be quantified.

Schemes for Weavers

6278. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

MOHD. SHAHID:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched weavers' welfare schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the number of weavers benefited with the funds released by the Centre to the States for these schemes during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the details of assistance provided in the country through these schemes;

(e) whether the Government has fixed any criterion for giving benefits under the said welfare schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government of India is implementing Weavers' Welfare Scheme with the components of Health Package, Thrift Fund and New Insurance for Handloom weavers. Under the scheme benefits are provided for taking care of the health problems, social security and also material insurance cover to the handloom weavers.

(c) 606930 weavers have been covered under the Weavers' Welfare Scheme during last three years and Rs. 1914.40 lakh has been released to various State Governments as detailed below:—

Year	No. of weavers covered	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)
2002-03	1,98,871	530.00
2003-04	1,62,295	575.88
2004-05	2,45,764	808.52
Total	6,06,930	1914.40

(d) Under the Health package component, the assistance is provided to the weavers for treatment of profession related diseases like; tuberculosis, asthma, inflammation of alimentary canal system, cost of testing of eyes and spectacles, supply of safe drinking water, maternity benefits to women weavers, payment of additional compensation for permanent measures of family planning and infrastructure for primary health centre. Under Thrift Fund component assistance is provided to create a fund in the nature of fund so as to meet the weaver those funds for the purpose of education, marriage of their children, purchase/repair of their houses and to meet other social obligations. Under the New Insurance for handloom weavers, the assistance is provided for coverage against loss or damage to dwelling due to flood, fire, earthquake etc., damage to contents of the dwelling like; looms, raw material etc., medical coverage and personal accident insurance against accidental death.

(e) and (f) The eligibility criteria for coverage under the scheme is that the weaver should be a regular member of a Society and must earn at least 50% of his/her income from handlooms.

[English]

Textiles Mills in Gujarat

6279. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Textile Mills both in public/private sector functioning in Gujarat as on date;

(b) the total number of workers enrolled in each of such mills;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up some more mills in this State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) by what time these mills will be set up in Gujarat; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) There are 52 spinning and composite cotton/manmade fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) in the State of Gujarat, of which 3 are in the public sector and 49 in the private sector. The National Textile Corporation has two functional textile mills in the State of Gujarat as on date.

(b) There were 633 and 655 employees in Ahmedabad New Textile Mills and Rajnagar Textile Mills No. 1 respectively as on 1-4-2005, under the control of NTC (Gujarat) Ltd. The total number of workers on roll in the 50 other mills functioning in the State were 44080 as on 31-3-2005.

(c) to (f) No, Sir. Do not arise.

Closure of Handloom and Other Units

6280. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of handloom, handicrafts, powerloom units closed down in the different parts of the country during the last three years and till date, State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to revive these units?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The handloom, handicrafts and powerloom units function in the unorganized sector, therefore no authentic data is centrally maintained on the number of units closed down.

(c) The Government through various schemes provides a conducive environment for the growth of the textile industry. Some of the important schemes being implemented for modernization of these sectors are:—

Handlooms: Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY).

Handicrafts: (i) Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana; and

(ii) Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme.

Powerlooms: (i) Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS); and

(ii) Group Workshed Scheme (GWS).

Technology Upgradation in Textile Sector

6281. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any scheme to fund the technology upgradation in the textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any provision has been made under the scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the Government has provided any incentive to small scale textile units under this scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For modernisation and technology upgradation in the textile sector Government has launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) which is in operation since 01-04-1999. The Scheme mainly provides for reimbursement of five per cent interest charged by the financial institutions/banks for technology upgradation projects in conformity with the Scheme. However, in

addition to this the following incentives are also available under this Scheme:—

(i) Coverage of exchange rate erosion not exceeding 5% points per annum in respect of foreign currency loans instead of 5% interest support;

(ii) For small scale textile and jute industrial units, an option to avail of either 15% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) or the existing 5% interest reimbursement;

(iii) For small scale powerloom units, an additional option of credit linked 20% capital subsidy for powerloom and weaving preparatory machinery, upto a cost of Rs. 100 lakh, with the facility to obtain credit from an enlarged credit network that includes all cooperative banks and other genuine non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) recognized by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(iv) For the textile processing sector only, a credit linked capital subsidy @ 10% in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(c) There is a provision of Rs. 1270 crores under TUFS during the Tenth Plan Period.

(d) and (e) For Small scale textile units the following incentive is available under this Scheme:—

(i) For small scale textile and jute industrial units, an option to avail of either 15% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) or the existing 5% interest reimbursement; and

(ii) For small scale powerloom units, an additional option of credit linked 20% capital subsidy for powerloom and weaving preparatory machinery, upto a cost of Rs. 100 lakh, with the facility to obtain credit from an enlarged credit network that includes all cooperative banks and other genuine non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) recognized by the Reserve Bank of India.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

National Bio-gas Programme

6282. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI AJIT JOGI:

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

(a) whether any request has been received from UP Government to release the second instalment for the year 2003-04 under National Bio-gas Programme; and

(b) if so, the time by which this amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a request from the Government of Uttar Pradesh was received in February 2004 for release of the second instalment of funds for the year 2003-04 under the National Bio-gas Programme, which, however, could not be released since all the required documents regarding settlement of earlier accounts were not submitted by the State Government. The admissible amount can be reimbursed to the State Government only after receipt of all the required documents which include claims supported by audited statement of expenditure for the year 2003-04 and settlement of accounts of the programme upto the year 2002-03.

[English]

Irani Committee Report

6283. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 13 Member Expert Committee on Revision of Companies Act, 1956 led by Dr. J.J. Irani has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith main recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the Report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (c) The Ministry placed a Concept Paper on Company Law on the website of the Ministry on 04-08-2004 with a view to obtain the views of stakeholders and general public on the proposed revision of the Companies Act, 1956. An Expert Committee headed by Dr. J.J. Irani was constituted on December 2, 2004 to advise the Government on the revision of the Companies Act, 1956. The work of the Committee is in progress. The report of the Expert Committee is expected to be available with the Government by May, 2005.

Per Capita Assistance to States during 2003-04

6284. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita plan assistance for the different States during the year 2003-04;

(b) whether State Government of Karnataka got much less per capita plan assistance than other States specially that of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, etc.;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) A statement showing the Per Capita Assistance to States for 2003-04 is enclosed.

(b) to (d) Karnataka's per capita assistance was higher than Kerala and Tamil Nadu but less than Andhra Pradesh during 2003-04. Normal Central Assistance for States' Plan is allocated according to Gadgil formula

approved by National Development Council. No corrective steps are required.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Per-Capita Central Assistance (in Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	856.87
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6322.64
3.	Assam	768.23
4.	Bihar	331.21
5.	Chhattisgarh	412.98
6.	Goa	898.62
7.	Gujarat	831.23
8.	Haryana	273.06
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2369.38
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3069.66
11.	Jharkhand	346.54
12.	Karnataka	751.20
13.	Kerala	580.09
14.	Madhya Pradesh	447.50
15.	Maharashtra	285.20
16.	Manipur	2786.63
17.	Meghalaya	2140.17
18.	Mizoram	6171.33
19.	Nagaland	2731.33

1	2	3
20.	Orissa	1039.22
21.	Punjab	368.49
22.	Rajasthan	444.12
23.	Sikkim	7248.40
24.	Tamil Nadu	492.40
25.	Tripura	2365.81
26.	Uttar Pradesh	349.85
27.	Uttaranchal	1917.05
28.	West Bengal	409.90
Per Capita of States		582.46

[Translation]

Vehicle Insurance

6285. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Insurance Companies plan to introduce insurance of the commercial vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the General Insurance Companies make a third party insurance of the commercial vehicles more than five year old;

(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) General Insurance Companies are marketing commercial vehicle insurance policies for comprehensive coverage as well as stand alone third party (TP) liability. Motor insurance in India is governed by the Tariff Regulations which define the policy terms and conditions

including scope, classification, rating factors and minimum values applicable for insurance of vehicles. These regulations are required to be followed by the general insurance companies while underwriting the motor business.

(c) to (e) There is no age limit for issuance of TP liability insurance cover for motor vehicles. All the General Insurance companies registered with Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority are authorised to issue TP liability policy as per the requirements of Motor Vehicles Act.

[English]

Assistance to Handicraft Sector

6286. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government provides financial assistance for development and upliftment of handicrafts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the criteria adopted by the Government for such assistance;

(d) the details of the amount utilized so far by each State, State-wise;

(e) the reasons for non-utilisation of assistance by some of the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The schemes of the Government for promotion and development of handicrafts do not envisage any financial assistance to the State Governments directly. These schemes are being implemented throughout the country as grant-in-aid schemes through Implementing Agencies like State Handicrafts Development Corporations/apex bodies and NGO's etc. based on the merit of proposals and availability of funds. However, the details of funds released/utilized during the last three years have been compiled state-wise and given in the statement enclosed.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Statement

State-wise funds released/utilized for implementation of developmental schemes of Handicrafts Sector during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	136.94	212.04	248.32
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	1.67
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.65	28.12	44.56
4.	Assam	212.36	267.29	511.30

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Bihar	11.80	9.64	34.66
6.	Chhattisgarh	10.09	22.58	38.98
7.	Chandigarh	6.44	15.10	—
8.	Delhi	759.84	1147.67	926.09
9.	Goa	128.15	2.77	375.78
10.	Gujarat	35.42	108.80	239.92
11.	Haryana	40.24	57.24	78.99
12.	Himachal Pradesh	116.32	130.90	151.08
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	107.58	292.98	335.15
14.	Jharkhand	8.87	11.98	16.60
15.	Karnataka	32.74	72.08	102.46
16.	Kerala	24.68	89.28	59.82
17.	Madhya Pradesh	146.88	144.07	198.53
18.	Maharashtra	56.66	124.11	98.92
19.	Manipur	40.21	33.61	47.06
20.	Meghalaya	16.60	7.70	20.72
21.	Mizoram	17.67	33.63	32.47
22.	Nagaland	128.33	93.24	70.63
23.	Orissa	90.43	140.50	190.46
24.	Punjab	20.58	44.86	24.42
25.	Pondicherry	1.10	0.48	6.64
26.	Rajasthan	68.93	196.64	254.38
27.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	—
28.	Tamil Nadu	33.75	74.55	234.63
29.	Tripura	32.46	39.51	68.94
30.	Uttar Pradesh	329.87	321.37	623.02

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Uttaranchal	38.75	111.63	68.64
32.	West Bengal	74.88	195.66	349.27
Total		2742.22	4030.03	5454.11

Transmission and Distribution of Power

6287. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mismatch in generation and transmission capacities of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to strengthen the transmission network in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Transmission system in the country is developed in a planned manner matching with generation addition programme. With each new generation, there is corresponding associated transmission system to evacuate power from the project and transmit to the load centres where the power is to be consumed. Transmission system is also developed to cater to network strengthening needs to meet growing load demand in various areas.

Transmission system for inter-state transmission of power is planned and developed under the Central Sector by the central utilities. Transmission system for transmission and supply of power within the state is planned and developed under the State Sector by the state utilities.

Setting up of Power Project in Sri Lanka

6288. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) proposes to set up joint-venture power plant in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which work on this plant is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (c) National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) had initiated a dialogue with Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) for setting up a thermal power plant in Sri Lanka.

NTPC subsequently received a request from GoSL on 20-12-2004 for submission of a detailed proposal for setting up of a 3x300 MW power plant on Build Own and Operate (BOO) basis.

Mobilisation of Additional Resources by State

6289. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have been asked by the Union Government to mobilize additional resources;

(b) if so, the performance of each State in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the various sources through which additional resources have been mobilized by each State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Planning Commission, as part of State's Plan includes Additional

Resource Mobilization (ARM) by States for determining their Plan sizes.

(b) A statement of ARM envisaged for the States during last three years is enclosed. Actual ARM data are not collected.

(c) States mobilize additional resources by taking various measures such as revision of electricity tariff, imposition of royalty on mines and minerals, cess on land, enhancement of levy on excise and sales tax etc.

Statement

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	State	2002-03 (LE)	2003-04 (LE)	2004-05 (Approved)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh			
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			
3.	Assam			
4.	Bihar			
5.	Chhattisgarh			50.00
6.	Goa			
7.	Gujarat			
8.	Haryana			
9.	Himachal Pradesh			
10.	Jammu and Kashmir			
11.	Jharkhand			267.51
12.	Karnataka			
13.	Kerala			
14.	Madhya Pradesh	86.00		86.65
15.	Maharashtra			
16.	Manipur		40.50	
17.	Meghalaya	13.30		13.15
18.	Mizoram	0.50		26.00
19.	Nagaland	4.93	1.31	1.99

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Orissa		123.77	
21.	Punjab			
22.	Rajasthan	50.00	55.00	60.50
23.	Sikkim	69.00	60.00	75.00
24.	Tamil Nadu		480.00	
25.	Tripura	23.59		42.12
26.	Uttar Pradesh			
27.	Uttaranchal			
28.	West Bengal			
Total		247.32	760.51	622.92

Loan of NALCO

6290. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether NALCO has repaid the loan taken from different financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof, till date;

(c) the steps taken by NALCO to increase the production;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the target set for 2005-06 financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the details of secured loans repaid are as under:—

(i) On capital restructuring made in March, 1999, 50% of the then existing equity capital of the company amounting to Rs. 641.31 crore was

converted into non-convertible redeemable debentures carrying interest at 14.5% payable semi annually. The redemption has been made in three equal installments in March, 2003, March, 2004 and March, 2005. The third and last installment of Rs. 214.39 crore was repaid on 25-3-2005.

(ii) 8.6% non-convertible secured redeemable taxable bonds of Rs. 210 crore redeemable on 15-11-2004 and Rs. 90 crore redeemable on 15-2-2005 totaling to Rs. 300 crore has been repaid on the respective redemption dates.

(iii) 8.6% non-convertible secured redeemable taxable bonds redeemable on 21-3-2007 with put and call option at the end of 3rd year (21-3-2005). The call option has been exercised on the full amount of Rs. 140 crore which has been redeemed on 21-3-2005.

With the above redemption, NALCO became a debt free company as on 25-3-2005 and continues to be so.

(c) and (d) In order to increase production capacity of NALCO Government on 26-10-2004 has approved the 2nd phase expansion programme of NALCO involving an investment of Rs. 4091.51 crore. As per plan, 50% of this estimated cost would be met mainly through internal accruals of the company and balance would come from external borrowings in phases. The project would be completed within a time frame of 50 months from the date of Government approval.

In the 2nd phase, the company plans to raise the Bauxite Mines capacity from 48,00,000 Tonne Per Year (TPY) to 63,00,000 TPY, Alumina Refinery capacity from 15,75,000 TPY to 21,00,000 TPY, Aluminium Smelter capacity from 3,45,000 TPY to 4,60,000 TPY and power generation from 960 MW to 1200 MW.

(e) The target set for the year 2005-06 is as under:—

Item	Bauxite	Alumina	Aluminium	Net Power Generation
Unit	Metric Tonnes	Metric Tonnes	Metric Tonnes	Million Units
Target	48,00,000	15,75,000	3,45,000	56,01

Power Supply Through Central Grid

6291. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the power supplied from central grid to the States in the country during the last three years till date;

(b) whether there are any complaints regarding discrimination in supply of power;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of requisitions in regard to supply of power from the central grid have received by the Government from the State Government of Karnataka during the period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) The entitlements and energy drawal from Central Generating Stations (CGSs) by various States/UTs during the last three years i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05 is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) All the regions have been facing energy and peaking deficits of varying magnitude except the

Eastern Region which is having surplus power for major part of the year. The unallocated power from CGSs in the Eastern Region as well as the shares surrendered by Eastern Region constituents have been allocated temporarily to various States in other regions. Requests are being received from States for higher allocation from unallocated quota for meeting their emergent requirements. Such requests are considered keeping in view the relative power supply position of the States, their payment capacity, etc. As this quota is limited, additional assistance is provided to the extent possible from time to time.

(d) and (e) Requests were received from Government of Karnataka during the last three years in April 2002, May 2003, Septemeber 2003, March 2004 and July 2004 for allocation of power from CGSs in Eastern Region as well as unallocated power of CGSs in Southern Region ranging from 126 MW to 337 MW. Request made during April 2002 was met to a large extent while it had not been possible to meet the requests of Karnataka at other times due to persistent shortage in other States of Southern Region, reduction in availability of unallocated/surrendered power in Eastern Region. The Government of Karnataka had approached Ministry of Power in March and July, 2004

for allocation of additional 337 MW of power from Eastern Region (ER) to offset the effect of the high cost of power generated by liquid fuel based power projects in Karnataka. As the availability of unallocated power in the ER is limited and allocated to needy states from time to time keeping in view power shortages, emergent/seasonal requirements of various States and as also

the constituents of the ER claimed back their surrendered share in NTPC stations, reducing the availability of unallocated power in ER for allocation to States outside ER, additional allocation from the ER to Karnataka to offset the high cost of power generated by liquid fuel private project was not considered practicable.

Statement

Details of Entitlement and Drawal of Energy from Central Sector Generating Stations for the Years 2002-03 to 2004-05

(Figures in net Million Units)

Region/State/System	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Entitlement	Drawal	Entitlement	Drawal	Entitlement	Drawal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Northern Region						
Chandigarh	1,041	963	1,380	1,363	1,329	1,299
Delhi	15,979	15,090	18,143	16,844	17,784	16,973
Haryana	11,907	12,248	12,189	11,526	12,464	12,124
Himachal Pradesh	1,764	1,732	2,151	1,855	2,980	2,406
Jammu and Kashmir	5,296	5,588	5,640	5,545	5,782	5,587
Punjab	12,059	11,841	12,716	12,160	12,714	12,035
Rajasthan	12,517	12,625	12,464	12,009	12,125	11,667
Uttar Pradesh	18,344	17,132	20,167	19,913	22,965	22,459
Uttaranchal	1,853	1,716	2,269	2,209	2,727	2,565
Western Region						
Chhattisgarh	2,964	2,992	2,906	2,884	2,642	2,618
Gujarat	12,135	11,773	12,077	11,116	12,375	10,933
Madhya Pradesh	11,270	11,051	11,105	10,972	11,982	11,395
Maharashtra	16,103	15,957	16,483	16,039	16,968	16,569

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Goa	1,888	1,806	1,842	1,828	1,918	1,918
DD+DNH	2,510	2,484	2,778	2,700	2,921	2,848
Southern Region						
Andhra Pradesh	12,943	12,759	15,371	15,055	16,714	16,390
Karnataka	7,982	7,976	7,890	7,883	8,970	8,950
Kerala	6,358	6,355	6,201	6,200	6,120	6,116
Tamil Nadu	14,791	14,769	18,015	17,965	18,894	18,850
Pondicherry	1,410	1,408	1,490	1,490	1,641	1,641
Goa	653	653	735	734	600	600
Eastern Region						
Bihar	4,552	5,640	5,470	5,331	6,073	6,024
DVC	1,115	540	1,328	1,111	1,249	1,127
Jharkhand	5,584	5,759	6,241	6,175	7,000	6,993
Orissa	5,477	5,862	6,694	6,588	6,783	7,221
West Bengal	6,252	4,002	7,257	7,114	7,372	7,188
Sikkim	147	75	414	366	456	454
North-Eastern Region						
Arunachal Pradesh	224	140	269	155	566	450
Assam	2,334	2,511	1,998	2,693	2,811	2,677
Manipur	414	480	655	466	747	623
Meghalaya	343	370	438	556	618	675
Mizoram	237	279	319	261	446	357
Nagaland	280	284	381	295	433	371
Tripura	396	340	529	162	698	420

Note: 1. The figures given above include the power supplied from the dedicated and jointly owned central sector generating stations.

Textile Mills in Arunachal Pradesh

6292. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textiles mills in cooperative, public and private sector functioning in the State of Arunachal Pradesh at present;

(b) the number of workers working therein; and

(c) the details of financial assistance provided to these mills during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) There is no textile mill in cooperative, public and private sector functioning in the State of Arunachal Pradesh at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposals for Solar Energy

6293. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttaranchal had sent a proposal to the Union Government seeking financial assistance for installing 25kw Solar Root Top energy schemes for tourist lodges at Pithoragarh and Rudraprayag;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has not released any funds against said proposal of the state;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Two proposals for the installation of 25kWp grid connected solar photovoltaic power plants, one each at for Vikas Bhawan, Pithoragarh and Tourist Rest House, Rudraprayag, were received from Government of Uttaranchal.

(b) No funds were released against these proposals, as these could not be sanctioned.

(c) The cost of power generated from Solar PV Power Plant was very high compared to the conventional power. It was, therefore, decided to discontinue the grid connected solar PV power programme. Accordingly, no new projects were sanctioned.

(d) Does not arise.

Thermal Power Projects

6294. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Thermal Plants making losses" appearing in the Statesman dated the April 6, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Thermal and Gas based Power Generation stations in the Capital are suffering losses in crores of rupees;

(c) if so, facts thereof;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to check losses of power stations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indraprastha Power Generation Ltd. (IPGCL) has incurred a total loss of Rs. 33.00 Crores after meeting all the expenditure and depreciation during the period from 1-07-2002 till March, 2004. However, IPGCL has made profits before depreciation during the period and has not incurred any cash losses.

(d) and (e) IPGCL has taken up the job to improve the Plant Load Factor (PLF) of its units. The PLF of I.P. Station and Rajghat TPS has improved to 42.5% and 58.9% respectively during the year 2004-05. As a result,

generation of the Company has increased from 2683 million Units (2002-03) to 3157 Million Units to 2004-05. Besides, the Company has focused on maintenance schemes of the plant and equipment to improve efficiency of the plants and reduce costs.

Proposals under Watershed Programme

6295. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of proposals under Watershed Development Programme from various States are pending for approval by the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the scheme-wise number of pending proposals for each State showing district-wise status for Assam with date of submission, reason for non-sanction and likely time by which these will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), project proposals are prioritised for sanction in consultation with the State Governments every year. Pending project proposals which are not sanctioned in a financial year can be considered for sanction during the next financial year, if prioritised by the State Governments. In case of Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP), new projects are sanctioned suo moto to the identified blocks in the country by the Ministry. Therefore, the question of pendency of proposals under Watershed Development Programme from various States, including Assam, does not arise.

Installation of Hand Pumps

6296. SHRI KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down by the Union Government for installation of hand pumps in rural areas;

(b) the number of hand pumps installed in rural

areas of Uttar Pradesh during 2003-2004, district-wise; and

(c) the number of hand pumps proposed to be installed in the State during the current year, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a state subject. The Government of India, however, supplements the efforts of the State Governments in providing drinking water supply to the rural habitations by rendering financial assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The ARWSP guidelines provide one hand-pump or stand post for every 250 persons. The State Governments are, however, empowered to plan, sanction, implement and execute individual rural water supply projects from funds provided under ARWSP; and the data in regard to number of hand pumps installed or proposed to be installed are not maintained at the Central level.

Guidelines for Hariyali

6297. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amendments to guidelines for Hariyali 2003 Watershed Development under DPAP/ IWDP has been proposed/undertaken;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status thereof;

(c) whether certain States have forwarded any proposal regarding this; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) The task of revision of guidelines for any rural development programme is a continuous process and is taken up from time to time as dictated by field realities. Accordingly, the Guidelines for Watershed Development that became operational with effect from 1-4-1995 were

revised in August 2001. Subsequently, the guidelines were again revised and renamed as Guidelines for Hariyali in April 2003 to empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in all aspects of watershed development activities.

Collection of Funds by NTPC

6298. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has achieved 100% collection from all the States during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NTPC to tap domestic and overseas market is likely to mop up Rs. 5826 crores to add 9160 MW capacity by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details of the source from where this fund is likely to come; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by NTPC to fulfil the target by 2007?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the financial year 2004-05, against a billing of Rs. 22116.08 crore, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has realized Rs. 22281.89 crore which includes receipt of advance payments and realization of past dues.

(c) and (d) To achieve the capacity addition target of 9160 MW during the 10th Plan period, NTPC plans to make an investment of Rs. 8550 crore during the year 2005-06. This investment is planned to be partly funded by a borrowing of Rs. 5826 crore, comprising Rs. 4526 crore from the domestic market and Rs. 1300 crore from international market.

(e) NTPC has a capacity addition target of 9160 MW during the 10th Plan period out of which 3500 MW has already been commissioned. Of the remaining 5660 MW, 4210 MW is already under construction and 1450 MW is envisaged from new Combined Cycle Power Projects.

World Bank Aid

6299. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

YOGI ADITYA NATH:

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is extending more aids to the country as compared to the last Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any talks have been held between India and World Bank in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the assistance is likely to be received; and

(e) the schemes on which the aforesaid amount of assistance would be spent, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The World Bank's Country Strategy for India (July 2004-June 2008), mutually agreed between Government of India and the World Bank last year, envisages up-scaling of Bank's lending to India to about US \$ 3 billion per annum over these four years. The average level of lending during the previous Five Year Plan period (1997-2002) was of the order of US \$ 1.98 billion per year.

(e) The Banks' lending would be utilized for various development schemes in all the States in sectors such as infrastructure, human development, rural livelihoods, urban development, agriculture, etc.

Loan for NCES Projects

6300. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Renewable Energy Development has sanctioned loans for setting up of Non-Conventional Energy projects;

(b) if so, the details thereto including the criteria, terms and conditions formulated by the Government for sanctioning of loans to States; and

(c) the details of loan sanctioned and released to each State/UTs during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has sanctioned loans amounting to Rs. 6945 crore, upto

31 March, 2005 for setting up non-conventional energy projects in the country. IREDA provides loans upto 80 per cent of the approved project cost to project promoters/developers with a repayment period of upto 12 years, which includes a moratorium period of upto 3 years. The interest rate on IREDA loans varies between 5 and 12 per cent, depending upon the nature of the project.

(c) The state-wise details of loan sanction and disbursement made by IREDA during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Details of Loan Sanction and Disbursement Made by IREDA during the last three years

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05 (Provisional)	
		Sanction	Disbursement	Sanction	Disbursement	Sanction	Disbursement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.89	115.81	18.40	41.92	77.05	26.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	34.65	0
6.	Delhi	0.97	1.83	0	0.20	0	0.14
7.	Goa	0	0.09	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	14.18	0.94	0	2.08	4.75	3.16
9.	Haryana	0	0.02	0	0	0	0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	62.92	22.23	35.28	32.68	93.19	20.49
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Jharkhand	0.07	0.05	0	0	0	0
13.	Karnataka	379.10	68.31	103.66	151.11	135.70	117.92
14.	Kerala	0.16	0.14	0	0.07	0	0
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0	2.59	5.32	9.25	0	3.11
16.	Maharashtra	46.48	47.66	70.61	42.11	54.82	11.38
17.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0.54
21.	Orissa	60.00	0	0	0.18	0	14.95
22.	Punjab	0	20.44	32.67	3.22	1.85	33.73
23.	Rajasthan	15.13	13.75	72.63	44.39	23.14	34.51
24.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	24.50	40.09	45.75	13.56	87.97	18.41
26.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0	5.48	0	0	11.41	0
28.	Uttaranchal	0	1.41	0	0	41.34	1.08
29.	West Bengal	20.56	5.08	39.25	2.51	33.84	2.79
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		633.96	345.92	423.57	343.28	599.71	288.21

Bauxite Deposits in Kerala

6301. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has found any source of Bauxite deposit in Kerala;

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

(c) whether the Government has decided to transfer it to private firms/companies for excavation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out exploration for Bauxite in Kerala and the important deposits found are located in Kannur, Kasargod, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram districts. 10.46 million tonnes of Bauxite with 40%-50% Al_2O_3 has been established in Kannur and Kasaragod district and 2.64 million tonnes in Kollam and 0.93 million tonnes in Thiruvananthapuram districts with 40%-50% Al_2O_3 .

