

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



Genltes & Debates Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. EB-025
Block 'G'
Acc. No. 15
Dated 26 Sept 2007

(Vol. XXX contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 80.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

P.D.T. Achary
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

A.K. Singh
Joint Secretary

Harnam Dass Takker
Director

Vandna Trivedi
Joint Director-I

Prabhakar Mohanty
Joint Director-II

Nalin Kumar
Assistant Editor

(ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF)

CONTENTS

(Fourteenth Series, Vol. XXX, Twelfth Session, 2007/1929 (Saka)
No. 6, Friday, November 23, 2007/Agrahayana 2, 1929 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	1-37
*Starred Question Nos. 121 to 123, 125, 127 and 128	2-37
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	37-420
Starred Question Nos. 124, 126 and 129 to 140	37-89
Unstarred Question Nos. 959 to 1176	89-420
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	420-440
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA	440-441
REPORTS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	
58th and 59th Reports	441
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY	
22nd Report	441-442
PRESENTATION OF PETITION	442
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	442-445 and 520-523
(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in in the 17th Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs	
Shri P.R. Kyndiah	442
(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 171st Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology	
Shri Kapil Sibal	443

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicate that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(iii) Bomb blasts at Lucknow, Varanasi and Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh	
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	520
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 2007-2008	445
Shri Lalu Prasad	445
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	446-450
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.....	450-480
Situation arising due to supply of inferior quality wheat to BPL families under the Public Distribution System and steps taken by the Government in this regard	
Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.....	450
Shri Sharad Pawar	457
TYRE CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED (DISINVESTMENT OF OWNERSHIP) BILL, 2007	481-500
Shri Kharabela Swain	481
Shri S.K. Kharventhan	482
Shri Swadesh Chakraborty	485
Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy	487
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	487
Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev	491
Clauses 2 to 6 and 1	497-500
Motion to Pass	500
PAYMENT AND SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS BILL, 2006	500-509
Motion to consider	500
Shri P. Chidambaram	500
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot	507
MOTION RE: THIRTY-FIRST REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'507 BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	509-510
PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION	510-519 and 523-556

Free and Compulsory Education upto Higher Secondary Level

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	510
Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid	523
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot	525
Shri Shailendra Kumar	530
Dr. K.S. Manoj	533
Shri B. Mahtab	537
Dr. Sebastian Paul	544
Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli	547
Shri Ravi Prakash Verma	548
Shri C.K. Chandrappan	553

ANNEXURE-I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	561-562
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	562-568

ANNEXURE-II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	569-570
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	569-572

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY-SPEAKER

Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Shri Giridhar Gamang

Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan

Shri Arjun Sethi

Shri Mohan Singh

Shrimati Krishna Tirath

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Shri P.D.T. Achary

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

[English]

Friday, November 23, 2007/Agrahayana 2, 1929
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 121.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give me a minute's time
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prabhunathji, you've not given
any notice. Please take your seat and let the Question
Hour continue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I want only 60
seconds time...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on records
without the permission of the Chair.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not given any notice.
Let the Question Hour go on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. First, give
notice, then I will see you have not given any notice.

...(Interruptions)

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 121.

Re-Structuring of SEBs

*121. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States and Union Territories
(UTs) who have restructured or corporatized their power
sector and unbundled their State Electricity Boards into
separate entities for strengthening transmission and
distribution and generation under power sector reforms;

(b) extent to which the said process o restructuring
has helped the SEBs; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government
to mitigate the losses of State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR
SHINDE): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of
the House.

Statement

(a) So far, 13 States have reorganized their SEBs.
Ten States namely Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh,
Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Delhi,
Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have done so under their
respective State Electricity Reforms Acts. Assam,
Maharashtra and West Bengal have reorganized their
SEBs under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003.
Government of Tripura has corporatized its Electricity
Department.

(b) The Central Government had awarded a study
to the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) on
the impact of restructuring of the State Electricity Boards.
The broad conclusion of the study is that despite some
shortcomings, the overall impact of restructuring has
been positive and is in the right direction.

(c) The State Electricity Board/Power Utilities are
under the administrative control of the respective State
Governments. As such, it the primary responsibility of
the State Government to mitigate the losses of its
utilities. However, the Government of India has taken

*Not recorded.

the following major initiatives to bring down the losses of SEBs/Power Utilities:

- (i) Past dues of Central Public Sector Companies against State Electricity Boards (SEBs) amounting to Rs. 34,957.96 crores had been securitised in the year 2001.
- (ii) The Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the tariff determination is to be done by independent Electricity Regulatory Commissions.
- (iii) Section 65 of the Act provides that if the State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Commissions, the State Government shall pay to the concerned utility/licensee the amount required to compensate the grant of subsidy.
- (iv) The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) was launched in the year 2002-03 for assisting States in investment in strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution systems for reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising through cash grants the reduction of cash losses by State Power Utilities. It is being proposed to continue APDRP during the XIth Plan.
- (v) Legal provisions in Electricity Act, 2003 for dealing with theft of electricity have been further strengthened by the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2007.
- (vi) Emphasis is given on metering of feeders and supply to consumers for energy accounting and auditing for identifying location of high losses.
- (vii) Improving financial viability of power utilities is one of the key deliverables of power sector reforms. The Planning Commission's Annual Report (2001-02) "On The Working of State Electricity Boards & Electricity Departments" assessed that the commercial losses (without subsidy) of the SEBs had increased from Rs. 4560 crores in year 1992-1993 to Rs. 25,259

crores during 2000-01. After the year 2001-02, the Power Finance Corporation (PFC), which lends funds to State power utilities also, has started bringing out an annual compilation on the results of financial performance of these utilities. The latest report of PFC shows that the ever increasing trend of commercial losses of power utilities has been arrested. The commercial losses (without subsidies) in State Power Utilities, which had increased from 19,107 crores during 2003-04 to Rs. 23,880 crores during 2004-05, have reduced to Rs. 19,546 crores in 2005-06, alongside increase in turn over.

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Mr. Speaker, in rural areas of Karnataka, particularly in my Parliamentary constituency of Davangare and Chitradurga, a lot of power cuts are taking place daily. Only four hours of power is being supplied daily in three phases. The voltage of power is also very low. These power cuts and low voltages are causing great difficulties to the farmers and the children those who are studying. Keeping this in view, I would like to know, through you, Sir, from the Minister that after the re-organization of State Electricity Board in Karnataka, what is the present per capita demand and supply of electricity in State? What is the existing power generation capacity in the State plant-wise? I would also like to know whether the Union Government has given any assistance to the State Government for improvement of power generation capacity in the State. And, if so, what are the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for maintaining balance between demand and supply of electricity in Karnataka?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, the hon. Member has asked me so many questions. So, it is very difficult to reply to each and every one of them. I have all the replies ready with me.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Supplementary is bigger than the main question.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: The hon. Minister is a learned person. He can give reply.

[English]

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: There has been shortage of power in Karnataka and I have figures with me at the moment. From April to October, 2007, the demand is 6583 MW and supply is only 5506 MW. There is a shortage of 1077 MW at the moment. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should say Mr. Chairman.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: It does not matter. You are on the seat of the speaker. The installed generation capacity of Karnataka at the moment is 6972 MW. There has been a shortage, but I must tell you that after the restructuring of the Boards, Karnataka has been informing us that they have reduced their losses. Just yesterday, I happened to check on call the concerned Department in Karnataka through my officers and they say that as per the written reply that they have sent, the restructuring has helped to have reforms in power sector including reduction in transmission and distribution losses, making available quality power, reducing power theft cases. Theft law is also applicable in today's situation and consumer friendly measures that we also have.

I would like to inform that we failed to do targeted capacity addition during the 10th Plan. I would like to state for the information of the House that we planned a capacity addition of about 42,000 MW during the 10th Plan, but we could add only 21,000 MW. In the last three plans, so far we have done a capacity addition of 56,000 MW. When I took over as the Minister, I reviewed the position of capacity addition in the entire country and today I am happy to inform this House that in the 11th Plan we are going to do a capacity addition of 78,000 MW. As on today, we have already when execution added 54,000 MW. The situation in the past was not as it is today and I am quite confident that the country would be free of power shortage after two or three years.

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Sir, I would like to know whether the Government of Karnataka has recently earmarked Rs. 5,700 crore for the Karnataka Power

Transmission Corporation Limited and electricity supply companies to set up new power stations in the State and if so, the details thereof. I would further like to know whether the Union Government is considering providing any matching grant to the Government of Karnataka for this purpose and if so, the details thereof and by what time the amount is likely to be released.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, there is no scheme for giving Grant-in-Aid or for giving any subsidy for power generation in States. But loans are sanctioned through the Rural Electrification Corporation and the Power Finance Corporation. If the Government of Karnataka has asked for the loan, we will certainly consider that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Raghuvēer Singh Koshal—
Not present.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we know that electricity has become part and parcel of mankind. It is needed not only for lighting but also for industrialization. That is why, our UPA Government is very keen in implementing the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation Agreement. Our Government is spending crores of rupees for generation of power in the country. It is a known fact that from the produced energy, transmission loss is very huge like the line loss. In certain States it is said to be more than 30 to 40 per cent. May I know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government has taken any concrete or constructive steps to minimize the line loss.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVĒER SINGH KOSHAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my name appears at priority number 2 for asking supplementary question, still I have not been given time to ask supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I had called your name. Perhaps, you did not hear. When you did not rise to ask supplementary I permitted the next hon. Member to ask supplementary.

SHRI RAGHUVĒER SINGH KOSHAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sitting in my seat only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Now you regret. I would call your name after the hon. Minister replies to the question of Shri N.S.V. Chittan.

SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry.

[English]

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I would like to inform that the Planning Commission has stated that the commercial losses of the State Electricity Boards had increased from Rs. 4,560 crore in 1992-93 to Rs. 25,259 crore in 2001 and that is why in 2002 a new scheme was started by the Ministry of Power which is called APDRP. The whole idea behind this is to increase the PLF and increase the efficiency so as to reduce the losses.

As far as power thefts are concerned, a new law has also come to control it and we have also taken significant steps whereby the lines will not be easily accessible to thieves and we have already taken these precautions.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that as per latest report of PFC, there has been decline in losses of electricity boards as well as in SRP as installation of electric meters of farmers on the transformer itself has put a check on power theft. But there has been no decline in power theft in urban areas despite launching of urban renovation programme. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government is contemplating to check power theft in urban areas?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my second question in this regard is...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: One can't ask many questions together. One can ask only one question and you have asked that.

SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the past, Members have been permitted to ask two questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Three supplementary questions have already been asked.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has rightly said that information was given regarding segregation of feeder lines in rural areas. Therefore, meters have been installed on transformers itself by erecting separate feeder line. I would like to cite some examples to specify whether strict measures have been taken in urban areas, which would make it clear that initiation of strict measures has resulted in decline in power losses. I would like to cite the case of Delhi, wherein; initiation of strict measures has resulted in reduction of losses to a great extent. Not only Delhi, losses have reduced in Kolkata as well. I have reports that, at certain places, the losses have come down by 10-15 per cent.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to say that the Minister of Power, who hails from Maharashtra, has said about APDR. As Shri Anant Gangaram Geete and Shri Suresh Prabhu have stated, it has been implemented in my parliamentary constituency Sambhaji Nagar and Aurangabad. The Board has sent a proposal of Rs. 133 crore during 10th Five Year Plan. But in his reply, the letter of which is available with me now, the hon. Minister stated that it would be taken up in 11th Plan. Restructuring will take a lot of time. With regard to the proposal of my district involving Rs. 133 crore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as, every month I convene the meeting of concerned officials under the provisions of Electricity Act, 2003. The officials in the meeting, ask me to convey to Shri Shindeji in Delhi that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask the question. What do you want to ask?

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: My second question is whether the Government will consider proposal of Rs. 133 crore pertaining to my district originally meant for 10th Plan during the 11th Plan. There is an acute shortage of power in Maharashtra as he is aware. Therefore, there is an urgent need to enhance power supply under APDRP. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question is over. The hon. Minister does not have information pertaining to each and every village or the district.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member Shri Chandrakant Khaire should not feel that Shri Suresh Prabhu and Shri Anant Gangaram Geete of Shiv Sena, have done the work in their districts when they were Ministers. He should clear this thing from his mind. Finally, a Minister, who belongs to the Congress Party would do this job and I would like to assure them that the Government will take it up in 11th Plan.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when Shri Sushilkumar Shindeji was saying that only Congress Party would do their job, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Union Minister of Rural Development was about to say that not only Congress, they are also do our work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You take your seat. The hon. Minister has said a great thing that he will not only work for congressmen but for everybody.

SHRJ PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, some of the State Governments want to become self reliant in power generation and they are seeking financial aid from the Central Government for this. Bihar has also sent several proposals, including one for setting up of a joint venture project in Aurangabad. But Bihar is not getting cooperation from Centre. The situation is so worse that Bihar is being supplied power from Talcher, Kahalgaon and Farakka and power cuts are done deliberately just to disturb Bihar. Even on the festivals such as Deepawali and Dushera power is cut.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question is not related to supply of power. Please ask supplementary question in connection with the main question.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to brief the Hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, time is very short. You ask your supplementary in brief.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I shall be brief.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, power cuts are done, infact on the occasions of Diwali and Dushera power was supplied to Bihar from Kerala at higher rates. Through you, I would like to know from hon. Minister about the status of power supply in Bihar as well as the status of arrangements being made for supplying power from power grids or other sources. I would like to know as to when the Government is going to take action on the proposals received from the state government. This is what I want to know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, It takes four to five years for capacity addition. In Bihar capacity addition has not been done since many years. This is the reason for low power supply in the state. Not only, this, I have been saying in this House for the last two sessions that PLF is also very low there. We have deployed NTPC officials to cooperate them in it. Besides, PFL of the State has also been increased. We are providing power to them. But they demand power from the unallocated quota. Today there is a shortage of 18 to 19 thousand megawatts of power in the entire country. Therefore, we have to take care of the entire country. It is true that there is a shortage of power in all the states of the country and they have to manage on their own. We are not making any discrimination against Bihar. I have myself visited the state and held a meeting in this regard. We have also granted permission for setting up of new projects in joint sector for making capacity addition I have mentioned about the failure during the Tenth Fiver Year Plan and have asked for setting up of more projects in the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Minister has stated that there has been some reduction in the losses; in 2005-06 the loss was Rs. 19,000 crore. Earlier it was Rs. 23,000 crore. From Rs. 23,000 crore, it has been reduced to Rs. 19,000 crore. I would like to know how much loss has been reduced because of restructuring of SEBs. Or, have you invested huge amount of money for renovation and modernization of our transmission and

sub-transmission system and sub-stations also? It is because, Sir, the State which started reforms in power sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question. This is not a debating point.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Firstly, there, we have seen that PLF has increased even to the extent of 48 per cent to 50 per cent. So, I would like to know whether by restructuring the SEBs have been able to reduce the losses, or whether modernization of transmission system has contributed towards reduction of losses.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: It is not only with the one sector that the losses have been reduced. We are working on the modernization, working on taking precaution of the theft, and giving a proper treatment to the machines. I would like to inform that the commercial losses of the State utilities have come down. I must bring it to your notice that in 1998-99...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has left. He is not interested in your reply. You may send him a written reply.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, he is very

much interested because this is also linked with the civilian nuclear power. Therefore, I would like to tell my colleagues as to how much beneficial it has been.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may send him a written reply.

Hostels for Working Women

*122. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals for construction of new hostels for the working women during the year 2007-08;

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

(c) the action taken thereon?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The following proposals have been received during 2007-08 for construction of new hostels. Their present status is also mentioned against each.

Sl. No.	Name of the applicant organization	Action taken
1	2	3

Assam

1. Barak Valley Welfare Development Society, Silchar, Assam

The organization which had submitted the proposal directly to this Ministry has been advised to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme and submit it through the State Government.

1	2	3
Haryana		
2.	Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, Haryana	The University has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
3.	Director General of Police Haryana, Panchkula	The State Government of Haryana has been requested to submit its views to take up the project.
4.	Indian Red Cross Society, Fatehbad, Haryana	The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
Himachal Pradesh		
5.	Government of Himachal Pradesh for hostel at Baddi	The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has been requested to submit the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
Karnataka		
6.	Janata Trust, Bangalore	The proposal lacks details.
7.	Pragati Samudaya, Bagalkot, Karnataka	The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
8.	Bhatkal Education Trust, Bhatkal, Karnataka	The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
9.	Adarsha Shikshan Samiti, Haveri, Karnataka	The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
10.	Sri. Jagadguru Gurusiddeshwar Co-operative Hospital and Research Institute Ltd. Ghataprabha, Karnataka	The proposal is with CPWD for technical examination.
Kerala		
11.	Sri Aurobindo Cultural Society, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
12.	Santhigiri Ashram, Trivendrum, Kerala	The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
13.	Jeevadan Centre, Idukki, Kerala	The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
14.	Sri Sathyasai Orphanage Trust, Trivendrum, Kerala	The organization has been requested to revise the proposal meeting the norms of the Scheme.

1	2	3
15. Sree Sankara National Institute of Education Trust, Trivendrum		The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
Madhya Pradesh		
16. Ojaswini Samdarshi Nyas, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh		The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
17. G.R. Medical College Society, Gwalior Madhya Pradesh		The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
Maharashtra		
18. Dr. Vitthalrao Vikhe Patil Foundation, Viladghat, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra		The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
Manipur		
19. Centre for Youth Development and Action, Churachandpur, Manipur		The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
20. S. Kula Women's College, Nambol, Manipur		The proposal is with CPWD for technical examination.
21. Manipur Women and Children Uptiftment Organisation, Imphal		The organization which had submitted the proposal directly to this Ministry has been advised to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme and submit it through the State Government.
22. Women's Development Organisation, Tamenglong, Manipur		The organization which had submitted the proposal directly to this Ministry has been advised to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme and submit it through the State Government.
Rajasthan		
23. Hari Om Shikshan Samiti, Jhalawad, Rajasthan		The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
Tamil Nadu		
24. Government of Tamil Nadu, Hostel at Vadapalani Andavar, Thirukkoi, Tamil Nadu		The State Government has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.
Uttar Pradesh		
25. Dwarika Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Bacharwa, Raibarelli, Uttar Pradesh		The proposal is with CPWD for technical examination.

1

2

3

West Bengal

26. Humanity Association Howrah, West Bengal

The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.

Pondicherry

27. M/s Immaculate Heart of Mary's Social Service Society, Thattanchaydy, Pondicherry

The organization has been requested to revise the proposal, meeting the norms of the Scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this scheme is in vogue since 1972 and a total of 873 hostels have been constructed since then which is even not five per cent of the requirement but what is more problematic in this regard is that whenever the questions pertaining to hostels are asked from the Ministry, contradictory replies are given and we do not know as to what is the actual position and where do we stand in this matter. At present 9 applications of Uttar Pradesh were lying pending since 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005 and not even a single application from Uttar Pradesh has been accepted though Uttar Pradesh is the largest state of the country.*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put the question.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: I am putting the question only.

I am saying that not even a single proposal has been accepted by the Ministry so far out of the proposals containing the list submitted for the year 2007-2008 though more than three fourth of the year has lapsed. In fact the Ministry has sent every scheme to the state for their opinion or to CPWD for technical opinion. When they are unable to seek any technical opinion in more than three fourth of the year, then how a scheme can be sanctioned during the next three months. As a result, women, girls and handicapped people for whom this scheme is meant for are suffering and Government's money is going waste. I would like to ask as to by when the proposals for the year 2007-2008 are likely to be cleared?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, first of all I would like to thank hon. Member, Shri Rasheed Masood for raising such an important issue here in the House because this would invite the attention of the entire House towards this issue. He has very rightly said that we are educating girls, giving them jobs and encourage them but till today they have not got the hostel facility anywhere to the extent they ought have got. There are various reasons for delay in this regard. The biggest reason is that in the proposals that are received by the Union Government, it has no right to decide anything without consent of the State Governments thereon. State Governments do not handover the land till they got clearance from your department. *[English]* I cannot take the risk of sanctioning it. *[Translation]* I am trying to implement a new scheme very soon, which has been reviewed by a committee also. We want to give a new direction to this scheme and I hope that we can make good progress in that. A total of 36,781 hostels have been built across the country. As you have mentioned that a hostel of CPWD is still pending in Uttar Pradesh. I am monitoring this myself so that we can provide this facility to girls and women. We have also received several recommendations of the Committee in this regard and we are going to implement them also. But while saying all this over here, I request that all hon. Members must support me because in many states it is also a problem that the hostels built by the Union Government are being misused by the State Governments. These are given on rent to others. I am collecting information on this and thereafter I will be in a position to give a reply in the House.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with regard to the reply given by Hon. Minister, I can appreciate the problems being faced by the Minister. But this money belongs to the Union Government and the Union Government is capable of taking action in this regard. At the time of framing rules, a recovery clause must be added in the rules to make recovery from any organization which misuses the hostels because maximum funds are allocated to organizations and states are granted very a meagre amount for this purpose. It is upto you to make this provision. My second supplementary question is that there are no working women in rural areas and small towns. There are handicapped people, girl students and other category people e.g. Widows etc. A number of proposals are received from rural areas and land is also available there, but some people met me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please ask your question.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: I am coming to the question only. It would be difficult to comprehend the question without background.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody understands your question.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: So far asking the question directly is concerned, I have already asked it and there would not have any need to ask supplementary questions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please ask your question, it is not necessary to make a long speech.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: That is why supplementary is required. I am not making a speech. I am asking question. As long as the background is not given how can the question be understood?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are wasting your time.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: If you can give reply in writing then there is no need to ask a question. My question is whether the Government would take some steps in the direction of constructing hostels in the rural areas or not?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, please

listen one thing carefully that I am not going to leave even a single penny anywhere. I will ensure full recovery from all states with interest.

Secondly, we want that rural areas should also be covered in the new schemes in future. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: As per the Ministry of Labour's statistics of 2005, we have 50.69 lakh of working women in India; and out of the 27 proposals for 2007-08, only three are with the CPWD. The hon. Minister has stated in her reply that in the last 35 years, 873 women working hostels have been sanctioned. I can understand her predicament because it relates to the State Government. But what is the problem that only 607 such hostels have been completed so far by 2007?

Part (b) of my supplementary is this. Is it true that only five new hostels have been sanctioned in the last two years? Why does the Ministry not go in for some convergence because when it comes to women and child, the Labour Ministry talks about women and child; when it comes to the HRD, primary education, the Ministry of Women and Child talks about it; you also talk about it. So, why can we not have convergence?

The State Governments are also not coming forward in asking for these women working hostels because according to the State Government, this has become a white elephant. Many NGOs are coming forward but the people at large feel safe when their girl or woman is staying or residing working hostel for women. So, this is very important. Out of 27 proposals, only three are with the CPWD! What is the problem with your norms? Madam, Minister, can you ensure that these are expedited because your answer itself speaks that the work is very slow?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I would explain it. There are some impracticalities in the whole area, in the concept of what the State Governments look at these issues. There are three primary reasons as to why we are going so slow. Firstly, deficiencies are there in the proposals. The proposals do not come vetted properly and they do not complete the questions

that we ask. Secondly, most of the proposals, which come, are not as per the norms that we recommend. Thirdly, the pending ones are due for clearances for land registration, handing over and CPWD examining that. These are the three primary reasons for slow work. But having said so, I would say that these are not excuses, and nothing should be going so slow. I hope to be able to come back to this House with a brand new concept of how we should be able to provide, because the beneficiary has to actually gain the benefit; and the State Governments sadly do not accord the same priority, which they should. I am really grateful to the Members of Parliament particularly, the men who have raised this issue because I would also depend on them to pressurize the State Governments to give this priority. Quite often, the land is allocated 20 to 30 miles from the place of work for the girls, and it is often quite unsafe outside there.

So, we are looking at a new way of dealing with this situation, and I hope, I would have the cooperation of the House and the country.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to ask a question. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards her oft repeated statement regarding working women hostels that the State Governments alone are responsible for it and they alone should see to it whether they are being run properly or not.

Sir, through you, I want to bring to the notice of the Government the way the working women hostels are being run. They are granted facilities by the Government from here itself and the organizations contact the government direct. The state Governments or the people's representatives are not involved in the process. A hostel for the working women is granted from here merely on the recommendation of the Collector. When those organizations do not work there properly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put question.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: I would like to

put the question after giving a brief background. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are running short of time. Only two questions have been asked in half an hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: When I visited and saw a working women hostel myself, I thought about taking action against it. But, they told that action could not be taken against them as it is worked after by the Central government and I had no role in it. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the deems it fit that recommendation of the state government and the people's representatives, whether MPSs or MPs, should be taken into consideration while allocating hostel for working women so that the government can question the organization in case it does not work properly? Do you take into consideration state government's recommendations in this regard?

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: First of all thank you for wanting to look at working women hostels. *[Translation]* You can surely tell us if you see some shortcomings. It is your right that being an hon. Member you can go anywhere and send complaint to us on any matter. We will look into the matter immediately. Secondly, we do not take every proposal directly. *[English]* There is an Empowered Committee at the State Government level. *[Translation]* We do not mention anything until they decide and give their recommendations.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Sir, I would like to give one suggestion to the hon. Minister that in every State, the Women and Child Development Ministry should constitute one Committee taking the State Government officials and Members of Parliament of the concerned State for proper implementation of this important scheme for the working women.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Thank you for the suggestion. There is a State Empowered Committee

which should be looking into this matter. We will see that we put more pressure on them. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I have a very short question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, the Minister is very energetic and very active but unfortunately, out of the 27 schemes which are stated, for 20 schemes the reply is only this, that is, that the organization has been asked to revise the proposal and give a new proposal. But I have a very serious doubt about this. Many a time, many of the applications are simply found fault with on small grounds and sent back. I think this is causing a great delay. This is for women and children. I think it has to be looked at a little more objectively and it has to be made a little more transparent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question? Ask your question.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Otherwise, not only in your Ministry but in many of the Ministries where such schemes are to be given to organizations, we find that it is being kept there for quite a long time and then a reply is being sent that there is some defect or to revise the proposal. So, my question is whether the Government and the Ministry can take some steps to see that this is made very transparent and this can be questioned by Members of Parliament and other concerned persons at the first glance itself. That is my question.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It is transparent and we do take care. If you so empower me, then I will give it without looking at all the respected norms. If I am not empowered, then I must go by the norms which have been laid down after much thought by preceding people who have handled this Ministry. So, we must take care because this is public money and we should be able to implement it as per the norms. If I am allowed to waive that, I can grant it in the first place but you will ask me questions in Parliament after that.

Houses for Weaker Sections

+

*123. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made in the recent years about the total housing needs in the country especially for the weaker sections;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problem on a long term basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (b) Yes, Sir. A Technical Group of Estimation of Urban Housing Shortage was constituted by the Central Government. The Group Estimated a housing shortage of 24.71 million at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan. 99% of this shortage pertains to persons belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG).

(c) As per the Constitution of India, the subject matter of Housing has been allocated to the States. However, the Central Government has been taking several initiatives for addressing the issue of housing shortage from time to time. Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) structured for a seven year period (2005-06 to 2011-12), the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) programme seeks to provide housing and basic services to the urban poor in 63 selected Mission Cities and the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) makes a similar provision for non-mission cities. Further, an amount of Rs. 30 crores has been allocated in the budget for 2007-08 for an interest subsidy scheme for provision of housing to the economically weaker sections (EWS) of the society.

[*Translation*]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the written reply given by the hon. Minister to the question there is housing shortage to the tune of 89 million units for the people belonging to weaker sections at the end of the 10th five year plan. I want to tell the hon. Minister that this shortage is increasing every year. Slums are increasing in major cities too besides metro cities. Will the Government take some action apart from the State Government as it had said that it is a State subject. I would say that the State Government has failed in it completely. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether she would formulate some scheme to disassociate it from the Central Government?

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, I would like to amend it a bit first. It is 24.71 million units and not 89 million in my written reply. This shortage is at the beginning of the 11th five-year plan. Hon. Member is right that the shortage of houses is increasing. As I have stated in my written reply that responsibility rests with the State Governments in this connection because land is their subject. In spite of this, our Government has taken many major initiatives so that we can deal with the housing shortage in the urban areas and make it our top priority. Our UPA Government has taken two major initiatives so far amongst which Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission is the biggest one under which we are giving a major thrust to housing. Besides, our Finance Minister has made a provision of Rs. 30 crore for interest subsidy scheme in this year's budget itself. Ninety nine per cent of the housing shortage of 24.71 million comprises of economically weaker sections and LIG i.e. Low Income Groups. Out of these two schemes, we have implemented one and are going to implement the other. It will give a major thrust. Apart from this, the State Governments are also taking their initiative and we would like that they take more initiatives. Many states like Andhra Pradesh and others have taken initiatives.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Hon. Minister has just said that there is housing shortage of only 24.71 million. But, in her written reply she has stated that there

is shortage of 89 millions houses. Hon. Minister has also stated that the shortage of housing for weaker sections is upto 99%. I want to say that perhaps hon. Minister has sent wrong written reply. She must correct it. Besides, hon. Minister has also admitted that the State Governments are not taking much interest in it. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether we, as Lok Sabha Members, can give her proposal directly? As it is known that a large number of people from Sagar Peshta work in Allahabad but there is no dwelling unit for them. Will she kindly sanction the scheme for poor people directly from here on my proposal?

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, firstly there is some gap. I would like that the Secretariat goes through it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever hon. Minister is saying in the House is the correct answer.

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, the written reply with me shows that there is housing shortage of 24.71 millions. We have sanctioned about 8 lakh houses so far in different states under the Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. Now, it is a system that the state governments should send projects to us on the basis of their priorities. We allocate funds accordingly. Whichever project you will send to us after consultations with your state government. I assure you that the project ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: But, no consultations are held with the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI SELJA: I can understand their helplessness but you should also understand our helplessness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Hansraj G. Ahir—not present.

[*English*]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Thank you, Sir. We are very happy to note that 63 Mission Cities were selected under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to provide basic services

to the urban poor that include three cities from the State of Tamil Nadu.

I would like to know this, through you, from the hon. Minister. How many non-Mission Cities are selected in Tamil Nadu, particularly, in the Dindigul district under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)? If so, how much amount is allocated for the same? Has any time-limit been prescribed for its completion?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may send a written reply later if there will be a need to have information on the matter.

KUMARI SELJA: All right. I will send a written reply to this question later on.

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Sir, the hon. Minister is ready to give a reply.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister, in his reply has mentioned allocation of Rs. 30 crore for the year 2007-08. Today people in large numbers are migrating from villages to cities and slums have come up everywhere and keeping this in view the amount is merely a drop in ocean. I would like to know from hon. Minister as to how many houses have been constructed for the poor by the Government during the last three years?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been mentioned in the written answer.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, this information has not been given in the written answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Minister, please give the information if you have.

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, I have already informed that Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission was started in December, 2005. We have sanctioned building

of 7.79 lakh houses for the states under that. It is true that the trend of urbanization is growing and people are migrating towards cities and with this problems are also increasing. As most of them are poor their problem of accommodation is very serious. But Central Government cannot solve this problem on its own. The Central Government, our UPA Government has taken a major initiative in the form of JNNURM: Never before this things have been done for the cities on such a massive scale. We have made a provision of Rs. 50,000 crore for it. Apart from this I would also like to say that Central Government cannot do it alone. For this co-operation of the state governments have to be sought. Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission also emphasizes that private sector should also be involved in this work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 124: Shri Suresh Angadi—Not present.

Question No. 125—Shri Alok Kumar Mehta.

Allocation of Power

+

*125. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation from any State Governments requesting for more power allocation from the Central pool during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the decision taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether any steps has been taken by the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) for strengthening the Transmission and Distribution System of power in the country, particularly in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Almost all States and UTs have been facing power shortages. Requests for additional allocation of power are received from time to time at various fora. The unallocated power of Central Generating Stations being limited and fixed, any modifications are possible only through adjustment of allocation generally within the States/UTs in the region, keeping in view the emergent or seasonal nature of the request, the relative power supply position, utilization of existing generation resources, performance and payment capacity.

(c) and (d) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), the Central Transmission Utility (CTU) of India, undertakes development of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) and development of the national grid. As on October 31, 2007 POWERGRID owns and operates about 64,000 circuit kilometers (ckt. kms.) of transmission lines, 107 sub-stations having a transformation capacity of about 65,000 MVA. Presently, the national grid with an inter-regional power transmission capacity of about 17,000 MW has been established, which is envisaged to be enhanced to over 37,000 MW by 2012.

In the state of Karnataka, POWERGRID owns, operates and maintains approximately 3000 ckt. kms. of 400 kV transmission lines, seven (7) sub-stations of 400 kV/HVDC which have transformation capacity of 5770 MVA and a 2500 MW HVDC bi-pole station at Kolar.

In the near future, POWERGRID has planned the development of new transmission schemes which would benefit Karnataka in particular and the Southern Region in general. These involve laying of 2000 ckt. kms. of transmission lines along with three (3) sub-stations of 765/400 kV with a transformation capacity of 5930 MVA.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Sir, through you I would like to know from hon. Minister whether the state-wise distribution of power is fixed as per the requirement of population, agriculture and industry? If not, do the

Government propose to revise it state-wise because the condition of power supply in a large state like Bihar where about 10 per cent population of the country resides, reveals that it is not getting its due share. Therefore I would like to know from hon. Minister whether the Government propose to refix the state-wise quota of power distribution keeping in view the state-wise position of population, agriculture and industry?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question has already been answered.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, it has already been answered, nevertheless I would like to inform that there is no capacity addition there. The total power generation is only 628 megawatt there, but capacity addition is not taking place. States have to decide how much power is to be given to the farmers, how much to the agriculture, and how much to the industry. This bifurcation is carried out by state, we only assist in this exercise. But now-a-days opposite is taking place, whatever is in concurrent list, has to be acted upon by the Central Government alone.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Sir, the present Government of Bihar has totally failed to manage the power situation in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not say this here. Put your question.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: The power generation capacity in Bihar is 545 megawatts but actual generation is only 20-30 megawatts. Bihar actually needs 1200 to 1800 megawatts power and its central share is 1170 megawatts whereas only 900 megawatts power is provided from power generating institutes like Talcher, Palghat and Caiga. 85% of the actual allocation for Bihar which falls in eastern region comes from power generated by NTPC, NHPC and it is at the disposal of the Central Government but 15 per cent of the power remains on their own discretion. I would like to know from hon. Minister whether he would like to direct NTPC and NHPC to provide 15 per cent power under their discretion to Bihar keeping in view the deteriorating situation of power in Bihar?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have asked a very pertinent question, do not distort it now.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: There is sufficient power with West Bengal and Orissa. Will he like to issue such instructions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member wants to know whether you would like to increase the discretionary quota for Bihar?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: We always come to help Bihar. Be it any state, as hon. Member was saying...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The state belongs to people.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: We provide 4594 megawatt unallocated power to the entire country from Central pool. No such quota of NTPC or NHPC is given in such manner. When Chief Minister or Power Ministers states repeatedly ask for it we somehow manage it from somewhere as a special case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you make some arrangement today by way of responding to the hon. Member?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, there is not much power and that is why capacity has to be increased to generate more power. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): But they are not allowing to do it.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Minister has in his reply said that there is shortage of power in almost all the states and demands are being received from all the states. Through you I would like to know from hon. Minister the action being taken at national level to increase power generation in the country? I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Railways for being instrumental in finalizing and taking the consent of the hon. Minister in setting up a special unit at Nabinagar. But this scheme has not been operational due to non-availability of enough water and state government is not cooperating in it and that is why that thermal power station has not become functional. The state government has categorically

denied any co-operation. It is a serious issue. It reveals how much the Government of Bihar is concerned about development.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The State Government is causing obstruction in the efforts of the Union Government as well....*(Interruptions)* Bihar's development is not possible for lack of power. He has said publicly that he would not co-operate in the matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not putting question.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The previous Government in the State had signed an agreement with NTPC for revamping of Kanti and Barauni thermal power plants which has not been implemented by the present Government. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that he talks about supply of additional electricity to Bihar but when does he intend to take action to revamp the Kanti and Barauni thermal power plants so as to overcome the shortage of electricity in the State. Besides, what action does he intend to take to check the obstruction being caused by the State Government?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already replied in connection with an earlier question that additional capacity in the country has gone up. I would like to reiterate that in comparison to the 54,000 megawatt capacity created during the eighth, ninth and tenth five year plans, i.e., during the last 15 years, we have decided to increase the capacity more than that, i.e. by 78,577 megawatts in the eleventh five year plan. Orders for 54,000 megawatts have been issued and, by March, orders for the remaining megawatts out of 78,000 megawatts shall also be issued. The entire country is facing shortage of electricity, hence we made intensive efforts and carried-out monitoring to make this possible. I assure the country that I will fulfil the promise of making available per capita 1000 units of electricity by 2012. He talked about Nabinagar in Bihar. That agreement was signed by the Minister of Railways in my presence. As per the terms of the said agreement 90 per cent of electricity would be availed by the railways and ten per cent would

be supplied to Bihar and Jharkhand. I thank Shri Lalu Prasadji for his cooperative attitude in this regard. As far the rest of the issues that he has raised with regard to the State Government, I will take them up personally.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. 126—Shri Badiga Ramakrishna—not present.

[Translation]

This is not a good practice for an hon. Member to remain absent from House when there is a starred Question in his name. Question Number 127, Shri Subrata Bose.

[English]

**Strengthening of Agricultural Sector
Through Science**

*127. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Earth Sciences has formulated an ambitious scheme for strengthening and encouraging agriculture sector to achieve four per cent growth rate in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Science and Technology in association with the Ministry of Earth Sciences have initiated action to explore possibilities where S and T interventions in agriculture can raise the rate of growth in agriculture to the targeted 4% during the 11th Plan Period. The Department of Science and Technology have developed an algorithm to delineate crops right upto the village level using a GIS platform. Capability has been tested in the State of Haryana to assess per

hectare production in a village and at present has been extended, for the current crop season to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Orissa. This information will provide guidance to the Government to locate areas of low productivity and provide timely inputs in cases of crop stress. The two Ministries will integrate the crop information and medium-range weather forecasts up to the district level, to provide advisories to the farmers through a web portal.

The Task Force set up in the Ministry of Science and Technology is conceptualizing programmes in key areas such as:

- (i) Propagation of biopesticides for agriculture.
- (ii) Developing a composite package of practices and inputs based on soil quality and water availability mapping.
- (iii) Propagation of Tissue Culture Quality Planting material mainly for horticulture in the North-Eastern region.
- (iv) Mounting of Potash, an important input in agriculture, from seaweeds.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Thank you, Sir. On the one hand, our population is going up. On the other hand, the availability of land for agricultural purposes remain the same or maybe coming down for agricultural purposes. We are very happy that the Ministry of Science and Technology, in association with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, are now exploring the possibilities for interventions in agriculture so that the production can go up. I am also happy to note that the capability of this testing has been tested in the State of Haryana and now it is being extended to the States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Orissa. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he can tell us about the results of the tests carried out in Haryana or he would like to wait for tests carried out in other States before giving us the encouraging news in this respect.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I would like to respond to the hon. Member's query, and firstly I would like to state that recently the Ministry of Science and Technology thought that in the context of the priorities of the UPA

Government, we would like to have a special emphasis and thrust in the area of technology in the context of agriculture because we would like that through technological interventions, the agricultural growth should not be less than four per cent. In that context, we first decided to collect the data base which should be made available to all the States in the context of the varied crops that that we grow in various States. We are really doing this. In fact, this is a technology—not really a technology—it is a collection of data that we have taken from various sources and what we have done is the following:

We take different crops like wheat, rice, sugarcane, *bajra* and various other crops and we collect data through satellite. Then, through a biomass index, we are able to tell as to what are the levels of productivity at the district level, for each crop. We can monitor this on a weekly basis; the result of this would be that we will be able to tell the district authorities and the State Governments as to what is going wrong in a particular area in a district vis-a-vis productivity—is there greater requirement of water, is there a pesticide that is hurting the growth of the plant, is the plant going through any disease, etc.? All this information can be made available by us, so that we can monitor the cropping pattern on a weekly basis and we can also, therefore, project the levels of productivity for each crop throughout the country so that at a time when we need to export or import at the end of the season, we know how much to export or import at the beginning of the season or at the middle of the season.

So, this is a new kind of collection of data and we are working with the Agriculture Department in this. The result is that we have mapped all of Haryana. We are, in fact, now giving data to Haryana on a weekly basis as to their cropping pattern. We have, in fact, been able to do this for all crops in Haryana. The Haryana authorities are extremely happy with this and they have told us that the data that we have given them tallied with the realities on the ground. For example, if there is a storm and in a particular field or sets of field, the crop gets destroyed, through this data, we can, in fact, tell the State Government which farmers are hurt so that we can send relief to those particular farmers. With

this, the farmers whose crops have not been destroyed may not make false claims. We are able to do even that. So, the Haryana Government is very happy; we have now been able to crop the entire rice crop in the State of Uttar Pradesh. We are going to cover all other crops; I can assure this House that within a period of 6-9 months, I would have mapped all of India. Once I map all of India, I will make it available to all the State Governments so that we can collaborate with them in monitoring the cropping pattern.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for giving us this encouraging news. The hon. Minister said that he would extend this activity to all other States in the course of the next 8-9 months or a year. I will only express—it is not really a question—my wish that he would do, in my State as well as in every State, this exploration as quickly as possible.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: It will be done in every State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. 128—Shri Kishanbhai V. Patil—Not present.

Shri Sugrib Singh.

Health Insurance Policy

+

*128. **SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:**

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India has conducted any field survey to assess the requirement of the customers for health insurance policy in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) World over, life insurance companies are providing cover against health related expenses. Life

Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has also thought it fit to provide such cover, particularly, as there is a demand for such products.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Finance Minister for giving the answer to my question, but it is not clear as to whether the Life Insurance Corporation will cover the people who are below the poverty line, with regard to health insurance.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the Life Insurance Corporation has decided to offer a health product. It has applied to the IRDA for approval of the health product on the 25th of October 2007. Once the approval is received, the product will be launched in the market.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: I do not have the second supplementary.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Nanotechnology Centre

*124. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Nanotechnology Centres in the country, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the benefits expected through such technology; and

(c) the time by which such centres are likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Nano Technology (NT) is a knowledge-intensive and "enabling technology" which is expected to influence a wide range of products and processes with far-reaching implications for national economy and development. Nano Technology deals with materials of

very small size and properties of materials in that size regime can be suitably controlled. This opens the possibility of producing tailor-made materials and using them for a wide range of applications. For example, solar cells containing nanomaterials can, in principle, utilize sunlight more effectively and create larger number of charges to conduct electricity for the same amount of sunlight collected. Once perfected, this technology can produce solar cells of higher efficiency at a lower cost. Nanosize titanium dioxide can help utilize sunlight for splitting of water to produce hydrogen which is a clean source of energy. Nanosize catalysts, because of their higher chemical reactivity, are found to be more effective in reducing air pollution. Nano biosensors, in principle, have the ability to detect even one single virus and can detect presence of infections in animals and plants very early. The infections can then be treated with relatively low dosage of medicines and pesticides. Drugs encapsulated in nanosize particles attached with appropriate biological molecules can enable drug delivery at the infected site only, thereby greatly minimizing the dosage and side-effects. Such nanoscale drugs can even penetrate cell walls and treat infections within cells—something which is not possible with the usual drugs. The possibilities are many, the potential enormous and, hence, the world-wide effort to perfect some of these technologies.

As part of its efforts to promote R and D in nano science and technology, the Government of India has already established several centres of excellence, on a modest scale with an average investment of approximately Rs. 10 crore each, in various parts of the country, including Karnataka, to carry out fundamental studies on nanoscale systems and explore development of technologies for applications like water purification systems, thermoregulated textiles, nano fillers for tyre applications, nano biosensors, tissue engineering, drug delivery, nano patterning, etc.

The Government of India has recently launched a Nano Science and Technology Mission with an allocation of Rs. 1000 crore for 5 years to give further boost to this area of research. As part of the Nano Mission programmes, it is being planned to strengthen three major existing institutions with proven strength in

Nano Technology R and D. These Centres would be at (1) Mohali, co-located with the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) there, as part of the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad, (2) Bangalore as a joint Centre of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, and (3) at Kolkata as part of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), Kolkata. These centres are expected to cost approximately Rs. 100 crore each. The detailed planning for these centres has just begun.

Inspire Programme

*126. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Programme;

(b) the extent to which the INSPIRE Programme helps in producing more and more science students and in stopping the exodus of scientists from Indian scientific institutions;

(c) whether there is a decline in the number of Ph.D. students registered for various Science and Technology Programmes during the last five years; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the INSPIRE Programme helps students to take up Ph.D. research?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government of India has mounted a special scholarship scheme titled "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research" (INSPIRE) to attract talented youth to study and careers with science. INSPIRE aims at building innovative knowledge infrastructure by conversion of comparative strength of India by virtue of its demography and inherited knowledge systems into competitive advantage. The main features of the INSPIRE are: (a) Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science (SEATS) providing

Science innovation scholarship of Rs. 5000 for a total of one million young learners of the age group 10-15 years once in their school career and mentorship through global science leaders including Nobel laureates and Indian leaders in science at a summer camp for the top 1% performers in the Class X examination every year for a period of five years; (b) Scholarships for Higher Education (SHE) for the age group of 17-22 years @ Rs 1 lakh per year for continuing science education at B.Sc. and M.Sc. levels for 10,000 candidates; and (c) Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC) for 1000 young researchers in the age group of 22-32 years for 5 years to pursue doctoral research in science backed by an assured research career opportunity scheme for another period of five years on completion of their Ph.D.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no decline in the number of Ph.D. students registered for various disciplines including Science and Technology Programmes during the last five years. The INSPIRE Programme, as it offers Science as a career option by providing necessary opportunities to youth with aptitude for science and a desire to innovate, in addition to reasonable financial assistance, would help in producing more science students and Ph.Ds and help in increasing the stock of the scientific community necessary for meeting future challenges.

[Translation]

Achievements under JNNURM

*129. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) during 2007-08 to each State/UT; and

(b) the details of the utilization of the said fund in each State/UT as on date alongwith the achievements of its aims?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Although indicative allocations for the States/UTs have been made, it needs to be noted that this is a demand driven mission. Individual project proposals are received from ULBs/Implementing agencies through the States. These are appraised by the technical agencies appointed by the Ministry and thereafter considered by the competent sanctioning authority. This is an ongoing process and the projects are considered for approval as and when they are received in the Ministry.

Proposals have been received from various cities for release of second instalment for the projects approved under UIG. Details of these proposals are enclosed as Statement-I. No proposal for release of second instalment in respect of the approved projects

under UIDSSMT has been received so far in this Ministry.

Details of release of funds to various States under UIG and UIDSSMT components of JNNURM are given in the enclosed Statement-II and III. So far, all select 63 cities under UIG of JNNURM have submitted City Development Plans (CDPs) and all of them have been appraised. 58 Memoranda of Agreements (MOAs) for implementation of reforms have been signed with concerned State Governments and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for implementation of mandatory as well as optional reforms at the State and ULB levels. Progress of reforms at the State Level and ULB level is enclosed as Statement-IV, V and VI. Details of key initiatives undertaken under JNNURM so far are given in the Statement-VII enclosed?

Statement-I

JNNURM-Proposals for Release of 2nd Instalment of ACA

Sl. No.	State	City	Sector	Project Name	2nd Instalment of ACA due (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Roads/ Flyovers/ RoB	Construction of Railway over Bridge on Ahmedabad Botad M.G. Railway line at Shreyas Crossing on 122 ft. Ring Road	106.00
2.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Roads/ Flyovers/ RoB	Construction of four lane Bridge across River Sabarmati connecting Vasna and Pirana 122 road	258.50
3.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Water/ Supply	Pipeline from Narmada Main canal to Kotarpur WTP; 330 MLD Intake Well in Sabarmati river near Kotarpur; Water Treatment Plant at Rasaka	471.00
4.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Roads/ Flyovers/ RoB	Construction of four lane bridge on Sabarmati-Viramgam B.G. Railway line, Ahmedabad	175.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Roads/ Flyovers/ RoB	Construction of Major and Minor Radial Roads Phase-I in AUDA Area	438.00
6.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Roads/ Flyovers/ RoB	Construction of Railway over Bridge No.132 ft. Ring Road near Dakshini Societyn over B.G. Railway lines between Maninagar and Vatva Rly. Station	187.00
7.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Roads/ Flyovers/ RoB	Construction of four lane flyover bridge on Shivranjani junction at Ahmedabad	146.00
8.	Gujarat	Surat	Sewerage	Secondary Seweage Treatment Plant at Bamroli	165.31
9.	Gujarat	Surat	Water Supply	Water Supply Project for Vesu Urban Settlement of Surat Urban Development Authority	239.80
10.	Gujarat	Surat	Water Supply	Water Supply Project for Pal-Palanpur Area	124.30
11.	Gujarat	Surat	Sewerage	Upgradation of Anjana Sewage Treatment Plant	137.00
12.	Gujarat	Surat	Roads/ Flyovers/ RoB	Flyover Bridge near Nanavarachha	94.75
13.	Gujarat	Surat	Sewerage	Augmentation of Adajan Sewerage	149.00
14.	Gujarat	Surat	Sewerage	Augmentation of Bhesan Sewage Treatment Plant	188.00
15.	Gujarat	Rajkot	Water Supply	Water Supply Project for Rajkot	1070.00
16.	Gujarat	Rajkot	Drainage/ Storm Water Drains	Underground Drainage Phase-II and Phase-III (Part-1) (Sewage Disposal Network and STP)	942.70
17.	Gujarat	Rajkot	Solid Waste Management	Strengthening of Solid Waste Management (Phase-I)	108.38
18.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Roads/ Flyovers/ RoB	Construction of Underpass at Malleshwaram Circle	108.96

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Drainage/ Storm Water Drains	Remodelling of Primary and Secondary storm water drains in Bangalore city at Vrushabhavathi valley including Kethamahanahalli and Arkavathi minor valley I and Kathriguppa minor valley III (3 DPRS)	1997.27
20.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Drainage/ Storm Water Drains	Remodelling of Primary and Secondary storm water drains in Bangalore city, Koramangala valley	975.53
21.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Drainage/ Storm Water Drains	Remodelling of Primary and Secondary storm water drains in Bangalore city, Hebbal valley	1616.47
22.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Water Supply	Augmentation of Additional 100 MLD of water from CWSS stage IV Phase I	85.82
23.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Urban Renewal	Renewal of Basic Infrastructure in Cate-gorised Scrap Mart in Bhopal	101.38
24.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Urban Renewal	Renewal of Upgradation of Basic Infra-structure in M.P. Nagar, Bhopal	236.75
25.	Maharashtra	Nagpur	Water Supply	Expansion and upgradation of water supply distribution network in Nagpur city	474.12
26.	Maharashtra	Nasik	Water Supply	Ongoing works of water Supply Projects	631.50
27.	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	Sewerage	Providing sewerage system in Krishna-lanka area of Vijayawada	92.87

Statement-II

State-wise Release of Funds

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of projects sanctioned	% of projects sanctioned	Cost of sanctioned projects (Rs. in lakh)	% of cost of projects sanctioned	ACA released (Rs. in lakh)	% of funds released	ACA Admissible (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	33	12.99	225391.51	10.26	22915.16	9.49	98707.58
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	0.79	8919.7	0.41	2006.94	0.83	8027.73
3.	Assam	1	0.39	3516.71	0.16	791.26	0.33	3165.04
4.	Bihar	1	0.39	3695.4	0.17	461.93	0.19	1847.70
5.	Chandigarh	2	0.79	5698.6	0.26	1139.72	0.47	4558.88
6.	Chhattisgarh	1	0.39	30364	1.38	6072.8	2.52	24291.20
7.	Gujarat	44	17.32	249769.32	11.37	26378.26	10.92	105511.19
8.	Haryana	3	1.18	21097.7	0.96	2637.72	1.09	10550.85
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2	0.79	2613.06	0.12	522.61	0.22	2090.45
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	0.79	26215	1.19	5898.38	2.44	23593.50
11.	Karnataka	31	12.20	173988.09	7.92	14858.39	6.15	73486.68
12.	Kerala	6	2.36	68005	3.10	4405	1.82	43079.60
13.	Madhya Pradesh	13	5.12	98799.33	4.50	12349.83	5.11	49399.66
14.	Maharashtra	47	18.50	639619.83	29.13	73745.2	30.54	295011.38

15. Manipur	1	0.39	2580.71	0.12	0	0.00	2322.64
16. Nagaland	1	0.39	2525.6	0.12	0	0.00	2273.04
17. Orissa	2	0.79	50492.66	2.30	5278.66	2.19	40394.13
18. Punjab	2	0.79	32883	1.50	4110.375	1.70	16441.50
19. Puducherry	1	0.39	20340	0.93	0	0.00	16272.00
20. Rajasthan	6	2.36	47453.37	2.16	11096.76	4.60	29388.59
21. Tamil Nadu	23	9.06	222684.32	10.14	24855.82	10.29	100257.77
22. Uttar Pradesh	12	4.72	132930.77	6.05	12425.16	5.15	66762.87
23. West Bengal	18	7.09	126358.7	5.75	9501.98	3.94	47420.28
Total	254	100	2195942.38	100	241451.95	100	1084854.26

Statement-III

State-wise Status on the projects sanctioned and ACA released in the towns under UIDSSMT during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto 31-10-2007)

Sl. No.	Name of States	No. of Towns/Cities	No. of Projects	Approved Cost	Eligible central share (80%/90% of approved cost) (ACA committed)	Amount of 1st instalment of Eligible central share i.e. 50% of ACA	ACA recommended (including incentive)	Release of ACA during 2005-06	Release of ACA during 2006-07	Release of ACA during 2007-08	Total ACA released by M/o Finance/MHA (including incentives)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39	44	130953.87	104763.10	52381.55	54033.99	4919.68	25568.26	23546.05	54033.99
2.	Assam	4	4	2933.19	2639.87	1319.94	1363.93	0.00	1364.00	0.00	1364.00
3.	Bihar	9	9	15257.67	12208.14	6103.07	6331.88	0.00	3643.00	315.00	3958.00*
4.	Chhattisgarh	3	3	6118.65	4894.92	2447.46	2447.46	0.00	2447.00	0.00	2447.00
5.	Gujarat	25	25	21272.23	17017.78	8508.89	8560.26	2444.00	6003.00	113.00	8560.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3	3	1805.88	1444.70	722.35	749.44	0.00	357.00	392.00	749.00
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	34	27579.08	24821.17	12410.59	12824.27	0.00	10100.00	2724.00	12824.00
8.	Karnataka	14	17	23417.87	18734.30	9367.15	9718.41	0.00	8217.00	1501.00	9718.00
9.	Kerala	8	8	15642.00	12513.60	6256.80	6491.43	0.00	3363.00	3128.00	6491.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	18	27	19746.62	15797.30	7898.65	7898.65	0.00	7555.00	344.00	7898.00

11. Maharashtra	18	25	50834.50	40667.60	20333.80	20933.47	0.00	11775.00	7312.00	19087.00**
12. Orissa	3	5	8842.90	7074.32	3537.16	3669.86	0.00	2234.00	1495.00	3669.00
13. Rajasthan	22	22	14338.05	11470.44	5735.22	5897.87	1384.00	4301.00	214.00	5899.00
14. Tamil Nadu	91	97	53917.49	43133.99	21567.00	21567.00	0.00	12169.00	2879.00	15048.00****
15. Uttar Pradesh	22	28	58469.95	46775.96	23387.98	24264.99	0.00	20534.00	3731.00	24265.00
16. West Bengal	13	14	18736.93	14989.54	7490.78	7775.85	0.00	5267.00	2508.00	7775.00
17. Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1	1	1864.73	1471.78	745.89	745.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00****
Total	301	366	471731.61	380416.51	190214.26	195274.65	8747.68	124897.26	50142.05	183786.99

* 5 projects of 5 towns in Bihar at approved cost of Rs. 5720.00 lakh involving ACA of Rs. 2373.75 lakh are pending with M/o Finance for release.

** M/o Finance has released short amount of ACA by Rs. 1846.77 lakh against Sangli Water Supply scheme.

*** 15 projects of 15 towns in Tamil Nadu at approved cost of Rs. 16299.85 lakh involving ACA of Rs. 6519.94 lakh are pending with M/o Finance for release.

**** The proposal is pending with M/o Home Affairs for release.

Statement-IV**Status on State level Reforms committed for implementation in Year 2 of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)—2006-2007****State level reforms targeted for Year 1 and Year 2 reported as achieved**

State	Reforms Reported as achieved	Target Year
Gujarat	Enactment of Public Disclosure	Year 2

State level reforms targeted for Year 1 and Year 2 reported as not achieved

State	Reforms reported as not achieved	Target Year
Andhra Pradesh	Repeal of ULCRA	Year 2
Chandigarh	Stamp duty rationalization to 5%	Year 2
	Enactment of Public Disclosure Law	Year 2
Gujarat	74th CAA (Constitution of MPC)	Year 2
Tamil Nadu	Enactment of Public Disclosure Law	Year 2
West Bengal	Reform in Rent Control	Year 2

Statement-V**Status on Urban Local Body Reforms committed for implementation in Year 2 of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission—2006-2007****ULB level reforms targeted for Year 1 and Year 2 reported as achieved**

State	City	Reforms reported as achieved	Target Year
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	E-Governance set-up	Year 2
	Vishakhapatnam	Property Tax (85% Coverage)	Year 1
		E-Governance set-up	Year 2
		Property tax (90% Collection Efficiency)	Year 2
		100% cost recovery water supply and SWM	Year 1

1	2	3	4
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	E-Governance set-up	Year 1
Gujarat	Rajkot	E-Governance set-up	Year 2
		Property Tax (85% Coverage)	Year 2
		Internal earmarking of funds for services to urban poor	Year 1
Kerala	Kochi	Internal earmarking of funds for services to urban poor	Year 2
	Thiruvananthapuram	Internal earmarking of funds for services to urban poor	Year 2
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Internal earmarking of funds for services to urban poor	Year 2
	Indore	Internal earmarking of funds for services to urban poor	Year 2
	Jabalpur	Internal earmarking of funds for services to urban poor	Year 2
Maharashtra	Nagpur	Shift to double entry accounting system	Year 1
Orissa	Bhubaneswar	Shift to double entry accounting system	Year 2
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Property Tax (85% Coverage)	Year 1
	Madurai	Property Tax (85% Coverage)	Year 2
	Chennai	Shift to double entry accounting system	Year 1
		Property tax (90% Collection Efficiency)	Year 1
West Bengal	Kolkata	Shift to double entry accounting system	Year 2

Statement-VI

Status on Urban Local Body Reforms committed for implementation in Year 2 of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission

ULB level reforms targeted for Year 1 and Year 2 reported as not achieved

State	City	Reforms reported as not achieved	Target Year
1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	E-Governance set-up	Year 2

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	Nagpur	100% cost recovery water supply	Year 2
Rajasthan	Ajmer	Shift to Accrual based Double Entry Accounting	Year 1
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Property tax (90% Collection Efficiency)	Year 1

Statement-VII

Key initiatives:

- (i) Support to establish Program Management Unit (PMU) at State Level Nodal Agencies (SLNA) level to accelerate implementation of reforms, enhance the quality of physical works and improve efficiency in service delivery.
- (ii) Extending financial and technical support to establish Project Implementation Units (PIUs) at Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to enhance their capability to effectively implement projects and reforms under JNNURM.
- (iii) Third party monitoring and review of the projects sanctioned under the JNNURM through appointment of Independent Review and Monitoring Agencies (IRMAs).
- (iv) Empanelment of consultants for preparation of DPRs.
- (v) Capacity Building and Communication activities through Rapid Training Program (RTP), Peer Experience and Reflective Learning (PEARL) to foster cross learning among cities and institutions.
- (vi) A comprehensive web-enabled Programme Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES) has been developed that will cover all aspects of on-line monitoring of the Mission and will provide a platform to help enhance participation between the States, Cities and the Mission Directorate.
- (vii) Reform Appraisal Agencies: National Institute of Public Finance and Planning (NIPFP),

National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) carry out in-depth review of implementation of Reforms at State and City levels under the Mission.

- (viii) National and Regional Workshops to enhance implementation of the Mission are held regularly.
- (ix) JNNURM Urban Strengthening and Transformation Project (JUST) is being rolled out with Technical assistance from World Bank. The initial assistance is of the order of 40 million US Dollars.
- (x) Award to cities and States that perform well in implementation of the Mission.
- (xi) Communication Campaign.
- (xii) Engagement of Civil Society.
- (xiii) Community Participation Fund (CPF).
- (xiv) Credit Rating of Urban Land Bodies.
- (xv) Municipal Finance Improvement Programme (MFIP).

Rural Electrification

*130. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of ongoing projects for Rural Electrification in each State in the country as on date;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government for

speedy implementation of Rural Electrification programme in the country;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for Rural Electrification;

(d) if so, whether the said scheme has since been sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) There are 235 ongoing projects of Phase I of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), during X Plan which are under implementation. The state-wise details are enclosed as Statement.

(b) To accelerate the pace of village electrification under RGGVY in the country, the following steps have been taken:

- For speedier and effective implementation of projects, these are executed on turnkey basis.
- Government of India has set up an inter-Ministerial Monitoring Committee which periodically meets to sanction projects and review progress of implementation.
- States have been advised to set up District Committees to inter-alia monitor the progress of rural electrification works. All the states have notified formation of district committees.
- Wherever the State has desired, the services of the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) have been provided for implementation of the scheme. 139 districts have been allocated to CPSUs.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government of India had introduced "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" (RGGVY) in April, 2005 (during X-Plan) with the aim to electrify all the villages over a period of four years. The continuation of the scheme in XI Plan for new projects is under consideration of the competent authority.

The salient features of the RGGVY are as under:—

1. Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided by the Ministry of Power for electrification of un-electrified villages and intensive electrification of villages already electrified.
2. The scheme inter-alia provides for financing of electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country with 100% capital subsidy as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme in all rural habitations.
3. For projects to be eligible for capital subsidy under the scheme, prior commitment of the States have been obtained before sanction of projects under the scheme for:
 - deployment of franchisees for the management of rural distribution in projects financed under the scheme, and
 - the provision of requisite revenue subsidies to the State Utilities as required under the Electricity Act, 2003.
4. Services of CPSUs have been offered to the states for assisting them in the execution of rural electrification projects if they wish to utilize the same.

(Amount in Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	State	Ongoing Projects under RGGVY							Total Project Cost
		No. of Projects	No. of Districts	No. of un-electrified villages to be covered	No. of electrified villages to be covered	No. of un-electrified h/h to be covered (Incl. BPL)	No. of BPL households to be covered		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17	17	0	21623	3166161	2114317	648.15	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	237	321	7230	4377	43.30	
3.	Assam	3	3	903	1746	190663	148971	158.03	
4.	Bihar	26	25	17125	0	843499	843499	1495.80	
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	3	117	3504	270085	122316	148.94	
6.	Gujarat	3	3	0	2409	243397	188471	60.84	
7.	Haryana	4	4	0	1075	116814	49198	48.48	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	0	1118	2531	647	25.02	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	3	103	1444	99088	59731	97.62	
10.	Jharkhand	13	13	8727	4379	1469520	942319	1277.17	
11.	Karnataka	17	17	49	21152	1319939	631828	575.39	
12.	Kerala	1	1	0	38	23799	17834	19.75	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	8	8	115	9653	565912	311295	395.57	
14.	Maharashtra	4	4	0	4062	355590	282536	52.60	

15. Manipur	2	2	186	270	25136	14447	64.07
16. Meghalaya	2	2	174	797	41495	23676	45.99
17. Mizoram	2	2	90	209	15331	8618	41.75
18. Nagaland	2	2	12	279	21701	14280	16.25
19. Orissa	4	4	2602	4637	598625	335080	434.10
20. Punjab							
21. Rajasthan	25	24	1705	15608	1009310	698651	453.23
22. Sikkim	2	2	16	158	10320	3724	28.09
23. Tamil Nadu							
24. Tripura	1	1	48	72	20548	13119	19.57
25. Uttar Pradesh	64	65	29051	3287	1694075	1120648	2719.51
26. Uttaranchal	13	13	1469	14105	357309	281615	643.89
27. West Bengal	13	13	4283	0	145918	97847	385.03
Total	235	234	67012	111936	12613996	8310056	9696.14

RGGVY

*131. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether serious obstacles have cropped up in the way of carrying out electrification under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana in Jharkhand due to objections raised by the Environment and Forests Department;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to expedite the electrification work so far in this regard along with the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Although no objections have been raised by the Environment and Forest Department for carrying out electrification under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) in Jharkhand, difficulties were experienced by implementing agencies for carrying out rural electrification works under RGGVY due to delays in grant of forest clearance by Forest Department of Jharkhand/Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(b) Under RGGVY, electricity lines have to be laid through forest areas which require forest clearance and approval for diversion of forest land for non forest activities under Section-2 of the Forest Conservation Act. This requires the following of prescribed procedures needing route details of High Tension line passing through protected forest and "jungle-jhari" land and plotting the same on mouza/village map and topo sheets. A single 11 KV line may involve 50 to 60 mouza/village maps. Sometimes these maps are not readily available. Without these details, it is not possible to process proposal for forest clearance.

