

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Thirteenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, February 28, 2008 / Phalguna 9, 1929 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 41.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR DEVENDRA SINGH YADAV (Etah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should waive the debt of farmers ...(Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

*At this stage Kunwar Devendra Singh Yadav
and some other Hon'ble Members came
and stood on the floor near the Table.*

...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of North India should be protected in Maharashtra ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

11.01 ½ hrs.

*At this stage Shri Ram Kripal Yadav and
some other Hon'ble Members came
and stood on the floor near the Table*

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have agreed to allow all the issues to be discussed. Do it in a proper manner. I have not stopped any discussion on any issue.

...(Interruptions)

11.02 hrs.

*(At this stage Shri Ram Kripal Yadav and some other
Hon'ble Members went back to their seats)*

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I have to say that you are all working over time to finish democracy in this country. It is a matter of great sorrow for me. Once you were asking for more sittings. You were giving notices. So many notices have been given by so many hon. Members; these important matters cannot be discussed. Discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address starts today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: With great sorrow, sadness, and with great resentment, I am forced to adjourn the House. Let the country decide what is to be done. I cannot do anything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the names of the Members standing near the Table be sent to me.

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Interim Relief for Sick Public Enterprises

* 41. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sick fertilizers/ chemicals manufacturing public enterprises under his Ministry;

(b) whether any Interim Relief has been sanctioned to those sick enterprises, particularly the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the other measures proposed to make the sick units viable?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Under the Provisions of Sick Industries Companies Act, a sick company means an industrial company which has at the end of any financial year accumulated losses equal to or exceeding its entire net worth.

In so far as the Department of Fertilizers is concerned, the Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCIL), Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL) are sick public sector enterprises.

As regards Department of Chemicals & Petro-Chemicals Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL), Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL), Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL) Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited

(BCPL) and Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) are sick public sector enterprises.

(b) and (c) Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) is not a sick company but a loss making enterprise. Government has approved an interim grant of Rs.200 crores recently to sustain the operations of FACT.

Regarding measures to make the sick fertilizer units viable, the Government is in the process of reviving the closed units of FCIL at Gorakhpur, Ramagundam, Talcher, Sindri and Korba and those of HFCL at Barauni, Durgapur and Haldia, subject to availability of feedstock. In so far as MFL is concerned, a rehabilitation package is under finalization.

As far as Chemicals & Petro-chemicals sick public sector enterprises are concerned revival packages consisting of waiver of interest, conversion of loan into equity, continuation of Government guarantees, waiver of past loans etc has already been approved for HOCL, HIL, HAL and BCPL in the year 2006, which is currently under implementation. A rehabilitation scheme for revival of IDPL is separately under finalization.

Investments into the fertilizer sector

*42. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizer Industry has sought the Government's intervention for reviving its sagging health and for formulating policies to attract fast domestic and foreign investments into the sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) There has been no significant investment in fertilizer sector over last ten years (especially in Urea sector). The fertilizer industry has also drawn attention of Government towards the comparative low profitability in the fertilizer sector and on top of it, the liquidity problems being faced by them. On the other hand, the consumption of fertilizers has increased sharply over last few years leading to increased dependence on imports to meet the increasing requirement of fertilizers.

Keeping in view the lack of investments in fertilizer sector, the stagnant indigenous production, the increasing

demand-production gap, the projected improved availability of gas in the country and the concerns of the industry, Government is in the process of finalizing a policy for attracting new investments in the fertilizer sector both within the country and abroad. The Government is looking into various options including benchmarking with Import Parity Price for finalization of the proposed policy with the aim of attracting the much required investments in the sector.

Incentives to Promote Offer of Jobs for Disabled Persons

*43. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to give incentives to the private sector to encourage them to offer jobs to the disabled persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has launched a scheme to create one lakh jobs for the disabled persons each year from now on;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government for the implementation of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Scheme envisages payment of employer's contribution to Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for the first three years for providing employment to persons with disabilities. The benefit of the scheme is for the persons with monthly wages upto Rs. 25,000/- per month. The scheme covers all persons with disabilities defined under the Persons with Disabilities Act and National Trust Act.

[Translation]

Renewal of Railway Lines

*44. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have carried out the renewal of railway lines as per the year-wise programme targets laid down under the Tenth Plan;

(b) the reasons for delay in the work of track renewal especially in the last three years;

(c) the names of the zones where the maximum time has been taken/is being taken in the track renewal work;

(d) the details of the budgetary allocations made and spent for each year; and

(e) the reasons for shortfall in utilising the allocations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) Yes, Sir. During Xth Plan, physical targets for track renewals were achieved.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Budgetary allocation and expenditure details are as under:

Financial Year	Budget Grant (Rs. in crore (Gross))	Revised Grant (Rs. in crore (Gross))	Expenditure (Rs. in crore (Gross))
2002-03	3516.5	3401.21	3297.7
2003-04	3391.0	3435.9	3484.4
2004-05	3370.0	3835.4	4125.3
2005-06	3409.0	3636.1	3779.0
2006-07	3721.0	4206.5	4618.4

(e) During 2003-03 budget allocation could not be fully utilised as capacity enhancement for track renewal took some time. In the previous year (2001-02) only Rs. 2404.6 crore were spent.