(c) and (d) Mineral Concessions are granted by the State Governments under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. As per the National Mineral Policy 1993, the exploration and exploitation of these minerals has been thrown open to private investment and therefore commercial exploitation of minerals take place as per economic viability of the minerals.

Excise Exemption

6302. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has received any representation from Faridabad Industries Association for increasing central excise exemption limit for small industries sector from existing Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 3 crores;

(b) if so, the salient features of the representation and when it was received;

(c) whether the representation has since been considered by the Government; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The association has requested for increase in Small Scale Industry exemption limit from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 3 crores, in the light of increase in the light of increase in the input cost due to increase in prices of steel. The representation was received in March, 2005.

(c) and (d) The representation has been considered. It was decided not to make any change in the exemption limit for the present.

Thermal Power Generation

6303. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total power generated by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, State-wise, Year-wise and Unit-wise;

(b) the target fixed by the NTPC for power generation for the current financial year;

(c) whether thermal power generated by NTPC is cheaper in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The total power generated by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, State-wise, Year-wise and Unit-wise is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) The target fixed by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for NTPC power stations for the current year, (including Badarpur Thermal Power Station) is 1,69,667 Million Units.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However the cost of generation of thermal power plants of NTPC depends on various factors like location of plant, type of fuel used etc. The station-wise cost of energy from thermal power plants of NTPC to State Electricity Boards (SEBs) during the year 2003-2004 is enclosed as statement-II.

Statement-I

State	Station Name	Generation (MU)			
		Unit No.	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
Delhi	Badarpur	1	722	720	685
		2	756	628	737
		3	620	706	687.9
		4	1578	1711	1671.7
		5	1608	1667	1682
	Badarpur Total		5284	5432	5463.6
Delhi Total		5284	5432	5463.6	
Haryana	Faridabad CCGT	1			1001.3
		2			1027.5
		3			1133.1
	Faridabad CCGT Total		2697	2792	3161.9
Haryana Total		2297	2792	3161.9	
Rajasthan	Anta GT	1	567	601	588.2
		2	559	593	567.5
		3	608	582	596.6
		4	1026	1001	1032.7
	Anta GT Total		2760	2777	2785
Rajasthan Total		2760	2777	2785	
Uttar Pradesh	Auraiya GT	1	711	661	801.1

1	2	3	4	5	6
		2	661	654	797.7
		3	744	749	781.8
		4	698	734	432
		5	736	693	754.2
		6	722	761	552.9
Auraiya GT Total			4272	4252	4119.7
Dadri (NCTPP)		1	1594	1553	1748.2
		2	1487	1585	1669.2
		3	1520	1549	1713.1
		4	1442	1498	1699.7
Dadri (NCTPP) Total			6043	6185	6830.2
Dadri GT		1	869	812	961.6
		2	753	866	791.4
		3	885	782	889.6
		4	792	753	822.9
		5	952	982	1029.7
		6	961	867	962.7
Dadri GT Total			5112	5062	5457.9
Rihand		1	3952	3960	4066.4
		2	3800	3998	3920.8
		3			0
Rihand Total			7752	7958	7987.2
Singrauli STPS		1	1670	1754	1670.9

1	2	3	4	5	6
		2	1698	1742	1510.1
		3	1638	1705	1569
		4	1682	1723	1658.7
		5	1562	1726	1614.9
		6	3719	3627	3746.3
		7	4199	3367	4036.1
Singrauli STPS Total			16168	15644	15806
Tanda		1	475	776	808.9
		2	806	779	842.3
		3	314	568	837.2
		4	628	789	831.2
Tanda Total			2223	2912	3319.6
Unchahar		1	1513	1627	1624.7
		2	1529	1557	1718.1
		3	1474	1676	1691.2
		4	1635	1594	1747.2
Unchahar Total			6151	6454	6781.2
Uttar Pradesh Total			47821	48467	50301.8
Gujarat	Gandhar GT	1	746	713	846.8
		2	963	624	815.6
		3	533	742	880.1
		4	1130	1143	1490.3
Gandhar GT Total			3372	3222	4032.8

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Kawas GT	1	698	612	461.7
		2	723	598	473.9
		3	727	597	432.7
		4	540	649	405.1
		5	810	704	561.9
		6	710	733	488.5
	Kawas GT Total		4208	3893	2823.8
Gujarat Total			7580	7115	6856.6
Madhya Pradesh	Vindhyachal STPS	1	1545	1680	1713
		2	1623	1754	1699.9
		3	1101	604	1601
		4	1740	1679	1660
		5	1636	1784	1742.6
		6	1575	1728	1713.1
		7	3890	3889	3832.9
		8	3825	3259	3859.2
	Vindhyachal STPS Total		16935	16377	17821.7
Madhya Pradesh Total			16935	16377	17821.7
Chhattisgarh	Korba STPS	1	1648	1655	1688.3
		2	1647	1664	1679.6
		3	1628	1564	1663.6
		4	3906	3915	4107.3
		5	3820	3914	3852.4

1	2	3	4	5	6
		6	3817	3621	4057.8
	Korba STPS Total		16466	16333	17049
Chhattisgarh Total			16466	16333	17049
Andhra Pradesh	R Gudem STPS	1	1593	1541	1625.5
		2	1622	1635	1656.7
		3	1631	1578	1424.9
		4	3872	3883	3969.1
		5	4081	3675	4076.3
		6	4040	4020	3889.3
		7			528.03
	R Gudem STPS Total		16839	16332	17169.83
	Simhadri	1	3092	3700	4087.3
		2	1882	4022	4034.8
	Simhadri Total		4974	7722	8122.1
Andhra Pradesh Total			21813	24054	25291.93
Kerala	Kayamkulam GT	1	676	726	228.2
		2	648	614	165.1
		3	803	778	227.2
	Kayamkulam GT Total		2127	2118	620.5
Kerala Total			2127	2118	620.5
Bihar	Kahalgaoon	1	1138	1491	1550.9
		2	1333	1485	1508.5

1	2	3	4	5	6
		3	1334	1466	1569.2
		4	1190	1530	1453.5
	Kahalgaon Total		4995	5972	6082.1
Bihar Total			4995	5972	6082.1
Orissa	Talcher	1	310	163	487.6
		2	0	421	472.2
		3	58	455	424.8
		4	472	361	345.3
		5	768	793	718.9
		6	640	550	748.2
	Talcher Total		2248	2743	3197
	Talcher STPS	1	3197	3314	3811.4
		2	3244	3867	3597.4
		3	82	3121	3316
		4		697	3663.7
		5			1855.9
		6			3
	Talcher STPS Total		6523	10999	16247.4
Orissa Total			8771	13742	19444.4
West Bengal	Farakka STPs	1	1301	1441	1330.6
		2	1281	1443	1317.3
		3	999	1314	1282.9
		4	2517	2556	2874.3

1	2	3	4	5	6
		5	2853	2732	2898.2
	Farakka STPS Total		8951	9486	9703.3
West Bengal Total			8951	9486	9703.3
Grand Total			146200	154665	164581.8

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Station	Cost of Energy (Rs./kWh)	1	2	3
16.	Dadri GPS				2.15
17.	Kawas GPS				3.38
18.	Gandhar GPS				2.61
19.	Kayamkulam CCPS				3.64
20.	Faridabad GPS				1.78
1.	Singrauli STPS	0.98			
2.	Korba STPS	0.76			
3.	Ramagundam STPS	1.20			
4.	Farakka STPS	1.63			
5.	Vindhyachal STPS	1.19			
6.	Rihand STPS	1.24			
7.	Firoze Gandhi Unchahar TPS	1.71			
8.	National Capital Region TPS	2.13			
9.	Kahalgaon STPS	1.79			
10.	Talcher STPS	1.17			
11.	Talcher TPS	1.06			
12.	Tanda TPS	1.99			
13.	Simhadri STPS	1.40			
14.	Anta GPS	1.72			
15.	Auraiya GPS	1.95			

**National Handloom Development
Corporation**

6304. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the turnover and profit of National Handloom Development Corporation Limited has been sharply declined over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for decline of the same;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the turnover, profit and the performance of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The details of turnover and profit of National Handloom Development

Corporation Limited (NHDC) for the last three years are as under:—

Year	Turnover (Rs. in lac)	Profit (Rs. in lac)
2001-02	21056.71	33.37
2002-03	39239.28	211.16
2002-04	28472.97	145.14

(c) The reasons for lower turnover during 2003-04 were:—

- (i) Due to Changes in implementation pattern of supply of yarn under CENVAT scheme, NHDC could get lesser value of orders of Yarn.
- (ii) Supplies further reduced on account of firm trend in yarn prices for some part of the year coupled with exchange rate of rupee, affected the smooth execution of export orders thereby affecting the yarn orders on the NHDC from the exporting agencies.
- (iii) Due to major changes in distribution system of yarn under CENVAT scheme by enhancing direct benefit to exporters by excise department through Form CT-2.
- (iv) Many states agencies are undergoing restructuring and also financial position of weaver societies is quite critical.

(d) and (e) The NHDC is a developmental agency and its main role is to act as an agency for supplying yarn at reasonable prices. Supplies of yarn depend upon a variety of factors like continued orders with the Handloom agencies, financial resources, marketability of products. NHDC has continuously been striving hard to increase their coverage by adopting a number of steps such as:—

- (i) Cluster approach has been adopted to increase supplies.

- (ii) Buyers/sellers meet have been started by NHDC to offer the yarn from the alternate sources.
- (iii) Publicity for Mill Gate Price Scheme.
- (iv) NHDC has also organized Appropriate Technology Exhibitions, Sensitization Programme Eco-Friendly Dyers Training Programmes and Human Resource Development (HRD) Programmes for Handloom Sector. This has benefited the handloom weavers to improve their skills and quality.

MSP for Jute

6305. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government has fixed any Minimum, Support Price for procurement of Jute from the jute growers;

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

(c) the names of the States registered with the Jute Corporation of India as on date;

(d) the estimated Jute production during each of the last three years, till date; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for the promotion of Jute production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The government 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 others grades/varieties of Jute and Mesta have been declared by the Jute Commissioner vide a press release on 26th April, 2005. Copy of the notification by the Jute Commissioner is enclosed as statement.

(c) the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) operates in seven jute growing States in India namely, Assam,

Meghalaya, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura. However, there is no practice of registering States with the Jute Corporation of India.

(d) The year-wise estimated jute production during the last three years is mentioned below:—

(in lakh bales of 180 Kgs. each)

2002-03	—	110 Lakh Bales
2003-04	—	90 Lakh Bales
2004-05 (estimated)	—	75 Lakh Bales

(e) The following steps have been taken by the Government for promotion of jute production in the country:—

- (i) Declaring remunerative MSP for raw jute and allied fibres.
- (ii) Authorizing the JCI as nodal agency to carry out MSP operations in the Country, the Government of India is committed to reimburse the losses incurred by the JCI in its MSP operations. During 2003-04, the Govt. has also given Bank Guarantee of Rs. 33 Crores in order to enable JCI to conduct MSP operations

smoothly. The JCI operates 171 regular purchase Centres throughout the country. In addition, 69 State level Cooperative Organizations and 250 Odd Primary Cooperative Societies are authorized to act as agents of the JCI to procure raw jute at declared MSP.

- (iii) The Government tries to promote the diversified product portfolio through a host of schemes seen by the National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD) and the Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC) so as to ensure better price to the farmers for their high quality fibre used for JDPS.
- (iv) The Government tries to ensure a reasonable market demand for the raw jute produced by the farmers by reserving reasonable percentage of foodgrains and sugar to be packed in jute packaging materials under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.
- (v) The Ministry of Agriculture executes Schemes promoting R and D and better agronomic practices to increase yield and quality of raw jute produced by the jute growers.

Statement

(Rs. per Quintal.)

State	Jute TD-5 Grade	Jute W-5 Grade	Mesta M-4 Grade
1	2	3	4
(a) Assam/Meghalaya	910	860	820
(b) Tripura	881	831	791
(c) Bihar			835-851
(i) Purnea, Kishanganj, Katihar and Araria	941	891	
(ii) Saharsa, Champaran (East and West) and Other Districts	925	875	

1	2	3	4
(d) Orissa	947	897	857
(e) West Bengal			845-883
(i) Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling	935	885	
(ii) North and South Dinajpur and Malda	948	898	
(iii) Murshidabad, Bankura and Birbhum	960	910	
(iv) Nadia, Howrah, Hooghly, Burdwan, Midnapur (East and West), 24-Pgs (North and South)	973	923	
(d) Uttar Pradesh	888	838	802
(g) Jharkhand	—	—	802
(h) M.P.	—	—	802
(i) A.P. (Bottom Grade)	—	—	852

Custom and Ex. Duty Difference between Fixed and Mobile Phone

6306. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Customs and excise duty rates in fixed phones and mobile phones; and

(b) the reasons that fixed line phone operators who do not charge the cost of instruments are being made to pay higher duties and taxes as compared to mobile phone handsets whose cost is paid upfront by subscribers and enjoying lower duties structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The customs and excise duty rates on fixed phones and mobile phones are as follows:—

(i) Both fixed phones and mobile phones attract nil basic customs duty and 4% additional duty

of customs under section 3(5) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, w.e.f. 1-3-2005.

(ii) Cellular phones and radio trunking terminals are fully exempt from excise duty. Other telephone sets including fixed phones attract excise duty at the Cenvat rate of 16%.

(b) Exemption from excise duty was given to cellular phones mainly to reduce the cost so as to reduce the incentive for smuggling. The levy of customs and excise duties does not depend on whether or not the cost of instrument is recovered from the subscriber.

Plight of Weavers

6307. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the plight of the weavers due to exploitation by the middlemen;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb the activities of the middlemen and save the weavers; and

(d) to what extent these steps have been successful?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any report from any State Government of the plight of handloom weavers due to exploitation by the middlemen.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Implementation of Land Reform Act

6308. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take concrete steps to implement Land Reform Act and also to distribute surplus land to the landless people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) Land and its management falls within the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the States as provided in Entry No. 18 of List II (State List) to the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. However, the Union Government has been playing an advisory and coordinating role in the field of land reforms.

According to the information received from the State Governments an area of 64.97 lakh acres has been taken possession of out of which 54.03 lakh acres have

been distributed to 57.46 lakh landless people including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under Ceiling laws.

[English]

Committee of Secretaries

6309. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Committee comprising of Secretaries of various Ministries/ Departments to examine and suggest measures for expediting the process of public and private investments;

(b) if so, whether the said Committee has given its reports;

(c) if so, the recommendations of the said Committee; and

(d) the details of the action taken by the Government on each of the recommendations of the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

Nidhi Companies

6310. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Nidhi Companies/Mutual Benefit Societies are indulging in various irregularities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the irregularities of Nidhi Companies and to protect the investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) There are a total of 244 companies notified

as Nidhi companies/Mutual Benefit Societies as on 31-3-2005. The Ministry has received complaints against 6 companies defaulting in repayment of deposits to the depositors.

(c) Consequent upon receipt of complaints, the Ministry has carried out inspection into the working of these companies. Based on the inspection reports, the Government has rescinded the Nidhi status granted to three companies, viz., M/s. Kuber Mutual Benefits Ltd., Meerut, M/s. Trikone Mutual Benefits Ltd., Lucknow and M/s. Singh Mutual Benefit Company Ltd., Haldwani. Further, the Government has appointed Directors on the Board of M/s. RBF Nidhi Ltd., Chennai. A Special Officer has been appointed to control the management of M/s. Park Town Benefit Fund Ltd., Chennai. In respect of M/s. Alwarpet Benefit Fund Ltd., Chennai, the Hon'ble High Court of Madras has appointed a Commissioner.

The directions/guidelines applicable to Nidhi companies, which provided for Prudential norms, were revised and notified in 2001 and 2002 to improve the functioning of Nidhi companies.

The Government has decided to constitute an Expert Group to review the functioning of Nidhi companies and to suggest a monitoring mechanism for improvement of the functioning of these companies.

[Translation]

Scheme for Rural Artisans by NABARD

6311. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has formulated new schemes for the rural artisans and people of the Scheduled Castes particularly in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) NABARD has not formulated any new scheme for

the rural artisans and people of the Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra. However, NABARD has taken various initiatives for the benefit of rural poor including rural artisans and SCs/STs. Some of the initiatives/schemes being implemented by NABARD throughout the country including Maharashtra are as under:—

- (i) Introduction of Swarozgar Credit Card;
- (ii) Promotion and development of rural non-farm sector by way of refinance which includes rural artisans and unorganized sector under the scheme viz. Composite loan scheme, Integrated loan scheme, Small road and water transport operator scheme and Soft loan assistance scheme for margin money;
- (iii) District Rural Industries Project (DRIP) with the objective of removing constraints/weaknesses in the development of rural non-farm sector in an organized manner;
- (iv) Cluster Development Programme; and
- (v) Setting up of Rural Hatts.

World Bank Projects in Rajasthan

6312. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects being run with the aid of World Bank in Rajasthan;

(b) the amount sanctioned by the World Bank during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the State Government has properly utilized the above amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) As per the statement annexed.

Statement

US \$ Million

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Funding Agency	Amount sanctioned by the World Bank during each of the last three years			Amount utilized as on 31-3-2005 during last three years
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	
1.	Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring Project	IBRD	180.00	—do—	—do—	88.157
2.	Rajasthan Second District Primary Education Project	IDA	79.38	—do—	—do—	37.193
3.	Rajasthan Water Sector Resructuring Project	IDA	140.00	—do—	—do—	23.917
4.	Rajasthan District Poverty Initiative Project	IDA	101.25	—do—	—do—	38.108
5.	Rajasthan Health System Dev. Project	IDA	—	—	82.35	4.409

*[English]***VAT on Heart Surgery Consumables**

6313. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether heart treatment has become costlier as a result of implementation of VAT w.e.f. April 1, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for increase in tax on cardiac surgery consumables from zero to 12.5 per cent under the new system; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce VAT on cardiac surgery consumables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) As VAT is a tax intended to replace the States' sales tax, it is a State subject. An Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has been constituted to decide all issues relating to State level VAT. In the meeting of the Empowered Committee, held on 26th April, 2005, it has been decided that medical equipments/devices and implants shall attract 4 per cent rate of VAT.

Fund Appraisal for Food for Work Programme

6314. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan has estimated the need for Rs. 20,000 crore for the Food for Work Programme;

(b) if so, whether the Government has chalked out any plan to meet out the required funds for the programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan has not been finalized by the Planning Commission.

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

Customs Agreement with Countries

6315. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed a customs cooperation agreement with a number of key countries like China, Singapore, Thailand, Canada and Australia;

(b) if so, whether India had insisted on trade facilitation clause in these agreements;

(c) whether India has also signed a customs cooperation agreement with USA;

(d) if so, the extent to which India's view point has been accepted in the agreement; and

(e) the extent to which these agreements are likely to be beneficial to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Government of India has signed Customs Cooperation Agreements with Israel, Russia, UK, Hong Kong, Maldives, Uzbekistan, Iran, Egypt, USA, China and the European Union.

(b) No, Sir. The objective of these agreements is

to exchange information on suspect goods and persons in order to effectively combat customs offences.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) India's view point has been fully accepted in the Agreement.

(e) The Agreement will significantly help India in getting reliable and timely information for the prevention and investigation of Customs offence cases.

RBI and FRBM

6316. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial position of States are deteriorating day by day;

(b) if so, whether the present corrective measures were discretionary and lacked statutory backing;

(c) if so, whether the RBI needs to enact fiscal responsibility laws to improve fiscal health of the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) While the aggregate revenue deficit of states (including NCT at Delhi), as percentage of GDP, improved marginally from 2.7% to 2.6% during the period 1999-00 to 2003-04 (RE), the Gross Fiscal Deficit deteriorated from 4.7% to 5.1% during the same period. The Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) has normatively assessed 15 states in non-plan revenue deficit for the year 2005-06.

(b) Only five states had enacted fiscal responsibility law by 2004-05.

(c) RBI does not enact laws.

(d) Government of India has accepted recommendations of Twelfth Finance Commission with respect to Debt

Consolidation and Relief, which, inter-alia, require States to enact their Fiscal Responsibility Legislation. Government of India is also fixing borrowing ceilings of States to contain their fiscal deficits.

Willful Defaulters

6317. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made a list of willful defaulters in various public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on March 31, 2005, bank-wise; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The names of willful defaulters where suits have been filed, are available on the website of CIBIL i.e. www.cibil.com. Further, the names of other willful defaulting borrowers, where suits have not been filed can be published, where the consent of the borrowers have been obtained to publish their names in case of default. The information on non-suit filed cases of willful defaulters is disseminated to banks and financial institutions for their confidential use and to alert them from grant of facility in their bank to the defaulters.

(c) In May, 2001 banks were advised to examine all cases of willful default of Rs. 1 crore above and file suits in such cases, if not already done. Further, they were also advised to examine whether in such cases of willful defaults, there are instances of cheating/fraud by the defaulting borrowers and if so, they should also file criminal cases against those borrowers. The Management Committee and the Board of Directors are periodically reviewing the top 300 NPA accounts and NPA accounts of Rs. 1 crore and above respectively.

DA for Central Government Employees

6318. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether DA for Central Government employees is being increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the total amount to be borne by the Government for this purpose;

(c) the number of employees to get benefit and the manner in which it will be disbursed;

(d) whether pension for Central Government employees is also being hiked; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners is revised from 1st January and 1st July of the year payable normally with the salary for the months of March and September respectively. The amount of DA and DR w.e.f. 1-1-2005 has already been increased by 3% and orders issued on 31-3-2005 for DA and on 4-4-2005 for DR. The annual financial implication on account of DA increase is Rs.1146 crores and DR increase is Rs. 462 crores.

(c) to (e) All the Central Government employees and pensioners are benefited by DA/DR increase and the amount is disbursed in cash.

Poor Expenditure by Ministries Non-utilisation of Funds

6319. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Ministries of the Union Government, particularly Ministry of Health, Rural Development, Highways and Road Transport and Tourism, have failed to utilize a high percentage of their budget allocated during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard, and the areas which have been effected due to non-utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The position

regarding utilization of funds for the year 2004-05 would be available when the provisional accounts are finalized.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

BSE Indonext Project

6320. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSE Indonext project has been launched by the Government to create national trading platform for small and medium enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some advantages are likely to accrue to the SMEs; 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. The BSE Indonext platform for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) has been set up as a separate trading platform under the present BSE Online Trading (BOLT) system of the BSE. It was launched on January 7, 2005.

(c) and (d) The advantages of the BSE Indonext project for the SMEs include, providing a nationwide trading platform for the SMEs already listed with the participating Regional Stock Exchanges (RSEs) and BSE, creation of an avenue for existing and new SMEs from various regions to raise fresh capital and list securities and to use available infrastructure of the participating RSEs for productive purpose.

Soft Loans from Japan

6321. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has offered Rs. 5,600 crores soft loan package for eight projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount granted for each project;

(c) whether the Government has set up any agency to ensure proper utilisation and check of mis-appropriation of funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the share of Union/State Government therein alongwith the terms and conditions as laid down for each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Japan has offered loan of Japanese Yen 134,466 million (Rs. 5600 crore approximately) for eight projects as its development assistance to India for 2004-05.

(b) and (e) A statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Monitoring of implementation of projects and utilization of funds under externally aided projects is done by the project implementation authorities, State Governments and Central Government. Accounts are also duly audited.

Statement

Soft Loans from Japan

Sl. No.	Project	Loan amount (Million Yen)	Sector	Interest rate per annum	Repayment period #
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (VI)	19,292	Central	1.3%	30 Years

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project (I)	15,916	Central	0.75%	15 Years
3.	Rajasthan Minor Irrigation Improvement Project	11,555	State	1.3%	30 Years
4.	Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project (II)	9,818	State	0.75%	40 Years
5.	Karnataka Sustainable Forest Management and Biodiversity Conservation Project	15,209	State	0.75%	40 Years
6.	Ganga Action Plan Project (Varanasi)	11,184	Central	0.75%	40 Years
7.	Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Project (II-I)	41,997	State	1.3%	30 Years
8.	Uttar Pradesh Buddhist Circuit Development Project	9,495	Central	1.3%	30 Years

Repayment period indicated in the above table includes 10 years of grace period for each project except North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project (I) for which the grace period is 5 years.

Employment Guarantee Scheme

6322. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture experts have asked the Government to raise the limit of 100 days per person per year for employment under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the districts of the States, including Orissa have been brought under the scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill (NREGB), 2004, was introduced in the

Parliament on 21-12-2004 and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Rural Development for its examination and recommendations. Areas to be covered under the programme would be identified and notified by the Central Govt. only after the Bill is passed by the Parliament and comes into force.

Computerisation of Land Records

6323. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether computerisation of land records has been completed in all the States/Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the funds allocated/released/utilised for the purpose during 2003-04 and 2004-05, State/Union Territory-wise;

(d) the expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(e) the number of Taluka benefited under the scheme in the country, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (e) A Centrally sponsored scheme for Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) was started in the year 1988-1989 with 100% financial support from the Government of India. At present, the scheme is being implemented in

32 States/Union Territories covering 582 districts in the country. A statement-I showing State/Union Territory-wise districts and Taluka/Tehsils covered under the scheme is enclosed.