(c) On pursuance by Ministry of Power and other stakeholders of the scheme, procedure for submission of proposal for obtaining forest clearance for implementation of RGGVY in the State of Jharkhand has been simplified recently by Ministry of Environment and Forests. The proposal now has to be submitted under

"Simplified procedure for certain categories of proposals" as per Para 2.4 of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (with amendments made in 1988), Forest Conservation Rules, 2003 (with amendments made in 2004), guidelines and clarifications (up to June, 2004), Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi.

Under the simplified procedure, proposal for forest clearance is required to be submitted only with line plotting on topo sheet along with necessary certificates.

The implementing agency has submitted proposals for forest clearance under simplified procedure for Dhanbad, Koderma and Bokaro Districts to the respective forest divisions for obtaining approval at the earliest.

[English]

Installation of Wind Mills

*132. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of wind-mills functioning in the country, as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether some sites have been identified to install new wind mills in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Wind Power Projects with an aggregate installed capacity of 7660 MW, comprising of Wind Turbines of 225 kW to 1650 kW unit capacities, have been set up in the country, till 30th September, 2007. State-wise details are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. 216 potential sites, having annual mean wind power density of 200 Watt/square meter or more at 50 meter elevation, have been

identified, which are considered suitable for installation of wind power projects. State-wise information is given in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I**State-wise Wind Power Installed Capacity
(As on 30-09-2007)**

State	Capacity (MW)
Andhra Pradesh	122.4
Gujarat	806.0
Karnataka	853.2

State	Capacity (MW)
Kerala	2.0
Madhya Pradesh	57.3
Maharashtra	1622.2
Rajasthan	493.9
Tamil Nadu	3698.9
West Bengal	1.1
Orissa	3.2
Total	7660.2

Statement-II**State-wise details of potential site in the country**

Sl. No.	States	Location	Potential Sites
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Ananthapur, Vishakapatnam, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Chittur, Nellore, Rangareddy	32
2.	Gujarat	Kutch, Junagadh, Rajkot, Surendranagar, Jamnagar, Amreili, Porebander, Bhavnagar	38
3.	Karnataka	Chikkamagalur, Dharwad, Chamarajanagar, Belgaum, Raichur, Bijapur, Chitradurga, Gadag, Bellari	26
4.	Kerala	Palakkad, Idukki, Thirvananthapuram	17
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Dewas, Betul, Shajahpur, Ratlam, Khargone	7
6.	Maharashtra	Kolhapur, Satara, Nasik, Dhule, Nandurbar, Sangli, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar, Pune, Beed, Sindhudurg, Latur	31
7.	Orissa	Balasore, Ganjam, Koraput, Cuttack, Puri	6
8.	Tamil Nadu	Thirunelveli, Coimbatore, Madurai, Chengelpet, Kanyakumari, Tuticourin, Theni, Erode, Dindigul	41
9.	Rajasthan	Chittorgarh, Sikar, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur	7

1	2	3	4
10.	Uttaranchal	Narendranagar	1
11.	West Bengal	South 24 Paraganas	1
12.	Andaman and Nicobar	Nicobar	1
13.	Lakshadweep	Kavarathi	8
Total			216

**Setting Up of Ultra Mega
Power Projects**

*133. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Ultra Mega Power Projects are facing financial problems;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard, project-wise;

(c) the time by which construction work is likely to be completed, project-wise;

(d) whether any project is likely to be set-up with the assistance of Japan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) Under the Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) initiative launched by the Ministry of Power, the Central Electricity Authority had identified sites in different States for setting up the UMPPs. These projects are being developed on a Build, Own and Operate basis, and the project developer is selected through a tariff based competitive bidding process. There is no bar on the participation of bidding companies from any country including Japan, and it is the responsibility of the selected developer to tie up the funds required for the project. While the bidding process for the Mundra and Sasan UMPPs, has been completed, it is currently under process for the Krishnapatnam and Tilaiya UMPPs. The bidding process for the other UMPPs will

be taken up after the sites and the requisite clearances are available. In respect of the UMPP in Mundra, the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), that is Coastal Gujarat Power Ltd. (CGPL) which was transferred to the selected developer had recently informed that the contracts have been entered into for supply of boiler and steam turbine generator packages.

The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the Mundra UMPP was signed on 22-4-2007, and for the Sasan UMPP on 7-06-2007. The scheduled Commercial Operation Dates for different units as indicated by the selected developers in the respective PPAs are as follows:—

	Months from signing of PPA	
	Sasan UMPP (6 units of 660 MW each)	Mundra UMPP (5 units of 800 MW each)
Unit-1	69	64
Unit-2	76	70
Unit-3	83	76
Unit-4	90	82
Unit-5	97	88
Unit-6	104	—

However, the developers have an option under the PPA to advance the commissioning schedule.

Power Generation and Power Theft

*134. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hydro and Thermal Power plants functioning in the country and the total power being generated therefrom as on date;

(b) the demand for power from Agricultural, Industrial and domestic sector State-wise;

(c) whether 40 per cent power generated is stolen and there is no check in the country on this; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the strategies chalked out by the Government to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) As on 31st October 2007, 131 hydro and 302 thermal power plants were functioning in the country and the total power generated from them was 395,280 Million Units for the period April to October, 2007.

(b) According to the 'Report on 17th Electric Power Survey of India' March, 2007 published by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the projected consumption of electrical energy for the year 2007-08 in agricultural, industrial and domestic sectors in the country would be 112,626, 180,912 and 134,962 Million Units respectively. The state-wise details of projected energy consumption for agricultural, industrial and domestic sectors for the year 2007-08 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) To assess the losses in transmission and distribution of power, the concept of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT and C) losses was introduced in 2001-02. AT and C loss parameters capture not only technical losses, but also theft, pilferage and commercial losses due to poor feeder, distribution transformer and consumer metering, poor billing and non-realisation of dues. A report prepared by the Power Finance Corporation indicates that the AT and C Loss of the State Power Utilities at the national level for 2005-06 was 34.54%.

The main reasons for AT and C losses are:—

(I) Technical Losses

- Overloading of existing lines and substation equipments
- Old and outdated network
- Low High Tension: Low Tension Ratio
- Poor repair and Maintenance of equipments
- Non installation of sufficient capacitors
- Substandard and inefficient, poor quality distribution equipments
- Poor power factor of consumer end devices.

(II) Commercial Losses

- Defective meters
- Theft and Pilferage
- Tampering of Meters
- Low accountability of employees
- Poor metering efficiency
- Poor billing efficiency
- Non realization of dues.

The reduction of technical and commercial losses is one of the critical components for improving distribution segment which come largely in the purview of the State. The Government has taken various initiatives to reduce the AT and C losses which inter-alia include:—

- (i) Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) was launched in 2002-03 under which Additional Central Assistance was provided to States for taking up the following technical, commercial and management measures.

(a) Technical Measures

- Upgradation and strengthening of the weak distribution system
- Relocation of distribution sub-stations and/or provision of additional distribution sub-stations
- Installation of lower capacity distribution transformers to serve a smaller number/cluster of consumers and substitution of distribution transformers with those having lower no-load losses
- Installation of shunt capacitors
- Adoption of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS)
- Regular maintenance of distribution network
- GIS mapping of sub transmission and distribution network including compilation of data
- IT intervention

(b) Commercial Measures

- Improvement in metering and billing
- Improvement in revenue collection.

(c) Management Measures

- Adoption of energy accounting and auditing
 - Proper network planning for future expansion
 - Preparation of long-term plans on regular basis for phased strengthening and improvement of the distribution systems along with associated transmission system
 - Training of employees.
- (ii) To enable effective control of theft of electricity, the Electricity Act, 2003 has incorporated specific provisions for detection of theft, speedy trial of theft related offences by setting up Special Courts and Police Stations and also for the recovery of the charges of electricity stolen. Based on the feedback from the States and other stakeholders, the Central Government has further strengthened the theft related provisions in the Act by enacting the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2007. By this amendment Act, theft of electricity has been explicitly made a cognizable and non-bailable offence. The distribution licensees have been empowered to disconnect the supply of electricity upon detection of theft. The penalty for repeated theft of electricity by large consumers has also been enhanced.

Statement

State-wise/UT-wise details of Projected energy consumption for Agricultural, Industrial and Domestic sectors for the year 2007-08

(Figures in Million Units)

State/UT/Region	Agriculture	Industries (HT + LT)	Domestic
1	2	3	4
Delhi	72	3258	8982

1	2	3	4
Haryana	7692	4923	3922
Himachal Pradesh	50	3569	944
Jammu and Kashmir	182	1072	2179
Punjab	10468	11311	7268
Rajasthan	7232	7298	5336
Uttar Pradesh	6346	8957	14633
Uttaranchal	615	1246	1438
Chandigarh	3	302	488
Sub Total (NR)	32658	41935	45191
Goa	22	1505	586
Gujarat	13652	19605	7165
Chhattisgarh	1519	6321	2181
Madhya Pradesh	7236	6368	6200
Maharashtra	12721	28244	16276
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8	2573	47
Daman and Diu	4	1423	53
Sub Total (WR)	35161	66040	32508
Andhra Pradesh	18603	14058	10628
Karnataka	11506	8632	5526
Kerala	273	3937	5327
Tamil Nadu	11326	16539	15436
Lakshadweep	0	1	0
Pondicherry	129	1744	377
Sub Total (SR)	41637	44909	37294
Bihar	1443	1124	3329
Jharkhand	89	8792	1821

1	2	3	4
Orissa	326	5198	4224
West Bengal	949	11141	7740
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	6	97
Sikkim	0	22	60
Sub Total (ER)	2807	26277	17174
Assam	61	944	1553
Manipur	3	48	177
Meghalaya	1	587	328
Nagaland	0	87	147
Tripura	97	65	257
Arunachal Pradesh	0	7	80
Mizoram	3	5	141
Sub Total (NER)	164	1743	2683
Islands			
Andaman and Nicobar	0	6	97
Lakshadweep	0	1	17
Total (All India)	112626	180912	134962

Source: 17th EPS Report

6th Pay Commission

*135. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 6th Pay Commission has by now completed all the base work for the final preparation of their Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has referred the

question of age of retirement to the Commission for a specific recommendation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The 6th Central Pay Commission is in the process of preparing its report which is expected to be made available to the Government before 4th April, 2008, i.e. within 18 months from the date of its constitution.

The specific issue of the age of the retirement of

Government servants does not form part of the Terms of Reference of the 6th Central Pay Commission. While references received in this regard are forwarded from time to time to the 6th Central Pay Commission for examination, the Government has not referred the question of age of retirement to the Commission for a specific recommendation.

New Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy

*136. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the New Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy recently;

(b) if so, the details of the areas of main thrust therein;

(c) whether the new Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy has special provisions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and displaced farmers;

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

(e) whether, the Government proposes to give a statutory status to the said policy by amending the Land Acquisition Act, 1894; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The revised National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 formulated by this Department has been approved by the Cabinet on 11th October, 2007 and the same has been published in the Gazette of India on 31st October, 2007. The revised policy has been placed in the public domain at the websites of the Ministry of Rural Development (<http://rural.nic.in>) and Department of Land Resources (<http://dolr.nic.in>). Some highlights of the revised policy are:

- Policy covers all cases of involuntary displacement;
- Social Impact Assessment (SIA) introduced for displacement of 400/200 or more families in plain/tribal, hilly, Scheduled Areas, etc;

- Tribal Development Plan in case of displacement of 200+ST families;
- Consultations with Gram Sabhas or public hearings made compulsory;
- Principle of rehabilitation before displacement;
- If possible, land for land as compensation;
- Skill development support and preference in project jobs (one person per nuclear family);
- Rehabilitation Grant in lieu of land/job;
- Option for shares in companies implementing projects to affected families;
- Housing benefits to all affected families including the landless;
- Monthly pension to the vulnerable, such as disabled, destitute, orphans, widows, unmarried girls, etc;
- Monetary benefits linked to the Consumer Price Index; also to be revised suitably at periodic intervals;
- Necessary infrastructural facilities and amenities at resettlement areas;
- Periphery development by project authorities;
- R and R Committee for each Project, to be headed by Administrator for R and R;
- Ombudsman for grievance redressal;
- National Rehabilitation Commission for external oversight.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The revised policy covers all projects leading to involuntary displacement of people, and para 7.21 envisages special provisions for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, the main features of which are given below:—

- Consultation with the concerned gram sabha or the panchayats at the appropriate level in the Scheduled Areas under Schedule V of

the Constitution and in accordance with the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.

- Each affected family of Scheduled Tribe followed by Scheduled Caste shall be given preference in allotment of land for land, if Government land is available in the resettlement area.
- In case of land being acquired from the members of the Scheduled Tribes, at least one third of the compensation amount be paid at the outset as first instalment and the rest at the time of taking over the possession of the land.
- Additional one time financial assistance equivalent to five hundred days minimum agricultural wages for loss of customary rights or usages of forest produce.
- Scheduled Tribes to get free of cost land for community and religious gathering, to the extent decided by the appropriate government.
- Scheduled Tribes affected families resettled out of district to get twenty-five per cent higher benefits in monetary terms.
- Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes affected families to be given fishing rights in the reservoir area of the irrigation or hydel projects.
- Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes affected families enjoying reservation benefits in the affected area shall be entitled to get the reservation benefits at the resettlement areas.

(e) and (f) The Union Cabinet has approved the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2007 and the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2007 to give a statutory status to the said policy and to suitably amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

Committee on Land Reforms

*137. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to form a committee on 'State Agrarian Relations and Unfinished Task in Land Reforms';

(b) if so, the terms of reference thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate National Land Reforms Policy and to set up the National Land Reforms Council to facilitate land reforms;

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

(e) the time by which the National Land Reforms Policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. It has been decided by Government of India to constitute a "Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms" under the Chairmanship of Minister for Rural Development and a "National Council for Land Reforms" under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The composition, terms of reference, etc. of the Committee and the Council are being finalized.

[Translation]

Financial Grants for Development of Cities

*138. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many hurdles are coming in the way of development of cities because of low-income of Municipal Corporations and Municipalities;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for extending financial grants to Municipal Corporations and Municipalities; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Municipalities is a State subject. Low income of municipalities may be one of the reasons coming in the way of development of cities.

(b) and (c) The Government of India launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005 to give focused attention to integrated development of urban infrastructure and services in select 63 cities as well as Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) which provide for reforms linked financial assistance to municipal bodies. A total financial assistance of Rs. 50,000 crore has been envisaged under the above components over the Mission period of 7 years (2005-06 to 2011-12). The financial assistance available under JNNURM for urban infrastructure varies from 35% to 90% depending upon demographic size and location. Cities having population more than 40 lakh are eligible for central assistance of 35% of approved project cost, whereas cities having population between 10 lakh and 40 lakh and less than 10 lakh are eligible for central assistance of 50% and 80% respectively. The cities in the States of North East and Jammu and Kashmir are eligible for central assistance of 90% of approved project cost.

The financial assistance available under UIDSSMT

is of the order of 80%. In case of States in the North East and Jammu and Kashmir, the cities are eligible for central assistance of 90% of approved project cost.

[English]

Strengthening of the Rupee

*139. **SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:**
SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rupee has been getting stronger against other currencies during the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect certain sectors of the economy which have been adversely affected by this appreciation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A depreciation of the US dollar against major currencies and increased capital flows have led to appreciation of the rupee *vis-a-vis* the US dollar. To the extent that Reserve Bank of India (RBI), with a view to reduce undue volatility, intervened in the foreign exchange market, such appreciation was moderated. The rupee has appreciated by lower levels against other major currencies like Euro, Pound Sterling and Japanese Yen. The extent appreciation of the rupee against major currencies is indicated below.

Appreciation (+)/depreciation (-) of the rupee against major currencies

(In per cent)

	US\$	Euro	Pound Sterling	J. Yen
October 2007 over April 2007	6.67	1.32	3.83	3.95

Source: Compiled from RBI data.

(c) As there was widespread concern on possible lagged adverse impact of rupee appreciation on export growth, Government had announced relief measures on

an ongoing basis. These, *inter alia*, include: enhancement of duty entitlement passbook rates for nine affected export sectors (textiles including handloom, readymade

garments, leather products, handicrafts, engineering products, processed agricultural products, marine products, sports goods and toys) by 3 per cent and other export sectors by 2 per cent; reduction of Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation premium by 10 per cent of the existing premium rates; enhancement of the rates of duty drawback ranging from 10 per cent to 40 per cent for many items; interest subvention on pre and post-shipment credit for select affected sectors; provision for paying interest on outstanding balances of Export Earners Foreign Currency accounts to the extent of US\$ 1 million per exporter up to 31-10-2008; and increasing the number of services eligible for refund/exemption of service tax.

[Translation]

Cases Registered under MRTTP Act

*140. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered by The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTTP) during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases disposed off during the above period;

(c) whether MRTTP has faced difficulty in discharging its responsibility in satisfactory manner; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (d) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has been satisfactorily discharging responsibilities assigned to the Commission under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969. Position with regards to various types of cases registered/pending with MRTPC since 1-1-2004 is given below:—

Year	Enquiries	Pendency at the beginning of the year	Cases registered/ instituted during the year	Cases disposed of during the year	Cases pending at the end of the year
1	2	3	4	5	6
2004	RTPE*	375	23	31	367
01-01-2004	UTPE*	533	86	51	568
to	MTPE*	7	0	2	5
31-12-2004	CA*	1191	89	116	1164
2005	RTPE	367	35	64	338
01-01-2005	UTPE	568	112	74	608
to	MTPE	5	0	0	5
31-12-2005	CA	1164	127	144	1147
2006	RTPE	338	73	104	307

1	2	3	4	5	6
01-01-2006	UTPE	606	149	172	583
to	MTPE	5	0	0	5
31-12-2006	CA	1147	176	213	1110
2007	RTPE	307	32	52	287
01-01-2007	UTPE	583	168	111	640
to	MTPE	5	0	2	3
31-10-2007	CA	1110	86	74	1122

*RTPE: Restrictive Trade Practices Enquiries

*UTPE: Unfair Trade Practices Enquiries

*MTPE: Monopolies Trade Practices Enquiries

*CA: Compensation Application

Loan Under PMRY

959. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loans provided by nationalized banks; cooperative banks and private banks under PMRY in Karnataka during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether any target has been set by the RBI for the above banks with regard to disbursement of loans under PMRY;

(c) whether the targets have been achieved by the above banks; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of target and loans disbursed by public and private sector banks during the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) in the State of Karnataka are as under:

Year	Target (No. of beneficiaries)	Loan disbursed under PMRY	
		No. of Accounts against which loans were disbursed	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
2002-03	10500	10026	6328.81
2003-04	10800	11929	7166.13
2004-05	12000	13931	8866.82
2005-06	11046	19246	11756.60
2006-07	11387	18512	10986.46

The scheme is not implemented through cooperative banks.

(b) and (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not set any target for the implementing banks for PMRY. The Government of India allocates the year-wise target (number of beneficiaries to be assisted under PMRY) to all the States/Union Territories. As indicated above, the number of accounts against which loans were disbursed under PMRY was higher than the target (number of beneficiaries) in the State of Karnataka.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Indian Bank Branches Abroad

960. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open more Indian Bank branches abroad, particularly in USA and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the concerned countries; and

(d) if so, their reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The decision to open a branch/office abroad is a decision to be taken by the banks in accordance with their business plans. The applications of Indian banks for opening of their branches/offices abroad are considered by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/ Government under the applicable laws, regulations, norms and procedures.

As regards opening of Indian banks' branches in United States of America (USA), out of the applications of three Indian banks for a branch licence in the United States of America (USA), the Federal Reserve Board of the USA has recently approved the proposal of ICICI Bank to upgrade its Representative Office into a Bank Branch. The other two proposals of State Bank of India

(SBI) and Bank of Baroda (BoB) for opening additional branches in USA have not yet been approved. The delay in SBI and BoB obtaining a licence for their additional branches in USA has been taken up by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India with their counter-parts in the USA.

As regards Indian banks' presence in Pakistan, an understanding has been reached between the RBI and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on granting permission for opening two branches of banks from India and Pakistan in each others' country, on a reciprocal basis. The specific banks to be permitted to open the branches would be mutually agreed upon by RBI and SBP keeping in view their respective regulatory policies and procedures.

Allocation of Funds under Rural Development Schemes

961. PROF. M. RAMADASS:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds sanctioned under various rural development schemes during each of the last three years, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether funds are also being provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations for carrying out Centrally sponsored rural development schemes;

(c) if so, the detail of the amount released to the Non-Governmental Organisations under Rural Development Schemes during each of the last three years, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether the progress of the work done by these NGOs have been monitored by the Government;

(e) if so, the details of the works carried out by these NGOs;

(f) whether some NGOs have been found to be committing frauds recently;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Details of funds sanctioned/Central Allocation under various allocation based schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development during the last three years (i.e.

2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Rural Development does not directly provide any funds to the Non-Governmental Organisation for carrying out Centrally sponsored rural development schemes.

(d) to (h) Do not arise.

Statement

State-wise/U.T.-wise Central Allocation under major Rural Development Schemes during last 3 years.

Sl. No.	State Name	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70556.79	89840.20	73767.79
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12389.24	17392.82	18147.55
3.	Assam	76768.88	101348.07	90219.58
4.	Bihar	132065.40	190476.34	163214.62
5.	Chhattisgarh	30989.39	51538.73	41995.75
6.	Goa	1197.28	1365.92	1422.03
7.	Gujarat	30169.71	45589.26	43798.87
8.	Haryana	13739.86	16089.22	17878.20
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15425.64	23039.00	21798.64
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	19654.49	32273.52	35282.37
11.	Jharkhand	65525.82	72373.73	39771.65
12.	Karnataka	53146.87	63439.54	61620.33
13.	Kerala	21983.33	24911.37	24951.49
14.	Madhya Pradesh	75855.86	107692.40	93488.77
15.	Maharashtra	89478.06	107096.70	97682.92
16.	Manipur	7996.36	10102.29	10183.35
17.	Meghalaya	10411.23	12721.13	12113.92

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Mizoram	4959.93	6588.73	6692.97
19.	Nagaland	6917.61	8798.86	8798.65
20.	Orissa	72811.28	92446.51	68591.05
21.	Punjab	13734.48	17137.40	16969.88
22.	Rajasthan	64724.33	93122.72	87866.25
23.	Sikkim	3752.59	4695.34	4603.31
24.	Tamil Nadu	50683.93	60667.24	56211.99
25.	Tripura	11484.12	14311.82	13767.13
26.	Uttar Pradesh	176791.75	209188.73	178876.66
27.	Uttrakhand	19168.09	24569.35	24394.83
28.	West Bengal	78567.50	97858.66	80891.87
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	557.67	690.95	742.42
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	332.68	298.29	306.98
31.	Daman and Diu	186.70	173.74	191.33
32.	Lakshdweep	182.91	218.60	227.79
33.	Pondicherry	489.46	578.20	630.93
Total		1232702.05	1598640.07	1397007.13

Programmes includes:

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)

Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

District Rural Development Agency Administration (DRDA Admin)

Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

[Translation]

Subsidy on Power to Farmers

962. SHRI KIREN RIJUJ:

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Parikh Committee in its report has suggested for discontinuation of subsidy on power being given to the farmers in the country;

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) There is no such recommendation in the Report of the Expert Committee on 'Integrated Energy Policy' which had been set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Kirit S. Parikh, Member, Planning commission.

- (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Benches of Supreme Court

983. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Constitution to set up Benches of Supreme Court in other parts of the country; and

- (b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Chief Justice of India as well as the Full Court have been consistently opposed to the proposal for the setting up of the Benches of the Supreme Court in other parts of the country. Advocate-on-Record or a petitioner-in-person can, however, file cases in the Supreme Court of India through Internet.

Electronic Stamping

984. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides assistance to introduce electronic stamping of legal documents in States; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Union Government has authorised the Stock

Holding Corporation of India Limited to function as Central Record Keeping Agency for introduction of electronic stamping system by the State Governments initially for a period of five years. It provides need based infrastructure, hardware and software, training etc. to the respective State Governments, desirous to participate in the project.

Relaxation in Norms of PMGSY

965. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prescribed norms for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are not favourable to each State;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has received requests from some States regarding amendments/relaxations in norms prescribed for implementation of the Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) The prime objective of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is to provide all-weather connectivity to all the unconnected habitations in the rural areas with a population of 500 or more persons in the plain areas and all unconnected habitations with population of 250 or more persons in Hill States, Desert areas and Tribal areas. Some States have made suggestions to amend/relax the prescribed norms keeping in view the sparse distribution of population due to peculiar geographical conditions in various areas in their States and also for relaxing norms of Geometric standards relating to land width, gradients etc.

(e) As the original objective of providing all-weather connectivity to eligible habitations under PMGSY has not been achieved. General relaxation in the population norm has not been accepted. On relaxation of technical

aspects, an Expert Committee has been constituted to go into the details of Standards, Specifications and Design of Rural Roads.

**Minting of Visual Handicapped
Friendly Coins**

966. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether all the new series coins are round and not sensitive to the needs of people with visual impairment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure minting of visual handicapped friendly coins?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) It is a fact that all the new series of coins are round in shape. However, they are sensitive to the needs of people with visual impairment as their weight and diameters are different. In the case of Rs. 5 coins, security edging has also been provided.

**Technology for Welfare and Rehabilitation of
the Handicapped**

967. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing the Science and Technology Project in Mission Mode on "Application of Technology for the Welfare and Rehabilitation of the Handicapped";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the nature of assistance provided under the project;

(d) the funds provided to the scientific bodies for research and development for developing appropriate durable equipments during each of the last three years; and

(e) the number of beneficiaries of the project during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme's objective is for design/development of suitable high quality and cost-effective aids and appliances to enhance the opportunities for persons with disabilities for (i) employment, (ii) easier living and mobility, (iii) communication, (iv) recreation and (v) integration in the society through educational and skill development.

(c) Hundred per cent funding as grant is provided under the project to organizations equipped with necessary infrastructure and having competence of product development.

(d) The funds released during the last three years are as under:

Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
2004-05	36.50
2005-06	40.47
2006-07	50.00

(e) The aids and appliances designed/developed under the scheme are used by a large number of persons with disabilities but it is not possible to specify their number.

**Pending Proposals Regarding
Re-Survey of Lands**

968. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal regarding re-survey of Government lands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter is still pending with the Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Proposals seeking release of funds for survey/resurvey including purchase of modern equipment for the purpose are received from the State Governments and Union territory Administrations from time to time. The proposals are examined, and based on the justification and availability of budget provision with Government of India, funds are released to the States/UTs. During the current year also, proposals have been received for survey/resurvey from States. However, funds have not been released to any State so far.

[Translation]

Oustees of BBMB

969. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the welfare measures taken for the displaced peoples by the Bhakra Beas Management Board, Chandigarh;

(b) the welfare measures taken by the Board in the areas under its jurisdiction specially in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years; and

(c) the amount released each year for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) During the construction of Bhakra Dam Project, Punjab Government, as per the approved Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R and R) Policy had taken necessary action for the settlement of the displaced persons and this was completed during the period prior to the formation of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB). Regarding Pong Dam oustees, action on their settlement is being undertaken by the respective State Governments (Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh) under the guidance of the High Powered Committee constituted by the government under the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court headed by Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources with the Revenue Secretaries of the Governments of Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan as its members.

The social welfare activities undertaken by the BBMB in the areas under its jurisdiction, including in Himachal Pradesh, during the last three years include free medical camps, donation of benches, mats and ceiling fans to Government schools, development of children parks in schools, de-silting of ponds, donation of sports and amusement facilities to Government schools and drinking water arrangements. The amount released for this purpose during the last three years is as under:—

2004-05	Rs. 8.27 lacs
2005-06	Rs. 45.88 lacs
2006-07	Rs. 43.16 lacs

[English]

Complaints under PMRY

970. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints from some States and beneficiaries under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) about large scale rejection of applications and delay in sanctioning and disbursement of loans by public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints received during each of the last two years, State-wise particularly in respect of Karnataka;

(d) the banks which are major defaulters in this regard; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Complaints are received from time to time by the Government regarding rejection of applications, delay in sanctioning and disbursement of loans, etc. under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY).

(b) to (d) State-wise and bank-wise details of the

number of complaints received are not maintained by the Government.

(e) Steps taken to ensure that rejection of applications and delay in sanctioning and disbursement of loans are minimized, include issue of instructions to banks by the RBI to dispose of the applications within a prescribed time frame, making District Selection Committees responsible for selection and recommendation of suitable projects and beneficiaries, and endorsement of one copy of the loan sanction letter to the District Industries Centre (DIC) so that the latter can assist the beneficiaries in completing pre-disbursement formalities in a timely and appropriate manner.

Housing Facilities for Urban Areas

971. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented any such scheme aimed at providing housing facilities to urban poor who are almost dwelling on footpath and other open sites to protect themselves from onslaught of natural climate conditions;

(b) if so, the brief details of such schemes with the release of funds, State-wise during the last three years;

(c) whether there is any complaint from any State Governments for discriminatory allocation of funds under IHSDP; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Scheme known as Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) was launched in December, 2001 for providing housing to the Below Poverty Line population as well as Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society in urban areas.

With a view to provide housing and basic services to the urban poor including slum dwellers, the Central Government launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005. The Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) component of JNNURM assists 63 select cities with projects for construction of houses and provision of basic services to the urban poor including security of tenure at affordable prices, improved housing, water supply, sanitation and ensuring delivery through convergence of other already existing universal services for education, health and social security. Other cities/towns are covered under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) component of JNNURM. Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is provided to states to the tune of 50 to 90% of project cost under BSUP and 80 to 90% of project cost under the IHSDP depending upon the category of city/town.

The duration of JNNURM is seven years beginning from the 2005-06. VAMBAY has been subsumed in the IHSDP. State-wise details of the funds released under VAMBAY, BSUP and IHSDP during the last three years are given in the Statement-I, II and III enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Funds Released during last 3 years for VAMBAY Scheme (as on 31-10-2007)

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	Total Subsidy Released in 2004-05 (Rs. in crores)	Total Subsidy Released in 2005-06 (Rs. in crores)	Total Subsidy Released in 2006-07 (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	34.92	71.27	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	2.73	0.00
3.	Bihar	0.00	0.04	0.00
4.	Chattiegarh	0.00	11.24	1.21
5.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	4.51	1. 27	0.18
7.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.64	0.79	0.00
9.	Jharkhand	7.19	6.96	0.00
10.	Karnataka	4.06	17.74	0.00
11.	Kerala	2.00	13.37	6.22
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3.16	0.50	0.00
13.	Maharashtra	132.45	16.23	0.00
14.	Manipur	0.00	0.88	0.00
15.	Nagaland	0.06	1.14	0.00
16.	Orissa	0.16	0.00	0.00
17.	Pondicherry	1.24	0.00	0.00
18.	Rajasthan	6.50	0.17	0.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	47.06	17.54	3.06
20.	Tripura	0.00	0.48	0.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	19.92	0.00	0.00
22.	Uttranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	West Bengal	4.70	1. 67	0.00
24.	HUDCO/Ministry	0.05	0.00	0.00
Total		206.81	164.02	10.69

Statement-II**JNNURM****Basic Service to the Urban Poor
(Sub Mission II)**

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
		ACA released by M/o Finance (Rs. in crores)	ACA released by M/o Finance (Rs. in crores)	ACA released by M/o Finance (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh		62.89	81.85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		0.00	0.00
3.	Bihar		0.00	0.00
4.	Chattisgarh		0.00	78.05
5.	Chandigarh		0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi		0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat		0.00	98.68
8.	Haryana		0.00	4.58
9.	Himachal Pradesh		0.00	1.76
10.	Karnataka		0.00	27.71
11.	Kerala		0.00	11.84
12.	Madhya Pradesh		9.25	39.54
13.	Maharashtra		0.00	287.58
14.	Meghalaya	No fund was released as the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) was launched on December, 3, 2005	0.00	0.00
15.	Nagaland		0.00	15.51
16.	Orissa		0.00	0.00
17.	Puducherry		0.00	0.00
18.	Punjab		0.00	0.00
19.	Rajasthan		0.00	24.85

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Tamil Nadu		0.00	83.00
21.	Tripura		0.00	0.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh		0.00	0.00
23.	West Bengal		0.00	137.17
Total			72.14	901.78

Statement-III*Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)*

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	2004-05	2005-05	2006-07
		ACA released by M/o Finance (Rs. in crores)	ACA released by M/o Finance (Rs. in crores)	ACA released by M/o Finance (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh		0.00	83.33
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		0.00	0.00
3.	Assam		0.00	5.09
4.	Bihar		0.00	8.96
5.	Chattisgarh		0.00	31.26
6.	Goa		0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat		0.00	18.00
8.	Haryana		0.00	49.61
9.	Himachal Pradesh		0.00	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir		0.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand		0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka		0.00	14.93
13.	Kerala		0.00	21.46

1	2	3	4	5	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	No fund was released as the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) was launched on December 3, 2005	0.00	45.77	
15.	Maharashtra		0.00	55.80	
16.	Manipur		0.00	0.00	
17.	Meghalaya		0.00	0.00	
18.	Mizoram		0.00	0.00	
19.	Nagaland		0.00	9.63	
20.	Orissa		0.00	0.00	
21.	Punjab		0.00	0.00	
22.	Rajasthan		0.00	39.26	
23.	Sikkim		0.00	0.00	
24.	Tamil Nadu		0.00	43.37	
25.	Tripura		0.00	0.00	
26.	Uttar Pradesh		0.00	11.05	
27.	Uttaranchal		0.00	0.00	
28.	West Bengal		0.00	55.08	
29.	Delhi		0.00	0.00	
30.	Pondicherry		0.00	0.00	
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		0.00	0.00	
32.	Chandigarh		0.00	0.00	
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		0.00	0.00	
34.	Lakshadweep		0.00	0.00	
35.	Daman and Diu		0.00	0.00	
Total			0.00	492.60	

National Investment Fund

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

(a) whether Government has launched National Investment Fund (NIF);

(b) if so, the details alongwith its utility thereof;

(c) whether any Advisory Board is also set up to advise the NIF on various aspects of the functioning of the Fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Investment Fund was launched on 6th October, 2007;

(b) The proceeds from disinvestment of Government's equity in Central Public Sector Enterprises would be channelised into the National Investment Fund (NIF). The corpus of NIF will be of a permanent nature. NIF would be professionally managed to provide sustainable returns to the Government, without depleting the corpus. 75% of the annual income of NIF will be used to finance selected social sector schemes, which promote education, health and employment. The residual 25% of the annual income of NIF will be used to meet the capital investment requirements of profitable and revivable PSUs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Advisory Board was constituted with the following part-time members:

- (i) Shri S.B. Mathur, Former Chairman, LIC;
- (ii) Shri B.D. Narang, Former Chairman, Oriental Bank of Commerce; and
- (iii) Shri D.H. Pai Panandiker, President RPG Foundation and Chairman International Life Sciences Institute, India.

Foreign Fund Inflows

973. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of Government's external debt status report, the Government has now decided to limit the level of such debt, restrict their end-use and also to monitor short term loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the foreign fund inflows are directly

affecting the economy at large and not being properly controlled by the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such rising inflow of foreign funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Government's policy towards external debt is to keep it within manageable limits. This includes, *inter alia*, raising sovereign loans on concessional terms with longer maturities, prepaying high cost loans, rationalising interest rates on Non-Resident Indian (NRI) deposits, restricting end-use of external commercial borrowings (ECBs), monitoring of short-term debt and encouraging non-debt creating capital flows.

(c) and (d) As increase in the net capital inflows could result in reserve accretion with attendant impact on the domestic liquidity, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) uses various monetary instruments to manage liquidity. In respect of portfolio flows, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has put in place prudential norms for investment by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) through Participatory Notes (PNs). In respect of ECB, guidelines have been suitably revised from time-to-time to address the issues including rationalising end-use, encouraging prepayment and outflows. As regards NRI deposits, interest rates are modulated by RBI as warranted. Short-term debt is permitted to be raised only for trade-related purposes under normal terms and conditions. In respect of sovereign debt, the emphasis is on raising of loans on concessional terms.

Flood Control in Assam due to Dikrong River

974. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has proposed any scheme to control flood in down stream of Dikrong River due to diversion of excess water from Ranganadi basin by NEEPCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether environmental impact assessment has

been done by NEEPCO in this regard; and if so, the details thereof?

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) An estimate amounting to Rs. 835.85 lakhs was submitted by the Flood Control Department, Government of Assam for raising and strengthening of embankment of both the banks of Dikrong river including anti-erosion works at different reaches to overcome the flood havoc which is a regular annual feature. On receipt of the above estimate, NEEPCO had agreed to share the financial implications to the tune of Rs. 88.61 lakhs for providing safety measures commensurate with the incremental rise in water levels from Bandardewa to Sessapathar on release of maximum discharge of 160 Cumec from Hoz Power House of Ranganadi HE Project.

However, Government of Assam, Flood Control Department on 9-2-1998 informed NEEPCO that the State Flood Control Department is not in a position to take up the above works due to prevailing fund crisis. The matter was last reviewed and a proposed scheme of Rs. 4777.84 lakhs has been placed by the Government of Assam before their Technical Advisory Committee in December, 2006.

(c) and (d) NEEPCO has not done any environmental impact assessment specifically in respect of the scheme for flood control in Dikrong river due to diversion of excess water from Ranganadi basin. However, comprehensive Environmental Studies, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environment Management Plan (EMP) for the Pare Hydro Electric Project, 110 MW (formerly known as Dikrong H.E. Project) across river Dikrong located downstream of Ranganadi Hydro electric project (Stage-I), power house were carried out by NEEPCO and study reports of EIA and EMP were submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for clearance. In the EIA/EMP reports, the discharge from tail race of Ranganadi Hydro electric project, Stage-I (405 MW) power house had been duly taken into account for carrying out various studies. Based on these reports, Ministry of Environment and Forests had accorded environment clearance to the Pare Hydroelectric project (110 MW) on Dikrong river.

Revival of Sick SSIs

975. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to give any financial package and incentives for revival of sick Small Scale Industries in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the funds allocated for the purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Energy Management Centre

976. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for setting up of a Regional Centre for Energy Management at Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Kerala requested the Ministry of Power to give directions to Director General, Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore to handover the building, furniture, equipments and other instruments for the use of the new Energy Management Institute and also sought support from Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) for making Energy Management Institute as a National Institute for capacity building in the field of Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency under the guidance of BEE. Further the project report submitted by EMC, Kerala sought Rs. 1.5 crores from BEE.

- (c) No, Sir, the proposal is under consideration.
 (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Awareness Campaign for
Toilet Facilities**

977. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
 SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
 SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
 GAWALI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the recent report of National Family Health Survey that nearly 55 per cent of the households in the country lack toilet facilities;

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

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to initiate a new comprehensive awareness campaign to provide each and every house with toilet facilities in the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per 1991 census, the total percentage of household with latrine in rural areas was about 22%, which has increased to about 48.51% by the end of October 2007. To accelerate the pace of rural sanitation coverage in India, a centrally sponsored programme, namely Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP), was introduced in 1986. Central Rural Sanitation Programme was restructured in 1999 as Total Sanitation Campaign, with focus on demand generation through effective information, education and communication campaign. It is being implemented in rural areas taking district as a unit of implementation. Projects have been approved for 578 rural districts of the country. As a result, total percentage of household with latrine in rural area has increased to about 48.51% by the end of the October, 2007.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has taken various initiatives to increase rural sanitation coverage, which include scaling up Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), launching of incentive-cum-reward scheme, Nirmal Gram Puraskar for Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs etc. and awareness generation activities and capacity development of different stakeholders. Unit cost of IHHL has been revised upwards to Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 2,000 from Rs. 625 and Rs. 1,000 respectively. Provision has been made for APL families who need assistance by providing soft loan through 'Revolving Fund' mechanism for construction of toilets. To increase the speed of providing sanitation facilities in schools and Anganwadi centers, requirement of community contribution for construction of toilets in the schools and Anganwadi centers have been removed. Efforts are being made to develop convergence with National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and Sarva Siksha Abhiyam (SSA) for awareness creation and hygiene education among the people and children in the rural areas. Chain of Rural Sanitary Mart/Production Centre has been set up to ensure timely supply of toilet pans and trained masons.

[English]

Differential Rate of Interest

978. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks offered different rate of interest for depositors opted for lock in scheme;

(b) if so, whether Reserve Bank of India has issued any warning to all the banks in the country against interest indiscrimination;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the banks found violating such warnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given freedom to commercial banks with effect from 22nd October 1997 to fix their own interest rates on domestic term deposits of various maturities with the prior approval of their

respective Board of Directors/Asset Liability Management Committee (ALCO). As such, the rates of interest on deposits are determined by the banks themselves.

As reported by the RBI, it has been brought to the notice of the bank that some banks have been offering special term deposit products to customers, in addition to regular term deposits, with special feature such as lock-in periods, differential rates of interest, etc.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. RBI has issued a circular dated October 25, 2007 to the banks advising them that the special schemes, with lock-in periods and other features referred to in the above circular, which have been floated by some banks, are not in conformity with the RBI instructions. Banks, which have floated such deposit schemes, have been advised to discontinue the schemes with immediate effect and report compliance. Compliance of the instructions by the banks is being monitored by the RBI. A copy of circular is available at RBI website (www.rbi.org.in).

Boom In Stock Market

979. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to recent boom in the stock market;

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

(c) whether the Government has analyzed the reasons behind this;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such boom has any co-relation with higher production and real economic development; and

(f) if not, the steps taken to rationalize it for safety of investors and transparency in share market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) SEBI

has informed that during the current financial year (up to 15th November, 2007), the benchmark indices, namely Sensex and Nifty have moved up by 58.85% and 62.71% respectively.

(b) to (d) Exchanges have been directed by SEBI to analyze steep falls or rises in the market to detect untoward patterns or skewed concentrations. Preliminary analysis for October 2007 does not reveal such findings.

(e) The movement in stock market is a function of the perception of investors—domestic and overseas, retail and institutional—about the economy, the sector and the company. This perception is influenced by many factors including the macro-economic environment, growth potential of the economy, corporate performance, domestic and international events, and market sentiments.

(f) SEBI and the Exchanges have put in place systems and practices to promote a safe, transparent and efficient market and to protect market integrity. The systems include advanced risk management mechanisms comprising on-line monitoring and surveillance and various limits on positions, margin requirements, circuit filters, etc. which reduce the scope for excessive volatility in the market. SEBI has been keeping a constant vigil on the market, irrespective of the levels of the market indices and in case of any abnormality, takes appropriate action against the concerned entities. It has advised the stock exchanges to step up surveillance measures and to initiate expeditious demonstrative action wherever warranted so as to protect investors interest and ensure orderly functioning of the stock market.

[Translation]

T and D Losses

980. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any committee set up to review the transmission and distribution system of power in the country has given certain suggestions in order to reduce T and D losses of power;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has allocated any funds to State Governments to check T and D losses in their States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Government had launched Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the year 2002-03 with the objective of encouraging reforms and of reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT and C) loss, improving quality of supply of power and improving consumer satisfaction. The target was to reduce AT and C losses to 15% in five years to begin with in urban and high density consumption areas. Ministry of Power constituted a Task Force, headed by Shri P. Abraham, former Secretary, Government of India, to assess and analyze the current efforts, suggestions made by various agencies and to suggest restructuring of the programme to achieve the objectives of APDRP. The main recommendations of the Task Force were:

- APDRP to continue with investment and incentive component beyond 10th Five Year Plan.
- Eligibility Criteria may be made more stringent to push States towards reforms.
- The assistance under the programme should focus mainly on such activities, which will help in quick reduction of AT and C loss and improvement in customer services. AT and C loss reduction target should be realistic depending on the current level of each utility.
 - IT based energy accounting and auditing supported by GIS based consumer indexing.

- Spot billing, computerized billing and revenue collection.
 - Consumers care centers schemes for reducing technical loss.
 - Reduction in theft and pilferage.
 - Better operation and monitoring of network.
- Quality Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to be prepared based on verifiable data. The tender documents and specifications should be standardized by the Advisor-cum-Consultants (AcCs) in consultation with the Utilities.
 - Each Distribution Company (DISCOMs) be considered separately for incentive. Ministry may evolve other methods for incentivizing good work. Incentive should be utilized for improvement in the power sector only.

In view of the recommendations/suggestions of the various stakeholders on the implementation of APDRP, the programme is proposed to be continued with the revised terms and conditions during the Eleventh Five Year Plan to make it more effective.

(d) and (e) Government of India had sanctioned 571 projects at the estimated cost of Rs. 17033.58 crores to States under the investment component of APDRP and Rs. 1959.70 crores have been released to nine States under incentive component.

Juvenile Crime

981. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up some more Juvenile Justice Boards in the country so that large number of cases of Juvenile crime can be disposed of expeditiously; and

(b) if so, the time by when they are likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Section

4(1) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 provides that State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute for a district or a group of districts specified in the notification, one or more Juvenile Justice Boards for exercising the powers and discharging the duties conferred or imposed on such Boards in relation to juveniles in conflict with law under the Act. As per the provision of the Act, the Boards are to be constituted in every district by the State Governments within the period of one year from the commencement of this Act.

[English]

Increase in Cash Reserve Ratio

982. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently hiked the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 0.5 per cent or 50 basis points to 7.5 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely impact of increase in CRR on banking sector and general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) On a review of the current liquidity situation and the prevailing macro-economic and monetary conditions, in its Mid-Term Review of Annual Policy for the year 2007-08, RBI has increased the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points from 7.00% to 7.50% of the Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) of the banks w.e.f. the fortnight beginning 10th November, 2007.

(c) In the aforesaid Mid-Term Review, RBI has indicated to continue with its policy of active demand management of liquidity through appropriate use of the CRR stipulations and open market operations (OMO) including the Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS) and the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF), using all the policy instruments at its disposal flexibly, as and when the situation warrants. The increased CRR entails higher cash reserve with RBI and relatively lower liquidity with the banking system. In nutshell, the overall stance of

monetary policy, including the current CRR hike, is to reinforce the emphasis on price stability and well-anchored inflation expectations while ensuring a monetary and interest rate environment that supports export and investment demand in the economy so as to enable continuation of the growth momentum.

FERA Violation

983. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Directorate of Enforcement (DOE) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are conducting investigations pertaining to Jet Airways on alleged legality, status of ownership rights, sources of funding and FERA violations;

(b) if so, complete details of investigations being conducted by the above Departments;

(c) whether investigations carried out by Income-tax Department has revealed that remittances received by Jet Airways has not come through banking channels duly approved by the RBI; and

(d) if so, complete details of remittances received illegally and action taken by the Government against Jet Airways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Directorate of Enforcement is conducting enquiries under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

(b) As enquiries are underway, disclosure of details shall hamper proper completion of enquiries.

(c) Investigation carried out by Income Tax Department has not revealed any remittance received by Jet Airways other than through banking channels.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c).

SBIRI

984. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is operating a Scheme

named "Small Business Innovation Research Initiative" (SBIRI) for promoting Public Private Partnership in R and D of biotechnology;

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

(c) is it true that Research and Development of crop varieties done by some institutions has been suffering due to less grant from Government;

(d) if so, the reasons for sanctioning less grants to these institutions;

(e) whether the Government will consider to sanction sufficient grants to private institutions to encourage them for R&D in Biotechnology;

(f) if so, when; and

(g) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India is operating a scheme "Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI)" for promoting Public Private Partnerships in R and D in Biotechnology. The scheme operates in two phases. Under Phase I, high risk, innovative, early stage, pre-proof of concept research and technology development projects are supported. Under Phase II, funding is provided for late development and commercialization of innovative research leads. The details of the scheme are displayed on the web-site of the department (www.dbtindia.org) and the scheme has been given wide publicity. Proposals have been considered in the areas of health, agriculture and related areas.

(c) and (d) Funds have not been a constraint in supporting SBIRI proposals that have the required merit. Projects on R and D of crop varieties have been supported under the scheme.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. The Government will support suitable proposals as and when received in the Department from private institutions as per the existing procedures. The key objectives of the SBIRI scheme is

to nurture and mentor innovative technologies/entrepreneurs, and to forge appropriate linkages with the academia and Government. Based on the merit of the proposals, grants will be provided to private and public institutions to encourage them to take up R and D in Biotechnology and strengthen Public Private Partnership.

Clearance to NTPC Projects

985. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation's ambitious plan to diversify into hydro-electric generation and coal mining is likely to be delayed due to environmental and land acquisition issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) NTPC Ltd. has taken up implementation of three Hydro-Electric Power Projects (HEPP), namely, Koldam HEPP (4x200 MW), Loharinag Pala HEPP (4x150 MW) and Tapovan Vishnugad HEPP (4x130 MW) which are likely to be commissioned during the 11th Plan period. There is no issue relating to environmental clearance and land acquisition affecting the implementation of the above projects.

So far as coal mining projects of NTPC Ltd. are concerned, Government has allocated six coal blocks to NTPC Ltd., which are under various stages of development. In view of the fact that environment and forest clearance process and land acquisition process are time-consuming, NTPC Ltd. has been making efforts to expedite them so as to commence mining in line with the schedule as per the norms of the Ministry of Coal.

In view of the issues in respect of the forest clearance and land acquisition relating to the Pakri-Barwadh block in the State of Jharkhand, this Ministry has requested the Government of Jharkhand to expedite "No-objection Certificate (NOC)" for forest clearance as well as finalization of schedule of rates for land acquisition.

Kisan Credit Cards

986. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the existing credit limit of farmer's credit cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the credit limit is linked with the land holding by the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether all the Nationalised banks has been authorized to issue these credit cards; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The credit limit under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme formulated by NABARD in 1998-99 is fixed on the basis of the operational land holding, cropping pattern and scales of finance as recommended by the District Level Technical Committee (DLTC)/State Level Technical Committee (SLTC). NABARD has not prescribed any credit limit under KCC.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Companies Act, 1956

987. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cancelled the company status of many companies under section 560 of the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether company status of some of the

companies has not been cancelled so far despite the similar circumstance;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had launched two Simplified Exit Schemes (SES) in the years 2003 and 2005 to enable names of defunct companies being struck off expeditiously under Section 560 of the Companies Act, 1956. Pursuant to these Schemes, names of 29069 companies under SES 2003 and 22885 companies in SES 2005 respectively have been struck off. The Government also initiated a review of companies which had not filed their balance sheets and annual returns during the last three years, as of 2005, for action to strike off the names of such companies as were found to be defunct and fit to be struck off. Names of 45,470 companies have so far been struck off through such action.

(c) No, Sir. Orders of striking off the name of a company are passed by the Registrar only on a finding based on the statutory process and in exercise of powers provided under section 560 of the Companies Act, 1956.

(d) to (e) Do not arise.

Recognition as Scheduled Tribes

988. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representation for grant of tribal Status to Tea Tribes in Assam; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Representations have been received for grant of Scheduled Tribe status to Tea Tribes in Assam. These have been processed as per modalities approved by the Government of India on

15-06-1999 for determining the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' lists.

[Translation]

Recovery of NPA

989. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount locked in NPA during each of the last three years and steps taken to recover them;

(b) the names of the companies wherein NPA amount worth more than ten crore is outstanding against them;

(c) whether the Government has confiscated the property of these companies and taken action against the Board of Directors of such companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of public sector banks (PSBs) stood at Rs. 48,399 crore, Rs. 42,106 crore and Rs. 38,973 crore as on 31st March 2005, 31st March 2006 and 31st March 2007, which accounted for 5.5%, 3.7% and 2.7% of their gross advances, respectively. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Government of India have taken various steps to improve the asset quality of the banks which, *inter-alia*, include prescribing prudential norms for provisioning and classification of non-performing assets, guidelines for prevention of slippages, introduction of Corporate Debt Restructuring mechanism, One Time Settlement schemes, enactment of (i) The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, (ii) the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005, and

(iii) the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (DRT) Act, 1993, etc.

(b) The existing Management Information System of RBI does not generate data in the desired form. At present, RBI disseminates list of non-suit filed 'doubtful' and 'loss' borrowal accounts of Rs. 1 crore and above on half-yearly basis (i.e. as on 31st March and 30th September) to banks and Financial Institutions (FIs) for their confidential use. The list of non-suit filed accounts of wilful defaults of Rs. 25 lakhs and above is also disseminated on quarterly basis to banks and FIs for their confidential use. Further, Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited is maintaining a database on suit-filed accounts of Rs. 1 crore and above and non suit-filed accounts (wilful defaulters) of Rs. 25 lakhs and above. The information can be accessed at CIBIL's website www.cibil.com.

(c) to (e) Banks take appropriate steps for recovery of their dues in accordance with their recovery policies and RBI guidelines which provide for restructuring of loans, One Time Settlement of dues, filing of cases in Courts/Debt Recovery Tribunals, action under SARFAESI Act, 2002, etc.

[English]

Reforming of Delivery of Urban Services in Local Government

990. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government proposes an umbrella agency from among the numerous existing agencies which can oversee various aspects of planning in cities for better management of finance and reforming the delivery of services for local Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply made to part (a) above.

[Translation]

Mobilization of Funds

991. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has mooted floating bonds on the lines of Kisan Vikas Patra to raise Rs. 50,000 crore for funding projects envisaged during 2007-12 Plan period as reported in the Times of India dated October 23, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to create a power fund by parking proceeds from sale of Government equity in public sector firms to raise Rs. 33000 crore;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) In pursuance of the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in the Conference of Chief Ministers' on power sector issues held on May 28, 2007, a Sub-Committee of the Standing group of Power Ministers has been constituted to look at financial issues, including upgrading transmission and distribution networks. The Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee, inter-alia, include making appropriate recommendations regarding broad policy measures and instruments for mobilizing long tenure finances for meeting investment requirements of the power sector particularly the hydroelectric projects. The Sub-Committee is yet to submit its recommendations.

[English]

**Public Private Partnership in
Rapid Mass Transport**

992. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase its share of expenditure in public private partnership in metro rail projects in mega cities;

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

(c) whether the Government has any plan for rapid transport system for smaller cities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the cities where the system is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Under the existing scheme of financial support to Public Private Partnership (PPP) in infrastructure of Ministry of Finance, 20% of the project cost of a project being executed in the PPP route is permissible in the form of capital grant at the stage of project construction as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) from Ministry of Finance and balance VGF upto further 20% of the project cost can be provided by the sponsoring Ministry/State Government/statutory authority, that owns the project, out of its Budget. The proposal for Government of India (GOI) providing additional 10% Viability Gap support under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission beyond 20% by Ministry of Finance is under Inter-Ministerial consideration.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has sanctioned Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) projects in various cities under Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) sector from the Jawaharlal Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) scheme.

(e) Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Bhopal, Indore, Jaipur, Pune, Vijayawada, Vishakapattanam.

**Implementation of Rural Development
Project by NABARD**

993. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and

Rural Development (NABARD) proposes to raise Rs. 4,000 crore to implement rural infrastructure development projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of long term and short term projects likely to be financed by the NABARD therefrom, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In the Union Budget for the year 2007-08, Hon'ble Finance Minister announced an allocation of Rs. 12000 crore for financing rural infrastructure projects to the State Governments under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) set up with NABARD. In addition, an allocation of Rs. 4000 crore is also made for financing rural roads component of Bharat Nirman. NABARD will raise the funds from scheduled commercial banks as and when required for financing to the State Governments.

(c) During the current year as on 20-11-2007, projects received from various State Governments involving RIDF loan aggregating Rs. 4537.39 crore have been sanctioned. The State-wise details are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	RIDF loan amount
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	274.87
2.	Bihar	233.47
3.	Chhattisgarh	32.64
4.	Gujarat	278.64
5.	Haryana	141.68
6.	Himachal Pradesh	120.17
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	292.01
8.	Jharkhand	167.19

1	2	3
9.	Karnataka	547.25
10.	Kerala	102.42
11.	Madhya Pradesh	273.39
12.	Meghalaya	7.19
13.	Orissa	309.19
14.	Punjab	122.03
15.	Rajasthan	777.93
16.	Sikkim	23.73
17.	Tamil Nadu	544.03
18.	Tripura	153.69
19.	Uttar Pradesh	37.67
20.	West Bengal	98.20
Total		4537.39

Global Warning on Indian Coasts

994. **SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:** Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian coasts are vulnerable to global warming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has recently released its fourth Assessment Report containing a projection of global average sea level rise of 0.18-0.59 meters by the end of the current century. Indian scientists have studied local sea level rise at various places from Indian Tide gauge data, which indicates the observed trends during the past century. These are as follows:

- (1) Cochin (1939-1991) = 1.2 mm/year
- (2) Vishakhapatnam (1937-1991) = 0.9 mm/year
- (3) Mumbai (1870-1990) = 0.8 mm/year

Another study conducted for Sunderbans, but only for a recent period, reveals a somewhat higher rate of sea level rise in that region.

- (4) Sunderban (1985-2000) = 3.14 mm/year

(c) Sea level rise is a relatively slow phenomenon occurring in the background of more dramatic manifestations like storm surges and tidal variations. Thus, in order to minimize the impacts viz. coastal erosion and coastal zone (covering land and EEZ) management, for which the Central and State Governments have accorded higher priority in their respective specific programmes of Ministry of Water Resources (National Coastal Protection Project-NCPP), Ministry of Environment and Forests (Coastal Zone Management) and Ministry of Earth Sciences (Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management-ICMAM Directorate).

[Translation]

Lok Adalats

995. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Lok Adalats organized in different States/ Union Territories during each of the last three years;
- (b) the number of cases disposed of in these Lok Adalats, State-wise and Year-wise;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to make the Lok Adalats more effective; and
- (d) the number of Lok Adalats proposed to be organized in Delhi during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Under Section 19 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the Lok Adalats are now being organized regularly at designated venues, even away from court complexes and the cases which remain unsettled are taken up in next Lok Adalats, in all the districts of the country. The cases are settled by these Lok Adalats through the process of Conciliation and Mediation between the parties.

(d) Organising Lok Adalats is a continuing process and by the very nature of the purposes of holding Lok Adalats, the same are need based.

[English]

Smuggling of Narcotics

996. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per report of the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, it has been revealed that India is the top drug producer in the World as reported in The Hindustan Times dated September 19, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government detected illicit cultivation of opium in many parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure discouragement of its production and to check smuggling thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, 2007 released by the US government's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs in March, 2007 includes India in the list of Major Illicit Drug Producing and/or Drug Transit countries.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The steps taken by the Government include the following:

- (i) Enforcement agencies in the country detect and destroy illicit cultivation of opium crops.
- (ii) Rewards are provided for detection and destruction of illicit opium crops.
- (iii) NCB provides financial assistance to States to strengthen their anti-narcotics forces.
- (iv) Union Home Secretary has requested the State Chief Secretaries to regularly conduct surveys for detection and destruction of illicit crops.
- (v) Intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes.
- (vi) Training programmes are conducted for law enforcement officials to upgrade their skills.

Supply of Naphtha

997. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is steep rise in the price of Naphtha resulting in short supply to power units particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the increase of Naphtha raised the cost of production of power generation in Naphtha based units;

(c) if so, details thereto;

(d) whether the Government consider exemption of Naphtha from excise duty to tide over the present crisis faced by Naphtha based power units in the country; and

(e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect these power generating units?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Steep rise in price of Naphtha, which is determined based on its international price, has resulted in increase in variable cost of generation of power using naphtha as fuel in the country, including

Andhra Pradesh, resulting in decreased generation. Andhra Pradesh Power Coordination Committee (APPCC) has reported that Naphtha Price in November, 2007 is Rs. 49,034.77 Per Metric Tonne (MT) with the cost of generation of Rs. 8.947 per Kilo Watt Hour (kwh) as against a price of Rs. 39,387.21 per MT with cost of generation of Rs. 7.187/kwh in May 2007. Gas based power stations of total 1555.4 MW capacity located in Andhra Pradesh, have provision to use Naphtha as an alternate fuel when gas is in short supply. Although there is no shortage of Naphtha, its use as fuel is restricted due to steep rise in price.

When the domestic price of Naphtha increases steeply, power generating units based on Naphtha, have the option of switching over to Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) so as to minimize the fuel cost of such units.

(d) and (e) NTPC has proposed complete waiver of Customs Duty/Excise Duty on Naphtha for consideration of the Government as part of the budget exercise of 2008-09 Union Budget, which is under examination in this Ministry.

Debt Recovery under RDB Act, 1993

998. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has studied the Supreme Court's order that co-operative banks cannot take recourse to debt recovery under RDB Act, 1993;

(b) if so, whether Government would amend the Act to include co-operative banks within the provisions of the Act;

(c) if so, the time by which the amendments would be made;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government proposes to bring a comprehensive bill to amend banking regulation act to remove dual control in co-operative banks; and

(f) if so, the time by which the bill would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In separate matters coming up before the High Courts of Mumbai and Andhra Pradesh it was held by them that a Tribunal constituted under the provisions of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 has exclusive jurisdiction, to entertain and decide applications from a Co-operative Bank for recovery of debts due to such a bank. Further, it was also held that courts and authorities under the State Co-operative Societies Act as also The Multi-state Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 would cease to have jurisdiction to entertain the applications submitted by the Cooperative Banks for recovery of their dues. Aggrieved by the above, a bunch of appeals/Special Leave Petitions were filed in the Supreme Court of India where the matter of applicability of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 to the Cooperative Banks established under the State Cooperative Societies Act of Maharashtra 2002 was referred by the Chief Justice of India to a three judge bench.

Reversing the judgement of the High Court, the Supreme Court held that the provisions of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 are not applicable to the recovery of dues by the Co-operatives from their members. However, the provisions of the State Cooperative Societies Act and Multi-state Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 would continue to be applicable for recovery of dues by the Cooperative Banks. As these observations of the Supreme Court are in line with the request made by the petitioner Cooperative Banks in their appeal petitions, this order of the Supreme Court is not likely to place the Cooperative Banks in any disadvantageous position for purpose of recovery of their dues.

Cooperative Banks can also take recourse to provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for recovery of their dues. There is no proposal to amend the ROB Act 1993.

(e) No. Sir,

(f) Does not arise.

Credit Guarantee Fund for Education Loan

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up "Credit Guarantee Fund" to instill confidence among bankers in extending education loans to economically backward students residing in rural and semi urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The proposal was examined and it was felt that it would be appropriate for banks to do their due diligence on education loan applications and pursue the recovery as per the repayment schedule of the loan given by the banks. This would also inculcate a credit culture among students seeking loans for education and would be a healthy trend in the long run.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Health Insurance

1000. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private hospitals are manipulating the market due to mediclaim policy of New India Assurance Company Ltd. and others;

(b) whether Government has found irregularities of payment system by health insurance companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Instances of hospitals over charging the medi-claim policyholders as compared to uninsured patients have been noticed. This is mainly due to lack of accreditation of hospitals and lack of standardization of patient care

facilities. To curb this practice of overcharging, insurers are taking necessary steps in coordination with Third Party Administrators (TPAs) and other stakeholders for bringing about standardization of health care services. They have already introduced measures like co-payment/excess clause, sub-limits for room rent, Intensive Care Unit charges, diagnostic charges, surgeon's fees etc.

Insurers have also received complaints from mediclaim policy holders that TPA's have reduced their claims. To handle such complaints, the companies have a well established system of redressal of grievances. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority also has a system of grievance redressal for attending to complaints received from insuring public directly. If dissatisfied with the redressal, the complainant can approach Insurance Ombudsman/Consumer Fora/Civil Courts.

[English]

Private Insurance Companies

1001. SHRI M. APPADURAI:

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether market share of private insurance companies has increased considerable after opening up of insurance sector to private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether public sector insurance companies have adopted any strategy to compete with private insurance companies in regard to facilities and benefits;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) the percentage market share of public sector and private sector companies in the insurance sector at present; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the public sector companies to grab more share of the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and

(b) Since opening up of insurance sector to private sector, the market share of the private sector insurers has increased to 18.08% for life insurance and 34.72% for non-life insurance in the year 2006-07.

(c) to (f) The market share of public sector life and non-life insurance companies was 81.92% and 65.28% respectively during 2006-07. Although, the market share of public sector insurance companies has declined but they have shown a healthy growth in quantum terms. With respect to life insurance, the business of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has grown to Rs. 56,223.56 crore in terms of First Year Premium in 2006-07 as against Rs. 9,700.95 crore in 2000-01. Similarly, in case of the four public sector non-life insurance companies, the gross direct premium underwritten has grown to Rs. 16258.90 crore in 2006-07 as against Rs. 9799.81 crore in 2000-01.

The Public Sector Insurance Companies have adopted strategies to re-orient their operations which include:

(i) re-structuring the segments in which business has been underwritten; (ii) introducing innovative products; (iii) strengthening the underwriting procedures; (iv) strategic alliances and tie-ups to strengthen their business development activities; and (v) upgrading information technology network and introducing Core Insurance Solutions to provide on line services.

Consumer Redressal Mechanism

1002. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any consumer redressal mechanism for power sector at the Central level;

(b) if so, whether the Government has reviewed the same during the last two years; and

(c) if so, the major grievances of the consumers settled in the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Section 173 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that nothing contained in the Act or any

rule or regulation made there under shall have effect in so far as it is inconsistent with any other provisions, inter-alia, of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC) established at national level under the Consumers Protection Act is adjudicating the consumers complaints filed, inter-alia, against the Electricity Boards or Companies providing the electricity related services filed by aggrieved consumers when there is an allegation of any defect in the goods or deficiencies in the services rendered which include any unfair/restrictive trade practices adopted. So far (beginning from the year 1988), 1358 such cases have been filed before NCDRC in the form of Original Petitions, First Appeal (against the order of the State Commissions) and Revision Petitions, out of which 1077 cases have been disposed off.