Issue of SC Certificates

*45. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the year 1950 has been defined as the base year for issuing SC certificates in the States particularly in Madhya Pradesh (M.P.);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether SC certificates can be issued on the basis of the caste of one's parents;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received complaints from various States particularly from M.P in regard to difficulties being faced in getting the SC certificates on account of fixation of the year 1950 as the base year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for their redressal?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (f) Scheduled Caste certificates are issued by the prescribed officers and the caste of parents is an important criterion. However, in the case of children born out of inter-caste marriage, the caste of the father becomes the relevant consideration.

There is no mention of "base year" in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders issued under Article 341. No complaints have been received by the Ministry from residents of Madhya Pradesh or from elsewhere.

[English]

Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline

*46. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Indo-Iran gas pipeline project;

(b) whether its security implication has been examined in view of the latest developments in Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether China is also joining this project;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(f) the steps taken to ensure the economic viability and safety from different angles; and

(g) the hurdles being faced by India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) India has been pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline; important issues concerning the implementation of the Project are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(b) to (g) As per current indications, pipeline within Iran upto Iran-Pakistan border will be laid and operated by

an agency to be nominated by Iran. Iran wants to sell gas at Iran-Pakistan Border. So all responsibility for safety and security of the pipeline within Iran will vest with Iran. Safety and security of pipeline and gas within Pakistan will be provided by the Pakistan Government for which a transit fee would be levied. Discussions regarding the security package by the Pakistan Government and the transit fee are continuing. Suitable provisions will be included in the contract with the Pakistan side for safety & security of the pipeline. It has been agreed that the pipeline proposed to be laid in Iran, Pakistan and India will be constructed as per the international standards, incorporating all safety features. It is envisaged to provide round-the-clock communication and supervisory control system all along the pipeline.

Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the project.

No official communication has been received regarding China joining IPI gas pipeline Project.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Railway Protection Force

*47. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIDRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to increase the efficiency of the Railway Protection Force (RPF);
- (b) the funds allocated and spent for modernisation and training of the force in the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken to recruit more persons to the RPF to cover all the stations where RPF personnel are not posted on a permanent basis?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) Various steps have been taken to increase the efficiency of the Railway Protection Force. A few important ones are as follow:-

- (i) 96 stations and 96 trains have been identified as model station/trains and crime incidents in these stations and trains are monitored by the Security Directorate at Board's level.
- (ii) Four flying squads, headed by Deputy Inspector General ranks officers, have been constituted for

surprise checking of various trains/stations and submitting report directly to the Director General/ Railway Protection Force.

- (iii) intensive drive has been launched through pamphlets, skits and public announcements to sensitize Passengers about modus-operandi of criminals specially Druggists (Jahar Khurans) and terrorists.
- (iv) Videography of passengers sitting in General Compartments is being done by RPF at the originating Important Stations.
- (v) Modern security equipment like Close Circuit Television & Cameras, Bomb Detection & Disposal equipment, Bullet Proof Jackets and Bullet Proof Helmets, Walkie-Talkies, Hand Held Metal Detector, Door Frame Metal Detector etc. are being provided to the Force personnel.
- (vi) Dog squad has been strengthened Railway Protection Force has 182 Sniffer and 54 tracker dogs.
- (vii) 1450 important passenger trains are being escorted by the Railway Protection Force.
- (viii) 'RPF Mitra Yojna' a Community Policing Concept, has been launched which aims to strengthen contact and information network between Railway Protection Force and passengers.
- (ix) Intelligence network has been geared up with increased emphasis on close liaison with the Central and State Intelligence Agencies.
- (x) 'Expression of Interest' has been invited on outright purchase basis or through Public Private Partnership (PPP) on BOOT (Build, Own, Operate and Transfer) basis to develop 'Integrated Security System' over hundred Railway Stations of Indian Railways.

(b) Specific funds are not allocated for modernization and training of the Railway Protection Force. However, amount for modernization and training of the Force is made available through appropriate Budgetary Heads like Machinery & Plant, Works Programme and Passenger Amenities.

Following amount has been spent on modernization and training of the force in the last 3 years:-

Year	Amount in Rs.
2004-2005	5.45 Crores
2005-2006	17.07 Crores
2006-2007	19.90 Crores
Total	42.42 Crores

(c) 5934 vacancies of Constables and 993 vacancies of Sub-Inspectors have been advertised. Recruitment of Constables is almost complete and recruitment of Sub-Inspectors is in final stage, 973 new posts have been sanctioned for the Force which will be operative from 1st April, 2008. Further increase of manpower is under consideration of the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Finance.

Price of Natural Gas

*48. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently proposed to increase the price of natural gas produced by the public sector companies by 16 per cent;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the formula/criteria adopted to fix the price of natural gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The consumer price of APM gas was fixed at Rs. 3200 per Thousand Standard Cubic Meters (MSCM) with effect from 1-7-05 for power and fertilizers sectors, and Court-mandated and small scale consumers (i.e. those consuming up to 50,000 Standard Cubic Meters Per Day) on an ad hoc basis.

Subsequently, the price of natural gas for City Gas Distribution projects and small consumers was increased by 20% to Rs. 3840/MSCM with effect from 6th June 2006 as per the earlier Cabinet decision.