(c) and (d) A statement-II showing funds released during 2003-04, 2004-05 and total releases/utilised so far by the State/Union Territories is enclosed.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of States/Union Territories	Districts Covered	Number of Tehsils/Talukas Blocks Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	308
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	—
3.	Assam	23	27
4.	Bihar	37	—
5.	Gujarat	25	226
6.	Goa	1	11
7.	Haryana	19	64
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12	110
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	—
10.	Jharkhand	22	210
11.	Karnataka	27	177
12.	Kerala	14	63
13.	Madhya Pradesh	45	273
14.	Maharashtra	35	358
15.	Manipur	8	—
16.	Mizoram	9	23

1	2	3	4
17.	Nagaland	8	—
18.	Orissa	30	171
19.	Punjab	17	—
20.	Rajasthan	32	241
21.	Sikkim	4	9
22.	Tamil Nadu	29	206
23.	Tripura	4	37
24.	Uttar Pradesh	70	300
25.	Uttaranchal	13	66
26.	West Bengal	18	341
27.	Chhattisgarh	16	98
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	—
29.	Delhi	9	—
30.	Pondicherry	1	5
31.	Chandigarh	1	—
32.	Daman and Diu	1	1
Total		582	3325

Statement-II

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of States/ Union Territories	Funds Released			Funds utilised so far
		During 2003-04	During 2004-05	Total releases since inception	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	531.50	2357.86	1355.45

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	75.30	57.08
3.	Assam	—	—	335.50	212.00
4.	Bihar	—	100.00	648.00	158.00
5.	Gujarat	372.50	495.00	2568.56	1391.85
6.	Goa	—	—	153.30	118.14
7.	Haryana	—	—	567.40	436.36
8.	Himachal Pradesh	81.40	438.00	901.30	443.45
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	286.00	263.65
10.	Karnataka	389.50	497.40	2761.33	1778.93
11.	Kerala	—	—	955.14	953.71
12.	Madhya Pradesh	542.50	286.30	3792.71	2890.41
13.	Maharashtra	826.54	296.00	3290.80	1706.35
14.	Manipur	—	—	188.23	68.07
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	28.00	28.00
16.	Mizoram	20.00	—	442.96	355.56
17.	Nagaland	—	15.00	193.55	127.15
18.	Orissa	277.00	230.00	2924.40	2294.14
19.	Punjab	—	—	282.62	69.84
20.	Rajasthan	—	—	1748.61	1394.45
21.	Sikkim	82.70	—	200.73	129.77
22.	Tamil Nadu	406.50	605.20	2819.98	1413.97
23.	Tripura	—	148.00	491.80	289.22
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	1955.60	1370.98
25.	West Bengal	—	355.00	2566.35	2142.20
26.	Chhattisgarh	—	164.00	601.90	412.90

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Jharkhand	547.20	—	828.00	725.76
28.	Uttaranchal	—	400.60	400.60	0.00
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	12.38	0.22
30.	Delhi	—	—	101.13	4.31
31.	Pondicherry	31.35	—	93.45	42.00
32.	Chandigarh	—	—	15.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	—	—	25.00	0.00
Total		3577.19	4562.00	34613.49	22633.92

PMGSY

6324. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is allocating funds for upgradation of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) if so, the guidelines issued for the same; and

(c) the funds sanctioned for upgradation under the scheme for 2004-05, State-wise particularly to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the guidelines of PMGSY, the allocation of funds for upgradation will not exceed 20% of the State's allocation as long as eligible Unconnected Habitations in the State are not connected through All-weather roads. Proposals are to be made on the basis of a Comprehensive Upgradation Priority List (CUPL). On 28th August, 2004, PMGSY guidelines were modified to allow upgradation of rural Through Routes associated with New Connectivity, if they are in poor condition and the roads are at least six years old. Such proposals are considered as an adjunct to New

Connectivity since one of the main purposes of PMGSY is to provide farm-to-market connectivity.

(c) The value of proposals of States cleared for upgradation of roads under PMGSY in Phase IV (2004-05), Statewise, is given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of State	Value approved (Rs. in crore)
1.	Haryana	40.22
2.	Maharashtra	30.97
3.	Orissa	143.90*
4.	Punjab	65.51
5.	Tamil Nadu	20.76
6.	West Bengal	6.20
Total		307.56

*Primarily for associated Through Routes.

The upgradation proposals of Karnataka for Phase IV (2004-05) based on CUPL have not been received.

[Translation]

External Debt

6325. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
 SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
 SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
 SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
 SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
 SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD:
 SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
 SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
 SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
 YADAV:
 SHRI RAMSEVAK SINGH:
 SHRI SITARAM SINGH:
 SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
 SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the position of India among the indebted countries of the World;

(b) the total external debt of the Government as on March 31, 2005;

(c) the amount India has to pay as interest against the total loan every year and the percentage of its consisting of GDP;

(d) the total amount of principal and interest paid to foreign creditors during each of the last three years, country-wise and institution-wise; and

(e) the scheme of the Government to repay the debt to get rid of the debt burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) India's position among the indebted countries of the world is eighth as per the Global Development Finance 2004, World Bank.

(b) According to the latest data available, external debt of the Government as on December 31, 2004 was US \$ 43,896 million.

(c) Principal and interest paid by India on total external debt and ratio of interest payments to GDP are given in Table 1.

Table 1: India's External Debt Service Payments

	(US \$ million)		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04P
Principal Repayment	6,925	10,883	14,389
Interest payment	4,386	3,524	6,560
Total Debt Service Payments	11,311	14,407 [@]	20,949*
Interest payment as a percentage of GDP	0.94	0.68	1.03

* Includes redemption of Resurgent India Bonds (RIB) of US \$ 5.2 billion and prepayment of US \$ 3.8 billion.

[@] Includes prepayment of US \$ 3.4 billion.

P: Provisional.

(d) Details of payment of principal and interest external debt on Government account. The details are country/institution-wise are available only in respects of given in Table 2.

Table 2: Government Debt Service Payments

(US \$ million)

Institution/Country	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04 P	
	Pr.	Int.	Pr.	Int.	Pr.	Int.
Institution						
ADB	119	166	1,458	197	1,257	66
IBRD	551	269	2,200	261	1,751	129
IDA	416	137	465	154	542	172
Others	11	4	11	3	12	3
Country						
France	43	21	156	23	49	17
Germany	100	21	111	22	119	24
Japan	329	201	362	188	502	212
Netherlands	39	10	45	11	520	10
Russian Federation	43	8	53	7	55	8
USA	134	34	137	32	126	29
Others	99	7	107	6	636	4
Total	1,884	878	5,105	904	5,569	674

P: Provisional; Pr: Principal, Int.: Interest.

Similar details on total debt are not available since it is difficult to identify country of destination for certain other components of debt such as NRI deposits and syndicated loans.

(e) Government follows a prudent external debt management policy to keep external debt within manageable limits. The policy focus is on concessional loans, longer maturity profiles, close monitoring of short-

term debt and laying emphasis on non-debt creating capital flows.

[English]

Technology Mission on Cotton

6326. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether government has launched Technology

Mission on Cotton (TMC) to give focused impetus "improvement in market infrastructure and modernization of ginning and pressing sector";

(b) if so, the total number of market yard improved/ developed and number of ginning and pressing factories modernized during the last three years;

(c) the target fixed for the 10th five year plan period in this regard and the total fund earmarked for this purpose;

(d) whether the funds for this purpose is being shared by both the State Governments and Union Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last three years, under Mini Mission-III of the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC), development of 60 market yards were sanctioned out of which 36 market yards have been developed. Under Mini Mission-IV of the TMC, modernisation of 323 ginning and pressing factories were sanctioned out of which 150 factories have been modernized.

(c) The target for 10th Five Year Plan is development of 60 market yards and modernisation of 350 ginning and pressing factories with an outlay of Rs. 152.60 crore.

(d) and (e) The expenditure on development of market yard is shared between the Government of India and the respective Agriculture Produce Market Committee of the State Government in the ratio of 60:40. However, Government of India's assistance is limited to Rs. 90 lakh for improvement of existing yard and Rs. 150 lakh for setting up new market yard. For modernisation of ginning and pressing factory, capital incentive @ 25% of the cost of modernisation subject to a limit of Rs. 20 lakh is provided by the Government of India and the balance is borne by the ginning and pressing factory owner. Further, additional incentive @ 25% of the cost subject to the limit of Rs. 7 lakh for installation of new bale press and Rs. 4 lakh for installation of grading laboratory is also provided by the Government of India.

[Translation]

Borrowing of Government

6327. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to take Rs. 83,000 crore in the first half of the year itself out of the total borrowing to be made during the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether assessment in regard to the impact of receiving such a major amount of loan from the domestic market in the beginning of the year itself on the economy of the country has been made by the Government;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(e) the reasons behind taking aforesaid decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Government and Reserve Bank of India have announced an indicative Calendar for Issue of Marketable Dated Securities amounting to Rs. 83,000 crore in eleven tranches during the first six months of the year 2005-06.

(c) and (d) Government is of the view that this borrowing of this amount will not have any adverse consequences for the market. The calendar is, in any case, subject to variations depending on market conditions and other relevant factors.

(e) The indicative Calendar is based on an estimate of requirement of funds, taking into account, likely expenditure, including repayment of debt, and non debt receipt.

Modernisation of NTC Mills

6328. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether slackness is being shown in rehabilitation/revival of the N.T.C. mills due to which the efforts for modernization of these mills are delayed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of the closed mills to be revived under the scheme of rehabilitation and revival of NTC mills;

(d) the details of the work done under the above scheme;

(e) the number of the workers retired under the V.R. Scheme during the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for revival/modernization of NTC mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government is implementing rehabilitation schemes for the sick subsidiaries of National Textile Corporation (NTC) as approved by BIFR. The rehabilitation schemes were proposed to be implemented within a period of 2 years w.e.f. March, 2002. However, since the sale of surplus land has been delayed for want of permission from various State Governments, sufficient resources could not be mobilized for timely implementation of the rehabilitation schemes. The matter is being vigorously pursued with the State Governments concerned.

(c) and (d) The rehabilitation schemes approved by BIFR suggested revival of 53 viable NTC mills, inter-alia, with resources generated from sale of surplus assets. The scheme also envisaged closure of 66 chronic loss making mills. All these unviable mills have been closed. Since the 53 viable mills continue to sustain losses and depend on Government budgetary support for meeting shortfall in wages, the Government has proposed to BIFR to permit modernization of the 15 best performing viable mills in the first phase and attempt for modernization of the other mills through induction of strategic private partners.

(e) A total number of 44831 employees have retired under the Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) during the last three years.

(f) The matter regarding grant of permission for sale of surplus land is being vigorously pursued by the Government with the State Governments, particularly, in the State of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. A transparent and fair system has been put in place for disposal of assets and liberal VRS has been implemented to reduce the surplus workforce. The Government is restructuring the rehabilitation plan to achieve administrative economies.

Disinvestment Target

6329. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI:

SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the disinvestment targets fixed for the year 2003-04, 2004-05 alongwith the amount of money received therefrom;

(b) whether the Government has achieved the said target;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last two years;

(d) the details with the names of the units which could achieve and of those which could not achieve the disinvestment targets;

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to achieve the target; and

(f) the fund into which the said money is deposited alongwith the sectors on which they are proposed to be spent, sector-wise?

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

estimated receipts from disinvestment, the actual realisations alongwith the names of the Public Sector Enterprises and the percentage of Government equity disinvested in the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 is enclosed in the statement.

(e) Government takes appropriate steps for implementation of the disinvestment policy and programme.

However, the realisation from disinvestment does vary as compared to the estimated receipts in view of prevailing market conditions and other related factors.

(f) The realisations from disinvestment in 2003-04 and 2004-05 were deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India and were part of the pool of resources available to the Government.

Statement

Name of the Company	Estimated Receipts (Rs. in crore)	% of GOI equity disinvested	Amount realized (Rs. in crore)
Year 2003-04			
Maruti Udyog Ltd.		27.5%	993.34
Jessop and Co. Ltd.		72%	18.18
Hindustan Zinc Ltd.		18.92%	323.89
ICI Limited		9.2%	77.10
IBP Co. Ltd.		26%	350.66
Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.		28.945%	1202.85
CMC Ltd.		26.25%	190.44
Dredging Corporation of India Ltd.		20%	221.20
GAIL (India) Ltd.		10%	1627.36
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.		9.96%	10542.40
Total	14,500		15547.42
Year 2004-05			
National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.		5.25%	2,684.07
Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.		5%	64.81
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.		0.01%	15.99
Total	4,000		2,764.87

[English]

Contributions to CIRDAP/IOs

6330. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has been making contribution to various international organizations such as CIRDAP and others;

(b) if so, the main benefits derived from this contribution;

(c) whether any welfare scheme for eradication of poverty and awareness programme has been launched in rural areas of the country by these agencies to whom contribution is being made;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the rationale behind contributing a large sum annually to these organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Membership contributions to the International organizations like Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) have helped Ministry of Rural Development in developing understanding among member countries for promoting welfare, eradication of thirst, hunger and poverty among rural people and in assisting member countries in obtaining financial and technical assistance for rural development programmes. The membership of these organizations has also contributed to the human resource development through training, participative Technical Cooperation among Members. These organizations serve as useful fora for the member countries to share experiences in the local

self-government and rural development.

(c) and (d) CIRDAP, who promotes technical cooperation among the nations of the region for furthering the effectiveness of integrated rural development programmes in the Asia-Pacific region, involves National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad for organizing International training courses on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation in India. The AARDO contributes to the Human Resource Development by organizing training activities for member countries through institutions like NIRD, National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training (NISJET) at Hyderabad and South India Textile Research Association (SITRA), Coimbatore. Over 50 training programmes and workshops have been organized by AARDO with the participation of over 400 persons from different countries during the past three years.

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

Production of Cotton and Other Items

6331. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cotton, silk, wool and jute production in the country during the last three years;

(b) the quantity of export/import of the above items during the last three years and the employment potential through these products; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production and export of the above products?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The total quantity of cotton, silk, wool and jute production in the country during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Cotton (Quantity in Million Bales of 170 kg. each)	Silk (Quantity in Tonnes)	Wool (Quantity in Million kg.)	Jute (Quantity in 000 Bales of 170 kg.)
2001-02	15.80	17351.00	50.70(A)	11641.00
2002-03	13.60	16319.00	52.10(P)	11336.00
2003-04	17.70(P)	15742.00(P)	53.60(P)	10985.00(E)

(P)-Provisional, (A)-Anticipatory, (E)-Estimated

(b) The Quantity of the Export/Import during the last three years is as under. These sectors have a great employment potential as they provide gainful employment

to a substantial segment of population concentrated in rural and semi-urban areas.

Year	Cotton (Quantity in Tonnes)		Silk (Quantity in Tonnes)		Wool (Quantity in Tonnes)		Jute (Quantity in Tonnes)	
	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
2001-02	8227.02	387036.40	1638.83	6927.99	922.00	81342.75	Nil	58683.00
2002-03	11832.95	233859.32	974.71	9240.13	2919.91	82174.30	Nil	133787.00
2003-04	179603.72	251673.60	357.83	9542.67	2598.07	92588.12	Nil	107642.00

(c) The Government has initiated the following important measures to boost the production of these fibres and export of products manufactured from them:—

- (i) The Ministry of Agriculture executes schemes relating to Research and Development (R and D) and agronomics practices to increase quality and productivity of jute and cotton fibres;
- (ii) The Cotton Technology Mission had been launched under with Mini Missions I and II aims at improving the productivity and quality of cotton and Mini Missions III and IV aims at improving marketing infrastructure and modernisation of ginning and pressing factories;
- (iii) The Planning Commission has given in principle

approval for implementation of Jute Technology Mission under which Mini Mission I and II relates to improvement of jute agriculture;

- (iv) The Central Wool Development Board is implementing Integrated Wool Development Programme (IWDP) for improvement of wool fibre and processing of wool;
- (v) The Central Silk Board is implementing Research and Development (R and D) programmes for increasing the productivity in sericulture sector;
- (vi) Rationalisation of the fiscal duty structure;
- (vii) Launching of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector, Rs. 435 crore has been allocated for 2005-06;

- (viii) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn, was provided optional exemption from excise duty, and Central Value-added Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%, which aims at attracting more investments for modernization of the textile sector;
- (ix) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery, the customs duty on specified textile machinery was brought down to 10% in Budget 2005-06;
- (x) De-reservation of the woven segment of readymade garments from the SSI sector. Further de-reservation of 30 items of knitting and knitwear from the SSI has also been done;
- (xi) A centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" has been launched for imparting a focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give a fillip to exports; and
- (xii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) under implementation.

Price Index

6332. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the commodities included for

monitoring of Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index and the year in which the last commodities included in these index;

(b) whether there has been a liquidation in the Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index in the last few months;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any decrease registered during each of the last six months till March, 2005;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to make changes in the method of calculating of Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) A High Powered Price Monitoring Board (HPPMB) in the Cabinet Secretariat monitors the movement of wholesale and retail prices of selected essential commodities which include Rice, Wheat, Atta, Arhar, Gram, Tea, Milk, Sugar, Groundnut Oil, Mustard Oil, Vanaspati, Potato, Onion and Salt. All these items are included in the current Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (base: 1993-94=100) and the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) (base: 1982=100).

(b) and (c) The WPI series with base 1993-94 and CPI-IW series with base 1982 are still in vogue.

(d) and (e) Table showing the increase and decrease in terms of WPI and CPI is indicated below:—

TABLE

Items	Inflation (%) Over previous year in terms of WPI					Inflation (%) Over previous year in terms of (IW)							
	2004 Oct.	2004 Nov.	2004 Dec.	2005 Jan.	2005 Feb. (P)	2005 Mar. (P)	2004 Oct.	2004 Nov.	2004 Dec.	2005 Jan.	2005 Feb.	2005 Mar.	
Rice	-1.5	-0.1	3.4	2.5	2.9	3.6	-1.1	0.4	0.9	1.3	1.4	N.A.	
Wheat	3.7	1.9	0.3	-1.2	-1.6	-0.4	-1.2	-1.7	-3.0	-2.5	0.5	N.A.	
Wheat (Atta)	2.1	1.2	-0.6	-1.9	-2.3	0.8	0.9	-1.0	-1.5	-0.9	2.3	N.A.	
Arhar Dal	12.5	3.2	-0.7	-5.6	-6.6	-6.0	10.2	7.8	4.0	2.5	-0.7	N.A.	
Gram Dal	-5.0	-5.1	-4.0	-2.4	-2.1	-0.7	-2.5	-2.3	-2.0	-0.4	-0.7	N.A.	
Tea-leaves	37.8	35.5	20.7	5.7	10.9	16.7	0.5	1.1	1.6	2.0	3.3	N.A.	
Milk	4.0	4.4	3.9	4.1	2.8	-0.7	3.7	3.2	2.4	2.0	1.2	N.A.	
Sugar	15.6	15.5	18.9	30.8	19.3	20.5	15.2	16.1	13.8	23.2	19.8	N.A.	
Groundnut Oil	4.3	10.9	3.3	-2.3	-5.0	-4.2	3.4	3.0	0.4	-1.9	-2.8	N.A.	
Mustard Oil	-7.1	-9.0	-9.5	-11.2	-16.4	-14.6	-7.9	-9.4	-10.7	-9.1	-5.4	N.A.	
Vanaspati	5.1	3.3	2.2	0.8	-1.6	-2.6	4.9	3.9	1.8	-2.0	-5.1	N.A.	
Potato	69.5	53.7	18.2	32.2	52.0	37.2	53.2	47.0	26.8	6.1	-14.1	N.A.	
Onion	-18.8	-22.1	-30.6	-40.9	-42.6	-26.4	-16.9	-25.2	-30.7	-20.1	-9.6	N.A.	
Salt	17.5	15.0	21.2	34.2	42.6	40.6	-0.1	0.7	0.5	0.9	-29.6	N.A.	

P—Provisional

N.A.: Not Available

(f) For revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index, a working group has been setup under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) currently Member, Planning Commission. The working group is mandated to review the commodity coverage, base year, weighting diagram and related issues, particularly keeping in view the recommendation of the National Statistical Commission. Similarly, Labour Bureau under the Ministry of Labour has started the process of updating the current series of CPI-IW with base: 1982=100 to the new base with 2001=100.

[Translation]

Forum for RRB Employees

6333. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Rural Banks have formed any forum for holding talks at the Union Government level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to constitute a forum for talks with the RRB employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the forum is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal under consideration. But in order to hold talks with the RRB employees, the sponsor Banks have been advised to set up some machinery for consultation.

[English]

International Cargo Containers

6334. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Cargo Containers imported from Dubai were smuggled out of the Kochi Port in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any investigation into the matter;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the persons around guilty for such lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) DRI Regional Unit Cochin have recently detected a case where three containers of imported goods, one imported from Dubai and two from China have been cleared without following the proper Customs procedure and without payment of appropriate duty. Evidence collected, so far, indicates that at least one document—container cell certificate, covering the movement of the containers from the Port area had been tampered with. Investigations revealed that the containers taken out without payment of appropriate duties contained compact fluorescent lamps, dry cell batteries and floor tiles of Chinese origin.

(e) Two persons have been arrested in this case and two officers of the department have been placed under suspension.

Public Provident Fund

6335. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether savings of the Public Provident Fund has shown decline as compared to other savings during 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has ascertained the reasons for such decline; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Collections under Public Provident Fund (PPF) have increased from rupees 11865 crore during 2003-04 (upto February, 2004) to rupees 13206 crore during 2004-05 (upto February, 2005). Collections under all the small savings schemes, including PPF, have grown from rupees 129343 crore to rupees 153946 crore during the same period.

The Government offers a basket of small savings schemes to cater to the needs of different segments of the society/small savers who are free to subscribe to the scheme(s) of their choice according to their requirements.

Suitable steps to inculcate the habit of thrift and savings amongst the common masses and to promote all the small savings schemes, are taken by the Central and State Governments from time to time.

[Translation]

Reduction in the Non-development Expenses

6336. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to reduce the non-planned expenditure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated amount likely to be saved by the Government as a result of keeping a check on extravagant expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Central Government has been following a comprehensive strategy to reduce non-plan expenditure. Fiscal

Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 and rules made thereunder which target elimination of revenue deficit by March 31, 2009 is a step taken in this regard. The Government has issued guidelines on expenditure management—fiscal prudence and austerity which, inter-alia, provides for utmost economy and austerity in respect of various administrative expenses.

(c) It would not be possible to estimate the amount likely to be saved on as a result of such measures. However, as a result of various measures by Central Government, non-plan expenditure as a percentage of GDP has shown a declining trend in the last five years.

Illegal Export of Garment

6337. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the readymade garments are being exported illegally from various States including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases which have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(c) whether some Excise officer/other officers are also involved in illegal export;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken so far or being taken against the earning people and Excise officers?

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]

Losses of RRBs

6338. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Regional Rural Banks (RRB) are incurring losses;

(b) if so, the list of such loss making RRBs, State-wise;

(c) whether any step is being taken to improve the performance of these RRBs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Out of 196 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), 33 RRBs, incurred losses during the year 2003-2004. State-wise details are enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Steps taken to improve the performance of RRBs are as under:—

(i) Package for doubling the flow of credit to agriculture and debt relief measures for restructuring accounts of farmers in

circumstances of extreme distress due to successive natural calamities or farmers in arrears.

(ii) One time settlement scheme for small and marginal farmers and a scheme for redemption of debts of farmers taken from non-institutional sources.

(iii) Freedom from service area approach to those RRBs which were having accumulated losses as on 31-3-2004.

(iv) Recapitalisation support to those RRBs which fulfill the prudential norms and norms of good governance.

(v) The sponsor banks have been made fully responsible for the performance of RRBs sponsored by them.

Statement

List of Loss Making RRBs as on 31 March, 2004

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of RRB
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Kakathiya Grameen Bank
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1. Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank
3.	Bihar	1. Bhagalpur Bank KGB
		2. Champaran Ksh. Gramin Bank
		3. Kosi Ksh. Gramin Bank
		4. Madhubani Ksh. Gramin Bank
		5. Mithila Ksh. Gramin Bank
		6. Monghyr Ksh. Gramin Bank
		7. Samastipur Ksh. Gramin Bank
		8. Saran Ksh. Gramin Bank

1	2	3
		9. Vaisali Ksh. Gramin Bank
4. Jammu and Kashmir		1. Etlaiqui Dehati Bank
		2. Kamraj Rural Bank
5. Jharkhand		1. Palamau Ksh. Gramin Bank
		2. Ranchi Ksh. Gramin Bank
		3. Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank
6. Madhya Pradesh		1. Bundelkhand Ksh. Gramin Bank
		2. Chhindwara-Seoni KGB
		3. Jhabua-Dhar Ksh. Gramin Bank
		4. Mahakaushal Ksh. Gramin Bank
		5. Shahdol Ksh. Gramin Bank
7. Maharashtra		1. Akola Gramin Bank
8. Manipur		1. Manipur Rural Bank
9. Nagaland		1. Nagaland Rural Bank
10. Orissa		1. Balasore Gramin Bank
		2. Bolangir Anchiik Gramin Bank
		3. Kalahandi Anchiik Gramin Bank
		4. Koraput Panchabati Gramin Bank
11. Rajasthan		1. Bikaner Ksh. Gramin Bank
		2. Marudhar Ksh. Gramin Bank
12. Uttar Pradesh		1. Kshetriya Kisan Grmin Bank
13. Uttranchal		1. Ganga-Yamuna Gramin Bank
14. West Bengal		1. Uttar Benga Ksh. Gramin Bank

Total No. of Loss Making RRBs=33

Thermal Power Projects

6339. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation propose to enhance its capacity by setting up of New Thermal Power Plants in the country;

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

(c) whether some plants are progressing as per their schedules;

(d) if so, the details thereof, plant-wise;

(e) the additional power generation capacity is likely to be added in the plants; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to complete all such plants as per their fix schedules?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (f) All thermal power plants of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) are progressing as per schedule. The details of NTPC's ongoing projects comprising 9170 MW from thermal power projects and 800 MW from hydro power project which would enhance its generation capacity are enclosed as statement.

Statement*Details of NTPC's Approved and On-going Projects*

Sl. No.	Project	Location	Fuel	Total Capacity (MW)	Capacity Addition Target (MW)		Status
					10th Plan	11th Plan	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Rihand Stage-II	Uttar Pradesh	Coal	1000 (2x500)	1000		First 500 MW unit commissioned January, 2005. Work in second unit is progressing as per schedule.
2.	Vindhyachal Stage-III	Madhya Pradesh	Coal	1000 (2x500)	1000		Work is progressing as per schedule.
3.	Unchahar Stage-III	Uttar Pradesh	Coal	210 (1x210)	210		Work is progressing as per schedule.
4.	Kahalgaon Stage-II, Phase-I	Bihar	Coal	1000 (2x500)	1000		Work is progressing as per schedule.
5.	Kahalgaon Stage-II, Phase-II	Bihar	Coal	500 (1x500)	500		Work is progressing as per schedule.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Sipat Stage-II	Chhattisgarh	Coal	1000 (2x500)	1000		Work is progressing as per schedule.
7.	Sipat Stage-I	Chhattisgarh	Coal	1980 (3x660)		1980	Work is progressing as per schedule.
8.	Barh	Bihar	Coal	1980 (3x660)		1980	Work is progressing as per schedule.
9.	Bhilai Expansion Power Project*	Chhattisgarh	Coal	500 (2x250)		500	Work is progressing as per schedule.
10.	Koldam Hydro Electric Power Project	Himachal Pradesh	Hydro	800 (4x200)		800	Work is progressing as per schedule.

* Bhilai Expansion Power Project—Joint Venture with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

Black Money

6340. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimated black money circulating in India is to the tune of 40% of the GDP;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for this black money circulating in the country;

(c) whether RBI has taken notice of it;

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by RBI to restrict the black money circulation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There is no exact estimate of black money in the country. However at the instance of the Government, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) had attempted to estimate the black money in circulation in the country in 1983-84. It had estimated the black money generated in the year 1983-84 between Rs. 31,584/- crore to Rs. 36,786/- crore which works out to 18 to 21% of the Gross National Products.