Utilization Certificate

1003. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

Refer to the answer given to USQ No. 46 dated 10-8-2007 regarding non-receipt of utilization certificates and state:

(a) the Comptroller and Auditor General report number and audit paragraphs for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 referred in the reply;

(b) the reasons for releasing the grant without first obtaining the utilization certificates of the previous grants as is required under rule 212 (i) of GFR 2005;

(c) whether action has been taken against each of the recipient of the grant;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of blacklisted entities in receipt of the grants alongwith reasons for releasing grants to them;

(f) whether action has been taken against grant releasing officers; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) For the year 2004-2005, Report No. 3 of 2006 paragraph No. 1.4; and for the year 2005-06, Report No. 3 of 2007 paragraph No. 1.3.

(b) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Liquidation of Cooperative Banks

1004. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the USQ No. 874 replied on August 17, 2007 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details: thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Basic Services to Urban Poor

1005. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposals under Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) from Jammu and Kashmir;

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

(c) the amount released under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Two proposals have been received for Jammu and Kashmir under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) in respect of Srinagar and Jammu cities. The relevant details are enclosed in the Statement.

Statement

Details of Projects Approved under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) for Jammu and Kashmir

Sl. No.	Name of City	Project Name	Detailed Project Reports (DPPs) received	Total Projects	Total Project Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Total Central Share (Rs. in Crore)	Total State Share (Rs. in Crore)	Total No. of Dwelling Units	Total Additional Central Assistance Released (Rs. in Crore)
1.	Jammu	Rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers of Rajiv Nagar under ESUP Jammu City	1	1	14.24	11.53	2.72	608	0
2.	Srinagar	Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Slum Dwellers of Dal and Nagin Lake, (Rev)	1	1	90.92	73.36	17.57	4600	0

[Translation]

Irregularities in Swajaldhara Scheme

1006. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding irregularities in implementation of Swajaldhara Scheme during the last three years;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No Sir. No specific complaint of irregularity in the implementation of Swajaldhara Scheme has been received in the Department.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

Allotment of Land to Small Scale Industrial Units

1007. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by Government from the Federation of Small Scale Industries for allotment of land in closed units on account of the Supreme Court order;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the time by which the land is likely to be allotted to these units; and

(e) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) and Delhi Development Authority (DDA) have informed that they have not received any representation

from the Federation of Small Scale Industries for allotment of land. No representation of this nature could be located in our records.

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

Construction of Seepat Power Project

1008. SHRI GUHARAM AJGALLE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of land owners displaced as a result of acquisition of land for Sipat Power Project;

(b) the number out of these persons provided regular employment;

(c) whether the Government has announced that 300 MW power from the first unit of the 500 MW Sipat Power Project would be given to Chhattisgarh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The total number of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) in the land acquired by NTPC Ltd. for Sipat Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) is 3106. However, there are no homestead oustees in the project.

(b) Till date, 43 number of PAPs have been provided regular employment at NTPC Ltd.'s Sipat STPP and the recruitment process for further employment continues.

(c) and (d) During the inauguration of the 765 kV transmission system at NTPC Sipat on 20-01-2007, it was favourably considered to allocate 300 MW of power from Sipat STPP to Chhattisgarh State for a period of one year since the commissioning of the first unit. Chhattisgarh has been allocated 158 MW from the Stage II (2x500 MW) of Sipat STPP based on the Central Formula for allocation. Chhattisgarh has also been allocated additional unallocated power of about 75 MW from the pool of unallocated power of Central Generating Stations in the Western Region with effect from the date of commercial operation of the first unit

of Stage II of Sipat STPP, keeping in view the shortage of power in Chhattisgarh as well as that of other States/UTs in the Region.

Besides the above, Chhattisgarh has been allocated 313 MW of power from Stage-I (3x660 MW) of Sipat STPP. Chhattisgarh will also get allocation from the unallocated quota of Sipat STPP Stage I.

[English]

ENEM by Delhi High Court

1009. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether American way of legal management is to be adopted to solve commercial cases by the Early Neutral Evaluation Method (ENEM) by Delhi High Court;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Judiciary have been allowed to adopt judicial systems of foreign countries to clear the pending cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, the further steps taken by the Government to direct Indian judiciary to clear the pending cases within a time bound period?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) In a solitary case, Delhi High Court vide Order dated 6th August, 2007 has directed that the process of Early Neutral Evaluation Method be resorted to towards the object of negotiated settlement in pursuance of section 89 of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 by a panel of two neutral evaluators/mediators and the result thereof be communicated to the Hon'ble Court.

(d) Various steps have been taken to improve the productivity and efficiency of the judiciary that include periodically monitoring the pendency position in courts, grouping of cases involving common question of law, constitution of specialized benches, timely filling up of the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging

alternative modes of disputes resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts, Fast Track Courts etc.

Electrification of Villages

1010. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from West Bengal regarding release of funds for wind, solar and hybrid system and its propagation in the unelectrified villages during the current year;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether any funds for the purpose has been released during the period;

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

(e) the time by which the said funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (e) No proposal has been received during the current year from West Bengal for wind, solar and hybrid systems in unelectrified villages. However, financial support has been provided in the past for electrification of 1177 unelectrified villages using renewable energy such as wind, solar, biomass, hybrid systems, etc. An amount of around Rs. 53 crores has been released to the state towards the Central Financial Assistance for these projects.

Merger of State Bank of Travancore

1011. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to merge State Bank of Travancore with State Bank of India;

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

(c) whether there is any objection from the officers and employees against this move; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government has not received any proposal to merge the State Bank of Travancore (SBT) with the State Bank of India (SBI).

(c) and (d) SBT Employees Union and SBT Associate Banks' Officers' Association unit went on strike on 27-09-2007 and 31-10-2007 in protest against anticipated merger of Associate Banks of SBI with it. While considering any such merger proposal, if received, Government will ensure that the interests of all stakeholders, including employees of merging banks, are adequately protected.

Rate of Invest on RRB Deposits

1012. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of refinances extended by sponsor bank to the RRBs during the last three years;

(b) the rate of interest taken by each sponsor bank while extending refinances to its sponsored RRBs; and

(c) the rate of interest offered by each sponsor bank to its sponsored RRBs for the SLR and Non-SLR deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The total amount of re-finance extended by the sponsor banks to the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) during the last three years is given below:

Year	Amount
2004-05	Rs. 449.53

Year	Amount
2005-06	Rs. 959.14
2006-07	Rs. 1,898.69

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

Making Indian Economy Strong

1013. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plan drawn up to turn the country into an economic power house as reported in the *Economic Times* dated October 21, 2007; and

(b) the hurdles coming in the way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The National Development Council in approving the Approach to the Eleventh Five Year Plan, endorsed a vision of faster and more inclusive growth. This broad vision includes six inter related components, which, inter alia, cover rapid growth that creates employment opportunities for poverty reduction; access to essential services; equality of opportunity and empowerment through education, skill development, employment guarantee, other entitlements; environmental sustainability; gender balancing; and good governance. Achievements in these areas will improve India's economic standing.

Summit on Energy Co-Operation

1014. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 10 member ASEAN countries who attended the East Asia Summit held recently agreed to strengthen and promote energy cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which it is likely to neutralize the negative impact of high oil on economic growth and benefit the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) At the 2nd East Asia Summit (EAS), held on 15th January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines, a special session on energy, to achieve the shared goal of ensuring affordable energy sources for development in the region, was held. Discussion among the 16 Heads of State/Governments of the member countries of ASEAN including Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand covered issues relating to energy security, renewable and alternative energy sources, energy efficiency and conservation and climate change.

Economic Growth In Six Core Sectors

1015. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether six core sectors of the Indian economy have registered a paltry growth of only 6.3% in July, 2007 as compared to 11% during the same period last year;

(b) if so, the reasons behind the slump in these sectors;

(c) the growth rate of the above core sectors in August and September, 2007 with corresponding growth during the same period in 2006; and

(d) the details of the plan augment the growth in these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The year-an-year growth of the six core industries having a bearing on infrastructure is indicated in Table below:

**Performance of Six Industries having a bearing on infrastructure
(year-an-year growth in per cent)**

Industry	2006-07			2007-08		
	July	August	September	July	August	September
Electricity	8.9	4.1	11.5	7.5	9.2	4.3
Coal	9.1	0.6	-0.8	1.1	8.7	6.2
Finished Steel	15.0	9.5	10.6	9.6	8.5	10.3
Crude Petroleum	4.1	12.0	9.4	0.9	6.5	-0.7
Refinery Products	12.6	12.1	13.4	4.7	8.2	6.9
Cement	14.0	2.9	16.5	9.0	16.2	5.0
Overall	10.9	6.6	10.6	6.8	9.2	6.0

Production in these industries is governed by available capacity and overall demand and supply situation. The priority given to the creation of physical infrastructure in the Eleventh Five Year Plan is expected to significantly boost the production in these sectors.

Shortage of Manpower in Courts

1016. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report prepared by the Supreme

Court has pointed out that manpower shortage is responsible for backlog of cases and reveals that the vacancies, both in the High Courts and District Courts, have had a direct bearing on the pendency of cases which has shown an increase over the quarters January-March and April-July, 2007;

(b) if so, whether the Government has considered the report; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to increase or at least fill the present vacant posts in Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Supreme Court has not sent any such report to the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Law Commission of India in its 120th report submitted in 1987 examined the question of judges strength and suggested that the judges' strength which was 10.5 judges per 10 lakh of population at that time had to be increased to 50 judges per 10 lakh of population within a period of 5 years. The Standing Committee of Parliament in its 85th Report submitted in February, 2002 endorsed the ratio recommended by the Law Commission. This issue was also discussed in a Joint Conference of Chief Justices chaired by the Chief Justice of India. In its judgement dated 21st March, 2002, in WP (Civil) No. 1022 of 1989, the Supreme Court directed increasing judges' strength to 50 judges per 10 lakh of population in a phased manner. In so far as the judges' strength in the High Courts is concerned, Government reviews the matter triennially and after last such review, Government has recently increased the strength of judges in the High Courts by 152 posts bringing the approved strength of judges in 21 High Courts to 944. The proposals for appointment of judges to the High Courts are to be initiated by the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. Administration of justice upto the High Courts is a matter falling within the domain of responsibilities of the State Governments and it is for the respective State Government to decide on the

matters of increase of posts of judges in the District Courts and filling up of vacant posts of judges in consultation with their respective High Courts.

[Translation]

Life Insurance Corporation

1017. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of policies of Life Insurance Corporation of India cancelled due to non-payment of sums assured by the insurance holders; and

(b) the total amount involved in such policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that the total number of policies which lapsed due to non-payment of premium by the policyholders in the financial year 2006-07 were 77,73,718.

(b) The total annual premium involved in the lapsed policies in the financial year 2006-07 was RS. 3334.82 crore.

[English]

Setting Up of Ultra Mega Power Project

1018. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Union Government for setting up of another Ultra Mega Power Project in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details along with the total estimated cost and power generation capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Power had launched an initiative to set up coal based Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) in different States, each of about 4000 MW capacity, with an expected investment of approximately Rs.16,000 crores each. Under this

initiative, the Central Electricity Authority had identified Cheyyur in Tamil Nadu for setting up a UMPP (based on imported coal) at a coastal location. While the requisite clearances are yet to be given by the State Government for this site, the Central Electricity Authority has recently received a request for change of site, and for setting up of an additional UMPP in the State.

**Reduction in Interest Rate on
Loans to SHGs**

1019. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding denial of loans by the banks to

Self Help Groups (SHGs) under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government has analysed the problem of Swarajgaris in this context;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to lower the interest rate for the SHGs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The achievement during the three years under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) is as under:—

Year	Target Amount	Total Loan Disbursed		
		No. of Persons assisted	Amount	% of achievement
2004	1363.12	962396	816.11	59.87
2005	1518.76	1055335	927.30	61.05
2006	1597.06	1177366s	1095.15	68.57

As evident from the table, the disbursement is showing an increasing trend.

All the banks have a robust internal grievance redressal mechanism to address all customer complaints including denial of loans by the banks to Self Help Groups (SHGs) under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY). Various instructions have been issued to banks from time to time in this regard. Any customer who has a genuine grievance, which may include refusal of loans under the scheme, is attended to by the concerned bank.

A quick study of SGSY was conducted by Reserve Bimk of India to ascertain the reasons for the pendency

of applications at bank branch level. The study, inter-alia, revealed the following reasons/constraints in sanctioning of applications:—

- Forwarding unviable and un-bankable proposals to the banks.
- Most of the applications pertained to similar type of activity resulting in saturation of activity.
- Lack of co-ordination between government agencies and bank officials.

- *Bunching of applications by the Sponsoring Agencies and submission of applications at the end of the year.*

The Central Level Coordination Committee (CLCC) constituted by the Government of India in their ninth Meeting had discussed the issue of pendency and rejection of loan applications under SGSY with banks. In compliance with the discussions in the ninth CLCC Meeting, instructions have been issued to the Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Co-operative Banks to evolve a mechanism for early disposal of loan applications and State Government will ensure timely sponsoring of loan applications through District Rural Development Agency.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Encroachment on DDA Parks

1020. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of DDA parks in Delhi which have been encroached upon;

(b) the number of such DDA parks in Delhi in which temples or mosques have been constructed; and

(c) the times by which encroachments are likely to be removed from DDA parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) DDA has reported that 98 parks have been encroached upon.

(b) DDA has further reported that in 55 parks temples or mosques have been constructed.

(c) A precise time frame for making the parks free from encroachment cannot be indicated. However, DDA is making efforts to get the encroachment removed from these parks as per the laid down procedure including referring the matters of religious encroachments to the Committee constituted for the purpose.

[English]

Laws to Regulate Surrogacy

1021. SHRI SURESH ANGADI:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of surrogacy are increasing in the country, as reported in the 'Times of India' dated October 15, 2007;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring a comprehensive law to regulate surrogacy in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the likely time to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Government has no data indicating any increasing trend of surrogacy in the country.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to bring any law to regulate surrogacy in the country. However, Government has approved "National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART (assisted reproductive technology) Clinics in India" prepared by Indian Council of Medical Research in November 2005 and circulated to State and UT Governments. These guidelines, which are available on the website of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, have provisions relating to requirements for surrogate mothers and general conditions for surrogacy, rights of a child born through various assisted reproductive technologies, etc.

Urban Local Bodies

1022. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the weak financial position of the urban local bodies in the country, the Government has prepared a 21-point agenda for their improvement;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is planning to involve the private sector in providing and managing some of the services in the urban local bodies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has prepared a 21-point agenda to strengthen financial position of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and to make them sustainable so as to shoulder additional responsibilities. The agenda has been circulated to all the Chief Secretaries of States/UTs.

(c) and (d) ULBs have also been advised to involve private sector in providing and managing certain urban basic services, if necessary, by way of unbundling of those services.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

1023. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has asked the insurance Companies to make public the names of their agents involved in malpractices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the insurance companies so far identified and made public such agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that vide its circular dated 15-10-2007, it has requested all insurance companies to

publish the details of agents who are involved in any form of malpractice on their website. IRDA has further reported that since the circular has been issued very recently, the details are yet to emerge.

[Translation]

Promotion of Fly Ash Bricks

1024. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote the use of bricks made up of 'Fly Ash';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have granted permission to use 'Fly Ash' bricks in construction of Government buildings;

(d) if so, whether any survey has been conducted regarding the durability of such buildings; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The government vide Notification No. 563 dated 14-9-1999 subsequently amended vide Notification No. 773 dated 27-8-2003 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests had made use of fly ash in bricks mandatory in construction activities including that of the Government buildings, within a radius of 100 kms from coal or lignite based thermal power plants.

(d) and (e) No survey has been conducted to check durability of buildings constructed with fly ash bricks. However, there have been no reports of any distress in structures where such bricks have been used. The Fly Ash Mission (Now Fly Ash Utilisation Programme) under the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) had also undertaken a study at four laboratories in the country. The result of the study shows that the fly ash bricks manufactured as per Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) are equally durable as clay bricks.

*[English]***RGGVY**

1025. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in each State under the RGGVY during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the funds released for the purpose and spends by each State during the period;

(c) whether some State Governments have submitted Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to the Union

Government under the Yojana; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The details of number of villages electrified in each state under the RGGVY during the last three years, year-wise are enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) The details of the funds released for the purpose to each state during the period are enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. 611 projects have been received by Rural Electrification Corporation for 570 districts. Projects received state-wise and action taken thereon by the Government are enclosed as Statement-III. The Government sanctioned 235 projects for implementation in Phase-I of the scheme taking into account the approved outlay of Rs. 5000 crore as capital subsidy for X Plan. Balance projects are proposed to be taken up in XI Plan after the approval of the competent authority.

Statement-I

State-wise and Year-wise no. of Villages in which electrification works have been reportedly carried out by implementing states/agencies under RGGVY

Sl. No.	State	During 2005-06			During 2006-07			During 2007-08			Cumulative (up to 16-11-2007)		
		Electri- fied (Nos.)	Unelectri- fied (Nos.)	Total	Electri- fied (Nos.)	Unelectri- fied (Nos.)	Total	Electri- fied (Nos.)	Unelectri- fied (Nos.)	Total	Electri- fied (Nos.)	Unelectri- fied (Nos.)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	5614	0	5614	5,614	0	5,614
2.	Anunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
4.	Bihar	0	1600	1600	0	8415	8415	0	1,542	1542	0	11557	11,557
5.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	31	0	31	31
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	625	0	625	31	0	31	656	0	656
8.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	15	15	0	15
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
11.	Karnataka	350	47	397	8000	0	8000	5,109	0	5109	19459	47	13,506

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12. Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
13. Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	15	65	50	15	65
14. Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	266	29	295	266	29	295
15. Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
16. Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
17. Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
18. Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
19. Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
20. Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
21. Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
22. Rajasthan	0	230	230	230	230	570	765	1335	0	366	366	570	1361	1,931
23. Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24. Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25. Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Uttar Pradesh	0	7503	7503	7503	7503	0	16620	16620	0	2,152	2152	0	26275	26,275
27. Uttaranchal	0	87	87	87	87	2332	798	3130	0	219	219	2332	1,104	3,436
28. West Bengal	0	352	352	352	352	0	2108	2108	0	808	808	0	3268	3,268
29. Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	350	9819	10169	11527	11527	28706	40233	11085	5,162	16247	22,962	43,687	66849	

Statement-II*State-wise and Year-wise Amount Disbursed under RGGVY as on 16-11-2007*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	State	Amount Disbursed under RGGVY				Total
		During 2004-05	During 2005-06	During 2006-07	During 2007-08 (as on 16-11-07)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh			94.35	191.36	285.71
2.	Assam			39.22		39.22
3.	Bihar	200.24	*181.74	470.14	398.97	1251.09
4.	Chhattisgarh		6.50	36.18	12.34	55.02
5.	Gujarat			13.36	12.15	25.52
6.	Haryana			12.33	12.34	24.67
7.	Himachal Pradesh			7.48		7.48
8.	Jharkhand		*3.50	285.24	136.47	425.21
9.	Jammu and Kashmir			19.59		19.59
10.	Karnataka		72.59	87.36	92.58	252.53
11.	Kerala			5.13		5.13
12.	Madhya Pradesh			104.66	60.08	164.74
13.	Maharashtra			10.02		10.02
14.	Manipur			13.53		13.53
15.	Meghalaya				12.73	12.73
16.	Nagaland			4.23	0.26	4.49
17.	Orissa		*3.50	63.67	52.17	119.34
18.	Rajasthan	9.33	47.20	87.19	86.56	230.28
19.	Uttar Pradesh	639.96	172.64	1544.41	95.02	2452.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Uttarakhand		59.44	278.28	17.89	355.61
£1.	West Bengal	114.49	0.93	204.76	26.33	346.51
Total		964.02	548.04	3381.13	1207.25	#6155.90

*Advance payment to CPSUs.

Includes Rs. 55.46 crore released for BPL HHs Electrification.

Statement-III

State-wise no. of RGGVY DPRs sanctioned, approved in principle and under process

As on 16.11.07

Sl. No.	Name of State	Sanctioned and under execution (Nos.)	Sanctioned but kept on hold (Nos.)	Approved in-principle (Nos.)	Under process (Nos.)	Total (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17	—	5	4	26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	14	0	16
3.	Assam	3	4	8	8	23
4.	Bihar	26	3	9	6	44
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	2	—	11	16
6.	Gujarat	3	6	16	0	25
7.	Haryana	4	2	12	0	18
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	—	3	8	12
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	1	6	4	14
10.	Jharkhand	13	—	5	4	22
11.	Karnataka	17	9	—	1	27
12.	Kerala	1	6	7	0	14
13.	Madhya Pradesh	8	8	5	27	48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Maharashtra	4	13	—	17	34
15.	Manipur	2	1	1	0	4
16.	Meghalaya	2	1	—	4	7
17.	Mizoram	2	6	—	0	8
18.	Nagaland	2	1	2	6	11
19.	Orissa	4	2	3	22	31
20.	Punjab	—	1	16	0	17
21.	Rajasthan	25	2	12	2	41
22.	Sikkim	2	2	—	0	4
23.	Tamil Nadu	—	16	13	0	29
24.	Tripura	1	—	1	2	4
25.	Uttar Prao.	64	—	2	5	71
26.	Uttaranchal	13	—	—	0	13
27.	West Bengal	13	—	—	19	32
Total		235	86	140	150	611

Funds for Welfare of Women

1026. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are misutilising funds allocated to them for the welfare of women;

(b) if so, the details of such NGOs, Scheme-wise, State-wise during each of the last three years alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken against them;

(c) whether the Government has blacklisted such NGOs;

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

(e) whether the Government proposes for more strict rules for NGOs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Complaints regarding misuse of funds by NGOs have come to the notice of this Ministry occasionally.

(b) Details of such NGOs are given scheme-wise, State-wise for the last three years in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) List of organizations blacklisted is available on the Ministry's website: <http://www.wcd.nic.in>.

(e) and (f) State Governments/State Social Welfare Boards have been requested to investigate the complaints and report to the Ministry/Central Social Welfare Board. The complaints, as and when received, are investigated and suitable action taken to recover the funds released/blacklist the organization that misused the government funds. There is an in-built mechanism in the schemes for effective implementation and monitoring of the programmes. These programmes

are regularly monitored through periodic reports and field visits by the State and Central Government Officers. Mid term evaluation of the programmes run by the NGOs are conducted through independent agencies. The proposals of the organizations, are scrutinized by the State Level Empowered Committee, constituted by the State Governments for the purpose before recommending the same to the Central Government. Pre-sanction appraisal of the proposals is also undertaken before consideration of the proposal for sanction.

Statement

Statement Showing the Complaints Received in Respect of the Schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development/Central Social Welfare Board

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Name of the NGOs/Organisation
1	2	3
2004-05		
1.	Short Stay Home	President, Udayasri Mahila Samaj, Nainpat, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
2.	Support to Training and Employment Programme	Gramotthan Audyogic Samiti, Hazratganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh*
2005-06		
3.	Family Counseling Centre and Short Stay Home	People Action for Social Service Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh
4.	—do—	Regbortook Club Library, P.O. Asalkandi, Dt Karimganj, Assam
5.	Creche	MHIP Vaivakawn Branch, Aizawl, Mizoram
6.	Family Counseling Centre	Sahara Pariwar Prammarsh Kendra, Orissa
7.	Creche	Rajasthan Nav Chetna Samiti, Kotputli, Jaipur
8.	Condensed Course	Women Welfare Society, Aigapur, Dharm Nagar, P.S. Dt. North Tripura
9.	Short Stay Home	Smt. Shanti Thakur, Executive, Janjati Mahila Kalyan Avam Balothan Samiti Uttarkashi

1

2

3

2006-07

- | | |
|---|--|
| 10. Creche | Rural Organisation for Poverty Eradication, Orissa |
| 11. Creche, Awareness
Generation Programme | Adhar, Mayurbhanj, Orissa |

*This agncy has been blacklisted by Government of India and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has been requested to recover the amount so far released to the organisation under STEP Scheme of this Ministry alongwith the penal interest thereon. Subsequently, the organisation has filed a petition in the Lucknow Bench of Hon'ble Allahabad High Court for stay of the recovery order. The matter is sub-judice.

Competition Commission

1027. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Competition Commission of India has become operational;
- (b) If so, the composition of the Commission; and
- (c) the salient features thereof with role in ensuring fair competition?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Competition Act, 2002 provides for establishment of a Commission to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets, in India, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Wind Power Plants

1028. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received request

for increasing wind power generation in Motha at Amrawati district of Maharashtra by setting up more units of wind power plants there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government received a request for inclusion of Motha, District Amrawati in the "list of wind potential sites", which are having a minimum wind power density of 200 Watt/square meter or more at 50 meter elevation.

(c) The proposal was examined in detail by the scientists of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET), Chennai and Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA), Pune. Based on this, it was suggested to MEDA that areas in and around Motha, having elevation in excess of 1040 meters above sea level, could be considered suitable for setting up of grid connected wind power projects, based on micro siting report to be prepared by the developer(s).

[English]

National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai

1029. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai has carried out various technology development activities during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Institute of Ocean Technology has also taken up the Technology Research Programme of Polymetallic Nodule; and

(d) if so, the present status of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a and (b) Yes Sir. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai has taken up various activities *inter alia* pertaining to technology development for low temperature thermal desalination, gas hydrates, exploration of polymetallic nodules and instrumentation.

(c) and (d) NIOT has designed, developed and demonstrated successfully a prototype shallow bed mining system capable of working up to a depth of 500 meters, an artificial nodule laying system for working at depth of 517 meters and an in-situ soil sampler to measure the soil bearing strength upto water depth of 5200 m.

[Translation]

Violation of Norms by Private Power Distribution Companies

1030. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the faulty

implementation of the Electricity Act which was framed to make reforms in the power sector, the private electricity distribution companies are using it in such a way as per their wishes and there is no control over it;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any survey or assessment in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have discussed with the State Governments regarding this anti-people act of the private electricity distribution companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) Electricity is a concurrent subject. Distribution comes within the purview of the States. Accordingly, the Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) are regulated by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003. The Act provides that every distribution licensee shall establish a forum for redressal of grievances of the consumers in accordance with the guideline as may be specified by the SERC. The Act further provides that the SERC shall appoint an Ombudsman who shall settle the grievance of a consumer who is aggrieved by non-redressal of his grievances by the forum.

In addition, the Act has provisions for imposition of penalty by the Electricity Regulatory Commission on a person (which includes a company or body corporate) for contravening any of the provisions of the Act or rules or regulations made thereunder or any direction issued by the Appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission.

In terms of section 146 of Electricity Act, 2003, any person including the DISCOMs is liable to be prosecuted against for non-compliance with any order or direction given under the Act or for contravention or attempting or abetting the contravention of any other provisions of the Act or of any Rules or Regulations made thereunder.

[Translation]

Pension to Senior Citizens

1031. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the scheme for grant of pension to senior citizens who are 65 years of age or more and are living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith financial implications thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government would implement the said pension scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme is named as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) under which old age pension has to be granted to a person who is 65 years or higher and belonging to a household below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India. The financial implication is Rs. 3772.56 crore per annum.

(c) The Scheme has been launched on 19-11-2007.

[English]

**Influx of General Population in
Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

1032. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts committee on the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) has expressed concern over the alarming increase in the general population in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said committee has also recommended some immediate steps to restrict the influx of people into the Islands; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The expert Committee on the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), has discussed, among others, the issue of alarming increase in the population in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and its impact on the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) of the islands. The Committee noted that the most important problem faced by the tribes of Andaman is population explosion owing to which the forests of Andaman and Nicobar are endangered and fresh water has become scarce.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs has already directed the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to make an assessment of the influx of population into the Islands to enable the Ministry of Home Affairs to take appropriate measures.

[Translation]

Frauds in Banks

1033. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCIE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 4 dated August 10, 2007 and state:

(a) the bank-wise details of fraud cases in the banks during the last three years including the current year;

(b) the details of the cases handed over to CBI or police during the said period;

(c) the number of cases wherein the responsibility of staff has been fixed;

(d) whether the money involved in the above fraud cases has been recovered;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the bank-wise details of amount which was not received by the concerned party due to fraud during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The bank-wise details of the number of frauds, amount involved therein as reported by banks to Reserve Bank India (RBI) for the year 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 (upto June) are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) As per extant guidelines, public sector banks and required to report fraud cases involving amount of rupees one crore and above to CBI and below rupees one crore to local police. RBI advises all the banks to examine the staff accountability in all cases of frauds. Action is taken against delinquent employees for their involvement in cases of frauds. The details of action taken against such delinquent employees are as under:

Year	No. of Employees convicted	No. of Employees awarded Major/Minor Penalties	Out of II Dismissed/ Discharged/ Removed	No. of Employees acquitted	No. of Employees against whom prosecution is pending in the Court	No. of Employees against whom departmental proceedings are pending
2004	1.27	1590	461	69	635	1429
2005	120	1506	451	33	658	1404
2006	43	1416	437	48	596	1340
2007 (upto June)	66	732	183	34	575	1235

(d) and (e) The amount recovered by banks in fraud cases during the year 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007

(upto June 2007) was as follows:

(Amount in crore)

	2004	2005	2006	2007 (upto June)
Public Sector Banks	138.35	127.78	231.81	236.09

(f) The bank-wise details of the amount which was not received by the concerned party due to fraud's not

available with RBI.

Statement
Calendar Year-wise Data on Frauds for the years 2004 to 2006 and upto June 2007

Sl. No.	Public Sector Banks	2004		2005		2006		2007 (upto June)	
		No. of Frauds	Amt. involved	No. of Frauds	Amt. involved	No. of Frauds	Amt. involved	No. of Frauds	Amt. involved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	State Bank of India	350	32.84	437	136.48	469	72.03	257	57.17
	SBI (Overseas Branches)	1	0.03	2	0.21	1	0.22	0	0.00
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	27	2.45	24	1.73	41	20.96	30	13.08
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	66	13.32	43	2.23	51	5.16	21	2.05
4.	State Bank of Indore	25	2.91	35	39.83	64	5.26	37	3.43
5.	State Bank of Mysore	7	1.37	27	17.53	17	8.02	16	23.66
6.	State Bank of Patiala	49	9.59	62	26.14	42	3.68	15	1.81
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	16	2.90	15	33.68	10	3.34	11	4.97
8.	State Bank of Travancore	19	6.07	16	2.91	34	2.90	29	3.81
9.	Allahabad Bank	30	2.40	54	34.45	44	8.20	11	15.39
10.	Andhra Bank	65	12.26	42	4.36	49	32.70	21	1.55
11.	Bank of Baroda	232	40.07	230	40.67	145	13.91	87	15.92
	BOB (Overseas Branches)	8	0.31	3	0.29	3	0.04	6	0.06
12.	Bank of India	130	17.31	163	83.69	138	29.33	94	27.67
	BO (Overseas Branch)	1	0.05	3	2.32	1	0.24	0	0.00

(Rs. in crore)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	9	0.87	14	4.87	19	14.11	25	3.77
14.	Canara Bank	184	41.87	213	40.51	166	117.15	92	58.68
15.	Central Bank of India	140	52.88	143	56.03	153	53.92	71	21.84
16.	Corporation bank	252	13.97	115	43.35	69	17.05	37	7.80
17.	Dena Bank	38	4.30	31	29.27	53	48.74	31	12.48
18.	IDBI Ltd.			60	28.73	80	28.17	23	3.03
19.	Indian Bank	134	23.91	107	51.60	110	22.38	34	1.19
	Overseas Branches			2	1.72	0	0.00	0	0.00
20.	Indian Overseas Bank	85	10.51	76	57.25	115	56.37	91	22.72
	Overseas Branches			2	0.01	0	0.00	1	0.12
21.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	40	17.98	59	121.45	24	16.89	14	2.25
22.	Punjab National Bank	222	41.98	197	65.27	181	25.67	83	15.84
23.	Punjab and Sind Bank	24	3.87	36	5.24	20	9.26	9	1.87
24.	Syndicate Bank	148	13.07	119	21.42	96	25.58	48	12.58
	Overseas Branches	1	0.43	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
25.	Union Bank of India	71	34.43	94	40.23	114	56.03	41	9.54
26.	United Bank of India	23	28.16	26	17.30	52	62.47	47	9.37
27.	UCO Bank	72	12.50	110	75.19	91	43.11	49	19.63
28.	Vijaya Bank	51	6.43	98	48.43	116	41.87	54	23.58
	Total	2520	451.04	2658	1134.39	2588	844.76	1385	396.86

*[English]***Power Generation from Almati Dam**

1034. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to extend the power generation capacity of Almati Dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) had prepared a feasibility report of Upper Krishna Cascade Hydro-electric Project (2x35+2x65+2x35=270 MW) in September, 2003 to utilize the surplus releases from Almati Dam through Narayanpur reservoir of Krishna river. However, as there was no commitment from the Government of Kamataka on the quantum of regulated water for power generation downstream of Narayanpur dam and the project being found economically unviable, NHPC decided to close the project.

*[Translation]***Corruption in Appointment of Notaries**

1035. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA.

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

(a) whether the instances of corruption in appointments of the Central Notary Public have come to the notice of the Government;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to uproot the corruption;

(d) the number of candidates applied and appointed Notary Public in various States during the last one year State-wise;

(e) whether the number of Notaries and inadequate in some states; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the number of notaries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) of the question.

(d) The statement showing the number of candidates applied and appointed Notary Public (state-wise) during the last one year is enclosed.

(e) and (f) The maximum number of Notaries to be appointed by the following State Governments have been increased by amending the Scheduled to the Notaries Rules, 1956, on requests received from them and also keeping in view the increase in commercial activities:—

Andhra Pradesh

Gujarat

Kerala

Madhya Pradesh

Tamil Nadu

Maharashtra

Karnataka

Rajasthan

Uttar Pradesh

Goa

Chhattisgarh

The maximum number of Notaries to be appointed by the Central Government have also been increased in respect of States of Punjab and Haryana, NCT of Delhi and UT of Chandigarh.

Statement

*Details of Memorial received/number of Notaries appointed during the last one year
State-wise (i.e. 01-11-2006 to 31-10-2007)*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ UT Admn.	Number of Memorial received during one year State/U.T. Admn.	Number of Notaries appointed during one year
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	105	38
2.	Assam	01	00
3.	Bihar	18	07
4.	Gujarat	302	110
5.	Kerala	143	101
6.	Madhya Pradesh	29	04
7.	Tamil Nadu	244	57
8.	Maharashtra	711	287
9.	Karnataka	176	70
10.	Orissa	05	01
11.	Punjab	144	103
12.	Rajasthan	131	55
13.	Uttar Pradesh	568	190
14.	West Bengal	23	03
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil
16.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil
17.	Haryana	199	120
18.	Himachal Pradesh	03	01
19.	Manipur	Nil	Nil
20.	Tripura	01	Nil
21.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4
22.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil
23.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil
25.	Goa	05	Nil
26.	Uttranchal	04	01
27.	Chhattisgarh	10	01
28.	Jharkhand	11	01
29.	Delhi	42	34
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil
31.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil
33.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil
34.	Pondicherry	18	03
35.	Chandigarh	26	20

[English]

**World Bank Aid or Rural
Finance System**

1036. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned loan for strengthening rural finance system;

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

(c) the details of the terms and conditions for said loan; and

(d) the name of the States benefited by such assistance from the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

World Bank Assistance

1037. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN:
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has offered loans for infrastructure development, urban transport, health etc. during the last three years and as on date;

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

(c) the names of State Governments who are in default in repayment of instalments and interest thereon;

(d) whether some State Governments have rejected the offer for assistance by World Bank; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith names of such state governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are enclosed as Statement.

(c) Repayment to World Bank is made by Government of India as per the standard terms and conditions. Therefore, the question of default by the State

Governments does not arise. Government of India has never defaulted.

(d) and (e) The World Bank gives assistance for specific projects requested by the State Governments; so the question of rejecting the offer of World Bank assistance does not arise.

Statement

(in million USD)

Sl. No.	Project Name	State	Signing Date	IRBD Comm.	IDA Comm.	Commitment (IBRD + IDA)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh Community-Based Tank Management Project	Andhra Pradesh	8-6-07	94.5	94.5	189
2.	Third Andhra Pradesh Economic Reform Loan/Credit	Andhra Pradesh	8-2-07	150	75	225
3.	Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project	Assam	14-1-05	0	154	154
4.	Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project	Bihar	9-8-07	0	63	63
5.	Himachal Pradesh Development Policy Loan	Himachal Pradesh	19-11-07	135	65	200
6.	Himachal Pradesh State Roads Project	Himachal Pradesh	7-08-07	220	0	220
7.	Himachal Pradesh Mid-Himalayan Watershed Development Project	Himachal Pradesh	19-1-06	0	60	60
8.	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project (Supplement)*	Karnataka	2-11-07	32	32	64
9.	Karnataka Health System Development and Reform	Karnataka	16-10-06	0	141.83	141.83
10.	Karnataka Panchayats Strengthening Project	Karnataka	24-7-06	0	120	120
11.	Karnataka Municipal Reform Project	Karnataka	2-5-06	216	0	216

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project	Karnataka	18-2-05	39.5	0	39.5
13.	Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project	Maharashtra	9-8-05	325	0	325
14.	Orissa Socio-Economic Development Loan II	Orissa	28-8-06	150	75	225
15.	Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	Punjab	26-2-07	0	154	154
16.	Punjab State Roads Project	Punjab	26-2-07	250	0	250
17.	Rajasthan Health Systems Development Project	Rajasthan	3-6-04	0	89	89
18.	Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water-Bodies Restoration and Management Project	Tamil Nadu	12-2-07	335	150	485
19.	Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction	Tamil Nadu	14-9-05	0	120	120
20.	Third Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project (TNUDP III)	Tamil Nadu	14-9-05	300	0	300
21.	Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project	Tamil Nadu	5-1-05	0	110.83	110.83
22.	Uttarakhand Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Uttarakhand	16-10-06	0	120	120
23.	Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Project	Uttarakhand	30-7-04	0	69.62	69.62

[Translation]

Interest Rate on Short Term Deposit

1038. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interest rates on short term deposits in banks has come down in the recent past;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase interest on short term deposits in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given freedom to commercial banks with effect from 22nd October, 1997 to fix their own interest rates on domestic term deposits of various maturities with the prior approval of

their respective Board of Directors/Asset Liability Management Committee (ALCO). As such, the rates of interest on deposits are determined by the banks themselves.

As reported by the RBI, over the period from April 2007 to October 2007, Public Sector Banks decreased their deposit rates at the upper end of the range for maturity up to one year from 2.75-9.00 per cent to 2.75-8.50 per cent. Private Sector Banks' deposit rates for similar maturity declined from a range of 3.00-10.00 per cent to 2.50-9.25 per cent during the same period. Similarly foreign banks' deposit rates also declined from the range of 3.00-9.50 per cent to 2.00-9.00 per cent.

(c) and (d) In view of above, do not arise.

[English]

Self Employment Scheme

1039. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various self-employment schemes being run for extending credit to unemployed youth by public sector banks in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these schemes conform to the local resource availability and the employment based on such resources;

(d) whether the periodic evaluation is done to judge their efficacy for continuation; and

(e) if so, the resultant achievements in terms of credit extended for self-employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Credit is extended by Public Sector Banks for self-employment under the following major schemes:

- (i) Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) which provides gainful employment to the unemployed or under employed urban poor through self-employment ventures or wage employment.
- (ii) Swarnjayanti Gramin Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) which provides credit to rural poor for self employment.
- (iii) Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) which provides loans to the educated unemployed youth for gainful self employment.

(c) Locally viable projects are to be financed under the above schemes with the help of State Government agencies and banks.

(d) and (e) The performance of the schemes is periodically evaluated/reviewed through the concerned Government departments. The schemes are periodically reviewed at Block Level Bankers' Committee (BLBC), District Level Consultative Committee (DLCC)/ District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meetings and corrective measures are taken for proper implementation. The credit disbursed by Public Sector Banks for the above schemes is given below:

(Amount in Rs. Lakh)

Year	SJSRY	SGSY	PMRY
2004-05	14524	92730	148329
2005-06	17965	109515	162399
2006-07	19431	111740	153812*

Note: *Provisional.

**Agreement between India and Germany for
Scientific Cooperation**

1040. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether Germany and India have recently entered into an agreement in the field of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the agreement; and

(c) the amount to be spent thereon during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir. During the recent visit of German Chancellor to India on 30th October 2007, India and Germany signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set-up Indo-German Science Research and Technology Center (IGSTC) in India, under the umbrella Inter-Governmental Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Scientific Research and Technological Development signed in 1974.

(b) The details and salient features of the MoU are as below:

(i) The Centre will be named the "Indo-German Science and Technology Centre" (IGSTC) and will be established in New Delhi. The IGSTC in New Delhi would be registered as Society under the Societies Registration Act (Act XXI of 1860, Punjab Amendment Act 1957) as extended to Delhi.

(ii) The objectives of the IGSTC are to

- play a proactive role in facilitating participation of industry in joint R and D projects,
- provide/assist in mobilizing resources to carry out industrial R and D projects,

- promote electronic exchange and dissemination of information on opportunities in bilateral S and T cooperation. The Centre will also prepare/compile state-of-the-art reports on topics of interest with the help of highly qualified scientists and technologists, one from each country,

- provide individual advice to institutes and industries from either country on the possibilities of Indo-German cooperation and help in the identification of suitable partners,

- facilitate and promote Indo-German bilateral collaborations in basic and applied science, research and technology through substantive interaction among government, academia and industry,

- encourage public-private partnerships (PPP) to foster elements of innovation and application and cultivate a culture of cooperation between science and industry,

- nurture contacts between young and mid career scientists and technologists to develop a sense of mutual trust, leadership and entrepreneurship,

- develop cooperation through the identification of scientists and scientific institutions of the two countries,

- organize workshops, seminars, training programmes and other types of events on topics of mutual interest, and to

- support or conduct any other mutually agreed future activities.

(c) India and Germany will allocate 2 million Euros each per year for next 5 years to run and achieve the objective of the Centre.

[Translation]

**Design for Houses Constructed
under IAY**

1041. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the agency entrusted with the task of designing the houses being constructed under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY);

(b) whether such designing of houses is being done keeping in view the different climatic and environmental conditions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is considering proposal for more designs for the dwelling units to be constructed under the said scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) No agency has been entrusted with the task of designing the houses being constructed under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). In the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) guidelines, no type design has been prescribed for the IAY dwelling units, except that the plinth area of the houses should not be less than 20 sq.mts. However, the State Governments may also arrange to make available information on cost effective environment friendly technologies, materials, designs etc. at district/block levels. This information should only be for guidance and any other suitable location specific technology can be adopted by the beneficiaries.

[English]

Loan to Small Units

1042. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks and financial institutions have sanctioned less loans to small units as against the targeted amount during 2006-2007;

(b) whether the Government has taken any action to ensure adequate bank loans for small units;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. The Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have been advised to achieve minimum 20% year on year growth in credit to the SME Sector. This has been achieved. Further, the PSBs have shown a 25.81% year on year growth in credit outstanding to the SME Sector for the year 2006-07 over the year 2005-06.

(b) to (d) Government of India has taken various measures to increase the flow of credit to Small and Medium Enterprises viz. fixing of self-targets for financing to SME sector by banks, measures to increase the outreach of formal credit to the SME sector, cluster based approach for financing SME sector, measures to rationalize the cost of loans to SME sector, constitution of Empowered Committees at Regional Offices of RBI to review the progress in SME financing and debt restructuring mechanism and a One Time Settlement Scheme for the SME Sector besides enactment of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006.

**Collection of Real Time
Data on Crops**

1043. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Science and Technology intends to soon roll out a mechanism to collect real time

data on health stress status for standing crops and to advise State Governments and other stake holders; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Science and Technology have developed capabilities whereby it is possible to monitor crops on a weekly basis using a biomass index to demarcate areas where crop is under stress. The system allows monitoring of the following five attributes on a regular basis using multiple satellite data namely:

- (i) The acreage under different crops at the district and village level;
- (ii) Per hectare production of the crop at the village level;
- (iii) The health of the crop and identification of areas affected by disease or under stress;
- (iv) Soil moisture, rainfall and surface temperature, critical parameters for agriculture; and
- (v) Impact of severe weather conditions such as drought, hailstorms etc.

The parameters from (iii) to (v) above are directly related to assessing the health of crops during the agriculture season. The method has been successfully tested and validated in the State of Haryana and with nominal increments it is being extended to cover the whole of India. The data on these parameters is being provided to Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. This programme, in consultation with the above State Governments, is also developing parameters for scanning for different crop diseases. The information currently being provided can be used to make a host of timely interventions like import policies, insurance schemes, irrigation schedules, and credit availability etc.

Development of Renewable Energy

1044. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make it compulsory for the States to meet their 10 per cent demand of energy through non-conventional energy sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of energy being generated by different sources of non-conventional energy as on date, State-wise;

(d) whether Government proposes to increase the production of bio-gas with a view to make villages self-reliant to fulfil their energy demands; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) State-wise details of cumulative achievements under different renewable energy programmes as on 30-9-2007 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) A National Biogas and Manure Management Programme ((NBMMP), which caters to promotion of family type biogas plants, is under implementation in all States and Union Territories with the objective of meeting cooking fuel requirements. As on 31-10-2007, subsidy has been provided for setting up around 39.70 lakh family type biogas plants in the country. A target of setting up of 1,01,860 family type biogas plants has been allocated to States and Union Territories for 2007-08.

Statement

*State-wise details of cumulative achievements under different renewable energy programmes
as on 30-09-2007*

A. Grid connected Renewable Power

Sl. No.	States/UT	Small Hydro Power (MW)	Wind Power (MW)	Bio Power		Solar Power (MW)	Total Capacity (MW)
				Biomass Power (MW)	Waste to Energy (MW)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	179.10	12240	334.25	32.00	0.10	667.85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45.24				0.02	45.26
3.	Assam	2.11					2.11
4.	Bihar	5040					50.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	18.05	130.80				148.85
6.	Goa	0.05					0.05
7.	Gujarat	7.00	806.00	0.50	0.50		814.00
8.	Haryana	62.70		6.00			68.70
9.	Himachal Pradesh	141.61					141.61
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	111.83					111.83
11.	Jharkhand	4.05					4.05
12.	Karnataka	442.00	853.20	262.28	1.00		1558.48
13.	Kerala	98.12	2.00			0.02	100.14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	51.16	57.30	1.00	2.75	0.10	112.31
15.	Maharashtra	209.33	1622.20	95.50	1.00		1928.03
16.	Manipur	5.45					5.45
17.	Meghalaya	31.03					31.03
18.	Mizoram	17.47					17.47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19. Nagaland		28.67					28.67
20. Orissa		7.30	3.20				10.50
21. Punjab		123.90		28.00	9.25	0.32	161.47
22. Rajasthan		23.85	493.90	23.30		0.15	541.20
23. Sikkim		39.11					39.11
24. Tamil Nadu		89.70	3698.90	227.50	4.25	0.05	4020.40
25. Tripura		16.01					16.01
26. Uttar Pradesh		25.10		143.50	5.00	0.38	173.98
27. Uttaranchal		80.67				0.05	80.72
28. West Benaal		98.40	1.10			0.05	99.55
29. Andaman and Nicobar		5.25				0.10	5.35
30. Chandigarh							
31. Dadar and Nagar Haveli							
32. Daman and Diu							
33. Delhi							
34. Lakshwadeep						0.76	0.76
35. Pondicherry						0.02	0.02
Total (MW)		2014.66	7660.20	1252.63	55.75	2.12	10985.36

MW = Megawatt

B. Off-grid/Decentralized Renewable Energy Systems/Devices

Sl. No.	State/UT	Biogas	Biomass Gasifiers	Waste to Energy				SPV Pumps	Water Pumping Mills (Nos)	Aerogen/Hybrid systems (kW)	Solar Cookers (Nos)	Remote Village Electrification Villages/Hamlets (Nos.)	
				SLS	HLS	SL	PP						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	421385	15.88	4.70	4044	1642	32982	26.16	613	6	16.00	13182	
2.	Assam	2345	1.98		921	2330	9937	7.90	1			530	222
3.	Bihar	59942	0.12		98	5420	541	9.00	45	3	6.00	80	55
4.	Chhattisgarh	125306	0.02		955	2771	44649	0.00	139	45		475	
5.	Goa	23399	0.51		535	4573	848	0.00	61			37114	325
6.	Gujarat	3807	0.02		313	273	443	1.72	15		39.20	1500	
7.	Haryana	384251	15.21	2.95	2004	5918	31603	29.90	85	715	10.00	128719	38
8.	Himachal Pradesh	50393	1.40		3091	22649	32727	224.20	469			26782	45
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	45046	0.01		2919	16848	20697	1.50	6			28837	1
10.	Jharkhand	2212	0.52		389	18849	20963	175.60	39			368	117
11.		2543	0.18		485	3833	0	0.00				280	348

12. Karnataka	394099	6.42	2684	23174	7334	29.41	456	25	9.95	254	16
13. Kerala	114183	0.73	815	8689	40881	44.70	810	79	8.00	236	558
14. Madhya Pradesh	259943	6.50	6054	1307	8564	22.40	87			141618	33
15. Maharashtra	739824	5.97	1.76	4166	1381	6.44	228	26	457.62	58044	120
16. Manipur	2128		490	3500	4787	11.00	12			365	134
17. Meghalaya	4586	0.25	693	4740	24875	42.00	19			1165	25
18. Mizoram	3570	0.20	315	3045	5812	109.00	37			110	20
19. Nagaland	2892	0.78	271	143	95	6.00					3
20. Orissa	228295	0.27	0.03	5820	4234	36.52	8			3437	18
21. Punjab	83881	0.70	1.58	2937	4270	71.00	1821			22050	
22. Rajasthan	68980	1.07	6554	50551	4716	25.80	283	222	4.00	36883	218
23. Sikkim	6034	0.00	162	1805	720	16.70			10.00	20	13
24. Tamil Nadu	211584	6.46	2.98	2672	471	30.05	829	56	24.50	1537	
25. Tripura	2549	1.10	760	2800	17805	24.57	25			80	236
26. Uttar Pradesh	410682	5.35	5.73	856	57138	129.20	751			50134	20
27. Uttaranchal	7491		964	48265	56523	80.03	26			8534	490
28. West Bengal	279007	13.55	2111	37541	3662	675.00	48		18.00	7959	1173
29. Andaman and Nicobar	137	0.17	358	405	6296	167.00	5	2		60	
30. Chandigarh	97		0	275	1675	0.00	12			1529	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
31. Dadar and Nagar Haveli			169			0	0	0	0.00				80	
32. Daman and Diu					0	0	0	0	0.00					
33. Delhi			677	0.07		301	0	4753	34.00	89			27990	
34. Lakshwadeep						0	0	0	85.00					
35. Pondicherry			573	0.60		87	13	1637	0.00	21		5.00	90	
36. Others*				0.50	0.48	6487	2446	79707	58.00				16750	
Total			3940000	86.53	20.21	61321	363399	564931	2179.80	7068	1180	608.27	616592	4168

SLS—Street Lighting System;

HLS—Home Lighting System;

SL—Solar Lantems;

SPV—Solar Photovoltaic;

MW—Mega Watt

kWp—Kilowatt peak

*Installed through NGOe/REDA in different States/UTs.

Setting Up of Funds for the Poor

1045. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up two funds of Rs. 500 crore each to facilitate easy availability of credit to the poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms fixed for loans from the fund; and

(d) the time by which these funds are likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Hon'ble Union Finance Minister, in his budget speech for 2007-08 had announced constitution of two funds namely Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund (FITF) with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore each.

The Committee on Finance Inclusion has submitted its interim report. The Government has decided to implement, immediately, two of the recommendations. The first is to establish a Financial Inclusion Fund with NABARD for meeting the cost of developmental and promotional interventions. The second is to establish a Financial Inclusion Technology Fund to meet the cost of technology adoption. The fund is to be contributed by Central Government, RBI and NABARD.

Operational Guidelines for the two funds are under process of finalisation.

[Translation]

Robbery In Banks

1046. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of frauds, financial irregularities, crimes in various banks and financial institutions reported in each State of the country during the last three years and the current year, as on date;

(b) whether the State Bank of India has filed a case of fraud against ICICI Bank recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the effective steps taken by the Government to solve these cases and punish culprits; and

(d) the details of action taken by the Government in each State of the country to check the recurrence of such incidents in each bank and financial institutions in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The number of cases of frauds and amount involved therein, in each state, as reported by banks to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (upto June) is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Bailey Road, Patna Branch of State Bank of India has lodged a complaint with the police against payee of cheque who is the customer of ICICI Bank and the Branch Manager of ICICI Bank, Patna. A forged cheque for Rs. 2.10 lacs was presented by ICICI Bank, Patna Branch on State Bank of India, Service Branch, Patna in clearing on 17-10-2007. The bank had issued cautionary instructions to all the branches in the circles regarding payment of cheques and the attempted fraud was thwarted by vigilant staff.

(d) RBI has taken various fraud preventing measures to check the recurrence of frauds. As a part of its supervisory responsibility, RBI has been advising banks from time to time about the common fraud prone areas and the measures to be taken by them to prevent/reduce the incidents of frauds in banks. Caution advices are issued to banks by RBI containing the details of unscrupulous borrowers and related parties who had perpetrated frauds on banks, so that banks could exercise caution while extending credit facilities to them. Some of the measures taken by the banks to check the recurrence of frauds are as under:

- Introducing a system of concurrent audit covering branches accounting for at least 50 per cent of business (deposits plus advances).
- Reviewing working of internal inspection and audit machinery in banks by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors.

- Constituting a Special Committee of the Board exclusively for monitoring frauds of Rs. 1 crore and above.
- Examining staff accountability and instituting disciplinary action expeditiously against the staff involved in frauds.
- On the basis of recommendations made by

Mitra Committee on legal aspects of bank frauds in part I of its report, banks were advised to take various preventive steps viz. Development of Best Practice Code (BPC), System of internalization of BPC, strengthening internal checks and internal controls and introducing Legal Compliance Audit.

Statement

*Year-wise and State-wise total number of frauds and amount involved in frauds
(only for amount of Rs. 1 lakh and above)*

(Rs. in lakh)

State	2005		2006		2007 (upto June)	
	No. of Frauds	Amount involved*	No. of Frauds	Amount involved*	No. of Frauds	Amount involved*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	228	6324.12	191	4946.97	108	5527.28
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	3	17.97	1	9.3
Assam	14	398.42	10	1085.99	18	3206.88
Bihar	29	253.28	25	392.98	18	462.34
Chandigarh	10	159.14	13	87.44	4	58.77
Chhattisgarh	15	136.84	22	226.5	9	124.47
Daman and Diu	0	0	1	1.67	0	0
Delhi	241	26053.84	235	17970.05	119	8209.15
Goa	8	99.42	9	168.73	5	40.72
Gujarat	123	14349.23	104	3590.16	67	1362.12
Haryana	44	652.56	44	500.36	35	336.15
Himachal Pradesh	7	403.59	4	98.99	3	147.54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jammu and Kashmir	5	41.36	11	764.71	4	102.04
Jharkhand	22	6275.61	28	359.62	9	455.84
Karnataka	150	4963.18	206	21525.1	157	5758.21
Kerala	52	2671.67	74	1641.89	38	1625.62
Lakshadweep	1	1	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	95	1712.28	126	3756.75	58	800.37
Maharashtra	687	41065.7	914	33655.75	566	11178.9
Manipur	0	0	3	25.48	1	32.74
Meghalaya	4	19.57	4	37.25	4	218.62
Mizoram	1	1.83	2	5.06	0	0
Nagaland	2	32.48	0	0	3	14.36
Orissa	23	263.13	42	1891.66	20	1288.73
Pondicherry	3	1109.92	2	6.45	1	1.48
Punjab	107	3003.49	65	957.21	43	380.51
Rajasthan	45	401.11	64	917.61	30	149.98
Sikkim	0	0	1	1.01	0	0
Tamil Nadu	249	14275.8	281	10669.26	156	5642.97
Tripura	1	2.7	1	281.5	1	13.36
Uttar Pradesh	245	5602.5	221	6192.45	137	2506.58
Uttaranchal	9	186.46	19	168.74	4	82.67
West Bengal	131	7811.47	166	10378.68	118	4856.14
Grand Total	2551	138271.7	2891	122317.99	1737	55593.94

*In a number of cases, the amount involved in fraud undergoes change on subsequent dates due to the banks reporting the latest figures on account of crystallisation of amount of loss after investigation. The amount shown above pertains to the latest reporting date.

[English]

National Judicial Council

1047. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) the present status of setting up of a National Judicial Council;

(b) whether the comments have been sought from the State Governments and High Courts in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the Council would become functional?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19-12-2006 which inter-alia provided for setting up of a National Judicial Council. The Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice which has since given its Report. The Report of the Standing Committee is being examined.

[Translation]

**Allotment of Houses under
Indira Awaas Yojana**

1048. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints that houses constructed under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) are not being allotted to the needy people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR

SAHU): (a) to (c) Under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) Scheme, the houses are constructed by the beneficiaries themselves with the financial assistance provided by the Government. Details of complaints regarding wrong selection of beneficiaries received during the last three years and the action taken thereon, are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Complaints received regarding wrong selection of beneficiaries under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) during the last three years.

1. A complaint was received on 12-4-2006 from the Shri Sita Ram Yadav, M.P. (Lok Sabha) forwarding the complaints of villagers of Gram Panchayat-Yujaar Madhya, Block-Katra, District-Muzaffarpur regarding irregularities in the implementation of IAY in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar. It was, inter-alia, alleged that the funds were allotted to the undeserving persons.

Action Taken

The matter was investigated by the NLM who found certain irregularities. The State Government of Bihar was requested to look into the matter.

2. A complaint was received on 51-3-2006 from Captain Jagmal Singh Verma, a Senior citizen, Village Kudi Kamalpur, District-Meerut, Uttar Pradesh regarding irregularities in the implementation of IAY programme in the District Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. In the press clippings received alongwith the complaint alleging that most of the houses have been allotted to the beneficiaries living outside of the village, family members of the surpanch or to the persons belonging to the same family who have already been allotted houses under IAY etc.

Action Taken

The matter was investigated by the NLM who found certain irregularities. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh was directed vide letter 30-3-2006 to look into the matter.

Data on Stock Exchanges

1049. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places where stock exchanges are functioning in the country;

(b) the exchange-wise number of the listed shares therein;

(c) the details of the business transacted during the last three years, stock exchange-wise; and

(d) the estimated number of shareholders in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) There are nineteen recognised stock exchanges, across sixteen cities.

(b) and (c) The details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Stock Exchange	No. of Listed Companies as on 31st October 2007	Turnover (Rs. crore) in Cash Segments of Exchanges		
			2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Till October 2007)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd.	4,867	8,16,074	9,56,185	8,11,772
2.	The Delhi Stock Exchange Association Ltd.	2,913	NII	NII	NII
3.	The Calcutta Stock Exchange Association Ltd.	2,875	2,800	694	275
4.	Ahmedabad Stock Exchange Ltd.	2,463	NII	NII	NII
5.	The Madras Stock Exchange Ltd.	1,350	NII	NII	NII
6.	National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.	1,334	15,69,558	19,45,287	17,41,540
7.	Jaipur Stock Exchange Ltd.	772	NII	NII	NII
8.	The Uttar Pradesh Stock Exchange Association Ltd.	685	1,486	799	329
9.	Vadodara Stock Exchange Ltd.	484	NII	NII	NII
10.	The Bangalore Stock Exchange Ltd.	357	NII	NII	NII
11.	The Ludhiana Stock Exchange Association Ltd.	338	NII	NII	NII
12.	Madhya Pradesh Stock Exchange Ltd.	325	NII	NII	NII
13.	The Pune Stock Exchange Ltd.	248	NII	NII	NII

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	The Gauhati Stock Exchange Ltd.	243	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	The Cochin Stock Exchange Ltd.	192	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Coimbatore Stock Exchange Ltd.	174	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	OTC Exchange of India	83	0.01	Nil	Nil
18.	Bhubaneswar Stock Exchange Ltd.	66	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Inter-Connected Stock Exchange of India Ltd.	12	Nil	Nil	Nil

(d) There is no firm estimate of the number of investors in the country. However, as on 31st October 2007, there were 112,19,087 beneficiary accounts with the Depositories.

[English]

Invest India Savings and Income Survey

1050. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the "Invest India Savings and Income Survey" conducted in June 2007 which shows that the share of Institutionalized banking in rural India is a mere 19 per cent in compared to the share of 35 per cent money lenders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Invest India Economic Foundation which conducted an Income and Savings Survey 2007 has not submitted this report to the Government of India. However, increasing institutional credit flow to rural India, particularly to the agricultural sector, is a continuous effort. To increase the access of institutional credit, Government has decided to implement immediately two of the recommendations of the Interim Report of the Committee on Financial

Inclusion under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, namely, establishment of a Financial Inclusion Fund with NABARD for meeting the cost of developmental and promotional interventions; and establishment of a Financial Inclusion Technology Fund to meet the cost of technology adoption.

Urban Transport

1051. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with a level delegation from the US visited New Delhi in September year for development of urban infrastructure especially transport;

(b) if so, the details of the US assistance and cooperation expected under the MOC; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a Memorandum of Cooperation has been signed between Government of India and Government of USA in September, 2007 in the field of Public Transportation science and technology on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit. Areas for collaboration and Cooperation include Public Transportation, Inter model Transportation, Safety Transportation, Transportation for Persons with

Disabilities, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), Traffic Information Center and Capacity Building and Training in Public Transportation.

(c) Initiative has been taken to set up a Joint Working Group to carry the agenda forward.

[Translation]

**Outstanding Amount Against
State Government**

1052. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Nationalised Banks have outstanding amounts against some State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to recover these outstanding amounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Banks do not lend directly to State Governments. However, they invest in State Government securities and State Government guaranteed bonds issued by the State Government entities, and lend to the public undertakings/corporate bodies/autonomous entities, with or without the guarantee of State Governments. Some nationalised banks have reported defaults in payment in principal and/or interest in respect of bonds issued by certain State Government entities/public sector undertakings (PSUs).

(c) Banks have taken steps for recovery of their dues from the defaulting entities of the State Governments in accordance with their recovery policies and RBI guidelines which provide for restructuring of loans, One Time Settlement of dues, filing of cases in Courts/Debt Recovery Tribunals, etc. Further, RBI, as debt manager of State Governments has been taking up issues concerning non-payment of interest and/or principal as also unilateral restructuring of terms and conditions of bonds etc. by State Government entities/PSUs with the concerned State Governments essentially by drawing their attention to the adverse impact of such

actions on the credibility of their market borrowing program. Government has also requested all State Governments to ensure that Government guaranteed bonds are honoured by their respective undertakings.

[English]

Collection of Bad Debts

1053. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Banking Association has asked all the banks to follow the industry code of conduct with regard to collection of bad debts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the abusive practices being adopted by banks have eroded the faith of the banking sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Consumer Forums and Courts have taken any action against the banks using abusive practices for recovering bad debts; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has formulated a "Model code for collection of dues and repossession of security" as also a "Fair Practices Code for credit card operations" which has been recommended to banks for adoption and implementation. As per the Model Code, banks commit to maintaining dignity and respect to customers in their Debt Collection Policy and not follow policies that are unduly coercive in collection of dues. The Fair Practices Code for credit card operations incorporates a clause that the bank's dues collection policy would be built on courtesy, fair treatment and persuasion.

(c) and (d) In the Mid-Term Review of Annual Policy Statement (dated October 30, 2007), RBI has

observed that in view of the rise in the number of litigations against banks for engaging recovery agents in the recent past, it is felt that the adverse publicity could result in serious reputational risk for the banking sector as a whole. RBI has urged banks to follow prescribed specific considerations while engaging recovery agents and has clarified that complaints received regarding abusive practices followed by a bank's recovery agent would invite serious supervisory disapproval. RBI would consider imposing a temporary ban (or even a permanent ban in case of persistent abusive practices) for engaging recovery agents on those banks where strictures have been passed/penalties have been imposed by a High Court/Supreme Court or against its Directors/Officers with regard to the abusive practices followed by their recovery agents.

(e) and (f) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Appeal (Criminal) 267 of 2007 (ICICI Bank Vs. Prakash Kaur and Other) observed that banks should resort to procedure recognized by law to take possession of vehicles instead of resorting to strong arm tactics. The Court also deprecated the practice of hiring recovery agents, who are musclemen.

Some of the leading newspapers have reported recently that Delhi State Consumer Commission has slapped a fine of Rs. 55 lakh on ICICI bank for trying to recover a vehicle loan by using forcible methods.

Economic Growth Rate

1054. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the factors determining growth in the country;

(b) whether Government is prepared to seize the opportunity of ten per cent economic growth in the country as reported in 'The Hindu' dated August 1, 2007; and

(c) if so, the details of the plan and the manner Government will achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The National Development Council in approving the

Approach to the Eleventh Five Year Plan endorsed a vision of faster and more inclusive growth. This broad vision includes six inter related components, which, inter alia, cover rapid growth that creates employment opportunities for poverty reduction; access to essential services; equality of opportunity and empowerment through education, skill development, employment guarantee, other entitlements; environmental sustainability; gender balancing; and good governance. Sustained high levels of investment; revival of growth in agriculture; growth of labour intensive industries; skilled development; and creation of good quality infrastructure, among others, would be critical in attaining higher growth in a competitive world.