The price of gas for consumers in the North-East is 60% of that for the remaining country. Consequently, the price for power and fertilizers sector in North-East is Rs. 1920/MSCM and that for Court mandated and small consumers in the region is Rs. 2304/MSCM.

Shortage of Fertilizers

*49. SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is acute shortage of fertilizers in the country as a result of which various States are not able to get fertilizers on time;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to address the shortage of fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The availability of fertilizers in the country during the current Rabi season 2007-08 has been adequate to meet the assessed requirement/ sustain sales.

50% of indigenous production of urea is under movement and distribution control of government. The supply of indigenous urea alongwith adequate and timely imports has ensured adequate availability in each State corresponding to the assessed requirement during the season.

In so far as de-controlled fertilizers like Diamonia Phosphate, Muriate of Potash and complex fertilizer* are concerned, the responsibility for meeting the requirement is with the concerned State governments. Reduced availability of phosphatic raw materials and intermediates in the international market has impacted indigenous production during the season. The tight availability of finished fertilizer products in the international market as well as high price has been a disincentive for import of these fertilizers by the traditional fertilizer suppliers. State Governments were advised as far back as May, 2007 to nominate a State Institutional Agency which would place firm orders for import of de-controlled fertilizer, particularly DAP to meet the assessed requirement in each state. The Government of India have arranged for imports to meet the requirement in various States. As a result, the availability in the states has been adequate to sustain sales.

* Complex fertilizers are combination of Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash elements.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the government to ensure adequate and timely availability of fertilizers in the country.

- i. Each State Government is required to make a month-wise and company-wise supply plan for each district in the State;
- ii. The subsidy is released to the fertilizer manufacturers/suppliers only on reaching the fertilizer to each District in conformity with the approved supply plan;

- iii. A web based Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) has been introduced to direct movement of fertilizer from various ports/ plants to the various Districts so as to monitor the receipts with reference to the supply plan;
- iv. The freight reimbursed to urea units is being made on actual rail/road leads to ensure that there are no under recovery as far as fertilizer companies are concerned for movement and distribution of urea throughout the country; and
- v. With a view to ensure availability of de-controlled phosphatic and potassic fertilizer, State Governments have been advised to identify at least one State Institutional Agency which would arrange for timely availability of these fertilizers in their respective States.

Performance of Super Fast Trains

*50. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of occasions on which Super Fast Trains had reached their destinations late in each zone during the last six months; and
- (b) the steps taken to ensure on-time performance of these Super Fast Trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) The number of occasions on which the Superfast trains have been lost in punctuality on terminating basis when aggregated over the various Zonal Railways is 2410 for the period August 2007 to January 2008 (6 months).

(b) Following steps are being taken by Indian Railways to improve operations and the punctuality of passenger carrying trains;

1. Intensive, round the clock monitoring of trains at all three levels viz. Divisional, Zonal Head Quarters and Railway Board.
2. Launching of punctuality drives from time to time.
3. Running of trains at maximum permissible speed subject to observance of safety limits and speed restrictions.
4. Improvements in Time tabling to provide a clear path.
5. Improvement in standard of maintenance of assets to reduce equipment failures.

6. Counseling and motivating staff to ensure punctual running.
7. Liaison with State Government to tackle the Law and Order problems and miscreant activities.
8. Up-gradation of technology of track, rolling stock and signaling.

[English]

Setting up of New Airports

*51. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI P. MOHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new airports proposed to be set up by the Government in the country during the next one year, State-wise;
- (b) whether any project for setting up a new airport or cargo airport in Tamil Nadu and in Haryana are under consideration;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Two new Greenfield airports at Shamshabad near Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh and Devanhalli near Bangalore in Kamataka are likely to become operational during 2008.

(b) to (d) A proposal received from M/s Reliance Industries Limited for setting up of a cargo-airport as a part of their Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Jhajjar, Haryana is under consideration of the Government.

Hike in the Prices of Petroleum Products

*52. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVII:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an increase in the price of petrol/ petroleum products in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the international price of petrol per barrel and the domestic cost of petrol per litre;
- (d) the import/export duty imposed on one litre of petrol and diesel;

(e) whether the increase in the international price of petrol has become a source of income for the Government; and

(f) if so, the total earning of the Government on petro-products through the import duty and the increase in the price during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The international prices of crude oil and petroleum products have remained high and volatile. In April 2007, the Indian basket was \$ 65.5 per barrel, which rose to \$ 89.5 per barrel in January 2008 and is currently at its highest level of \$ 94.96 per barrel (on 20.2.2008). As India imports about 3/4ths of its crude requirements to service the domestic demand for petroleum products, international oil prices play an important role in domestic pricing. As passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in hardship to the common man, the retail selling prices of petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG have not been increased in tandem with the international oil prices. The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are incurring under-recoveries on domestic sale of sensitive petroleum products namely petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG.

In this context, the Government has made a marginal increase in petrol and diesel prices by Rs. 2/litre respectively with effect from 15.2.2008, which is actually in the nature of a restoration of retail prices to the price level operating before February 2007. Despite the steep increases in international oil prices, the Government has not increased the prices of PDS Kerosene during the last six years. The price of Domestic LPG has remained unchanged during the last three years. The Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will continue to protect the interests of consumers.