(b) NIPFP has in its Report identified various factors for generation of black money. These include evasion of taxes levied by Government, misuse of various laws and regulations, inflation, etc.

(c) and (d) The RBI has reported that it does not have any information on the matter.

[Translation]

Use of Empty Mines

6341. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to fill up the empty mines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Ministry of Mines has introduced the concept of progressive mine closure plan and final mine closure plan for proper reclamation and rehabilitation of the area held under mining lease with effect from 10-4-2003.

(b) Every mining lessee has to submit a progressive and final mine closure plan. In the progressive mine closure plan, the mining lessee has to indicate the protective, reclamation and rehabilitative measures to be taken progressively and in final mine closure plan such measures to be taken after the cessation of mining operations. Every lease holder has to furnish financial assurance to the competent authority and if the mining lessee does not carry out protective, reclamation and rehabilitative measures as envisaged in the approved mine closure plan, the financial assurance can be realized by the State Government to carry out the requisite protective measures in the area held under mining lease.

(c) In view of (b) does not arise.

[English]

**Progress under Poverty Alleviation
Programme**

6342. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made under poverty alleviation programme during the last three years;

(b) the details of specific benefits available to the poors;

(c) the extent of benefits the poorest of the poor are getting under Integrated Rural Development Programme;

(d) the measures taken to make available surplus grain for the poorest of the poor under this scheme;

(e) whether any shortcoming has been detected in the food for work programme;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for their rectification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The physical and financial achievements under the Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP), the major Poverty alleviation programmes for the last three years i.e. 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Under Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) the rural poor are given assistance to cross the poverty line by providing them income-generating assets through mix of bank credit and Governmental subsidy. This is holistic programme of self-employment. It covers all aspects of self employment of the rural poor viz., organization of the poor into Self Help Groups and their capacity building, training, selection of key activities, Planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build up, technology and marketing support. Under the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), additional wage employment is being provided in the rural areas as also food security, alongside the creation of need based durable community, social and economic infrastructure. A new wage employment Programme namely National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) has been launched in 150 most backward districts of the country from November, 2004 to generate supplementary wage employment and providing food security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts.

(c) and (d) The Integrated Rural Development Programme is no longer in operation.

(e) to (g) The main problem of the Food For Work Programme is transportation of foodgrains to the deficit areas. Review meeting are held from time to time with the senior officers of the Department of Food and Public Distribution as well as officials of the Food Corporation of India to sort out problem of supply of foodgrains to the affected areas in time.

Statement

Year	Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)		Sampoorna Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGRY)		National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP)	
	Central Fund allocated (Rs. in crores)	No. of Swarozgaris assisted (lakh Nos.)	Central Funds allocated (Rs. in crores)	Employment generated to (lakh mandays)	Central Funds allocated (Rs. in crores)	Employment generated in (lakh mandays)
2002-2003	567.90	8.26	3552.53	7482.93		
2003-2004	800.00	8.96	4120.25	8560.24		
2004-2005	1000.00	8.48*	4495.25	6314.00*	2019.00	624.86*

* Provisional (upto Feb., 2005)

Funds under DPAP

6343. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated funds under Drought Prone Area Programme in the current five year plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated and utilized by various States/UTs under the programme during Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and

(b) An allocation of Rs. 1500.00 crores has been made under Drought Prone Areas Programme in the current five year plan (2002-03 to 2006-07). The year-wise allocation made so far is as below:—

2002-03	—	Rs. 1250.00 crores
2003-04	—	Rs. 295.00 crores
2004-05	—	Rs. 300.00 crores
2005-06	—	Rs. 353.00 crores

(c) An amount of Rs. 844.78 crores has so far been released in the Tenth Five Year Plan. The stage-wise and year-wise release of central funds is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement**State-wise details of Funds Released under DPAP Programme**

(in lakhs)

State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	4854.99	4937.40	4008.315
Bihar	249.75	323.06	311.205
Chhattisgarh	1599.62	1329.11	1793.525
Gujarat	3273.13	3363.14	2537.180
Himachal Pradesh	370.81	529.66	424.975
Jammu and Kashmir	222.75	422.19	222.750
Jharkhand	553.50	1212.34	1065.02
Karnataka	2265.04	3215.77	2503.363
Madhya Pradesh	4721.01	5021.66	5287.907
Maharashtra	1294.62	1484.30	3486.260
Orissa	901.10	1045.92	1141.620
Rajasthan	1430.93	1979.36	1573.775

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	1059.53	2401.60	2816.935
Uttar Pradesh	1717.85	1498.13*	1456.685
Uttaranchal	376.37	473.36	1126.485
West Bengal	108.00	243.00	243.00
Total	24999.00	29480.00	29999.00

[*Translation*]

Anpara Thermal Power Project

6344. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding payment of Custom duty and interest in respect of the plants imported for 2x500 Megawatt unit 'B' of Anpara thermal power project; and

(b) if so, the action being taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section (2) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 have exempted in full the principal amount outstanding as duties of Customs in respect of the plants imported for 2x500 Megawatt Unit 'B' of Anpara Thermal Power Project. Further, the Central Board of Excise and Customs, in exercise of the powers conferred by the second proviso to Sub-section 47 of the Customs Act, 1962 waived in full the interest accrued on the principal amount of duty outstanding.

[*English*]

Increase in the Posts of Judges

6345. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is long pending demand to increase the number of Judges in Supreme Court, various High Courts and other lower courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) As a result of a triennial review in the year 2003, 94 posts of Judges subject to concurrence of the respective State Governments have been approved in various High Courts as per statement enclosed.

As regards the Judge strength in the District and subordinate courts, the primary responsibility for taking necessary action for increasing the Judge strength vests with the respective State Governments.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Proposed increase of Judge strength (subject to approval of State Government)
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—
3.	Bombay	—

1	2	3
4.	Calcutta	13
5.	Chhattisgarh	02
6.	Delhi	03
7.	Guahati	08
8.	Gujarat	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	01
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—
11.	Jharkhand	—
12.	Karnataka	—
13.	Kerala	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	13
15.	Madras	05
16.	Orissa	11
17.	Patna	12
18.	Punjab and Haryana	13
19.	Rajasthan	—
20.	Sikkim	—
21.	Uttaranchal	02
Total		94

Concession to RIL

6346. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of money foregone by the Government by way of providing tax concessions and tax holidays to Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) during 2004-2005;

(b) the total amount of money the public exchequer have received from RIL in the form of taxes and fees during 2004-2005; and

(c) the details about tax foregone (tax holidays and other benefits) and tax received from top thirty industrial houses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The tax concessions and tax holidays availed by an assessee and its (total) income and taxes paid on it is reflected in its return of income. For the (financial) year 2004-2005, the due date of filing return of income for corporate assessee is 31-10-2005. Hence, the information sought cannot be provided.

[Translation]

VAT Implementation

6347. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union and the State Governments have recently agreed to implement uniform VAT policy on all products;

(b) if so, whether the Government have reviewed the VAT rates being charged differently in the States after the implementation of VAT policy;

(c) whether implementation of VAT on certain items is likely to be made under the jurisdiction of States; and

(d) whether the prices of commodities are likely to be controlled after the implementation of this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) As VAT is a tax intended to replace the States' sales tax, it is a State subject. An Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has been constituted to decide all

issues relating to State level VAT. Therefore, VAT rates being charged in different States have to be reviewed by the Empowered Committee.

(d) The Empowered Committee has recommended that each State should set up a VAT Cell, inter-alia, to monitor price movements of goods.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2076/2005]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Aluminium Company Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2077/2005]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Copper Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2078/2005]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2079/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Forty Eighth Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Working and Administration of the Companies Act, 1956 for the year ended the 31st March, 2004, under section 638 of the said Act.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2080/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): On behalf of Shrimati Suryakanta Patil, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2081/2005]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): On behalf of Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:—
 - (i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 5(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2005.

- (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Procedure for Holding Enquiry by Enquiry Officer and Imposing Penalty) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 28(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 2005.
- (iii) The Securities Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) (Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 56(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd February, 2005.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2082/2005]
- (2) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution:—
- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 1 of 2005)—Accounts of the Union Government for the year ended the March, 2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2083/2005]
- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 2 of 2005)—Transaction Audit Observations for the year ended the March, 2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2084/2005]
- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government Civil (No. 3 of 2005)—Information Technology Audit for the year ended the March, 2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2085/2005]
- (iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 4 of 2005)—Autonomous Bodies for the year ended the March, 2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2086/2005]
- (v) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 5 of 2005)—(Scientific Departments)—for the year ended the March, 2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2087/2005]
- (vi) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 6 of 2005)—(Defence Services)—Army and Ordnance Factories for the year ended the March, 2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2088/2005]
- (vii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 7 of 2005)—(Defence Services)—Air Force and Navy for the year ended the March, 2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2089/2005]
- (viii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 8 of 2005)—(Railways)—for the year ended the March, 2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2090/2005]
- (ix) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 9 of 2005)—(Railways)—for the year ended the March, 2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2091/2005]
- (x) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 10 of 2005)—(Indirect Taxes-Customs)—for the year ended the March, 2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2092/2005]
- (xi) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 11 of 2005)—(Indirect Taxes-Central Excise and Service Tax)—for the year ended the March, 2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2093/2005]
- (xii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 12

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of 2005)—(Direct Taxes)—for the year ended the March, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2094/2005]

- (xiii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 13 of 2005)—(Direct Taxes)—System Appraisals-for the year ended the March, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2095/2005]

- (xiv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Civil) (No. 14 of 2005)—Performance Audit of Control Systems in India Security Press, Nashik for the year ended the March, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2096/2005]

- (3) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts, Indian Railways for the year 2003-2004, Part I-Review (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2097/2005]

- (4) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts, Indian Railways for the year 2003-2004, Part II-Detailed Appropriation Accounts (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2098/2005]

- (5) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts, Indian Railways for the year 2003-2004, Part II-Detailed Appropriation Accounts (Annexure-G) (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2099/2005]

- (6) A copy of the Union Government—Finance Accounts for the year 2003-2004 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2100/2005]

- (7) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts (Postal Services-Union Government—for the year 2003-2004 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2101/2005]

- (8) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services-Union Government—for the year 2003-2004 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2102/2005]

- (9) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts (Civil)-Union Government—for the year 2003-2004 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2103/2005]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Development Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of Industrial Development Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2104/2005]

- (11) A copy of 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 Security by a Person Resident outside India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 201 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2005.

- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or issue of Security by a Person Resident outside India) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 202 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2005.

(iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or issue of Any Foreign Security) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 220 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 2005.

(iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 221 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2105/2005]

(12) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:—

(i) G.S.R. 203 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2005 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 207 (E) dated the 23rd March, 2004.

(ii) G.S.R. 204 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2005 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 208 (E) dated the 23rd March, 2004.

(iii) G.S.R. 205 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2005 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 209 (E) dated the 23rd March, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2106/2005]

(13) A copy of each of the Statement of Market Borrowings by Central Government during the year 2004-2005 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2107/2005]

(14) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956:—

(i) The Securities Contracts (Regulation) (Appeal to Securities Appellate Tribunal)

(Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 54 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd February, 2005.

(ii) The Securities Contracts (Regulation) (Procedure for Holding Inquiry and Imposing Penalties by Adjudicating Officer) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 227 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2005.

(iii) The Securities Contracts (Regulation) (Appeal to Securities Appellate Tribunal) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 229 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2108/2005]

(15) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 27 of the Depositories Act, 1996:—

(i) The Depositories (Appeal to Securities Appellate Tribunal) (Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 55 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd February, 2005.

(ii) The Depositories (Procedure for Holding Inquiry and Imposing Penalties by Adjudicating Officer) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 228 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2109/2005]

(16) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under regulation 6 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Central Database of Market Participants) (Regulation) 2003:—

(i) S.O. 4 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2005 specifying 31st day of December, 2005 as the notified date for the purposes of the Securities and

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Exchange Board of India (Central Database of Market Participants) Regulations, 2003 for specified investors being bodies corporate whose promoters or directors are persons resident outside India.

- (ii) S.O. 461 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2005 specifying 31st day of December, 2005 as the notified date for the purposes of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Central Database of Market Participants) Regulations, 2003 for specified investors mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2110/2005]

- (17) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under of section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:—

- (i) S.O. 528 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2005 regarding exemption to the "CRY-Child Relief and You, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) S.O. 529 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2005-2006 to 2007-2008, subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) S.O. 550 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Netaji Research Bureau, Kolkata" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2004-2005 to 2006-2007, subject to certain conditions.

- (iv) The Income-tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 441 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (v) The Income-tax (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 445 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (vi) The Income-tax (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 456 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2111/2005]

- (18) 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. 232 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 31/2001-Cus., dated 28th March, 2001.
- (ii) G.S.R. 233 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 94/2002-Cus., dated 9th September, 2002.
- (iii) G.S.R. 234 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on imports into India of Thermal Sensitive Paper, originating in, or exported from, Indonesia, Malaysia and United Arab Emirates, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2112/2005]

- (19) A copy of the CENVAT Credit (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 231 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 2005, under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2113/2005]

- (20) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued section 5 of the Export of Service Rules, 2005:—

- (i) G.S.R. 239 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe conditions, limitations and procedures for grant of rebate of service tax paid on the taxable services exported to countries other than Nepal and Bhutan.
- (ii) G.S.R. 240 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe conditions, limitations and procedures for grant of rebate of service tax paid on input services and duties of excise paid on inputs used for providing taxable services exported out of India to countries other than Nepal and Bhutan.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2114/2005]

- (21) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under of section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) S.O. 315 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 36/2001-Cus., (N.T.) dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (ii) S.O. 424 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2005, together with

an explanatory memorandum regarding rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of import.

- (iii) S.O. 425 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of import.

- (iv) S.O. 459 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 36/2001-Cus., (N.T.) dated the 3rd August, 2001.

- (v) G.S.R. 211 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to specify Special Economic Zone for Information Technology, Hardware and Bio-Informatic at Mahindra City, District Kanchipuram in the State of Tamil Nadu, as Special Economic Zone.

- (vi) G.S.R. 212 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to specify Special Economic Zone for Apparel and Fashion Accessories at Mahindra City, District Kanchipuram in the State of Tamil Nadu, as Special Economic Zone.

- (vii) G.S.R. 213 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to specify Special Economic Zone for Auto Ancillary at Mahindra City, District Kanchipuram in the State of Tamil Nadu, as Special Economic Zone.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2115/2005]

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

- (22) A copy of the Bihar Value Added Tax Ordinance, 2005 (No. 1 of 2005) (Hindi and English versions) promulgated by the Governor of Bihar on the 4th March, 2005, under article 213 (2)(a) of the Constitution read with clause (c)(iv) of the proclamation dated the 7th March, 2005, issued by the President in relation to the State of Bihar, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2116/2005]

- (23) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 18 (Hindi and English versions) Published in Bihar Gazette dated the 18th March, 2005 declaring that the provisions of section 2 to section 99 of the Bihar Value Added Tax Ordinance, 2005 shall be effective with effect from the 1st April, 2005 issued under sub-section (3) of section 1 of the said Ordinance read with clause (c)(iv) of the proclamation dated the 7th March, 2005, issued by the President in relation to the State of Bihar.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2117/2005]

- (24) A copy of the Notification (Hindi and English versions) under section 99 of the Bihar Value Added Tax Ordinance, 2005 read with clause (c)(iv) of the proclamation dated the 7th March, 2005, issued by the President in relation to the State of Bihar:—
- (i) S.O. 20 published in Bihar Gazette 18th March, 2005, making certain amendments to the Schedule I of the Bihar Value Added Tax Ordinance, 2005.
- (ii) S.O. 22 published in Bihar Gazette 18th March, 2005 specifying that the tax payable by dealers who have opted to pay tax at a fixed rate in lieu of the payable by them shall be calculated at the rate of 1 percentum of their Taxable Turnover.
- (iii) S.O. 24 published in Bihar Gazette dated the 24th March, 2005, notifying rates of

tax for items included in Scheduled IV of the Bihar Value Added Tax Ordinance, 2005.

- (iv) S.O. 29 published in Bihar Gazette dated the 6th April, 2005, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 159 dated the 22nd August, 2003 so that rates of entry tax be made compatible with the rates of the Bihar Value Added Tax.

- (25) A copy of the Explanatory Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) to the Notifications mentioned at items (23 and 24) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2118/2005]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"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 Finance Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd May, 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."

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT One Hundred Sixty-third Report

[English]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the One Hundred Sixty-

Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Status of implementation of recommendations in the Second Report of Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): Sir, I am making this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations in the Second Report of Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in pursuance of the Direction 73A of the Directions by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated the 1st September, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (dealing with Ministry of Tribal Affairs) examined the demands for grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2004-2005 and presented their Second Report in this regard on the 18th August, 2004 in the Lok Sabha. The report contained 15 recommendations, out of which 6 replies of the Government have been accepted by the Committee. They relate to reduction of allocation for the Ministry, evaluation of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP), effective implementation of Village Grain Bank Scheme, monitoring of Post-Matric Scholarships, revision of National Overseas Scholarship Scheme, monitoring of NGO scheme.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri P.R. Kyndiah, you may please lay the statement on the Table of the House.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Sir, with your permission, I am laying the rest of the statement on the Table of the House.

*There are three recommendations of the Committee, which they do not desire to pursue in view of the action taken report furnished by the government. They relate to sanction/posting of adequate staff in the Ministry, lowering of rate of interest under the Village Grain Bank scheme and implementation of pre-matric scholarship scheme for the Scheduled Tribes.

The Committee has not accepted the replies of the Government on 4 recommendations. They are:—

- (i) Allocation of Funds for Tribal Sub Plan in the States.

My Ministry has been pursuing the matter with both the State Governments as well as the Planning Commission, to ensure that funds in proportion to Scheduled Tribe population is spent under Tribal Sub Plan, by all Central Ministries and State Government.

- (ii) Direct funding of Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP).

The proposal of this Ministry was not agreed to as the Department of Expenditure and the Planning Commission are of the view that funds released under SCA to TSP and Article 275(1) are required to be routed through the State Governments.

- (iii) Timely construction of Boys/Girls hostels.

My Ministry has been requesting the State Governments to provide their share of 50% funds and ensure availability of land for hostels while preparing proposals in order to ensure timely completion of the hostels, once sanctioned.

- (iv) Maintenance of hostels.

Maintenance of hostels is the duty of the State Government. However, as per the new guidelines 10% of the funds released to the States under Article 275(1) of the Constitution can be utilised

*...*This part of the statement was laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-2119/2005)

[Shri P.R. Kyndiah]

for the maintenance of previous assets including the hostels. The State Governments have been apprised accordingly.

The Committee has observed that two replies of the Government on their recommendations are interim in nature. They are:—

- (i) Improvement of HDI and focus and programmes of the main Ministry on priority sectors like health, education etc.

The Ministry has already taken up the issue with the Planning Commission, and asked them to ensure earmarking the TSP component and also institutionalise the mechanism for implementation.

- (ii) Inadequacy of funds under Post Matric Scholarship Scheme (PMS).

I am happy to inform the House that the Planning Commission has already accepted this Ministry's proposal for allocation of enhanced funds under PMS, and this is expected to take care of the arrear payments of scholarships of the two previous financial years.

Sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in the Second Report on Demand for Grants for the year 2004-05 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was presented to Lok Sabha on 22-3-2005.*

12.05 hrs.

(ii) Status of Implementation of recommendations in the First Report of Standing Committee on Rural Development

[Translation]

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): I rise to make a statement* on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1st Report of the

*Also placed in Library. See No. LT-2120/2005.

Standing Committee on Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) (2004-05) in pursuance of the direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part II dated the 1st September, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) examined the Demands for Grants of the Department of Drinking Water Supply for the financial year 2004-05 and presented the 1st Report in this regard in the Lok Sabha on 18th August, 2004. The Report contained 31 recommendations. The Department considered the Report and the Action Taken Report (ATR) submitted to the Committee. The ATR was presented to Lok Sabha on 19th March, 2005. The Committee has accepted the ATR in respect of 19 recommendations. The Committee does not desire to pursue 3 recommendations in view of Government's replies. In respect of 8 recommendations, the Committee has not accepted the replies furnished by the Government. For the remaining one recommendation the final reply from the Department is still awaited.

*Department of Drinking Water Supply is the nodal Department in the Ministry of Rural Development for providing scientific, technical and financial assistance to the States in drinking water and sanitation Sectors in the rural areas. The Department is presently implementing two Centrally sponsored programmes viz., Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP).

As brought out above out of 31 recommendations made by the Committee, the Government has accepted 19 recommendations. These recommendations primarily deal with higher allocation for rural water supply, optimum utilization of allocation made for water and sanitation sector, slippage of habitations, under achievement in terms of physical target and financial expenditure, requesting corporate sector to come forward in the field of drinking water supply in the rural areas conservation of water resources, accepting sea water for drinking water and other purposes, conducting fresh survey in North-Eastern States, coverage of rural schools with sanitation facility incentive in the field or rural sanitation etc.*(Also Placed in Library. See No. LT-2120/2005)

*...This part of the statement was laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-2119/2005).

The Committee desired not to pursue three recommendations in view of Government replies. The three recommendations deal with relaxed norm under ARWSP coverage of all the aspects of PM's three programmes under ARWSP, and survey regarding quality affected habitations.

There are 8 recommendations on which the Committee has not accepted the replies of the Government. These recommendations mainly concern the mismatch between physical and financial achievement under ARWSP, physical performance of ARWSP being not upto the mark in some States, relaxed norm for supply of drinking water in rural areas, slippage of FC and PC habitation into NC habitation, gap between release and expenditure reported by State Governments in respect of PM's three programmes, replacement of ARWSP with Swajaldhara and priority to drinking water to schools in rural areas.

There is one recommendation on which the Committee awaits the final reply. It is regarding inbuilt mechanism in the monitoring system to know the position about slippage of target at regular interval.*

12.06 hrs.

**(iii) Status of implementation of recommendations
in the Second Report of Standing Committee
on Rural Development**

[Translation]

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): I rise to make a statement* on the status of implementation of the recommendation contained in the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2004-05) in pursuance of direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II dated the 1st September 2004.

The Standing Committee on Rural Development examined the Demands for Grants of the Department of Land Resources for the financial year 2004-05 and presented the Second Report in this regard in the Lok

Sabha on 18th August 2004. The report contained 41 recommendations. The Department considered the report and the Action Taken Report (ATR) has since been sent to the Committee. The Committee examined the Report and presented the Fifth Report on the action taken by the government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report. The Committee is satisfied with the action taken on 34 recommendations. There are two recommendations, which the Committee did not desire to pursue in view of Governments's replies. In respect of the remaining 5 recommendations the Committee has communicated its view and the Government is taking further action.

The Department of Land Resources administers three area development programmes, i.e. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP). All the three programmes are being implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Common Guidelines on Watershed Development since 1-4-1995. A new initiative called Hariyali was launched in order to empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) both administratively and financially in the implementation of the Watershed Development programmes. Under this initiative, the three on-going programmes are being implemented through PRIs. Out of the Department's total budget of Rs. 1261 crore, Rs. 883 crore, i.e. 70% is earmarked for these three area development programmes. During 2004-05, 100% financial target was achieved in case of DPAP and DDP and 91% in case of IWDP. The shortfall in IWDP was mainly due to less expenditure in the NE States.

The 100% Centrally sponsored scheme of Computerisation of Land Records is being implemented to remove the problems inherent in the manual system of maintenance and updating of land records and to meet the requirements of various user groups. An outlay of Rs. 50 crore was earmarked for this scheme. 91% financial achievement has been made under this scheme during the year 2004-05. The States like Karnataka, Goa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Orissa have done good work under the scheme.

*Also placed in Library. See No. LT-2121/2005.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

With a view to assist the States/UTs in the task of updating of land records a centrally sponsored scheme for Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA and ULR) is in progress. It is financed by the Centre and the States on 50:50 sharing basis, however, UTs are provided full central assistance. 98% financial achievement has been made under this scheme during the year 2004-05.

The Committee noted that the Government had a proposal to revise the existing funding ratio of 50:50 to 75:25 between the Centre and States, and 90:10 for the North-Eastern States. They also found that the Planning Commission did not agree to the proposal. Keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee, Planning Commission has been once again requested to reconsider the proposal of the Department to enhance the funding pattern from 50:50 to 75:25 between Centre and the States and 90:10 for NE States under the scheme of SRA and ULR.

The major recommendations of the Standing Committee are as follows:—

- The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance have enhanced the allocation of the Department considerably due to additional responsibilities given to the Department. While appreciating the increased allocation of the Department, the Committee emphasised the proper and effective utilisation of the scarce resources earmarked for each of the schemes of the Department. Taking into consideration the spirit of the recommendations, the Department is making all efforts for effective utilisation of the funds earmarked for each of the schemes. All efforts are also being made for enhancing the utilisation of funds by NE States.
- A target of 15 m.ha. has been projected for the Tenth Plan. The Committee strongly recommended convincing the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission to provide adequate allocation to the Department so as

to enable them to achieve the set targets during the Tenth Plan.

- The Committee found that evaluation reports of watershed projects have indicated positive trends by way of availability of fuel, fodder, increased vegetative cover and above all generation of wage employment. The studies reveal that 60% of the expenditure in the execution of watershed projects generates wage employment. The Committee also found that as per the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government the assurance of 100 days wage employment to each bread earner of the family has been given. The Committee concluded from afore said position that development of wasteland is an option to provide wage employment to the poor strata of society.

The recommendations of the Committee are very useful for improving the efficiency of the delivery mechanism and quality of the programme. The government agrees with these recommendations and is making all endeavours to implement the projects effectively with the participatory approach and the involvement of State Governments. It is, nevertheless, stated that all the programmes administered by the Department are State subjects and, therefore, all efforts are made by the Ministry to seek the full support of the State Governments for effective implementation.

12.07 hrs.

(iv) Status of implementation of recommendations in the Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports of Standing Committee on Finance

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): Sir, with your permission, I am laying this Statement on the Table of the House.*

*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2122/2005.

I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth reports of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance in pursuance of Direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II, dated 01-09-2004.

The Standing Committee on Finance Examined the Chartered Accountants (Amendment), Bill, 2003, the Cost and Works Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2003 and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2003 and presented their Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth reports to the Lok Sabha on 25-02-2005. These reports contain a number of recommendations on the proposals contained in the said Bills. All the recommendations of the Committee on the three Bills have been considered by the Ministry of Company Affairs and the process of consultations with other concerned Ministries/ Departments has been initiated. Proposals for official amendments to the Bills will be mooted after the process of consultations and approvals is completed.

12.08 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 9th of May, 2005 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2005 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
3. Consideration and passing of:—
 - (a) The Bihar VAT Bill, 2005; and

(b) The right to Information Bill, 2004.

4. Consideration and Passing of the Following Bills, after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:—

(a) The University of Allahabad Bill, 2005;

(b) The Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Bill, 2005;

(c) The Private Security Agencies (Regulation, Bill, 2005; and

(d) The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Bill, 2005.