IT Exemption for Senior Citizens

1055. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether interest income, the only source of fixed income particularly for senior citizens and pensioners is not exempted from income-tax.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government will consider to increase the deduction limit for these categories; 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) Income of senior citizens (including interest income) is exempt from tax upto a limit of Rs. 1,95,000 as compared to the normal limit of Rs. 1,10,000 in the case of any other man taxpayer and Rs. 1,45,000 in the case of any other woman taxpayer.

(c) No change in the existing dispensation is contemplated at present.

(d) in view of (c), does not arise.

Subsidy to Self-Help Group

1056. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy given to the Self-help

Groups by the Government during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is seriously thinking of discontinuing subsidies given to the SHGs in the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) A

Statement indicating the subsidy released by Ministry of Rural Development to Self-help Groups under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) during 2002-03 to 2006-07 and current financial year i.e. 2007-08 (upto October, 2007) is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal for the discontinuation of subsidy given to the SHGs under SGSY.

Statement

Statement showing Subsidy Released by Ministry of Rural Development to SHGs under SGSY during 2002-03 to 2007-08 (upto October 2007)

Sl. No.	States/U.T.	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-08 (Upto Oct '07)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3738.02	3942.42	5305.97	5263.37	5885.67	4490.1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	78.06	139.6	278.92	183.89	125.36	170.3
3.	Assam	2802.61	5313	6595.62	6601.52	7217.03	6475.66
4.	Bihar	3493.34	5488.81	9619.84	11079.65	11613.93	262.78
5.	Chattisgarh	1968.76	2025.44	2676.11	2633.11	3093.97	2985.82
6.	Goa	17.65	25	27.82	29.36	50	37.51
7.	Gujarat	1403.27	1508	1946.4	1996.08	2208.34	1690.14
8.	Haryana	827.79	932.06	1175.08	1147.48	1304.92	1115.68
9.	Himachal Pradesh	348.62	304.77	487.42	448.75	517.66	507.62
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	350.44	427.45	436.74	419.78	591.21	491.89
11.	Jharkhand	1801.02	2817.41	4180.61	3498.87	4736.81	4065.5
12.	Karnataka	2686.99	2777.12	3735.03	3579.36	4185.34	3390.66
13.	Kerala	1266.55	1435.18	1783.56	1797.82	1985.02	1521.38
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4232.53	4397.14	5516.04	5722.89	6566.78	5994.44
15.	Maharashtra	5579.85	5712.39	7409.42	7443.34	8740.865	6702.52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16. Manipur		0	56.75	91.05	116.82	184.35	69.29
17. Meghalaya		27.51	117.12	190.84	281.43	308.92	386.5
18. Mizoram		86.06	99.96	146.76	123.21	125.138	112.54
19. Nagaland		83.15	157.8	203.94	135.9	234.97	260.78
20. Orissa		4181.99	4553.07	5866.19	6065.95	6724.76	5135.74
21. Punjab		391.58	444.25	442.81	562.17	633.02	503.27
22. Rajasthan		2143.41	2261.24	2941.56	2662.12	3222.55	2639.33
23. Sikkim		95.33	110.76	179.99	138.45	141.22	124.61
24. Tamil Nadu		3290.35	3690.7	4676.06	4691.65	5204.41	3970.25
25. Tripura		599.65	696.74	1102.28	869.92	1137.37	783.84
26. Uttar Pradesh		7126.87	11756.85	17293.83	17018.11	19901.38	15767.28
27. Uttaranchal		667.95	686.02	954.59	943.75	1061.01	1001.07
28. West Bengal		1121.19	2617.59	4608.31	5465.5	6201.87	5916.41
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		0	0	25	6.25	0	0
30. Daman and Diu		0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		0	0	12.5	0	12.5	0
32. Lakshadweep		0	0	0	0	0	0
33. Pondicherry		53.64	25	100	100	100	75
Total		50464.18	64519.64	90010.29	91026.5	104016.37	76647.91

**Meeting of Top Brass CE and
Customs Officers**

1057. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently convened a meeting of Chief Commissioners and Director Generals of Central Excise and Customs;

(b) if so, the details of deliberations thereon;

(c) whether it is also proposed to undertake "High Impact Audit" of select sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Conference of the Chief Commissioners and Directors General of Customs and Central Excise was held during 24-25th July, 2007. The issues discussed

included indirect tax revenue collection, arrears collection, automation initiatives, steps for toning up tax administration, improving the efficiency of the audit/anti-evasion/anti-smuggling set-up, etc.

(c) and (d) High Impact Audits are audits of select assesses conducted under the direct supervision of Assistant or Deputy Commissioner. For this purpose, assesses are identified on the basis of certain criteria such as revenue trends of a commodity they manufacture, behavior of CENVAT credit utilisation, pattern of sales, etc, that are prescribed from time-to-time.

Bio-Mass in Rice Mills

1058. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing financial assistance for installing biomass gasifiers in rice mills in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under a Programme on "Biomass Energy and Co-generation in Industry" partial financial assistance is provided in the form of capital subsidy of Rs. 2.00-2.50 lakh/100 KW gasifier system for power generation and/or thermal applications to meet their captive energy requirements.

A number of biomass gasifiers have been installed in rice mills in different parts of the country. In West Bengal, in particular, 64 rice mills have already installed such systems that are running successfully.

Baglihar Power Project

1059. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has raised any objections on Indian power projects being set up in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto;

(c) the number of terrorist attacks made on the Baglihar power project in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years, till date; and

(d) the cost overruns due to delay in completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Pakistan has raised objections on Indian Power Projects being set up in Jammu and Kashmir. Under the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty, 1960 between India and Pakistan, India is required to furnish information in respect of new Run-of-River projects (including small plants) and storage projects on Western Rivers (Jhelum, Chenab and Indus and their tributaries), as specified in the treaty. Information in respect of these projects has been sent to Pakistan. Pakistan has raised objection on each of the projects. In India's view, the design of each of the projects, is in compliance of the provisions of the treaty. Yet, in view of the objection raised by Pakistan, India has been examining the objections and endeavoring to resolve them through correspondence and meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission within the purview of the treaty and also through Secretary level talks etc., as decided between two Governments.

(c) Government of Jammu and Kashmir has informed that no terrorist attack has been reported on Baglihar Project till date.

(d) Government of Jammu and Kashmir have informed that the estimated cost of the project has increased from Rs. 4000 crores to Rs. 5000 crores due to damages caused by the floods in July-August of 2005 and time overruns.

Scarcity of Drinking Water in Cities

1060. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of scarcity of drinking water in the cities;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is also planning to

use treated waste water for drinking purposes in the cities to meet the shortage of water;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Urban water supply is a State subject. As such, the planning, design, implementation, O and M and monitoring of water supply scheme is the responsibility of concerned State Government/Urban Local Bodies. As per information available, most of the towns are having per capita water supply of more than 70 lpcd. However, supply of water may not be equitable in some parts of the cities.

(b) To meet the gap between supply and demand and for equitable distribution across the city, the Ministry had launched programme namely Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Schemes for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) in December, 2005 to provide reform linked assessment for creation of infrastructure facilities including water supply schemes in all urban areas of the country.

(c) to (e) Use of treated waste water for drinking purposes is not aesthetically acceptable. However, some of the ULBs have already embarked on tertiary treatment of waste water and use it for non potable purposes like horticulture, air conditioning, recharge of aquifer etc.

The Ministry has also issued a Gazette Notification in July, 2001 in respect of NDMC modifying the building byelaws. The modified bye-laws inter-alia provides that all buildings discharging waste water of 10000 litres/day and above shall have waste water re-cycling systems. The re-cycled water could be used for horticulture purposes.

Currency Swap Agreement

1061. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Japan have agreed to sign a currency swap deal;

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

(c) the time by which the said deal is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Negotiations between India and Japan are going on for putting in place a bilateral currency swap arrangement to take care of short term liquidity needs during a balance of payment crisis. The proposed swap arrangement is essentially a bilateral agreement between India and Japan to exchange a 'maximum' amount US \$ 3 billion for respective domestic currency to meet temporary BOP problems, by either country, for an initial period of 90 days at LIBOR + 150 bps and thereafter through renewals, up to a maximum period of 630 days.

(c) The agreement will come into force once it is signed by the Governor of Reserve Bank of India with the Governor of Central Bank of Japan after receiving authorization from Government of India.

[Translation]

Development of Wastelands

1062. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of barren land, dry land/wet land in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make these wastelands fertile;

(c) whether the Government proposes to distribute these lands to the tribals or poor landless people in order to provide them livelihood; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) According to the Wastelands Atlas of India-2005, brought out by Ministry of Rural Development in

collaboration with National Remote Sensing Agency, the total wasteland available in the country is 55.27 million hectare, which includes waterlogged, saline, sandy, barren, rocky, etc. land. A Statement-I showing State-wise area of wasteland is enclosed.

(b) Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three area development programmes i.e. Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) on watershed basis for wasteland development, drought proofing and desertification control by rejuvenating the natural resource base.

(c) and (d) Distribution of Government wastelands has been one of the strategies of land reforms. It has been the accepted policy that the wasteland at the disposal of the Government should be distributed amongst the eligible rural poor. The State Governments are requested from time to time to distribute the wasteland amongst the eligible rural poor. A Statement-II showing State-wise distribution of wasteland is enclosed.

Statement-I

State-wise area of Wasteland

(Area in million hectares)

Sl.No.	State	Total wasteland
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.53
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.82
3.	Assam	1.40
4.	Bihar	0.54
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.76
6.	Goa	0.05

1	2	3
7.	Gujarat	2.04
8.	Haryana	0.33
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2.83
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.02
11.	Jharkhand	1.12
12.	Karnataka	1.35
13.	Kerala	0.18
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5.71
15.	Maharashtra	4.93
16.	Manipur	1.32
17.	Meghalaya	0.34
18.	Mizoram	0.45
19.	Nagaland	0.37
20.	Orissa	1.90
21.	Punjab	0.12
22.	Rajasthan	10.15
23.	Sikkim	0.38
24.	Tripura	0.13
25.	Tamil Nadu	1.73
26.	Uttarakhand	1.61
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1.69
28.	West Bengal	0.44
29.	Union Territories	0.03
Total		55.27

Statement-II**Statement showing State-wise area of Wasteland**

(Area in million hectares)

Sl.No.	State	Total wasteland
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	43.93
2.	Assam	5.89
3.	Bihar	13.21
4.	Chhattisgarh	2.10
5.	Gujarat	13.81
6.	Haryana	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.17
8.	Jharkhand	0.65
9.	Karnataka	13.72
10.	Kerala	4.57
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0.79
12.	Maharashtra	10.23
13.	Manipur	0.32
14.	Punjab	1.10
15.	Orissa	7.34
16.	Tamil Nadu	2.89
17.	Tripura	1.32
18.	Uttar Pradesh [⊙]	24.89
19.	West Bengal	4.32
20.	Goa	0.05
21.	Mizoram	0.74

1	2	3
22.	Rajasthan	1.12
23.	Delhi	0.06
24.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	No Wasteland
Total		153.22
Hectares		62.03

⊙ including Uttarakhand

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds in DVC

1063. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appointments made on compassionate grounds during the year 2006 and 2007 in the Damodar Valley Corporation;

(b) the number of youths whose applications are pending for appointment and the time by which these are likely to be given employment;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch a special campaign to expedite this work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has reported that no appointment on compassionate ground has been made in DVC during the years 2006 and 2007.

(b) Appointment on compassionate ground depends on the availability of vacancies for the same in the DVC. Since there are about 1000 cases pending for appointment on compassionate ground, it is not possible to identify any time-frame for these appointments.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Policy on Adoption of Children**

1064. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
 SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
 SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of adoption of children is declining in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the registration of children is mandatory for adoption purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is a provision for mandatory HIV testing of the children before their adoption; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details are available on Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)'s website- www.adoptionindia.nic.in.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Energy Conservation Code

1065. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether energy conservation building code has been finalized;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to implement it;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up an independent/autonomous body of energy auditors on the lines of other professional bodies like ICSI and ICAI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Energy Conservation Building Code was launched on 27-05-2007. A scheme to implement the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) for 11th Plan period has been approved. The approved cost of the scheme is Rs. 13.99 crores.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***CBI Inquiry Against Revenue Officers**

1066. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
 SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH
 DEO:
 SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
 SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of corruption pending with various investigating authorities against officers/officials of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) as on date with their dates of pendency;

(b) whether some officers indicated and charged in corruption cases at places like Inland Clearance Depots (ICDs) since April, 1999 have got plum postings despite their involvement in corruption cases;

(c) if so, the details of such officers since April, 1999 and reasons for giving important postings;

(d) whether the Government has taken any penal action against the above mentioned officers of CBEC and CBDT;

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

(f) the measures taken to check such corruption cases?

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.

[English]

Malnutrition in Tribal Areas

1067. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the areas of tribal habitation of the country have been covered under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme;

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

(c) whether the malnutrition in the Tribal areas of the country is widespread; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) It is one of the mandates under the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government to provide a functional Anganwadi Centre (AWC) in every settlement/habitation. To fulfill this commitment, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme has been expanded twice in 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 increasing the number of ICDS Projects, AWCs and Mini-AWCs to 6284, 10.53 lakhs and 36829, respectively. In order to cover all the hitherto uncovered habitations, including tribal, across the country, the States/Union Territory Administrations were requested to undertake a micro level survey having regard to predominantly SC/ST/

Minority habitations and furnish specific requirement of additional Projects/Anganwadi Centres/Mini-AWCs. The requirements have been incorporated in a composite proposal for the 3rd Phase of expansion of the ICDS Scheme.

State-wise details of sanctioned ICDS Projects and AWCs in tribal areas, till 31-3-2007 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Malnutrition varies widely across regions, states, age, gender and social groups, with relatively high levels in populous northern states, in rural areas and among tribal population.

(d) The overall decline in malnutrition amongst children below three years, as per findings of National Family Health Survey (NFHS), has been about 1% from NFHS-2 in 1998-99 to NFHS-3 in 2005-06. Some States like Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh having sizeable percentage of tribal population, have registered reduction in malnutrition levels.

As the problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature it is being tackled through coordinated interventions of various Ministries/Departments in areas of food security, sanitation and safe drinking water, nutrition, family welfare and poverty alleviation.

As far as ICDS Scheme is concerned, the following steps have been taken in the recent past to combat malnutrition, including in the tribal areas of the country:

- Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition.
- Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States.
- Constant emphasis on States to:
 - Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms;
 - Ensure effective convergence of health nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.

Statement

Statewise number of Tribal ICDS Projects Sanctioned and Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) Sanctioned in Tribal ICDS Projects as on 31-3-2007#

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total no. of tribal ICDS Projects sanctioned by GOI			Total no. of AWCs in tribal ICDS Projects sanctioned by GOI			Total	
		upto 31-3-05	during 2005-06	during 2006-07	upto 31-3-05	during 2005-06	during 2006-07		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29	0	0	29	3636	547	438	4621
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	47	21	0	68	2154	678	1125	3957
3.	Assam	24	2	1	27	3248	856	1098	5202
4.	Bihar	1	0	0	1	169	0	0	169
5.	Chhattisgarh	58	0	1	59	7943	4134	3753	15890
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	35	6	0	41	6588	1316	100	8004
8.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	8	0	0	8	485	153	0	638
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	0	0	3	312	0	0	312
11.	Jharkhand	115	0	0	115	16143	3443	663	20249
12.	Karnataka	7	0	0	7	2561	198	39	2798
13.	Kerala	1	0	0	1	115	33	0	148

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14. Madhya Pradesh	71	0	0	0	0	71	11960	1265	4744	17969
15. Maharashtra	50	9	7	66	8866	3433	14526	1695	2227	3907
16. Manipur	20	0	4	24	2212	0	2173	0	19	2173
17. Meghalaya	31	0	0	31	2154	0	1463	205	78	1463
18. Mizoram	19	2	0	21	1180	285	2788	1108	159	2788
19. Nagaland	52	2	0	54	2364	126	15208	1108	1401	15208
20. Orissa	126	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21. Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22. Rajasthan	30	0	0	30	4304	1645	5949	48	0	48
23. Sikkim	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
24. Tamil Nadu	2	0	0	2	180	1	183	1	2	183
25. Tripura	8	0	0	8	709	498	1441	234	0	500
26. Uttar Pradesh	4	0	0	4	500	0	0	0	0	0
27. Uttaranchal	6	0	0	6	457	222	821	142	0	0
28. West Bengal	46	2	0	48	7424	1844	15729	6461	0	192
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	0	0	2	160	32	0	0	0	0
30. Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	1	0	2	138	77	219	4	4	219

33. Daman ands Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34. Lakshadweep	1	0	0	1	74	0	0	13	87	
35. Pondichery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
All India	797	46	13	856	98735	22001	24395	145131		

Note: During 2006-07, 6069 additional mini-AWCs in tribal projects have been sanctioned by Government of India.

All the States have been permitted to relocate projects and AWCs sanctioned by GOI from one place to another place in order to optimize the coverage of beneficiaries within the overall sanctioned no. of projects and AWCs.

Tribal-projects-AWCs

Abolition of Devadasi Practice

1068. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the continued practice of Devadasi System in Karnataka and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to abolish this practice;

(c) whether the cases have been registered in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith actions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per information received from State Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra, the custom of Devadasi is in practice in these States. These States have Acts on prohibition and dedication of Devadasis. The States are also undertaking measures for providing welfare and rehabilitation of Devadasis. As far as Ministry of Women and Child Development is concerned, the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purposes of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPA is now proposed to be further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including children. The Ministry of Women and Child Development conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programmes for prevention of trafficking for prostitution, including traditional practices of devadasis.

(c) and (d) As per information received from Government of Karnataka, 46 cases have been registered against the practice of Devadasis and are under trial in different courts.

Holiday Homes

1069. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no Holiday Homes at Goa, Puri, Mt. Abu, Darjeeling, Gangtok, Kodaikanal, Srinagar, Madurai, Shillong, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry till date for the Central Government Employees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the facility is to be created at above places; and

(d) whether the rooms at Holiday Homes are also made available to retired Central Government Employees and if so, the reasons therefor, if not the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir. There are no Holiday Homes constructed and made operational in the cities/towns listed.

(b) The Holiday Homes at these cities/towns have not been constructed so far in view of non-availability of suitable land and budgetary support.

(c) No time frame has been prescribed for construction of Holiday Homes at these cities/Hill stations.

(d) The rooms at Holiday Homes are made available to the retired Central Government employees also if there is no requirement of serving Central Government employees.

Setting Up of Power Monitoring Panel

1070. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Power Project Monitoring Panel/Board;

(b) if so, the term and reference of said Panel/Board; and

(c) the time by which the said Panel/Board is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Ministry of Power has decided to set up Power Project Monitoring Panel. The primary function of the panel would be to monitor the progress of the

thermal and hydro power projects proposed for benefits in the XI Plan period and their Associated Transmission System. The panel would also have the responsibility of facilitating the identification of bottlenecks and suggesting remedial measures for timely project commissioning. The panel would be required to submit monthly reports.

Central Scholarship Scheme

1071. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved a new Central Scholarship Scheme for the students belonging to Scheduled Tribes for higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the students belonging to creamy layer will also be considered under this Central Scholarship Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has introduced a new Central Sector Scholarship Scheme of Top Class Education for ST Students from the academic year 2007-08 with the objective of enabling meritorious ST students to pursue degree and post degree level courses in any of the identified institutes. 127 institutes have been approved under the scheme, in both Government and private sectors, covering the field of management, medicine, engineering, law and commercial courses. Each institute has been allocated maximum of five awards, with a ceiling of total 635 scholarships per year. A meritorious ST student who has gained admission in any of these 127 identified institutes shall be eligible for receiving the scholarship under this scheme provided he falls within the inter-se seniority list of top five meritorious ST students and the total family income of the ST student from all the sources does not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum.

The ST students will be awarded scholarship covering full tuition fee and other non-refundable dues in respect of Government/Government-funded institutions. However, there is a ceiling of Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum

per student for private sector institutions and Rs. 3.72 lakh per annum per student for the private sector flying clubs for Commercial Pilot Training. In addition, the scholarship also provides for (i) living expenses @ Rs. 2200 per month per student subject to actuals, (ii) books and stationery @ Rs. 3000 per annum per student and (iii) cost of a latest computer system along with its accessories limited to Rs. 45000 as one time assistance during the course.

Review of Rural Development Schemes

1072. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of States have not initiated any steps to implement various rural development schemes;

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

(c) whether the Government has issued fresh reminders to the defaulting States to implement the schemes immediately in its recently held Performance Review Committee Meeting;

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

(e) the reaction of State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) All the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development are implemented and monitored by all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in accordance with the provisions laid down in the programme guidelines. During the 10th Plan period, as against Central share of allocation of Rs. 76,774.00 crores for Rural Development Schemes of this Ministry, an amount of Rs. 114068.00 crores had been released i.e. 148% of the allocation.

These programmes are also monitored by the Ministry of Rural Development through a comprehensive monitoring mechanism, including utilization of funds, through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee meetings, Area Officer's Scheme,

National Level Monitors, District Level Monitoring and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State/District Level. In the recently held Performance Review Committee meetings, the rural development programmes being funded by the Ministry were reviewed and wherever further step up in implementation was felt, the concerned State Government and the implementing agencies have been advised to take up necessary corrective measures.

Urban Poverty Alleviation Schemes

1073. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes implemented by Government for poverty alleviation in the urban areas;

(b) whether any survey has been made to know the impact of implementation of these schemes on urban poverty;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds allocated spent for urban poverty alleviation during the last three years;

(e) whether the amount sanctioned for poverty alleviation has not been fully utilized; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) With a view to ameliorate the conditions of urban poor, and to reduce the urban poverty in the country, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented urban poverty alleviation scheme namely, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) on all India basis, since 1-12-1997. This scheme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed poor through setting up of micro enterprises and also through provision of Wage employment by utilizing their

labour for construction of useful public assets. The scheme is funded in the ratio of 75:25 between the Central and the States.

(b) and (c) Recently, the scheme of SJSRY have been independently evaluated by M/s Access Development Services, New Delhi in 9 representative States/UTs of Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Assam, Kerala, Goa, Haryana and Delhi. The study started in November 2006 and completed by March, 2007. The major suggestions of the study on evaluation of SJSRY include the following:

- Focus of the scheme should be on supporting urban self-employment.
- Creation of more micro-enterprises by the urban poor, individually and in groups should be encouraged.
- Marketing and credit linkages should be provided to the beneficiaries.
- Service sector and small business activities are areas that have high potential for self-employment opportunities.
- Proper market assessment needs to be undertaken for the micro-entrepreneurs before deciding on micro-enterprises and other ventures to be set up.
- Training needs assessment should be conducted before providing skills training to the urban poor.
- Community mobilization is critical for success employment creation and income generation programmes.
- Social security aspects of the poor need to be addressed in conjunction with poverty alleviation programmes.
- Community-based credit programmes should be designed with the involvement of Non-Government of Organisations (NGOs)/ Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

- Capacity building of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other stakeholders is essential for the success of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).

(d) to (f) The central funds allocated and utilized for the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) during last three years, year-wise is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Allocation	123.00	160.00	250.00
Utilization	123.00	160.00	250.00

It is evident from the above that the Central allocation has been fully utilized by releasing to States/

UTs and other agencies for the implementation of the scheme of SJSRY.

Aam Aadmi Beema Yojana

1074. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has launched a new Aam Aadmi Beema Yojana on the occasion of the Gandhi Jayanti to cover BPL families;

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

(c) the steps so far taken to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Central Government has launched a new scheme called the 'Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana' for the benefit of rural landless households. The scheme is being implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). The details of the scheme are as under:—

Eligibility	Rural Landless Households
Age Group	18-59 years
Premium	Rs. 200 per annum per member, shared equally by the Central Government and the respective State Government.
Nodal Agency	State Government.
Benefits:	
Natural Death	Rs. 30,000
Accidental Death	Rs. 75,000
Total permanent disability	Rs. 75,000 (loss of two eyes or two limbs or loss of one eye and one limb in accident).
Partial permanent disability	Rs. 37,500 (loss of one eye or one limb in an accident).
Scholarships	Two children of the beneficiaries studying between 9th to 12th Standard will get Rs. 600 per half year per child.

(c) The Government has approved creation of two funds for Rs. 1000 crore and Rs. 500 crore for meeting its liability towards premium payment and expenditure

on scholarships respectively. At present, 14 States/Union Territories have agreed to implement the scheme.

Hike in Property Price in NCR

1075. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether property prices continue to soar and touch new skies in the country particularly in the NCR region;

(b) whether Government have analyzed the trend and its implications for the vulnerable sections of the community;

(c) if so, the result thereof;

(d) whether Government is considering to have a price regulatory mechanism and authority in real estate sector; and

(e) if so, the progress made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Central Government do not regulate/control prices of land in Delhi/NCR/other areas. Prices of properties are generally determined by market forces. It is reported that the land prices in Delhi/NCR/other areas have risen during the last few years due to various factors including growth in economy, less supply compared to demand, easy availability of housing loan, easy financing of housing projects, change from leasehold to freehold, infrastructure improvement, etc.

As part of providing housing for the poor, the Master Plan of Delhi 2021 envisages in-situ slum rehabilitation including using land as a resource for private sector participation, mandatory provision of EWS housing/slum rehabilitation in all group housing to the extent of 15% of permissible FAR or 35% dwelling units on the plot, whichever is higher, housing for the urban poor to the extent of 50-55% of the total, re-categorization of housing types, development control norms and differential densities to make EWS/LIG housing viable and economical, etc. The allotment of plots under LIG/MIG and EWS categories to the DDA registrants under Rohini Residential Scheme and allottees of alternative plots is made at the pre-determined rates which are not impacted by the increase in the rates fetched through auction.

(d) and (e) Enacting a legislation to regulate real estate sector in Delhi is at a preliminary stage.

Research on Himalayan Glaciers

1076. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the climatic change in the Himalayan Glacier;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the fund allocated and utilized for the research on Himalayan Glaciers during the each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the fund allocation for the above purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir. A number of glaciers have been taken up for monitoring studies in the different parts of Indian Himalaya by several Government agencies like Wadia institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun, Geological Survey of India (GSI), Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE), Chandigarh etc.

(b) The research on Himalayan glaciers shows that most of the Himalayan glaciers are receding gradually due to the orographic and climatic variability. A number of weather stations have been set up to collect real time weather observations at different altitudes in the glacier areas of the Himalaya to assess and evaluate the climate change.

(c) to (e) The amount spent for research on Himalayan Glaciers during the last three years is given below:

2004-2005	Rs. 1,11,10,689
2005-2006	Rs. 74,48,000
2006-2007	Rs. 1,16,00,000
2007-2008	: Rs. 2,21,40,000

The Himalayan Glaciology is a continuing programme of Department of Science and Technology. In addition to the need of funds for on-going activities, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is in the process of establishing a National Centre for Himalayan Glaciology as well as few Regional Centres for Himalayan Glaciology. Accordingly, DST proposed to increase the budget estimate for Himalayan Glaciology Programme during the 11th Five Year Plan.

Setting Up of Renewable Energy Projects

1077. SHRI SURESH ANGADI:

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals have been received by the Government from the various State Governments during the last two years for increasing Renewable Energy Sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number out of them cleared during the period and the present status of remaining proposals; and

(d) the time by which all the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) Proposals for grant of central financial assistance under the schemes/programmes of the Ministry are received on an ongoing basis through State Governments/designated State Nodal Agencies. Complete proposals in line with the schemes/programmes are considered and approved promptly subject to budget provision.

Service Tax on Packaged Tours

1078. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has reduced service tax levy on packaged tours by tour operators in the country as reported in *The Economic Times* dated August 24, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has finalized the modalities to pass on such benefits to travellers;

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

(e) if not, the time by when the modalities would be finalized and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Services provided by a tour operator in relation to a tour, including a package tour is leviable to service tax [section 65(105)(n) of the Finance Act, 1994]. A service provider who provides a package tour has the option to pay service tax at the applicable rate, vide notification No. 1/2006-Service Tax, dated 01-03-06, on 40% of the gross amount charged for the tour after availing an abatement of 60%, provided credit of duties paid is not availed of under the CENVAT credit scheme. Taking into account the representation received and the material facts, the level of abatement was increased from 60% to 75% vide notification No. 38/2007-Service Tax, dated 23-08-07.

(c) Value of services provided depends upon number of factors including service tax payable and is determined by the market forces.

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

[Translation]

Reforms in Power Sector

1079. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any "road map" has been prepared for reforms in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the power transmission and distribution losses are likely to be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Government of India signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with all the States for undertaking reforms and restructuring in a time bound manner and linking the support of Government of India for achievement of pre-determined milestones. The salient features of the MOU were as under:

(I) Reform Programme by State Government

- Reorganization of State Electricity Boards.
- 100% electrification of villages and hamlets.
- Energy audit at all levels.
- Setting up of State Electricity Regulatory Commission.
- Rationalization of tariffs.

(II) Support from Government of India

- Supply of additional power wherever feasible.
- Strengthening and improvement of transmission network by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.
- Assistance for strengthening and upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system.
- Funding for 100% electrification of village and hamlets.
- Concessional financing by Power Finance Corporation for financial restructuring plans, etc.

(c) The Central Government has built a national

consensus to focus on a time bound programme for reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT and C) losses. In the Chief Ministers' Conference held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 28th May 2007, a unanimous resolution was adopted which inter alia included the commitment of the States, with appropriate assistance from the Centre, to establish the necessary baseline data and information technology applications for energy accounting and auditing, and for ensuring a resolute elimination of electricity theft. In the Conference, the States committed themselves to achieve and sustain drastic reduction in the overall AT and C losses in the next five years and at least to a level of 15% in the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) project areas.

[English]

Effect of Subsidy on Growth

1080. **SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently expressed concerns over the subsidies coming in way of growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In the recently held Full Planning Commission Meeting on 7-11-2007 concern was expressed about the problem of mounting subsidies in food, fertilizers and petroleum and its impact on growth.

(c) Government has endeavoured to target subsidies towards the poor and truly needy like small and marginal farmers, farm labour and urban poor and requisite policy measures are taken from time to time in this regard.

Malnutrition among Children

1081. **SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:**

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a panel to consider cash benefit to pregnant and lactating mothers to prevent malnutrition; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Rural Banks in the Country

1082. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI Y.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of loss making rural banks in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of these banks;

(c) whether the Government has set up any Committee for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per provisional figures furnished by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), out of 96 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), 15 RRBs incurred losses of Rs. 301.25 crore during 2006-07. State-wise position is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Government of India/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and NABARD have taken a number of measures to improve the functioning of RRBs and to reduce their losses such as:—

(1) Amalgamation of RRBs for business consolidation, expansion etc. The amalgamated RRBs

will provide better customer service due to better infrastructure, computerization of branches, pooling of experienced work force, common publicity and marketing efforts etc. They will also reap benefits of a large area of operation and enhanced credit exposure limits.

(2) Government has announced in the budget proposals for 2007-08 that RRBs having negative net worth will be recapitalized by the stakeholders as a measure to strengthen the RRBs, financially.

(3) Enhancement of credit to Non-Priority Sector.

(4) Expansion of non-fund based business activities such as sale of insurance policies, disbursement of pension, salaries etc. and handling of government business to increase income generation.

(5) Extension of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI) to RRBs with a view to improve their recoveries.

(6) Permitting RRBs to accept Foreign Currency Non-Residents (FCNR) Deposits.

(7) Allowing consortium lending to RRBs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is expected that the measures taken in this regard will improve the performance of RRBs including loss making RRBs to make them financially viable.

Statement

State-wise number of loss making RRBs

Sl.No.	State	No. of RRBs
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
2.	Bihar	2

Sl.No.	State	No. of RRBs
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
4.	Jharkhand	2
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1
6.	Maharashtra	1
7.	Manipur	1
8.	Nagaland	1
9.	Orissa	1
10.	Uttar Pradesh	1
11.	West Bengal	2
Total		15

[English]

Violation of Provisions for Natural Calamity Fund under IAY

1083. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding violation of provisions made for utilization of funds meant for natural calamities under Indra Awas Yojana (IAY);

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) No complaint regarding violation of provisions under 5% IAY meant for natural calamities, has been received. However, two complaints were received—one from Shri Sitakanta Mohapatra, MLA Orissa and the other from Shri J.B. Patnaik, Leader of Opposition, Orissa Legislative Assembly, regarding misuse of funds meant for victims of super cyclone and high flood in Orissa for which a special package was sanctioned. The matter was inquired by the Ministry and

the report was forwarded to the State Government to take appropriate action.

Cess on Diesel and Petrol

1084. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to impose a cess of up to 30 paise per litre on diesel and petrol to create more funds for its Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revenue generated through the levy would be pumped into the proposed Rs. 5000 crore National Transport Revolving Fund that would finance State-of-the art MRTS in the country; and

(d) if so, time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) At present, there is no proposal to impose a cess of up to 30 paise per litre on diesel and petrol to create more funds for its Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) under the consideration of the Government.

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

Shortage of Small Denomination Currency Notes

1085. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of smaller denomination currency notes in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government withdrawn the circulation of smaller denomination currency notes or discontinued its printing;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government

to mitigate the shortage of small denomination currency notes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a), (b) and (e) The Reserve Bank of India has informed that printing of small denomination currency notes viz. Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 has been stopped and notes of these denominations have been coined in view of the lower circulation life of notes. There is no shortage of coins of these denominations.

(c) and (d) Though printing of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 denomination notes has been stopped, these notes have not been withdrawn from circulation.

Inflation

1086. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) continue to remain higher than the Wholesale Price Index despite the inflation rate coming down in the recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor with the monthly

variations of inflation during 2007 so far:

(c) whether the rate of inflation in developed and developing countries is higher than that of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the RBI has taken certain measures to check the rise in CPI and inflation;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether Government proposes to increase the prices of petrol and gas;

(h) if so, its likely impact on inflation; and

(i) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to curb the rising trend in CPI and rate of inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The inflation rate based on CPI-IW remained higher than WPI from November 2005. The food items have higher weights (46 per cent) in CPI-IW than in WPI (27 per cent). This greater importance of the food group together with the higher rate of inflation in the food group has resulted in CPI inflation being higher than WPI inflation. Monthly inflation is indicated in the Table 1.

Table 1. WPI and CPI-IW based inflation (%)

2007	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
WPI	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.3	5.5	4.5	4.7	4.1	3.3	3.0
CPI-IW	6.7	7.6	6.7	6.7	6.6	5.7	6.5	7.3	6.4	—

(c) and (d) CPI based inflation rates in India vis-a-vis Advanced and Developing countries as is indicated

in the Table 2.

Table 2. CPI based inflation in India vis-a-vis Advanced and Developing Countries (%)

Year	India	Advanced Countries	Developing Countries
2001	3.9	2.1	6.5

Year	India	Advanced Countries	Developing Countries
2002	4.1	1.5	5.7
2003	4.0	1.8	5.7
2004	3.6	2.0	5.4
2005	4.3	2.3	5.2
2006	6.2	2.3	5.1
July-07	6.5	1.9	5.6

(e) to (i) There is no proposal as of now with the Government, to increase the domestic petroleum prices. Stability in petroleum prices at the February 2007 level has contributed to a lower head line inflation. The inflation has moderated in the recent months due to supply side improvements in some essential items like wheat and sugar; strengthening of the rupee leading to a decline in rupee prices of imported goods; monetary and fiscal measures initiated by RBI and Government; and administrative measures including import of commodities like wheat and pulses through the public sector agencies.

**Tribal Co-operative Marketing
Development Federation**

1087. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the States where the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) has set up its offices;

(b) whether some offices are not operational;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has reviewed the working of this Federation, and

(e) if so, the findings thereof alongwith suggestions for improvement?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), with its Head Office at New Delhi has 13 Regional Offices (ROs) which are located in the following States:

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Chhattisgarh
4. Delhi (RO)
5. Gujarat
6. Jharkhand
7. Karnataka
8. Madhya Pradesh
9. Maharashtra
10. Orissa
11. Rajasthan
12. Sikkim
13. Uttaranchal

(b) No Sir. All offices of TRIFED are operational.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes Sir. TRIFED engaged a firm of private consultants in the year 2002 for conducting a diagnostic

study and for preparing an operational plan, including restructuring of the organisation for improving its functioning and performance.

(e) The main findings of the study regarding the Federation's performance were as follows:

- Organisational deficiencies arising out of limited focus on procurement, lack of market intelligence adhoc approach to project execution and poor work culture.
- Systemic failures resulting from a lack of planning framework, monitoring procedures, and the adhoc nature of purchase and selling operations.
- Operational weaknesses brought about by poor storage practices, high inventory costs, huge fixed expenses and unprofitable procurement activities.
- The conclusion of the Consultants was that TRIFED needed a complete overhaul.

The Consultant had also suggested that TRIFED should:

- Effect a change in its role from an agency for procurement and trading in Minor Forest Produce to marketing development activities (i.e. TRIFED should act as a market developer and service provider and not as a direct trader in Minor Forest Produce and Agricultural produce).
- Undertake development of marketing of tribal craft items, tribal resource capability, etc.

Setting Up of Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

1088. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up the Indian institute of Corporate Affairs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The proposed institute would provide policy research and knowledge support to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on an ongoing basis and serve as a think tank and implementation arm of initiatives and programmes under progress in the Ministry. The project has been given an in principle approval by the Planning Commission for the XI Five Year Plan.

Health Insurance Scheme

1089. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of K.S. Shastry to look into the health insurance schemes for senior citizens;

(b) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if not, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report;

(d) whether the Government has received complaints regarding health insurance for senior citizens; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that the Committee is expected to submit its report to them by the end of November, 2007.

(d) and (e) The complaints received by Government/IRDA inter-alia, pertain to the following:

- (i) Non-availability/restricted insurance coverage for senior citizens
- (ii) Exorbitant premium
- (iii) Exclusion of pre-existing disease

- (iv) Refusal to Renew
- (v) Arbitrary loading of premium
- (vi) Limited coverage of illness
- (vii) Non-receipt/delay in receipt of policy documents
- (viii) Undue delay in reimbursement
- (ix) Inadequate networking of the hospitals by the Third Party Administrators.

Irregularities in Implementation of NFFWP

1090. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed any loopholes while implementing the National Food For Works Programme (NFFWP);

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

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding irregularities and delay in payments of wages in the form of food grains and cash given to

the labourers working under NFFWP from various States during 2006-07 and 2007-08;

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

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such complaints under the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) was launched in 150 districts in the country in November, 2004. The programme got subsumed in National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) with effect from 2-2-2006. The structural and systemic discrepancies of all the erstwhile wage employment programmes were taken care of while formulating the Act and the Operational Guidelines for its implementation.

(c) and (d) State-wise details of complaints under NFFWP received during 2006-07 and 2007-08, so far, are given in the Statement enclosed.

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

Statement

State	Name of the Complainant	Allegations made	Action taken by the Ministry
1	2	3	4
Bihar	Shri Tariq Anwar, MP (RS)	Misappropriation of funds and irregularities in Katihar under NFFWP	Forwarded to State Government for Examination, necessary action and report to the Ministry.
Bihar	Shri Suresh Rai, Coordinator, Meenapur, Muzzafarpur, Bihar	Irregularities and improper implementation of NFFWP in Muzzafarpur	Forwarded to State Government for Examination, necessary action and report to the Ministry.
Uttar Pradesh	Shri Ilyas Azmi, MP (LS)	Corruption in implementation of NFFWP in Lakhimpur Khiri	Forwarded to State Government for Examination, necessary action and report to the Ministry.
Uttar Pradesh	Shri Ashok Gehlot, General Secretary, AICC	Corruption and Irregularities in NFFWP in Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh	Forwarded to State Government for Examination, necessary action and report to the Ministry.

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad, MP, (Lok Sabha)	Misuse of funds under NFFWP in Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh	Forwarded to State Government for Examination, necessary action and report to the Ministry.

Welfare of Tribals

1091. SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal of financial assistance from the State Governments for the welfare of tribals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the estimated funds required therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Programmes for the welfare of tribal people in the country. Receipt and sanction of the proposals from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the schemes of this Ministry is

an on-going process. Funds under the schemes of the Ministry are released to the State/UT Governments based on the percentage of ST population in the State/UT, the proposals submitted by them, fulfilment of the eligibility conditions of the relevant scheme, subject to the availability of funds and utilisation of the previously released funds. The State-wise allocation to various States/Union Territories under different schemes/programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2007-08 is enclosed as Statement. Against the Budget Estimates of Rs. 1719.71 crore for various Plan schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2007-08, the Ministry after considering the proposals of the States/UT Administrations under the respective schemes/programmes has till 31-10-2007 released a sum of Rs. 786.00 crores to various States/Union Territories.

Statement

Statement showing the tentative/indicative allocations made to various States/UTs under the schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the year 2007-08

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	% of STs	GIA to NGO	Educational complex in low literacy pockets	TRI Scheme*	SCA to TSP	Grants under Art. 275(I) of the Constitution of India	Total (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.53	1.85	8.9	0.4218	32.16	18.7976	62.1294
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	2.25	0.3	—	—	2.6383	5.1883
3.	Assam	4.3	1	—	0.2778	34.63	12.3789	48.2867

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4. Bihar		—	0.2	—	—	7.25	2.8374	10.2874
5. Chhattisgarh		8.6	0.6	0.5	0.5555	52.66	24.7558	79.0713
6. Delhi		—	0.2	—	—	—	—	0.2
7. Goa		—	—	—	—	1.33	0.6084	1.9384
8. Gujarat		9.73	1.75	0.7	0.6279	46.94	27.9906	78.0065
9. Himachal Pradesh		0.32	0.75	—	0.075	9.82	1.2677	11.9127
10. Jammu and Kashmir		—	1	0.3	—	12.02	4.138	17.458
11. Jharkhand		9.22	2.25	0.4	0.5949	67.71	26.5161	97.471
12. Karnataka		4.5	2	1.2	0.2907	13.72	12.9804	30.1711
13. Kerala		0.47	1	—	0.075	3.05	1.3626	5.4876
14. Madhya Pradesh		15.91	1.76	2	1.027	97.36	45.7712	147.9182
15. Maharashtra		11.15	2.6	0.5	0.7215	42.93	32.0917	78.8432
16. Manipur		0.96	1.7	—	0.075	8.79	2.773	13.338
17. Meghalaya		—	3.75	—	—	—	7.4562	11.2062
18. Mizoram		—	0.3	—	—	—	3.1403	3.4403
19. Nagaland		—	0.5	0.3	—	—	6.8375	7.4375
20. Orissa		10.59	3	2.8	0.684	74	30.4746	110.9586
21. Rajasthan		9.23	0.85	0.9	0.5955	46.54	26.5559	75.4414
22. Sikkim		—	0.45	—	—	2.43	0.7776	3.6576
23. Tamil Nadu		0.85	0.35	—	0.075	3.61	2.4369	6.4719
24. Tripura		1.29	0.35	0.3	0.0833	11.92	3.7169	16.3702
25. Uttar Pradesh		0.14	0.2	—	0.075	4.96	4.47	9.705
26. Uttaranchal		—	0.75	—	—	1.1	0.9583	2.8083
27. West Bengal		5.73	2.5	0.6	0.3701	25.07	16.4879	45.028
28. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		0.46	0.05	—	0.075	—	—	0.125

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	0.02	0.3	—	—	—	0.32
30.	Lakshadweep	—	0.02	—	—	—	—	0.02
Total		100	34	20	6.7	600	320	990.7

* Allocation made on the basis of ST population size and subject to minimum of Rs. 7.50 lakhs.

** Total D.E. is Rs. 400 crore 10% i.e. 40 crore has been retained to be released for innovative projects as per para XIII of the guidelines issued vide letter No. 14011/9/2001 dated 2-7-2002 Rs. 40 crore earmarked for EMRS.

[Translation]

**Indo-Iran Co-Operation in
Power Sector**

1092. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for power supply has been received from the Government of Iran for cooperation in power sector in the country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Iranian Minister of Energy, Mr. Parviz Fattahi, accompanied by an official delegation had called on Minister of Power on 15-02-2007. The participation of Indian and Iranian companies in power generation in India and Iran was discussed. The Iranian side during the discussions had also proposed, inter alia, a grid connectivity from Iran to India and had suggested that a joint study be undertaken. However, no concrete proposal has been received in this regard so far. In response to the suggestion of the Iranian side for grid connectivity between the two countries, the Indian side indicated that bilateral cooperation be accorded priority in the first instance.

Sale of Equity Share

1093. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to off load its 4.75 per cent stake in National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) through public offer; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Government, in February, 2004, had approved issue of Initial Public Offer (IPO) not exceeding 10 per cent of NTPC's paid up capital in one or more stages/tranches for augmenting resources of NTPC Limited for investment programme. Keeping in view the share market scenario at that time, only 5.25 per cent out of 10 per cent was issued through IPA leaving a balance of 4.75 per cent. In view of the favourable market scenario, NTPC Limited has approached the Ministry of Power for permission for Follow-on-Public-Offer (FPO) of the balance 4.75 per cent.

The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Removal of Jhuggi Clusters and Slums

1094. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the list of Jhuggi Clusters/Slums in Delhi, location-wise;

(b) whether the High Court of Delhi has ordered to remove unauthorized Jhuggi clusters/slums within stipulated period located on Government land; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government, MCD, NDMC and CPWD authorities for its removal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Slum and JJ Department of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that no survey has been conducted to ascertain the number of jhuggi clusters in Delhi. However, in January 1990, door to door survey has been conducted by the Food and Civil Supplies Department for the purpose of issue of ration cards, and as per that survey there were about 2.60 lakh jhuggies in 329 JJ clusters. Later on, Slum and JJ Department made an assessment in 1994 according to which there were about 4.80 lakh jhuggies in about 1080 JJ clusters.

(b) and (c) The High Court of Delhi, in various cases, has given directions for removal of jhuggie

clusters located on Government land in a time bound manner. Necessary action is taken by the concerned authorities in accordance with the existing relocation policy of jhuggie dwellers in Delhi and in terms of the relevant provisions of The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Ordinance, 2007.

Rainfall During Monsoon

1095. SHRI BHAILAL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some states have received less rainfall during the last monsoon; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir. Nine states received deficient rainfall during the Southwest monsoon season (June to September) of 2007.

(b) Details of deficient rainfall distribution in states are given below:

Sl. No.	State	Actual (mm)	Normal (mm)	% Departure from normal
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1461.9	1834.9	-20
2.	Meghalaya	4443.4	5585.7	-20
3.	Nagaland	887.8	1344.1	-34
4.	Mizoram	669.4	839.3	-20
5.	Uttar Pradesh	637.1	856.1	-26
6.	Haryana	303.9	462.4	-34
7.	Chandigarh	644.7	846.6	-24
8.	Punjab	355.4	501.8	-29
9.	Himachal Pradesh	498.0	773.7	-36

[*Translation*]

Depositors in Financial Institutions

1096. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact a law to safeguard the interests of the depositors in banks, financial institution and non-banking financial companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of states who have enacted such law with the consent of Union Government as yet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961 grants protection to depositors of all commercial banks (including the Regional Rural Banks and, Co-operative Banks) which are registered as insured banks. Each depositor of an insured bank which goes into liquidation is entitled to receive from the Corporation, an amount up to Rs. 1,00,000 (Rupees one lakh only).

As regards Non Banking Financial Institutions (NBFIs), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put in place a comprehensive regulatory and supervisory framework aimed at protecting the interests of depositors. Chapters III-B, III-C and V of the RBI Act, 1934 were amended in 1997 vesting considerable powers with RBI for effective supervision over deposit taking NBFIs. RBI is of the view that wherever there is a need for enhanced legislative powers to protect the interest of the depositors the same can be incorporated through amendment of the RBI Act, 1934. Therefore, a separate legislation for regulating deposit taking NBFIs may not be necessary at this stage.

RBI has reported that the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat,

Himachl Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttaranchal have enacted certain legislation for protecting the interest of depositors.

Illegally Occupied Government Bungalows

1097. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government bungalows under the Union Government are being occupied illegally;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of bungalows occupied illegally at present state-wise;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to vacate these bungalows;

(e) whether Honourable Supreme Court has also issued instructions to vacate these bungalows; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Some Bungalows of the Union of India are being occupied by entities whose entitlements have since expired.

(b) and (c) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Eviction proceedings have been initiated against unauthorised occupants.

(e) and (f) Hon'ble Supreme Court has taken cognizance of the incidents of unauthorized occupation of government premises in violation of the allotment rules and no specific instructions have been given.

Statement

List of Unauthorized occupant of Government Accommodation in Delhi

Sl. No.	Name of the Person (Unauthorized Occupant)	Details of quarters	State
1	2	3	4
1.	General Secretary, INC	B. N. 5, Raisina Road (Type-VIII)	Delhi

1	2	3	4
2.	General Secretary, INC	26, Akbar Road (Type-V Ind. Bungalow)	Delhi
3.	Bharatiya Janta Party	14, Pt. Pant Marg (T-VII)	Delhi
4.	Government of Jammu and Kashmir	B. No: 2, Kotla Lane (Type-VII)	Delhi
5.	Government of Rajasthan	30, Lodi Estates (Type-VII)	Delhi
6.	Smt. Rajmata Gayatri Devi	B. No. 91, Lodi Estates (Type-VIs, Bungalow)	Delhi
7.	Sh. Ashok Pradhan	30, Mahadev Road (T-V)	Delhi

[English]

Revenue Deficit and Fiscal Liability

1098. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for increase in the revenue deficit, the factors contributing it and the action taken thereon;

(b) the present status of fiscal liability of Union Government;

(c) the reason for its increase despite the provisions of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) and Rules made thereunder; and

(d) the steps taken to bring down the fiscal liability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The revenue and fiscal deficit during 2007-08 are budgeted to be brought down from 2.0% (RE 2006-07) to 1.5% of GDP and from 3.7% (RE 2006-07) to 3.3% of the GDP respectively, and are in consonance with the FRBM road map as reflected under the Medium Term Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement laid in Parliament. Notwithstanding the inherent inflexibility in non-plan expenditure, covering items which are obligatory in nature like defence, interest payments, pensions, major subsidies, transfer to States and Union Territories and internal security, Government is committed to be on course to achieve the FRBM mandated targets by 2008-09.

Payment to Employees of Mini-Anganwadi Centres

1099. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any action on the report of the Review Committee for examining current levels of honorarium and other related issues of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a disparity in the respective remunerations of the workers of Anganwadi and Mini-Anganwadi centers;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to remove such disparity;

(e) whether the Government proposes to revise the status of Mini-Anganwadi Centres; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Report of the Review Committee, constituted for examining the current levels of honorarium and other related issues of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs), is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) As distinct from regular Anganwadi Centre (AWC), Mini-Anganwadi Centre (Mini AWC) is set up in habitation/settlement having population of 150-500 in rural areas and 150-300 in tribal/riverine/desert, hilly and other difficult areas. Since a mini AWC covers fewer number of beneficiaries as compared to a regular AWC, the honorarium paid to AWW engaged in Mini-AWC is Rs. 500 p.m. whereas, it is, on an average, Rs. 1000 per month, in case of AWW in a regular AWC.

(e) and (f) Till the year 2006, only one of the six services i.e. Supplementary Nutrition was being provided through Mini-AWCs. However, now all the six services under the ICDS Scheme are being provided from Mini-AWCs also.

[Translation]

Self Finance Housing Schemes for Weaker Sections

1100. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any housing scheme has been formulated by the Government for weaker sections under self finance scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the location-wise number of the people benefited under said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) No specific Housing Scheme under self-financing pattern for weaker sections has been formulated by the Government. However, a provision has been made in the budget estimates for 2007-08 for an interest subsidy scheme for housing the urban poor.

Disinvestment Policy

1101. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed disinvestment policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

[English]

Grant to Evening Courts

1103. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has received proposals to give grant to the newly established 'Evening Courts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Government of India have received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat for providing special funds of Rs. 5.00 crore for Evening Courts. The proposal could not be accepted to as administration of justice is primarily the concern of the State Governments and there is no such scheme under which central assistance could be provided for Evening Courts.

Balawadis in the Country

1103. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of balawadis existing in the country and the number of children benefited from them;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more balawadis in the country especially in Kerala during the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Scheme of balawadis

has been closed. A new scheme, namely, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers has been launched with effect from 1-1-2006. The details are available on the website [http://wcd.nic.in/] of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. 30902 creches have been set up till 31-3-2007 all over the country benefiting about 7.72 lakh children.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to set up more creches in the country including Kerala during the current year.

Tsunami and Earthquake Identification Centre

1104. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to setup earthquake forecasting centres in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the places where such centres are likely to be setup;

(d) whether the required infrastructure facility/equipments are available in the country;

(e) whether foreign assistance is being received for setting up such centres;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the details of the natural calamities occurred in the country during the last three years; and

(h) the steps taken/being taken by Government to combat the situation arising out of sudden natural calamities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) No Sir, there is no proposal to set up 'earthquake forecasting centres' in the country. At present, there is no scientific technique/equipment available anywhere in the world to forecast the occurrence of earthquakes precisely in terms of time,

space and magnitude. However, Ministry of Earth Sciences is in the process of initiating a program on earthquake precursor studies, which would help identify possible earthquake precursors.

(e) to (f) Scientific collaborations with Iceland and Russia have been initiated in the field of earthquake research including precursory studies.

(g) During the last three years, two significant earthquakes caused extensive damage to property and loss of life in the country. The details of these earthquakes are given below. The great Sumatra earthquake of 26th December, 2004 also triggered massive Tsunami waves, which caused destruction to property and loss of lives on the Indian coasts.

(1) Date: 26-12-2004

Origin Time: 06 hrs 28 min 51.1 Sec (1ST)

Latitude: 3.34 degree North

Longitude: 96.13 degree East

Region: Off west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia

Depth: 16 Km

Magnitude: 9.3 Mw

(2) Date: 08-10-2005

Origin Time: 09 hrs 20 min 36.4 Sec (IST)

Latitude: 34.49 degree North

Longitude: 73.14 degree East

Region: Pakistan

Depth: 10 Km

Magnitude: 7.6 Ms

(h) The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has set up a National Tsunami Warning System that is operational on 24x7 basis at Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad. India Meteorological Department (IMD) is setting-up a seismology monitoring system with real time location and magnitude detection capability.

13th Finance Commission

1105. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted Thirteenth Finance Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) The time by which it will give its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 13th Finance Commission has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar on 13th November 2007 and comprises the following four other members:—

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| (i) Sh. B.K. Chaturvedi,
Member Planning
Commission | — | Member (part
time) |
| (ii) Dr. Indira Rajaraman
Professor Emeritus,
National Institute of
Public Finance and
Policy, New Delhi | — | Member |
| (iii) Dr. Abusaleh Shariff
Chief Economist,
National Council of
Applied Economic
Research, New Delhi | — | Member |
| (iv) Prof. Atul Sarma
Former Vice-Chancellor,
Rajiv Gandhi University
(formerly Arunachal
University) | — | Member |

— Shri Sumit Bose shall be the Secretary of the Commission.

(c) The Commission shall make its report available by the 31st October 2009.

Diversion of Funds Meant for Rural Job Schemes

1106. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of diversion of funds allocated under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for purposes other than generating employment in rural areas, as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated October 17, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir. The cases as reported pertain to the states of Orissa and Chhattisgarh and have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Centre for Environment and Food Security (CEFS) had conducted a survey of the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Orissa and has reported siphoning-off of funds meant for National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). The matter has been taken up with the State Government of Orissa and it has been informed by them that the matter has been referred to National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad for inquiry. It is further informed by the State Government of Orissa that a Fact Finding Committee has also been constituted to discuss the matter with CEFS and submit a report. State Government has also asked the CEFS to come for discussion on its survey findings. C and AG is doing a performance audit of NREGA in Orissa in which it has particularly included the districts and the issues mentioned in CEFS report.

As regards Chhattisgarh, there were complaints regarding alleged purchase of pesticides and fertilizers from NREGA funds in Kanker district. The matter was

taken up with the State Government of Chhattisgarh and the matter was enquired by the Employment Guarantee Commissioner, Chhattisgarh. The inquiry report has been received from the State Government informing that the Collector, Kanker, has been removed and the concerned CEO, Zilla Panchayat has been suspended. The Chief Executive Officers of the Block panchayats in which pesticides and fertilizers were purchased from NREGS funds, Deputy Director, Agriculture who gave technical sanction by including "land treatment" under "land development" and one APO of the Zilla Panchayat have also been suspended. The State Government has also informed that the amount spent on purchase of pesticides and fertilizers in Kanker will not be charged under the NREGA and such expenditure will be booked under other agriculture schemes run by the State Government. The Ministry had also deputed a National Level Monitor (NLM) to the district to conduct an inquiry. NLM has submitted his report which has been shared with the State Government. The Central Government has also requested the C and AG to conduct an audit in the district.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Power Grid Stations

1107. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up some power grid stations in the country;

(b) if so, the names of places where these are proposed to be set-up;

(c) the amount likely to be spent on each of these stations;

(d) the time by which these stations are likely to be set up; and

(e) the extent to which power supply situation is likely to be improved after setting up of these stations?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) implements transmission systems associated with Central Sector generation projects, grid strengthening projects and Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) alongwith Sub-stations associated with such transmission projects.

(b) and (c) The list of new substations envisaged so far in XI plan is enclosed as Statement. The cost of a 400/220 kV sub-station is generally of the order of Rs. 100-150 crore and that of a 765/400 kV substation is Rs. 300-500 crore.

(d) The substations are planned to be commissioned progressively during XI Plan (FY 2007-08 to FY 2011-12).

(e) The setting up of substations is a part of different transmission schemes which would further strengthen the National Grid to facilitate transfer of power within and across the Regions with reliability, security and economy. It is envisaged that by the end of the XI Plan the inter-regional power transmission capacity in the country would be enhanced from the present level of about 17,000 MW to over 37,700 MW.

Statement

Under Construction/Proposed substations of PGCIL

Sl. No.	Sub-Station	Voltage (kV)	MVA
1	2	3	4
A. Northern Region			
1.	Mundka	765/400	4500

1	2	3	4
2.	Fatehpur	765/400	3000
3.	Lucknow-765-new	765/400	3000
4.	Bareilly-765-new	765/400	3000
5.	Fatehabad	400/220	630
6.	Gurgaon (GIS)	400/220	630
7.	Sonepat	400/220	630
8.	Panchkula	400/220	630
9.	Kota	400/220	630
10.	Kankrol	400/220	945
11.	Bhinmal	400/220	630
12.	Sikar	400/220	630
13.	Roorkee	400/220	630
14.	Pithoragarh	220/132	200
15.	Kichcha	220/132	200
16.	Parbati Pooling station (GIS)	400	
17.	Chamera pooling point (GIS)	400/220	630
18.	Ludhiana	400/220	630
19.	Tehri Pooling Station	765/400	4500
B. Eastern Region			
20.	Ranchi-New	765/400	3000
21.	Sasaram	765/400	3000
22.	Gaya	765/400	4500
23.	Teesta-II GIS	400/220	630
24.	Mangan GIS	400/220	630
25.	Melli GIS	400/220	945
26.	New S/s in Northern part of West Bengal/Bihar	400/220	630

1	2	3	4
27.	Rangpo GIS	Switching station	
28.	Lachun GIS	220/132	200
29.	Gangtok	220/132	200
C. North-Eastern Region			
30.	Bishwnath Chariyali	400/132	400
D. Western Region			
31.	Rajgarh	400/220	630
32.	Bhatapara	400/220	630
33.	Raigarh	400/220	630
34.	Damoh	400/220	630
35.	Pune	400/220	630
36.	Solapur	400/220	630
37.	Parli (SW)	Switching station	
38.	Wardha	400/220	630
39.	Shujalpur	400/220	630
40.	Navi Mumbai	400/220	630
41.	Pirana	400/220	630
42.	Gwallor	765/400	3000
43.	Bina (PG)	765/400	2000
44.	Satna	765/400	2000
45.	Indore (PG)	765/400	3000
46.	Bachchau	400/220	630
47.	Shivlakhia	400/220	630
48.	N. Bombay	Switching station	
49.	Wardha	765/400	4500
50.	WR Pooling	765/400	3000

1	2	3	4
51.	Indore (PG)-SW	Switching station	
E. Southern Region			
52.	Warrangal	400/220	630
53.	Pondicherry	400/220	630
54.	Arasur	400/220	630
55.	Pugalur	400/220	630
56.	Kozhikode	400/220	630
57.	Malekottaiyur	400/220	630
58.	Tirunelveli	400/220	630
59.	Muavattupuzha	400/220	630
60.	Hassan	400/220	630
61.	Karaikudi	400/220	630
62.	Bidadi	400/220	1000
63.	Raichur	765/400	3000
64.	Kumool	765/400	3000

[English]

**Grievances of SC/ST
Employees in Banks**

1108. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether letters have been received from "All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped by the Ministry and State Bank of India on SC/ST grievances and discrimination in the Banks during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Awards to Tribal Students

1109. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a total of 172 awards for classes IX and XII have been instituted under the talent promotion scheme for Scheduled Tribe Students in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether a proposal for raising the number of

said awards from 172 to 5000 has been submitted to the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the time by when the said proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs administers a scheme of Upgradation of Merit for Scheduled Tribe students under which the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has allocated 172 awards for class IX to XII students.

(b) No such proposal has been received from the State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Fine Against Companies

1110. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has levied any fine against companies during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the companies against which more than rupees one crore fine was levied; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No, Sir. Monetary penalties are imposed on defaulting companies as are found to be in violation of the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 by the courts of law consequent to the prosecutions as may be launched against them.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Money Deposited in Non-Banking Finance Companies

1111. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints that non-banking financial companies are cheating their depositors;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring any legislation to confiscate the properties of such fraud non-banking financial companies;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) It has been reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that no such complaints have been received in this regard. However, RBI has received complaints against several Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which have defaulted in repayment of deposits. RBI has been taking action against HBFCs which have not complied with the provisions of RBI Act and the directions thereunder or have shown weaknesses in the financial position. Such action includes prohibiting the companies from carrying on non-banking financial activity, acceptance of deposits and alienation of assets. Wherever the default is persistent in nature, RBI initiates winding up proceedings and also files criminal complaint against the Directors of the NBFC. So far RBI has filed winding up petition against 84 NBFCs and criminal proceedings in 70 cases.

(c) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) RBI has put in place a comprehensive regulatory and supervisory framework aimed at protecting the interests of depositors. Efforts have also been made for depositors' education through different media since an informed depositor is considered the best defence against unscrupulous entities. Chapters III-B, III-C and V of RBI Act, 1934 were amended in 1997 vesting considerable powers with RBI for effective supervision over deposit taking non-banking financial companies. RBI has

developed and put in place 11 comprehensive four pronged mechanism to effectively supervise the NBFCs and monitor the compliance by the companies with provisions of RBI Act and Directions issued thereunder. This involves (a) onsite inspection of NBFCs; (b) off-site monitoring of NBFCs through periodic control returns using state of art information technology system; (c) an effective market intelligence network and (d) a system of submission of exception reports by auditors of NBFCs. RBI also closely monitors delinquent/errant companies through special returns or by appointing Observers, wherever necessary, for overseeing functioning of the companies.

Displacement of Tribals

1112. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the tribal communities are being displaced from their traditional habitats on a large scale in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any action to arrest this trend and to rehabilitate these tribals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) The Government is not aware of any large scale displacement of tribal communities from their traditional habitats. However, complaints received alleging eviction of tribal communities from forest lands have been sent to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for necessary action.

Power from Urban Waste

1113. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the Accelerated Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban Wastes;

(b) whether any projects has been undertaken under this programme in the country particularly in West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether production of 2,000 MW of power has been targeted for 2006-07 under this programme; and

(e) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The main objectives of the Programme are to promote setting up of projects for recovery of energy from urban wastes; creation of conducive conditions and environment including fiscal and financial regime to develop and demonstrate projects for recovery of energy from wastes; and, harnessing of the available potential.

(b) and (c) Under the Programme, a project for generation of 3 MW power from biogas being produced at three sewage treatment plants has recently been supported for the city of Surat in Gujarat. Projects on energy recovery from urban wastes have earlier been undertaken in other States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. No projects have so far been taken up in West Bengal under the Programme.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Re-introduction of Pension Scheme

1114. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representation for re-introduction of Pension Scheme for Central Government employees; and

(b) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have received some

representations for re-introduction of defined benefit Pension Scheme for Central Government employees. The Government have decided to operationalise the New Pension System (NPS) for new recruits to the Government who have joined service on or after 1-1-2004.

Loans by HUDCO to Jharkhand

1115. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether HUDCO has sanctioned loans to Jharkhand during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of loan sanctioned during the last three years; and

(c) the terms and conditions of such loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) has sanctioned loans for housing as well as urban infrastructure programmes in Jharkhand. Year-wise details of loans sanctioned during last three years as well as current year (as on 31-10-2007) are given below:

Details of Housing Schemes Sanctioned in Jharkhand (Gross)

Year	No. of Schemes	Loan sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
2004-05	1	50000.00
2005-06	4	5300.00
2006-07	6	1825.00
2007-08 (upto 31.10.2007)	5	5585.00
Total		62710.00

Details of Urban Infrastructure Schemes Sanctioned in Jharkhand (Gross)

Year	No. of Schemes	Loan sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
2004-05	2	10055.00
2005-06	2	628.92
2006-07	13	98648.00
2007-08 (upto 31-10-2007)	6	15660.00
Total		124991.92

The schemes have been sanctioned as per HUDCO guidelines prevailing at the time of sanction.