(c) The international prices of petrol per barrel and retail selling price per litre of petrol at Delhi are given below:

Average International Price of Petrol for Feb'08 (upto 19th Feb.)	\$ per barrel	100.66
Retail Selling Price (RSP) of petrol at Delhi	Rs./Litre	45.52

Note: International Price of Petrol is for Singapore market.

(d) The Custom duty applicable on petrol and diesel is as under:

	Petrol	Diesel
Custom Duty	7.50%	7.50%

(e) and (f) The amount of customs duty paid by the Public Sector Oil Companies during the last three years is given below:

	Rs./crores		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Customs Duty	11697	9157	10043

Suburban Railways

*53. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have been incurring a loss of Rs.900 crore every year in the running of the suburban railways;

(b) if so, the details along with the reasons for such losses;

(c) whether Railways are considering the option of running the suburban railways on the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model by forging partnership with State Governments and private agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) and (d) Railways have been incurring losses in running suburban services.

The losses borne by the Railways on this account in the last 5 years were as follows.

Year	Losses (Rs. in crore)
2002-03	650
2003-04	807
2004-05	747
2005-06	837
2006-07	928

The major reasons for such losses are low second class ordinary fares and concessions granted in the case of

monthly and quarterly season ticket fares. Commuters availing concessionary season tickets constitute 67 percent of all suburban passengers.

(c) and (d) There is no suburban Railway Project presently on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model under consideration of the Ministry of Railways. However, some suburban projects on cost sharing basis between the Ministry of Railways and different State Governments in the cities of Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad are in progress.

Shortage of LPG

*54. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe scarcity of LPG in the country causing abnormal delays in delivery of cylinders to the consumers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to deal with the situation including the directives/instructions issued/to be issued to the oil marketing companies;

(c) the details of total production, demand and actual supply of LPG in States/Union Territories of the country;

(d) whether the Government is also aware of the hoarding or blackmarketing of LPG by the oil marketing companies; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 8450 TMT (Thousand Metric Tonnes) of domestic LPG in the country during the period – April, 2007-January, 2008 as against 8030 TMT during the corresponding period of last year, showing a growth of 5.2%.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country due to reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by

rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

(c) At present the indigenous production of LPG is inadequate to meet domestic requirements. The shortfall in availability is met through imports. The details of LPG domestic production, imports and the demand/actual sales in the country during the period April, 2007-January, 2008 is as under:-

(Figures in Thousand Metric Tonnes) (TMT)

Period	Production	Imports	Demand / Actual Sales
April, 2007 to January, 2008	7261	2008	9302

(d) and (e) The possibility of black marketing of subsidized domestic LPG cylinders by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to the wide gap between the retail price of LPG for domestic use and the market price for commercial LPG.

In order to stop black marketing of LPG cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provides for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in black marketing of LPG.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor (s) in accordance with the provisions of the MDG. MDG provides for following action against the distributor:-

- Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
- Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence.
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation

of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against black marketing of domestic LPG. Similarly, the Weights and Measures Departments of the State / Uts initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found supplying under-weight LPG cylinders. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the black-marketing of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity / malpractice to the OMCs.

The officials of OMCs carry out checks at distributors' godowns, delivery points, as well as en-route to ensure that no pilferage takes place. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only cylinders with the specified weight are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced with a fresh refill cylinder without any charges levied by the OMCs.

Rehabilitation of the oustees

*55. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Railways for the rehabilitation of the oustees due to Railways' development programmes;

(b) whether the Railways have provided support and help for the evicted/affected persons who have formed cooperatives for their rehabilitation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) (i) All out efforts are made to minimize the involuntary displacements for Railway development projects.

(ii) wherever land is acquired, Railway ensures that payment of compensation is made to State Government for further disbursement to Project Affected Persons (PAPs) under the applicable provisions of the Land Acquisition Act.

(iii) Measures to comply with the provisions of National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation are taken.

(iv) In respect of projects funded by International Funding Agencies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), compensation is paid as per the terms and conditions including Resettlement and Rehabilitation as laid down in the loan agreement, while in no way infringing the extant provisions of Land Acquisition Act or National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation for the benefit of the displaced persons.

(b) and (c) In terms of Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra in respect of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP), only in respect of MUTP Phase-I, which is being implemented by Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation (MRVC), in Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Area (MMRDA), land/tenement rights have been accorded to cooperatives formed by the displaced persons through Government of Maharashtra under Government of Maharashtra's policy for Resettlement and Rehabilitation of persons. About 15,000 project-affected households under MUTP Phase-I have been resettled and rehabilitated. Liability of Ministry of Railways is to bear share of cost as per the Memorandum of Understanding.