5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha:—

(a) The Hire-purchase (Repeal) Bill, 2005; and

(b) The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2004.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) Electricity Act, 2003 should be repealed; and
- (2) Unemployment problem of our country.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): The MLAs are being payed Rs. 3 crores each for forming the Government in Jharkhand. This should be investigated. The Leader of Opposition should inform...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me finish this business first, then I will listen to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have said that I will listen to you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me finish the submissions first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Bansalji, please let me finish the submissions first.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the submissions get over first, then you raise your point.

*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Members are making submissions, you please raise your point later during the zero-hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the Members make their submissions first, then I will listen to you.

*Not recorded.

[English]

Hon. Minister is on his legs. Please listen to him.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, this seems to be about a news item which has appeared. Surely, the Government will look into it and inform the House at the appropriate time.

12.11 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—*contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Minati Sen may make her submission.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's business:—

1. Upgradation of Jalpaiguri Road Station (NFR) with all requisite infrastructure alongwith stoppage of Mail and Express trains at Jalpaiguri Road Station with computerised reservation facilities.
2. Resumption of both passenger and goods train from Haldibari to Sealdah (West Bengal) via Chilahati, Parbatipur (Bangladesh). If this route is re-opened, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan will be much benefited due to shorter and cheaper route of communication.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda in public interest:—

- (1) There is a need to increase the Minimum Support Price of Raيدا in North Gujarat and Nafed should remove its appointed agents and do the job of buying Raيدا directly from farmers.
- (2) The need to solve the problem of shortage of drinking water prevalent in North Gujarat and review of works done for the availability of drinking water.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Sir, the growing epidemic of HIV/AIDS cases may please be incorporated as a subject for discussion in the next weeks agenda.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's business of Lok Sabha:—

- (1) The need to prevent malaria, skin diseases, kala azar and cholera in the rural areas of my constituency Jamshedpur and the need to take up renovation of Government and private ponds to make clean drinking water available to people and cattle.
- (2) The need to construct a halt-station for thousands of workers working in the industrial area of Govindpur situated at a distance of 8 kilometers from Jamshedpur in Tata and Khadakpur railway sub divisions under Kadakpur railway division.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, following items may be included in the next week's list of business:—

- (1) The Government has not been able to make education available to all children although education has been given the status of a fundamental right: This issue needs to be discussed seriously.
- (2) The criteria fixed for literacy by the Government are inadequate. No target can be achieved by only making people capable of putting down their signature. This issue needs to be discussed.

SHRI TEK LAL MAHATO (Giridih): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir the following items may be included in the next week's list of business:—

- (1) The land of residents of Jaridih, Fasaro and Dhori Panchayat in Bermo block and Angwali, Khetko, Chalkari, Vichari and Tatari Panchayat

in Petarwar block in Jharkhand was acquired by Central Coal Fields in 1981-82 under Damodar River diversion. Coal can be produced by only providing compensation to 20 per cent people and jobs to 30 per cent people. Thus lakhs of tonnes of coking coal can be produced and it could be utilised in Bokaro Steel Plant.

- (2) Polluted water coming out from various spare parts factories has polluted the waters of Damodar river in Jharkhand. Various diseases are spreading due to the usage of this water. Therefore, it is my demand that the polluted water from the said factories should be stopped from reaching Demodar river.

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR (Sultanpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, following items may be included in the next weeks business:—

- (1) Gomati river passes through Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh. Some factories are polluting this river. A scheme should be formulated soon for the cleaning of this river urgently under the river cleaning campaign so as to prevent the water from getting polluted and check the spread of diseases in this district. The plants that have been closed down to check pollution should be started.
- (2) The rural roads of Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh are in dilapidated condition. Repair work has not been taken up as yet regarding roads that were constructed 10 years ago. No new road has been constructed during the last five years. The Government should urgently approve a scheme for the construction of roads.

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU (Rajmahal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next weeks business:—

- (a) The number of cases of malaria, kala azar, TB, filaria are increasing day by day in various districts of Jharkhand State particularly Sahibganj, Pakud, Godda etc. There is a need to constitute a directorate for eradication of

[Shri Hemlal Murmu]

Malaria and the Government should send a Central Team in Jharkhand for the prevention of these diseases.

- (b) There is a need to make BTS and modern communication equipments available for BSNL mobile services and basic telephone services in Jharkhand and improvement in the quality of services, and there is a need to issue necessary instructions to the concerned officers in this regard.

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI (Gaya): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, following items may be included in the next week's business:—

Bodhgaya in Gaya district under my constituency is a tourist destination of international importance and it is a famous religious place of the Buddhists. Bodhgaya has recently been declared as world heritage by UNESCO. It has been announced that a master plan would be formulated in this regard.

The master plan has not been made public so far which is adding to the confusion of the farmers whose land has been acquired. There is a need to make the master plan regarding Bodhgaya public.

12.19 hrs.

[English]

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Need to upgrade the newly opened Kendriya
Vidyalayas in Leh and Kargil districts of
Ladakh and steps taken by the
Government in this regard***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 13—Calling Attention—Shri Chhewang Thupstan.

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN (Ladakh): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Human Resource

Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The need to upgrade the newly opened Kendriya Vidyalayas in Leh and Kargil districts of Ladakh and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Sir, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is primarily engaged in opening schools to cater to the educational needs of wards of Central Government employees, para-military and Defence sector employees. One KV at Leh (Ladakh) was initially opened in the year 1983-84. At present, this KV is functioning from classes-I to XII in the permanent building with laboratories and other facilities as per norms prescribed for senior secondary school.

Following four additional KVs were opened in the Ladakh keeping in view the difficult terrain of the regions:—

1. Zanskar, District Kargil
2. Kargil, District Kargil
3. Nubra, District Leh
4. Chusul, District Leh

Though the KVs do not have scheme of mother school in the District Headquarters and branch school with primary sections in the remote location of the district, in the year 2003-04 KVs took a decision to have additional branches of primary sections for KV Leh and KV Nubra at the following places, in view of the terrain:

Mother KV		Addition Primary Branches	
(1)	Leh	—	(a) Khaltse (b) Chemdey (Karo) (c) Saspol/Alchi (d) Skyur Buchon
(2)	Nubra	—	(a) Panamik (b) Sumoor

*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2123/2005.

These primary sections were sanctioned upto Class-III during the year 2004-05. All these branches are at the distance of 70 to 100 kilometres from the mother schools. It was envisaged that the students in the remote places studying in branch schools will have education upto Class-V in the branch school and from class-VI onwards they will take admission in mother schools.

For the academic year 2005-06, the functioning of these branch schools of KV Leh and KV Nubra, was reviewed and it was found that the facilities provided were not adequate, secondly, enrolment was not exceeding 50 students per branch KV. It was thus decided to keep the branch KVs functional upto Class-III. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary and Higher Education is of the view that these branch schools may continue to operate upto Class V depending upon the local infrastructure available.

[Translation]

SHRI CHEWANG THUPSTAN (Ladakh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I am fully satisfied with the reply given by the hon'ble Minister of Calling Attention Motion raised by me. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development from the core of my heart.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Executive officers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have taken all those steps, which were denied earlier. Difficult situation was crapped for not granting of admission to schools opened during the year 2003-04. Now the instructions have been issued by the Government in this regard. I have been informed that the admission is being given for Class IV. Even then, availing this opportunity, I would like to submit to the Government that Ladakh is educationally backward. The extension of education has taken place, but the quality of education has not been improved. After the constitution of Ladakh Autonomous Development Council, District Administration with the help of Union and State Government, is doing a commendable job for improving the quality of education. The entire country has praised the initiative taken to ensure the community participation in this field Panchayat and Community have taken the responsibility of maintenance of schools. Keeping in view the local conditions and local needs

syllabus at primary level is being changed so as to make it more relevant. It has to be kept in view that better facilities should be given to Board of School Education because the students of Ladakh have to go to Chandigarh or Srinagar for higher education. They used to face many difficulties because of competition with other students. Therefore, we wanted that there should be provision of higher education through Central Board of Secondary Education alongwith School Education. I am grateful to the Government of India for opening 7-8 new schools over there for this purpose. Alongwith it I would like to submit that till date these schools have not been regularised. The hon'ble Minister has said only that in principle, these schools would be upto primary level. I would like to request him to regularised the primary schools of farflung areas. They have been allotted land, but till the funds are not made available to them by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, we are making arrangements at our own level for running the classes, and accommodation facility for teachers.

Another thing that I would like to say that the Mother School of Kendriya Vidyalaya is upto Senior Secondary level. As 7-8 feeder Schools are proposed to be set up in the entire region of Ladakh, the students of those schools too would come to Leh Mother School, therefore, I would like to request that gradually it should be converted into a residential school. The expenditure to the incurred on it, can be recovered from the students, there is no need to make it free. The Government should give only this facility over there and its fee can be charged from the students. All parents and we are ready for that. Once again, I thank the Government and conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shalenderaji, you may ask the clarification question.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would like to tell the Minister of State of Human Resource Development that today all are be it Union Government or State Government, are concerned about education. My hon'ble colleague from Leh and Ladakh have expressed their views in regard to upgrade the Kendriya Vidyalayas overthere. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether he will make provision to make syllabus of international level for improving the quality of education.

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

Another thing which I would like to state that most of the Kendriya Vidyalayas are located in cities, but there is no school in the rural areas. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether he would make arrangement for opening Kendriya Vidyalayas at block level in the entire country.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, as far as the syllabus of Kendriya Vidyalaya or Navodaya Vidyalaya is concerned it is not lower as compared to the International level from any point of view and I understand that these schools run on CBSE pattern. As far his demand for opening Kendriya Vidyalayas at block level is concerned, I would like to tell that there are so many districts in the country, where not even a single Kendriya Vidyalaya has been opened. Our target is to open at least one Kendriya Vidyalaya in every district headquarter and we will achieve this target very soon. This year also, we are going to open some Kendriya Vidyalayas. As per target we would open Kendriya Vidyalayas in those districts, which are not having even a single Kendriya Vidyalaya. Later on, we will open these Vidyalayas at the block level. But it will take some time.

My colleague has asked the question of Kargil and Leh, I would like to tell that the population of Kargil and Leh is approximately two and a half lakh. As it has been mentioned that we are running six additional branches at primary level there. This type of arrangement exist nowhere. They are being run for a special reason, as the situation over there is tense. Besides, no local schools exist over there. Due to which we are compelled to run particularly a primary school. No infrastructure exist over there. We have made a demand for rooms to run classes of fourth and fifth standard. If land is made available over there building could be constructed. Till now land has not been made available. Once land is officially made available, the classrooms could be constructed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon'ble Member had asked whether Kendriya Vidyalayas would be opened in every block.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I was talking about Kargil and Leh. There is no question of opening Kendriya Vidyalayas at block level until at least one Kendriya Vidyalaya is opened in every district of the country. Thereafter Kendriya Vidyalayas would be opened at block level, if extension is possible, but presently, at least one Kendriya Vidyalaya would be opened in every district of the country.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at some places in two Lok Sabha constituencies falls in one district. Therefore, I would like to demand that there is a need to open at least one Kendriya Vidyalaya in every Parliamentary constituency. The Hon'ble Minister should give reply in this regard.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as far as issue of Kendriya Vidyalaya is concerned, as I stated in my statement also that the main aim of opening Kendriya Vidyalaya is to provide education to the children of employees working in Central Government, paramilitary forces and defence sector and most of these people live in district headquarters.

Hon. Members said that at some places two parliamentary constituencies fall in one district, the question is same whether Kendriya Vidyalayas would be opened at block level or not. First Kendriya Vidyalaya would be opened at District Headquarters. Till now, we have observed that there are such places where many Kendriya Vidyalayas have been opened in one district, but there are still many such districts, where not even one Kendriya Vidyalaya has been opened. UPA Government intend to open at least one Kendriya Vidyalaya in every district. In first phase, this task would be accomplished. Then his demand would be considered.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what criterion has been adopted for opening the Kendriya Vidyalayas. Another thing is that it has been known from his reply that there are many such areas where there is a need of opening Kendriya Vidyalaya but these Vidyalayas have not been opened as per the requirement there. Bihar is a backward and poor state. There are many areas over there where Kendriya Vidyalayas have not been opened.

The other important question is that the Government open Kendriya Vidyalayas, but criterion prescribed for according priority for admission is so rigid that, the children of common man, poor people and farmers do not get admission in them. They do not fall in that criterion. The Minister said that priority would be given to the children of Defence personnel and Government employees. There are 7-8 criteria for giving admission. But common people do not fall in that category. Through you, I would like to know that keeping in view the sentiments of common people, whether he will waive off rules so that the poor, backward farmers and labourers, who want to provide education to their children in Kendriya Vidyalayas could admit their children in those schools.

SHRI MA.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the criterion has already been fixed that priority would be given to the children of the central government employees, state government employees and para military forces. The Kendriya Vidyalayas are opened only at places where their number is more. In case all seats are not filled up, remaining seats are made available for everybody, we do not discriminate and admission is granted to everybody. Hon. Members said that there are many districts in Bihar where Kendriya Vidyalayas have not been opened. I assure the House that the priority would be given to them and Kendriya Vidyalayas would be opened over there.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I have not got the full reply to my question. I asked what is the criteria...(Interruptions). If these schools are not for common people, then what is the use...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up matters of urgent public importance to be raised after question hour.

[Translation]

SHRI. RAJARAM PAL (Bilhour): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I want to like to raise the matter of urgent public importance of the country during Zero Hour. Even after 57 years of independence, the

cases of atrocities on dalits and untouchability in the country are coming to light. Even today, many state are living in medieval age. Sir, mainly these states are Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra etc. The cases of atrocities on Dalits and untouchability are reported on large scale in those states. In the age of communications revolution, modernisation and development such cases is a stigma on us. Even today untouchability is prevailing in many parts of the country and atrocities on Dalits are taking place on large scale in spite of our efforts to root out these evils a large part of society is living in medieval age. The evil of untouchability is prevailing in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. Not only this, the Government have mentioned that the practice of untouchability is still in vogue in the state of Gujarat, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala etc. Despite relentless efforts of Mahatma Gandhi and many other national leaders this evil is still prevailing in many parts of the country.

It is also worth mentioning that the Government of India has been criticised many times at international fora for untouchability against Dalits but this practice has not been controlled effectively. According to National Crime Record Bureau under Union Ministry of Home Affairs since year 2000 more than 1000 cases have been registered under Civil rights Protection Act in the country. Alongwith it parliamentary committee, on welfare of scheduled caste, scheduled tribes has thrown light particularly on atrocities and social crimes against Dalit society in its fourth report of 2004-05. In this report it has been said that as per Article 17 of the Constitution of India, untouchability has been prohibited in any form. However, in some parts of India, the incidents of untouchability and atrocities against Dalits are taking place. Even today, discrimination is being committed against Dalits, they are not allowed to enter public places, temples and drinking water. Today, Dalit Society is being treated very badly on the issue of drinking water, the murders are taking place and cases of atrocities are being reported. It is a matter of great concern. Through you, I would like to state that even today Dalit bastis are torched in the country. The case of dacoity and murder are reported on large scale over there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have started your speech.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Sir, the cases of harassment of dalits have been reported under Civil Rights Protection Act, 1955 from 11 states viz-Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, West Bengal and four union territories and also from other states.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You please sit down.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: The cases of untouchability have come to light from these states. The percentage of torturing dalits and other cases of atrocities is 63.5 per cent in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan whereas it is 33.5 per cent in other states....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please sit down. If you wish to say anything, you may go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Founding father of our constitution, Dr. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar has rightly said that the constitution of a country may be very good, but it would be futile if intention of the people who rule is not good. He did the job of providing them right to dual voting in Parliament but Shri Gandhiji and the Congress snatched dual rights from them.(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, but the Congress has snatched away right of dual voting. Hon. Baba Saheb Ambedkar knew that if dalits were granted the right to dual voting then....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It will not go on record. Please take your seat. Shri Harisinh Chavda.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Gandhiji started his movement from the huts of Harijans. And Congress provided them the reservations.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir,...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, such words should be expunged.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have already told that it will not go on records.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Ramjilal Sumanji please sit down, whatever you are telling is not going on record. Shri Ramdas Athawaleji you also sit down. Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have already said that nothing is going to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the Government fixed minimum support price for procurement of Rayda and saved the farmers. It was a good step taken by the Central Government and Nafed was asked to procure it. Nafed procured lakhs of tonne of rayda in Rajasthan and Gujarat. But the Government have not made payment to Nafed so far. Consequently, Nafed has stopped further procurement of rayda. It has again put the farmers in trouble as the traders are buying it at quite low price. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should restart the procurement of rayda through Nafed so that the farmers can be saved from being ruined. Nafed should be provided adequate funds for procurement so that it can restart it. If the Government fails to do so the traders would exploit the farmers, as they are buying rayda at quite low price. I agains urge the Government to allocate adequate funds to Nafed and rayda should be procured at the MSP fixed by Nafed.

[English]

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEV (Badagara): Sir, I am drawing the attention of this House to the increasing number of child sexual abuse reported from almost all parts of the country. The child sexual abuse accounts for, at least, 40 per cent of the rape cases.

Shockingly, there are cases reported of sexual abuse even of infants of three to six months. In the year 1999, out of the reported 3153 cases, 731 cases were of rapes of children below ten years.

Sir, cases of violence against young women like acid throwing, obscene phone calls, kidnapping and sale of girls and women for flesh trade have also grown enormously. Even though this is the state of affairs, there is no special law to deal with sexual crimes against children.

There is a very low rate of conviction in these cases. Out of the 444 rape cases decided by the courts in Delhi in the year 2002, there were only 98 convictions. The poor rate of conviction is due to various reasons.

Sir, in Kerala, in the most shocking judgement in the Suryanelli case of rape of a minor, the accused persons were set free considering the circumstances of the case and with a conclusion that the victim had attained the age of 17 years at the time of the incident.

Sir, Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code defines that sexual intercourse with a woman under 16 years of age, with or without consent, would be treated as rape. This implies that a girl after attaining the age of 16 years could easily be lured or compelled to have sexual intercourse and the accused could justify it as having done with her consent and escape from being convicted.

In our country the age for giving one's consent, whether male or female, is 18 years. The age of 18 years is considered to be an age where a person becomes capable of taking his or her decisions independently. Therefore, the law permits him or her to exercise his or her franchise. The permissible age of marriage of a girl is also 18 years. Therefore, the permissible age of a girl to have a sexual relationship should also be made 18 years.

So, I would like to urge upon the Government, considering the increasing number of sexual abuse of young women and girls, to take steps to suitably amend Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code to enable the courts to give conviction to culprits accused of rape. I urge upon the Government to amend the said provision and introduce a comprehensive legislation which would

*Not recorded.

[Shrimamti P. Satheedevi]

define different degrees of sexual assault and would also help in giving punishment to the culprits in a time-bound manner.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, owing to the closure of the four units of FCI and HFCL, in the four States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal, there is a serious shortage of urea in these four States. I rise here to highlight the issue of deprivation of nitrogenous fertilizers to the farmers of these four States in Eastern India. The requirement of nitrogenous fertilizers in Eastern India is to the tune of 1.2 million tonnes. But due to the closure of these four units of FCI and HFCL, there has been a serious shortage of fertilizers in this part of our country.

I would like to demand from the Central Government to start these existing plants in the four States so that urea could be made available to our farmers. It is because the fertilizer requirement of these four States are now being met through imports. So, I again demand the Government to establish the four units which are closed in different states of India.

[Translation]

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Sir, the construction work of the bridge over Bagmati river at Dubbaghat between Sheohar and Seetamadi on the route to Nepal has come to a standstill whereas during last few years the work had begun on 5 to 7 pillars and since then the work has come to a halt. Last year a boat sank at this Ghat due to which a dozen of people died. During the flood days boats often sink due to which hundreds of people loose their lives. Now again after two months the flood is about to occur. Lakhs of people are losing their patience as the bridge is not being constructed. Therefore, it is essential to construct this bridge in the public interest.

Therefore, through you, I would urge upon the Government to issue instructions to the concerned officials to resume the construction work of this bridge as early as possible.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA (Mirzapur): Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is a state of severe

drought in every corner of the country. In this situation river projects have been set up in Sonbhadra district of Mirzapur division, Gyanpur in Mirzapur district, Kanhar Project in Sant Ravidas district, Sone River Project and Ganga River Project, though construction of these projects has been completed but they remain dry. Due to the negligence of the present Government of Uttar Pradesh and shortage of funds, such big projects are not being executed. Whereas a situation of severe drought is prevailing there. Poor and destitute people are living in my area. Of course, Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development talks of providing filtered water over there but all the ponds, rivers, nullahs over there have dried up and there is no separate arrangement of Handpumps. I had personally requested hon'ble Prime Minister as well as Minister of Rural Development in writing in this regard. I have repeatedly been reminding the Government through letters of this situation. Tribals, and the poor live in this area. They hope that the Government should solve their problems hence the Government should take steps in this direction but the Government are not doing anything in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have started giving a stage lecture.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Through the House I would like to request that funds should be provided to these projects immediately separately by the Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Finance and by the Prime Minister's Fund. Today the people of villages are reeling under the situation of severe drought. The poor do not have shelter. It is the tribal community for which the Prime Minister's statement is published in newspapers and I had raised my voice on this issue in the House last time but so far this question has not been addressed at all.

I would request the Government to consider this issue and give priority to the basic question of rural sector to make operational the hundreds of handpumps lying dysfunctional for a long in the interest of the Poor and the projects should be executed so that the people of my area could face the drought and can get water to drink. The situation prevailing over there may cause great harm to the living beings there.

Sir, whenever the Members of BSP or from the small parties speak, they are interrupted frequently. I would request the Government to listen to the basic question.

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there are two major rivers, Damodar and Barakar in Jharkhand. Lakhs of people in Jharkhand get drinking water from both these rivers. The wild animals and other beings also drink water from these rivers. But it is very unfortunate that Damodar is the most polluted river of the country. Wastes like coal dust of C.C.L. and B.C.L. industries are released into the Damodar river. The dust and other waste of the projects of Damodar Valley corporation be it Bokaro Thermal Station or Chandrapura Thermal Power Station are released into this river.

Alongwith this, the wastes of all the private sector industries be it Cement factories or other industries are drained into this river. Today it is very unfortunate that due to the coal industries the water level has declined in more than half a dozen districts of Jharkhand be it Chatra, Hazaribagh, Bokaro, Dhanbad from where both these rivers flow. The people over there are compelled to drink the same polluted water. Today lakhs of people are suffering from Tuberculosis and many other diseases. Though the complaints have been submitted to the Department of Environment repeatedly against these industries, nothing has been done so far. An agitation is also being launched against this in Jharkhand. But neither the Government nor the Environment Department pay any attention to this problem. Through you, I would urge upon the Government to make Jharkhand's largest rivers, Damodar and Barakar free from pollution. The public and private industries are polluting the water of these rivers hence appropriate actions should be taken against these industries.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, demand for a separate Vidharba State is being made in Maharashtra for many years. Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkarji had also supported the formation of small States. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government that new States namely Vidharba state in Maharashtra, Telangana state in Andhra Pradesh, Harit State in Uttar Pradesh, Daman and Diu and Dadra

Nagar Haveli should be formed. Our Government should form these four new states. Shri Pranab Mukherjee is the Chairman of the Committee related to this. I would like to appeal Smt. Sonia Gandhiji, Dr. Manmohan Singhji and Pranab Mukherjeeji that the Government should respect the feelings of people of Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Dadra Nagar Haveli and form these four new States. Since the Government of NDA had also formed new States, it is our responsibility also to form Vidharba and other States keeping in view the feelings of people....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli): Sir, I associate myself with what Shri Ramdas Athawale has mentioned just now....(*Interruptions*)

DR. K. DHANARAJU (Tindivanam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, biodiversity is the cornerstone of life. The tangible and intangible benefits derived from the living organism and their varieties and their associations are immensely vast and varied. Wild species and their varieties have made substantial contribution to agriculture, medicine and industry.

The concept of conservation of biodiversity is to conserve biological resources. The sacred groves are one of the finest examples of natural resource management wherein the innate native wisdom guided their protection from biotic exploitation. Sacred groves are patches of forests dedicated to a local spirit or deity and protected by cultural traditions and religious precepts. Such sacred groves are available in all parts of the country. For example, 82 groves with floristic values are available in Pudukottai and Tiruchirappalli districts of Tamil Nadu over the years. C.P. Ramaswamy Foundation of Chennai and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai have also resurrected several denuded groves and successfully restored them to their original status in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The coastal sector covering Pondicherry, Cuddalore and Villupuram districts, which belong to my constituency, stretching over 350 square kms. has about 163 groves, of which 33 have rich biodiversity values. There are hundreds of groves with biodiversity potential in Tamil Nadu, but these

[Dr. K. Dhanaraju]

are facing intense pressure from human exploitation and faulty management policies.

Originally, the groves were aimed at protecting the local biodiversity through taboos and restrictions and it was hailed as 'vernacular conservation', but slowly the cultural manifestations in the form of rites, rituals, worships and festivals have become colourful, commensurate with elaborations of temple complexes.

13.00 hrs.

Understandably, when cultural traditions soared high, conservation ethos suffered heavily on account of economic improvement and slackness, neither the groves are protected nor maintained.

Values of groves are islets of local biodiversity, tiny tots of endemic asylums and refugia for relict species. It is time for us to carry initiative into the villages. Sacred groves can be integrated into schemes under national biodiversity strategy action plan. The Ministry of Environment and Forest should send a directive to all the State Governments to take up the restoration of sacred groves on a priority basis so that the villages are restored of their natural heritage.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh—Not present.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Government with regard to the renewal of the Scheduled Tribe List at the National level.

The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002 have made 142 modifications in the STs of the 20 States. But, there are a number of representations which have not yet been finalised. For the last three years, the Government has not taken any decision on these pending proposals. It is injustice to the STs. They really are eligible to be included in the ST List. We know that the ST community has the right to get financial as well as the educational benefits.

Sir, with regard to the reply given by the Tribal Affairs Minister in this House, there are 990 proposals pending for the final decision. The highest comes from

Assam (113), Andhra Pradesh (95), Maharashtra (90), Orissa (88), Tamil Nadu (70), UP (70), Kerala (59), and the list goes on.

Sir, it is said that justice delayed is equal to justice denied. So, I would request the Government to review the pending representations within a time limit and take immediate action. There should be a policy of reviewing and finalising the List every year by the Parliament.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention and the attention of the House to the Catering Policy introduced recently in the Railway Board on 16th March, 2005. This Policy is, in fact, a hit on lakhs and lakhs of licensees. The proposed licensees are Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, war widows, freedom fighters, cleaners, cooks and all that.

Sir, this is total contrary to the idea adopted by the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government. So, I demand and I claim to the Government, particularly the Ministry of Railways, to withdraw this Circular and this policy and save the lives of lakhs and lakhs of vendors and licensees of our country who are working not only in one station but in all the major stations across the country. Sir, this is very important.