[English]

Re-Survey of Tribal Area

116. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from the Gujarat Government to re-survey the tribal areas for the allocation of funds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Uniform Power Tariff Policy

1117. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to supply electricity at an uniform rate across the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to frame a National Tariff Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Under the provision of the Electricity Act, 2003, the tariff for retail sale of electricity is to be determined by the concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commission. In discharge of their functions, the Commissions are to be guided, inter-alia by Tariff Policy. As required under the provisions of the Act, the Government of India had notified Tariff Policy on 6 January, 2006, after consulting, inter-alia, the State Governments.

The Tariff Policy lays down approach for determination of the tariffs for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. However, uniform power tariff throughout the country is not envisaged.

Child Sex Tourism

1118. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that child sex is being promoted at large scale in the country in the name of tourism.

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact any stringent law to check growing child sex in the country.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) As per studies conducted by National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women, Child Sex Tourism is prevalent in India, under the cover of Pilgrim Tourism,

Heritage Tourism and Coastal Tourism and is mostly found in the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPA is now proposed to be further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including children. The Ministry of Women and Child Development conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programmes for prevention of child trafficking. The Central Advisory Committee on combating Child Prostitution headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India reviews the State's activities in combating trafficking and prostitution every quarter. The Ministry of Women and Child Development also runs Swadhar Shelter Homes which provide shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counseling, rehabilitation and other facilities to sex workers including children.

New Technology for Renewable Energy

1119. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide tax holiday and other incentives for Renewable energy sector in the country to encourage the industry to invest in new and renewable energy sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a corpus for the Research and Development in various new and renewable energy technologies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The government has been encouraging private investment in renewable energy sector through a mix of fiscal and financial incentives that include capital interest subsidy, accelerated

depreciation, nil/concessional excise and customs duties. further, as applicable to all new infrastructure projects, profits earned from sale of renewable power are exempt from Income Tax for any 10 years out of the first 15 years of project's operation. This apart, preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power is being given in most potential States.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present. However, an amount of Rs. 1100 crore has been proposed to support Research and Development on different aspects of new and renewable energy technologies during 11th Plan period.

[English]

Scheme for Destitute Women

1120. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any specific schemes for taking care of destitute women;

(b) if so the details thereof alongwith the allocation of funds for implementing these schemes during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government received complaints regarding inefficient implementation of these schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched Swadhar Scheme for providing shelter based holistic and integrated services to destitute women.

(b) Details regarding Swadhar Scheme and funds released to Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)/ State Government under Swadhar scheme during each of the last three years are available at the website of this Ministry viz. www.wcd.nic.in.

(c) So far, no complaint has been received regarding inefficient implementation of the Swadhar Scheme.

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

Tsunami Warning Centres

1121. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Interim Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, has been set up and has become operational;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of pressure recorders installed in the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean;

(d) whether nearly 75 earthquakes occurred over the Indian peninsula since the last Tsunami;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. An Early Warning System for Tsunami in Indian Ocean has been set-up at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, and was dedicated to the nation on 15 October 2007. An interim early warning mechanism was in operational at INCOIS, Hyderabad on 24x7 basis prior to 15 October 2007. The Early Warning System is based on collection of near real time seismic signals for monitoring earthquakes capable of generating tsunamis, observing real time changes in the sea level and validating propagation of tsunami waves, if any, to generate alert and warning advisories for tsunami.

(c) At present four Bottom Pressure Recorders (BPRs) are installed in Bay of Bengal and two in the Arabian Sea.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Seventy-seven significant earthquakes were observed by the seismological

network of India Meteorological Department over the Indian peninsula region covering latitudes 8° to 24° North and longitude 68° to 90° East since December, 2004. Of these three earthquakes were of magnitude 5 and above and seventy four of magnitude between 3.5 and 4.9.

CGHS Facilities to CSIR Pensioners

1122. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has issued all India basis medical health card to their pensioners to obtain emergency medical facilities from any CGHS area;

(b) if so, whether CSIR approves lower rates than CGHS rates to the pensioners, for private unrecognized hospitals/clinics for any treatment and procedures;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to remove this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) In CSIR, CGHS facility is extended only to the employees/pensioners of CSIR Hqr. and Labs./Instts. located in Delhi. Employees/pensioners of CSIR Labs/Instts. located outside Delhi who are not covered under CGHS have been issued medical health card for obtaining treatment through CSIR dispensaries and CGHS recognized private hospitals.

(b) No Sir, CSIR pensioners covered under CGHS or having Medical health card of CSIR and taking treatment from CGHS recognized private hospitals are allowed reimbursement at CGHS rates or as per actuals which ever is less. Where treatment is obtained from an unrecognized hospitals under emergency, reimbursement is made as per CS(MA) Rules, 1944.

(c) Anomaly exist only in cases where the individual is not covered under CGHS and the treatment is obtained from private unrecognized hospital in emergency. CSIR being an Autonomous Body, the Ministry of Health/DGHS has not extended medical

facility through CGHS to its employees/pensioners located outside Delhi as a result they are extended medical facility through CSIR dispensaries and paid as per CS(MA) Rules.

(d) The matter has been taken up by CSIR with Ministry of Health/DGHS for treating CSIR employees, including extension of credit facility, however, DGHS/CGHS has not agreed to the proposal so far.

Encouragement to Registration of Birth of Girl Child and Girl Education

1123. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to bring a scheme to provide cash and non cash incentives to parents in backward districts to encourage them to register the birth of their daughters and send them to school regularly and not rush them into marriage as soon as they turn to 18; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Scheme of Conditional Cash Transfer for girl child with Insurance Cover has been included in the Annual Plan 2007-08 and includes cash transfers to the family of the girl child based on the fulfillment of four important conditionalities viz. birth and registration of the girl child, immunization, retention in school and delaying marriage beyond 18 years of age.

Regularization of Unauthorized Colonies

1124. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has drawn up detailed guidelines to regularize unauthorized colonies in the capital;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines drawn up for the purpose;

(c) the implementation status thereof;

(d) the funds required for the purpose; and

(e) the manner in which the Government is likely to meet the financial need?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Salient features of the guidelines are as under:

(i) All unauthorized colonies (except those inhabited by affluent sections of society) as existed as per aerial survey of 2002 will be eligible for regularization subject to the condition that they fulfill the conditions mentioned in the guidelines. 'Habitations' existing as on 31-3-2002 that have come up as extension to village abadi and have not been notified as Lal Dora extension to village abadi, would also be eligible for regularization on the same lines as unauthorized colonies.

(ii) Following types of colonies or parts thereof would not be considered for regularization:

(a) Colonies/parts of colonies falling in notified or reserved forest areas.

(b) Colonies/parts of colonies which pose hindrances in the provision of infrastructure facilities or fall in the area of ROW of existing/proposed railway lines; Master Plan roads and major/trunk water supply and sewerage lines.

(c) Colonies where more than 50% plots are un-built on the date of formal announcement of regularization scheme.

(d) No regularization would be done, of colonies or parts of colonies, whether on private or public land, if it violates the

provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

(iii) There shall be a Registered Resident Society in each colony for liaison with the concerned local body/DDA/GNCTD in respect of issues pertaining to the regularization process.

(iv) The colonies have been categorized into three groups for recovery of cost of undeveloped public land. The plot holders shall pay prevailing cost of acquisition of agricultural land plus penalty for undeveloped public land. In case of developed public land, the land rate shall be the rate as notified by DDA plus penalty.

(v) Recovery of development charges and modalities for undertaking developmental works will be decided by the GNCTD.

(vi) The work relating to regularization including finalization of boundaries of each colony, preparation and implementation of development works involving agencies concerned would be undertaken, coordinated, monitored and supervised by GNCTD.

(c) A copy of the revised guidelines has been sent to GNCTD and DDA for taking necessary preparatory steps. GNCTD has informed that it has issued public notice in leading newspapers inviting lay-out plan and other information from resident associations/resident societies. However, actual regularization of unauthorized colonies is subject to the orders of Supreme Court and Delhi High Court.

(d) and (e) GNCTD has reported that it has sufficient funds for providing basic amenities in the unauthorized colonies in a phased manner. GNCTD has approved the creation of a 'special fund for development of unauthorized colonies' with an outlay of Rs. 2800 crore in the 11th Plan to meet the anticipated expenditure for provision of (i) water supply, (ii) sewerage, (iii) roads, (iv) drains and sanitation services, and (v) community and miscellaneous services.

Special Central Assistance

1125. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government monitors the utilisation of funds, allocated under Tribal Sub Plan (TSP);

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise for each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaint of diversion of funds allocated under TSP by the State Government for other purposes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether, the Nodal Agencies have been involved

at the State level to monitor this scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The utilization of funds allocated under TSP is monitored by the Planning Commission and available information on State-wise expenditure for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2006-07 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No such instance has come to the notice of the Planning Commission or the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(e) and (f) In all the TSP States, nodal departments have been identified for matters relating to the welfare of Scheduled Tribes which inter-alia includes preparation and implementation of the Tribal Sub Plan.

Statement**Earmarking of Funds under TSP States**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	2003-04		2004-05		2006-07	
		State Plan Expend.	Flow to TSP	State Plan Expend.	Flow to TSP	State Plan Expend.	Flow to TSP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7,111.90	662.10	9,996.30	822.30	20,000.00	1,168.00
2.	Assam	1,457.00	141.00	1,794.70	160.00	3,507.00	31.60
3.	Bihar	NA	NA	NA	NA	8,250.00	74.30
4.	Chhattisgarh	1,656.80	581.40	33.80	11.80	5,378.10	2,084.60
5.	Gujarat	7,584.70	793.20	8,669.70	971.50	12,503.50	1,850.50
6.	Himachal Pradesh	13.40	1.10	14.00	1.20	1,800.00	159.80
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,500.00	381.50
8.	Jharkhand	1,739.10	787.80	3,146.70	1,536.90	6,500.00	3,811.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Karnataka	77.20	1.00	117.40	0.90	16,166.00	482.20
10.	Kerala	3,554.70	49.70	3,736.90	89.60	6,210.00	120.10
11.	Madhya Pradesh	5,076.00	839.00	6,610.40	1,176.40	9,020.00	1,857.70
12.	Maharashtra	7,407.60	306.50	NA	380.30	15,610.00	1,389.00
13.	Manipur	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,500.00	489.90
14.	Orissa	2,436.90	817.10	2,738.70	729.20	3,500.00	1,000.00
15.	Rajasthan	6,044.40	363.60	6,590.60	417.40	8,501.40	1,066.30
16.	Sikkim	4.50	1.40	4.90	2.30	550.00	64.90
17.	Tamil Nadu	7,088.30	85.00	8,001.00	83.70	12,500.00	27.50
18.	Tripura	566.80	172.10	579.10	213.90	950.00	347.00
19.	Uttaranchal	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000.00	120.00
20.	Uttar Pradesh	NA	NA	NA	NA	19,000.00	43.00
21.	West Bengal	2,529.50	72.90	4,690.10	147.30	8,024.00	595.30

Data of Annual Plan 2005-06 is not available.

Unrecognized Law Colleges

1126. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are law colleges imparting education of law without having any recognition from the Bar Council of India; and

(b) if so, the number of such colleges and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Bar Council of India has informed that it is not aware of any Law College functioning in the Country without having its approval of affiliation. As a matter of precaution it has been sending the list of approved Colleges from time to time to the State Bar Councils and directed them to publish the list in the vernacular dailies for general information.

Recently, it has been brought to its notice a Law College functioning in Hissar (Haryana) without its approval of affiliation and the matter has been referred to the Police for initiating action against the College. In case, any such Law College comes to its notice, appropriate action will be initiated in accordance with the law.

Urban Infrastructure Project In North East

1127. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the projects proposed for implementation under 10 per cent Pool Fund for the North East towards development of Urban Infrastructure as per priority list submitted by Government of Assam has been sanctioned for implementation during the current financial year;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reason therefor;

(d) the steps taken in this regard;

(e) whether the ministry has assessed the gap between actual allocation under the scheme and per capita entitlement for the State of Assam based on urban population; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the Ministry has planned to remove the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) There is no 10 per cent pool fund for the North East. However, there is a scheme for Lumpsum Provision of 10% Gross Budgetary Support of the Ministry of Urban Development earmarked for the benefit of North Eastern Region including Sikkim for development of Urban Infrastructure. No project submitted by the Government of Assam has been sanctioned so far during the current financial year.

(c) and (d) On account of committed liabilities for on-going projects for North Eastern States including Sikkim, there are no funds as of now available for sanctioning new projects during the current financial year.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, the allocation is made among the all North Eastern States by adopting the principle of parity.

Filing of AIR

1128. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for the Registrar/Sub-Registrar to file Annual Information Return (AIR) concerning purchase or sale by any person of immovable property valued at thirty lakh rupees or more under section 285BA of the Income-Tax Act;

(b) if so, whether Registrars/Sub-Registrars of Delhi have filed their AIRs for the last three years;

(c) if so, the details of persons who have purchased immovable property valued at thirty lakh rupees or more;

(d) the quantum of black money and benami properties unearthed by Income Tax Department therefrom during each of the last two years;

(e) whether Government has taken any action against such defaulting Registrars/Sub-Registrars; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The number of AIRs filed by the Sub-Registrars of Delhi as on 18-11-2007 is as follows:—

FY 2004-05	9
FY 2005-06	8
FY 2006-07	2

(c) The details of persons who have purchased immovable property valued at thirty lakh rupees or more (in Delhi):—

Financial Year	No. of persons
FY 2004-05	2,616
FY 2005-06	4,099
FY 2006-07	2,258

The above figures, however, do not include the joint party transactions.

(d) The information obtained through AIR is used for Computer Assisted Selection of cases for scrutiny. As the process of investigation/assessment is an on-going activity, it would not be possible to quantify the quantum of black money and benami properties unearthed by the Income-tax Department therefrom during each of the last two years.

(e) and (f) Defaulters are liable to penalty under section 271FA of the Income-tax Act, 1961. Penal Provisions are invoked as and when such default comes to the notice of the Government.

[Translation]

**Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in
Implementation of NREGS**

1129. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the responsibilities entrusted to Panchayati Raj Institutions under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) the arrangements made by the Government to impart training to responsible persons under the said scheme;

(c) whether the Government has delegated any power to the Panchayati Raj Institutions to take punitive actions against the agencies/individuals indulged in corruption in the implementation of the said scheme; and

(d) if so, the details of such cases brought to the notice of the Government by Panchayati Raj Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) In accordance with Section 13(1) of NREG Act 2005, the Panchayats at district, intermediate and village level are the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the Schemes made under the Act. The functions of the Panchayats at the district level are to finalise and approve block-wise shelf of projects to be taken up under a programme under the Scheme; to supervise and monitor the projects taken up at the Block level and district level; and to carry out such other functions as may be assigned to it by the State Council, from time to time. The functions of the Panchayat at intermediate level are to approve the Block level Plan for forwarding it to the district Panchayat at the district level for final approval; to supervise and monitor the projects taken up at the Gram Panchayat and Block level; and to carry out such other functions as may be assigned to it by the State Council, from time to time. As per Section 16 of the Act, Gram Panchayats have been assigned a pivotal role in the implementation process. They are responsible for planning of works,

registering households, issuing job cards, allocating employment, executing 50% of the works in terms of cost and monitoring the implementation of the scheme at the village level. Besides, as per Section 17 of the Act, the Gram Sabha has been vested with the responsibility to monitor the execution of works within the Gram Panchayat and to conduct regular social audits of all the projects under the Scheme taken up within the Gram Panchayat.

(b) Training of different stakeholders including PRI functionaries, administrative and technical staff and members of Vigilance and Monitoring Committee has been high on Government priority to strengthen the administrative set up. Two Training of Trainers (TOT) programmes were conducted by National Institute for Rural Development (NIRD) Hyderabad, during 2006. Three day training programme was organized at Mussorie for District Programme Coordinators. The State Governments have also been asked to arrange training for its officials and PRIs through SIRD or any other Institute in the State. Funds are provided to the States by the Centre for such trainings. So far, a sum of Rs. 6613.09 lakhs has been released by the Centre for this purpose. 200000 PRI functionaries, 58016 Administrative and Technical officials and 28071 VMC have so far been trained.

(c) No, Sir. The NREG Act does not envisage delegation of powers by the Central Government to the PRIs.

(d) Does not arise

[English]

**Land Allotment to Societies/
Cultural Associations**

1130. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of eligibility criteria fixed for allotments of land to Societies/Religious/Cultural Associations;

(b) names of Societies/Religious/Cultural Association allotted by DDAL and DO during the last 5 years with the purpose and rates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) DDA allots institutional land under Delhi Development Authority (Disposal of Developed Nazul Land) Rules, 1981 to the societies registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860.

L and DO allots land to societies, religious and cultural associations on the recommendation of the Screening Committee consisting of 8 members headed by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development. The eligibility criteria of such allotments are enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) The details are enclosed as Statement-II and III respectively.

Statement-I

Guidelines for Screening of applications for allotment of land by L and DO

The Screening Committee should keep the following aspects in view, while examining the applications received for allotment of Government land from various institutions/ organizations:

- (i) Availability of land as per approved layout plan and the prescribed land use of the plot as per the layout plan/zonal plan/Master Plan. Allotment of a plot should be considered only when the land use is permissible for such activities for which allotment has been requested.
- (ii) The plot of land should be free from any encroachment/litigation and the requisite infrastructure such as power, water supply, drainage facilities etc., should be available in the area.
- (iii) The organization seeking allotment of land should be a registered Society/Trust, registered for at least 5 years at the time of application. The Society/Trust should have persons of professional and representative character on the Management committee, which should not consist of family members.

(iv) The Society/Trust should submit the certificate of Registration, Memorandum and Articles of Association, Balance Sheet and audited accounts for 5 years, immediately preceding the date of application.

(v) The Society/Trust should submit the Certificate of Exemption from Income Tax under Section 80G of Income Tax Act.

(vi) The Recommendation of the concerned Ministry of the Government of India for allotment of land should be considered. The following specific information of the applicant should be sought from the Administrative Ministry:

(a) The status of the Society, nature of its activity and work performance. The item will cover whether the Society is charitable and what benefit it gives to the common man by its activities.

(b) Analysis of Certificate of Registration, Memorandum and Articles of Association, Balance Sheet and Auditors Report for the past 5 years.

(c) Whether the organization is already working in Delhi and, if not, why it needs to set up an office in the National Capital.

(d) Details of the project that the Society wants to implement, while asking for the land.

(vii) In case of educational institutions, a valid sponsorship certificate for the area and the type of school for which allotment of land is sought should be obtained from the Directorate of Education, GNCTD in respect of middle and higher level schools and from the local body concerned (MCD/NDMC) in respect of nursery/primary schools.

(viii) The antecedent of the Society/Trust should be verified through the Government of NCTD and if necessary through the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(ix) Permanent Account Number (PAN) for Income Tax purposes should be furnished.

(x) An Assessment should be made as to whether the organization would be in a position to pay the cost of the land as well as construction of the building. It should be seen whether the institution/organization already owns and land in Delhi and in case it does the activity for which such land is being put to use should be looked into. In case the organization has been allotted land by L and DO/DDA earlier, it should be ascertained whether the land is being used properly and whether the organization need further land for carrying out its activities. It should also be considered as to whether the actual quantum of land being

sought for is sufficient or excessive or inadequate while recommending for allotment of land.

(xi) The applicant Society/Trust should furnish proof of having fixed deposit/equivalent liquid investment covering the cost of land + 10% more, to ensure payment of land cost without seeking any special dispensation and should produce a 'No Loan Certificate' in respect of the above mentioned investment.

(xii) In case of consideration of request for allotment of land for any institution wholly owned or assisted by Government of India or any state Government, the stipulations above could be suitably relaxed/waived, for reasons that would be recorded in writing.

Statement-II

Names of Societies/Cultural Association Allotted Land by DDA during last 5 years with the purpose and rates thereof (November 2002 to November 2007)

Sl. No.	Name of Organisation	Purpose	Land Rate	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Gurudwara Satsang Committee Nizamuddin East	Gurudwara	Rs. 6 lakh/acre	
2.	Shri Sanatan Dharam Mahadev Mandir Sabha	Temple	Rs. 50 lakh + 142%/acre	Possession not handed over due to 97 rejection case
3.	The Diocesan Society North of India	Church	Rs. 80 lakh + 54%/acre	
4.	Gopal Krishan Mandir Samiti	Temple	Rs. 50 lakh + 154%/acre	
5.	Tarvar Society	Temple	Rs. 50 lakh + 154%/acre	Possession not handed over due to litigation

1	2	3	4	5
6.	New Delhi Church of Christ	Church	Rs. 80 lakh + 154% / acre	
7.	Manav Kalyan Adhyatemic Sansthan	Religious	Rs. 80 lakh + 154% / acre	
8.	Shindhi Panchyat Paschim Vihar	Temple	Rs. 80 lakh + 154% / acre	
9.	The Delhi Bhajan Samaj	Temple	Rs. 50 lakh + 154% / acre	
10.	Sri Jain Swetamber Tera Panthi Sabha	Temple	Rs. 50 lakh + 154% / acre	
11.	Sh. S.S. Jain Verma Sabha	Temple	Rs. 35 lakh + 154% / acre	
12.	Vasundhara Enclave Sarveshra Samaj	Temple	Rs. 35 lakh + 154% / acre	
13.	Shri Sai Guru Bhagwan Dass Society	Temple	Rs. 50 lakh + 142% / acre	
14.	Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha	Temple	Rs. 97.85 lakh/acre	
15.	Arya Samaj Mandir Safderjung Enclave	Temple	Rs. 223.65 lakh	Additional land
16.	Shiv Vishnu Dharmic Sabha Keshave Puram	Temple	139.75 lakh/acre	
17.	Rajyoga Educations and Research Foundation	Temple	Rs. 97.85 lakh/acre	
18.	The Delhi Marthoma Church Society	Church	Rs. 447.30 lakh/acre	
19.	The Methodischurch in India	Church	Rs. 279.50 lakh/acre	
20.	Sant Nirankari Mandal	Satsang Bhawan	Rs. 698.90 lakh/acre	
21.	All India Football Federation	Office Building	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 142% enhanced	
22.	Ch. Devi Lal Memorial Society	Institute/Center for Agricultural	Rs. 80 lakh/acre + 142% enhanced	

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Society for Computer Education and Management Society	Indian Computer Management Studies	Rs. 193.60 lakh/acre	
24.	All India Medical Association	Office Building	Rs. 127.05 lakh/acre	
25.	Sarv Dharam Welfare Association	Community Hall	Rs. 29,51,001	since cancelled
26.	Central Government Employee Worker	Community Hall	Rs. 1	
27.	Sanskirti Social Society	Community Hall	Rs. 29,53,333	since cancelled
28.	DAV School	Middle School	Rs. 80 lakh + 142% enhanced	
29.	Ravi Bharti Shiksha Samiti	Middle School	Rs. 41,85,817	
30.	Mata Phoolanwanti Edu. Society	Sr. Sec. School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 142% enhanced	
31.	Radiant Edu. Society	Sr. Sec. School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 142% enhanced	
32.	Delhi Sanchar Bharti Shiksha Samiti	Sr. Sec. School	Rs. 50 lakhs/acre + 142% enhanced	
33.	Jyotika Educational and Welfare Society	Sr. Sec. School	RS. 35 lakh/acre + 142% enhanced	
34.	Dr. Waliya Education Trust	Sr. Sec. School	Rs. 35 lakh/acre + 154% enhanced	
35.	Laxman Dass Sachdeva Memorial Education Society	Sr. Sec. School	Rs.1,86,09,845 (2 Acre)	
36.	Nav Jyoti Niketan Edu. Society	Sr. Sec. School	Rs.1,86,09,845 (2 Acre)	
37.	Farry Education. Society	Middle	Rs.72,20,834 (4830 Sqm)	
38.	Subhit Education Society	Middle	Rs.1,42,28,533 (5800 Sqm)	
39.	M.D. Education Society	Middle	Rs. 50 lakh + 154% enhanced	
40.	Ashoka Education and Welfare Society	Sr. Sec. School	Rs. 1,95,31,502 (2 Acre)	

1	2	3	4	5
41.	Kailash Memorial (Regd.)	Sr. Sec. School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 120% enhanced	
42.	Millennium Child Education Society	Middle	Rs. 65,10,315 (4000 Sqm.)	
43.	Ved Edu. and Welfare Society	Middle	Rs. 64,39,481 (4000 Sqm.)	
44.	Manav Shiksha Samiti	Sr. Sec. School	Rs. 1,51,36,711	
45.	Durga Parwati Khaitan Memorial Center	Sr. Sec. School	Rs. 1,93,13,400 (8000 Sqm.)	
46.	Florence Night Angle Edu. Society	Middle	Rs. 70,80,398	
47.	Ritanand Balved Edu. Foundation	Sr. Sec. School	Rs. 1,40,51,210	
48.	Nanakshar Thath Ishwar Darbar	Middle	Rs. 6,27,89,680 (2.74 Acre)	
49.	Better Future Education Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre +142%	
50.	Shri Narain Dass Goel Memorial Education Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre +142%	
51.	Adhunik Vigyan and Kala Educational Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre +142%	
52.	New Krishna Education Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre +142%	
53.	Vehata Educational Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre +142%	
54.	The Moonlite Education Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 142%	
55.	Spashat Education Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 142%	
56.	Child Welfare Sanagthan	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 142%	
57.	Smt. Dropati Devi Man Education Society	Nursery School	Rs. 80 lakh/acre + 154%	
58.	Shati Janak Sachdeva Educational Society	Nursery School	Rs. 35 lakh/acre + 154%	

1	2	3	4	5
59.	Children Mother Pride Educational Society	Nursery School	Rs. 35 lakh/acre + 154%	
60.	Dr. Ambedkar Seva Mission	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 154%	
61.	Vikas Deep Educational Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 154%	
62.	Child Education Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 154%	
63.	K.K. Mehra and Dr. Rajiv Mehra Memorial Education Society	Nursery School	Rs. 35 lakh/acre + 154%	
64.	Late Shri Ram Bhaj Valda Ashram Sansthan	Nursery School	Rs. 35 lakh/acre + 154%	
65.	Prime Educational Society	Nursery School	Rs. 35 lakh/acre + 154%	
66.	Shiva Shiksha Samiti	Nursery School	Rs. 35 lakh/acre + 154%	
67.	Durga Education Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 154%	
68.	Ojas Shiksha Sansthan	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 154%	
69.	Sh. H.D. Garg Memorial Edu. and Social Welfare Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 154%	
70.	Preety Edu. Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 154%	
71.	Vedana Educational Welfare Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 154%	
72.	Mihar Educational Cultural and Welfare Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 154%	
73.	Lord Ganesh Nursery Educational Society	Nursery School	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 154%	
74.	Two Wings Welfare Society	Community Hall	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 142%	
75.	Milantar Welfare Society	Community Hall	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 142%	

1	2	3	4	5
76.	Oswal Samaj	Community Hall	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 142%	
77.	Tamenglong Area Women's and Children Backward Class Development Association	Women Hostel	Rs. 50 lakh/acre + 154% enhanced	

Statement-III

Names of Societies/Cultural Association Allotted Land by L and DO during last 5 years with the purpose and rates thereof (November 2002 to November 2007)

Sl. No.	Name of Organisation	Purpose	Lands Rate	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Pioneer	Press	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	Allotment cancelled
2.	The Bar Association	Office Building	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
3.	Swadeshi Jagran Foundation	Social/Cultural	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	Allotment cancelled Matter Subjudice
4.	Samskar Bharati	Social/Cultural	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	Allotment cancelled
5.	Laghu Udyog Bharati	Office Building	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
6.	All India Trade Union Congress	Office Building	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
7.	Asian Institute of Transport Development	Office Building	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	Allotment cancelled
8.	Bharatiya Kishan Sangh	Office Building	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
9.	Maharaja Ranjit Singh Trust	Office Building	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
10.	Natya Tarangini	Institute for Dancing/ Music Hall	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
11.	Institute of Integrated Learning in Management (IILM)	Institute	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	Allotment cancelled

1	2	3	4	5
12.	CRY	Nursery/Creche/Day Care Centre etc.	Rs. 1 lakh/acre	
13.	Research and Development Foundation for Integral Humanism	Office Building	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
14.	Kanchi Kamakoti	Social/Cultural	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
15.	Dharam Yatra Mahasangh	Religious	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
16.	Guru Singh Sabha, Defence Colony, New Delhi	Religious	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
17.	Sanatan Dharam Sabha (Hari Mandir), Timarpur, Delhi	Religious	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
18.	Uttradi Math, M.B Road, New Delhi	Religious	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
19.	Jagadguru Sr. Veerasimhasana Math, M.B. Road, Sector-6	Religious	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
20.	Ayyappa Temple Samiti, M.B. Road, New Delhi	Religious	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
21.	Arya Samaj, Minto Road, New Delhi	Religious	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	
22.	Samarth Shiksha Samiti Shivalik, New Delhi	Educational	Rs. 88 lakh/acre	

Social Audit of NREGS

1131. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether social audit of projects under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has been conducted regularly in each State;

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

(c) the main findings of the social audit done so far;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to plug the loop-holes;

(e) whether the Government has received requests from the State Governments for the involvement of NGOs and individuals for the social audit of projects under the said scheme;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Section 17(2) of NREG Act provides that the Gram Sabha shall conduct regular social audit of all the projects taken up with the Gram Panchayat. The State Governments have been asked to complete social audit of all the projects within three months. Social audit has so far been done for 39671 projects.

(c) and (d) As per reports received the following issues have been highlighted:

- (i) Participation of women in large numbers.
- (ii) Increasing awareness among wage earners of wage rates and need for timely payment of wages.
- (iii) Need for strengthening capacity to meet demand for employment through additional staffing at Gram Panchayat level.
- (iv) Need to improve maintenance of muster rolls and job cards.
- (v) Worksite facilities need to be made available.

States have been advised by the Ministry to take necessary action.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. State Governments are competent to conduct social audits and if needed engage NGOs at their level. Government has not received requests from any State Government for involvement of NGOs and individuals for the social audit of projects.

(g) Question does not arise.

Revision of Pay Elements in RRB

1132. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has revised "Pay elements" of the RRB staff; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Pay Scales, Dearness Allowance (DA), House Rent Allowance (HRA) and City Compensatory Allowance (CCA) of Regional Rural Bank (RRB) employees have been revised equal to the corresponding categories of employees of Nationalized Banks with effect from 1-11-2002 vide Government of India's letter dated 6th October, 2005 addressed to the Chairmen of RRBs.

As regards the other allowances, the Sponsor Bank shall negotiate the same with the RRBs sponsored by them.

[Translation]

Schemes of Urban Development In Rajasthan

1133. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved urban development work under different schemes in Rajasthan during the last three years;

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

(c) the total amount sanctioned by the Government scheme-wise; and

(d) the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Technology Development Extension and Training for Wasteland Development

1134. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for granting funds under Technology Development Extension and Training (TDET) for wasteland development;

(b) the State-wise number of projects being implemented under TDET during the last three years;

(c) the details of funds released under TDET during the last three years State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has received proposals under TDET during the current year;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU): (a) TDET is implemented for promotion of research/operation research and extension projects on a pilot basis that contribute to wastelands development in the country. These pilot projects are generally being

implemented through ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural Universities and Government Institutions having adequate institutional framework and organizational backup for implementation of such action research projects. The following are the general criteria for sanction of TDET projects.

- (i) 100% grant is admissible to implement projects on wastelands in public domain such as those owned by Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Universities, Panchayats, etc. In case the projects include certain components that lead to the development of wastelands owned by private farmers/corporate bodies, 40% of the expenditures on such private lands is required to be shared by the beneficiaries.
- (ii) Overhead costs should not ordinarily exceed 20% of the project cost.
- (iii) No brick and mortar structures (permanent structures) and costly equipment would be supported.
- (iv) Recruitment of permanent staff under the project is not permitted.
- (v) Training of project beneficiaries and functionaries for easy adoption of land use

technologies being propagated through the project should be an integral part of the project.

- (vi) The duration of the project would ordinarily be 3 to 5 years.

Unlike other rural development programmes, TDET is a demand driven scheme, wherein suitable pilot project proposals are invited, on the basis of need, from appropriate R and D institutions and/or directly submitted by potential implementing agencies. These proposals are considered and approved by a Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC).

(b) State-wise number of projects being implemented under TDET during the last three years is given in enclosed Statement-I

(c) Funds released, State-wise, under TDET during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. During 2007-08, 15 new projects conforming to the TDET guidelines have been sanctioned in the States of Gujarat (1), Karnataka (2), Maharashtra (3), Uttar Pradesh (2), West Bengal (1) and to other autonomous organizations—IIT-Delhi, NIRD-Hyderabad and Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development-Delhi (6).

Statement

State-wise number of Project being implemented under TDET during the last three years

Sl. No.	State	Number of On-Going Projects		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	2	2
2.	Chattisgarh	3	3	3
3.	Gujarat	8	9	10
4.	Haryana	6	6	6
5.	Himachal Pradesh	10	10	10
6.	Karnataka	3	3	5

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Maharashtra	9	9	12
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1	1	1
9.	Orissa	3	3	3
10.	Punjab	3	3	3
11.	Rajasthan	12	12	12
12.	Tamil Nadu	3	3	3
13.	Uttarakhand	9	10	10
14.	Uttar Pradesh	3	5	7
15.	West Bengal	1	1	2
NORTH EASTERN STATES				
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	9	9
17.	Manipur	1	1	1
18.	Meghalaya	1	1	1
19.	Mizoram	3	3	3
20.	Nagaland	1	2	2
21.	Sikkim	2	3	3
22.	Tripura	1	1	1
23.	IIT, Delhi	1	2	3
24.	IIT, Mumbai	1	1	1
25.	IIT, Chennai	1	1	1
26.	SPWD, Delhi	—	—	1
27.	NIRD/NRSA, Hyderabad	11	11	15

Statement-II*Fund released, State-wise under TDET during the last three years*

Sl. No.	State	Funds Released (Rs. in lakh)		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (till date)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16.39	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Chattisgarh	—	4.66	—
3.	Gujarat	378.12	664.76	450.76
4.	Haryana	—	—	—
5.	Himachal Pradesh	48.63	47.47	20.00
6.	Karnataka	—	—	121.53
7.	Maharashtra	376.87	129.45	249.53
8.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	0.02
9.	Orissa	22.90	25.42	—
10.	Punjab	23.78	21.51	80.32
11.	Rajasthan	82.66	—	—
12.	Tamil Nadu	70.31	4.53	—
13.	Uttarakhand	126.02	126.02	20.29
14.	Uttar Pradesh	32.99	99.68	418.31
15.	West Bengal	2.22	4.60	49.71
NORTH EASTERN STATES				
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	139.75	457.44	91.16
17.	Manipur*	—	—	—
18.	Meghalaya	3.49	—	—
19.	Mizoram	4.10	—	—
20.	Nagaland	8.55	37.42	—
21.	Sikkim	156.11	419.85	147.88
22.	Tripura	5.52	—	—
23.	IIT, Delhi	53.95	5.4	152.11
24.	IIT, Mumbai	17.33	10.79	—
25.	IIT, Chennai	—	7.01	—
26.	NIRD/NRSA, Hyderabad	609.19	—	505.84

*Project sanctioned and first instalment released in March 2003.

[English]

Loan to Small Farmers

1135. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small farmers of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes granted loans by regional rural development banks in Karnataka;

(b) whether such farmers are facing difficulty in getting loan; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to remove the difficulties in getting loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The outstanding number of accounts of small farmers relating to Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) for the six RRBs functioning in the State of Karnataka as on 30th June, 2007 is 1,70,538 and the amount outstanding against them is Rs. 697.52 crore.

(b) and (c) NABARD has reported that no complaint regarding any difficulty faced by such farmers in the grant of loans in the State of Karnataka has been received by them. Monitoring the applications received from SC/ST borrowers separately by Controlling Offices of the banks and the rejection of the loan applications at a level higher than the sanctioning authority are some of the measures taken by Banks to remove the difficulties in grant of loans to such farmers.

[Translation]

Integrated Child Development Services Scheme

1136. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prescribed certain parameters for the selection of states under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said scheme has been successful in achieving its objectives;

(d) if so, the details of achievements during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by all the States and Union Territory Administrations.

(c) ICDS Scheme was introduced with the objectives of improving nutritional and health status of children and women in the targeted groups. Various Surveys reveal that the scheme has had an impact in reducing the incidence of mortality and malnutrition level. As per Sample Registration System (SRS), Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 110 in 1981 to 58 per thousand live births in 2004. Similarly, Under-5 mortality has declined from 161 in 1983 to 77 per thousand lives in 2003. As per the findings of National Family Health Survey (NFHS), the level of malnutrition amongst children below 3 years has declined from 53% in 1992-93 to 46% in 2005-06.

(d) There has been significant progress in the implementation of ICDS Scheme during the last three years both, in terms of increase in number of sanctioned projects and Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and coverage of beneficiaries. During the period of three years from 31-3-2005, the number of sanctioned Projects and AWCs has increased from 5671 and 7.64 lakh to 6284 and 10.53 lakh, respectively, as on 30-6-2007. Similarly, the number of beneficiaries for Supplementary Nutrition have increased from 484.42 lakh to 736.80 lakh (52% increase) and the number of children (3-6 years) attending Anganwadi Centres for pre-school education has increased from 218.41 lakh to 314.92 lakh during the same period (44% increase). State-wise details of sanctioned Projects and Anganwadi Centres and the number of beneficiaries under the ICDS Scheme during the last three years are given in the Statements I and II respectively.

Statement-I

State-wise number of ICDS Projects and Anganwadis (AWCs) Sanctioned and operational as on 30-06-2007

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of ICDS Projects				No. of Anganwadis					
		Sanctioned upto 31-3-2005#	Sanctioned during 2005-06	Sanctioned during 2006-07	Total sanctioned upto 31-3-07	Operational as on 30-06-07	Sanctioned upto 31-3-2005#	Sanctioned during 2005-06	Sanctioned during 2006-07	Total sanctioned upto 31-3-07	Operational as on 30-06-07
1.	Andhra Pradesh	363	13	9	385	376	56539	9562	7843	73944	63203
2.	Anunachal Pradesh	58	21	6	85	79	2359	678	1240	4277	3037
3.	Assam	196	23	4	223	206	25416	6659	5007	37082	25329
4.	Bihar	394	144	7	545	394	60813	19715	560	81088	57767
5.	Chhattisgarh	152	6	5	163	158	20289	9148	5500	34937	28047
6.	Goa	11	0	0	11	11	1012	0	100	1112	1012
7.	Gujarat	227	33	0	260	256	37961	3523	2695	44179	39005
8.	Haryana	116	12	9	137	128	13546	2813	833	17192	16684
9.	Himachal Pradesh	72	4	0	76	76	7354	10894	0	18248	7686
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	140	0	0	140	129	18772	0	6711	25483	16409
11.	Jharkhand	204	0	0	204	204	24171	6683	1243	32097	22304
12.	Karnataka	185	0	0	185	185	40301	11313	2646	54260	51352
13.	Kerala	163	0	0	163	163	25393	3256	3464	32115	28169
14.	Madhya Pradesh	336	31	0	367	364	49787	9537	9914	69238	58905
15.	Maharashtra	372	44	35	451	416	62126	12964	9877	84867	74804
16.	Manipur	34	0	4	38	37	4501	0	3120	7621	4605

17. Meghalaya	32	7	2	41	39	2218	961	209	3388	3185
18. Mizoram	21	2	0	23	23	1361	231	90	1682	1592
19. Nagaland	54	2	0	56	54	2770	265	159	3194	3045
20. Orissa	326	0	0	326	326	34201	3279	4217	41697	37752
21. Punjab	142	6	0	148	143	14730	2691	2748	20169	16767
22. Rajasthan	257	17	4	278	272	35821	11041	1510	48372	43307
23. Sikkim	5	6	0	11	11	500	488	0	988	904
24. Tamil Nadu	434	0	0	434	434	42677	3049	1539	47265	45726
25. Tripura	40	11	3	54	53	3874	2220	1257	7351	6131
26. Uttar Pradesh	834	1	62	897	835	106059	31498	13170	150727	130024
27. Uttaranchal	99	0	0	99	99	6658	1134	1872	9664	7754
28. West Bengal	358	58	0	416	363	57540	17100	17512	92152	62557
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	0	0	5	5	527	84	51	672	672
30. Chandigarh	3	0	0	3	3	300	29	41	370	329
31. Delhi	29	5	16	50	34	3902	528	1678	6106	4427
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	1	0	2	1	138	77	4	219	138
33. Daman and Diu	2	0	0	2	2	87	10	10	107	97
34. Lakshadweep	1	0	0	1	1	74	0	13	87	79
35. Pondicherry	5	0	0	5	5	677	11	0	688	688
All India	5671	447	166	6284	5885	784454	181351	106833	1052638	863472

\$ subject to reconciliation of AWCs sanctioned by GOI in respect of States of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Meghalaya, Punjab, Tripura, U.P. and West Bengal with State Government/UT Administration.

Statement-II

State-wise no. of children (6 months to 6 years) received supplementary nutrition and no. of children (3-6 years) attended pre-school education under ICDS Scheme during the last three years

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Children (6 months to 6 years) and pregnant and lactating mothers received supplementary nutrition as on			No. of children (3-6 years) received pre-school education as on				
		31-3-2005	31-3-2006	31-3-2007	30-6-2007	31-3-2005	31-3-2006	31-3-2007	30-6-2007
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3064494	3112789	4103963	4324017	1564251	1528018	1830381	1865282
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	73959	102123	169200	172629	29005	37961	60208	65870
3.	Assam	1251169	1408189	1031104	1868012	781953	894811	850590	912960
4.	Bihar	2461115	4854780	4173942	4218255	1555177	2222702	1937398	1937398
5.	Chhattisgarh	1779971	1804331	2096058	2144814	607795	588000	731761	762225
6.	Goa	49010	48838	54485	54485	19149	18608	19451	19451
7.	Gujarat	1921385	1846303	2042347	1999608	1429062	1404500	911982	1081342
8.	Haryana	1170178	1192543	1405833	1407567	441684	455452	525398	517564
9.	Himachal Pradesh	391128	427372	426287	441173	110402	121738	111025	105849
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	222960	343648	522958	587246	107385	121325	203247	212596
11.	Jharkhand	491405	1849937	2087674	1935123	427412	768959	837624	797334
12.	Karnataka	3036981	3041391	3752367	3745374	1293121	1265145	1504243	1500851
13.	Kerala	1075062	1065433	1127254	1160889	540937	524205	523328	504225
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3509448	3265317	4724630	4975964	1516173	1544066	1809546	2231158
15.	Maharashtra	3822711	5577168	5909641	6867057	1796953	2705644	2847096	2868051

16. Manipur	0	217609	314597	316124	111851	1139222	114807	129212
17. Meghalaya	221523	225619	341873	346886	90331	98436	131635	133151
18. Mizoram	141021	141855	154963	147887	50021	50468	57617	51604
19. Nagaland	283735	307254	349376	301360	94459	105865	109768	109171
20. Orissa	4353962	4378920	4494394	4565999	942076	943705	965333	974204
21. Punjab	578169	756803	1118886	1194030	419668	441890	435608	476170
22. Rajasthan	3320620	3164842	3252132	3300374	1334907	1264447	1212438	1252457
23. Sikkim	38654	36514	46182	6431	13765	10183	11400	12803
24. Tamil Nadu	2386231	2222740	2384946	2379897	1130007	1063995	1193698	1179450
25. Tripura	170293	170293	271947	282471	101052	101052	123695	125664
26. Uttar Pradesh	7400400	9240377	19345747	20196371	3439464	4081381	8155442	8668188
27. Uttaranchal	457519	469457	658106	884149	178444	182138	192550	201469
28. West Bengal	4153829	4343668	3532605	3706144	1502012	1641755	2469468	2590553
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	26063	28665	25645	25645	10066	9709	9912	10433
30. Chandigarh	39347	42981	40345	38883	13509	14557	13836	13731
31. Delhi	480322	464740	515089	519131	168199	151554	163955	165167
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	14704	13955	13955	13955	5019	4960	4960	4960
33. Daman and Diu	8875	8986	8392	8392	4213	3587	3089	3089
34. Lakshadweep	4863	4978	7516	6084	4024	4018	2540	1467
35. Pondicherry	41007	38790	38980	38767	7744	5694	6307	6703
All India	48442113	56218108	70543419	73680593	21841290	24492450	30081426	31491804

Pending Proposals

1137. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from the Government of Chhattisgarh under various schemes for Women and Child Development;

and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of the present status of Proposals received from the Government of Chhattisgarh under various schemes for women and child development

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Details of Pending Proposals and action taken
1.	Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)	Proposal for sanctioning of 178 additional ICDS Projects, 31571 additional Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and 6362 new Mini-AWCs in the State has been received. This has been incorporated in the composite proposal for 3rd phase of expansion of ICDS Scheme.
2.	Swayamsiddha	Proposal for Rs. 89.47 lakhs has been received. This Ministry has approved an amount of Rs. 88.84 lakhs and out of which an amount of Rs. 57.63 lakhs has been released to the State Government as 1st installment.
3.	SWADHAR	Two project proposals under the scheme of SWADHAR has been received. One project proposal of Education Society, Rahod, Janjgar Champa, Chhattisgarh has been approved and other project proposal of Gramin Krishak Vikas Sanstha, Bilaspur is pending for want of some requisite deficient documents.
4.	Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)	A project proposal from (i) Mahila Dakshta Samiti, Raipur for the trade Multi-activities and (ii) another proposal for Dairy Project from Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Department have been received. Both these proposals were incomplete and which did not fulfill the schematic norms of the scheme and hence have been returned to the State Government.

[English]

Anganwadi Scheme

1138. SHRI HARI BHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received demands from various states for additional anganwadi kendras;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision taken thereon;

(c) whether the food items supplied to the children in Anganwadi Centres have been found of inferior quality;

(d) If so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A requirement of 613 Projects, 2.20 lakh Anganwadi Centres and 77360 Mini Anganwadi Centres has been received from 34 States/Union Territory (UT) Administrations. This has been included in the composite proposal of the Ministry for obtaining competent approvals.

(c) and (d) Mechanism to address such issues under the implementation of the ICDS Scheme, exists in the States.

Subversion of Tribal Lands Right

1139. **SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:** Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaint of subversion of the tribal's land rights by some Government departments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received some complaints, alleging (i) evacuation of the tribals and forest dwellers from the land being cultivated by them prior to 13-12-2005, by the Forest Department of the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, (ii) surveys of land in occupation of tribals by the Forest Department in certain districts of Jharkhand with a view to prevent the process of giving pattas on the land to tribals, (iii) removal of tribal people from their dwelling places in the forest areas by the Government Madhya Pradesh despite enactment of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006; and

(iv) diversion of forest land in Dhule District for wind power projects by the Government of Maharashtra. As the complaints were against the actions of the State Forest Departments, the same have been forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for necessary action.

Matching Amount under JNNURM

1140. **SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:**

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the small and poor States are facing difficulties in providing the matching-amount under Jawaharalal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM); and

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take up the matter with the Planning Commission and Finance Ministry for providing 100% grants under JNNURM for small and economically weaker States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Mother-Child Care Plan

1141. **SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:** Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring new mother-child care plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Relief and Incidental Action
Regarding Rape Victims**

1142. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a scheme to provide monetary relief to victims of rape as reported in the Times of India dated November 6, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether Government proposes to introduce National Level Criminal Injuries Compensation Board;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government further proposes some more stringent measures to deter rapists from indulging in such heinous crime; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) A draft scheme having various provisions for the relief and rehabilitation of victims of rape is under the consideration of Ministry of Women and Child Development. It will not be possible at this stage to indicate any definite time-frame for the scheme to be introduced.

(f) and (g) A proposal to amend the legal provisions relating to rape is being processed by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The proposal is yet to be finalized.

[Translation]

Reforms in Banking Sector

1143. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH
DEO:
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) status of restructuring in Public Sector Banks;

(b) whether the Government proposes to bring about reforms in banking sectors and financial institutions with a view to compete with private sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) To facilitate quick and efficient decision-making and to provide sufficient managerial autonomy to the Boards of public sector banks to be able to compete internationally, Government announced an Autonomy Package on 22-02-2005 for these banks. As per this package, the Bank Boards are competent to decide on the issues relating to entering new lines of business as part of overall business strategy, make suitable acquisitions of companies or businesses, close/merge unviable branches, open overseas offices, set up subsidiaries and exit a line of business, etc.

(b) and (c) To improve the health of the banking sector in India, in general, and that of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), in particular, and also to bring it at par with international standards, the Reserve Bank of India has prescribed measures for strengthening of risk based prudential supervision, introduction of capital adequacy standards on the lines of the Basel Committee norms, etc. coupled with wide ranging steps undertaken by the Government. After initiation of reforms in early 1990s, financial performance of the banking sector has improved significantly. Balance sheet and profitability indicators viz. Return on Assets, Net Interest Margin, Non-Performing Assets (NPA) Ratios, Provisioning and Classification norms for NPAs, Capital Adequacy Ratio etc. suggest that the Indian banking sector now compares well with global benchmarks.

(d) Does not arise.

BPL Families

1144. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms and parameters followed for identification of persons living below poverty line;

(b) whether the Government has paid due attention to price-rise of essential commodities in fixation of such norms;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether separate norms are being followed for urban and rural areas in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is a disagreement between the Union Government and the State Governments over the number of BPL families in States;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue in a realistic manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (h) The Planning Commission estimates poverty across all the States following a uniform methodology as recommended by the Expert Group on 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor' (Lakdawala Committee) which was set up in 1989. These poverty estimates are based on the quinquennial survey results of Consumer Expenditure of Households carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

The Task Force on Projections of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand constituted by the Planning Commission in 1977 and the Task Force submitted its report in 1979. The Task Force defined the poverty line as per capita consumption expenditure level, which meets the average per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas along with a minimum of non-food expenditure. The Task Force used the 28th Round (1973-74) NSS data relating to household consumption both in qualitative and value terms in order to compute the monetary value equivalent to these calorie norms

which is known as the poverty line. In 1973-74, it estimated that on an average, consumer expenditure of Rs. 49.09 per capita per month meets the calorie requirement of 2400 kcal per capita per day in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per capita per month with an intake of 2100 kcal per capita per day in urban areas.

Under the Expert Group methodology, the National Rural Poverty Line of Rs. 49.09 in 1973-74 worked out by the Task Force is disaggregated into State Specific Poverty Line on the basis of State Specific Consumer Price Indices for Agricultural Labourers adjusted by inter-state price differential. Similarly, the National Urban Poverty Line of Rs. 56.64 in 1973-74 is disaggregated into State Specific Poverty Line using State Specific Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers adjusted for Interstate Price Differential. These State Specific Poverty Lines for rural and urban areas are updated on the basis of State Specific Consumer Price Indices for Agricultural Labourers and State Specific Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers respectively.

While the estimation of poverty is done by the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to the States and UTs to identify the BPL households through the BPL Census with the objective to assist them under its various programmes. The first such survey was conducted in 1992 and in 1997 the next BPL Census was conducted for the 9th Five Year Plan. Both the BPL Censuses were conducted using the methodology based on income and expenditure approach respectively. For the 10th Five Year Plan, BPL Census 2002 has been conducted using the methodology of 'Score Based Ranking' of the rural households for which 13 socio-economic parameters which includes size of land holdings, type of house, availability of clothes, food security, sanitation, literacy status, status of household labour force, means of livelihood, type of indebtedness etc. In the guidelines issued by the Ministry for conducting the BPL Census 2002, the States were advised to identify the number of BPL households as determined by the Planning Commission with 10% flexibility to account for the transient poor. Some of the State Governments had requested to remove the cap on the total number of BPL households to be identified.

The cap on the total number of BPL households was put with the objective to ensure that the poorest of the poor must get priority under the programmes of this Ministry. However, there is no restriction on the State Governments to extend the benefits of State Sector Schemes to a larger numbers.

**Allocation of Funds for Tribals
under CAPART**

1145. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated and utilised for the welfare of scheduled tribes in the country under the Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) during the last three years, project-wise, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons belonging to STs benefited under such projects;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints regarding misappropriation of funds allocated under the CAPART;

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

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Forest Villages

1146. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of forest villages in the country, state-wise;

(b) whether the Government has launched any scheme to provide minimum facilities for the forest dwelling scheduled tribes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the National Aforestation and Echo Development Board is involved in the development of forest villages; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) There are 2,474 forest villages/habitations spread over 12 States. Details are as follows;

Sl. No.	State	No. of Forest Villages
1.	Assam	499
2.	Chhattisgarh	425
3.	Gujarat	199
4.	Jharkhand	24
5.	Meghalaya	23
6.	Madhya Pradesh	893
7.	Mizoram	85
8.	Orissa	20
9.	Tripura	62
10.	Uttarakhand	61
11.	Uttar Pradesh	13
12.	West Bengal	170

(b) and (c) During the 10th Five Year Plan, funds were allocated to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the development of forest villages under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP). The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has approved proposals covering 2,388 forest villages in 11 States and also released Rs. 45924.71 lakh as on date. Under the programme, infrastructure work relating to basic services and facilities viz. approach roads, healthcare, primary education, minor irrigation, rainwater harvesting, drinking water, sanitation, community halls, etc. and activities related to livelihood are taken up for implementation.

(d) and (e) The National Aforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests have laid down the guidelines for project formulation for development of forest villages. NAEB is also associated in examination of the proposals received from the State Governments under the programme.

[Translation]

**Rehabilitation of Children
Living on Footpaths**

1147. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of any report of United Nations Organisation on the subject "Enhancing Urban Safety and Security Global report on Human Settlement" about the children living on the footpath in a large number in big metro cities and small cities of the country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the report of United Nations Organisation on the subject "Enhancing Urban Safety and Security Global report on Human Settlement" is mainly on (i) urban safety and security: crime and violence; (ii) security of tenure and protection against forced eviction; and (iii) natural and human-made disasters.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a scheme namely 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' exclusively for the welfare of street children. The target group of the scheme is street children particularly those without homes and family ties and children especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation such as children of sex workers and children of pavement dwellers.

This Ministry has recently formulated a new centrally sponsored scheme namely "Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)" for implementation during the 11th Plan Period under which there is provision for setting up of 'Transitional Shelter Homes' in urban and semi-urban areas for such children. The objective is to provide shelter, nutrition, health care, education, vocational training, etc. and also protection from abuse and neglected life on the street.

Voters List

1148. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Election Commission proposes to amend voter lists of all the States except Punjab, Assam and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir. The Election Commission has ordered revision of the electoral rolls of all States and Union territories including Punjab, Assam and Jammu and Kashmir with 01-01-2008 as the qualifying date.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Election Commission of India has intimated that different schedule has been prescribed for the revision of rolls in different States/Union territories depending on the specific workload in the States. The final publication of rolls after revision w.r.t. 01-01-2008 shall take place in January, 2008 in all States and Union Territories except Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. In Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, the work of revision of electoral rolls w.r.t. 1-1-2008 shall be taken up after completion of the ongoing process of general election to the State Legislative Assembly. In the Union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu as the electoral roll to be revised w.r.t. 1-1-2008 will have photograph

of the electors (photo electoral roll), the final publication is tentatively fixed in May, 2008.

[English]

PURA Schemes

1149. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of pilot projects implemented under Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas Scheme (PURA), cluster-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to restructure

and implement PURA scheme throughout the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) scheme was implemented on a pilot basis from 2004-05 for a period of 3 years. The pilot phase has ended in March 2007. The budgetary provision for the scheme has been Rs. 10 crores each in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. The cluster-wise funds released and amount spent are as follows:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Cluster	Amount released during 2004-05 to 2006-07	Cumulative Expenditure upto 30-9-2007	% of expenditure
Rayadurg (Andhra Pradesh)	328.80	228.80	69.58
Gohipur (Assam)	386.00	288.10	74.63
Motipur (Bihar)	384.00	223.75	58.26
Basmath (Maharashtra)	427.30	171.37	40.10
Kujanga (Orissa)	545.00	328.15	60.21
Shahpura (Rajasthan)	401.00	220.86	55.07
Bharthana (Uttar Pradesh)	527.90	428.97	81.25
Total	3000.00	1890.00	63.00

The funds under pilot phase were released for activities like construction of roads, market connectivity, education, drinking water, health, employment generation and Common Facility Centre for readymade garment industries.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A draft proposal for the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has been prepared in this regard.

Construction of Basement under NREGS

1150. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of basement for the housing programmes is permissible under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) if so, whether the Government has received proposals from various States in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. Housing related construction activities are not permissible under the existing provisions of NREGA.

(b) and (c) A proposal had been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh for land leveling and construction of basement under housing programme for weaker sections in Andhra Pradesh by dovetailing NREGA funds.

(d) The proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh has not been agreed to as construction work of basement for housing is not covered under Schedule I of the Act.

[Translation]

Care of Orphans

1151. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system of taking care and protecting human rights/monitoring for children living in various orphanages, child homes and other children centres;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of agencies engaged therein;

(c) whether some suggestions have been received from these monitoring agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 is the primary law relating to juveniles in conflict with law as well as children in need of care and protection. This Act provides for proper care, protection and treatment

for them by catering to their development needs and by adopting a child friendly approach in the adjudication and disposition of matters in the best interest of children and for their ultimate rehabilitation through various institutions established under this Act.

The Model Rules framed under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. Provide for setting up of children's homes, shelter homes, etc. and specifies the physical infrastructure of homes and facilities to be provided to the children staying in these homes.

The State Governments review and monitor the day to day functioning of these homes through State, District or city level Inspection Teams constituted under Rule 29 of the Model Rules.

(b) The Ministry of Women and Child Development does not maintain such information.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Outstanding Banking Activities in Rural Areas

1152. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to outsource the normal banking activities in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) With the objective of ensuring greater financial inclusion and increasing the outreach of the banking sector, the RBI issued guidelines in this regard on 25th January, 2006 permitting banks to use the services of Non-Governmental Organisations/Self Help Groups (NGOs/SHGs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as intermediaries in providing financial and banking services through the use of Business Facilitators and Business Correspondents.

Under the "Business Facilitator" model, banks may use intermediaries for providing facilitation services such as:—

- (i) identification of borrowers and fitment of activities;
- (ii) collection and preliminary processing of loan applications including verification of primary information/data;
- (iii) creating awareness about savings and other products and education and advice on managing money and debt counseling;
- (iv) processing and submission of applications to banks;
- (v) promotion and nurturing Self Help Groups/Joint Liability Groups (JLGs);
- (vi) post-sanction monitoring;
- (vii) monitoring and hand holding of SHGs/JLCs/sCredit Groups/others; and
- (viii) follow-up for recovery.

In addition to activities listed under the Business Facilitator Model, "Correspondents" appointed under the Business Correspondent" model can undertake:—

- (i) disbursal of small value credit;
- (ii) recovery of principal/collection of interest;
- (iii) collection of small value deposits;
- (iv) sale of micro insurance/mutual fund products/other third party products; and
- (v) receipt and delivery of small value remittances/other payment instruments.

[Translation]

Forest Right Act

1153. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the

atrocities are being committed on the tribals of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Orissa in the name of evacuation of forest land; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received a complaint, alleging evacuation of the tribals and forest dwellers from the land being cultivated by them prior to 13-12-2005, by the Forest Department of the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. As the complaint was against the action of the State Forest Departments, the same was forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for necessary action. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has informed that they had requested the State Governments for not evicting tribals from forest lands till their rights are verified. The Governments of Rajasthan and Gujarat have replied that they are not evicting tribals and also not committing atrocities against them.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not received any complaint alleging atrocities being committed on the tribals of Chhattisgarh and Orissa in the name of evacuation of forest land.

Core Network of Roads under PMGSY

1154. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the width of roads being constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);
- (b) whether the Government has issued guidelines regarding preparation of Core Network of roads and Order of Priority under the said scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received complaints regarding non-inclusion of several rural roads in such list;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The Rural Roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) should meet the geometric design standards given in the Rural Roads Manual of Indian Road Congress (IRC) (IRC:SP20:2002) and also where required, the Hill Roads Manual (IRC:S:48). As per IRC:SP20:2002, recommended carriage way width for Rural Roads (ODR and VR) is 3.75 m and may be restricted to 3.0 m, where traffic intensity is low.

(b) to (f) Yes, Sir. The programme guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) provides for preparation of Core Network of roads and order of priority. The methodology to be followed is elaborated in operations manual. Both the documents are available on website www.pmgysy.nic.in. Both Core Network and Order of Priority is prepared in accordance with PMGSY guidelines by the States, duly approved by District Panchayats and State level Standing Committee. The PMGSY has an inbuilt mechanism for consultation with public representatives from Panchayat to Parliament at various points of the programme. Any suggestion for the inclusion of the rural road in the Core Network of any State is referred to concerned State Government for taking appropriate action. The State Rural Road Development Agencies were requested to prepare the

Block level Core Network data during October, 2004 and October, 2005.

**Getting Employment by
Fake Certificate**

1155. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some people have got employment in banks by producing fake certificate;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether such cases are also pending in the court; and

(g) if so, the details for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (g) The requisite information is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Name of the State	No. of employees found to be with bogus caste certificate	No. of Court cases pending	No. of cases disciplinary proceedings pending on account of bogus caste certificate
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad Bank	Maharashtra and Gujarat	3	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Andhra Bank	Andhra	34	3	31	
	Orissa	2	—	2	
	Bihar	1	—	1	
3. Bank of Baroda	Madhya Pradesh	01	—	—	
	Chhattisgarh	01	—	—	
	Andhra	—	—	—	
	Tamil nadu	09	—	22	
	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	1	
	Karnataka	—	—	2	
4. Bank of Maharashtra	Maharashtra	15	15	—	
5. Canara Bank	Karnataka	10	3	40	
	Tamil nadu	22	09	8	
	Andhra	01	01	—	
	Kerala	02	02	1	
	Maharashtra	03	03	—	
	West Bengal	—	—	02	
	Punjab and Haryana	—	—	01	
6. Central Bank of India	Andhra	—	01	—	
	Chhattisgarh	—	01	—	
	Delhi	—	01	—	
	Kerala	03	10	—	
	Madhya Pradesh	02	01	—	
	Maharashtra	24	25	—	
	Tamil Nadu	04	15	—	
7. Corporation Bank	—	—	—	—	
8. Dena Bank	Tamil Nadu	4	2	1	
	Maharashtra	1	1	—	

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Karnataka	1	—	1
		Chhattisgarh	1	1	1
9.	Indian Bank	Andhra	1	1	—
		Karnataka	1	—	—
		Kerala	1	1	—
		Tamil Nadu	15	22	—
10.	Indian Overseas Bank	Tamil Nadu	120	16	1
		Andhra	5	1	—
		Kerala	3	2	1
		Maharashtra	1	—	—
11.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Tamil Nadu	1	—	1
		Pondicherry	1	—	—
		Andhra	1	—	—
		Maharashtra	1	1	—
		Kerala	—	1	—
12.	Punjab National Bank	Madhya Pradesh	1	—	1
		Uttar Pradesh	2	1	2
		Kerala	1	1	—
		Maharashtra	1	3	—
		Delhi	—	1	—
13.	Punjab and Sind Bank	—	—	—	—
14.	Syndicate Bank	Andhra	6	5	1
		Karnataka	3	3	—
		Kerala	2	2	—
		Maharashtra	26	26	—
15.	Union Bank of India	Tamil Nadu	10	9	2
		Kerala	2	2	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Karnataka	3	3	—
		Maharashtra	7	7	2
		Andhra	1	1	—
16.	United Bank of India	—	—	—	—
17.	UCO bank	Tamil Nadu	28	17	28
		Jharkhand	1	—	1
18.	Vijay Bank	Tamil Nadu	1	1	1
19.	State Bank of India	West Bengal	1	1	1
		Maharashtra	12	7	7
		Tamil nadu	126	49	49
		Madhya Pradesh	13	4	4
		Orissa	2	—	—
		Karnataka	4	—	—
		Kerala	4	4	4
		Andhra	16	9	9
20.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	—	—	—	—
21.	State Bank of Hyderabad	Karnataka	6	6	4
22.	State Bank of Indore	Madhya Pradesh	2	2	—
23.	State Bank of Mysore	Karnataka	14	14	14
		Andhra	1	1	1
		Tamil Nadu	1	1	1
24.	State Bank of Patiala	—	—	—	—
25.	State Bank of Travancore	Kerala	9	8	—
		Tamil Nadu	5	5	—
26.	IDBI	Maharashtra	2	2	1
27.	NABARD	Maharashtra	65	13	13

1	2	3	4	5	6
28.	Exim Bank	—	—	—	—
29.	NHB	—	—	—	—
30.	SIDBI	—	—	—	—
31.	RBI	Karnataka	12	—	—
		Madhya Pradesh	4	4	—
		Tamil Nadu	13	4	—
		Maharashtra	16	—	16
		Kerala	2	—	—
32.	Bank of India	Maharashtra	24	4	3
		Madhya Pradesh		2	—
		Tamil Nadu		1	—
		Kerala		1	—
35.	State Bank of Saurashtra	—	—	—	—
Grant Total			744	363	282

[English]

**Inclusion into the List of
Scheduled Tribes**

1156. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests from various State Governments to include Banjaras and Denotified Nomadic Tribes in the tribal community;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Proposals for inclusion of Banjara Community in the State list of Scheduled Tribes have been received from the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya

Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. These have been processed as per the modalities approved in June, 1999 for deciding claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lists. No proposal has been received in this Ministry for inclusion of Denotified Nomadic Tribes per se in the list of Scheduled Tribes from any of State.