Committed Liability in Pre and Post-Matric Scholarship

*56. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes disbanding of the concept of committed liability for the States in pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for SCs and backward class students; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Profit Earned by Petroleum PSUs

*57. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public and private sector companies engaged in oil sector have earned net profit in the first nine months of the financial year 2007-2008;

(b) if so, the amount of profit earned by these companies during the said period, company-wise;

(c) the total value of business transacted by each of these companies during the said period; and

(d) the total amount invested in each of these companies as on March, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) The Profit After Tax and total turnover of the major Oil Public Sector Undertakings in the first nine months of the financial year 2007-08 are under:

	(Rs. Crore)	
Name of the Oil PSUs	Profit After Tax	Total turnover
ONGC	14074.55	44408.92
IOCL	7377.00	177223.00
BPCL	1522.18	86211.02
HPCL	750.38	73901.00
GAIL	1879.00	13073.00
OIL	1342.06	4291.77

However, Private Oil Companies are not under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(d) The Paid-up Capital of the major Oil Public Sector Undertakings as on 31.03.2007 is as follows:

	(Rs. Crore)	
Name of the Oil PSUs	The Paid-up Capital of Oil PSUs (as on 31.03.2007)	
ONGC	2139.00	
IOCL	1168.01	
BPCL	361.54	
HPCL	338.95	
GAIL	845.65	
OIL	214.00	

[English]

Harassment of Foreign Tourists

*58. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had convened a meeting of the Tourism Secretaries of all the States in view of rise in the cases of assault and harassment of foreign tourists in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has advised the States to recruit ex – servicemen for stepping up the safety of tourists particularly foreigners in the country;

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the reaction of States thereto;

(e) whether there is steep fall in arrival of foreign tourists due to such incidents; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof and further steps to be taken to ensure that such foreign tourists are not harassed in any way?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE: (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists, is the primary responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories. Following recent reports in the media regarding harassment and misbehavior with tourists in India, the Ministry of Tourism discussed the issue of safety and security of tourists, amongst other issues, with Secretaries of Tourism of States/ Union Territories, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence. During the meeting the feasibility of deploying the ex-servicemen as Tourist Wardens in States and Union Territories was also discussed. It was emphasised that ensuring the safety and security of tourists is of paramount importance and State Governments/Union Territories must ensure the same.

(e) and (f) The foreign tourist arrival for the month of January 2008 has shown an increase of 9.9% over the same period of 2007.

Losses to AI and IA

*59. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) have reported a loss of nearly Rs. 850 crore for 2006-07 fiscal as reported in the Times of India dated November 25, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there has been a 40% growth in the Indian aviation sector;

(d) if so, the reasons for such huge losses in the national carriers;

(e) whether the Government has taken any steps to improve the operations and profits of both Air India and Indian Airlines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines have incurred a net loss of Rs. 447.93 crores and Rs.240.29 crores respectively during the year 2006-07.

(c) The domestic and international passenger carriage has shown a growth of 39% and of 15% respectively during the year 2006-07.

(d) A combination of factors such as high Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices, rising labour costs and intense price competition among the airline operators have been the main reasons for the losses of the National Carriers.

(e) and (f) In order to improve the operational performance and profitability, the Government has approved the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines into National Aviation Company of India Limited.

Further, the airlines have been permitted to add more capacity by purchasing 111 state-of-the-art new aircraft.

Other commercial measures such as route rationalization alongwith introduction of services on new routes, product improvement and joining of 'Star Alliance' have been taken by the merged airline. These are expected to boost the profits of the company.

International Bids for Gas and Oil Exploration

*60. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to invite international bids for gas and oil exploration in certain parts of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the sites which will be opened for bidding;

(c) whether the bidding process has been put on hold;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the time by which the Government intends to call for bids for exploration of gas and oil sites?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Government of India has already offered 57 exploration blocks (29 onland, 9 shallow water and 19 deep water blocks) under the seventh round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VII) on 13.12.2007.

(b) The details of the blocks offered are enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not rise in view of above.

(e) The last date for bid closing is 11 April, 2008.

Statement

Details of Exploration Blocks on Offer with Block Types and Mandatory Work Programme under New Exploration Licensing Policy – Seventh Round (NELP-VII)

Sl. No.	Basin	Block Name	MAP REF No.	Block Type	Approx Area (SQ.KM.)	Mandatory Work	
						Program 2D Seismic (API) Grid Size	Quantum of Work in LKM (Approx.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Deep Water Blocks							
1	Gujarat-Saurashtra	GS-DWN-2005/1	D-1	B	5216	-	-
2		GS-DWN-2005/2	D-2	B	5485	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3		GS-DWN-2005/3	D-3	B	6820	-	-
4		GS-DWN-2005/4	D-4	B	6531	-	-
5	Mumbai	ME-DWN-2005/1	D-5	A	3397	-	-
6		MB-DWN-2005/2	D-6	A	3660		
7		MB-DWN-2005/3	D-7	A	3097		
8		MB-DWN-2005/4	D-8	A	3408		
9		MB-DWN-2005/5	D-9	A	3169		
10		MB-DWN-2005/6	D-10	A	4993		
11		MB-DWN-2005/7	D-11	A	3324		
12		MB-DWN-2005/8	D-12	A	2961		
13		MB-DWN-2005/9	D-13	A	3138		
14	Kerala-Konkan	KK-DWN-2005/1	D-14	B	14675	32x32	1170
15		KK-DWN-2005/2	D-15	B	19234	32x32	1540
16	Krishna-Godavari	KG-DWN-2005/1	D-16	A	1727	16x16	240
17		KG-DWN-2005/2	D-17	A	1949		
18		KG-DWN-2005/3	D-18	A	2246	16x16	310
19	Andaman Offshore	AN-DWN-2005/1	D-19	B	11837	32x32	940
Shallow Water Blocks							
20	Mumbai	MB-OSN-2005/1	S-1	A	2811		
21		MB-OSN-2005/2	S-2	A	1191		
22		MB-OSN-2005/3	S-3	A	2810		
23		MB-OSN-2005/4	S-4	A	2998		
24		MB-OSN-2005/5	S-5	A	2402		
25		MB-OSN-2005/6	S-6	A	2820		
26	Krishna-Godavari	KG-OSN-2005/1	S-7	A	2810		
27		KG-OSN-2005/2	S-8	A	1881		
28		KG-OSN-2005/3	S-9	A	1697		
Onland Blocks							
29	Assam-Arakan	AA-ONN-2005/1	1	A	363		
30	Purnea	PA-ONN-2005/1*	2	B	1096	32x32	90
31		PA-ONN-2005/2*	3	B	2552	32x32	200