In this context, I want to mention here that not only myself but the Chairperson of UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi also wrote on the line and requested the Ministry. But, it is still ignored. This is really a matter of deep concern. I want to draw your attention in this regard.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, the seventh Asian Powerlifting Championship was held in Alleppey from 29th April, 2005 to 4th May, 2005. India won the Team Championship. This is the first time that in Asian Championship India won 43 gold medals, 33 silver medals and 6 bronze medals. India scored 373 total points. I would like to congratulate the team members as well as those who won the titles in this Championship. The sad thing is that in our country certain sports items are not getting adequate support from the Government. We had a detailed discussion in this regard last week. We approached the DD Sports Channel for the live telecast of the event. Since it was an Asian event, we approached the DD Sports. At first, they agreed to the

live telecast of the programme. But, later on, they demanded Rs. 5.59 lakh for the live telecast of that event. As I said earlier, since it was an international event, we approached the DD Sports.

So, I urge upon the Government that in the case of national and international events, they should be telecast freely. The important thing is that it is not only a question of sports but also it helps in the promotion of health. So, these events should be promoted. The Government should pay adequate attention to this event.

I would, once again, congratulate the team members who won the title and championship. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Hon'ble Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I have been giving this notice for last three days but today I have been given an opportunity to speak. In dozens of States of the country there is a particular class called—Khatik (Sonkar) which has not been given the status of scheduled caste. It is a matter of thought. Recently, they had staged a dharna at Jantar-Mantar. Similarly, in some States Sarva Vaishya Samaj has been included in the backward class and in some other states they have been included into General category. I want to submit that many proposals from the various states for the inclusion of various caste into the scheduled castes and in the Backward class, are lying pending with the Union Government. Whenever the Parliament is in Session these communities stage dharna at Jantar-Mantar. This is a very serious issue.

Through you, I would like to submit that the people belonging to Nishad Kewat caste are very poor, unemployed and illiterate and they are not getting employment. I would like to demand the Government that it should take decision at the earliest regarding all the projects sent by the State Government which are lying pending so that the people belonging to this section may get justice and proper status in the society. With these words I conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards a serious issue. By the

way the incidents of bribery and corruptions going on at large scale all over the country are being telecast on several channels. The corruption has reached its zenith. The hon'ble Minister also might have been seeing all these things on those channels. I was stunned when day before yesterday Aaj Tak channel telecast how the officials from bottom to top of Tihar Jail, which is a very important and is supposed to be a model. Jail, were opening accepting bribes. It is very important jail. Many hardened terrorists and dreaded criminals are imprisoned there. How the country will remain secured if there is so much corruption in such a place. It is a matter of serious concern.

I feel that the Government should take action in this regard at the earliest. So that the said jail may maintain its image as model jail. When ever it is felt that any other jail is not secured the dreaded prisoners are transferred to Tihar jail. Bribes are being openly taken in such a jail. I would like to submit that the Government should pay attention to it and concrete action should be taken against the officers involved in corruption at the earliest and also it should be ensured that such corruption and bribery must not take place in Tihar jail. Besides corruption is spreading at large scale in various departments of the country....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yadavji, your point is completed.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: It should be checked. Such things are being telecast time and again in Channel Aajtak. The action should be taken to check bribery so that such thing may not take place in future and bribery may be checked. In fact Government is not even responding in this regard....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you, Ram Kripalji your point has been covered.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, you know that the jute industry is one of the important traditional industries in West Bengal. It has important contribution to the economy. About two lakh workers and 35 lakh farmers and a large number of business people are involved in that. But, it is suffering from many problems due to failure of the jute mill-owners to modernise the

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

mills. They only earn super profits but do not invest for modernisation. This is a major problem. Government also gives funds but they do not utilise those funds for modernisation. Due to such criminal negligence, the industry has been facing several problems since last many years. Instead of taking necessary steps to improve the industry, the mill-owners take the course to the closure of their mills.

Every year a number of mills are closed by the owners during the summer season in the name of recession. During the last fortnight so many mills have been closed. Premchand Jute Mill in Chengail, Delta Jute Mill in Sankrail, Auckland Jute Mill and Reliance Jute Mill and some other jute mills were closed during the last fortnight leaving over 20,000 workers jobless. Many more might be closed down in the coming days. NJMC mills are already closed.

So, I would like to request the Textile Ministry to take note of that and prevail upon jute mill-owners to re-open all these closed jute mills so that the workers can get back their jobs.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I associate myself on this matter.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Awar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this year there has been bumper mustard crop in Rajasthan. However, the payments are not being made to the farmers for their produce that has been purchased from them at support price. As per one estimate nearly Rs. 2,000 crore are yet to be paid to the farmers. The State Government is shifting its blame to the Central Government. It is on account of lack of storage facility and lack of funds with the procuring agency of the State Government, Rajfad that been stopped. In coming days many marriages are going to be solemnised in farmer's family in Rajasthan especially on 11th May on the occasion of Akha Tij. How the farmers will perform the marriages. The cheques given by the Government procuring agencies to the farmers have bounced. The Punjab National Bank located in Ganga Nagar has confirmed that the cheques amounting the lakhs of rupees

have bounced. Rs. 32 crores are yet to be paid to the farmers. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should interfere in this matter at the earliest and make arrangement for the payment of the outstanding dues to the farmers so that farmers may discharge their family responsibilities smoothly. I would like to extend my thanks to you that you gave me opportunity to raise the matter related to demand of thousands of farmers of Rajasthan for their payment of outstanding dues.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, our last speaker, Shri V. Radhakrishnanji.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government a very important legal issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That should be very brief.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, the question is that as per the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, rape is not a compoundable offence. In a Delhi Sessions Court, in the nurse's case, the accused offered to marry the victim. Well, when the judgement was about to be pronounced, he offered to marry her. Luckily, the victim refused to marry him. So, the Court pronounced the judgement of life imprisonment to the accused. If she would have agreed, what would have happened? The Court is not empowered to look into the matter of compromise or even offer; this is not the concern of the Court. The concern of the Court is the evidence before them. The Court's Judge will have to take a decision on the basis of the evidence adduced before him.

He has no other choice. He need not wait for the pronouncement. Anyhow, the matter is over.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yesterday, in Mumbai, in a case, the accused offered to marry the victim but the victim was not agreed to marry. The Mumbai Sessions Court ordered for the marriage under some direction. What is it? The Court is expected to pronounce the judgement. It has to pronounce the judgement on the basis of evidence adduced. Instead of pronouncing the judgement—because the girl agreed to marry him—

the Court did not pronounce the judgement. This is a clear case of misuse of criminal law. So, prosecutors must be instructed; the Government should instruct the prosecutors to see that such things do not happen in our country. It is a clear case. Law is very specific that there can be no compromise on rape; there can be no compromise on murder.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you, Shri Radhakrishnanji.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: These offences are not compoundable. Here is a case where the Court has not pronounced the judgement at the fag end of the trial for the simple reason that the accused came forward and said: "I like her and want to marry her." ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you. You have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The law has also agreed....(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: This will encourage rape.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes, it will encourage rape...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: All the rapists will get encouragement...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah, I have already given you a time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: I am fully associated with Shri Varkala Radhakrishnanji....(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Mumbai Sessions Court passed on a judgement like that. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.45 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at "forty five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Item No. 14.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had raised an issue in the morning relating to death of 11 person in Delhi caused by Meningitis. Hon. Minister was to make a statement on it...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Statement will be made later on.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): In the morning it was told that the statement will be made at noon. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Hon. State Minister has arrived. She will make statement.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): She will make a statement. She is going to make the statement. Kindly listen to the statement.

*At 1415 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 1419 hours quorum bell was rung again and no quorum was made. At 1423 hours once again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made. Thereafter, the Joint Secretary informed the members present as follows:

"There is no quorum. So, the House cannot meet till there is a quorum. The Hon. Chairman has directed that the House will re-assemble at 2.25 p.m."

14.46 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

(v) Meningococcal Disease*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Meningococcal disease is an acute bacterial disease caused by the bacterium *Meningococcus* and is manifested by sudden onset of fever, severe headache, nausea and vomiting, stiff neck and frequently a petechial rash with pink macules and very rarely vesicles often accompanied by delirium and coma. Occasionally fulminating cases exhibit severe sudden prostration, ecchymoses and shock at onset. The causative agent at present is known to have 12 serogroups. Serogroups A, B, C are the commonest and have epidemic potential. Other serogroups to name a few W-135, Z, Y, Z etc., are less virulent.

A small proportion of cases progress to invasive disease characterized by one or more clinical syndromes including bacteraemia. Many with septicaemia develop petechial rash. Joints may also be involved. Meningococcaemia may occur without meningitis. Out of 25 cases tested at National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi, five cases have been found positive for serogroup-A Meningococcal infection.

As per the information received from the Government of NCT a total number of 91 cases and 14 deaths have been reported till yesterday. Till today there are 111 cases and 15 deaths.

The community is advised to report to the nearest health facility as soon as possible if there is sudden rise of high fever alongwith headache, vomiting, neck pain or skin rashes. All major hospitals such as Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, Smt. Sucheta Kriplani Hospital, Kalawati Saran Children Hospital, AIIMS, LNJP Hospital, G.T.B. Hospital, Hindu Rao Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital etc., are fully equipped to treat such patients. Hospitals in Delhi as well as private practitioners have been advised to notify suspected

cases to the Medical Officer, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Tel. No. 23936101). There is no need to panic since the disease is amenable to antibiotic treatment and there are sufficient stocks of medicines. Facilities for rapid diagnosis of the disease are available at NICD. A control room at NICD (Tel. No. 23981289) will receive the clinical samples round the clock. Guidelines for prevention of disease transmission including chemoprophylaxis have been provided to concerned health authorities in consultation with WHO.

The situation is under control and is being regularly monitored.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not a question of statement of the Government. Today, it has been reported in the newspapers that there is an acute shortage of medicines....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sumanji, in view of seriousness of the issue, the Ministers' reply is over.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I want to know what the Government is doing. Large number of people have died and has the Government prepared any action plan to tackle it?... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you're speaking is not going on records. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am on my legs, so you please sit down. Sumanji, since the issue is so important, thus in view of its seriousness and importance the Government have taken a note of it straightaway. Today, when the House assembled at 11 o'clock, you took up the matter. Thus the Government gave positive attention to it and today the Government have replied to it. So, in accordance with the rules, today it can't be taken up for discussion. In view of its seriousness, whatever information the

*Also Placed in Library. See No. LT-2124/2005.

*Not recorded.

Government had with regard to controlling it, the Government have placed it before the House and it has decided to take further action.

14.52 hrs.

PREVENTION OF MONEY-LAUNDERING
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Item No. 14. Shri P. Chidambaram.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Money-Laundering Act was passed by this House in the year 2002, and number of steps have to be taken to implement it. Sir, two kinds of steps were required. One was to appoint an authority who will gather intelligence and information, and the other was an authority to investigate and prosecute. This Act was made to implement the political declaration adopted by the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in 1999. Section 1 (3) of the Act stipulates that the Act will come into force on such date as the Central Government may by notification appoint. While we were examining the question of notifying the Act, I found that there was certain lacunae in the Act. I regret to say that not enough homework had been done in the definitions, and in the division of responsibility and authority. So, in consultation with the Ministry of Law, we came to the conclusion that these lacunae had to be removed. Broadly, the reasons for the amendment are the following.

Under the existing provisions in Section 45 of the Act, every offence is cognizable. If an offence is cognizable, then any police officer in India can arrest an offender without warrant. At the same time, under Section 19 of the Act, only a Director or a Deputy Director or an Assistant Director or any other officer authorised, may arrest an offender. Clearly, there was a

conflict between these two provisions. Under Section 45(1)(b) of the Act, the Special Court shall not take cognizance of any offence punishable under Section 4 except upon a complaint made in writing by the Director or any other officer authorised by the Central Government. So, what would happen to an arrest made by any police officer in the case of a cognizable offence? Which is the court that will try the offence? Clearly, there were inconsistencies in these provisions.

They have now been removed. We have now enabled only the Director or an officer authorised by him to investigate offences. Of course, we would, by rule, set up a threshold; and, below that threshold, we would allow State police officers also to take action.

The second anomaly that we found was that the expression "investigation officer" and the word "investigation" occur in a number of sections but they were not defined in the Act. Consequently, one has to go to the definition in the Criminal Procedure Code and that Code provides only "investigation by a police officer or by an officer authorised by a magistrate". So, clearly, there was a lacuna in not enabling the Director or the Assistant Director under this Act to investigate offences. That has been cured now.

The third difficulty that I found was that the Act contemplates an Appellate Tribunal under Section 25 but there might not be enough cases for a full-time Appellate Tribunal. An Appellate Tribunal means a lot of money. There are other Appellate Tribunals in similar Acts. So, we could authorise those Appellate Tribunals to function as Appellate Tribunal under this Act. After all, it is the same retired High Court Judge or a serving High Court Judge who is going to be there. So, part of the time, he would devote to dealing with appeals arising under some other Acts; and, part of the time, he would deal with appeals arising under this Act. At least in the initial years, we do not think, there would be enough work for a full-time Appellate Tribunal.

What we are doing is, we are inserting a new Section, 2 (n) (a) defining the term, 'investigation'; making an amendment to Sections 28, 29 and 30, dealing with tribunals; amending Sections 44 and 45 of the Act to make the offence non-cognisable so that only the Director could take action; and also making

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

consequential changes in Section 73. I request hon. Members to kindly approve of these amendments so that the Act could be amended quickly and we could bring it into force.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002, be taken into consideration."

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I support the Bill and I appreciate the new Government and the new Minister of Finance.

While going through several provision of the Bill, the hon. Minister faced certain hurdles in the process of implementation and he has come up with amendments in at least three important areas. The first is regarding the definition of 'investigation'. It was not there and so it created some confusion and a conflicting situation was created. The next is regarding the appellate tribunal. Taking into account the huge expenditure involved in setting up and running an appellate tribunal, it has been proposed that other tribunals might be authorised to look into cases, which might be few in number. That is quite right. The other amendment is regarding the inconsistency and the reference to Cr.P.C., which rendered that the Director or the Assistant Director could not take up cognisable offences. So, these anomalies have been addressed in this Bill. It has also been provided for part-time services to be derived from other appellate tribunals.

As has been stated by the hon. Minister, it was as a result of the United Nations General Assembly's Political Declaration, 1999 that the Government had brought out the original Bill. The Bill had come to the Standing Committee. I was a Member of the Committee and I had been compelled to submit a note of dissent.

15.00 hrs.

Because it seems to me that the original Bill has been very much in consistence with the political declaration. But in the Standing Committee, in the course of the deliberations, it was diluted. So, I think, there is no objection if I read only a portion of the amendment

which mentions certain things which are now being looked as a cognisable offence. I quote:

"That Schedule as given in the original Bill should be kept intact and no changes or modifications should be made in the Schedule."

But, unfortunately, the Standing Committee, in its wisdom, did not take this into account. I included all transactions, including the electronic transactions because these days electronic transaction is also an important thing. The deletion of the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 would virtually allow a large chunk of the people involved in money laundering out of the purview of the Bill. So, that was my contention. But this was not taken into account in the recommendations made. I am not going into that. But still what has come today in the form of an amendment, I welcome the move that it is, to some extent, removing the infirmities in the Bill. But still, I think, this particular Bill is not going to address the dimension of the issue of generation of black money, unearthing black money and unaccounted money. The Government has taken so many steps in the form of amnesty schemes etc.

Even while I was speaking on the Finance Bill currently, I mentioned that the hon. Minister of Finance had taken some steps. His original proposal was to levy some tax for withdrawal of certain amount of cash. Now, he has raised that. His plea was correct and I do not dispute it. When he was replying to the debate, he had made certain illustrations about huge amount, crores and crores of rupees being transacted in cash. He wanted to trace the sources of this black money and he wanted to zero in on the operators. It is a good idea. But what I added there that this is just a peanut because according to an estimate, 40 per cent of our GDP is unaccounted and according to a study only three per cent of the Indian population is involved in these operations, be it *hawala*, in the form of remittances.

In one recent American study of 2004, it was mentioned that after the liberalisation process, what is noticed is that there are 77 countries in the world and out of that, India and Pakistan are two such countries where the generation of black money, unaccounted money, drug money, terrorists-fed money and all these

things are growing, and growing in volumes, and newer and newer areas of operations are coming. We know how drug money and terrorist money is used. So, 40 per cent of our GDP is unaccounted. Once I stated that falsification of accounts by Indian business houses is one of the areas and we wanted to address the issue. Say, for example, in one case we found in the JPC that to find out discrepancy is not our job. It is the job of the Chartered Accountants involved. I can name GTB case. When we examined the Institute of Chartered Accountants, they said what can be done and all those things.

Now, this new Government has tried to address the issue to plug the loophole and to institute a confidence and all these things. There is the second account book and the first account book. *[Translation]* People open double accounts and they provide different details in each account. One account they open for income tax purposes and other one for all other purposes. *[English]* You know all these things....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: How do you know all these things?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I know all these things because you told us something sometime.

We know all these things. I raised this issue that falsification of accounts is a cognizable offence, but to their wisdom—the supporters mostly belong to that section—they just did not agree with me and said 'No, how can it be that falsification of accounts is a cognizable offence?' I said 'if you go to that level, you will find out.' I had repeatedly been saying two or three things.

I am giving you only one example because he had been the Finance Minister at that time also when amnesty Scheme VDIS was introduced in 1997. During the course of examination, I asked 'What is the amount declared?' They told that it was Rs. 33,000 crore or something like that. I also asked how much tax was deposited. They also told that more than Rs. 9,000 crore were deposited as tax. I asked 'How many people did not pay even a single paisa as income tax even after enjoying the whole scheme?' They said that it could not be divulged because that was one of the provisions of

the VDIS. In such a way, one after another, whenever I wanted to go deep into the source of black money, generation of black money, parallel economy and how it is destroying the whole structure, I could not get the answer. The well-intentioned schemes are being destroyed by the parallel economy. The idea is that India is a very prone area for operations of drug money, *hawala* money and terrorist money. Particularly in the border areas, there have been cases where it was detected that international terrorist groups and drug operators have been using certain parts of India and certain sections of Indian people as conduits and taking advantage of the lacunae in the system and lacunae in the laws.

So, I had been insisting that money-laundering is a very grave cognizable offence and there should be some deterrence. If one is caught for the offence of money-laundering and using that money for sensitive purposes, what is the punishment? You may say that the judicial system is such that it all depends on how Judiciary is acting. We know how Judiciary is sometimes going beyond its jurisdiction. We have a very recent case in mind where what should have been taken into consideration by the Legislature only was being taken as an area of consideration by some other organ of the Indian State. That is a different question. What I want to emphasise is that while I welcome the measures, the amendments that have been proposed here, I would say that the generation of black money, unearthing black money, unaccounted money, parallel economy, drug money and terrorist money is a matter of global concern.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Temple money also.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: If you allow me, I can speak for half an hour on temple money and how they have set up very many agencies which were operating. I can name some of the Swayamsewak Sangh people who are involved in all these things, but that can just be taken into consideration in a different debate because the hon. Minister is insisting that he is very much interested in concluding the debate today itself. I have no objection.

While supporting this Bill, I would insist on three things. One, there have been two Standing Committee

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Reports. One is of a Select Committee of Rajya Sabha. It was presented on 24th July, 2000. They had made certain very important recommendations. I have been mentioning the recommendations where I had submitted the Note of Dissent. It was a Report presented during Twelfth Lok Sabha, It was submitted on 4th March, 1999. Because of the time constraint, I am not going into all the details, but there have been very many important recommendations, particularly if you look at some of the points made by me in the form of Note of Dissent.

I would particularly like to know about the cognizable offence, and the deterrent part. A number of people are being caught. Why should a Member of Parliament—if he is caught in a money-laundering case—not be appropriately dealt with? It was there in Pakistan, and in some other countries. What is the deterrent, if someone higher-up in the society like a Legislator or an Executive or even a Bureaucrat was involved in terrorist money, drug money, etc.?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes, Sir, I am concluding. I would like to be satisfied on the deterrent part; the cognisable offence part; falsification of accounts as one of the offences; etc. while the hon. Finance Minister gives his reply.

What is happening to those people who enjoyed the amnesty schemes, but did not even pay a single paisa after enjoying the amnesty schemes? There is a provision of non-disclosure, but it cannot be that the Parliament can be denied of such an information.

Once again I support the amendments. I welcome the fact that the hon. Finance Minister has applied his mind. I am saying this because they have all along been—these people, who are abstaining or enjoying life—keeping themselves away from these responsibilities. They had not applied their mind. I fully appreciate the position taken that these are the three corrections being made. I once again welcome, and support the Bill.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, I rise to support the further amendment of the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002.

According to Section 3 of the main Act, money-laundering means:

"Whosoever directly or indirectly attempts to indulge or knowingly assists or knowingly is a party or is actually involved in any process or actively connected with the proceeds of crime and projecting it as untainted property shall be guilty of offence of money-laundering."

It is a network of bankers and public servants, through which considerable sums of black money was being laundered in certain nationalised banks. This Act was not promulgated originally in India.

"The General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) adopted, in February 1990, the political declaration and a global programme of action to prevent money-laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from money laundering. The UN further called upon its member-States in June 1998 to adopt national money-laundering legislation and programmes."

Based on this, the Prevention of Money-laundering Bill was introduced, and discussed in the Parliament in the year 1998. Subsequently, a sub-Committee discussed it in 1999. In the same year it was passed in the Lok Sabha, and sent to the Rajya Sabha. In July 2002, it was passed in the Rajya Sabha, and the Prevention of Money-laundering Act came into force on 20 January 2003.

I want to quote one example. Even though, it was notified on 20 January, 2003...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kharventhan, please conclude your speech because we have to take-up the Private Member's Business at 1530 hours.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, I want to mention certain points with regard to this issue. Please give me a couple of minutes more to speak. For example, our former Member of Parliament, and also former Law

Minister Shri Aladi Aruna was murdered for money in Tamil Nadu even though this Act was there.

Certain lacunae in the Act are being removed with the help of the amendments. In the original Act of 2002, nothing was mentioned about investigation. It was a toothless Act as it could not punish or affect any person. Now, in Section 2, it is mentioned that:

"(na) "investigation" includes all the proceedings..."

It means that investigation is included in it. Section 28 of the original Act stated that:

"A person shall not be qualified for appointment as Chairperson unless he is or has been a judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court."

Now, the amendment brought here to Section 28 is as follows:

"in sub-section (1), for the words "High Court", the words "High Court or is qualified to be a Judge of the High Court" shall be substituted."

I am having some reservations in this amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, I may be permitted to speak. It is regarding an amendment to the law. No retired judge should be appointed for such type of an inquiry. This is my reservation on this issue.

There is no accountability. Just look at Justice Phukan's case, and what they would do. Therefore, my point is that retired persons should not be appointed.

Another point is that Section 29 has been totally removed. My suggestion is that instead of removing the total section, only the proviso should be removed. The first part of Section 29 says, "The Chairperson and every other member shall hold office as such for a term of five years from the day on which he enters upon his office..." That much only should be there, and the proviso part should be removed.

These are my views on this Bill, and I welcome this Bill. Our hon. Minister announced a tax on withdrawals only to prevent these kinds of money transactions. I welcome this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of Money Laundering Bill, 2005. This Bill is meant to check the people who earn money by wrong means. It provides for attaching the property of offenders and for forwarding of complaints for disposal before Special Courts. It also provides for checking conversion of black money into white money and also seizure of property acquired through wrongful means.

I would like to tell that the Bill provides for imprisonment and imposing fine on guilty persons. The Government send a person to jail but how can a company be jailed, how the Government would check them? The Government will have to make some provision for it. Second important thing in this Bill worth paying attention is that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today, we have to take up Private Members' Business also, so keep time factor in mind. Private Members' Business will commence from 3.30 o'clock.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: The Government should make sure that no one takes political mileage out of it. A special agency can be created to enquire into. Secondly, the Government will have to keep an eye on people making money through smuggling, drugs or through other fake means, those who convert black money into white one. There are specialist or communal forces who pump black money into terrorist activities and encourage terrorism. The Government will have to pay special attention towards it.

Conducting raids by CBI and Income Tax Department has been a great achievement during current year. Total 249 places were raided including Jaipur wherein 126 Government officers were found involved. 86 cases were registered against 194 persons but so far no concrete results have come out, whereas Rs. one crore in cash and moveable/immovable property worth Rs. 10 crore was seized. He has told that during 2003 Rs. 21 crore in cash and jewellery worth Rs. 37 crore was recovered. After conducting raids at over one thousand places only Rs. 85 crore have been seized. Let it be CBI or Income Tax Department, it is just tip of an

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

iceberg and no special attention is being paid to strike at the roots of the prevailing corruption in system. ...*(Interruptions)* Well, I am concluding now.

Former Chief Vigilance Commissioner Shri N. Vitthal has commented that it is quite shameful that our democracy is soaked in corruption. We should keep it in mind that the rich people consult lawyers to save tax whereas it is not the case with middle class group. They are of the view that even their hard earned income is taxed. So the Government should take care of them and check the people who amass black money.

Secondly, eight per cent of trade in Sadar Bazaar is not billed. It would be controlled by VAT and honest traders will benefit from it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy. You will take only two minutes.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Thank you, Sir.

We are all naturally concerned about money-laundering and I rise to support the Bill. However, I am afraid, in spite of the explanation of the hon. Finance Minister, omitting of clause (a) of Sub-section (1) of Section 45 of the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 may soften the Act further. It may be taken advantage of by some people. There is a necessity for more effective machinery. We do not know how many people could be punished under this Act till now. Large amounts of black money continue to exist.

On certain cases relating to *havala*, very stringent action was taken in the past and important people were arrested. However, recently it was found that crores and crores of rupees are still being transferred in the name of *havala*. So, there is a necessity for more powerful machinery and a will on the part of the Government to unearth the black money in order to stop the source of black money. If this cannot be done, there will be no use of having a powerful Act. I hope these new amendments

will certainly help the Government to utilise the existing machinery in a more proper manner. I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to rethink whether omitting Section 45(1)(a) will help.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Which clause you said we have omitted?

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Clause (a) of Sub-section (1) of Section 45 of the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002. That is mentioned in para 2(c) of the Statement of Objects and reasons.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will explain that.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Thank you.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, first to answer Mr. Sudhakar Reddy, Section 45(1)(a) is being omitted because, if the offence is cognizable, then any police officer in this country can arrest without a warrant Section 19 says, only the Director or Assistant Director should investigate the offence. There is a conflict. Therefore, we are making it non-cognizable. But, investigation will be by the Director. We will authorise, upto a threshold, State police officers also to investigate offences. That is why Section 45(1)(a) is being omitted.

As far as the point made by Shri Kharventhan is concerned—he asked me not to appoint a retired judge—I am afraid, you will not get serving judges to serve on this tribunal. Serving judges will be quite happy to serve in the High Court which enjoys, of course, much greater authority and prestige. You will only get judges who have retired from the High Court, or retired from the Supreme Court, to serve on these tribunals. Anyway, we are not going to appoint a new judge. We are going to take an existing tribunal and make that the Appellate Tribunal here.