**Pending Proposals under
Area Development**

1157. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received by the Union Government from the State Governments under the Area Development Programmes, Scheme-wise/State-wise;

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal regarding changes in the guidelines of various schemes under Area Development Programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government in this direction;

(e) whether the Government has received any request to authorise State Governments to relocate watershed targets at the district level in accordance with local conditions;

(f) if so, details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(g) whether there is a monitoring system to ensure proper implementation of these projects; and

(h) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (h) The Department of Land Resources is implementing the Area Development Programmes i.e., Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) under 'Hariyali' Guidelines. Proposals for new projects under these programmes are sanctioned every year as per procedure in the Guidelines. The Common Guidelines for Watershed Management are being drafted by the Ministry. The Ministry has not invited any fresh proposals from the States during the year 2007-08. The Ministry has also not received any proposal from the State Governments to relocate watershed targets at the district level in accordance with the local conditions. The performance of the area development programmes is monitored on a regular basis through quarterly reports, web based online monitoring system and regular performance review committee meetings held from time to time. The Proforma of the Utilization Certificate has

also been modified to ensure that the expenditure is commensurate with the physical achievements of the project.

Tax Related Incentives to Exporters

1158. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI KIREN RIJUJU:

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tax related incentives granted to exporters by the Government;

(b) the extent of revenue loss incurred by the Government as a result thereof during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has any plans to grant more incentives/reliefs to exporters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As far as Direct Taxes are concerned, under the Income-tax Act, the following incentives are granted to exporters—

- (i) 100% tax benefit on profit on export of article or thing or computer software, derived by a newly established undertaking in Free Trade Zone, Electronic Hardware Technology Park or Software Technology Park, for initial ten assessment years under section 10A of the income-tax Act;
- (ii) Tax benefit on profit on export of articles or things or services, derived by a newly established undertaking in Special Economic Zone for initial 15 assessment years, under section 10AA;
- (iii) 100% tax benefits on profit on export of articles or things or computer software, derived by a newly established hundred per cent export oriented undertaking for initial ten assessment

years, under section 10B of the Income-tax Act; and

- (iv) 100% tax benefit on export of eligible article or things, derived by a newly established undertaking, under section 10BA of the Income-tax Act.

The extent of the revenue loss on corporate taxpayers, incurred by the Government, for the last three years, on account of direct tax incentives, is estimated to be taken as:

Financial Year	Revenue Loss
2004-05	Rs. 10,740 crores

Financial Year	Revenue Loss
2005-06	Rs. 8,658 crores
2006-07	Rs. 12,524 crores

As far as indirect tax is concerned, the tax incentive schemes under the Foreign Trade Policy provide pure incentives/rewards to the exporters in the form of duty free scrips based on the FOB value of exports or the foreign exchange earned. These schemes provide incentives over and above the duty neutralization envisaged under the duty remission and duty exemption schemes. The duty foregone under the reward schemes in the last three years is as given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the incentive/reward scheme	Total duty foregone in 2004-05	Total duty foregone in 2005-06	Total duty foregone in 2006-07
1.	Target Plus Scheme	0.00	653.29*	2619.16*
2.	Visheesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana	0.00	92.45*	547.98*
3.	Served from India Scheme	0.00	177.71*	443.54*
4.	DFCEC Scheme	184.92	645.92*	1416.00*
5.	Focus Market Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Focus Product Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00

*Figures do not include the details from three zonal Chief Commissionerates of New Delhi (CX), Ranchi (CX) and Visakhapatnam (CX).

The Government also administers the schemes of EOU and SEZ which are, largely tax neutralization schemes. Goods imported into SEZs/EOUs or procured

locally are exempt from customs/excise duties. These are not in the nature of incentives schemes. The duty foregone in the preceding three years is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

	EOU/EHTP/STP		SEZ	
	Customs Duties	Central Excise Duties	Customs Duties	Central Excise Duties
1	2	3	4	5
2004-05	7402.23	2078.18	1057.12	20.19

1	2	3	4	5
2005-06	8192.14	1858.96	1631.99	31.09
2006-07	10930.54	3308.44	2015.91	177.59
Total	26524.91	7245.58	4705.02	288.87

(c) The Government does not have any plan to give more incentives/relief to exporters.

(d) Does not arise.

T and D Losses

1159. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether percentage of loss of power in transmission and distribution in the country is much more than those in neighbouring countries at present;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of T and D loss of power in the country; and

(c) the obstructions in the way of lessening this percentage of loss of power?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) A report prepared by the Power Finance Corporation indicates that the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT and C) Loss of the State Power Utilities at the national level for 2005-06 was 34.54%. As per the guidelines issued by Central Electricity Authority for reduction of Transmission and Distribution (T and D) losses, the unavoidable technical loss in Indian conditions is about 10-15%. T and D losses in some of the neighboring countries (which are available for the year 2003) are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the country	T and D losses (%)
1	2	3
1.	Pakistan	25

1	2	3
2.	Bangladesh	12
3.	China	6
4.	Nepal	19
5.	Sri Lanka	18

(Source: World Bank Publication, World Development Indicators, upto 2006)

(c) The reasons for losses include technical reasons like overloading of existing lines and substation equipments, old and outdated network, low HT:LT ratio, poor repair and Maintenance of equipments, non installation of sufficient capacitors, substandard, inefficient and poor quality distribution equipments, poor power factor of consumer end devices etc. and commercial reasons like defective meters, theft and pilferage, tampering of meters, low accountability of employees, poor metering efficiency, poor billing efficiency, non realization of dues etc.

Decline in Sex-Ratio

1160. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce major policy initiatives to arrest the falling sex ratio in the country as reported in the Times of India dated November 3, 2007; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the said measures are likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Scheme of Conditional Cash Transfer for girl child with Insurance Cover has been included in the Annual Plan 2007-08 and includes cash transfers to the family of the girl child based on the fulfillment of four important conditionalities viz. birth and registration of the girl child, immunization, retention in school and delaying marriage beyond 18 years of age. The procedural formalities for approval of the above scheme are under process.

**Kutir Jyoti Yojana under
Tribal Sub Plan**

1161. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing the Kutir Jyoti Yojana in Rajasthan under Tribal sub plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of families covered thereunder;

(c) whether the Government has found laxity in covering the left out families;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken against them; and

(e) steps taken by the Government to cover all the remaining families?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The State Government of Rajasthan has informed that presently they are not implementing the Kutir Jyoti Yojana under Tribal Sub Plan in the State.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[Translation]

Development of Tribals Town

1162. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have submitted project reports in respect of integrated develop-

ment particularly for tribal towns during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of projects sanctioned and rejected out of the total projects along with the reasons therefore;

(d) whether the Government has received proposals pertaining to integrated development of tribal towns from states during the current financial year too;

(e) if so, the status thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to provide sufficient financial aid for the development of tribal towns of Gujarat through foreign development agencies; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Question does not arise.

[English]

**Import of Component for
Bilaspur Power Project**

1163. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 370 tonne critical component of 1980 MW NTPC power project imported from Russia for a plant at Bilaspur has been stuck up at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the period of component has been stuck up; and

(c) the delay caused thereby in the implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC Ltd. is implementing 1980 MW Sipat Stage-I Super Thermal Power Project at Sipat near Bilaspur in the State of Chhattisgarh. Components of Turbine Generator and Auxiliary package are sourced from Russia. No package for this plant is stuck up at New Delhi. However, Stator of Generator for Unit-I of the project weighing about 370 metric tonne (MT) is held up at Kasara Ghat near Nashik in Maharashtra since May 2007. The Stator is expected to start moving by 1st week of December 2007.

(c) NTPC has reported that since the activity of Generator supply and transportation is not on critical path, the project implementation is not likely to be delayed on this account.

[Translation]

Nithari Case

1164. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought information on missing children from the states in the aftermath of the Nithari case;

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

(c) the number of states which have not provided the desired information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, Punjab, Meghalaya, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Goa and UTs of Andaman and Nicobar and Dadra and Nagar Haveli have provided information. The information from the remaining States/UTs is awaited. Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated a new centrally sponsored scheme "Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)" for implementation during the 11th Plan Period

under which there is provision for setting up of 'National Website on Missing Children' for children who have run away or are missing for various reasons, with its headquarters at National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) with linkages to State Child Protection Units (SCPU) and District Child Protection Units (DCPU).

Dwelling Units for Urban Pooors

1165. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of dwelling units handed over to urban poor during the last three years;

(b) the State-wise number of dwelling units being constructed for urban poor during the current financial year and the amount earmarked for this purpose; and

(c) the State-wise details of the number of dwelling units constructed and handed over to the urban poor during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Housing is a State subject and the State Governments undertake projects for housing the urban poor. The information relating to the construction of houses for urban poor beneficiaries and handing over such houses to them are maintained by the State Governments. However, under the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), launched by the Government of India in 2001, the State Governments were assisted by Government of India with subsidy for construction of houses for persons below poverty line. VAMBAY has been subsumed under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), launched by Government of India in December, 2005. Under the JNNURM, State Governments are assisted with Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for construction of houses and providing basic services to the urban poor, under Submission of Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP)

for 63 select cities and under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) for other cities/towns.

The details of houses constructed and completed under VAMBAY, as reported by the State Governments are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

State-wise details of dwelling units (DUs) sanctioned under BSUP and IHSDP during last three years and current financial year alongwith amount of Additional Central Assistance earmarked for this purpose are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Valmiki Ambedkar Awaas Yojana (VAMBAY)-State-wise details

Sl. No.	State	2004-05 Houses Completed	2005-06 Houses Completed	2006-07 Houses Completed	2007-08 Houses Completed
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12545	8959	0	0
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	0	0	0	
5.	Bihar	0	0	0	0
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	0	3140	0	0
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
9.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
10.	Delhi	0	0	0	0
11.	Goa	0	0	0	0
12.	Gujarat	216	500	0	0
13.	Haryana	0	0	0	0
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	210	178	0	0
16.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0
17.	Karnataka	0	1593	0	0
18.	Kerala	1000	4221	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	400	200	0	0
21.	Maharashtra	29323	6550	0	0
22.	Manipur	0	393	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
25.	Nagaland	0	505	0	0
26.	Orissa	60	0	0	0
27.	Pondicherry	555	0	0	0
28.	Punjab	0	0	0	0
29.	Rajasthan	200	44	0	0
30.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	34067	23128	10006	0
32.	Tripura	0	86	0	0
33.	Uttar Pradesh	218	0	0	0
34.	Uttanchal	0	0	0	0
35.	West Bengal	253	252	0	0
Total		79047	49749	10006	0

Statement-II**Basic Service to the Urban Poor (Sub Mission II)**

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	ACA earmarked for 2005 to 2012 by Planning Commission (Rs. in crore)	
1	2	No. of Dwelling Units approved	No. of Dwelling Units approved	No. of Dwelling Units approved	No. of Dwelling Units approved	ACA earmarked by Planning Commission (Rs. in crore)	
3	4	5	6	7	8		
1.	Andhra Pradesh		49000	30320	0	95.50	868.46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		0	0	100	0.28	2.57
3.	Assam		0	0	0	12.31	111.94
4.	Bihar		0	0	5268	54.60	496.54
5.	Chhattisgarh		0	27976	0	4.88	44.36
6.	Chandigarh		0	25728	0	10.47	95.20
7.	Delhi		0	0	27980	160.14	1456.28
8.	Goa		0	0	—	0.16	1.43
9.	Gujarat		0	72368	11736	95.18	865.56
10.	Haryana		0	3248	0	3.55	32.31
11.	Himachal Pradesh		0	252	0	2.34	21.29
12.	Jammu and Kashmir		0	0	0	10.55	95.96
13.	Jharkhand		0	0	0	32.01	291.09
14.	Karnataka		0	14511	4184	39.84	362.28
15.	Kerala		0	4748	0	23.64	215.00
16.	Madhya Pradesh	The Basic Services to the Urban Poor	5764	26205	1320	29.26	266.10
17.	Maharashtra	(BSUP) was launched on	0	100578	13250	359.86	3272.56
18.	Manipur	December 3, 2005	0	0	0	1.30	11.83
19.	Meghalaya		0	0	300	2.61	23.70
20.	Mizoram		0	0	0	3.04	27.63
21.	Nagaland		0	3504	0	0.65	5.89
22.	Orissa		0	0	133	6.46	58.74
23.	Puducherry		0	0	1136	8.05	73.20
24.	Punjab		0	0	5152	43.38	394.46
25.	Rajasthan		0	17337	0	38.32	348.45
26.	Sikkim		0	0	0	0.29	2.66
27.	Tamil Nadu		0	44021	0	113.57	1032.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28	Tripura		0	0	256	1.50	13.66
29.	Uttar Pradesh		0	4680	14896	110.54	1005.22
30.	Uttaranchal		0	0	0	7.46	67.84
31.	West Bengal		0	60312	6668	229.27	2084.98
Total			54764	435788	92379	1501	13650

Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	ACA earmarked for 2005 to 2012 by Planning Commission (Rs. in crore)	
1	2	No. of Dwelling Units approved	No. of Dwelling Units approved	No. of Dwelling Units approved	No. of Dwelling Units approved	ACA earmarked by Planning Commission (Rs. in crore)	
3	4	5	6	7	8		
1.	Andhra Pradesh			25170	4087	63.83	579.71
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			0	0	0.50	4.52
3.	Assam			613	4780	5.20	47.25
4.	Bihar			4167	2333	15.42	140.06
5.	Chhattisgarh			14846	0	7.54	68.44
6.	Goa			0	0	1.74	15.79
7.	Gujarat			6200	7943	23.51	213.54
8.	Haryana			14641	0	14.65	133.05
9.	Himachal Pradesh		0	0	0	1.78	16.19
10.	Jammu and Kashmir		0	0	2654	8.83	80.22
11.	Jharkhand		0	0	0	12.48	113.33
12.	Karnataka		0	4070	6224	15.12	137.34

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	Kerala		0	5985	3497	18.24	165.69
14.	Madhya Pradesh	The Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) was launched on December 3, 2005	0	14644	947	25.38	230.53
15.	Maharashtra		0	13036	6703	53.39	484.82
16.	Manipur		0	0	0	1.36	12.35
17.	Meghalaya		0	0	0	0.99	8.97
18.	Mizoram		0	0	0	0.84	7.65
19.	Nagaland		0	2496	0	0.75	6.79
20.	Orissa		0	0	0	15.51	140.85
21.	Punjab		0	0	1627	15.83	143.80
22.	Rajasthan		136	10759	1914	38.96	353.80
23.	Sikkim		0	0	0	0.10	0.90
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	12934	5184	32.06	291.15	
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0.92	8.36	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	2032	0	78.40	712.01	
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	4.80	43.58	
28.	West Bengal	0	12824	4372	29.90	271.51	
29.	Delhi	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	
30.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0.77	6.95	
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0.80	7.29	
32.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0.06	0.56	
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0.11	1.03	
35.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0.22	1.98	
Total			136	144417	52ss265	490	4450

*[English]***Appointment of Director in DDA**

1166. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made changes in recruitment rules for the appointment of the post of director in Delhi Development Authority (DDA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any notification for the recruitment of directors in DDA had recently been notified in the GNCTD;

(d) if so, whether the Land and Building Department of authorized to issue Gazette notification in this regard;

(e) if so, the reasons for the same;

(f) whether any irregularity has come to the notice of the Government in this regard; and

(g) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Urban Development (MOUD) in 2006 had advised the Delhi Development Authority that the Recruitment Regulations (RRs) for the post of Director in DDA to be filled up on deputation

basis may be framed as under:—

"Officers belonging to Central/State Government holding analogous posts or officers with 5 years service in the scale of Rs. 10000-15200".

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) DDA has also reported that the irregularity mentioned at (d) above was noted. MOUD has advised DDA in 2006 to modify the RRs and refer to the Ministry for approval.

Foreign Exchange Reserve

1167. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign exchange reserves at present;

(b) whether the foreign exchange reserves have increased during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As on October 31, 2007, the foreign exchange reserves were valued at US\$ 264.7 billion.

(b) and (c) The details of the foreign exchange reserves for the past three years is given below:

(US\$ million) End of Period

Items	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Foreign Currency Assets	135,571	145,108	191,924
Gold	4,500	5,755	6,784
Special Drawing Rights	5	3	2
Reserve Tranche Position in IMF	1438	756	469
Total	141,514	151,622	199,179

Gender Budgeting

1168. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is developing a gender budgeting manual to train a pool of trainers to carry forward the message of "gender budgeting" in all ministries and government departments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely time by when the said manual will be prepared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Women and Child Development has developed a Handbook for use by the Gender Budgeting Cells of all the Central Ministries and Departments for incorporating gender budgeting in their sectors. In addition, a Gender Budgeting Manual for Trainers for purposes of training Central Ministries and Departments in Gender Budgeting is also under preparation.

[Translation]

Corruption in Banks

1169. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of corruption detected by CVCs, bank-wise;

(b) the field to which these relate; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Central Vigilance Commission has informed that the Commission does not have an investigation wing of its own. It tenders advice on the basis of investigation reports received from the CVOs of Public Sector Banks. As and when it is observed that the irregularities or inappropriate action on the part of bank officials has taken place due to systemic failures, the Commission

issues appropriate guidelines to plug such loopholes. During the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (upto October), the Commission advised initiation of major penalty proceedings against 189, 227 and 216 officers respectively of Public Sector Banks and other financial institutions. During the same period, the Commission recommended initiation of minor penalty proceedings against 76, 108 and 122 Officers respectively. Majority of the vigilance cases reported by the banks relate to loans and advances.

(c) Each bank has Vigilance Department headed by a Chief Vigilance Officer taken on deputation from outside the bank. Action is taken against the involved officials as per the laid down Conduct and Discipline rules.

[English]

Amalgamation/Closure of Banks

1170. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending for the amalgamation/closure of banks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has sent a proposal for approval of the Government for merger of State Bank of Saurashtra (SBS) with it.

[Translation]

Orphans

1171. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of orphans has increased in the country in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the number of orphan girls are more than orphan boys in the country;

(d) if so, the details therefore;

(e) whether the Government proposes to simplify the adoption-laws to facilitate adoption of orphans; and

(f) if so, the time by when the Government is likely to reframe such laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development does not maintain information regarding number of orphans in the country.

(e) and (f) The procedures related to in-country adoption and inter-country adoption have been provided under "Guidelines for In-country Adoption, 2004 and "Guidelines for Adoption from India, 2006" respectively. These Guidelines replaced the earlier guidelines in order to bring in more simplicity and transparency in adoption procedures. However, these guidelines are subject to regular review in order to make them more efficient and child friendly. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006, alongwith the Model rules 2007 under this Act, also seek to provide a child friendly and simple adoption framework.

Funds for Welfare of Primitive Tribal Groups

1172. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has provided sufficient funds for the Welfare of Primitive Tribes of the country during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the facilities provided to these Primitive Tribes and their present standard of Life; and

(d) the steps taken to uplift their living standad?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The funds allocated for 2007-08 for the Central Sector Scheme namely 'Development of Primitive Tribal Groups' being administered by this Ministry for welfare of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) is Rs. 40.00 crores.

(c) and (d) The Primitive Tribal Groups generally have a lower standard of living as compared to other scheduled tribes. The interventions under the aforesaid scheme of Development of Primitive Tribal Groups include activities like housing, land distribution, income generation, health-care, education, infrastructure, irrigation, social security, etc. With the commencement of the 11th Plan, Ministry has obtained comprehensive 5-year Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) Plans for the welfare and development of the Primitive Tribal Groups of the respective States/UTs with special emphasis on hamlet/habitat development.

[English]

Strengthening Legal System

1173. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to strengthen legal system in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to computerize all the courts in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

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

(b) For providing speedy, affordable and substantial justice in the rural areas, the Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2007 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 15th May, 2007. The said Bill was referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, for its examination. The said Committee presented its Twenty Second Report on Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2007 to Rajya Sabha on 6th September, 2007 and also laid the same on the Table of Lok Sabha on 6th September, 2007. The said Standing Committee made several recommendations on various provisions of the Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2007. The recommendations of the said Committee are being

examined. The Government is considering to pursue the said Bill in Rajya Sabha in the light of the recommendations made by the Committee.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has approved a scheme in February, 2007 for computerization of all the District and Subordinate courts in the country and also for upgradation of the information and Communication Technology (ICT) Infrastructure of Supreme Court and High Courts, at a cost of Rs. 442 crores. The scheme aims at providing suitable ICT infrastructure to all the courts in the country in a period of 2 years to enable computerization of all the court operation and to provide a National Judicial Data Grid inter-connecting all the courts in the country. Under this scheme, laptops have already been provided to 12155 Judicial Officers across the country and training of Judicial Officers and courts staff is also underway. It is also proposed to provide laser printers to all the Judicial Officers in the near future. Judicial Officers are also being provided with internet connectivity to enable them to access legal resources. Other components of the Project such as site preparation, development of application software, provisions of technical manpower etc. are also under implementation.

**Value of Equities Acquired
Through PNS**

1174. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the current value of equities acquired through participatory notes in the Indian Stock market;

(b) whether the Government has decided to moderate the role of Participatory Notes;

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

(d) whether the Union Government has made/decided to make assessments of the possible conse-

quences of flow of foreign funds into the country through Participatory Notes;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) further steps taken/being taken by the Government to regulate foreign investments through instruments such as Participatory Notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that the notional value of outstanding Participatory Notes (PNs) with Indian equities as underlying amounts to Rs. 2,68,957 crore as of September 30, 2007.

(b) and (c) To regulate issuance of PNs with Indian underlying securities, the SEBI Board, in a meeting held on October 25, 2007, has approved the following measures:

1. FIs and their sub-accounts shall not issue/renew Offshore Derivative Instruments (ODIs) with underlying as derivatives with immediate effect. They are required to wind up the current position over 18 months, during which period SEBI will review the position from time to time.
2. Further issuance of ODIs by the sub-accounts of FIs will be discontinued with immediate effect. They will be required to wind up the current position over 18 months, during which period SEBI will review the position from time to time.
3. The FIs who are currently issuing ODIs with notional value of PNs outstanding (excluding derivatives) as a percentage of their Assets Under Custody (AUC) in India of less than 40% shall be allowed to issue further ODIs only at the incremental rate of 5% of their AUC in India.
4. Those FIs with notional value of PNs outstanding (excluding derivatives) as a percentage of

their AUC in India of more than 40% shall issue PNs only against cancellation/redemption/closing out of the existing PNs of at least equivalent amount.

(d) to (g) The policies on foreign investment flows are reviewed periodically by the Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and SEBI keeping in mind the current macroeconomic situation, changing market conditions, challenges faced in the external sector management and experience gained so far in administering the policy. However, at present, Government does not propose any further steps to regulate investments through PNs.

[Translation]

Modification in List of Scheduled Tribe

1175. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for Scheduled Tribes submitted any report on the modification in the list of Scheduled Tribe during last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has not submitted any report on the modification in the list of Scheduled Tribes during last three years. In terms of the modalities approved by the Government of India on 15-06-1999 for determining the claims for inclusion in/exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes list, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes is required to give its opinion on the cases referred to it.

Revenue from ERA and MRTPF

1176. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of revenue earned by the Govern-

ment through enforcement of FERA, MRTPF during the last three years;

whether any review has been conducted/proposed to be conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The penalty earned by the Government through enforcement of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA) and revenue earned from Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act (MRTPF) for the period 2005 to October, 2007 is as under:

Year	FERA (Rs. lack)	MRTPF (in Rs.)
2005	1942.26	7,846
2006	1141.56	7,843
2007 (up to 31-10-2007)	1849.90	16,269

(b) and (c) In case of FERA, review of penalty earned is done from time to time. However, there is no proposal for review of revenue earned under the MRTPF Act.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (Appointment of Members, Manner of filling Vacancies, Fees and Allowances and Procedure for Discharging their Functions) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 537 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 2007, under sub-section (1) of Section 59 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7244/2007]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Ministers' Residences (Amendment) Rules, 2007, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 137 in Gazette of India dated the in July, 2007, under sub-section (2) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7245/2007]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005 together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 25 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7246/2007]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the White Paper (Hindi and English versions) on Disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises (31st July, 2007).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7247/2007]

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7248/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under

sections 8, 4 and 2(f) of the Delimitation Act, 2002:

- (i) O.N. 193(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November 2004, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Goa.
- (ii) O.N. 190(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October 2004, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the Union Territory of Pondicherry.
- (iii) O.N. 3(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February 2005, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Tripura.
- (iv) O.N. 13(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April 2005, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Mizoram.
- (v) O.N. 6(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March 2005, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Kerala.
- (vi) O.N. 35(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th August 2005, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Rajasthan.
- (vii) O.N. 37(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th August 2005, regarding

[Shri K. Venkatapathy]

determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of West Bengal.

(viii) O.N. 61(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th December 2005, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Chhattisgarh.

(ix) O.N. 63(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th December 2005, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Punjab.

(x) O.N. 24(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March 2006, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Maharashtra.

(xi) O.N. 42(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August 2005, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Sikkim.

(xii) O.N. 5(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January 2006, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the NCT of Delhi.

(xiii) O.N. 38(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May 2006, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Gujarat.

(xiv) O.N. 19(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March 2006, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Orissa.

(xv) O.N. 62(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July 2006, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(xvi) O.N. 78(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th September 2006, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Uttranchal.

(xvii) O.N. 22(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March 2006, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

(xviii) O.N. 105(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th October 2006, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Haryana.

(xix) O.N. 7(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January 2006, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(xx) O.N. 4(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th January 2007, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned

therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

- (xxi) O.N. 28(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th March 2007, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Meghalaya together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. O.N. 89(E) dated the 2nd July 2007.
- (xxii) O.N. 46(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March 2007, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Karnataka.
- (xxiii) O.N. 52(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th April 2007, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxiv) O.N. 63(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April 2007, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Jharkhand.
- (xxv) O.N. 79(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th June 2007, regarding determination of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Bihar.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7249/2007]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-section (1) of section 10 of the Delimitation Act, 2002:—

- (i) O.N. 9(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March 2005, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Goa.
- (ii) O.N. 10(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March 2005, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the Union Territory of Pondicherry.
- (iii) O.N. 18(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May 2005, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Tripura.
- (iv) O.N. 27(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th May 2005, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Mizoram together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. O.N. 34(E) dated 11th July 2005.
- (v) O.N. 29(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May 2005, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Kerala.
- (vi) O.N. 4(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January 2006, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Rajasthan.
- (vii) O.N.9(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th February 2006, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of West Bengal.
- (viii) O.N. 52(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June 2006, publishing the

[Shri K. Venkatapathy]

- name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Chhattisgarh together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. O.N. 71(E) dated the 25th August 2006.
- (ix) O.N. 58(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June 2006, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Punjab.
- (x) O.N. 64(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July 2006, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xi) O.N. 80(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th September 2006, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Sikkim.
- (xii) O.N. 85(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th September 2006, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the NCT of Delhi.
- (xiii) O.N. 121(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th December 2006, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Gujarat.
- (xiv) O.N. 122(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th December 2006, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Orissa.
- (xv) O.N. 123(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December 2006, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Uttar Pradesh together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. O.N. 50(E) dated the 30th March 2007.
- (xvi) O.N. 124(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December 2006, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Uttranchal.
- (xvii) O.N. 2(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th January 2007, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
- (xviii) O.N. 18(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th February 2007, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Haryana.
- (xix) O.N. 78(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May 2007, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xx) O.N. 70(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th May 2007, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxi) O.N. 91(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July 2007, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Meghalaya together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. O.N. 104(E) dated the 30th July 2007.
- (xxii) O.N. 90(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July 2007, publishing the

name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Karnataka.

(xxiii) O.N. 108(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August 2007, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xxiv) O.N. 110(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th August 2007, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Jharkhand.

(xxv) O.N. 111(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 2007, publishing the name of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies seats, mentioned therein, in the State of Bihar.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1 and 2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7250/2007]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7251/2007]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and

English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7252/2007]

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the report of Delimitation Commission may be called back for reconsideration since it contains many shortcomings geographical and social point of view.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F.No. 26011/4/2007-LRD in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7253/2007]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1693(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2007, establishing a Quality Review Board consisting of one Chairman and four Members issued under section 29A of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7254/2007]

(2) A copy of the Company Law Board (Qualification, Experience and other Conditions of Service of Members) Amendment Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 588 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2007, under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956.

(3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 611(E)

[Shri Prem Chand Gupta]

(Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st September 2007, granting the Nidhi Status to the companies mentioned therein, issued under section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7255/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CILDL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 548(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2007 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R.450(E) dated the 31st July, 2006, issued under National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Rules, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7256/2007]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Adoption Resource Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Central Adoption Resource Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7257/2007]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Adoption Resource Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Adoption Resource Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7258/2007]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7259/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Prefab Limited and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7260/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 2007, together with Auditor's Report thereon:—
 - (i) Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Samastipur.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7261/2007]

- (ii) Kalinga Gramya Bank, Cuttack.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7262/2007]

- (iii) Lucknow Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sitapur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7263/2007]
- (iv) Ratlam-Mandsaur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandsaur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7264/2007]
- (v) Chikmagalur-Kodagu Grameena Bank, Chik-magalur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7265/2007]
- (vi) Chambal-Gwalior Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gwalior.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7266/2007]
- (vii) Tripura Gramin Bank, Agartala.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7267/2007]
- (viii) Ka Bank Nongkyndong Ri Khasi Jaintia, Shillong.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7268/2007]
- (ix) Durg Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank, Rajnandgaon.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7269/2007]
- (x) Saurashtra Gramin Bank, Rajkot.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7270/2007]
- (xi) Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank, Warangal.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7271/2007]
- (xii) Ellaquai Dehati Bank, Srinagar.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7272/2007]
- (xiii) Assam Gramin Vikash Bank, Guwahati.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7273/2007]
- (xiv) Dena Gujarat Gramin Bank, Gandhinagar.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7274/2007]
- (xv) Marathwada Gramin Bank, Nanded.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7275/2007]
- (xvi) Baroda Western Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank, Bareilly.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7276/2007]
- (xvii) Pravatiya Gramin Bank, Chamba.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7277/2007]
- (xviii) Etawah Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Etawah.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7278/2007]
- (xix) Triveni Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jalaun.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7279/2007]
- (xx) Chaitanya Godavari Grameena Bank, Guntur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7280/2007]
- (xxi) Kamraz Rural Bank Sopore.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7281/2007]
- (xxii) Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank, Kadapa.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7282/2007]
- (xxiii) Bangiya Gramin Vikash Bank, Gorabazar.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7283/2007]
- (xxiv) Pallavan Grama Bank, Salem.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7284/2007]
- (xxv) Saptagiri Grameena Bank, Chittoor.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7285/2007]
- (xxvi) Utkal Gramya Bank, Bolangir.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7286/2007]
- (xxvii) Jharkhand Gramin Bank, Ranchi.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7287/2007]
- (xxviii) Chhattisgarh Gramin Bank, Raipur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7288/2007]

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7289/2007]

- (3) 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. 567(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on imports of Peroxosulphates, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China and Japan.
- (ii) G.S.R. 568(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 40/2007-Cus. dated the 19th March 2007.
- (iii) G.S.R. 570(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend levy of anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of phenol originating in, or exported from, Singapore, South Africa and European Union upto 12th August 2008 at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (iv) G.S.R. 571(E) and G.S.R. 572(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 2007, together with an

explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of Paracetamol, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority in final findings of Sunset Review Investigation.

- (v) G.S.R. 599(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on imports into India of ductile iron pipes, originating in, or exported from the China PR, at the specified rates (based on final findings) of the Designated Authority.
- (vi) G.S.R. 600(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Phosphoric Acid, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China and imported into India.
- (vii) G.S.R. 605(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of phenol, originating in, or exported from, the United States of America, Korea RP, or Taiwan and imported into India.
- (viii) G.S.R. 625(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 37/2004-Cus. dated the 20th February, 2004.
- (ix) G.S.R. 626(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 66/2007-Cus. dated the 9th May, 2007.

- (x) G.S.R. 627(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on imports into India of pre-sensitized positive off-set aluminium plates originating in or exported from Bulgaria, China PR, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea at specified rates, based on final findings of the Designated Authority.
- (xi) G.S.R. 651(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty on imports of acrylo-nitrile butadiene rubber from Korea R.P. and Germany, upto and inclusive of 9th October, 2008, pending the outcome of sunset review investigations by the designated authority.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7290/2007]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 583(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to give effect to customs duty concessions on specified items agreed to by India under the India-Chile Preferential Trading Agreement which was signed on 8th March 2006.
- (ii) G.S.R. 598(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing a mechanism for refund of the 4% additional duty of customs levied on imports in lieu of VAT/sales tax subject, inter alia, to the condition that on resale, appropriate VAT/sales tax is paid on such imported goods.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7291/2007]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:—

- (i) G.S.R. 601(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking the exempt, by way of refund of service tax paid, the taxable services mentioned therein received by exporters, which are not in the nature of "input services" but could be linked to export goods, from the whole of the Service Tax leviable thereon subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) G.S.R. 645(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking the exempt, by way of refund of service tax paid, the taxable services mentioned therein received by exporters, which are not in the nature of "input services" but could be linked to export goods, from the whole of the Service Tax leviable thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7292/2007]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:

- (i) The CENVAT Credit (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2007, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 596(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) The Central Excise (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2007, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 597(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) G.S.R. 610(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 2007,

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2006-CE dated 1st March, 2006.

- (iv) G.S.R. 652(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 4/2006-CE dated 1st March, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7293/2007]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 30 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:—

(i) The Chhattisgarh Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2007, published in Notification No. 26 in the weekly Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2007.

(ii) The Baroda Western Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2006, published in Notification No. 22 in the weekly Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2007.

- (8) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7294/2007]

- (9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sections 23A and 23D of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:—

(i) S.O. 1485(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2007, regarding Amalgamation of Puri Gramya Bank and Dhenkanal Gramya Bank.

- (ii) S.O. 1564(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2007, regarding dissolution of Puri Gramya Bank and Dhenkanal Gramya Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7295/2007]

- (10) A copy each of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Canara Bank, Bangalore, and the United Bank of India, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audited Accounts, under sub-section (8) of section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts, 1970 and 1980.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7296/2007]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report a message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 10th September, 2007 adopted the following motion in regard to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do elect one Member of the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Shri P.G. Narayanan from the Rajya Sabha and resolves that the House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, one Member from among the Members of the House to the said Joint Committee, to fill the vacancy".

I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in

pursuance of the above motion, Shri N. Jothi, Member, Rajya Sabha has been duly elected to the said Joint Committee.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7297/2007]

12.02½ hrs.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

58th and 59th Reports

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2007-2008):

- (i) Fifty-Eighth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken on 28th Report of PAC (14th Lok Sabha) on "Control systems in India Security Press, Nashik."
- (ii) Fifty-Ninth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken on 34th Report of PAC (14th Lok Sabha) on "Delayed purchase and insignificant utilization of equipment procured under Fast Track Procedure."

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

22nd Report

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT (Mumbai North East): I beg to present the Twenty-Second Report * (Hindi and

*The Report was presented to hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha on 15 October, 2007 under Direction 71(A) of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha when the House was not in session and the hon. Speaker was pleased to order the printing, publication and circulation of the Report under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2007-08) on the subject "Ultra Mega Power Projects" pertaining to the Ministry of Power.

12.02½ hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): I beg to present a petition signed by Shri C.H. Venkatachalam, General Secretary, All India Bank Employees' Association and Shri R.J. Sridharan, General Secretary, All India Bank Officers' Association, regarding change in policies of the Banking Industry.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7298/2007]

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 17th Report of Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2006-07), pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): Sir, I beg to lay this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2005-06) on Demands for Grants (2006-07) relating to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, on the direction of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, in pursuance of the Direction 73A of the Directions by hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on Social Justice and

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7299/07.

[Shri P.R. Kyndiah]

Empowerment (14th Lok Sabha) examined the demands for grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2006-07 and presented their Twenty Second Report in this regard on 18-12-2006. It contained Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants-2006-07 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The Report contained 22 recommendations. The present status of implementation of all the 22 recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure, which is laid on the Table of the House.

12.03¼ hrs.

(ii) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 171st Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demand for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to lay this statement in pursuance of Direction No. 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin, Part II, dated 1st September, 2004 to inform the esteemed House about the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One hundred seventy first Report of Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests. This report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) for the year 2007-08. The Committee reviewed the progress made by DSIR during the

reporting period and considered the Demands for Grants (2007-08) in detail.

The Committee, while reviewing the working and considering the detailed Demands for Grants of DSIR, analyzed the Demands for Grants with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of the Department and presented the 171st Report thereon to the House on the 26th April 2007. The Department has furnished a detailed Action Taken Note on these recommendations to the Committee in May 2007. The report contains fifteen recommendations which are both advisory and appreciative. Significant ones mainly relate to:

- making efforts to spend funds which have been allocated and taking due care to make proposal which could be practically implemented within the time frame set up by the Department;
- popularization and dissemination of new technologies;
- encouragement to individual innovators by way of providing increased support;
- technological upgradation of cottage industries and other such industries falling in the unorganized sector;
- making efforts to encourage the start-up companies and monitoring their growth trajectories so as to improve and encourage the culture of entrepreneurship in the country;
- dissemination of information regarding commercializing of indigenous technologies and inventions in order to create market for such technologies;
- carrying out proper groundwork before making a demand for allocation in order to escape the embarrassing situation of not being able to spend money it initially demanded for its projects;
- appreciation of the decision of the Department

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7300/07.

to break its various programmes being run by National Laboratories under sub-divisions: Supra Institutional Projects, Network Projects, Inter-Agency projects and Facilities which would be helpful in developing core-competencies and bringing in professional focus;

- recognition of the need of monetary incentives to attract young talent to research field;
- appreciating the idea of pro-active and planned patenting; and
- satisfaction of the Committee over the benefits arising from NMITLI scheme to both Department and the industrial partner.

All the fifteen recommendations of the Committee have been considered in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The current status on the action taken is detailed in the Annexure.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees then Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav may be permitted to present Item 20—Supplementary Demand for Grants (Railways)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

12.04½ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS) 2007-2008

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 2007-08.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7303/2007]

12.05 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, with your permission I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 26th November, 2007 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking approval of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 20th November, 2007 under Article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Karnataka.
3. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Ordinance, 2007 and consideration and passing of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Bill, 2007.
4. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 and consideration and passing of Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2007.
5. Discussion and voting on the following Demands for Grants and introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bills:—
 - (a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) 2007-08.
 - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2007-08;
 - (c) Demands for Excess Grants (General) 2005-06; and
6. Consideration and passing of the National Jute Board Bill, 2006.

[Shri B.K. Handique]

7. Consideration and passing of the Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill, 1994, after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Members have put forward certain submissions for the week starting from 26 November. I give permission for them to be presented.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the way in which you have conducted the Question Hour...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank you for not attacking me the way the Speaker had been attacked.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I never do that.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's List of Business:—

1. Need to arrive at a consensus to wear Khadi and handloom by the employees of Government and Public Sector Undertakings and as school uniform as a measure to commemorate the 150th anniversary of First War of Independence.
2. Need to construct a fly-over in the Alappuzha bye-pass in lieu of two road over bridges and the road in between to prevent damages of highway due to sea erosion and to preserve the aesthetic beauty of Alappuzha beach.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. The Indo-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement and its possible impact on highly sensitive

agricultural products like coconut, pepper, tea and coffee in the country and the proposed review of the negative list of products excluded from the SAFTA Agreement.

2. Review of the implementation of River Action Plans in the country, especially the ill-started Pamba River Action Plan in Kerala State.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, the following items may kindly be included in the next week's List of Business:—

1. Billing relating to inclusion of Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
2. To discuss the need of constituting a Parliamentary Committee to monitor and supervise the welfare of OBC on the lines of SC/ST Committees of Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, the following item may kindly be included in next week's List of Business:

- (1) Establishment of cotton industries in cotton growing areas of Marathwada.
- (2) Undertaking work under Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana in my constituency as no work has been undertaken in my constituency for the last two years.

SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may kindly be included in next week's List of Business.

- (1) A Refinery may be set up in Western Rajasthan to provide employment avenues for people of the area.
- (2) Jaipur International Airport may be renamed as Sawai Mansinghji in International Airport.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir,

*Not recorded.

the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) Introduction of a Bill regarding 33 per cent reservation of seats for women in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies.
- (2) The need for enhancing the frequency of train No. 2145/2146 Lokmanya Tilak Express from the existing once in a week to three days a week.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following two items may kindly be included in next week's List of Business

- (1) Provisions have been made in the Constitution for reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in social, educational, economic and political fields to help them overcome social and educational disparity but means to ensure effective implementation of reservations are not in place. The Union Government may ensure necessary measures in this regard.
- (2) The Union Government should ensure that employment, housing, education and medical facilities are available to each and every person in the country:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may kindly be included in next week's List of Business.

- (1) Separate voter lists are being used for Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha and Panchayat elections due to which complaints regarding irregularities in the voter lists have come to light. Hence, all elections should be conducted on the basis of a single voter list authenticated by the Election Commission of India.
- (2) The Sugarcane farmers in the country are in bad straits and reports of suicides by farmers in many places have been received. Hence,

this matter should be discussed.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following suggestions may kindly be included in next week's List of Business.

- (1) Need for opening a medical college in Hoshiarpur Lok Sabha constituency.
- (2) There is a need for extension of railway network in Hoshiarpur Parliamentary constituency so as to run a train from Nangal to Patna Sahib and also there is need to lay rail tracks from Hoshiarpur to Dausa and Una so that these places could be connected by railway.

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please include the following topics in the proceedings of the next week.

1. Expansion of Swajaldhara Yojana by the Ministry of Rural Development so as to address the drinking water crisis in my Parliamentary Constituency, Mehana.
2. Providing State-of-the-art equipments and all the facilities relating to research to Spices Research Centre in Jagudan in Mehana district of Gujarat.

12.13 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising due to supply of inferior quality wheat to BPL families under the Public Distribution System and steps taken by the Government in this regard*

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi):
Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to the

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7302/2007.

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising due to supply of inferior quality wheat to BPL families under the Public Distribution System and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you lay the statement, it will save time.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I beg to lay the Statement on the Table of the House. Under the TPDS, allocations of wheat are made to State and UT Governments. Based on these allocations, FCI issues wheat to the concerned State and Union Territory Governments. The wheat issued by FCI meets all the required quality specifications under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1955. As per standing instructions, before the wheat is issued from FCI godowns, joint inspection and sampling of the stocks of wheat in FCI godowns is done by the representatives of the FCI and concerned State/Union Territory Governments.

Before the imported wheat is allowed to be discharged from the ships at Indian ports, its quality is tested by the authorities competent under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and by the Plant Quarantine authorities. Only if the imported wheat is found conforming to all the specifications laid down, it is allowed to be discharged from the ships.

While making allocation of wheat under TPDS, no distinction is made between the imported and indigenous wheat. However, certain communications have been received from State Governments of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan informing that the imported red wheat allocated under TPDS is not being preferred by TPDS beneficiaries.

Complaints about quality of imported red wheat have been received from State Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

On receipt of these complaints, officers of Department of Food and Public Distribution and Food Corporation of India jointly collected samples of imported red wheat from FCI godowns in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra regions during second fortnight of October, 2007 and got them analysed for quality. This analysis has shown that all samples drawn from FCI godowns conform to quality standards prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1955. Comparisons of results of analysis with quality parameters of indigenous wheat have also revealed that the quality of imported red wheat is comparable to that of indigenous wheat.

However, wherever complaints about quality of wheat have been received, the State Governments have been directed to get the stocks tested and if they are found to be meeting the standard quality norms, only then their distribution is to be continued.

Further, instructions have been issued to all State Governments that wheat and rice not conforming to PFA specifications should not be issued to consumers under the TPDS.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Hon. Minister has mentioned in his statement that he has received a few complaints and further action has been taken thereon. It has been mentioned that the State Governments of Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have

[English]

informed that the imported red wheat allocated under TPDS is not being preferred by TPDS beneficiaries.

[Translation]

And further it has been said—

[English]

"Complaints about quality of imported red wheat have been received from State Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan."

[Translation]

But hon. Minister has said that the quality of imported red wheat conforms to the quality standards but red wheat is imported wheat and several people are not preferring it just because it is imported wheat. Hon. Minister has further said that the quality of imported red wheat is comparable to that of indigenous wheat. I think that this statement of hon. Minister is not appropriate because the imported red wheat is rotten and infested with fungus. That is not eatable and when all the State Governments want to give that wheat to BPL class, even the people of BPL class refuse to take it. That wheat is not fit even for the animals. Thereafter that wheat is grinded into flour and the flour is sold in flour-mills. This complaint has not only been received from one place rather eight to nine States have complained in this regard and the remaining States also are facing difficulties in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, here three to four questions arise. The first question is related to import of red wheat. I could not understand as to why red wheat is being imported when no body in India is willing to take that wheat. When white wheat is already available in the world then why that wheat is not imported. Here I would like to say that this House must know the facts regarding the scam in importing wheat. A tender to import wheat was circulated in May, 2007 because there was shortage of wheat in the country and we had to keep our stock full. In response to that a tender of 263 dollar per metric tonne was received. But that was cancelled because of being very costly. We are not giving this rate to our farmers and the farmers will be agitated, therefore that tender was cancelled. Thereafter another tender is invited in June and the rate of 325 dollar per metric tonne is received in response to this and finally when wheat was procured, it was procured at the rate of 390 dollar per metric tonne. When wheat was available at the rate of 263 dollar per metric tonne,

it was said that the rate was higher. International market knew that India would purchase wheat later and they hiked up the prices and finally wheat was procured at the rate of 390 dollar metric tonne. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to get the CBI to conduct an enquiry into this scam which caused loss of hundreds of crores of rupees to the country and rotten wheat was imported which does not conform to quality standards.

My first demand is that CBI should hold an inquiry into this whole affair as to how wheat of sub-standard quality was imported. If we had fixed the present support price of wheat in March-April itself, we would not have required to import as much wheat and the indigenous wheat of good quality, for which we have fixed the support price of Rs. 1000 per quintal would have been pumped in our Public Distribution system at the rate of Rs. 11 or 12 per kilogram. But now wheat has been procured at the rate of Rs. 18 per kg and even that is red wheat which is rotten and does not conform to the laid down quality standards.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second thing which I would like to say is that the Government has decided to provide foodgrains to BPL class at low prices. But the hon. Minister of Union Government may give clarifications. The Minister of Rural Development is also sitting here. According to the Planning Commission, the BPL class in this country is not more than 26-27 per cent. I am reading the figures given by the Government. It has been stated that now BPL class is only 27 per cent. It has been also stated that in year 2000 the percentage of BPL class was 36 which has now decreased to 27 per cent. In year 2000 six crore and 52 lakh people were below poverty line and now only 5 crore and 70 lakh people are below poverty line. But the States have issued about 11 crore BPL ration cards. If there are 11 crore BPL ration cards, how it has been estimated that only 26 per cent people are below poverty line in the country at present. If 26 per cent people are below poverty line and foodgrains are provided accordingly, how would the foodgrains be made available to all the people whereas in some 70 to 80 per cent people are having ration cards.

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

Sir, Auditor General in his report has pointed out five things. The first thing is—

[English]

"Huge difference in the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) households estimated by the Planning Commission and those identified by the State Governments, which have resulted in scaling down of ration to the needy families."

[Translation]

Needy families will get ration as per it, they will get one third or not get at all. BPL ration cards have been made after a great hue and cry but they do not get foodgrains. That is why they have to suffer. Secondly, he has pointed out

[English]

"Leakages and large scale diversion of foodgrains meant for distribution under the targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in several States".

[Translation]

The foodgrains allocated to various States is diverted to open market or goes to Bangladesh and other places. The Statement given by the hon'ble Minister also states that:

[English]

"Sixty nine per cent of PDS diverted".

[Translation]

As much as 69 per cent wheat get diverted to open market or goes outside. If 69 per cent gets diverted and we provide only 33 per cent, then from where will the people get foodgrains? They will get nothing but rotten foodgrains. Further, it has been pointed out.

[English]

"Supply of poor/substandard quality of foodgrains under the TPDS in several States".

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ask your question please.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was just going to ask my question. The supply of substandard quality of foodgrains to the poor is not a good thing. The Auditor General has said it. But the hon'ble Minister says that there is no sub-standard quality. Their quality is very good and there is no shortcoming in it. But Auditor General has pointed out in his report that sub-standard quality of foodgrains is being supplied. He further said:

[English]

"Alleged corruption prevailing in the procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System".

[Translation]

There is corruption also in procurement, storage and distribution. Apart from this, I have noticed three-four more things. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to conduct a CBI inquiry into the import of wheat. Several hundred crore rupees of our country got wasted in that. The people responsible for this should be punished.

Secondly, the norms for ascertaining the people living below poverty line should be fixed. One definition has been given by Rural Ministry, another is given by the Ministry of Agriculture and third definition is by the States. If 70 or 60 per cent below poverty line ration cards are made under all the three definitions, then all such ration card holders must be given ration or action should be taken against them. It will not do if 70 per cent ration cards are made and only 26 per cent people get the ration. So, I want to know what the Government is going to do in this respect and how it will set it right.

Third, how it is ensured that the quality of foodgrain is good. If the quality is good, is it proper to only say that the quality is as per the standard prescribed in food adulteration Act. Food Adulteration Act ensures only that wheat is not adulterated. If wheat is infested with vermin,

how Food Adulteration Act will prove that wheat is not good. If this is to be proved it should be proved through our laboratories, there is no need to consider it under Food Adulteration Act. That is why I want to ask that if the wheat meant for the BPL people, to be given to them at a cheaper price is diverted to open market, then is it not a joke with the poor people? Is it not atrocity on and injustice to them? For this, the hon'ble Minister should ensure the quality of wheat to be sent to the States. Only imported red wheat should not be sent for BPL people. If the Government has conceptualized poverty line, they should also give them ration cards and good quality of ration. There should not be any kind of injustice to them. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like the hon'ble Minister to keep all these things in mind in his statement.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to hon'ble Malhotraji that he has raised a very important issue in the House through calling attention motion. Various such things have come in newspapers in the last few months and I have got an opportunity to clarify all those issues to fellow countryman through this House. I wanted to know the system of import in this regard earlier also. Complaints are filed, and wheat is checked. I have also tried to put all the facts regarding the complaints received, the enquiry conducted and the situation after that in this House.

First thing is why we have got to import wheat? This problem has not cropped up in the last one year but this trend regarding the agro products in the country has emerged during the last 5-7-8-10 years when production was decreasing day by day. The production was not enough to cater to the demands of the people especially of wheat, pulses and oil seeds when there is a big gap between demand and supply, whether it is PDS or to solve the problem of food security, every Government has to take certain steps. The earlier UPA Government had arranged the import of especially pulses and oilseeds and even today the problem persists necessitating import. It is a matter of pride that with the

coming of new Government into power the farmers of this country succeeded in catering to the need of foodgrains of the country but now changes are coming into it. For this we are required to take corrective measures. There is a need to formulate a new policy and fix new priorities in this regard. The Government has agreed on this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the investment in agriculture sector in this country continuing for the last several years is decreasing day by day and initiative for taking corrective measures has started during the last 3-4 years. Secondly, how we shall pay them the price of their produce, it depends on this produce. So far as wheat is concerned, though I would not like to do any politics in this regard. I want to say that the price of wheat was increased by Rs. 50 only before UPA Government's coming into power. Consequently the production of wheat started decreasing day by day. I may present the figures before this House, how their production has decreased each year.

Government's stock of foodgrains was also getting affected by the low production. Corrective measures were needed. The UPA Government held this view and in the last three years the Government raised the procurement price of wheat to Rs. 370 per quintal. The procurement price of wheat was raised by Rs. 50 in the first five years and by Rs. 370 in three years. The support needed by the farmers to enter this sector was provided to them. As a result, last season wheat production went up to 74.76 million tonnes which had not happened for past many years. The question may be raised as to how the Government is facing the problem of low stocks when the production is so high. It is true that Government has low stocks. This is due to two or three reasons. It is true and this fact has been reiterated in the House time and again that the food godowns in the country were overflowing during the NDA regime. It is a fact. The godowns were full. Now that there is a new Government at the Centre it has been found that the godowns have become or are becoming empty. Why is this happening? I do not want to talk about foodgrains being given under Public Distribution System or about which government is to be held

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

responsible for it. But the previous Government exported wheat at a price lower than at which it was procured from the farmers. Traders were given a subsidy of Rs. 16000 crore for export. Had it been a public undertaking such as MMTC or State Trading Corporation which was granted subsidy on account of suffering losses from exports, I could have understood it. But the relief that was granted was for the traders. They were provided support for making exports. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to the reply, then you will be given a chance to speak.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Committee of the House had unanimously said to throw the surplus stock into the sea. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is not yielding. Please listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: That is why there has been so much change in the foodgrain stocks in the country. When we have less stocks it affects procurement. When the world gets to know that we are facing shortage of foodstock it affects procurement. This process has started. Secondly, I may be asked that when I have said in the House that an all time high in wheat production has been reached this year, then how come the stock reserves are low even today and why we are importing wheat. This is an important question. If anyone asks this question I cannot shirk answering it. We have to take into account the procurement made during last two or three years and the actual need in the country. 150 lakh tonnes of wheat was needed this year. Some of this wheat would be needed for public distribution, some for welfare schemes and some as emergency stock to be used if some States face drought or flood situations. In all 150 lakh tonnes were needed in the country. But actually, even after paying a higher price and despite higher production we were able to procure only 110 million tonnes of wheat whereas our actual requirement was for 50 millions tonnes. There was a gap of 40 lakh tonnes. Why did this gap occur

and why has this gap been occurring for the last two or three years? Anyone can ask this question.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of the total procurement Punjab had contributed 145 lakh tonnes in 2006-07. Out of this, 78 lakh tonne wheat reached the market and *[English]* Out of this, 67.57 lakh tonnes, which is more than 75 per cent, has been purchased by the Food Corporation of India from Punjab.

[Translation]

The second State is Haryana. A total of 100.53 lakh tonnes of wheat production took place there. Market arrivals was 37.10 lakh tonnes.

[English]

Out of this, from Haryana the Food Corporation of India could procure 33.46 lakh tonnes which is more than 80 per cent.

[Translation]

Sir, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are the few wheat-producing States in the country. I have held many meetings and discussions with Punjab Chief Minister, Captain Amarendra Singh as to how we can increase procurement. We held detailed discussions in this regard and tried to resolve the problems. I am glad to say that the Chief Minister of Punjab and the Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Bhupender Singh Hooda gave full cooperation to the Union Government in wheat procurement. Hence, a total procurement of 111 lakh tonnes was made in the country. Out of this, around 100 lakh tonnes were procured from just two States i.e. Punjab and Haryana. Another important wheat producing State is Uttar Pradesh. *[English]* In Uttar Pradesh, the total production is 250 lakh tonnes, market arrival is 13 lakh tonnes and the stuff which has been given to the Food Corporation of India by the local Government and agencies is 5 lakh tonnes.

The next important wheat producing State is Madhya Pradesh. The total production of wheat in Madhya Pradesh is 71.59 lakh tonnes and wheat which

has been given to the Food Corporation of India by Madhya Pradesh is 57,000 tonnes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister that process of procurement of wheat from Madhya Pradesh was started very late. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Do not speak without permission from the Chair.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Then comes Rajasthan. The total production in Rajasthan is 69.25 lakh tonnes and the wheat which has been given to the Food Corporation of India by Rajasthan is 3,87,000 tonnes.

[Translation]

The procurement agency of Central Government received 3 lakh 87 thousand tonnes of foodgrains from Rajasthan. If you look at Gujarat, it achieved a total production of 30 lakh tonnes and the Central Government agency got nothing. Similarly, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh achieved a good production of wheat. Punjab and Haryana shoulder the responsibility of supplying wheat to the entire country and I have told you how much wheat has been supplied by these States. We cannot overlook this fact. It is true that the maximum procurement is made from those States.

Sir, the second question is how much allotment the Union Government has made for these five states. The Union Government had to allocate around 60-70 lakh tonnes of wheat to these States. That is to say, the agency of the Union Government does not get foodgrains from the States which are the major producers whereas a large part of grains stocked in the Government's godowns has to be given to these States. We cannot overlook this fact either. Whether the Union Government gets foodgrains or not, it has to give to the States so that the common people do not suffer. We cannot neglect the question of food security. Now

one more thing has been brought into my cognizance and that is whenever I visit Punjab and Haryana, the farmers there ask me whether they are duty bound to address the problem of food-security of the country. Other wheat producing states do not help and why entire quantity of wheat is procured from these two states only? Why should we depend on this crop only and why cannot we grow other cash crops? Today these types of things are being talked in Punjab and Haryana but when these things expand to other states, it will adversely affect the food-security. Therefore, I request all the wheat and rice producing states, through this House, that they may play politics in all other fields but they need to cooperate with the Union government so as to deal with the problem of food-security in the country.

I, therefore, request all the states, where wheat and rice are produced, through this House that they may indulge in politics on any issue but they need to cooperate with the Union government so as to deal with the problem of food security and only then we can address the problem of the poor in this country. At that time 150 lakh tonnes of wheat was required and 110 lakh tonnes of wheat was available. We had no other option but to import in order to fulfil the gap of 40 lakh tonnes. I, being a farmer, am not happy to import. I lose my sleep when I have to take decision to import wheat because I feel that this is a wrong thing to do. But we cannot compromise with the food security of the poor whether we like that or not. So we had to import in order to address the problem of food-grains for the poor.

Sir, here questions have been raised as to when we imported wheat then why the farmers in the country were not given the same price at which wheat was imported. The second question is as to why the first tender was cancelled. And the third question is as to why the tenders of higher rates were accepted later on.

Sir, I would like to say one thing before the House that minimum support price is common for the whole country and for one year. When the UPA government fixed Rs. 850 per quintal as minimum support price for wheat, the minimum support price for wheat in international market was Rs. 740 per quintal i.e. the

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

UPA government paid Rs. 110 per quintal more to the farmers in the country than the farmers of the rest of the world. They have acknowledged this fact. I remember when Akali Dal came to power in Punjab, the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana called on me to tell that Dr. Manmohan Singh led government had fixed a very good price and they would grow more and more wheat in their states and try to give more wheat in central pool. They implemented what they had said. So we met their demand of higher price. It is true that the price of wheat paid in the country is more than the international price of wheat.

Sir, here a question was raised as to what procedure was followed for importing the wheat. There is a Group of Ministers (GoM) which takes decisions according to the situation. The decision to import was taken by that GoM. Then the question cropped up as to who should be entrusted with the responsibility to import. I would like to say that the Ministry of Agriculture has no experience of selling and buying in international market. Institutes like State Trading Corporation and MMTC in our country have been undertaking export and import for many years. Keeping this in view, State Trading Corporation was entrusted with the responsibility of importing wheat. A committee of Ministers was constituted for this purpose and the tenders were invited vide Internet. Tenders were opened in the presence of all the stakeholders and State Trading Corporation (STC) decided to accept the tender quoting lowest price and we implemented that. The lowest bid was of around Rs. 1080 i.e. 266 dollars. At that time wheat was being procured in the country at minimum support price of Rs. 850 per quintal. STC had invited tenders for one million tonne but none took the responsibility of supplying one million tonne. Someone took the responsibility of supplying only around 3 lakh 60 thousand tonnes. We were to get 3.60 lakh tonne wheat at the rate of 265 dollar. Thereafter, STC communicated to us that the global trend reflected that the prices were going down. STC gave an example in this regard that the company offering the proposal of supplying 3.60 lakh tonne wheat had proposed that the price of wheat would

be higher if delivery was to be taken before August but the prices would be lower if delivery was to be taken after August. STC wrote to us that the trend showed that the prices of wheat would come down after August when the production of the world would be available in the market.

STC told that International Grain Council was an organization of all the countries which kept track of weekly price of every item in all the countries of the world. That International Grain Council's monthly report stated that there was possibility of the rising prices of wheat coming down. They had also supported the fact that the production of wheat in Australia and many other countries was expected to be good and therefore the prices of wheat would come down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But there was a drought in Australia.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The drought came later on. When all these reports regarding the decrease in prices were submitted we observed that the price offered in tender was higher and the price paid to the farmers in the country was lower than that. After conducting a survey of the market and farmers in the country we got the information that we could procure 8 to 9 lakh tonne wheat from the farmers in the country itself at the rate of Rs. 850 per quintal. We had an offer of 3.60 lakh tonne wheat at the rate of more than Rs. 1000 per quintal and on the other hand we had information that we could procure 8 to 9 lakh tonne wheat at the rate of Rs. 850 per quintal. Which offer should we have accepted? After getting the information that our farmers are ready to sell their wheat at the rate of Rs. 850 per quintal, we decided that we won't import wheat and we would procure wheat in our country.

I am glad to say that after this decision Indian farmers have sold 9 lakh tonnes of wheat at the rate of Rs. 850 to the Food Corporation of India. It would have adversely affected the domestic production if we had bought 3.60 lakh tonnes of wheat from outside at the rate of more than rupees one thousand. It would have been a wrong message to the farmers that we import at higher rate and do not pay the same price to our

farmers. This could have affected our procurement also and therefore, this decision was taken after due deliberation.

It is also true that after this, the markets around the world soared a high. What has come to light is that on the one hand there was drought in Australia and there was reduction of crop in many countries which affected the day to day prices. Over here another issue was raised that why did we buy red wheat. The variety of wheat which is grown in India is grown in Australia and Pakistan as well. This year there has been low production of wheat in Pakistan. *[English]* Pakistan is also importing. Australia also had low crop production, practically, they have stopped exporting. *[Translation]* The 'red' wheat which is being cultivated at present is grown in America an particularly in Eastern Europe, Canada, UK, Russia, Kazakhstan, Argentina and in all other countries. In America both varieties of wheat are cultivated. But our purchasing norms were not met by the American system or the American authority. We could not have compromised on this issue. We received a suggestion from America that we should compromise. *[English]* The State Secretary of Agriculture from the United States of America personally met me and he requested me but we could not accept because that is the basic compromise, which we cannot do. We are not in a position to compromise on the issue of quality of wheat. *[Translation]* Therefore, we could not import wheat from America and thereafter countries like Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan were the alternatives.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is difficult to import anything from America.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Therefore, we did not import from America. Whatever was imported, was imported from these nations only. There is a difference of colour of wheat grown in our country and in America. So far as protein is concerned, their wheat contains more protein than ours. Our food habits are different and with these food habits people do not like red wheat. I myself have asked my family to use the imported wheat on trial basis for seven days. I realized that our food habits are different and there is a difference of taste in their food and our food. But the quality of that

wheat was not poor. Certain states have written to us in this regard, and out of these states Maharashtra has written that the consumers prefer white wheat over red wheat. Many states had requested that if we had white wheat then we must supply that to them. Such requests were received from many states. A very few complaints have been received regarding the total allocation that we have made to the states. You must see that *[English]* in total we have allotted 51 lakh tonnes of wheat to various States. We have allotted 16 lakh tonnes to Gujarat, and not a single complaint has been received. We have allotted wheat to Rajasthan, and not a single complaint has come from the Government. But one Minister has written for preference, not about the quality.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is strange that there is no complaint from the states to which this variety of wheat was not allocated.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We provided wheat to West Bengal, but no complaint was received from there. Complaint was received from Maharashtra only. There are industrial areas in Mumbai and Thane of Maharashtra and some sample were picked up from shops there. Those samples were found to be substandard. This thing came to our notice through the State Government after picking of samples. After this, the distribution of red wheat was stopped in that area immediately. We have informed each state in writing that if there is any complaint regarding the quality then they must get it tested in laboratories and it should be distributed and allocated only when it is as per national guidelines on quality. Such clear guidelines were issued to all the states of the country. Allocation and distribution of red wheat was stopped completely at the places from where complaints were received. Now the situation is changed.

I only wanted to mention as to in what circumstances this crisis occurred. I have put it before the House as to in what circumstances we import wheat. The complaints that were received were from limited areas and I have also mentioned that before the House. As such I do not think that there is any need of any inquiry by CBI or any other agency. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have had a very long discussion on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are many important issues for discussion.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: At first it was not awarded in Rs. 263, then, the next tender was for Rs. 325, and second time it was further increased. At that time, it was told that wheat would get cheaper, whereas later on, it became costlier. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have had almost 50 minute's discussion on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If CBI inquiry is not ordered then we would stage walk out in protest. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is your sight.

12.54 hrs.

(Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members then left the House)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we would take up some important matters for discussion. Although this itself was a very important issue and it took fifty minutes. Hon'ble Minister has given a very detailed and relevant reply.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up 'Zero Hour'.

Shri Sipparai Ravichandran.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi) : Hon. Chairman, for the last two years the supply and distribution of fertilizer like DAP and Urea throughout

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

the country are seriously hampered. This has seriously affected farmers who carry on agriculture as their livelihood. There used to be an effective distribution mechanism in place. But various factors have come in the way like the widening gap of need and production and also demand and supply. As such 6 million tonnes of gap between the production and supply-distribution has been perceived. As far as Urea is concerned the Central Government comes to the rescue to some extent. Phosphoric fertilizer supplies are to be ensured by the State Governments through their institutions. Government of India has been solving the problem by importing fertilizers. Two of the fertilizer units in Tamil Nadu are not functioning for the past many months and now there is inadequate production. The farmers of Tamil Nadu who are already affected by disputed sharing of inter-state rivers are the worst hit now. The shortage of fertilizers in Tamil Nadu especially phosphoric fertilizer has given rise to a situation which is exploited by the unscrupulous blackmarketeers to thrive at the cost of hapless farmers who are to pay high for fertilizers. The supply and distribution of fertilizer used to be carried out by the centre with a proper mechanism and it needs to be strengthened. Urging upon the Union Government to help overcome the problem of phosphoric fertilizers shortage, I request the Government to ensure proper supply of fertilizer at affordable costs.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue to draw the attention of the Government.