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32	Bengal	WB-ONN-2005/1*	4	B	3172	32x32	250
33		WB-ONN-2005/2*	5	B	3792	32x32	300
34		WB-ONN-2005/3*	6	B	4001	32x32	300
35		WB-ONN-2005/4*	7	B	3940	32x32	300
36	Ganga	GV-ONN-2005/1*	8	B	2202	32x32	170
37		GV-ONN-2005/2*	9	B	1586	32x32	120
38		GV-ONN-2005/3*	10	B	2227	32x32	170
39	Satpura-Rewa	SR-ONN-2005/1*	11	B	789	32x32	60
40	Vindhyan	VN-ONN-2005/1*	12	B	3776	32x32	300
41		VN-ONN-2005/2*	13	B	4908	32x32	390
42	Rajasthan	RJ-ONN-2005/1	14	A	1424	32x32	110
43		RJ-ONN-2005/2	15	A	1517	32x32	120
44		RJ-ONN-2005/3	16	A	1217	32x32	90
45	Cambay	CB-ONN-2005/1	17	S	61		
46		CB-ONN-2005/2	18-A & B	S	81		
47		CB-ONN-2005/3	19	S	48		
48		CB-ONN-2005/4	20	S	31		
49		CB-ONN-2005/5	21	S	83		
50		CB-ONN-2005/6	22	S	102	4x4	50
51		CB-ONN-2005/7	23	S	199		
52		CB-ONN-2005/8	24	S	133	4x4	60
53		CB-ONN-2005/9	25	S	170		
54		CB-ONN-2005/10	26	A	270		
55		CB-ONN-2005/11	27	A	257		
56	Palar	PR-ONN-2005/1	28	B	1807	16x16	250
57	Cauvery	CY-ONN-2005/1	29	A	946		

*Frontier Block

SL. No. 45-53 are Type-S Blocks.

[Translation]

**Loss Due to Corrosion on
Steel Products**

353. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment with regard to loss due to corrosion on steel products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken some measures to check the loss;

(d) if so, the plant-wise details of the amount sanctioned to check corrosion; and

(e) the details of companies engaged for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) The Government has not made any specific assessment with regard to loss due to corrosion on steel products.

(c) to (e) Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under Ministry of Steel has developed certain corrosion resistant varieties of steel such as Plates and Sheets in SAIL COR quality and SAIL Thermo Mechanically Treated (TMT) High Corrosion Resistant (HRC) Bars. SAIL and some of the other private sector steel companies also manufacture galvanized steel sheets/coils with zinc coating to check corrosion. Another PSU under the Ministry, namely, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) manufactures corrosion resistant variety of rebars as per customer requirements.

[English]

Smuggling of Antiques

354. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that priceless treasures like antique statues of Gods and Goddesses, invaluable sculptures are being regularly smuggled abroad under the garb of replicas in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such antiques smuggled so far, State-wise, during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent theft and smuggling in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The available data is not indicative of any regular smuggling of antiques.

(b) The number of thefts of antiques reported during the last three year from the centrally protected monuments, State-wise, is as follow:-

State	Year	No. of thefts of antiques
1	2	3
Rajasthan	2005	7
Madhya Pradesh	2005	9

1	2	3
Uttarakhand	2006	2
Rajasthan	2006	1
Andhra Pradesh	2006	1
Madhya Pradesh	2007	5
West Bengal	2007	1
Himachal Pradesh	2007	4

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India is fully committed towards the preservation and safety of antiquities at the protected monuments as well as the site museums. To ensure their safety, the Archaeological Survey of India engages security guards whose strength has been augmented by deploying private security guards, State police, home guards, and even the CISF at selected monuments. Constant interaction takes place between ASI, CBI and Customs, authorities to share information on the smuggling of art objects.

Provisions exist under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 for regulation of export in antiquities and art treasures and for prevention of their illicit trafficking. These provisions include registration of dealers, registration of specified categories of antiquities, prosecution of offenders etc. The Government has launched a National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities which will, among other things, document the country's monuments and antiquities.

Training Imparted to Pilots for CAT-III B Landing Support System

355. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic airlines, whose pilots have been imparted training to operate the flights by using CAT-III B landing support system in thick fog;

(b) the airports where CAT-III B system has been installed/proposed to be installed; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Pilots of four Domestic Airlines have been imparted training to operate the flights by using CAT-IIIB landing support system in thick fog. These airlines are — M/s. Air India, Jet Airways, Kingfisher Airlines Limited and Indigo.