Shri Rupchand Pal, for whom I have great respect, asked as to what about the deterrence. We are not amending Section 3 or Section 4. Section 3 and Section 4 are intact. Section 3, you will recall, defines the offence of money-laundering, and Section 4 provides for punishment for money-laundering. They are not being diluted.

He wanted to know why I have not included falsification of accounts in the Schedule. I think the answer is reasonably simple. Let me try to explain. This Act deals with an offence called money-laundering which is defined as 'proceeds of a crime'. The crimes are listed in the Schedule. If out of that crime money is made—for example, out of murder there is money involved, out of arms smuggling there is money involved, out of prostitution there is money involved—and that money is laundered through the system, that is what is hit by this Act. Falsification of accounts is not in any way taken away. That is Section 477A of the Indian Penal Code. While committing the offence of money-laundering if anyone commits an offence of falsification of accounts, he will be prosecuted both under this Act for money-laundering and under the IPC for falsification of accounts.

It is not as though falsification of accounts is not going to be prosecuted. I think, I have answered that.

Regarding VDIS, I am looking into the matter. There are a certain number of, what we call, 'stop filers'. We assume that the man who was declared under VDIS would file income-tax returns from the subsequent years. I am aware that some did not file the income-tax returns in the subsequent years. What should have happened is that the Government which succeeded the United Front Government should have gone into the matter. We were not there. Now, we have come back after six years. We will go into the matter to find out how many people have stopped filing and why they have stopped filing. I am looking into the matter. Although it is not connected with this Bill, I will look into the matter. I request that the Bill be passed.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): How many people are involved in this?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not answering that now. It is a separate issue. I will answer that. It has nothing to do with this Bill.

SHRI CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 8 were added to the Bill

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.28 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Increasing Population in the Country

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Item No. 15.

Short Duration Discussion in regard to increasing population in the country is listed in the name of Yogi Aditya Nath and Shri Bachi Singh Rawat. Since both the Members are not present in the House, as per practice, I am calling Shri Prabodh Panda, whose notice secured third position in the ballot, to initiate the discussion.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I think, this is the first time in the Fourteenth Lok Sabha that a discussion on the problem of increase in population in India has been taken up for debate in this august House. I have noticed that several Members from the NDA benches have given notices for discussion. So, it would have been better if they were present here and contribute something in this discussion.

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

Sir, let me, at the very outset, say that our country, India, is the second most populous country in the world sustaining 16.7 per cent of the population on 2.4 per cent of the world surface area. Realising the high population growth, India became the first country to formulate national family planning programme in 1952. The 2001 Census showed that population growth fell below two per cent after a decade.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Panda, you will continue your speech later.

15.30 hrs.

**MOTION RE: NINTH REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Private Members' Business. Item Number 16, Shri Madhusudan Reddy.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY (Adilabad): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 4th May, 2005."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 4th May, 2005."

The motion was adopted.

15.31 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

**(I) Relief measures for workers in
Agrarian Sector—contd.**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before further discussion on the Resolution regarding relief measures for workers in

agrarian sector by Shri P.K. Vasudevan Nair is resumed, I would like to mention that the time allotted for discussion on the Resolution has already exhausted.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the time for this Resolution be extended by half an hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is extended by half an hour.

Shri Bijendra Singh—not present

Shri Alok Kumar Mehta—not present

Shri Shailendra Kumar.

15.32 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to take part in the discussion being held on the Resolution regarding relief measures for workers in agrarian sector. I got this opportunity because the Member whose name was before me did not know that this subject was being discussed. Be it the treasury benches or the opposition everybody is concerned in this regard. 70 per cent of the people of this country still live in the villages. The condition of the workers in the agrarian sector is very bad. The farmers take loans for agriculture but in the case of natural calamities he cannot repay it. The loans are recovered forcefully from the farmers when he can not repay it due to floods, hailstorm or drought and he is compelled to commit suicide.

We have discussed it time and again that 500 or 600 farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh due to this. Through you, I would like to say that the Government should pay particular attention towards this and make arrangements for the relief to the workers in the agrarian sector. RC is issued immediately if the workers are unable to repay the loan. People from rich class are not sent to jails when they fail to repay their loans but the farmers are put in jails in tehsil after the issuance of RC in case they have failed to repay their

loans. Rich people repay their loans hence they do not have to face the same situation as the farmers. The losses that the Government suffer through its systems of revenue are not due to the farmers or the workers but these rich people.

Secondly, the House should seriously consider the issue of suicides being committed by the farmers. I want to emphasise that there is a need to identify such workers in the country who are surviving on daily wages. Some people are directly engaged in farming and some people employ workers for the farming operations. It needs to be considered how to provide basic amenities like employment to workers in the agrarian sector and how to rehabilitate them. There is a need to identify thousands of workers whose financial condition is bad and who are finding it difficult to make both ends meet, the House should seriously consider the issue of livelihood of these families and how they can be offered employment.

Thirdly, much is being done by the Government, be it the NDA Government or the UPA Government, to provide relief. In the villages there are a number of farmers who survive on daily wages and earn their livelihood by working on other peoples farms but no special attention has been paid towards them. This is the reason that migration towards cities from the villages is taking place at a large scale. And because of that the people who undertake farming through the workers are finding it difficult to get the labourers in the villages. Such workers are often exploited and they are paid very less and at times, they are made to work for whole day in lieu of foodgrains. The Government should consider this issue. I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanyharpur):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to thank you for giving me opportunity to speak on this important issue. Shri. P.K. Vausdevan Nair has moved this Resolution regarding relief measures to workers in agrarian sector. It is a comprehensive and multidimensional issue hence it covers the entire agrarian sector, organised labourers, and agricultural workers. According to the Planning Commission approximately 26 per cent of the people live below the poverty line who have very low purchasing power and they belong to the lowest strata of the society,

today the House is discussing about giving relief to these people. That is why, it is a very important issue. These unorganised labourers, agriculture workers, or those who pull rickshaws, carts or carry loads on their heads, have nominal purchasing power even after almost 57 years of independence and they are not able to buy foodgrains or other commodities from the market and they do not even reach the average age. At Mr. Ilyas Azmi has said that we take 66 years as the average age but these people die at the age of 50-55 because they never get sufficient food. A person needs at least 2700 calories per day, these people do not get such balanced diet to live.

It has been seen that the most of agriculture labourers, poor rickshaw pullers, and people who do manual labour and affected by TB. The country is proud of the farmers who produce foodgrains in large quantity. Their achievement is before us. This is the result of hard work of agriculture workers and labourers of unorganised sector. We are proud of this achievement. It is this section of workers that has made us self-reliant in the case of foodgrains.

Sir, the workers and farmers engaged in farming are migrating to other places. They are moving to other states in search of employment. Right now the situation is that farmers and workers are migrating from Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Assam to Punjab, Haryana and Delhi because at these places they to get some work to get a square meal for themselves and their family. That is why migration is taking place at such a large scale. Adverse ramifications of migration have come to light. As labourers are migrating to other states. It is adversely affecting foodgrains production at national level and agriculture is facing shortage of labour force in such states due to which agro-production is being adversely affected there.

Sir, you may have observed that as per our latest economic survey agro-production has declined, and it is a dangerous signal for the country. But, I am sure it is not going to decline further as UPA Govt. are making all out efforts to boost the production. See the condition of farmers today. I would like to say that he cannot be dishonest to his work in any aspect. If he owns five kattha cultivable land, he would irrigate it, plough it, sow

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the seeds, does all sorts of efforts including labour and also would supervise his job, then only he can produce some grains. But, if he desires to cultivate only four kатthas, his fifth Katttha would be idle and nothing can be produced in that. I want to say that he cannot be dishonest in any way as there is no scope of it. But take the case of other sectors. If an engineer is assigned the job of construction of 10 kms long stretch of road he would complete only nine kms and would misappropriate the funds that would have been spent on construction of one kilometer. Today, only paper work is done cleverly. Through data, the progress of whole country is reflected, estimate of BPL is prepared as to the total number of people living below poverty line in the country. But, the estimates produced are not real. Rather, it cannot be real. This way, we can tell the number of people belonging to BPL category. Such data can be analyzed.

So, the Government cannot feed those who do maximum labour. These farmers only produce foodgrains for all of us including those—the sentinals of our border. But they themselves are hungry. I feel it is greatly unfortunate. It is a very serious issue. Thus, I thank hon. Member Shri Nairji as he has raised such an important issue. I feel the Government would ponder over it seriously and would take positive steps in this direction.

We already know that the agriculture labourers are poor and unemployed. Therefore, they are in pitiable condition. The process for providing agri-loans to farmers is quite cumbersome. He applies for loan to the bank and runs from pillar to post to get the loan sanctioned which further puts him in precarious condition. No doubt, the UPA Government have enhanced provision for agriculture in current year's budget. It is to give priority to the sector. But loan facility to the farmers is not that simple. They are charged very high interest rate of 12 to 18 per cent and some of the banks even charge interest upto 19 per cent. See the fun, when a farmer takes agri-loan he is charged 12 to 19 per cent interest. But the elite class, the air-conditioned-car-class, which comprises only five per cent of our population get loan to buy car at the rate of just 6 per cent. If they want to avail housing loan, it would be available at 7 per cent easily. Banks are always opened for them. They have to

just show the proof of their income and quote PAN and easily loan is available to them at the rate of 6 per cent. A poor fellow cannot produce proof of his income or PAN card and thus he faces several hurdles. Therefore, my submission is that there should not be so wide gap between rich and poor, which still exists. Even today there is a discrimination between these two classes.

Today rich people and the poor constitute the India. Apart from luxurious life that is the condition of rural India, the poor India and agriculture as compared to JNPT. Same is the condition of onion growers in Nasik, Vidharbha in Maharashtra. Overall the condition of poor in India is quite pitiable. 85% of our population depends on agriculture and they are starving. But the rich are getting all kinds of facilities. Therefore, there is a need to remove discrimination between rich and the poor.

Therefore, through this private motion I would like to urge that with a view to strengthen national unity the Government should ponder over it seriously. The wide gap between the rich and the poor will have to be bridged. I would cite a village tale. In older days a rich man used to ride an elephant. His height from the ground used to be 17 feet. 12 feet that of elephant and five feet man's. The economic disparity between the rich and the poor was so much. Those days, only well to-do class used to ride elephant, so the gap between them was of 17 feet, which now has increased to 35,000 feet. It results in violence in the society. People are forced to take up AK-47 which is creating violent atmosphere. The rich is becoming richer and the poor the poorer. So, we will have to bring down economic disparity. We cannot ask to convert the rich into poor or ground the high-fliers. Let them fly high, but economic inequality should be reduced, so that the poor, agriculture labourers is able to earn his livelihood and he should get employment opportunity: NDA Government brought a Bill concerning social security of unorganised labourers. With ouster of the Government the Bill has gone with the mind.

There is no uniformity in prescribing minimum wage in different states. My submission is that it should be uniform in all the states. Members of NDA are not present now. They promised that they would provide employment to one crore people every year. But they did not know how to create so many job opportunities.

Simultaneously, they announced downsizing of government staff by 10 per cent. If the Government desires to create employment, efforts should be made to create jobs in agri-sector, textiles, small scale industries, agro and rural industries and handloom sector. So these sectors should be promoted. But the NDA Government damaged small scale industries, rural industries, textile sector and every sector where the job was traditionally done manually.

Unemployment leads to poverty and poverty does not lead to unemployment, unless employment is provided to the poor unemployment cannot be removed. Traditional employment is being ruined in the name of globalisation and privatisation. Big industries are capital intensive whereas in our country one need labour intensive industries. Until and unless we have labour intensive industries. We cannot solve the problem of unemployment. It is a basic issue that I was raising. Right from Ravidasji, Kabirji to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar all have recognised the dignity of labour. Kabir Dasji had said that no job is small or big. He worked as a weaver. Today, he is known as a saint and a philosopher. The problem of unemployment existed earlier also but its solution was found out.

Today our 92 per cent labour force is employed in unorganised sector. For quite sometime, I have been telling the ways to solve their problems. Until and Unless poor men are provided employment they would remain trapped in the vicious circle of poverty and their purchasing power would not increase owing to their below poverty line. Their upliftment is only possible if adequate employment opportunities are created for the agriculture labourers and labourers employed in unorganised sector. As per an estimate merely 7-8 per cent labour force in our country is engaged in skilled or in organised sector and rendering their services to the nation.

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA):

It is 8 per cent.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: He had been the Minister of Labour and is my colleague as well. Alongwith me, he was in the Cabinet during 1996. He has rightly told that a threatening situation is looming large upon our organised labour force which is 8 per cent

of total labour force in India. Foreign investors need good quality of service and they do not recognise the service provided by our 8 per cent organised sector labour force as quality service. How unfortunate it is. We invite foreign investors but same service conditions are not prevalent in our country. Therefore, I want to say that the plight of 8 per cent organised sector labour force is as pitiable as that of 92 per cent labour force engaged in unorganised sector.

So far as the condition of farmers is concerned. I would not like to go in details about it because of time constraints, though I can express my views at length on this issue. The Government raised this issue at World Forum is a nice way. Therefore, I would like to thank it, be it Kamal Nathji or any other Minister who had been abroad to represent India for having represented the interests of Indian farmers quite strongly at world fora. I would like to cite an example of agreement entered into over there which is mentioned in green book also. WTO desired to lower prevailing MSP in India terming it as Trade Distorting Support Price. In other countries of the world, 400-500 per cent subsidy is provided whereas in its comparison it is negligible in India. We have been asked to reduce MSP and then withdraw it gradually. As per the agenda of the Government, farmers are provided remunerative price. Assurance of MSP has also been highlighted in UPA's Common Minimum Programme. 85 per cent of our population depends upon agriculture whereas WTO terms MSP as trade distorting support price. So they demand its reduction. Keeping national interest in mind we have provided for MSP. In Comparison to other countries we give very less subsidy. So we will have to ponder over it.

Today, farmers are under pressure from all the directions. They do not get even cost price of their produce. Farmer has to spend a lot for irrigation, seeds and fertilizers. He has to pay water-cess for using canal water for irrigaiton and even if he does not irrigate his land he has to pay the cess. We rarely discuss what is practically in vogue. I will explain the ground realities when I get an opportunity. It is demarcated that so and so area is command area so far as irrigation is concerned and farmers have to pay the water cess whether the land under command area is irrigated or not. Whereas farmers do not get cost price of their

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produce not to speak of remunerative price. We have observed that farmers in areas where they opt more for cash crops such as sugarcane, cotton etc. in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, have been compelled to commit suicide. It is quite unfortunate and matter of concern for the country.

It is matter of great shame that the people who have been feeding whole nation and the sentinels of our borders are forced to end their lives. I am highly pained to read such news in newspapers. Our farmers are being pushed into international market by WTO and asked to switch over to floriculture instead of wheat or paddy.

16.00 hrs.

My submission is that we should not change our line though we may adopt other crop also. We can't forge our traditional crops though we can switch over to floriculture. But WTO is asking our farmers to reduce sowing wheat or paddy and instead switch over to other crops. We have to bear in mind the nature of our soil, availability of water for irrigation and soil-culture then only we can resort to crop-change. And of course, the climatic conditions also. Whereas WTO wants us to change over to floriculture. It means commercialisation of agriculture, whereas it is loss-making proposition. Therefore, I would say that we have been pushed into international market. But we would accept it only if we are provided a level playing field by providing subsidy at par with other countries and also by ensuring that the farmers don't have to suffer losses. We have been forced to enter into international market without making agriculture remunerative one. We would lag behind in it.

Competition would be held in two ways. On one side would be those who are strong and who get full subsidy like American farmers who get subsidy of 200-400 per cent on cultivation. We too will enter international market with this much subsidy. In the end, I would like to submit to the Government that it should not allow to make India a dumping ground of foreign agricultural products. Countervailing duty should be imposed on foreign agricultural products like rice, wheat and other foodgrains, which are being imported without any

restriction. Till we are able to protect our agriculture, and make it competitive. We should not let agricultural products of other countries to enter into India, we do not want India to become dumping ground. This issue is very important for the benefit of our farmers and in wider interest of the country, therefore the Government should definitely pay attention towards this issue. With these works, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this Resolution is over. If the House agrees, the time of the Resolution can be extended by half-an-hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on point of order. The discussion on very important subject is going on and the opposition has staged a walk out, even sufficient number of ruling party Members are not present. First complete the quorum, then only you should hold the discussion....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the quorum of the House is not complete. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion should be held only after quorum is completed. This is a very important matter....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell is being rung...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since there is no quorum, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 4.45 p.m.

16.14. hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes past Sixteen of the Clock.

16.49 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at forty-nine minutes past Sixteen of the Clock.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Secretary-General is to place messages from the Rajya Sabha.

16.49½ hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—*contd.*

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 rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclosed a copy of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2005 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th May, 2005."

(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 5th May, 2005 agreed without any amendment to the Government of Union Territories and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2005 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd May, 2005."

2. Sir, I also lay on the Table the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2005, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 2005.

16.50 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

(I) Relief measures for workers in Agrarian Sector—*contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will resume discussion on the Resolution.

Chaudhary Bijendra Singh.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a subject related to agriculture and agricultural labourer. Sir, this resolution is very important. India is an agricultural country. 70 per cent of our population resides in villages and I am not hesitant to say that 50 per cent people out of 70 per cent depend on agriculture. There was a time, when India gained independence, at that time a poet said "Uttam Kheti Madhyam Baan, nishidh Chakari bheekh nidan". Today it has been reversed. Today, the farmer calls agriculture as most unprofitable work. He thinks that doing any small job is better than it.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards some points of my party. I would like to speak about pathetic condition of agriculture and the agricultural labourer dependent on it. Today the farmer is standing on the verge of ruin. The farmer is backbone of this country and he works very hard to produce his crops and the farmer who provides food to every body with his hard work, is striving for his upliftment. I would like to tell the Government, that the agriculture should be accorded status of industry. The farmer who works hard for agricultural produce, faces many difficulties while farming. The farmers are neither getting water, electricity, fertilizer and seeds nor loan on time. All these things affect his agricultural production due to which the economic upliftment of farmers does not take place and when agriculture is destroyed it adversely affects the agricultural labourers also. The people who are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture, those who are working with farmers, thereby providing support to their families and who are also part of farmer community, they all are affected adversely. Sir, it is the irony of this country that right from Independence the agriculture profession of farmers is dependent on many departments. If there is scarcity of electricity, it affects the agricultural produce adversely. If the seed is not made available on time, it also affects the farming and if farmers do not get irrigation water supply on time, it will also affect agriculture adversely. Till today, no coordination committee has made a provision to ensure interaction of departments, so that they may decide

[Chaudhary Bijendra Singh]

how to make all means available to the farmers well on time of sowing so that agricultural production may not be hampered. Alongwith it, I also want to say that whenever farmer needs loan, he goes to the bank and he is told, that it is not a time to take crop loan. Efforts are made to provide loan to farmers through middleman, due to which farmers face inconvenience while taking loan. The farmer become victim of many natural calamities, as status of industry has not been given to the agriculture. A small businessmen earns his livelihood well. He sleeps on time, he gets all facilities, as status of industry has been given to his business, but the farmer who works hard for 24 hours a day does not know whether he will get adequate remunerative price for his produce. His occupation has not been given the status of industry.

Through you, I would like to submit that industry is provided loan at the rate of 7-8 per cent whereas farmer is provided loan a the rate of 13 or 14 per cent, the provision to reduce this interest rate should be made, so that he is strengthened economically. Moreover it has been observed that crop loan and insurance scheme, is also there for farmers. When they take loan, the percentage of insurance is also included in that loan. But when the farmer is hit by a natural calamity and his crop gets ruined, nowhere in the country he gets insurance claim under insurance scheme. I would like to draw your attention towards this suggestion that insurance amount should also be included in crop loan so that he may get benefit of the scheme because if the farmer does not get compensation from insurance scheme for his loss, not only the farmer gets ruined but alongwith him other workers or agricultural labourers dependent on agriculture also get affected adversely. In these circumstances, how they can achieve economic progress? It is not possible.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, alongwith it I would also like to say that efforts should be made to make electricity, water and fertilizers available to the farmers through coordination committee and if these things are not made available to the farmers on time, it not only affects them but also agricultural production of the entire country, which is a loss of the nation.

[Translation]

Sir, farmers have committed suicide in many states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Rajasthan, Karnataka etc. Why does a person commits suicide whether it is any farmer or somebody else? When all the ways to life closed for him only then, he commits suicide. When a farmers sows crop with a lot of labour and invests his entire savings on that and in return he does not even get his production cost resulting in a heavy debt on his shoulders and his land in going to be auctioned then there is no option left before him but to commit suicide.

Sir, if a farmer has to be saved from committing suicide, then we will have to protect him from natural calamities. For this purpose the Government should formulate an action plan by which the farmers could be provided with relief during Natural calamity and their condition could be improved. If the upliftment of agriculture and farmer takes place then, it will lead to the betterment of the farmer also. Therefore the Government will have to find some solutions soon to get rid of natural calamities. The old norms of natural calamities are also required to be changed and there is a need to replace them with new norms.

Sir, the farmers have to face a number of natural calamities in the country. Soil erosion takes place, canals-nullahs overflow and the surrounding areas gets submerged in water, it leads to destruction on a large scale and villages get submerged. The farmer cultivates his crop with lot of labour and remains hopeful about it, but when he realizes that all his labour has gone waste and his crop has been destroyed due to a natural calamity, all his hopes are dashed. Due to the old norms even today the farmer gets compensation at the rate of Rs. 250, 500 or Rs. 1000 per acre. When budget provisions on Agriculture were discussed, a large number of my colleagues had said and while speaking on this Bill I would also like to bring this to the notice of Government that the old norms should be replaced by new norms according the production cost and while prescribing new norms the increased prices of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, electricity, water and diesel should be taken as base and the compensation should be

provided as per the new norms and in this manner the compensation should be raised.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, through you I would also like to draw the attention of the Government towards the agricultural labours. The agricultural labour will not be able to lead his life as long as agriculture is not given the status of an industry. Now it has become essential to give agriculture the status of an industry. Ours is an agriculture oriented country and even after elapsing such a long period the agricultural production in our country has not increased as much as it should have and it can only be possible when agriculture is given the status of an industry. It is important to encourage the cottage industries in villages to encourage agriculture and to strengthen the financial condition of the farmer. The progress of the farmers is not possible as long as this is not done.

Sir, these days due to the poor condition of farmers and labourers in villages they are migrating towards metropolitan cities in search of livelihood. The main reason behind this is that there is no agriculture based job in the villages. They are compelled to migrate to the cities in the search of employment due to which pollution is increasing in the metropolitan cities, the sources of employment are getting over burdened and the population is increasing as well. If the migration of farmers from villages is to be checked then we will have to provide them with sources of employment in their villages itself. We will have to provide them means of livelihood in the villages only. For this, we will have to encourage agricultural activities and agriculture based industries in the villages. Activities like poultry farming, fisheries and dairy would have to be encouraged in villages so that in the case of a natural calamity in the village labourers could earn their livelihood by doing a side business over there and uplift their standard of living also.

Sir, I would also like to say that there is a famous saying—"Patijeeva Kisan aur Batjeeva Vyaparri i.e., one who is smart in talks is a good business and one who looks after his crop properly and lives for that is a farmer. A farmer does not take rest as long as his crop matures and reaches his home. There are a number of middlemen until the crop matures and reaches granary and it is

finally sold in the market. The farmer is exploited right from selling the crop and getting money. Which is why the condition of the farmer cannot be improved as long as he is not paid remunerative price of his produce according to the increased production cost. I would like to submit that the Government should make arrangements for providing proper facilities to the farmer so that the farmer's produce could be sold at remunerative price.

17.00 hrs.

The ban on movement from one Mandi to another in different states should be lifted. They should be allowed to sell their produce wherever they get remunerative price. There should not be any restriction on the farmer so that he could work fearlessly. At the same time, I would like to submit one more thing that there is a commission to determine the price of agricultural produce and I have no hesitation in saying anything about that commission people. Who have never heard of crops names, who do not have any knowledge about the crops and are not aware of the definition of production cost determine the price of agricultural produce.

Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that at the time when rates are increased to Rs. 10 per quintal, it should be thought over that what is the actual production cost. The farmers should also be benefitted in the same ratio as the prices of diesel, fertilizers and other inputs are increased. At one time the agricultural production of our country was negligible and our country used to import grains from other countries but after Smt. Indira Gandhi's tenure the grain production of the country has increased considerably, there is no second opinion about it.

Sir, in our country the farmers had not seen tractors at one time and now tractors are being manufactured here. I want that efforts should be made to increase subsidy on fertilizer, seeds and agricultural produce. Although the Government has tried to do a lot about agriculture in this budget but I hope that the Government will try to address the issues that we have raised during this discussion. This is a government of farmers and labourers and it very well understands their problems.

Sir, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has said in our manifesto also that the country cannot prosper as long as its villages,

[Chaudhary Bijendra Singh]

farmers and labourers become prosperous. I hope that the Government will take some effective steps to improve the plight of the farmers.

Sir, I hope that he will also pay some attention towards the issues that I am trying to bring to the notice of the Government. I would also like to thank Shri Vasudevan Nairji for bringing the resolution which we have discussed here and hope that the Government will certainly pay some attention towards this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the subject which has been in discussion for the last two sessions. 31 hon'ble Member have participated in this discussion and they have rendered there valuable suggestions in this regard. I am also thankful to Shri Vasudevan Nair who have given his very important suggestions in this regard. Owing to the paucity of time I would be able to apprise the house only in brief.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the house has been deliberating upon the issue raised through the resolution by Shri Vasudevan Nair for the last two sessions. The several members have expressed their views on the subject which reflects as to how much concerned they are about resolving the problems of the farmers and the agriculture labourers. It is a matter of satisfaction that the hon'ble Members have shown a great deal of solidarity for supporting the cause of the farmers and the agricultural labourers rising above the narrow confines of party politics. The suggestions given by the hon'ble Members during the discussion on the resolution have been noted. These suggestions would help us to prepare strategies to resolve the various problems being faced by the people in agriculture sector in general and by the farmers in particular.

17.04 hrs.

[SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the beginning itself I would

like to mention that the UPA Government have identified those sectors for its common minimum programmes which needs to be accorded top priority viz. to double the credit for the rural areas within three years, to reduce the debt burden on the farmers, to reduce the rate of interest on agriculture loans, improve the condition of the cooperative committees and to promote dry land agriculture, horticulture, water management, to increase the public investment in rural infrastructure and irrigation alongwith the promotion of agriculture and agriculture marketing. Besides, it seeks to protect the farmers from the fall in the rates of the their produce in the international market. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced several steps to increase the investment in the agriculture and the allied sectors in his budget speech on 28-2-2005.

Union government is fully awakened to the issue of suicide being committed by the farmers in various states of the country. As per the reports received from the State Governments the reasons of the farmers committing suicide include damage to the crops, debt burden due to the loans on high rate on interest, drought and the social and economic insecurity.