Taslima Nasreen is a writer of eminence. She is a citizen of Bangladesh. She had to leave that country under fundamentalist's threat. She had roamed about around the world. Afterwards, she came to India and stayed in Kolkata. Yesterday, in a most tragic circumstances, she had to leave that city. It is a pity that Taslima Nasreen had to leave Kolkata, Kolkata of culture, Kolkata of tolerance. I apologize for all that has happened.

I am told that she is now in Jaipur. There is now an unconfirmed report that she has been asked to leave Jaipur also; I am not sure. Freedom of Expression is a right guaranteed under the Indian Constitution. If a writer, whatever may be his or her homeland, is hauled up, harassed and threatened for writing something, which is according to his or her own conviction, then there should be no persecution. That is our position.

Now, the position is that she has said that she would like to live in India and she would like to die in India. She says that India is her home. As the visa was granted by the Government of India, should the Government of India not ensure her protection during her stay in India in any place it may be, including West Bengal? While a lady is in distress, moreover she is an eminent writer, she should have a place to stay to lead a peaceful life.

I would, therefore, appeal to the Government of India to protect her stay in India in any place. I would be extremely happy if the Government of West Bengal takes the responsibility of her protection in Kolkata itself.

But there is an additional point. The additional point is that if Taslima Nasreen applies for Indian citizenship, I would appeal to the Government of India to consider granting her the citizenship because that is in consistency with India's highest traditions. If Dalai Lama could be given protective asylum in India, much to the criticism and annoyance of many other quarters, should not Taslima Nasreen be allowed?

[English]

I would only say...

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Both are separate issues.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am on my last point.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your point has been heard.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are many other important topics. You have concluded your point.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I have only one point to make. The country should not surrender to any form of fundamentalism, be it Hindu fundamentalism or Muslim fundamentalism. That is what I wanted to say on this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are also associating ourselves with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Though you have not given a notice, but still I am associating you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record except what Shri Munshi Ram is saying.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has his own views. You can not force any hon. Member as to which views he should have.

...(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. These are his views.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing, except what Munshi Ramji says, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mushi Ramji is raising an important issue, therefore, please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Government cannot be compelled for this. A point was made which has been heard.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me time to speak on the important problem of the sugarcane producing farmers belonging to western Uttar Pradesh.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. You should submit a notice for it separately. You will be heard later on. Nothing can be heard like this.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Azmi Saheb, nothing is going on record. You should not spoil your health.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Government cannot be compelled. You have been associated with him. There is no notice from you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Azmiji, do not spoil your health as nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I disagree and am walking out. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.02 hrs.

(Shri Ilyas Azmi then left the House)

SHRI MUNSHI RAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, western Uttar Pradesh ranks first or second in terms of sugarcane production. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Munshi Ramji is taking up an important matter, therefore, you should take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Munshi Ramji is taking up an important matter. Please take your seat. The Chair cannot be compelled. Take your seat as you have made your point. You are a senior Member. Take your seat and allow other Members also to make their points.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Malhotraji, you should give a notice separately. It will not be taken up today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Take your seat. You should let others also speak. Hon'ble Member sat on Dhama for 3 days.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Chairman, I had sat on Dhama for 5 days.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member sat on Dhama for 5 days. Munshi Ramji make your point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MUNSHI RAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. Western Uttar Pradesh ranks first or second in terms of sugarcane production in the country. The farmers of western Uttar Pradesh produce more than 80% of sugarcane and provide sugar to the country. But, the sugarcane producing farmers are facing a severe crisis this year. There is no buyer of their crop today. The private mill owners have not paid their dues for the last 8-10 months of the year 2006-07 till date. Now, their crops are ready which should have reached the sugar mills by 31st October but have not moved yet. Therefore, there is no buyer for their ready crop today.

On 20th August, during the Question Hour, I had put a question to the Hon'ble Minister of Agricultural as

to how the Government contemplate to arrange procurement of surplus sugarcane, as the Hon'ble Minister has stated that this year sugarcane production is expected to be 10 per cent more than last year's? That time, the Hon'ble Minister had assured that this year sugar mills will be starting crushing early. But both the Government of India as well as the State Governments have failed to do so. In protest to it, I had to resort to hunger strike for five days from 15th to 19th mainly to save farmers from committing suicide. My motto was to make them feel that their representatives were with them in the hour of crisis and so that they did not take any wrong decision.

Through the course, I would like to say that our fields are not vacant now. The farmers were to sow wheats at that time. So it has affected wheat crop also. However, I would urge the State Government to make arrangements for procurement of sugarcane by the private mills through itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Procurement should be made by public sector sugar mills.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Sir, payment for procurement of 2007 crop should be made without any delay.

At the same time, I would also say that private sugar mill owners cartelize and exploit the farmers in Western Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, I urge the Government of India to set up two public sector sugar mills in each district so that the exploitation of farmers by private mill owners can be stopped.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I associate with Shri M. Shivanna, who wants to raise the issue of non-payment of sugarcane arrears to sugarcane growing farmers in Karnataka, as the issue is similar.

[English]

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Sir, please allow me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Several important issues are here. How can I accommodate you?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, it is a burning issue in Karnataka.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everywhere it is a burning issue. But how can I accommodate you?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, I will speak only for five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You speak for two minutes only.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Thank you Chairman Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue regarding the problems being faced by the sugarcane growers. I also would like to associate myself with my friend and the Hon'ble Member, who has raised this issue prior to me.

Sir, I would like to confine my speech only to Karnataka. In Karnataka about 3 lakh 57 hectares of land is under sugarcane cultivation. During 2006-07, 240 lakh tonnes of sugarcane was grown. Out of 240 lakh tonnes 12 lakh tonnes had remained uncrushed. This year the total production of sugarcane is about 260 lakh tonnes. But it is a matter of great concern that the Government has not made any serious attempt to find a solution to the problem caused by excess production of sugarcane. On the other hand sugar mills have refused to crush the sugarcane. As a result sugarcane is being burnt in the fields itself. It has affected the farmers, who are the backbone of our economy.

Though the Government of Karnataka ordered to pay Rs. 1,200 per tonne of sugarcane only Rs. 800 is being paid by the sugar mills. It is lower than the cost of production of sugarcane. The dues to farmers owed by sugar mills amounts to Rs. 160 crores.

Mahadeshwara sugar mill, and the Bannari Amman sugar mills in my Chamrajanagar district are cheating the innocent farmers while weighing. They are making unnecessary delay in buying sugarcane from the farmers. If the sugarcane is not purchased within 12 months it would dry up and as a result it loses its weight.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

It increases further the difficulties of the farmers. The above mentioned sugar mills are not maintaining the road construction, which is the responsibility of the mills concerned. The sugarcane growers are being paid only 50 per cent of the total amount at the time of purchasing the sugarcane. The sugarcane growers are being exploited by not paying their due arrears. In the previous crushing season though the sugar mills have earned more profit the farmers are not given better deal. In this way farmers are being provided at least minimum support prices. Therefore, necessary action should be initiated against the sugar mills that are cheating the farmers.

Sir, Chamarajanagar district is one of the most backward districts in the country. There is no water sources except rain water. Farmers in my district are facing difficulties in paying electricity bills. State Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Kalaingnar Karunanidhi has provided electricity to the farmers free of cost. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to take all necessary steps to provide free electricity to all the farmers, and to fix the minimum support price of sugarcane. I would also like to suggest that uniformity should be maintained in case of MSP of sugar cane all over the country.

Finally, it is my humble submission to the Government of India to take all possible steps to help the hapless sugarcane growers. With this I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shivanna, please take your seat. Shri Prabhunath Singh's statement only will be recorded and nothing else.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): I would like to raise the drought problem in Madhya Pradesh before the House.

[English]

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, please allow me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is being recorded. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would make my point in brief.

The whole country knows that every year Bihar faces the fury of flood and rains. At some places in low lying land, the problem remains as it is in post flood period also as the land gets waterlogged. Small rivers have got silted and when it rains, they fail to accommodate rain water, causing over flow and then floods ruining crops of farmers, This problem often remains especially in north Bihar, the part of his constituency in Uttar Pradesh, Siwan, Chapra, Motihari, Betiah, Muzzaffarpur.

The State Government of Bihar has forwarded a proposal relating to interlinking of rivers to the Central Government. I urge the Government to take initiative on it. I would also urge the Planning Commission to consider it. But immediate problem of the farmers is—water logging in catchment areas and siltage in small rivers. If water is drained out from catchment areas and small rivers are desilted and bridges are constructed on large rivers and canals are constructed, I feel this problem can be solved to a large extent, I would urge the Central Government to seek proposal from the State Government in this regard make arrangement for desilting of small rivers and drained water from Chhwar. It would solve the problem of farmers, especially in North Bihar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please make your point in brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I would try to make it brief.

[English]

The turbulent years of 1980s in Darjeeling are still in our memories. There was bloodshed, killing of people and destruction of public property on the demand to separate Darjeeling from the State of West Bengal.

There was a tripartite agreement between the Government of India, Government of West Bengal and Shri Subhash Geishing of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF). The Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) was constituted by that agreement, and peace was restored. The Government of West Bengal provided enough financial assistance, and development works were taken up. Subsequently, after many years, this demand for a separate State of Darjeeling has again come up.

The Chief Minister of West Bengal wrote to the Prime Minister as well as the Home Minister in 2005, and there was a tripartite meeting in March 2005 with Government of India and Government of West Bengal where the Chief Minister, the Home Minister and the Chairman of the DGHC, namely, Shri Subhash Geishing were also present. Subsequently, in December 2005, it was unanimously decided to give Constitutional sanction to DGHC by amending article 244 of the Constitution by including DGHC in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

After two years, in September this year, the Cabinet has approved the draft legislation from what we have seen in the Press, and also from the list of pending Bills, that is, the new Bills for introduction. It is the Constitutional Amendment Bill to include DGHC in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Again, the GNLF have called a *bandh* since yesterday for 104 days. This is the peak season for tourists. The entire economy of the Darjeeling district is dependent on tourism, and it will be destroyed and ruined.

Actually, unity was strengthened between the people of hill as well as the people of plain. As the Government of India and the Cabinet has approved it, hence, I demand that the Government should not only introduce the Bill in this Session—only a few days are left for the Session to conclude—but it should also be passed.

Again there will be agitation because there is confusion as to whether the Bill will be brought or not. I demand that the Bill should be introduced and passed in this Session itself. This is a very serious issue. The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Shri Handique is present in the House.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot tell him.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We want an assurance from the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs that the Bill will be introduced and passed in this Session itself.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You've made your point, listen to other Members also. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Rewati Raman Singh. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is from your state speak to him in the Chamber.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, you take your seat, hon. Minister is on his legs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Mr. Chairman, Sir,

*Not recorded.

[Shri B.K. Handique]

at this stage I can say this much that I shall bring the matter to the notice of the concerned Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to raise a very important issue. You may be aware that the people of Kol caste live in Allahabad, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Chitrakoot, Banda and several other districts. It is strange that the people of Kol caste, living in other States be it Chhattishgarh, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Assam, Meghalaya, Bihar or Rajasthan have been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

But Sir, with deep regret I have to say that, the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Mulayam Singh ji had got the proposal passed by the Cabinet as well as from the Assembly of Uttar Pradesh and had forwarded the same to the Union Government and the proposal is still pending with the Union Government. Till date the Union Government has not taken any action on that. Sir, lakhs of people are affected by this. Sir, thousands of persons belonging to Kol caste were provided employment in Police after the proposal was passed by Shri Mulayam Singhji but the Union Government did not pass the proposal and the Government of Uttar Pradesh headed by Mayawati ji cancelled the same which is why today they are deprived of their right. Sir, recently you saw that people from many States had marched to Delhi on foot and the Union Government had to accept their demands. Therefore, such a situation should not arise that we are also forced to stage such march.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I raise an immediate matter of urgent public importance. The matter relates to NTPC, which is termed as the world's third biggest emitter of carbon dioxide as far as power producers go. The United Nations meeting on Climate Change is being held in December. The United States-based

Think-Tank Centre for Global Development has released a data that is very disturbing. The rich countries have played the biggest role in hurtling the planet to the age of a crisis.

The United States emits 475 per cent more climate change causing carbon dioxide from its power plants than India simply because it produces six times more energy than India. Yet in India we have relatively inefficient power companies who fare badly in comparison to rich countries power generations. There is a need to find a better road of growth by financing and sharing clean technologies. It is an accepted fact that carbon dioxide typically accumulates and causes global warming over centuries. Rich countries talk in terms of annual total greenhouse gas emissions whereas poor countries discuss on per capital emissions but the historical burden needs to be factored while measuring responsibility for this crisis.

While CGD data is not new, the details of about 50,000 power plants across the world are attracting wide attention. It is alarming to note that not only NTPC but also other Indian Power companies that are dependant on fossil fuel for generating electricity also adopt carbon dioxide in a big way. I would urge upon the Government to come forward with the plan and programme that is being followed to cut down greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid disasters that climate change could cause.

I would also like to know as to what monitoring mechanism is in place and I demand to enforce stringent law to penalize those power plants which are emitting excessive carbon dioxide. I would also like to know as to what steps the Government is taking relating to NTPC which is being termed as the third biggest emitter of carbon dioxide. Will there be a time-bound programme to do it?

13.23 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav in the Chair]

**TYRE CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(DISINVESTMENT OF OWNERSHIP)
BILL, 2007**

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, zero hour was to take place after 2 pm.

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS: It was decided to be held after 6 pm. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up Item No. 21, namely, discussion on Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. Shri Kharabela Swain may continue.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): The Tyre Corporation of India became sick in 1985 itself and it was referred to BIFR in May, 1992. It closed one of its units in Tongra in August, 2001. So, it is the BIFR which had instructed the Government to find a strategic partner. That is the reason for which the Government has come up with this Bill. Yesterday, I had told that I support the process of disinvestment. But my first question is, does the Government have any disinvestment policy at all. What is the policy of this Government with regard to disinvestment? I am asking this question to them. Should they go for divesting their equity in a public sector undertaking? It is because only the BIFR is directing them. Several times, this Government has come forward to divest five per cent of this company or ten per cent of that company but again it had already been declared in the newspapers that they wanted to do this. Then the Left opposed it and they were compelled to withdraw the notification issued by the Government. Should not a strong Government effectively deliberate or act? This is my question.

Now they are talking about strategic partners. What has the Government done to find out a strategic partner for the Tyre Corporation of India? Have they found any? Or are they just going on trying for that? There is a provision in clause 5 of the Bill. It says that while it will be divested to any private party, the private party will have to retain all the employees excepting the Chairman and the Director of the Board. They will have to retain all the employees at least for one year.

My question to the hon. Minister is this. What will happen to those employees after one year? Would they be under the mercy of the new owner? If he says that, after one year, he does not want any of the employees, then what will happen to them and what protection will the Government provide to these employees?

My next question to the hon. Minister is this and the hon. Finance Minister is also present here. After it had fallen sick and referred to the BIFR, what is its present book value? Is it on the negative side? I have a strong feeling that the Tyre Corporation of India is having a negative book value. When you are having a negative book value, I am very surprised that you are going in for a strategic partner. Who will come forward? I do not know on this point. But is it a listed company? The hon. Minister may reply to this question.

How many PSUs under the Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises are sick now with a negative book value? How much loss has the Government incurred in the last financial year on account of such public sector undertakings? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether any dues are left with the Tyre Corporation of India Limited. If so, what is the Government going to do to pay back the dues?

If any public sector undertaking falls sick and incurs losses year after year, should the Government go on incurring such losses and put the financial burden on the people of this country just because UPA's supporting parties, that is Left Parties are opposing it? I would like to know it from the Minister.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): I am thankful

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

to the Chair for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion and support this Bill.

Tyre Corporation of India Limited (TCIL) was formed in February, 1984 by vesting of assets, rights, and titles of the two erstwhile sick companies, M/s. Inchok Tyres Limited and M/s. National Rubber Manufacturers Ltd. as per Nationalised Act No. 17/1984. The above two industries were transferred and vested with TCI from 5th March 1984. Tyre Corporation of India Limited has one operating tyre unit at Kankinara in West Bengal. It is presently doing conversion job for other tyre industries, like J.K. Tyres, Modi and others due to non-availability of working capital from banks. Industrial Rubber Division, the other unit in Tangra was closed with the permission of the Ministry of Labour and the BIFR and employees were given VRS in 2001. Another unit, Reclaim Rubber in Kalyani Industrial Estate in West Bengal was closed in August 2003.

The Tyre Corporation of India Limited is now facing problem of non-availability of working capital from banks. It is not having radial technology for manufacturing tyres. The machines are outdated. Moreover, the Tyre Corporation of India Limited is not having its own brand for tyres and not having network of marketing. Without finance, without latest technology and marketing, the Tyre Corporation of India Limited is struggling hard for its survival.

The private tyre manufacturing industries are using latest technologies and are producing good materials and marketing successfully. The Tyre Corporation of India Limited is not able to compete with private industries. It is not able to provide good salary to its employees. The present strength of employees, working on regular basis, as on 31st March, 2007 is 270. Contract labourers are 657. The employees of the Company are drawing 1987 pay scale. The paid up capital of the company is Rs. 93.10 crore. The net worth of the Company as on 31st March, 2006 is Rs. 616.02 crore. The annual wage is Rs. 9.98 crore. The Tyre Corporation of India Limited has become a sick industry and reference was made to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, BIFR.

The proposal was put forth for restructuring the Tyre Corporation of India Limited during February, 2005 and on 29th November, 2005 the Company was asked to find out technology and further improve the profitability and the market share of the Company.

This Bill is presented to change the public character of the Company as per the judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of Centre for Public Interest Litigation Vs. Union of India 2003-07-Supreme Court Cases, page 532.

This Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 17th May, 2007 and has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry on 25th May, 2007. After elaborate discussions and deliberations, the Parliamentary Standing Committee has suggested some important amendments in the original Bill. First, it has suggested a change in the Preamble of the Bill and some changes in payment of consideration for disinvestment in the company. Further, it recommended for assessing the market value of the land, assets and liabilities of the company in accordance with the prescribed valuation methodology and the land also should be used after getting necessary approval from the Government of India. These are the suggestions given by the Parliamentary Standing Committee which can be welcomed. In the recent past, we come across so many industries and institutions owned by the Government of India were sold out for a meagre amount in the name of disinvestment.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee has further suggested continuance of the employees, officers other than the Chairman and Directors of the Company after the disinvestment for a period of three years from the date of disinvestment.

During that period, they are allowed to get some salary and other allowances. This was suggested by the Government of West Bengal.

Based on the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, the Bill is suitably amended and presented.

Clause 3(1) of the Bill explains the payment of

consideration for disinvestment in the Company. The manner of disinvestment is explained in clause 4. Provisions for officers and other employees are provided in clause 5(1).

The Standing Committee has recommended a change in Sec 5(1) of the Bill relating to the increase in period of protection of service conditions of existing employees after disinvestment to three years instead of one year from the date of disinvestment proposed originally. This recommendation was accepted and the Bill was amended accordingly. By amending this Section, the rights of the employees are protected.

Based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee, a new Section 6 has been incorporated in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice.

So, considering all these aspects, I am supporting and welcoming this Bill.

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY (Howrah): Sir, on behalf of my Party, Communist Party of India (Marxists), I rise to discuss this Bill.

We have discussed this Bill thoroughly in the Standing Committee and I am happy that the Ministry has accepted the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

Sir, 'disinvestment' is a word which is very touchy and this disinvestment in the name of reform has disengaged various Governments in the country right from the time of late Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao. Moreover, whichever Governments have supported disinvestment, they have been disengaged from the power by the masses of the country. So, as a matter of policy, we are against disinvestment.

The theory that public sector undertakings have eaten away public exchequer is not correct. I do not have much time to explain here, but if you see the Central Budgets every year, the amount of money that comes from the public sector undertakings in the form of taxes and dividends is definitely not much more than the amount given by the State Government to these sick public sector undertakings. So, there is a theory

that these sick public undertakings are not at all necessary. They are eating away the public exchequer. So, as a matter of policy, all sick public sector undertakings should be disinvested, and the workers should be thrown on the street.

Sir, we oppose this policy. But we agree with the Government on certain points as in the case of Tyre Corporation of India Limited. It is because in this particular case, we think this sort of disinvestment with the saving clause that the employees and workers should have their job guaranteed for three years and not one year is welcome, as was mentioned by my earlier colleague. We know that most of the employees are very old here and the earlier Government has thrown away 50 per cent of the employees in the streets.

By giving them forced VRS, the Government has thrown away the employees. The sickness of the company is due to the payment of VRS. To pay the VRS amount to the employees, the company has gone sick. This is not the case of only the Tyre Corporation of India but this is the case of many Central Public Sector Undertakings which have been shown in the red simply because the Government policy has forced them to throw the employees on the streets and give the VRS amount from their own fund.

In this particular case, by the effort of the employees who are still doing the job, the company is gaining some amount of profit these days. This goes to the credit of the workers working in the particular factor. Though the Tangra Unit in Kolkata has already been sold out during the regime of the previous NDA Government, yet the present Unit is earning some profit now. Still, we agree to it because we think that by a period of three years, most of the employees will get their dues, retirements benefits.

Here, my only appeal to the hon. Minister is to consider one thing about the pay scale. We discussed it in the Standing Committee. But as it is a matter before BIFR, when it comes out of the BIFR, it could be considered. The point is that the pay-scales of the employees have not been revised, probably, since 1984. So, the pay-scales of the employees should be revised

[Shri Swadesh Chakraborty]

in the present upgraded form as in the other CPSUs so that the employees who are still in the factory and who work hard for the improvement of the factory can get their due benefits.

With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are just discussing the Tyre Corporation of India Limited (Disinvestment of Ownership) Bill, 2007. This Bill which has been introduced in this House for our approval now is now exposing the Government action and their sincerity for the development of the tyre industry in the country.

This industry was nationalized in the year 1984 with the intention of building up the tyre industry in a better way in the country. Tyre industry, as you know, is a very vital industry in the automobile sector. So, for its improvement and modernization, it was nationalized in the year 1984. Although the modernization scheme of this Corporation was recommended by the PIB in 1987 for implementation, yet it was delayed. The Government did not take steps at the appropriate time. The cost escalation, time overrun and all these things stood in the way of modernization. So, it could not achieve its goal and the target. Ultimately, it had become a sick industry and it had been referred to the BIFR in the year 1982. Since then, it was just moving in some courts, some litigation was here and there. It was ultimately placed before the BIFR. The question was just how to make the revival of the industry possible. Ultimately, most of the employees had taken VRS as the ultimate goal.

Ultimately, it had been referred again to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises for its final decision. This modernisation scheme could have achieved the goal of this industry and the intention of the Government. In a way, it could not reach the goal, although there was some good investment in this industry. Now, the Government is proposing for joint venture. Originally, Government was not so much interested and keen to take the approval of this House. It was because of intervention of the court and the

court's order that they are here. It is not possible to take any decision without the approval of Parliament. So, Government have ultimately come to take the approval of the Parliament. This is a public sector enterprise which is a national industry and Government money was invested in that company. So, it was necessary to take our approval. But, I would like to know about some of the facts about the position of this company. Now, it will go for joint venture. But, what is the comparative net worth of the company in 1992 and its current net worth, this House is entitled to know? When we are approving and giving permission for disinvestment, we should know as to what was its net worth in 1992 and its current net worth. Has the Government given any budgetary support in between to revive this company in the intervening period? What is the rationale behind converting the secured loans into unsecured equity? What is the rationale behind the final restructuring of the company including huge waivers of dues and conversion into equity only to enter joint venture, which will change the ownership of the company. When we will give approval, we should know all these things. The Minister should tell us about it. What is the position of the company now?

This company's revaluation was done in 2000-2001. Since then, it was not revalued. This is 2007-2008. So, what is the real value of the company? Has the Government revised the valuation of the company after 2001? We must know. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister to give this picture whether before this joint venture, they will go for the assessment of the valuation of the company.

We are also discussing the tyre industry and its different aspects. This is a rare opportunity for the House to discuss the tyre industry and I would also like to know something from the Government. We know this industry is very important industry for the country in general and the automobile industry in particular. This sector was delicensed in 1989. After this delicensing, what is the development in the country regarding this particular sector? Some of the weaknesses of the company are lower spending on basic research and development in comparison to global tyre sector, lower

productivity, infrastructural and related bottlenecks, higher cost of raw materials, absence of radial technology, which is quite vital now and dearth of adequate number of technical professionals.

This industry is threatened by the advent of radial tyre technology. We are not equipped with radial tyre technology. Now the world is moving towards radial tyre technology. So, this is a threat to this industry in this country.

Then, import is increasing on account of reduction in customs duty. Fortunately the Finance Minister is also present here. Due to increasing imports, the domestic tyre industry is suffering and massive import from China is taking place. The imports have started threatening the very survival of the tyre industry in this country. This is the position of the industry as a whole. So, I would like to know as to what the Government proposes to do in order to see that this industry survives and grows further in the country. Otherwise, we shall have to depend only on imports. Now, the automobile industry is growing day-by-day due to the present day needs.

Therefore, when the Government is considering disinvestment, the Government has to come out with its perception towards the tyre industry. The Finance Minister can also intervene and reply about customs duty reduction due to which the tyre industry is suffering. Then, I hope the hon. Minister of Heavy Industries would reply to my other queries.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are dealing with the fate of a Public Undertaking now. The irony is that this particular limited company has been declared as a sick organization long before. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is stated that this Undertaking has been declared as a sick company in the year 1984. This company was incurring losses all these years and some of its units, which have been functioning well earlier, have also been closed down now. It is also mentioned that the company is incurring heavy losses year after year.

So, it is high time for us to take some action in the matter. The Ministry itself cannot take any action

on this matter. The company also cannot take any action. The Central Government only can take action and that too by passing an amendment to the Act in this House. For this purpose, this disinvestment proposal has come before us. When we consider this, the rights and liabilities of the employees, who are employed there, will have to be given the prime consideration. In the first place, it was stated that their rights and liabilities would be considered for one year. We are happy to know that this has been extended for a period of three years now. But I do not know whether all the liabilities and claims would be settled within that period. This would be known only by experience in future and that also will have to be taken into consideration.

Now, as far as disinvestment process is concerned, we must realise that tyre industry, at present, is not in a loss. It is flourishing day by day. We see advertisements in every nook and corner of the country that private companies are flourishing day by day and making huge profits in that particular field, in that industry. But unfortunately, a public undertaking owned by the Government could not flourish due to reasons which we do not know, but reasons are quite known to all of us.

I am not going into the history of this. There was mismanagement and without any infrastructural development, this company was functioning and naturally it ended in a loss. So, I think, this is an eye opener to the Government of India that there are such Public Undertakings in India which are functioning at a loss and we are incurring huge losses.

Now, the intention of this disinvestment is to bring new technology and further improve the profitability and market share of the company. Was this new technology unknown to this company? They could have imported this new technology and the company could have been revived. But all the rectification proceedings failed, and in the arbitration, in spite of the best efforts of BTR, the Board of Reconstruction of Public Enterprises has recommended for financial and capital restructuring in the Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. They have also recommended for disinvestment. We have no other option but to go as suggested by the Board.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

With these words, I support the Bill and I would request the hon. Minister not to come to the House for disinvestment in every matter and this will be a common procedure for all of us to decide. So, I think, with a very sad heart, I support the Bill in the interest of the State as well as in the interest of employees who are working in this company.

I think, the Government will take appropriate effective steps to rectify all the mistakes committed in the past and do all that is possible, which is in the best interest of the State as well as the employees.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Mr. Chairman Sir, at the very outset, I convey my thanks to all those Members who participated in this debate.

The Bill, as you know, has come back from the Standing Committee, it had an in-depth discussion about this particular Bill and it unanimously recommended four matters to be considered by the Parliament and by the Ministry. We are happy to inform this august House that all the four recommendations, which have been given by the Standing Committee, have been accepted by us.

Yesterday, when our friends from BJP walked out, my other friend was telling me about this particular department bringing some views of different Members, including, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, who has just left. They tried to give a picture that this Government is only disinvesting and not doing anything. I did not get a chance to say that this department is working in collaboration with other Ministries, particularly, the Finance Ministry and you will be happy to know that till now we have revitalized or made viable 26 Central public sector industries, some are in the pipeline, which are also coming very soon and three more cases are coming to the Cabinet.

The market share that stands today is 11.12 per cent in comparison to 2005-06. The number of profit-making CPSUs increased from 138 in 2004-05 to 187. It is not only that; the losses of loss-making CPSUs

decreased from Rs. 9,356 crore during 2004-05 to Rs. 5,952 crore during 2005-06, a decline of 36.38 per cent. This is the achievement of the policy which the UPA Government is following. The contribution to the Central Exchequer in terms of dividend, interest and taxes increased from Rs. 1,06,603 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 1,25,384 crore showing a growth of 13.36 per cent.

A question was raised as to what is the policy of disinvestment. The Common Minimum Programme of our Government says that no Navaratna company's share will be disinvested and for those companies whose share will be disinvested, it will be done in consultation with the concerned workers, trade unions. It is not only that, we have formed a Board of Reconstruction represented by experts which have been drawn from various streams of work and industry. They make in-depth studies and give recommendations. Sometimes, even if it is found that their recommendations need some adjustment, a Group of Ministers meets and recommends. We are working in tandem with the Finance Ministry as well as with the other concerned Ministries. Today we can say that, roughly, more than 65,000 workers who at one time did not get their monthly salary, did not get their statutory liabilities, when our Government came, we met and made a policy that the statutory liabilities must be paid, salaries must be paid. In the course of three or four instalments, we have made it up-to-date in almost all the companies where there were dues. The disinvestment which has come is a technical thing. In fact, it is a method because there is a Supreme Court ruling that if a company is taken by an Act of Parliament, you have to come before the Parliament if you want to change the pattern of that company. For that particular reason, as he has rightly mentioned, we have come before this august House.

The hon. Members have raised certain points. I would like to answer some of the main points that have been raised and others I will write to you in detail. A question has been asked as to why Tyre Corporation particularly is asking for a joint venture. The BRPSE said it should be having collaboration with the nationalised companies. Unfortunately, there is not a

single tyre company in this country which is a nationalised organisation. So, we had to wait for a revised view from the BRPSE and then they said: "You go for a joint venture but joint venture must not have more than 51 per cent share." So, it was delayed. Ultimately BIFR agreed and said: "You give the revitalisation scheme and then you ask for your joint venture partner." After this has been done—if both Houses pass it—we will go in the market. You will be happy to know today that Apollo Tyres and some other companies have come. They are already cooperating with our this company. This company's contract and permanent labour is about 1000. They are already doing well. They are making a gross profit of about Rs. 1 crore per month, Mr. Chidambaram. You have helped us; it was asked whether it will be possible for them to turn around. They are turning around. This is one of the examples. It is not only that, out of 28, more than 16 of them are earning their own salaries now.

At one time, the Finance Ministry was a bit doubtful about this. That is why, sometimes I give credit. I am always a criticiser of CPI(M). I am happy to see that the trade unions under CPI(M) in West Bengal can turn around a sick company, if they really want. Now, they are doing it.

Sir, if you want me to give answer point by point, I will be taking more time. All the points that have been raised here have been taken note of. Some very important points have been raised.

About this tyre industry, yes, tyre industry in our country is a bit weak because of the fact that R and D is not lacking but because of the fact that competition is very much from outside. But in automobile industry, we have become a hub for the developed countries. We are doing extremely well. Recently, of course, the three-wheeler and two-wheeler companies are facing some problem in respect of price. Competition is there. Otherwise, we are the highest in the world today. We are going to the Finance Ministry in the ensuing Budget and we hope that we will get consideration for them.

As regards Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy's point about the company's revaluation, I will send him the

figures. After this revitalization, it will turn around and we are sure about it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: My important point was about revaluation. In fact, revaluation was done in the year 2001. Before going in for this joint venture, will you go in for revaluation or not? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: This will be done by an Expert Committee. With due diligence it will be done. After that, we would go for negotiation. Without that, the Finance Ministry will not agree, and that will take three or four months. There are well known companies which do this due diligence, and these companies are duly recognized by the Ministry of Finance, IDBI and others. There are competent organizations which are doing this due diligence. They have done it in the case of sale of land of the textile industry. We have done that and we have gained.

You wanted to know what the budgetary support is. Yes, even now they are getting their salary from their own income. Before that, every quarter we used to revise and see the position. and then we used to give. The policy of our Government is that the statutory liability should be paid. When we came to power, at the first instance we gave five hundred and odd crores of rupees, which was the highest amount given by any Government after Independence. We have given this because our Common Minimum Programme says that the statutory liability must be paid compulsorily, and not paying the statutory liability is an unhealthy practice. We are still following this. During the regime of NDA also, they had given twice. This is the policy of our Government towards the trade unions and others. This is being followed by the subsequent Government.

It is not a listed company. You have asked that question. At present, out of these 34 companies with us, we have referred 20 companies to BIFR. At one stage, the disposal of BIFR was not very satisfactory. Now, it has improved because we are pressurizing them to give their verdict as early as possible. I am sure that in the next one year or so, many of the companies will turn around.

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

Some of the pharmaceutical companies were incurring heavy loss. In spite of that, the Finance Ministry helped them because they are producing essential medicines. So, in spite of the fact that it may not be viable, we had to pay this.

These companies have made a profit of Rs. 1,629 crore, and they have made profit of Rs. 2,966 crore in 2006. It is increasing. This is other than the big companies. ONGC and others are doing well. Now, small companies are also contributing in this profit.

The number of employees here is about 800. I think, Mr. Tripathy had raised it. There is a demand to increase the time of the job. The Standing Committee has recommended that the job of the employees, who would be joining it, should be three years; and we have accepted the recommendation of the Standing Committee. We will protect them for three years.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: This is a genuine demand.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Yes, of course. You had asked this question.

Another very important point that was raised was, what are the conditions of disinvestment. As regards disinvestment, as I said, we do not prefer and we are committed not to touch the *navaratna* companies. About the other companies also, we have said it. Take the case of Maruti. At one stage, Maruti was completely a public sector undertaking; then it became the private sector. Then, we had to take some money for the Bharat Nirman Programme, which was introduced by our Government, which requires funds. So, our Ministry had agreed to disinvest it, and that money has gone for the particular fund, which is for giving preference on education, health, construction of infrastructure like roads, and also for providing power to everybody by a particular time. So, for doing all these things, some more funds would be required.

Sir, Mr. Braja Kishore Tripathy also raised a question up to what extent the company would be given

the liberty. Now, we have formulated a new policy. Earlier, even the *navaratna* companies and various public sector companies were required to come to us and take permission for doing various things. Now, up to Rs. 1,000 crore, they are free to give contract on their own. For an urgent work etc, if they want to go to foreign countries, they need not come to the Government for permission. They may simply inform that they are going to such and such a country to sign negotiation; they are allowed to do it. We have given this liberty to them. We have also given them the capacity, during the emergency, to take decisions up to a particular limit, which was started by the NDA Government. Each company has been given a particular limit on their own. Then, they may subsequently come to the Finance Ministry and others for approval. So, by taking all these steps, we are putting the activities of the private companies and our public sector companies in a competitive mode. Previously, we had to wait for the Government concurrence. That system has been changed. That change has given enough chance for improvement.

My friends from the CPI(M) have raised the point that continuous disinvestment should not be there. Of course, there would not be continuous disinvestment. But I am sure, we would have to see the purpose for doing disinvestment. We should utilise the money that is coming from disinvestment for improving of various sectors. Today, during the Question Hour, many hon. Members had more or less grilled my friend, Mr. Shinde, on electricity. Now, he needs money if he has to provide electricity to each and every village. Wherefrom would he bring the money? He would not allow the Finance Minister to levy a tax. So, whatever kitty he has got, by doing jugglery, which he is doing, he is bringing money out of different methods. Therefore, I think, the House should cooperate. We, beyond our politics, should see that the development takes place.

Many of the State Governments are following this method. Yes, the Orissa Government is doing well. They have taken very gigantic steps. I had met the Chief Minister of Orissa, and he told me about various steps being taken in regard to the power sector. They have got the raw materials and other facilities, and now their

system is improving very fast. This is also something that due to the policy of the present Government as well as of the previous Government, the State of Orissa has been coming forward.

Sir, as I said, there are about 52 points raised by various hon. Members. If I answer to one, I must answer to the others also. But I promise that each and every point that has been raised, would be answered. With these few words, I commend that this Bill should be considered for passing.

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY (Howrah): Sir, what about their pay-scale?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is a subject matter, which cannot be discussed here. But it will be considered in due course of time. The Pay Commission is already there. You cannot follow the recommendations given by the Pay Commission in 1987 indefinitely.

15.00 hrs.

They cannot continue with that. We agree with you but I cannot commit here. I can give an indication that we will consider it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for disinvestment of Government's equity in the Tyre Corporation of India Limited and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3

Payment of consideration for Disinvestments in the Company

Amendment made:

Page 2, for lines 8 to 10, substitute,—

"by such company, such consideration, having regard to the optimum valuation of land, assets and liabilities of the company in accordance with a valuation method as specified by the Central Government." (1)

(Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5

Provision in respect of Officers and other employees of the Company

Amendment made:

Page 2, for lines 25 to 27, substitute,—

"under this Act, shall continue in office or service after such disinvestment, on same terms and conditions as would have been admissible to him if there had been no such disinvestment and shall continue to do so until the expiry of the period of three years from the date of disinvestments." (2)

(Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 3 to the Tyre Corporation of India Limited (Disinvestment of Ownership) Bill, 2007 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 3 to the Tyre Corporation of India Limited (Disinvestment of Ownership) Bill, 2007 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 6

**Act to have
overriding
effect**

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 30, insert,—

6. The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in the Inchek Tyres Limited and National Rubber Manufacturers Limited (Nationalisation) Act, 1984 or any other law for the time being in force."

(3)

(Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That new clause 6 be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.03 hrs.

**PAYMENT AND SETTLEMENT
SYSTEMS BILL, 2006**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House will take up Item No. 22—Payment Settlement Systems Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, this is a very important Bill which is to become the backbone of our economic activities.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): All Bills are important.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Payment and Settlement System is to become the backbone or even the foundation of all our economic activities. My humble request is that the discussion may be had on a fresh day and on a fresh basis.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No, we have agreed that the discussion on the Bill will start and the discussion will continue. It will be continued next time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, the hon. Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in India and to designate the Reserve Bank of India as the authority for that purpose and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Sir, normally I would make a very short speech introducing the Bill. But since a Member as senior as Shri Radhakrishnan has raised some apprehensions, it is my duty to explain the Bill so that he will, at the end of my explanation and after reflecting over it, come to the conclusion that these apprehensions are completely baseless and what we are intending to do is something very necessary, very emergent and is being done on the advice of the Reserve Bank of India.

Sir, let me take a few minutes to explain the history of the payment system in India. Payment systems in India, hitherto, have been only cheque-clearing. Cheques were presented in one bank, payable on another bank and the cheque-clearing system was largely a paper-based system. Cheques would be physically carried to a central place, banks will exchange the cheques and payment will be netted out. Over the years, much has changed. Technology has changed. New products have come and the payment system has become a very elaborate, very complex system.

For example, the Reserve Bank of India currently manages what is called, the real-time gross settlement system. The Reserve Bank of India provides settlement services in only 14 Centres of India where the RBI has got its offices. There are 1,068 clearing houses which are owned by either the State Bank of India or one of the public sector banks or a group of public sector banks. These 1,068 clearing houses also provide payment services.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The stock exchanges will be excluded . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Kindly listen Shri Radhakrishnan. You must listen. I am explaining it. Please bear with me.

Then, there is not only cheque-clearing, now,

Government securities are bought and sold. They have to be settled. There are now foreign exchange transactions. Foreign exchange is bought and sold. They have to be settled. There is already a Clearing Corporation of India which is being set up by the banks and the financial institutions as a central counterparty and a specialised clearing organization for inter-bank Government securities and foreign exchange transactions.

Finally, thanks to technology, there is now electronic clearing, electronic fund transfer and more increasingly credit card payment. For example, we have got credit cards, debit cards issued by a large number of authorities. The best known are—Visa and Master Card which are co-branded with banks. We have, therefore, like in any other country, a multiplicity of payment systems. This is what I want you to understand—a multiplicity of payment systems. We have come a long way from only cheque-clearing. Cheque-clearing was what was prevalent in this country, say up to the middle of 1980s. Today we have a multiplicity of payment systems.

Believe me, there is no law regulating these payment systems today. All this is by a contractual arrangements. A group of banks or the State Bank of India sets up a payment system; any bank which wants to transact in that payment system enters into a contractual arrangement and for some fees which are levied the contractor provides the services.

India is a part of the Bank of International Settlement. Now, the Bank of International Settlement is an international body. We are a part of that body and we are a major country because large transactions take place throughout the country. They have formulated, what are called, core principles of a payment system. Now these core principles of a payment system are ten in number. I will not read all ten; I will, in my final reply. The first of the principle is—the payment system should have a well-founded legal basis under all relevant jurisdictions.

There must be a legislature-made law to support a payment system. Therefore, a few years ago the

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) drafted a law, and said that we are now part of the BIS and we must have a separate law to regulate all the payment systems. There must be a regulator; there must be a licencing authority; there must be a dispute resolution mechanism; there must be an appellate authority; and we must put in place a regulatory system.

After the RBI prepared a draft law, the RBI decided that we must appoint an Expert Committee to study the matter comprehensively; look into practices that are prevalent in all the countries of the world, especially, the developed economies; and suggest a draft of a law to be made by the Parliament. Therefore, the RBI appointed the R.H. Patil Committee.

The R.H. Patil Committee went into the matter, and one of the terms of reference was to suggest appropriate legislative changes for regulation of payment systems. The Committee made certain recommendations, and I will read only the major recommendations of the Committee. Firstly, that the proposed legislation should conform fully to the core principles enunciated for the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). I have already read out the first principle out of the 10 principles. Secondly, that there is a need for a well-founded, clear and transparent legal basis for security settlement systems. Thirdly, that the proposed legislation should take into account the international position with regard to law on regulation and supervision of payment systems. Therefore, the Committee carried out a survey of such international practices, and drafted the law on the basis of those international practices. Fourthly, that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should be the regulator, and should have regulatory oversight over the payment system. Fifthly, that the proposed legislation should encompass all types of payment and settlement systems in the country. Let me repeat this point. The proposed legislation should encompass all types of payment and settlement systems in the country, and should empower the RBI to grant authorisation or exemption, as the case may be.

But RBI is also a service provider, and we are

making RBI the regulator. Therefore, the Committee recommended that when RBI acts as a service provider and RBI acts as a regulator, then the two functions must be performed by different wings of the RBI. There should be a clear demarcation between the regulator and the service provider, and that separate and distinct wings of the RBI should perform the role of regulator and the role of operator. This report was studied by the RBI. Therefore, the RBI then proposed to the Government that the Bill must be introduced.

Now, a very simple suggestion is sought to be made. Why do you need a Bill? Why cannot you simply amend the RBI Act? Please look at the Bill. It is not a matter of amending one section. It is the matter of introducing a Bill containing 38 sections. Kindly look at the definitions that are nowhere in the RBI Act. The definitions are of a payment system; service provider; system participant; regulator; licencing power; the circumstances under which licence will be granted; the circumstances under which licence will be revoked; who will resolve disputes; who will be the appellate authority, etc. This cannot be done by amending one section of the RBI Act. We have to make a separate law. Therefore, the RBI has advised the Government that we need a separate law. The Bill has been drafted in close consultation with the RBI.

The Bill was introduced by my colleague in the Lok Sabha on 25 July 2006. It was referred to the Standing Committee on 28 August 2006. The Standing Committee held elaborate sittings, and has taken evidence. It has submitted its 56th Report on 16 May 2007. The Standing Committee had 21 Members from the Lok Sabha and nine Members from the Rajya Sabha. They have given a near unanimous report with only one dissenting note by one hon. Member belonging to the CPI (M).

Therefore, all sections of the House, all parties, have supported the Bill. It is a necessary Bill. You must have a regulator to regulate all the payment systems. The dissent has been given by Mr. Rupchand Pal. I am willing to answer point-by-point the points raised by him.

The Standing Committee recommended three

modifications. We have accepted all the three modifications. First, the Committee recommended that the definition of 'bank' needs to be modified with the RBI to be the authority to notify a bank. We have accepted that suggestion. The Committee has agreed with the suggestion that the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems already constituted under the Reserve Bank of India may be carried forward as a provision in the Payment and Settlement Systems Bill. We have accepted that. Third, the Committee has recommended that on the lines of SEBI Act, the RBI should be empowered to make regulations without the prior sanction of the Central Government. We have earlier said, "With the prior sanction". The Committee said, "No, it must be without the prior sanction". We have accepted that.

The RBI made one recommendation, namely, that when there is a dispute between the RBI as a service provider and the systems participant, that dispute must be resolved by the Central Government as the dispute resolving authority. We had accepted that also.

So, four official amendments are being moved accepting the recommendations. The only dissent note, if I may say with great respect, proceeds on what I would say not an adequate understanding of the provisions of the Bill. But I am prepared to meet each objection raised by Mr. Rupchand Pal. The first objection is, amend Section 58 of the RBI Act as it is sufficient. The answer is that it is not sufficient. By amending Section 58, I cannot introduce 38 Sections. I cannot introduce all these definitions, and I cannot make the RBI the regulator. Therefore, we need a separate Bill. It is not possible to bring a Bill containing 38 Sections into amending one Section of the RBI Act.

Secondly, regulator can be service provider too, and there is no conflict of interest. We have no quarrel. RBI will be the service provider for the RTGS. RBI will be the service provider in 14 centres, but in the remaining 1068 centres in the Clearing Corporation of India, RBI is not the service provider. Therefore, you need a regulator. Therefore, we are appointing RBI as the regulator which will regulate all the service providers in the country.

The third objection is that several documents of the RBI do not indicate any universal practice. That is not correct. In fact, the RBI has prepared and presented a document called "The RBI's Vision Document". The RBI's Vision Document captures all the universal practices. R.H. Patil Committee has gone through the universal practices, and this Bill is based upon that recommendation.

Fourth objection is that the proposed new private entity has neither expertise nor experience. It is again wrong. Except in the four metros, it is the State Bank of India and the public sector banks which are now providing clearing services in 1068 centres. Now, what we are proposing is all of them together will now form a new corporation called the National Payments Corporation of India. The shareholders will be the State Bank of India and the public sector banks and other banks. No shareholder can own more than 10 per cent. Therefore, nobody can dominate that. The State Bank of India will be a major shareholder; the public sector banks will be a major shareholder. Some private sector banks are also there. They will also have to be given shares. NPCI will now be a payment service provider for all the centres which are now operated in separate places—by SBI in some places, by one public sector bank in one place, by another public sector bank in another place. These will all come under the National Payment Corporation of India which will be licensed by the RBI and which would be regulated by the RBI. Therefore, what we are now bringing is regulation where no regulation exists today.

Finally, I do not know how he gets this conclusion, but he says that in not so distant future, the whole system will be done by private entities. I cannot understand this because there is no provision in the Act which says that. In fact, everybody has to get a licence. Today, the payment service providers are the RBI, the Clearing Corporation of India, the State Bank of India and the public sector banks. They will continue to provide payment systems except that they will now be under a regulatory regime, and the regulator will be the RBI.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: That is the moot point of objection.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Why should RBI not be the regulator? NPCI which is going to be formed will be a Section 25 Company. No profits would be distributed to anyone. Therefore, it is not a private company seeking profits. It is a non-profit company. All surpluses will be ploughed back to develop the payment system. Please see Section 25 of the Companies Act. It will be owned by banks, especially the State Bank and other public sector banks. It will be regulated by the RBI under a licence given by the RBI. What we are doing is bringing India's payment systems on par with international payment systems. It is high time that we had done this. I am told that tomorrow payments can be made by mobile telephony. That technology is being developed in which you can pay your credit card bills by mobile telephony, and mobile telephone companies are going to provide the payment system. So, technology will bring several new and innovative payments systems. All of them must be regulated. It is time that we made this law. The Standing Committee has appreciated the Bill. There is, of course, a respectable voice of dissent. I will answer every point of dissent, I will clarify everything. Therefore, I commend this Bill to the House and appeal to all sections of the House that it must be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in India and to designate the Reserve bank of India as the authority for that purpose and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the Payment and Settlement System Bill, 2006 was presented in the House and after presenting the Bill hon'ble Minister of Finance has given detailed information regarding the Bill which is going to

be enacted. He has also explained as to why this Bill is being introduced. As we all know that the Payment and Settlement System is believed to be the backbone of the Indian economy and it affects the economy of the country. It would not be any exaggeration if I say that payment and settlement system has been prevalent in our country since ancient times. It has been continuing from a very long time but the methods have been different, whether it is by way of Hindi or by way of barter. But as modernisation is taking place modern sources are coming up, new ways are being found out and this made the need felt for introducing such a Bill. It has been brought with that viewpoint. This Bill is certainly worth supporting. Till now, the Payment and Settlement system has been covered under different laws and there was no appropriate system to dispose of the payment related disputes. Due to which people eligible for payment had to face many difficulties in getting justice. Alongwith this the absence of any uniform law also caused various other problems. This Bill would cater to finding solutions for all those problems and would also help in giving a legal format for strengthening and organizing this system by way of 38 sections under this Bill.

This will certainly strengthen the Payment and Settlement system and will help the Indian economy as well as prove helpful to those who are eligible for payments. It includes the definitions of all the institutions that would come under the Payment and Settlement System and on a general basis we can say that those institutions which adopt Banking work system shall come under this Bill as per this definition.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one thing has been mentioned in this that the Stock Exchange has been kept out of this. Many people ask this question that when the Banking system is operating through stock exchange then why has Stock Exchange been kept out of its purview. Although the Standing Committee on Finance had deliberated on that issue and expressed their consent to the reply given by the Government alongwith a small note in the end. I would request hon'ble Minister to inform the people of the country through this August House as to why the Stock Exchange has not been

included in this? So that the small apprehensions and doubts that people have could be done away with. In addition to this, provision of the authority in charge has also been made in this Bill. Further, it has also been mentioned that who would have the authority for Payment Systems and hon'ble Minister of Finance has elaborately mentioned that RBI would look after this work. Though RBI had already constituted a Board with a view to provide assistance in implementing this system and that board was facing difficulties due to its work-system and poor functioning, which has led to introduction of this Bill. Then, there is also a provision for regulation and supervision by the Reserve Bank of India. The rights and duties of the service provider have also been mentioned in this. If any dispute arises in this regard then that would be subject to appeal to the Union Government. In all, it can be said that those who are eligible for payments....

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to continue further then you may continue the next time because it is 3.30 and now Private Member's Business will be taken up.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I would like to continue further.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may continue the next time.

Item No. 24. Shri Jai Prakashji.

15.30 hrs.

**MOTION RE: THIRTY-FIRST REPORT OF
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

[English]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Mohanlal Ganj): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-first Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 21st November, 2007."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-first Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 21st November, 2007."

Th motion was adopted.

15.30½ hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

**Free and compulsory education upto
Higher Secondary Level—Contd.**

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to you for allowing me to speak on an important resolution. Our country achieved freedom 60 years ago but the standard and system of education in our country even after 60 years does not look proper. I feel that the goal of uniform and free education in the country provided as a constitutional right has not been achieved to some extent due to which illiteracy and poverty are rampant in the country and both are inter-connected. There are many states which are very backward and we lag behind many countries in the world particularly in the matter of education and we have more illiterate women than men. Constant efforts have been made in this direction after independence. Education has remained our agenda that we will make people literate and educated. I do not think that our country has not progressed even after 60 years of independence. But, perhaps, we have not achieved the desired level of progress. How can our country progress? Britishers have left the country but even today we are pursuing the education system introduced by the Britishers. Lady Micheal had formulate an education system in the year 1836. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, some arrangement should be made to provide information from the Government's side about the bomb blasts that have taken place in the courts premises in Uttar Pradesh at three places simultaneously in which many people have been killed and injured. Therefore, someone from the Government's side should inform the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Malhotraji, you are a veteran Member and deputy leader as well. The Government will come out with information if you will raise the matter under some rule. You will get an opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: A very serious incident has taken place. Someone from the Government's side should come here and give information. Hon. Minister is sitting here. He can go and ask the Home Minister to give information. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been practice that in case of occurrence of such incidents the Government make arrangement to inform the House about the incidents. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot compel the Government for information. The Government too has to get the information.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is being telecast on all the channels. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government can inform the House only after getting the information. You, please, take your seat.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was saying that the education system of 1836 is in place even today. Every political party give top priority to education in their agenda. I accept that Governments of many parties came to power after Independence but they could not fulfil their promise of providing education to the common man.

The resolution has been brought out by me out of compulsion. This Bill for free and compulsory education upto senior secondary level has been brought up by me out of compulsion and it should not have been needed at all. Perhaps, the people who were bearing the responsibility on their shoulders for progress, literacy in the country and removal of poverty and illiteracy were not able to perform their duties due to which countrymen are illiterate in large number even today. Condition is worse in many states. I accept that some results have been achieved from constant efforts made but there are

many large states like the one I hail from i.e. Bihar and our neighbouring States Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan etc., where condition is not good. The basic reason for this is that though we have opened schools, gave approvals but even today after 60 years of independence many schools can be found where children are not able to study properly. The education system, particularly for the children of the poor people, living in rural areas is not good irrespective of their caste and community. One can visit any school and can see that system is not proper there. Even today, you will find thousands of schools in the country which do not have buildings and children study under trees.

I also associate myself with this system because I have also studied in a Government school. I belong to Patna. I think that you and many hon. Members of the House must have studied in Government schools like me because people like me belong to poor and backward families who do not have money to send their children to better schools. Private schools have better facilities but poor people cannot afford to educate their children in these schools. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is St. Xavier school also in Patna.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: St. Xavier school is in Patna but people like Ram Kripal Yadav are not able to study in such schools.

I was telling you that the school where I studied was located near my house. Even now that school is there. It was a Government school and we used to study under a tree as the school had no building. We used to bring out mats and studied by sitting on them.

There are two types of schools in the country. Forget about villages, I am talking about cities. I was saying that even today there are thousands of schools where the situation is pretty desperate. Many schools do not have a building. Even if a building is there, one will find that there are walls but no roof. If walls and roofs are present then doors and windows would be missing. If the building is complete in all other respects then there would be no blackboard. This is the ground reality. You will agree with me because you also come

from the same background, you are familiar with the rural environment. If all other things are available there are no teachers. How are children supposed to study in such schools? I would like to make you aware about the situation in which these children are placed. A survey report has been published according to which 55 per cent children studying in class V, the primary levels are unable to solve simple sums. This report has been prepared by a private institution which surveyed rural areas and children studying in rural schools.

Sir, this is a strange situation. Not only this, there are around 47 per cent children who cannot even read properly. This is the system. There is a separate system for the rich and for the poor. The poor have to depend on such schools. How will the children of the poor be able to progress? We have got a constitutional right. This right is given by our Constitution. If you go through the articles 14, 15 and 16 of the constitution it will become clear that the Government is not acting effectively to grant us the powers devolved upon us by the Constitution. Uniform education has not been ensured. If uniform education is not ensured then how will 75 per cent of the country's population progress? The argument is given that children of the poor are not interested in studies. I am speaking of children of all religions and castes. The poverty in the villages is not restricted merely to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs. The same situation prevails in respect of children belonging to higher castes. Those people are being discriminated against. Till this discrimination prevails in the country and two types of policies continue to be followed, the progress of the country is not possible. If one child studies in a convent school and the other studies without the guidance of a teacher how can equality be achieved between them. How would the children from the village or the village itself progress, how will 75 per cent of the country's population progress? In view of the prevalent educational system, I think that gradually there will be monopoly of private schools, individuals and private institutions in the field of education.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ram Kripalji, just stop for a minute. The deputy leader Hon'ble Malhotraji had asked

the Government for some specific information. The Government seems to have received some information regarding Uttar Pradesh. The Government may furnish that information if it so desires.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had a talk with the hon. Home Minister. He said that he is collecting the information. As soon as he completes collecting the information, he will share it with the hon. Members of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the leader of the Opposition Speak.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Sir, you are right in saying that the Government will collect and furnish the information but the next two days being Saturday and Sunday are holidays. The House will not sit for the next two days. Hence, it is my request that the House should be given as much information as becomes available before it adjourns for the day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright. If the Government receives the information then it should try to make it available to the House before it adjourns. The Chair cannot force the Government to make it available right now but the Government can give the information if it wants to do so.

[English]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: He cannot give the information based on the reports given by the television channels:

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should collect the information as soon as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KIRPAL YADAV: Sir, I was saying that

[Shri Ram Kirpal Yadav]

there are two parallel education systems in the country. Education is being privatized gradually and the standard of education being imparted in the private schools is good. The children belonging to poor classes start schooling after 6 years of age whereas affluent families send their children to school when they are only two or three years old. These children complete three years of schooling by the time they become 6 years old and enter LKG. They develop interest in study when they are two or three years old. Parents of these children resourceful. We had started learning the English alphabet in sixth class. How can we make any comparisons?

15.45 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

This is why our students lag behind in studies in comparison to students of St. Michael and St. Zavier's schools. This is the system. How can we expect quality from the students of village schools. Villages can churn out students in large number but they cannot provide quality. Every person does not have the means to send his children to convent schools. In my view, the double standards in the matter of educational policy should be removed. A uniform syllabus and educational environment needs to be provided to all students. Due to this reason the gap between the rich and the poor is increasing day-by-day. Till the time the gap is bridged, the educational system cannot be improved. The world has become very competitive. Quantity is not enough, we need quality—Only then can these children compete and make progress. Only then will they get opportunities.

In my view there are merely ten per cent people in the country who are resourceful. They can afford to impart good education to their children. People who do not have money are not able to provide good education to their children. Only the poor reside in villages, they do not have money. Hence, they are dependent on Government schools. I want to thank the UPA Government for putting special focus on education.

'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan' is being run, funds are being granted for construction of school buildings and for appointing teachers. But the funds given to the States under 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan' are not being properly utilized. Good teachers are not being appointed. Teachers are being appointed on contract basis. Their standards are not up to the mark. If good teachers are not available then how will the students be able to learn? It is quite true. Several hon'ble Members also would have felt that new-a-days the teachers being employed under Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan are not teaching the children properly. There is a policy under which even the 60 years old retired teachers have been employed. What will they teach the children? They would have forgotten what they had read because they are not in practice. They have been appointed because they have the B.Ed and M.Ed degrees. Such teachers will make the future of the children bleak. It is an irony that few people formulate the policies but those policies affect the public of the country. The Union Government previously used to give 75 per cent grant to the State Governments but now it has been curtailed. Now 50 per cent is being given and as a result thereof the States are always in dire straits financially. So the State Governments are not capable. There are several such States and I think almost all the States have their own limited resources. They will not be able to do anything unless the Union Government gives them financial assistance.

It is true that the Union Government has decided to increase the funds being invested in education sector. The Government had increased the funds earmarked for the education in the last budget also. We think and the deliberations in Planning Commission show that even in this budget the Government of India is in a mood to enhance the allocation for education so as to improve the quality of education. We and our country cannot advance until and unless the quality of education improves. Our efforts to improve the education have not borne much success but I think that we are advancing slowly. At present the results are not satisfactory. The people from all social strata will have to contribute to it. The quality of our education can improve only when the social activists, officers, academicians, intellectuals

contribute to it. Our ancestors, who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for independence, had a dream. I think we cannot upgrade the quality of education unless all the people contribute to it. After independence we have had a dream of expanding education to every village and educating every citizen in the country and even that dream cannot be fulfilled. It is not possible with the efforts of the Government only. I would like to present some figures in this regard. According to a survey, in year 2005 the number of dropouts in the age-group six to fourteen has declined. In year 2001, 28.5 per cent children of this age group did not go to school. Now their percentage has come down to 6.94 per cent. In 2001, 20.73 per cent children belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes did not go to school but now the percentage has declined to 16.2 per cent. I think that we are making advancement as a result of the initiative taken by the Government in this regard. We will not be satisfied with it. The economy of the country affects everything. Backwardness and poverty are also the causes of it. We cannot dream of advancing further unless all of us are literate.

I think that we need to make one more effort. If we work honestly to make our country advance according to the powers and rights conferred by the Constitution, then something worthwhile is possible. The formulation of policies is a continuous process but the policy can be effective only when our intention is right.

Sir, there is too much talk but if these talks are not translated into action, they are useless. Since our independence till date all the Governments in the country have formulated very good policies but their intentions were never good. As a result thereof there are several uneducated families and children in the villages even after 60 years of independence. Poverty also is one of its causes. Now the parents in the villages send their children to work instead of sending them to school. We would not have witnessed such a situation had they got two square meals a day. We have seen that the Government Scheme of mid-day meal has attracted the children to school and the children come to the schools but they do not get education there. This situation also needs to be

improved. Hon'ble Minister is sitting here. It has been seen generally observed that under the mid-day-meal scheme the teachers as well as the students are busy in preparing 'khichdi' in the schools. Its adverse effects also are visible and there is a need to improve it. I know that your intentions are good but the funds spent by you are not being utilised properly. I think that you will think in this regard and make another alternative arrangement. It would be better if we provide meals to the children without depriving them of their studies. The second problem is relating to lack of social awareness. It is true that some efforts have been made in this direction during last few years as I have told that the children as well as their guardians are now enthusiastic about education. I think that it is bearing good results but it would not be proper to be happy with it only. This system needs to be improved further. We would not get the desired results and our main objectives would not be realized until and unless more efforts are made in this direction. I would like to request that the education system should be the same for all. We will have to merge the two different systems for the rich and the poor. Please bridge the gap and make one policy for all and make a resolution to expand the education to such villages and homes which have not seen the light of education till now. If you make efforts with good and honest intentions, those will be effective and all of us will have to make efforts. This resolution is important because we would not be able to achieve the target of development of the country unless we provide free education till higher secondary and we teach the children in the villages. How a person, who is not able to make both ends meet, can send his children to school for studying? It is a distant prospect that he would be able to send his children to private and good schools. It is our moral responsibility that we should provide free education to them and we have got constitutional rights for that purpose, therefore I have presented this resolution before the House. The education system of our country cannot be put in order and we cannot advance further until and unless there is a provision of equal and free education in the schools from class I to higher secondary class. I have seen that a large number of the women, constituting half of

[Shri Ram Kirpal Yadav]

the population of the country, are uneducated.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir is there no time limit for the hon. Members to speak. He has been speaking for quite some time. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: If the hon. Members do not want to hear, I therefore take my seat.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have taken much more time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You covered all the points. Please conclude.

16.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am going to conclude. I was saying that the House and the Government should definitely accept this resolution. Our forefathers had envisaged an equalitarian society. Therefore, in view of utter poverty in our country, there is a need to have a uniform education system in the country. For this purpose, there is a need to make education free right from primary level to the senior secondary level, then only we will be able to provide constitutional right to every citizen in accordance with the basic spirit of our constitution. Until and unless, we educate our people, the country cannot progress and we will not be able to alleviate poverty. Therefore, I urge the House and the Government to adopt my resolution and make arrangements for free and uniform education.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Home Minister will make a statement now.

16.01 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS—Contd.

(III) Bomb blasts at Lucknow, Varanasi and Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am directed to make a statement on what has happened in Uttar Pradesh. What I am giving to this august House is the preliminary report. We are in the process of collecting the information. Today serial blasts took place in Uttar Pradesh at Lucknow, Varanasi and Faizabad. All blasts took place in court premises. The details are as under:

Lucknow: A low intensity blast took place at 1305 hours near a cycle stand in court complex, Lucknow. No casualty is reported.

Varanasi: Three high intensity blasts took place between 1318 hours and 1320 hours in court premises, Varanasi, 10 persons are injured and 1 person is reported to have died.

Faizabad: Two high intensity blasts took place in Faizabad court premises at about 1325 hours, 2 persons died and 15 are injured.

All these six blasts took place inside or adjacent to court premises and particularly in all the three places near the cycle stands situated in court premises.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): How many persons have died in Faizabad?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Two persons have died in Faizabad. The total number of persons died, according to our information, is three. The affected areas have been cordoned off and the police, bomb disposal and detection squads, under the supervision of senior police officers, are conducting thorough searches. So far, no information has been received regarding the type of explosives used, mechanism adopted and involvement of any group or organisation. According to the information

from the police authorities, a high alert has been issued. If we get further information, we will share it with the House.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs for having given us this preliminary information about these blasts. I am sure the House would have an occasion to have a full statement on Monday as to what has happened because this practice of serial blasts started way back in 1993 when we had the first terrorist attack on Mumbai and it was then that we found that so many people had been killed in just a couple of hours or three hours where bombs were exploded spread over a long area. Since then, I have always held that it is difficult in a country of our size, and with terrorist outfits spread all over the country, to prevent even a single case happening. But where there are serial blasts, *prima facie*, it is a case of intelligence failure because for that they have to prepare over a period of time. It is not that a group of three or four people go and see a crowd at a bus station, throw a bomb and get away.