(b) CAT-IIIB ILS equipment has been installed on runway 28 at IGI airport, Delhi along with Advance Surface Management Guidance Control System (ASMGCS) and other ground compliment equipments. Purchase order has also been placed for supply of CAT-III ILS equipment for runway 29 and runway 11 (under construction) at IGI airport alongwith augmentation of existing ASMGCS.

(c) Rs. 18 Crores is the cost of ILS equipment and augmentation of ASMGCS at IGI airport, Delhi.

Expansion Plan of Domestic LPG in Karnataka

356. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the only 50 per cent of population in Karnataka has been covered by domestic LPG;

(b) if so, the efforts public sector oil marketing companies are making to increase the percentage of population covered in Karnataka from 57 per cent to 100 per cent; and

(c) the impact of the Government's advice to public sector oil marketing companies to concentrate their expansion plan in the semi-urban and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that they have 55.24 lakhs domestic LPG customers in the State of Karnataka as on 1.1.2008, covering nearly 53.10% of the population based on the 2001 census.

(b) and (c) Government have given freedom to OMCs to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining an independent distributorship. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized 62 locations in the State of Karnataka for setting up LPG distributorships mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations. The advertisement for the same was released on 2nd November, 2007 and the last date of receipt of applications was 5th December, 2007.

The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identifying of a suitable location, arranging land for setting up of godown and other statutory clearances, etc.

[Translation]

Student Hostels for SC in Andhra Pradesh

357. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hostels constructed for the students of SCs in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years alongwith the location-wise details thereof;

(b) the number of the sanctioned hostels for the students of the said sections that have not been constructed till date, alongwith details; and

(c) the financial assistance provided for these hostels during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The details of SC boys & girls hostels sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh under the Centrally Sponsored scheme of hostels during the last three years are at enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II respectively. As the stipulated period of completion was 5 years, the completion reports are yet to be received.

(c) Details are enclosed as Statement-III.

Statement-I

(Boys Hostel)

S.No.	District	Location
1	2	3
Year 2004-2005		
1	Khammam	SC Boys Hostel, Vallabhi(V)
2	Khammam	SC Boys Hostel, Thanikella(V)
Year 2005-2006		
1	Guntur	SW Boys Hostel, Vellaturu
2	Guntur	SW Boys Hostel, Narasaropeta
3	Guntur	SW Boys Hostel, Kakumanu
4	Guntur	SW Boys Hostel-I, Pidugurallia
5	Guntur	SW Boys Hostel-II, Pidugurallia

1	2	3
6	Guntur	SW Boys Hostel, Peddapalem
7	Guntur	SW Boys Hostel, Bapatla
8	Guntur	SW Boys Hostel, Achempeta
9	Guntur	SW Boys Hostel, Kolakaluru-1
10	Guntur	SW Boys Hostel, Kavauru
11	Anantapur	Boys Hostel, B.K. Samudram
12	Anantapur	Boys Hostel, Chilamathur
13	Anantapur	Boys Hostel, Nallamada
14	Anantapur	Boys Hostel, Bramhasamudram
15	Anantapur	Boys Hostel No.3, Uravanonda,
16	Anantapur	Boys Hostel, Madaksira
17	Anantapur	Boys Hostel No. 32, Penukonda
18	Anantapur	Boys Hostel, Narpala
19	Anantapur	Boys Hostel No.2, Uravakonda
20	Anantapur	Boys Hostel, Kothacheruvu
21	Anantapur	Boys Hostel, Settur
22	Anantapur	Boys Hostel No. 4, Gooty
23	Anantapur	Boys Hostel No. 2, Kambadur
24	Anantapur	Boys Hostel, Talupula
25	Anantapur	Boys Hostel, Beluguppa
26	Krishna	Boys Hostel, G. Konduru
27	Krishna	Boys Hostel No. 6, Guidvada,
28	Krishna	Boys Hostel, Gandepalli
29	Krishna	Boys Hostel No.3, Nandigama
30	Krishna	Boys Hostel, Konakanchi
31	Krishna	Boys Hostel, Alluru
32	Krishna	Boys Hostel, Prakashnagar, Vijay
33	Krishna	Boys Hostel, Bantumilli
34	Krishna	Boys Hostel, Nagayalanka

1	2	3
35	Krishna	Boys Hostel No. 1 (Spl) Challapal
36	Warangal	SW Boys Hostel, Gudur (P)
37	Warangal	SW Boys Hostel, Nachinapally
38	Warangal	SW Ashram School, Butaigudem
39	Nellore	Boys Hostel, Pigilam (V), Balavap
40	Nizamabad	Boys Hostel, Kodeepgal
41	Medak	Boys Hostel, Dubbak
42	Medak	Boys Hostel, Doulathabad
43	Medak	Boys Hostel, Waragal
44	Hyderabad	Boys Hostel, Nandimustlaiguda
45	Hyderabad	Hyderabad University
Year 2006-2007		
1	Khammam	SW Boys Hostel-B Khammam
2	Medak	SW Boys Hostel-B Zahirabad
3	Nellore	SW Boys Hostel, Pallipadu
4	Krishana	SW Boys Hostel, Kanchikacherla
5	West Godawari	SW Boys Hostel, Singagudem
6	Adilabad	SW Boys Hostel, Babasagar
7	Prakasham	SW Boys Hostel, Nidamanur-B Tangutur
8	Guntur	SW Boys Hostel, Nadendla
9	Ananthpur	SW Boys Hostel No.2 Tadipathi
10	Nizamabad	SW Boys Hostel, Dichpally Khammam
11	Karimnagar	SW Boys Hostel, Gambhiraraopet
12	Kurnool	SW Boys Hostel, Narnoor
13	Vishakhapatnam	SW Boys Hostel, Marturu
14	Cuddapah	SW Boys Hostel, Potladurthy
15	Srikakulam	SW Boys Hostel, Kasibugga
16	Vizianagaram	SW Boys Hostel, Dharmavaram
17	Nalgonda	SW Boys Hostel, Mattampaly