Though the state Governments are responsible for the development of agriculture and formulation and implementation of various policies and programmes, the union Government have accorded top priority to revive the growth in agriculture sector and to improve the condition of the farmers. Accordingly, several steps and provisions are being taken to increase the productivity through various schemes. The favourable schemes like the crop insurance scheme to compensate the crop damage, ensuring remunerative prices for the agriculture produce in case the prices of the produce falling below the market price are already in vogue.

All these schemes seeks to protect the farmers from the vagries of the climate and other in herent risks. UPA Government have put stress on the development of the agriculture and allied sectors to ensure the economic growth of the country and the plan outlay for the current year has been increased upto 4179.32 crore to achieve the said objective. While the revised outlay for the year 2004-2005 was 2945 crore rupees. This outlay includes the package of rupees 1500 crore for the new initiative

like the national horticulture mission including the horticulture technology mission for the north east region (800 crore rupees), minor irrigation (400 crore rupees), dry land agriculture/rain irrigated agriculture system (100 crore rupees).

Several hon'ble Members have expressed their concern about the inadequate availability of loans from the institutional sources. There is no denying about the importance of increasing the flow of agriculture loans in rural areas by reviving the credit cooperative societies. In fact, a task force was constituted under the chairmanship of professor Vidyanathan to give suggestions for reviving the cooperative structure. The Government have accepted the report of the task force in principle. Now the committee have been assigned the responsibility of studying the long-term cooperative debt structure alongwith the revival thereof.

Upto 28-2-2005 a total of 4.84 crore Kisan Credit Cards have been issued by various agencies. Approximately 78.84 lacs new farmers have been brought into the ambit of institutional credits by commercial banks, cooperative banks and rural banks and are being provided loans through the Kisan credit cards. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced to bring another 50 lacs farmers in the ambit of institutional credit in speech in his recent budget speech on 28-2-2005.

A total loan of rupees 1,15,200 crore rupees was distributed during the year 2004-2005. It was estimated that this would increase upto 1.50,000 crore rupees on the assumption of 30% increase in the total credit flow as compared to the previous year. Besides, an amount of 8000 crore rupees has also been disbursed under the RIDF during the year 2005-06 to accelerate the investment in rural infrastructure which would entail more credit flow towards the rural areas.

Standing guidelines have been prepared which includes the provisions of turning the short-term loans into medium-terms loans in case of agriculture production being affected due the natural calamities. Besides, they also includes the provision of reassessing the outstanding loans of such farmers who are eligible for being covered under debt relief package as announced by the hon'ble Finance Minister on 18th June 2004 so

that such farmers may again become eligible for getting new loans from the banks.

The banks have reassessed the loans involving the amount of 68,200 crore in the year 2004-05 (upto 28-2-2005) in pursuance of the instructions issued by Reserved Bank of India/NABARD in regard to the farmers. Similarly, loans involving amount of 1696 crore rupees have been reassessed during the said period. Loan amount involving a sum of rupees 625 crore rupees have been disposed during the year 2004-2005 (28-2-2005) under the one time loan disposal scheme for the small and marginal farmers. 14828 farmer who were under the debt by taking loans from the non-institutional sources like the money lenders have been provided loans upto 39 crore rupees by the commercial Banks as on 28-2-04.

State Bank of India and some other commercial Banks, in consultation with NABARD, have prepared a simplified proforma for providing loans to ensure the smooth flow of agriculture credit for the farmers. The loans upto Rs. 50,000 have been made margin free and the banks have been directed to be considerate and sympathetic towards the farmers. Guidelines have been formulated to ensure that the farmers could get the loans without facing much inconvenience. The initiative like the issue of kisan credit cards, simplification of loan documents, etc. could bring improvement in the near future.

It has been made mandatory through the national crop insurance scheme that all the farmers who have availed loans should take crop insurance policy. As the honourable Finance Minister has announced in his budget speech that the Govt. of India is continuing the said scheme in the year 2005-06.

Shri Vasudevan Nair, Shri Hannan Mollah, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Shri B. Mehta, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, have stressed on the need to make a central legislation for the agricultural labourers. In fact, the need of a central legislation for the agricultural labourers has been under the consideration of the union Govt. for the last 25 years but this could not be carried forward due to the lack of unanimity of states gov't., in this regard. However, the Ministry of Labour and Employment is in the process of bringing a legislation for ensuring and

[Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria]

regulating the conditions of employment and services, Health and welfare and social security of the workers in the unorganised sector. Agriculture is among the other sectors which are likely to be covered under the proposed legislation.

The next issue raised by Shri Nair relates to natural rubber. I would like to make it clear that the production of natural rubber is governed by the provisions of WTO regime. There cannot be a complete ban on the import of the natural rubber in the quantitative restriction free system. However, the Government have taken adequate steps to ensure the unrestricted import of natural rubber in the country. Natural rubber is counted among the sensitive commodities and its import is monitored very closely.

Shri Nair has also raised the issue of farmers committing suicide in various parts of the country and the Govt. of India is in the constant touch with the concerned states in this regard. The states Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka where the maximum number of suicide by the farmers have been registered, have conveyed it to the Union Govt. that adequate steps have been taken to combat with the problem.

Shri Naiyar has also mentioned the issue of providing the ownership right to the landless labour. In this context I would like to mention that seven states have provisions to bestow the ownership right or the right to compensation to the landless labourers. Some states have withdrawn the rights of the land owners and have transferred them to the tillers. Till date 124.22 lakh tillers have been given the ownership of land area of 156.30 lakh. The resolution of implementing the land reforms in a more effective manner was passed in the conference of revenue minister of states held in November, 2004.

Shri Vasudevan Nair, Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Shri S.K. Kharventhan, Shri Dangwas have mentioned that the farmers do not get the remunerative prices for their produce. In this context I would like to mention that the Commission on Agriculture Cost and Prices which is an autonomous body has been entrusted with the task of

recommending the Minimum Support Prices for some crops, which it does keeping in view the various factors like the situation of demand and supply, cost of input, the difference in the prices of domestic and international markets, crop varieties and the various provisions governing the agreements of the agriculture and non agriculture sectors.

Shri P.C. Thomas has put forward a demand to provide subsidy to the rubber, gardens. I would like to mention that the integrated rubber plantation development scheme for providing assistance to the small and marginal producers through the progressive subsidy scheme of the rubber board is already in vogue.

Alongwith it Shri P. Karunakaran has raised the issue of adulteration of good quality black pepper with the inferior quality black pepper and cardamom. The mixing of imported and Indian speices is not permissible for the re-export of the Indian speices. Two cases of adulteration of Indian black pepper with the imported black pepper and their re-export have come to the notice of the board and the guilty exporters have been suspended of their licenses for a specific period.

Shri Karunakaran has also raised that issue of request made by the Kerala Govt. in which the Union Govt. has been requested to provide assistance to combat with the situation of draught affecting the states for the last two years. In this context I would like to say that a Central team visited the Vianad and Palaghat districts of the States to study the various problems being faced by the farmers and to assess the need of the agricultural credit, crop insurance and banking support etc. The Government have approved the release of 106 crore rupees from the National Contingency Fund and another 30 crore rupees under the comprehensive agriculture management scheme which are to be released in three annual installments.

He has also mentioned about the farmers being adversely affected by the import policy. In fact, India has been facing international agriculture trade deficit since 1991. The share of import of agriculture products viz-viz gross domestic agriculture produce has been on lower side and no perceptible change has been noticed in the situation despite of dismantling of quantitative restrictions.

The honourable Member Shri Swain has stressed the need of contract farming. The Govt. have recently issued a model code of conduct for the states in regard to contract farming. Some of the states govt. have already amended their APMC Acts and some other are in the process of doing so.

Shri Kharventhan, Shri R.S. Rawat, Shri Ramdas Athawale, Dr. R.K. Susmaria, Shri K.S. Manoj and Shrimati Purandeshwari have made a suggestion to inter-link the rivers. I would like to inform the honourable Members that the National Perspective Plan (1980) envisage inter-linking of the penninsular and himalayan rivers for the transfer of excess water areas to the water deficit areas to ensure the optimum utilisation of water resources. A task force on inter-linking of rivers was constituted in December, 2002 to evolve a mechanism and to suggest various modalities for identifying schemes according priority to the transfer of water among the riparian states and the disposal of disputes among them alongwith the financing of the said schemes. The task force had submitted two action plans and follow up action has been started in that regard. Recently, the programme of inter-linking of rivers was evaluated. And it was decided that the programme be continued by paying more attention towards the pennisular component of the said scheme.

Shri R.S. Rawat, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and Shri Sita Ram Singh have raised the issue of promoting minor irrigation projects. I would like to apprise the house that 2488 minor irrigation projects creating additional capacity to irrigate 94,700 hectare of land have been completed from 1999-2000 to as on date. The Central Assistance of 153 crore rupees has been provided under the Tenth Five Year Plan. 835 schemes have been completed and additional irrigation capacity of 45,070 hectares has been created. Besides, a pilot scheme has also been formulated to renovate and revive the various irrigation projects related to agriculture which also aims to add to the storage capacity of water bodies in the country. The hon'ble Minister of Finance has allocated 400 crore rupees in the current budget for the minor irrigation under which subsidy has been given on drip and sprinkler sets.

Shri Athawale has emphasized the need the water conservation. I support his views and we are actively working in this direction through Watershed Development Project. Till now, 30 million hectare land has been reformed through watershed approach. The Natural Resources Management task force constituted to prepare on action plan for doubling the foodgrain production has recommended inter-alia, covering 25 million hectare land under Watershed Development Programme in next ten years.

Further, Shri Bachi Singh Rawat has raised the matter of dry farming and promoting horticulture, I would like to inform the House that a scheme related to development of agriculture in dry land areas is being formulated. An outlay of 200 crore rupees has been made for the year 2005-06.

Shri Rawat has also suggested to promote bio-agriculture, I would like to say that recently a new scheme named 'National Bio-Agriculture Project' with an outlay of Rs. 57 crore for the remaining period of Tenth Plan has been approved for production, promotion of bio-agriculture and Mandi development.

Shri K.S. Manoj, Shri Gurmeet Singh Rana and Shri Bachi Singh Rawat have underlined the need of crop diversification. I agree with the fact the farming of oilseeds, pulses, horticulture, floriculture, costly medicinal plants and more profit earning crops in place of traditional crops is the need of the hour for conserving natural resources and increasing income of farmers. Integrated oilseeds, pulses, palm oil and maize scheme is being implemented to promote the farming of oilseeds and pulses. National Horticulture Mission is being implemented soon to double the horticulture production by the year 2011-12. Alongwith it Dr. Chinta Mohan has suggested that the farmers should directly sell their produce to the Food Corporation of India. The Union Government provides minimum support price for rice, coarse foodgrains and wheat through Food Corporation of India and State agencies. All foodgrains are procured by Public Procurement Agencies as per special directives issued for sale at a particular centre. The producers have the option to sell their produce to Food Corporation of India/State Agencies at minimum support price or in open market, whichever is profitable for them.

[Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria]

They also have raised the matter of subsidy on fertilizers and wanted evolving a formula so that the benefit of subsidy may reach poorest of the poor farmers. In this regard, I would like to clarify that Urea is the only controlled fertilizer which is sold at statutory notified maximum retail price and uncontrolled phosphate and potash fertilizers such as D.A.P., M.O. and N.P.K. mixtures are sold at directed Maximum Retail Price.

Shri Hannan Mollah, Shri Shailendra Kumar and Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana raised the matter of hailstorm in those parts of Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, where crops have been damaged and they wanted immediate consideration of this matter by the Government and compensation to the farmers. I would like to inform them that the Governments of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have submitted a memorandum to the Home Ministry in regard to central assistance required to losses incurred due to hailstorm. The Central teams have completed their evaluation of damage in hailstorm affected areas of Maharashtra and Rajasthan and another central team is at present on visit to Madhya Pradesh. No formal request/memorandum has been received from any other State for seeking central assistance for damages caused by hailstorm.

I have given reply to questions raised by many hon'ble Members, but there is paucity of time. I appreciate the concerns of those hon'ble Member who have given many suggestions to resolve problems of farmers and agriculture labourers. I would like to assure the House that the Government will make all possible efforts to solve the problems being faced by agriculture sector. Keeping this in view, I request the hon'ble Chairman to ask Shri Vasudevan Nayarji to withdraw his resolution. This is my submission.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have had a very elaborate discussion on this subject but since the Mover of this Resolution, Shri P.K. Vasudevan Nair is not present in the House at the moment, I suppose, we would have to put this Resolution to vote.

The question is:

"Taking into account the unprecedented crisis in agrarian sector, which has resulted in debt trap, unemployment and poverty of the farmers and agricultural workers and mass suicide by them, this House urges upon the Government to take adequate relief measures for the rehabilitation of the families of those who have committed suicide and also to take effective debt relief measures alongwith measures to refinance the agrarian sector so that it again gets revitalised as the most important economic sector in the country."

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up Item No. 18.

Adv. Renge Patil Tukaram Ganpatrao—Not present.

Shri C.K. Chandrappan.

17.29. hrs.

(ii) Reservation of one third of seats for women in all the State Legislatures and Parliament

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up item No. 19—Resolution to be moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): I beg to move:

"In view of the demand for ensuring adequate representation to women in the State legislatures and Parliament gaining ground, this House resolves that the Central Government should bring forward a suitable legislation to reserve at least one third of the seats for women in all the State legislatures and both Houses of Parliament."

Sir, while moving this Resolution, I would like to bring before the House certain facts about this problem. I am very sure that this Resolution reflects the aspirations of an overwhelming majority of democratic public opinion

in our country. It is not merely a problem of women that women should be empowered to get more seats in the Legislatures and in the Parliament. It is to strengthen democracy, it is to empower more women to take more active part in the decision-making process in our country, and that idea has been supported by an overwhelming majority of our people in India. That is how I said at the beginning that this Resolution reflects the aspiration of the majority of people in our country. But then this was an idea always upheld by the freedom movement. It was an idea that inspired the freedom movement which encouraged out women should play more vibrant role in the freedom struggle and in our democratic process. I remember that it was great Mahatma Gandhi who always thought that women should play a more active part in public life and who also inspired women to play a greater role in the freedom movement. He was an advocate of women playing a meaningful role. It is he who said, if I remember correctly, that he would like a *harijan* woman to be in the seat of power and to control the nation going forward. Then, we have had enough of experiences even in the days when we were fighting the first war of Independence. One of its prominent leaders was Rani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi. She was defeated in that battle. She was actually defeated and killed. But the man who defeated her, the British General, told later in his writings that he had seen a woman of exemplary courage and determination and skill in leading a battle against the British. He praised her though he defeated her and killed her. She inspired generations of our people in our freedom struggle. Our freedom struggle was not just a man's affair. Alongwith the Mahatma Gandhi and the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, there was no less a personality, the Nightingale of the India's freedom struggle, Sarojini Naidu. She was also in that galaxy of leaders in the freedom struggle. When Mahatma Gandhi led the 1942 'Quit-India' 'Do or Die' movement, that slogan was given practical shape in the form of a militant struggle in Bombay by Shrimati Aruna Asaf Ali, who was described as 'the flaming torch of the Indian freedom struggle'. So, it was not merely a man's struggle. It was the struggle for Independence in which, alongwith eminent men, eminent women also played a big role. It is not again the role played by some leaders. In the ranks of the freedom struggle, we saw millions of women taking part. In the

non-co-operation movement, in many other movements, in many other struggles, that were part of the freedom movement, women took greater part.

That is why, India always thought that the women should be given a rightful place in Parliament, in all democratic processes of decision-making and everything. But it was not easy and it is not easy. Even to scuttle this Resolution and try to see that this Resolution is not moved, just a few hours ago, we have seen how tricky measures were adopted by certain people here. It was that scuttling effort that scuttled the Eighty-first Constitutional Amendment Bill which was meant for providing one-third of seats to women in Parliament. That was in 1998. In 1998, a Joint Parliamentary Committee had given its Report that one-third of seats should be reserved for women. But it could not be adopted by this House because of the same technique by those who opposed it. It was always an opposition, not directly but indirectly opposing it. They never said that they were opposed to it, but they saw to it that the amendment was not adopted by the Parliament. The same trick may continue to be applied.

Now, here when I am moving this Resolution, I am fully confident that the National Common Minimum Programme, which was adopted by the UPA Government—and we are all supporting that—once again reiterated the will of the overwhelming majority of Indian people and said that this UPA Government would bring forward this legislation to ensure one-third seats are reserved in the State Assemblies and Parliament for women. So, that is the assurance on which this Government is now going forward with its programme.

Not only that, Sir, it has another story. In the seventies, during our Fifth Five Year Plan period, when the United Nations decided to observe international Women's Decade, in consonance with that, the Government of India decided to observe International Women's Year in India. During the period of observing that year—which was again continued and a decade was observed as such—we had come forward with the empowerment of women. The Status of Women's Committee Report was presented before the country. Equal wage for equal work, and the idea of more representation to women in all the

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

decision-making processes were part of that Report. Based on that, later when the late Rajiv Gandhi was in power, the constitutional amendments were brought forward to ensure that women were given one-third representation in all the Panchayati Raj Institutions, which stipulated that all the local self-Government bodies would be so constituted that women will be assured of one-third representation. That was done. That was accepted by this House, which became a constitutional provision.

Now, we have the experience. At that time when the debate was going on, there were many people doubting whether we would get so many women to undertake this responsibility and even if we get some women, whether they will be capable of discharging the duties entrusted to them. Now, what is our experience? Our experience says that enough number of capable women are there. If we go by the experience of the last 10 years or 15 years, then we find that more educated; more capable, and more young women are coming forward to take up the responsibility in the local self-government. They discharge their duties and responsibilities exemplarily. They proved that they are capable of doing it. This is the experience that we have on this issue. So, when this Constitutional Amendment was passed, it was an experiment that we were doing to see whether it would be successful at the Panchayati Raj level. It was proved that it was successful. Naturally, it is expected that it should follow in the Assemblies and the Parliament also. It is a natural corollary to all that was adopted by the Parliament or practised by us for the last 10 or 15 years.

At the time this Bill was presented in the form of the Eighty-first Amendment to the Constitution, it was proposed to amend articles 330 and 332. A Joint Parliamentary Committee was entrusted with the responsibility of discussing it in order to allow all cross-sections of the people in the country to express their views on this issue. It allowed various shades of opinion to be expressed, before the Parliament finalised it. It was a very democratic decision. The Joint Parliamentary Committee was headed by one of the eminent Members of Parliament, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. The Committee took evidence and presented its Report to the Parliament

in 1998. I have gone through its Report. All the seven leading women organisations, namely, the National Federation of Indian Women; the All India Democratic Women's Association; the All India Women's Conference; the Centre for Women's Development and Studies; Joint Women Programme; Mahila Raksha Samiti; and YWCA jointly submitted a memorandum. In the memorandum it was told to the Committee that the Committee should recommend one-third representation for women, and the Committee should also see that this Bill is passed by the Parliament as early as possible. The Joint Parliamentary Committee recommended that one-third seats in the Legislatures—including in the Parliament—be reserved for women. It also recommended that both the Houses of Parliament pass the recommendations without any delay. It was in the year 1998, and we are in 2005. Next year will be the 8th anniversary of those recommendations, but we are still not able to adopt it. We could not adopt the Constitutional Amendment even though 8 years' have passed.

I remember that three attempts were made in the Parliament after it, but it was scuttled, and very successfully scuttled. The Congress Party supports it; the NDA, which was in power at that time—when the last attempt was made—also said that they support it, but with a proviso. But the tragedy is that they said they would support it provided there is a consensus on this issue. This proviso became an axe to cut and bring down the Bill. It may not be possible to evolve a consensus on every issue. If we recollect the way we passed several vital amendments to the Constitution in this Parliament, then I do not think that ever there was consensus on any of those amendments.

One of the first Amendments the Parliament passed was on Land Reforms. There was no consensus; there could be no consensus on that issue. There were people who thought that owning land was a part of the fundamental right, and if that fundamental right should be touched, then compensation should be paid to landlords. It was Jawaharlal Nehru who told that he would not allow the Supreme Court to sit as a third Chamber of this Parliament and decide what the Parliament should or should not pass. Yes, that kind of determination was there. Then, they tried to move the

Amendment to Constitution. I remember, when the Court again struck down that Bill, it was Indira Gandhi who brought the Forty-second Amendment. There was again no consensus.

Probably, all those forces who are opposing it, all those who are opposing women's representation in Parliament, were all opposed to this Land Reforms Amendment also. They were opposing that. In the teeth of their opposition, the Parliament adopted it with two-thirds majority, which is the required majority. Can we not have it? I think, we can. We can have that majority, provided everybody stands by their word. The Congress Party, the Left Parties, the BJP, and there are many other parties which are saying that they will support it. Even those who are trying to scuttle this, will not say that they will oppose it. They will say that they will support it, provided reservation within reservation is assured, that is, reservation for OBCs. I do not think, anybody is against reservation for OBCs, but according to our Constitution, reservation is there only for SCs and STs. That reservation is respected. In the Amendment in relation to Panchayati Raj where women's representation is assured, that reservation will be ensured when Parliament adopts this legislation.

Then, the joint Parliamentary Committee, probably to arrive at a consensus, said, "Let us adopt a legislation first and then the Government might think whether any more reservation to any more sections should be allowed." That is for the Government to decide. But the main question is one-third reservation to women in Parliament and State Legislatures. Now, the question is whether they deserve only one-third. Everybody knows that it is a first step. They deserve really 50 per cent of the seats; It is not a *gratis*. If you take the population statistics, it speaks that they represent 50 per cent of the population. It was the great Lenin who said, like Mahatma Gandhi, "Without women liberating themselves from the clutches of inequality, man cannot boast of his liberation. If man has to liberate himself, his better half also should be liberated." It is not happening. It was Mao Zedong who said, "Half the sky belongs to women; half the world also belongs to women." It was Dr. Nelson Mandela, the great Gandhian, the great freedom fighter of our time, the great Black leader who liberated South Africa, who said, "Women should represent 50 per cent.

He not only spoke about it, he gave 50 per cent seats to women in the South African Parliament. A disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the historic figures who fought one of the legendary freedom struggles of our time, he has given 50 per cent of seats in the legislature of that country to women. We are, even today, thinking about it.

Now when I move this Resolution, I wish that we will succeed in overcoming all obstacles. Obstacles that come straight to fight, obstacles that come in a surreptitious way to fight, every obstacle, should be overcome because this is a social justice, this is a political justice that we will have to do. Women should find their rightful place in the political life of our country.

What is the situation today when we speak about all these things? Let us take the case of Parliament.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many hon'ble Members are going to speak on this issue. Will you increase the time of the House? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion has begun and it will continue next time also. If the discussion is not completed then it will continue next time also.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: You will get time. Everybody should support it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East-Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, they should also be given a chance to speak...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody will get a chance. They will get as much time as they want.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let him continue.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: In the first Parliament, we had 4.4 per cent women as Members...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is of no use. Nothing will go on record. Let him express his views.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: We had 41 women representing half the population of the country in Parliament. Now, after 57 years of our constitution coming into being, the situation is not very different. The highest representation of women that we have ever had in the Lok Sabha was in the 13th Lok Sabha. We had nine per cent women's representation then. That was the highest ever representation of women in the Lok Sabha. In the 14th Lok Sabha, it again declined to 8.3 per cent. So, at this rate, if it is left to spontaneity, probably from 4 to 6 to 9 to 3, we will continue like that.

That is why there should be a decision. There should be a constitutional guarantee that they will get their rightful place in Parliament. In the Rajya Sabha also the situation—it is nomination there—is not much better. The year 1980 was the high time for women in Rajya Sabha when there were 29 women Members. Today, it is only 28 Members. So, it is coming down. Now we are in the Tenth Plan. What we said in the Tenth Plan approach was that women should be given their rightful place during this period in the social, economic and political life. Whether we will succeed in that is what we are to look at. The Experience in the local administration, as I have told you, is excellent. When this two-thirds representation was provided to women in the local administration, the experience has shown in certain States—especially in Karnataka, Kerala and West Bengal—that more than 40 per cent women were elected and not just 33 per cent. More women got elected from general seats. There were capable women and so they could get elected.

If we ensure, as a first step, 33 per cent reservation of seats for women, naturally that will be a good beginning. From there, they will be able to fight for their rightful place in the decision-making bodies in future.

When Parliament could not come to a consensus, the NDA Government abandoned this effort. Then, came various other suggestions. The Election Commission came forward with a suggestion that let it be left to the political parties. Political parties may decide to reserve 20 per cent of the seats to women. We are against it. I think, all political parties opposed it. It is not a business for political parties to decide. Then, came another suggestion which was not only more interesting but also more chauvinistic, that is, if one-third reservation would mean 180 seats, let us have 180 double-Member constituencies. From there, additional Members—apart from 543, 180 more Members—are elected. So everybody can merrily come here. So also women. That was not a very healthy suggestion and that was also rejected.

The only possible way is to take a direct approach to this. The direct approach is, accept the reality that women represent half the population and, as a first step, let us give them 33 per cent seats as a beginning to go forward. Let us abandon the traditional '*manu*' attitude. Even those who speak about *manuvaad* so much—I do not know whether they support '*manu*' or more modern views—'*Na Stri Swatantrya Vardhake*'. That was the essence of *manu's* approach. Surreptitiously, many political parties here are trying to take the position that *stree* or women should not come in the mainstream of decision-making process. Let them get exposed during this discussion. This discussion will give an opportunity for everybody to express his views. Let us know where everybody stands. Let us come to a decision after the discussion is over on this Resolution. A view should be taken by a majority. Consensus will never be there. Let us take a majority view and let us take a view that this Resolution will be adopted, based on which a legislation will be brought forward by the Government fulfilling the commitment it had made to the people in the Common Minimum Programme. Sir, it is with that perspective in mind that I am moving this Resolution and commend this Resolution for the consideration of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"In view of the demand for ensuring adequate representation to women in the State legislatures and Parliament gaining ground, this House resolves that the Central Government should bring forward

a suitable legislation to reserve at least one third of the seats for women in all the State legislatures and both Houses of Parliament."

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very good thing that a resolution is being brought for reservation of one third seats for women in Parliament and State Assemblies. Due to shortage of time, I do not think I will be able to complete my statement but I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity.

I strongly believe that there should be a reservation for women in the Parliament and the State Assemblies and it is important also. Today the women are fulfilling double responsibilities. As my colleague has said that she works at home as well as outside also. The Rani of Jhansi also fought battles. Although she got defeated but everybody praises her since she had that skill, power which could make the country progress. As we all know

due to the efforts of Dr. Bhimrao women have got rights under the Constitution of India and they have been given equal right in this House also. He is known as life giver and saviour of women. But there was nothing of the sort that the right to equality belonged to some particular caste or religion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue your speech next time.

[English]

The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 9th May, 2005 at 11.00 a.m.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Monday, May 9, 2005/Vaisakha 19, 1927 (Saka).

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