In the last few years, this has become a more recurring trend of serial blasts. It started with say three blasts in Delhi, then the worst case was last year when in Mumbai at a particular time, within a period of five to ten minutes, in seven different passenger trains, there were blasts. To the best of my knowledge, till now, we have not been able to apprehend the culprits in that very serious case where the whole operation was executed with a kind of a military precision. After that also, I have noticed, say, in Hyderabad—I myself went there—I found that simultaneously there were blasts, one at a stadium and another at Gokul Chat. So, this practice of serial blasts has become a recurring feature.

On Monday, if the hon. Minister apprises the House of all the cases that have happened in the past two years, including the attack on Bangalore, including the attack in Mumbai, including the attack on Hyderabad, including, of course, that may be slightly earlier, the attack on Ayodhya and attack on Varanasi in which Bangladeshis were supposed to be involved and give us details about who have been apprehended till now, what is the status of the cases that are being instituted

against them so that it should go out to the world that the Government is very particular about handling this problem of terrorism and no one will be allowed to get away. This is my request to the hon. Home Minister and also in the meanwhile, further details, which can be collected about Lucknow, Varanasi and Faizabad, should be given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have allowed the Leader of Opposition because it involves the question of terrorism. In the normal course, it is not permissible. But anyhow, the hon. Minister may give a statement in addition.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, today, newspapers and TV channels [*Translation*] have reported that our intelligence agencies have continued the Home Minister that the terrorists want to break Tihar Jail and free the terrorists. It has also been reported that there was a plan to kidnap Rahulji by a terrorist acting as a human bomb. Many such reports are coming to fore. The House has made no statement in this regard. It would have been better if something was said in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I will limit myself to the statement made by Shri Advani and on all other things, well if there is an occasion, we will give an explanation.

I am of the same view that serial blasts are taking place. In Delhi, serial blasts took place, in Varanasi, serial blasts took place, in Mumbai, serial blasts took place and generally three blasts have been taking place, and not only that, we have recovered the bombs also which were not exploded and which could have exploded.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: There is one difference between those serial blasts and the one of today because in that case, it is either Delhi or Hyderabad or Mumbai. In this case it is spread over the State of Uttar Pradesh so that the operation has been more intense and therefore, there should have been greater possibility of the intelligence being able to identify either the people in Varanasi or the people in Lucknow or the people in Faizabad.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I do agree that this is not a blast taking place in a city—three blasts—but in Varanasi many blasts have taken place in the city. In Faizabad and Lucknow also blasts have taken place. That means, they have widened the area of activity. And it is necessary for us to look into these things. I would be very happy to give information with regard to the status of the cases which have been filed. We do have the information; people have been arrested and cases are going on. But, it will be useful to discuss this matter any time which is given by the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It may be discussed next week.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We would be happy to share the information.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister may collect all the information and place it before the House. If the House decides, we will have a discussion on this issue also.

16.11 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Free and Compulsory Education upto Higher Secondary Level—Contd.

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Sir, I rise to support this Resolution for Free and Compulsory Education up to Higher Secondary Level. In our country, even after 60 years of Independence, literacy level in SC, ST and minority communities has not improved. We need to educate them. Even after Independence, still literacy level in the whole country has not even touched 25 per cent. In the whole country, only the Southern States, particularly Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are doing well in the field of education.

I would like to speak about the establishment and functioning of the elementary schools that now-a-days are coming up like mushrooms. My humble opinion is that the schools with all fundamental facilities only should

be recognized. Once the recognition is granted it can be renewed once in three years after careful inspection. The inspection team having members should be constituted not only by DEO but also by other faculty sides. All professional fields should serve the mother country particularly to improve education so that the performance of the schools in terms of education will improve. Uniform salary must be given to the teachers. The newly coming up schools are squeezing money from the people. They are not only interviewing the students, they are also interviewing the parents. Why should they interview the parents? When Rajaji was there, he used to say '*kulakkalv*' that means what work father is doing, the same work son has to do. In the same way, the upcoming schools are squeezing the parents and they are interviewing the parents to extract more money from them to admit their children in the schools. For rural, semi-urban, urban and for all self financing institutions, uniform eligibility criteria must be fixed for all the schools throughout India. The difference between the State Board and the CBSE Syllabus should be minimized. The education related to discipline and behaviour should get its role which is getting diminished now-a-days. Carrying huge volume of books to home and written work to children up to fifth standard should be prevented. Mentioning caste in transfer certificate can be eliminated to prevent discrepancies among students in the class room. The scheme of examination can be modified by providing or increasing the subject contents which the students are able to grasp easily. During examination, the books can be provided for reference. Unless one is thorough with the subject, he is unable to score more marks. The type of questions can be objective and of creativity to make their own sentence by referring the books while writing the examination. Percentage of marks to undergo professional courses should be minimized. A university for physical education should be established. In sports, India is lagging behind. Zonal-wise, we have to develop and encourage the students enthusiastically so that we can make out efficient players which would pave way to achieve and shine internationally in sports.

A university for all minority education institutions should be established which can grant recognition for such minority institutions which can inspect the

academic progress of the minority welfare. Sir, Headmasters' meet at the district, State and national levels must be conducted to discuss about improvement and implementation of new aspects in academic education and administration.

In one class, now-a-days there are 50 to 100 students. The class teacher has to call each student by name. In foreign countries, each class has 25 students only so that the teacher can identify each student by name.

In villages, there are schools with one teacher and one Headmaster. Village schools have not been supervised properly by the District Education Officers. Many schools in the hill stations are running some days without even teachers. Students are taking attendance. It is a pitiable thing. Teachers are absent many days. Teachers are not taking classes, and if they do come to the school, they take classes in the shades of trees. Students are sitting in the sand. The Scheme of our UPA Government, *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan*, is doing well. Still we have to bring much more schemes to build perfect classrooms and also to give training to teachers to conduct classes.

The Central Government has to ensure proper and compulsory education to minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We have to give education more particularly to rural poor masses. At least in the rural and urban areas, we have to start new schools which can boost the rural students and rural poor masses.

Sir, I once again congratulate the UPA Government under Shrimati Soniaji's able guidance taking care of the rural masses by way of giving good education.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is debating the resolution concerning free and compulsory education up to senior secondary level moved by Shri Ram Kripal Yadavji. Everyone is aware that there is a great need for providing free and compulsory education in the country.

All successive governments, since our independence be it states governments or at the centre, have been making concerted efforts for propagation of education. But if we cast a glance at the education scenario in our country we find that there is a lot more to be done in this regard, especially when we compare our country with several other countries. Not only this, there is a need to increase literacy rate also. As per census 2001, literacy rate in our country stood at 64 per cent and out of it, the female literacy rate is a matter of concern. When we talk of literacy, it implies that large population knows three R's. But when they read Newspapers, they fail to understand the meaning of many sentences or even words properly. We have this kind of literate persons. We do agree that if we want to see our country developed, there is a need to achieve cent per cent literacy rate. And merely literacy rate will serve no purpose; we need to have quality education.

At the time Independence, when a need was felt to frame our Constitution, a Constitutional Assembly was constituted. Under article 45 of our Constitution which comes under the directive principles of state policy, it was envisioned to provide free and compulsory education to the children up to the age of 14 years.

Since independence same party has been in power at Centre for several years and also in states, but no sincere efforts were made to implement what was envisioned in Article 45. Budget provisions were made, many schemes were evolved for achieving literacy but no sincere efforts have been made to implement the spirit of Article 45. In this regard, I would like to congratulate the then Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the NDA Government which amended Articles 45, 21 and 51 and made right to education a fundamental right. On the basis of the said amendment, the responsibility for making arrangement for providing education up to sixth class was entrusted to the State Government and the Central Government was entrusted the responsibility of providing education from 7th class upto the age of 14 years. At the time of amendment it was assured that the guardians or parents should also be given responsibility and the State as well as Central Government accepted its responsibility. The Sarva

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme was evolved by the same Government with a view to providing free and compulsory education to all. Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is in vogue throughout the country. The state governments help in its implementation. But, as Shri Yadavji has said, SSA was evolved to open more schemes, construct more rooms and also to make arrangement for mid-day meals. In facts, most of the funds now are spent on mid-day meals. In facts, more funds now are spent on mid-day meal scheme and it appears that nothing is being done for providing free and compulsory education whereas there is a need to do it. I do agree with what Shri Yadavji has said about education up to senior secondary level. Generally, we feel that a child of 14 years will go up to 10th class only as a child who attains the age of not more than 4 years is permitted to take admission in school. But, it would be far better if it is extended up to senior secondary.

At this juncture, I would definitely like to say that schools are not in good shape. They have no sitting place. On the paper, free and compulsory education has been made a fundamental right constitutionally, but so far as its implementation is concerned, it is negligible. There is a need for the Government to take steps in this regard, otherwise, the poor people will not be able to derive any benefit of this institutional provision for getting free and compulsory education. Since it become a legal provision, any person can seek court's help for its implementation on the plea that since there is a provision for free and compulsory education which is not available to them. Anyone can seek its restoration from the Government. But none want to take the botheration of going to court. The Government should therefore implement it honestly. All of us are aware that the level of Education in Government school is quite pitiable. Shri Yadavji has made a mention of it. As private schools provide good quality education, have good buildings, so they charge high fees, whereas, the children of approximately 38 crore poor families are deprived of it. Ultimately, they have to seek admission in government schools.

The need of the hour therefore is to improve the standard of Government schools. There should be a uniform education system throughout the country. The curriculum should also be uniform so that both rich and poor students get the same education and the widening gap between the rich and the poor is reduced and the atmosphere of quality building up in the society is also curtailed. I strongly believe that these measures would accrue several benefits to the society. Feelings of discrimination, untouchability, lower and upper status rich and poor are deeply engrained in the society and when the children of Government schools take admission in any other schools then the children of wealthy families do not treat them at par in conformity with the laid down provisions of the Constitution and all the things certainly do not help in creating an harmonious atmosphere in the society and owing to these reasons we are not able to establish peace and tranquility in the country. There is not just one but many such problems. This resolution is certainly important from this point of view and I associate myself with the spirit of this resolution. I would also like to thank the Government for this. But, if this is going to meet the same fate as that of the 86th Constitutional (Amendment) Bill, 2002 for ensuring free and compulsory primary education, then it is of no use to pass this kind of a resolution. Therefore, while expressing my support to this resolution I would like to request the Government to make sufficient provisions in the budget so as to provide compulsory and free education. At present, in the name of providing free education, the Government schools do not charge any tuition fee but they do charge fees for all other activities organized in schools. The private schools charge tuition fees, fees for sport and other activities. They also charge fees from the students for providing other facilities like cycle stand, vehicle stand etc. I believe that many Government schools also have such provisions. Now only tuition fee is not charged from the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but all other fees are charged from them. Then what would be the fate of the provision for providing free and compulsory education without any caste bias to all the children upto the age of 14 years. Only tuition fee is not charged from the children belonging to

Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes and all other fee are being charged from them if the school is providing any other facility. Ultimately this results in a situation where such students are not able to pursue their education. Now it has been made a fundamental right, but still certain difficulties are being faced in its implementation. In many families, parents are old and weak and are not able to do any work. They do not have money also. Therefore, their children can not go to schools. Even if free and compulsory education is provided then what they would eat at home. In fact, there are many children upto the age of 14 years in several families who are poor, their parents are weak and unemployed. That is why, such children who ought to be in schools and get educated to take this nation ahead on the path of progress are being deprived of education and then they start doing some or the other odd jobs. Arrangements should therefore be made for providing education to children as well as for providing means of livelihood to their families then only it would be possible to implement this constitutional provision and such children would get educated otherwise they would continue to remain out of school.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is provision for pension for old people. The amount of pension they receive is not even sufficient to make both their ends meet then sending children to school is out of question. The Government should therefore formulate an action plan for providing means of livelihood to such families so as to enable them send their children to schools. Otherwise education might have become a fundamental right and the Constitution also may have been amended but it is not being enforced properly. Therefore keeping all this in view, the Government should formulate some action plan. It is also required to be included in the eleventh five-year plan which is in its final stage. We may dream of becoming a developed nation and may achieve development in other fields but as long as we do not achieve the target of 100 per cent literacy, it does not matter much whether we are a developed nation or not. Therefore, while extending my support to his resolution I would like to request the government to make necessary provisions in the annual budget as well as Five Year Plan for providing free and compulsory

education upto higher secondary level. The Government should also set certain targets and formulate action plan to achieve 100 per cent literacy in the country.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as has been mentioned and provided in the Constitution, arrangements should be made for providing education, employment and health care to all but if we assess the situation today after 60 years of independence, particularly in the field of education, the issue which has been discussed often here in this House. We find that the situation is still grave. Today, I rise to support the resolution introduced by Shri Ram Kripal Yadavji for providing free and compulsory education to children up to higher secondary level. Today, we can see that we have not progressed as much as we should have in the field of education. The Government has made provisions from time to time in its budget and we have also resolved to provide free education to the children between the age of 6 to 14 years and this target is proposed to be achieved by the year 2010 or 2012. It can not be said to what extent success can be achieved in this regard.

As far as providing free and compulsory education is concerned, some hon. Members have mentioned that everything is said and done in speeches, in discussions, on papers and in the budget but if we want to see the actual position, then we must visit the villages to take stock of the ground situation. A provision of Rs. 10671 crore has been made under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and it can be implemented only if there is co-ordination between the union and State Governments. Many states have sought funds under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. Recently, grants of the education development have been sanctioned and I was going through that report. Under this, 75 per cent grant is contributed by the Union Government and the remaining 25 per cent is to be provided by the State Government. It is true that different states are confronted with different problems. In view of this the State Government should not be forced to make full contribution. In case there is lack of education there, then, we must provide additional funds. The budgetary provision for the year 2007-08 has been made but it has been observed under the Sarva Shiksha

[Shri Shalendra Kumar]

Abhiyan that situation in Uttrakhand state is deteriorating. In the year 2007-08 a provision of Rs. 3400 crores was made for Mid-Day meal scheme. The Government of Delhi has made arrangements for providing mid-day meal to the students upto 12th class. But, it has been observed that 8% children go back to their home after having their meals. It is true and many hon. Members have also said that one should visit the villages in order to know the reality and one can see that room has been provided for everyone related to the field of education—the teachers, the students and utensils and the cook have also been arranged but even then the teaching staff gets involved in cooking food and children roam around. They do not come for getting the education but for the mid-day meal. This is the reason, why teachers are not able to teach the children there. Therefore, there is need to seriously ponder over it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh rank lowest on education development index. The Central Government should, therefore, pay special attention to it. Similarly Kerala, Delhi, Pudducherry, Chandigarh rank higher on the education development index. We have to see and many hon. Members have also said that different states have their different circumstances and problems. As per figures for the year 2006, the number of children not going to school was 70 lakhs while the reality is different. If one visits rural areas, it can be seen that the condition of children is very bad. The biggest challenge before us is SC, ST and minority children. One can visit the residential area of these children and see the children of around 5 years age who have received a little education keep playing. The children of minority communities stand on their own feet in early age but they do not get education. We should accept this challenge and pay special attention to the education of the children of SCs, STs and minorities since this is their biggest problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, provision has been made to open 2,40,000 schools in 2006. Any number of schools may be opened but efforts should be made to ensure

that even a single child is not deprived of education. Until this is ensured, our campaign cannot be successful at all. The Government has made a provision for construction of 1,57,000 school buildings and were there are more children 6,50,000 rooms. The Government has issued instructions for installation of hand pumps in order to provide drinking water facility in 1,57,000 schools. But, usually it happens that a child goes out to drink water and instead of coming back to class he goes directly to his home. When I visit rural areas, I see that hand pumps are out of order. Hand pumps have not been provided everywhere for providing drinking water while it is a basic need and the children should get this facility. We have not been able to provide this facility till now and thus there is need to pay attention to it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has mentioned in the budget about making provision for toilets in the schools. You can see that the country with a population of more than 100 crores is loggig far behind. Attention should be paid to these basic amenities. According to the figures presented by him, we have not been able to achieve the targets. Our goal is to provide free and compulsory education in all the states. The goal cannot be achieved until children are provided education upto higher secondary and middle classes. Through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister that Kendriya Vidyalayas should be opened at places which fulfil these norms. If the Government intends to do this, then, I request that atleast one Kendriya Vidyalaya should be opened at the block level. If it is not possible, then arrangement should be made to open one at Tehsil level so that the poor children or those belonging to SCs, STs or minorities can get education in Kendriya Vidyalayas and benefit from it. The norms specify what number of Central/State Government employees can availed and at what distance from a city. We, will have to take Kendriya Vidyalayas to rural areas also. Only then will our campaign be successful and we would be able to make everyone literate.

With these words, I fully support the resolutions moved by Ram Kripal Yadavji regarding free and compulsory education upto senior secondary level and conclude.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to take part in this debate on the Private Members' Resolution moved by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav on a very important topic, that is, free and compulsory education up to higher education level. I congratulate Shri Ram Kripal Yadav for bringing this Resolution before this august House.

Education is an important tool in social change. If you look at various communities or societies which attained a high social status or development, you can see that those communities gave importance to education, and that is how their children have attained social development in their lives. Those societies that did not pay much attention to the education of children are lagging behind now. Therefore, education forms the cornerstone of social change or development of the society.

The forefathers of our country, when they formulated the Constitution, have mentioned in the Directive Principles that within ten years from the date of adoption of the Constitution, the State should provide free and compulsory education to children up to 14 years of age. After India became a Republic, more than five-and-a-half decades are over. If you look at the statistics concerning our nation, even after 60 years of our Independence, the literacy level in various States is not more than 50 per cent; if you talk about the country as a whole, the literacy rate is not more than 50 per cent.

There are variations in these statistics concerning various States because certain States, as our hon. Member has mentioned, especially southern States like Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have attained very good literacy rates. It is because they have given more attention to start new educational institutions, to open more schools or colleges, and also, formal as well as informal educational facilities were there. In addition, Christian Missionaries have done a great job in the field of education and social service. They have started schools along with the Churches. So, the children belonging to not only the Christian community but also other communities got the opportunity to study and as

a result, in all those places where the schools are there and where the children had the opportunity to study attained a higher social status.

Sir, we are now in the era of globalization. Societies are changing drastically as tremendous changes are occurring in the society. We should pay greater attention to the education of children. Children belonging to SCs, STs, OBCs and other socially and economically backward communities have not got enough schools to study in, schools with teachers and all other facilities which can identify the talents of children and nurture them. We have to pay more attention to our education system to ensure that children develop into all-rounded human beings.

Various types of educational systems exist in the country today. There is no uniformity across the country as far as educational systems and standards are concerned. There are Government schools, Government-aided schools, and the so-called public schools. Different sets of syllabus are prescribed by different Boards like CBSE, ICSE and other State Boards. So, there is no uniformity in the curricula for students also. The condition of Government schools in many cases is very pathetic. As Shri Ram Kripal Yadav has rightly pointed out, many Government schools do not even have a building and there is a serious lack of basic minimum facilities.

We all know of the fire accident that took place in a school in Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu in which a large number of students lost their lives. This is the state of our schools in various parts of the country. Many public schools also do not have proper sanitation facilities. It has been pointed out that in certain States the high dropout rate of girl children is primarily due to a lack of proper sanitation facilities. We should see as to how we can provide these facilities in public schools also.

The guidelines prescribed under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are not suitable for development of Central schools. A study found out that spending the funds allotted under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is very difficult because of the guidelines prescribed for spending under that scheme. These guidelines should be amended to suit the specific needs of the States. Funds under this

[Dr. K.S. Manoj]

programme could be utilised for construction of classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and sanitation facilities. The scope of utilisation of funds under this scheme should be widened so that prompt and adequate utilisation of funds can be made.

Though the UPA Government has put more emphasis on education, even now public investment in education is meagre. We have imposed a certain percentage of education cess on income tax. That fund should be utilised for improving the state of education in the country. We should also increase public investment in education. Now, it is less than two per cent of the GDP. It should be enhanced gradually. We are in the process of formulating the 11th Plan. In the 11th Plan, we should enhance the public investment for education because education is a tool for social change and social development. More emphasis should be given to provide more funds for education. Even though we are providing educational facilities to those belonging to SCs, STs, Backward Class communities, Adivasis, and people living in the coastal areas, they are not keen to come to the schools. There should be some means to attract students to the schools.

We have introduced the Mid-Day Meal Scheme for the students. In my State, we are giving lump sum grants to the students to those belonging to the coastal areas, that is, fishermen community, SCs and STs, as a means of promotion to attract students to the schools. In the majority of cases, these poor fishermen are not attending the schools. The education of children of these fishermen become a burden on the lives of their families. Most of the days of the year, fishermen do not have a catch. So, when there is a season, these children are also forced to go to the sea. They do not pay much attention to go to the school. In order to attract these children to go to the schools, Mid-Day Meal Programme, lump sum grants, certain scholarships would be of much help.

Even though 'education' is in the Concurrent List, some States are providing these sorts of promotional facilities. The Central Government should think of giving

some assistance to the States in providing lump sum grants, certain scholarships to the weaker sections of the society like SCs, STs, OBCs and socially and educational backward communities, and the children of the fishermen and Adivasis so that they are attracted to come to the school.

In the Government schools, among the teaching faculties, usually in the old days, more good teachers were there. Still they are there. Even though public and private schools may claim that they are imparting good education, if you take the quality of the teachers teaching in these schools, teachers in Government schools are better than the teachers in the private schools. Even though we are getting good teachers, unless good facilities are provided in schools, good education cannot be imparted. Hence, good facilities should be provided by the Government.

Now, we are in the era of EDUSAT which is used in the Government schools. Hon. Members of Parliament allocate funds from their MPLAD Fund for the construction of classrooms, construction of school buildings, providing computers, EDUSAT, Smart class rooms etc. This should be universalised. The recent advances in the science and technology also should be incorporated into these schools from the lower level and lower class itself. The Government should utilise these advancements in the science and technology and with the help of EDUSAT system, imparting of education can be made interesting, which would help bring children to the schools. Hence, I would suggest that these sorts of things should be included in our education system.

I want to emphasize that more public investment should be provided to give compulsory education to the students. So, I once again congratulate Shri Ram Kripal Yadav for bringing forward this very important Resolution for discussion in the House.

In the 60th year of Independence, we should think of giving free, compulsory and uniform education to all the children of our schools. In the Constitution, it is mentioned that up to 14 years, there should be free and compulsory education, by which time, a child will reach tenth standard. But here, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav is

demanding free and compulsory education up to higher secondary level, which is the Plus Two level. Nowadays, Plus Two is the basic educational qualification for all. So, we should emphasize that there should be free, compulsory and uniform education up to 16 years of age or up to higher secondary level and that more investment from public exchequer should be given to the educational field.

With these words, I once again support the Private Members' Resolution moved by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since there is no Panel of Chairmen available, with the kind permission of the House, I request Shri C.K. Chandrappan to take the Chair for some time. Afterwards, I will relieve him; so, now, with the permission of the House, I will request Shri C.K. Chandrappan to occupy the Chair.

16.57 hrs.

[SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN *in the Chair*]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I stand here to deliberate on the Resolution which has been moved by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, stating very clearly that this House should urge upon the Government to take effective steps to provide free, compulsory and uniform education up to higher secondary level in this country. These are the three major aspects on which he has dealt with in this Resolution.

The Resolution moved by Shri Yadav is no doubt a very significant one. The intention of the mover of the Resolution is notable and praiseworthy, no doubt. But the implementation part is fraught with impediments. I am sure, he is aware of that. Some months ago, we were informed that the Union HRD Minister had succeeded in convincing the Planning Commission to support the idea of a Central legislation to operationalize the fundamental right to education. It is likely that the HRD Ministry's argument that the right to education would be an instrument for ensuring systematic changes at no extra cost helped convince the Planning Commission.

The 86th Constitutional Amendment giving every

child between the age of six and 14 years, the right to free and compulsory education—article 21 (a)—was passed in December 2002. However it is yet to be notified as the enabling 'right to education' is to be enacted. We are informed that the Planning Commission has endorsed the idea. On the cost of implementation of the legislation, the Ministry has worked out that it would require Rs. 1,50,000 crore in the 11th Plan period. I would like to understand from the Government the position today. Would the Minister clarify this?

17.00 hrs.

Much has been said, Mr. Chairman, about the vital significance of education in shaping the destiny of a country or a society. Undoubtedly, the crucial role played by good education in our lives cannot be over-emphasised. Successive Central as well as State Governments in the country have been reiterating their resolve to ensure the provision of quality education for all. Long back great thinker Aristotle had said:

"All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depend on the education of youth."

But what is the ground reality? According to the Elementary Education in India 2005-06 Report, over 32,000 schools or almost three per cent schools do not have a single student. The survey covered over 11 lakh schools in 35 States and Union Territories found that Karnataka was the worst with almost 8000 schools without a single student. The survey also found that six per cent schools, mostly in Bihar—the State from where the mover of this Resolution comes—Delhi, Kerala and even Uttar Pradesh had less than 25 students. About 23,000 schools do not have a single teacher and more than a lakh of schools had just one teacher. This is the abominable situation of our education. The survey was conducted only in 11 lakh schools.

With a quarter of the population of our country still illiterate, millions of children still out of schools, this shameful waste of precious resource does make the tax-payer and conscious citizens furious with anger. That is a good thing because things will change through initiatives of the informed sections of the society.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

Once Shri Amartya Sen had described this as "astonishing neglect of education in India". For 50 years in Independent India the Government-sponsored education remained stunted in growth and development. It was only in the beginning of the nineties that we woke up to the seriousness of the issue. The Supreme Court of India in its historic judgement in 1993 has held that all citizens have a fundamental right to education up to the age of 14 years. One reason why the neglect happened was the general mis-conception and I would emphasise 'the general mis-conception' that literacy was a corollary of economic well being and that the improvement in one would automatically get reflected in the other. It has long been held that poverty is a double-edged sword. The parents could neither spend on the school-related expenditure nor could they manage to make both ends meet without the child's earnings. This is the perception which is still carried.

But a lot of surveys have belied this impression. Schemes like Mid-Day Meal which even today many hon. Members have supported, free distribution of books and dresses were launched to help poor parents. An Act was passed banning child labour. This was expected to improve school attendance. Subsequent research findings of various surveys, however, firmly establish that poverty does not play the decisive role. Statistical data from two States—Kerala and Uttar Pradesh—demonstrates very clearly that it is a myth. In both the States the proportion of children below the poverty line is the same but whereas Kerala has achieved 100 per cent success, Uttar Pradesh recorded a dismal 40 per cent. Another important fact brought out by these surveys has been that there is a significant group of children which is neither at school nor is working and that there is a heavy drop out. But the biggest surprise was that 98 per cent of the parents of boys and 89 per cent of the parents of girls who were themselves poor and illiterate said that they wanted their boys and girls to study as long as they could and all of them said that the drop out happened because of the low quality of education provided in the Government schools with education becoming a meaningless exercise for them. Child labour

in default is growing and I hope the Government takes this into consideration.

What is the status of primary and secondary education in India today? The Resolution says that we will have uniform education. We have three types of institutions today in primary, elementary and secondary education. One is the private schools which we call the public schools, another is the schools run by religious institutions and endowments such as Vivekanand Siksha Kendra, Saraswati Vidya Mandir, Satya Sai Siksha Kendra, etc. These are different types of schools. The third category is the Government schools. These are the broad categories. Most of the second and third category schools are affiliated to the State education boards whereas most of the private schools which we call the public schools are affiliated to CBSE or ICSE which is a national body. The public schools are run purely on commercial basis. The other type of schools about which I have just mentioned are recognised by the State education boards. Here I would mention what the Government is doing. The Government is pumping in money through budget to expand the Government schools, to expand the primary, secondary and higher schools run by the Government. Who comes to these schools? I will come to that aspect a little later. But here the underlying belief is that the private schools exploit poor people while the Government schools provide education free or at a low cost. This is also another fallacy which we carry. And the result of Government schools is often poor. Why is it so? These two questions have to be answered.

The first problem mentioned by teachers of government schools was that parents do not give encouragement to their children to study at home but parents of students of private schools are equally unresponsive to the needs of students who are studying in public schools.

A related issue is that of prosperity. It is commonly believed that poor people send their children to government schools because of the low fees charged there but this difference does not seem to exist in rural areas.

Another complaint of government teachers was that adequate number of teachers is not appointed. While this is factually true, the argument fails on comparative basis. The student-teacher ratio in Government Schools was 15 against 19 for private schools.

A question arises as to what can be the reason for poor result. One factor is that Government servants who form a large part of educated rural life send their children to private schools. Only 26 per cent students studying in government schools hailed from families of Government servants against 54 per cent for private schools. Here is the dichotomy as to why we prefer it.

I would come to another interesting aspect. There is poor result about which there are a number of other points. I would not go into those aspects.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may have to conclude now. Though you are making a good speech, time constraint is there.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would only say that there is a conflict between the Constitution and our social traditions. I would request this House to deliberate on this basic aspect. There is a problem before us. How should we deal with this problem? The Constitution has mandated that the Government should make efforts to provide free school education to all children so that the poor people are not left behind. The State Governments have employed a large number of teachers for this purpose but the nature of Government bureaucracy is tyrannical. Government teachers have become an end in themselves. Their purpose is to secure higher salaries with lesser work. The ultimate administrative power in regard to government schools rests with the Secretary of Secondary Education who sits in the State Headquarters. He has no incentive to take action against defaulting teachers. I am dealing with the accountability part. To correct this, teachers should be made accountable to the community even for the results of those schools. Some State Governments are trying to give some responsibility of day-to-day monitoring to village level Parents Committee but this is not foolproof. A report has come out on how much is actually spent in a government school and a private school.

The Indian school education system is one of the largest in the world. For successful implementation of any educational programme, effective monitoring coupled with effective information system is also essential. What do we have today in our country to know how our educational system is running? There is one National University of Educational Planning and Administration. They have come out with a report, at the district level. This report is called District Information System for Education (DISE).

That is also now in place. One can find out how our system works. The western part of this world has been always trying to prove that India lags behind in matters of education. To some extent they are correct. But what we should not forget is that when those countries did not have a system of education, India already had a systemic boarding school. However, after sixty years of Independence, in India the literacy rate is 65.49 per cent which proves that nearly 35 per cent of the population is still illiterate.

It must be realised by a developing country like India that the great need of the hour is to turn from single-track educational system to a double-track or a multi-track educational system which can provide diversified vocational courses, which can really prepare higher secondary students for life and make education job oriented and productive.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mahtab, please cooperate. I have given you a lot of indulgence because you are making a good speech.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Let me conclude by dealing with secondary education.

The country's educational system is to be re-organised. These are the suggestions which I would like to make in terms of job orientation, work experience, development of skills, and attitudes that would encourage self-employment. It is time we learnt to give credence to indigenous system of education. Each country has different needs and over-emphasis on Western modes of education will prove detrimental to the fabric of our country.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

I need not go into the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which was launched in 2001.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mahtab, you have taken 20 minutes. Please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: In 2001, the number of "out of school children" in India was estimated to be about 39 million. In 2005, that number is around ten million. Are we to understand that Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is meeting the target? The general perception is "No." If it is so, where does the problem lie? The problem lies with the drop outs. Of course, the CAG Report also talks about it.

The annual status on education, a yearly survey, conducted by an NGO reveals that at least fifty per cent of these children cannot read a simple two-line passage. About 65 per cent of the targeted population currently cannot do a simple two-digit division. There is no point in pushing the children into schools, who would be considered literates by the census, but would not be suitable for employment. Whom do you hold responsible for this failure?

To develop infrastructure, the Centre has increased the allocation for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The poor results lead to two conclusions. The first conclusion is that the Government is not always the best agency to run schools. The second conclusion is that there is lack of accountability.

One of the solutions could be the change in the way the Government is currently financing education. That is why the system of vouchers has been propounded. Now, the time has come to develop skills about which I had mentioned earlier.

An attempt should be made to have more number of ITIS in each block of this country so that a person who passes out from class eight can go up to class XII in an ITIS and get trained in skill with all the progress that is taking place. The financial and technical support also should be provided to the States.
...(Interruptions)

Sir, the Kothari Commission long back had suggested that six per cent of the GDP should be invested in education. However, we are yet to achieve that. The UPA Government in their Common Minimum Programme had suggested to achieve this target. Now, three or four years of the UPA Government have passed. What attempt has been made in this regard?
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahtab, please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, a sum of Rs. 15,000 crores is being collected as education cess. So, there is a need to include the higher secondary classes in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I am concluding within two minutes.

Sir, while concluding my deliberation on the issue, I would like to say that when we argue for free education, when we talk of compulsory education and uniform education, we are not aware of the ground realities and the history of our educational system in this country. I am not in favour of free education. Voucher system can be experimented in a selected manner. We cannot have uniform education in our country. It is an Utopian idea no doubt, but very difficult to implement in this country.

Sir, with these words, I conclude.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Emakulam): Sir, it is a strange irony that in the 60th year of our Independence, we are trying to urge upon the Government the necessity for providing free and compulsory education up to the higher secondary level.

Sir, in the Constitution, there was a time-bound mandate in the form of Directive Principle that we should provide free and compulsory education to children up to 14 years and the time-frame was ten years. Even after six decades we are not in a position to implement fully or to a satisfactory degree that mandate. That mandate in the form of a Directive Principle was later

elevated by the Supreme Court to the status of a fundamental right.

Sir, as Shri Mahtab has just now pointed out, 35 per cent of the Indian population still remains illiterate. But, at the same time, we cannot equate literacy with education. People may be literate but that does not necessarily mean that they are educated. Now, after having failed to comply with the Constitutional mandate of providing free and compulsory education up to the secondary level, we are discussing here the necessity for providing free and compulsory education up to the Higher Secondary level. Every ambitious dream or project is good and at one time we may be able to achieve that target. But, Sir, we have to examine this issue in the context of still persisting problem of child labour. Though there is law prohibiting or abolishing child labour, the practice of child labour still persists. Unless we keep our children away from work places and made them compulsorily attend schools, we cannot achieve this target. We have very miserably failed in providing basic infrastructure for education. The condition of our public and government schools is very deplorable.

So, I urge upon the Government to have some urgent intervention to provide basic infrastructure in the field of education. Despite having ambitious projects like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Operation Black Board and so many other projects, the conditions of our schools and our educational system are still lacking in basic necessities.

Unless we provide education to the public, every other right mentioned in the Constitution will become meaningless. Article 19 (1) (a) is a very important fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution. But if a person is uneducated, if a person is illiterate, how can he exercise that power of freedom of speech and expression. So is the case with every other right mentioned in the Constitution.

We always say that India is emerging. But India will not emerge and become a great country with 35 per cent of her population remaining illiterate. We have the Sachar Committee Report before us. How can we improve the conditions of the Muslim community unless

every Muslim boy and Muslim girl is going to school. We have to ensure that every Muslim boy and girl is going to school. That is very important.

I need not deliberate on the importance of education here. But in this age of globalisation, one disturbing feature is that there is a deliberate attempt on the part of the State to withdraw from the field of education. I am coming from an area where we could achieve a remarkable progress in the field of education. But even there, including the State of Kerala, the present attempt of the State is to withdraw from the field of education. Some time back we heard a very disturbing phrase called closure of uneconomic schools. Running of a school is evaluated in economic terms. We are treating it as economically unviable. We feel it should be profit making. Despite all these considerations, the State must register its powerful presence in the field of education especially in this era of globalisation where education is being commercialised and poor children, poor sections of society, are being deprived of the benefits of education. They are driven away from the field of education like Eklavya. Eklavyas are still forced to remain in the outskirts or at the backyard. We have to bring those deprived sections of society to the schools because schools are Temples of Learning and Temples of Light. In this age, India is emerging, India is progressing and India is becoming a great country. We are very much proud of that. We are expecting that moment. But, at the same time, India is being divided into two: an area of darkness and an area of light. We have to take urgent measures to bring the light of learning and education shining throughout India. For that purpose, we have to ensure that all our children are going to school and they are getting good education.

Though I appreciate the good intention of the mover of this Resolution Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, yet I am in doubt that it is an ambitious dream. We have not yet succeeded in implementing the time-bound constitutional mandate of providing free and compulsory education up to the Secondary Level. So, I hope, at least, this discussion and this Resolution will prompt the Government to take urgent steps to provide free and compulsory education to every Indian child at least up to the secondary stage.

[Translation]

*SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI (Rajahmundry): Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I support the resolution moved by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. Illiteracy is one of the serious problems our country is facing today. Whatever be the degree of development, the benefits can be extended to poor people only when our society is educated. We can see that, though there are many states with per capita income more than that of Kerala, we find the percentage of the people living below the poverty line in Kerala to be low. The reason is that the Kerala achieved cent per cent literacy. Kerala has ensured that all could read and write. After looking at such example, there is a need to follow those measures to improve literacy rate. After 60 years of independence, we still find the need to ensure that there is no illiterate in our country, then only it would be a real independence to our country. Today, our country has emerged as an economic power. In the years to come, there will be only three super powers, US, China and India. This fact is being accepted widely throughout the world. On one side, we see this claim and on the other we find hard realities. Even today, 70% of our population live with less than Rs. 20 per day. This report tabled recently in the Parliament makes us feel ashamed. What are the reasons behind such a situation? By implementing National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which in itself is a big challenge, the Government is ensuring that there should not be a village where the people get employment for less than 100 days. With similar spirit and will, we should take a decision to ensure 100% literacy, only then, I believe that our country would witness real progress and real development. To generate funds towards these programmes, earlier also I have given some suggestions. I do not know why it is taking time? We should withdraw subsidies to rich people and utilise those funds for the development of poor people. For example, all Members of Parliament, Prime Minister, Chief Minister and other constitutional functionaries including the President are using subsidized domestic gas. I don't think that we need gas subsidy of Rs. 150, but still we are taking that subsidy. If we withdraw gas subsidy to all the tax assesses in our country with an income of more than Rs. 4 lakhs per annum, we can

generate Rs. 6000 crores. The Government should immediately decide whether persons having more than Rs. 4 lakh income per annum, must have gas subsidy or not? By withdrawing similar subsidies to rich people, the funds thus generated should be utilized to uplift poor people. We should ensure every poor child in urban and rural areas to attend the schools. Apart from providing free education to the poor children, food, clothing and hostel facilities should also be provided. We should also warn parents that if they do not send their children to schools, there will be a curb on the benefits like free housing and ration cards. In the days to come, our country will develop, along with its development, poverty will also rise. This is not right while directing our country in the path of development, we should ensure that every boy and girl child attend school up to 10+2 level. This is a big challenge right in front of us today. If the Government can accept this challenge I am sure that in the coming years we will turn to a golden chapter in the Indian history. Not taking much time, I conclude expressing my support to this resolution.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a very important motion. I want to thank Shri Ram Kripal Yadavji that he has brought before the Parliament a very important resolution on which we are having a discussion today. On many occasions, it has been resolved in this House that we will make this country a great nation and will address its shortcomings. The biggest drawback of our country, as many of my predecessors have said, is that even today our country does not have 100 per cent literacy. The Government figure for literacy is 65 per cent. I doubt that hardly 20-25 per cent or even less than that would be fully educated. But, with regard to the manner in which our country and the Government remained obsessed with literacy, I would like to say that literacy programme has been made instead of chalking out a programme for education. Under it efforts are made to ensure that instead of making thumb impression a person should learn to put his signatures. It is unfortunate. In 'Dakar Declaration' in 2002, the Government of India had for the first time resolved to make all the children educated by 2015. A legislation was made for the purpose through an amendment to the constitution. This law does not

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

exist yet, only amendment to the constitution has been made. The next point is that the rest of the fundamental rights are binding on the government but this fundamental right depends on the Government. It is very strange and shows the intention of the Government.

Literacy and poverty have been the most selling slogans politically in the last 60 years. Make people literate and remove poverty. Now it has been proved that poverty exists in our country because people are illiterate. Once I said in this House that it is a relative term. We compare poverty and richness. It is a psychologist language that someone is poor and someone is rich. It is a relative term. People of India are not poor they are only under protective. Why? Because he is not educated and remains sick. He has not been able to understand the employment potential till now. For him, the whole world is mysterious. It was the responsibility of the Government of India. Do you know what happened after the amendment of the Constitution? Constitution was amended through this Parliament and not a single vote was cast against it. I am a witness to it. Even after this, Compulsory Education Bill has not been introduced till date.

17.39 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

This is being kicked around between the Union Government and the State Governments. It is being said that State Governments should shoulder this responsibility. We are clear in our minds that since it is a constitutional amendment and each child in the country has a fundamental right to education under the Constitution, so the responsibility for safeguarding this right lies completely with the Union Government. The Union Government should shoulder this responsibility whatever be the cost.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say many things but that is a different issue, hence I will not go into details. My predecessors have already discussed this issue and I agree with them. 54 per cent of the country's population consists of children and youth as on date. It can be safely estimated that 85 per cent of the population of the country would comprise children and youth in the next 15 years and only 15 per cent of the population

would comprise old people. The situation is reverse of what is happening in the rest of the world. The rest of the world would comprise of 55 per cent old people and 45 per cent youth and children. What could this lead to? It is clear that men and women from India will migrate and serve humanity. Is the Government ready for this scenario; is our society ready for it? We should have an education system which helps to create good citizens. We should make sure that they get a universal education. A caste system has been created in the field of education as well. Influential and affluent people provide expensive education to their children, send them to convent schools, send them abroad for studies but children from poor and middle classes are forced to study in government schools. My predecessor has already said that the standard of education is very poor. I know it from personal experience. The Governments have come to understand that when teachers do not take interest in their work they should not be offered permanent appointments. They keep the teachers as para-teachers. As long as the appointment is temporary, the teachers would remain diligent. An soon as they are given permanent appointment they would become lax. This is such a sad commentary on the prevailing situation. The Government is responsible for the education of each and every child. We have a casual attitude towards education. This attitude is not pardonable. The government is pleased that it is completing the infrastructure whereas the real need is to make up the deficiency of 10 lakh teachers in the country. Many young persons in the country are unemployed. It is a matter of regret that on the one hand we ask for money from the World Bank and on the other we spend one lakh seventy thousand crore rupees on constructing roads. There is nothing wrong in doing so. Crores of rupees may be spent on building infrastructure. Crores of rupees are embezzled, crores of rupees are fleeced by corporate houses which do not repay outstanding dues to the Government but when it comes to spending on education the Government feels constrained. Why is it so? The government is finding it difficult to spend money for creating a uniform educational system. My demand is that there should be a common educational system, a universal education system under which children belonging to all classes, be it the child of a DM, Collector or peon, should study

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

together. This will raise the standard of education in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, everyone knows that people who are affluent spend a lakh rupees per annum for sending their children to a big schools where proper education is provided but the children who study in Government schools do not even know the alphabets and they do not know why they have to study. When I went to a village and asked the people why they did not send their children to school, they asked me that what was the use. It is not as if their children would become collectors if they went to school. In our country the productivity and potential of a person is decided on the basis of his social status. The poor are forced to carry on as labourers. Government schools provide no basics to enable them to progress. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this Resolution is over. There are three more speakers who have yet to speak on this. We may extend the time of the Resolution by half-an-hour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude; there are other speakers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: In my opinion, every individual who has studied up to 5th or 6th class in rural areas, should be given a certificate of a skilled worker, no matter if he is a labourer or doing earth-work, by the Government of India. If it is a certificate of his productivity, be it by virtue of his primary education or junior or high school level education. Then only it would be meaningful. If education is not going to change his socio-economic status, he will have no interest in primary education. Through you, I would like to say that the Knowledge Commission of the Government of India aims to develop India as a knowledge based economy, but, its responsibility rests with the Government of India. It should remove inequalities and establish a common education system right from rural areas to urban areas.

The rural kids should have no inferiority complex that they have studied in village schools and urban children who have studied in good schools can speak better English and know many languages and thus they command an influence over the society. This This social inequality has weakened India to a great extent. How pitiable it is that the poor rural children who work very hard, even work in fields but fail to complete their education have to commit suicide. On the other hand, well educated persons, who are involved in betting and speculation in share market earn billions of rupees without owning any factory or producing anything. It is very unfortunate inequality which cannot be forgiven. I would urge the Government to frame a policy whereby every Indian citizen can be made a skilled person. I would like to say to the hon. Minister that our children, be they from rural background or urban background or tribal background, should be provided universal education and every hand should be made a skilled one. Let us remember that in the years to come crores of our children would go out to every corner of the world and serve mankind. The Government should make this aspect a part of our foreign policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that the reality of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has become public now. It is an adhoc plan. I have gone through CAG's report. The CAG has monitored performance of SSA. It is quite unfortunate that the government is satisfied by its performance. I would like to sound the government that the children in rural areas who have failed to have representation in our flourishing economy or polity have taken up arms. The Government should be seriously concerned about it. Again, I would strongly urge the Government to implement the provisions of compulsory Education Bill in letter and spirit and it is the responsibility of the Government of India to bear the entire expenses likely to be involved in it and the Government should prepare an education system which can make our children a complete man, a good professional who can go and serve in any part of the globe, create a knowledge based society and develop our India. Such education system should be developed without any delay and the hon. Minister should make declaration in the House to this effect so that our India can become a fully

developed nation as envisioned by our former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Thank you very much. I am happy to participate in the discussion raised by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. It actually gives the House an opportunity to discuss about the problem of education and the failure in that sphere.

It has been pointed out that in the Constitution, there was a mandate that within 10 years, education should be made universal and compulsory education should be provided to students up to the age of 14. That should have happened in 1958 or perhaps in 1962 in that case. Now, after 58 years of our Republic, we are once again discussing how to do this job.

Sir, one can understand that it is a Herculean task to educate India, a big country which has different cultures, so many languages, and all that. Even then, the founding fathers of our Constitution—they were great leaders of our freedom movement—thought that within 10 years it would have been possible for us to do that but we could not do that. Probably, here it is necessary to think of Mahatma Gandhi, who inspired this nation in such a manner that he could bring people forward to do things which they thought impossible before. Probably, we need another Mahatma Gandhi to inspire our people to carry this task also.

Sir, probably you might have heard about Ho-Chi-Minh. In the days of the Vietnam war, Vietnam was bombed by what was known as carpet bomb by the U.S. Ho-Chi-Minh gave a slogan to people that in one hand you take gun and defend your freedom and with the other hand you educate a child with a pen in your hand. You should know that that country did it. When that country became free from the American aggression, they were independent and they were literate.

Cuba is not a country which is economically rich or in the ladder of economic achievement, it may be a country that is on the lower rung. But Cuba has achieved full literacy. Their health care is very good. This is accepted by the United Nations. It was a miracle. In a Russian rocket, they could send a woman to the space,

and that woman was illiterate before she was trained and taken to that level.

So, what I am trying to say is this. Kerala has been cited as an example. It is because Kerala is economically very backward when compared to other Indian States but Kerala could achieve full literacy and also very good situation in the field of education.

What was there and what is not here is this. There is a determination. There is a political will to do that. That is lacking at the Centre. That determination and that political will are lacking.

Sir, then probably, there is a need to inspire people to do a certain thing. That is why, I mentioned Mahatma Gandhi at the beginning. They have Shri Narayana Guru. Siva Giri and all that are in our Chairman's constituency. He was a saint who started with erecting temples and all that. After a number of temples were made, then he said: "Let us now start *Saraswati Chetra*, the temple of education, the temple of learning." He could inspire the people of Kerala in such a way that there was a spirit that they should educate themselves. That was done in all the Southern Indian States. In Tamil Nadu, you will also see Periyar who inspired the Dravidian people. He also was a saintly person who told people that they could move forward only with education. That is probably lacking in our country today. So, I think that a political will is required, the institutional guarantee is required.

This is a manifestation of poverty—illiteracy, lack of education and all that. Here, two Reports were mentioned during the course of the discussion. One is the Sachhar Committee Report and the other is the Dr. Arjun Sengupta Committee Report. Dr. Arjun Sengupta presented a Report on the conditions of the unorganised sector. We have got only the excerpts of it. Our population is largely poverty-stricken. About 394 million people, that means, nearly 35 crore of Indian people are the people living with a meagre income as per the Report of Dr. Arjun Sengupta, which would vary from Rs. 6 to Rs. 20 a day. The poor man cannot think of sending his child to an educational institution. He can only think in terms of how he would be able to guarantee the next meal. So, in that situation if an opportunity

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

comes whereby his child is getting some kind of a job or some kind of an income, he would prefer that, so that the other children and the child himself would have a little meal.

So, this kind of an appalling poverty and deprivation is a problem.(Interruptions) Yes, some people are even forced to indulge in prostitution, drug-trafficking etc. If you look at the poverty, in his Report Dr. Arjun Sengupta points out that poverty can be approached from different angles. Nearly 90 per cent of the minority community, specially the Muslims belong to that category of poverty-stricken people. More than 90 per cent of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes communities belong to the poverty-stricken people. The fishermen, who live in the coastal areas also belong to the poverty-stricken people.

Therefore, when poverty is so rampant among palpable sections of the community, whether the Government has any policy of approaching specially those sections of the people to promote education among them. That is the main question. I do not think that the Government has that policy.

Here, many people pointed out during the course of the discussion that there should be a universal method of imparting education at the primary and secondary levels. Here, rich people have got special schools where only rich can go. If you can afford, then only you can go. There are schools where mediocrity in every sphere remains. The Government schools are very poor in most of the States. So, there should be a standard provided to this education. There should be a law by which one should prevent that gap that rich and poor should study in different types of schools. It cannot be allowed. It is pointed out that the children of Ministers and MPs etc., go to such special types of schools. That should not be there.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: It is a new caste system.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : In whichever way you may describe it, but that should not be there. There should be a universal education.

18.00 hrs.

Sir, I may take a few more minutes' time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you not concluding?

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I will not conclude now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is already 6 p.m.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: So, I will speak on the next day. I will continue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you can continue your speech next time.

Now, if you all agree, I can take up 'Zero Hour'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it is 'Zero Hour'. Be brief and do not make a lengthy speech.

Now Shri Shailendra Kumar to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for having given me time to speak. As a consequence of the recent developments in Nepal, Madheshis have started fleeing from the Terai region, as they are very scared. These Madheshis have Indian roots and mostly belong to the Awadh region. Maoists are terrorizing and victimizing them. Madheshis are congregating in large numbers in the border areas of the country. Nearly forty thousand Madheshis have sought refuge with the Indian Army. This is a matter of concern for the country. This will also create difficulties for the country. I would like to say to the Union Government that if it does not intervene in Nepal's affairs then border areas of India would become sanctuaries for Nepali citizens. In the latest incident refugees held demonstrations at Balrampur station and before the district officer of Siddharth Nagar district and demanded the status of refugees and also basic facilities. This is also a question of the internal security of India.

Sir, through you, I would like to urge the Union Government to intervene in the matter, ensure security of Madheshis and take initiative to establish law and order in Nepal.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir I am grateful for being given the opportunity to speak. I would like to bring to the notice of the House, through you, that the sugarcane farmers are passing through a very bad phase to the extent that they are being forced to commit suicide due to monetary constraints, dishonour and debts. It is an unfortunate situation that our farmers are being forced to commit suicide and those who are into speculation or gambling in share market are becoming millionaires and billionaires. I feel that this is a serious concern. The Union Government needs to intervene immediately and amend the policy of sugar and sugarcane production to safeguard the lives of sugarcane farmers.

[English]

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Sir, thank you very much.

I am speaking on behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam headed by Mr. Vaiko, leader of the world Tamils.

Sir, Pollachi is the headquarters of my constituency and named as Pollachi Constituency and Kinathukadavu is a part of it which is very nearby. These two areas of railway lines were originally with the Madurai Division of Southern Railway.

While forming the new Salem Division of Railway in the Southern Railway, they have picked up these two areas of my constituency and handed over and united with Olavakode Division of Palakad. This act of picking up my constituency areas and attaching them with other Division in Kerala was not informed to me neither was I consulted. This act is an act of insult to me as representative of the people and to the people of the area which has been handed over to Olavakode Division.

People of the area also are feeling as if they have been insulted. While I welcome the formation of Salem Division which has been a long-felt need and request

of the people of that part of Tamil Nadu, but handing over my area to a Division in Kerala, is a discrimination shown and whoever shared that agreement on behalf of Tamil Nadu have betrayed my people and me as an active representative of that area.

Sir, some hon. Members of Parliament, unauthenticated, not belonging to my Party MDMK either, have signed the agreement which may not stand the test of time. There have been no precedents of this nature of agreement signed before by hon. Members of Parliament.

In the invitation card also my name was not included and I have filed a matter of privilege in the Lok Sabha Secretariat. I urge upon the Government to retain Pollachi and Kinathukadavu area either in Salem Division or as it was originally with Madurai Division of Indian Railways in Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Hon. Chairman, Sir, every successive year the number of road traffic accidents on National Highway No. 8 especially from the stretch which begins from Shahjahanpur to Behror is on an increase and in these fatal accidents lot of people die and there are quite a few whose lives could be saved, but cannot be saved because of improper medical care.

I would like to request the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the National Highway Authority of India to build a trauma hospital in Behror in my constituency on National Highway No. 8 so that the road traffic patients who are involved in accidents, the traumatized patients, can be taken care and given primary healthcare and then they could be transported to other major district hospitals or medical college hospitals. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Sir, the government has fixed the price of wheat at Rs. one thousand per quintal and has given a bonus of two hundred rupees per quintal. But the paddy farmers of the country had to face disappointment. Paddy farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Maharashtra particularly are resorting to suicide because the production cost of paddy is even higher than that of wheat. Earlier the

[Prof. MahadeoRao Shiwankar]

minimum support price of wheat used to be lesser than that of paddy. But in the last two years prices of paddy have fallen steeply and the price of wheat has sky rocketed. We do not resent that wheat producers have been benefited but paddy farming is turning out to be a loss-making proposition now-a-days so paddy growers should be paid according to the production cost they have to bear. Hence, I have given three suggestions—

- (i) Support price for paddy farmers be fixed at one thousand rupees per quintal.
- (ii) Till the time support price of paddy is fixed at one thousand rupees, the government should give a bonus of one hundred or two hundred rupees per quintal for paddy on the lines of bonus given for wheat. Till now, the government has raised Rs. 50 as bonus amount twice, that is to say it has given a bonus of hundred rupees. This has created a lot of dissatisfaction. I would like to urge the government to increase the bonus to at least two hundred rupees per quintal.
- (iii) Paddy farmers are committing suicide hence their loans should be waived off totally. Particularly, the loans of farmers in Vidarbha region in Maharashtra need to be waived off because those farmers have heavy debts on them. Paddy farmers have held protest marches. Agitations have been held in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab, and statewide bandhs have been called. In view of the said factors, the Union Government should give sympathetic consideration to the problems of paddy farmers and announce a bonus of two hundred rupees per quintal at an early date.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very serious

issue of increasing incidences of Cancer along the coast of Kerala, and especially, in my district Alleppey, and the need to provide Central assistance to strengthen the Oncology Department of the Alleppey Medical College.

Recently, a survey was conducted by the college students who belonged to the National Service Scheme of NSS College, Cherthala. They have showed a high incidence of Cancer disease along the coast of Alleppey. Another study conducted recently by the Regional Cancer Centre at Trivandrum also showed high incidence of certain peculiar type of Cancer disease along the coast. This issue needs more intensive study. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to conduct a detailed study about the high incidence of Cancer disease there.

Secondly, the Oncology treatment facility at the Alleppey Medical College is very meagre. We have only one Cobalt Radiation Machine, and that too is in a dilapidated condition. Therefore, the Oncology treatment facilities at the Alleppey Medical College should be strengthened. There are so many schemes under the Central Assistance Scheme for control of the Cancer disease. The Cancer Department of the Alleppey Medical College should also be included under such a scheme, and the facilities in the said college should also be strengthened to give treatment facilities to the people, especially, in Alleppey, which is a backward and coastal district. This will help the people of Alleppey.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 26th November 2007 at 1100 a.m.

18.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 26th November, 2007/ Agrayana 5, 1929 (Saka).

Annexure-I**Member-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question No.
1	2	3
1.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	123
2.	Shri Angadi, Suresh	124
3.	Shri Bhagora, Mahavir	129
4.	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	136
5.	Shri Bose, Subrata	127
6.	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	140
7.	Shri Gaddigoudar, P.C.	134
8.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	133
9.	Shri Gudhe, Anant	138
10.	Dr. Jatiya, Satyanarayan	129
11.	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	121
12.	Smt. Lakshmi, Botcha Jhansi	139
13.	Shri Maharia, Subhash	132
14.	Smt. Maheshwari, Kiran	130
15.	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	131
16.	Shri Masood, Rasheed	122
17.	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	125
18.	Shri Mohd., Tahir	132
19.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	130
20.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	122
21.	Shri Patel, Jivabhai A.	140
22.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	128
23.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	126

1	2	3
24.	Shri Rawale, Mohan	134
25.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	133
26.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	137
27.	Shri Shivanna, M.	135
28.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	121
29.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	137
30.	Shri Singh, Mohan	135
31.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	123
32.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	128
33.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	139
34.	Shri yadav, Ram Kripal	125

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question No.
1	2	3
1.	Shri Bhai Lal	1095
2.	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	1000
3.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	1012, 1132
4.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao Vithoba	991 993, 1021, 1045, 1105
5.	Dr. Agarwal, Dhirendra	1006, 1019, 1030, 1115, 1143
6.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	979, 1129, 1147, 1164
7.	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	976, 1077
8.	Shri Ajgalle, Guharam	1008

1	2	3
9.	Shri Angadi, Suresh	1021, 1060, 1077
10.	Shri Appadurai, M.	1001, 1073
11.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	1007, 1052, 1148, 1165
12.	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	992, 1123, 1141, 1166
13.	Shri Barman, Hiten	1025
14.	Shri Barman, Ranen	1010, 1113
15.	Shri Bellarmin. A.V.	1111
16.	Shri Bhagora, Mahavir	1048, 1136, 1161, 1175
17.	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	1027
18.	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	966, 1025, 1117
19.	Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	1025
20.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	979, 1037
21.	Shri Chaure, Bapu Hari	977, 1031, 1093
22.	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	1030, 1110, 1144
23.	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	975, 1025, 1039
24.	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	981, 1038
25.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	996, 1124
26.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	979
27.	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	980, 1030, 1066, 1143
28.	Shri Deora, Milind	964, 979, 1142

1	2	3
29.	Shri Deshmukh, Subhash Sureshchandra	995, 1049, 1145, 1162, 1176
30.	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	977, 1031, 1093
31.	Prof. Dhumal, Prem Kumar	969
32.	Shri Fanthome, Francis	1174
33.	Shri Gaddigoudar, P.C.	1034, 1068
34.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	1102
35.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	987, 1042, 1067, 1140, 1158
36.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	1017
37.	Smt. Gawali, Bhavana P.	977, 1031, 1093
38.	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	1077
39.	Shri Goyal, Surendra Prakash	983
40.	Shri Gudhe, Anant	1028
41.	Shri Jadhao, Prakash B.	1091, 1157
42.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	999, 1050, 1125
43.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	1003, 1106, 1128
44.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	960, 1131
45.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	1097
46.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	971, 1077, 1120
47.	Shri Kanodia, Mahesh	1092, 1114, 1124
48.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	972, 1018, 1057, 1076, 1085

1	2	3
49.	Shri Koshal, Raghuvveer Singh	1033, 1133, 1151, 1169
50.	Shri Kriplani, Srichand	1096
51.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	998, 1126
52.	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	1011, 1099
53.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	1009
54.	Shri Kumar, Shallendra	1030, 1099
55.	Shri Kunnur, Manjunath	1002
56.	Shri Maharia, Subhash	1001, 1119, 1134, 1153
57.	Shri Mahato, Narahari	1104
58.	Smt. Maheshwari, Kiran	1024, 1062, 1079
59.	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	1025, 1063
60.	Shri Majhi, Parsuram	1108, 1130
61.	Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	1099, 1121
62.	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	987, 1042, 1067, 1140, 1158
63.	Shri Masood, Raseed	1020, 1059, 1154, 1171
64.	Dr. Mediyam, Babu Rao	997, 1125, 1146
65.	Dr. Meinya, Thokchom	1140
66.	Shri Mohale, Punnu Lal	967, 1041, 1137, 1157, 1172
67.	Shri Mohd., Tahir	986, 1026, 1053, 1064
68.	Shri Mondal, Abu Ayes Mondal	985, 1122, 1139

1	2	3
69.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	1046, 1131, 1144
70.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	1087
71.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	1032, 1067, 1081, 1089
72.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	991, 1064, 1118
73.	Shri Pannian Ravindran	1037
74.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	1089
75.	Shri Paswan, Sukdeo	1004
76.	Shri Patel, Jivabhai A.	1019, 1030, 1066
77.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	1023, 1061, 1078, 1087
78.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	986
79.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	1013, 1054, 1149, 1157
80.	Shri Pradhan, Dharmendra	962, 1158
81.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	1035, 1066, 1155
82.	Shri Raj, Nakul Das	1094
83.	Shri Rajagopal, L.	963, 1015, 1025, 1056, 1150
84.	Shri Rajendran, P.	1103, 1121
85.	Prof. Ramadass, M.	961
86.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	1022
87.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	989, 1030
88.	Shri Rao, K.S.	1069, 1077
89.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	994, 1025, 1047, 1073

1	2	3
90.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	984, 1073, 1138, 1156
91.	Prof. Rawat, Rasa Singh	1101, 1104
92.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	970, 1044, 1135, 1159, 1173
93.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	1106
94.	Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu	990, 1043
95.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	959, 1030, 1035, 1082, 1155
96.	Shri Rijju, Kiren	962, 1158
97.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	968, 1016, 1072, 1084, 1168
98.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	974, 1127
99.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	1025, 1106
100.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	1051, 1074, 1086, 1163
101.	Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	1005, 1047
102.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	993, 1124, 1142, 1160, 1174
103.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	961, 1112
104.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	1019, 1058, 1152, 1170
105.	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	1143
106.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	1109
107.	Shri Singh, Mohan	1086
108.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	1098

1	2	3
109.	Shri Singh, Rakesh	1174
110.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	1014, 1055, 1075, 1167
111.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	1021, 1023, 1061, 1078
112.	Shri Singh, Uday	973, 996, 1053
113.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	980, 1086
114.	Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	1092, 1114
115.	Shri Subba, M.K.	988
116.	Smt. Sujatha, C.S.	997, 1035
117.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	980, 1086
118.	Smt. Thakkar, Jayaben B.	965, 1116
119.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	1154
120.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	989, 1066, 1082, 1110
121.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	991, 1064, 1118
122.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	978, 1036, 1070, 1083, 1090
123.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	1029, 1065, 1080, 1088
124.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	991, 993, 1021, 1040, 1094
125.	Shri Yadav, Anjan Kumar M.	980, 1100
126.	Shri Yadav, Girdhari	1100
127.	Shri Yadav, Kailash Nath Singh	1026, 1064, 1107
128.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	982, 1040, 1071

Annexure-II**Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Corporate Affairs	:	140
Earth Sciences	:	128, 135, 139
Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	:	123
Law and Justice	:	
New and Renewable Energy		132
power		121, 125, 130, 131, 133, 134
Rural Development		136, 137
Science and Technology		124, 126, 127
Tribal Affairs		
Urban Development		129, 138
Women and Child Development		122

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Corporate Affairs		987, 1027, 1088, 1110
Earth Sciences	:	1029, 1076, 1095, 1104, 1121
Finance		959, 960, 964, 966, 970, 972, 973, 975, 978, 979, 982, 983, 986, 989, 993, 996, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1003, 1004, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1015, 1017, 1019, 1023, 1033, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1042, 1045, 1046, 1049, 1050, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1061, 1066, 1074, 1078, 1080, 1082, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1089, 1096, 1098, 1101, 1105, 1108, 1111, 1114, 1128, 1132, 1135, 1143, 1152, 1155, 1158, 1167, 1169, 1170, 1174, 1176
Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation		971, 1005, 1073, 1100, 1165
Law and Justice		963, 995, 1009, 1016, 1035, 1047, 1102, 1126, 1148, 1173
New and Renewable Energy	:	1010, 1028, 1044, 1058, 1077, 1113, 1119
Power		962, 969, 974, 976, 980, 985, 991, 997, 1002, 1008, 1014, 1018, 1025, 1030, 1034, 1059, 1063, 1065, 1070, 1079, 1092, 1093, 1107, 1117, 1159, 1163

Rural Development	:	961, 965, 968, 977, 1031, 1036, 1041, 1048, 1062, 1072, 1083, 1090, 1106, 1129, 1131, 1134, 1144, 1145, 1149, 1150, 1154, 1157
Science and Technology		987, 984, 994, 1040, 1043, 1122
Tribal Affairs	:	988, 1032, 1071, 1087, 1091, 1109, 1112, 1116, 1125, 1139, 1146, 1153, 1156, 1161, 1172, 1175
Urban Development	:	990, 992, 1006, 1007, 1020, 1022, 1051, 1060, 1069, 1075, 1094, 1097, 1115, 1124, 1127, 1130, 1133, 1140, 1162, 1166
Women and Child Development		981, 1021, 1024, 1026, 1064, 1067, 1068, 1081, 1099, 1103, 1118, 1120, 1123, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1141, 1142, 1147, 1151, 1160, 1164, 1168, 1171.

INTERNET

The Original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address :

<http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in>

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on Lok Sabha T.V. Channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. on everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

LOK SABHA DEBATES ON SALE

Printed copies of Lok Sabha Debates of English and Hindi Versions and other Parliamentary Publications are available for sale at the Sales Counter, Parliament House, New Delhi-110001.

© 2007 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eleventh Edition)
and Printed by Chaudhary Mudran Kendra, 12/3, Sri Ram Marg, South Mauj Pur, Delhi-110 053