Statement-II**(Girls Hostel)**

S.No.	District	Location
1	2	3
2004-05		
1	Medak	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Sadashipet (V&M)
2	Nellore	Social Welfare Girls Hostel No. 1- Naidupeta
3	Nellore	Social Welfare Girls Hostel No.3-Kovur
4	Nellore	Social Welfare Girls Hostel No.2-Naidupeta
5	Nellore	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Kadavalur
6	Nellore	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Allur
7	Nellore	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Muthukur
8	Nellore	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Kota
9	Krishna	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Thiruvuru (V&M)
10	Krishna	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Kuchanapudi(V&M)
11	Krishna	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, TelaproluV&M)
12	Krishna	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Devajegudem
13	West Godavari	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Rangapuram (V), T. Nasapuram (M)
14	West Godavari	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Korukollu (V) Palakoderu (M)
15	West Godavari	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Eluru (Urban)
16	West Godavari	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Valluru (V), Achanta (M)
17	West Godavari	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Dirusumarru (V) Bhimavaram (M)
18	West Godavari	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Kalla (V&M)
19	West Godavari	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Pedanidrakolanu (V) Nidamanuru (M)
20	West Godavari	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Ungutur (V&M)
21	West Godavari	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Pulla (V), Bhimadol (M)
22	West Godavari	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Dudduku (V), Deavarapalli (M)
23	West Godavari	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, L. Koderu (V) Polakolu (M)
24	Adilabad	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Asifabad (V&M)
25	Adilabad	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Gadchanda Lohesra (M)

1	2	3
26	Prakasam	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Tanugur (V&M)
27	Prakasam	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Addanki (V&M)
28	Prakasam	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Markapur (V&M)
29	Guntur	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Munipally (V&M)
30	Guntur	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Vinukonda (V&M)
31	Ananthapur	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Singanamala (V&M)
32	Ananthapur	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Bathalapalli (V&M)
33	Ananthapur	Social Welfare Girls Hostel No.2 Guntakal (V&M)
34	Ananthapur	Social Welfare Girls Hostel No.3 Kalyandurg (V&M)
35	Ananthapur	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Gandlapenta
36	Nizamabad	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Morthad (V&M)
37	Nizamabad	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Nizamabad
38	Kurnool	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Pamulapadu (V&M)
39	Kurnool	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Ternekal (V&M)
40	Kurnool	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Nandyal (V&M)
41	Visakhapatnam	Social Welfare College Girls Hostel, Visakhapatnam
42	Cuddapah	Social Welfare Girls Hostel No.3, Cuddapah (V&M)
43	Cuddapah	Social Welfare Girls Hostel No.2, Rayachoty (V&M)
44	Cuddapah	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, V.N. Palli (V&M)
45	Cuddapah	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Muddanur (V&M)
46	Cuddapah	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Vaddirala (V&M)
47	Cuddapah	Social Welfare Girls Hostel No.2, Pulivendla (V&M)
48	Cuddapah	Social Welfare Girls Hostel No.2, Rajampet (V&M)
49	Cuddapah	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Nandalur (V&M)
50	Cuddapah	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Kodur (V&M)
51	Cuddapah	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Khajipet (V&M)
52	Srikakulam	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Bathilli (V&M)
53	Vizianagaram	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Viyyampeta (M), Kottavalasa
54	Vizianagaram	Social Welfare Girls Hostel, Maripivalasa Seethanagaram (M)

1	2	3
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2005-06

1	Guntur	SW Girls Hostel, Rapalle
2	Anantapur	SW Girls Hostel No.2, Kambadur
3	Krishna	SW Girls Hostel, Cristurajaouram, VZA
4	Warrangal	SW Girls Hostel, Marringeda
5	Medak	SW Girls Hostel, Jagadevpur
6	Srikakulam	SW hostel building attached to Residential School, Srikakulam (I)
7	East Godavari	SW hostel building attached to Residential School, Rajahmudry (I)
8	Khammam	SW hostel building attached to Residential School, Khammam (I)
9	Mahaboobnagar	SW hostel building attached to Residential School, Narayanpet (I)
10	Nalgonda	SW hostel building attached to Residential School, Nalgonda (I)
11	Hyderabad	Hyderabad University

Year 2006-07

1	East Godavari district	SW Girls Hostel, Thallarevu (V&M)
2	East Godavari district	SW Girls Hostel, Gollaprolu (V&M)
3	Krishna district	Girls Hostel, (Spl), Kasturibaipet, VZA
4	Krishna district	Girls Hostel, Lambadipet, VZA
5	Guntur district	Girls Hostel, Chilakaluripet
6	Guntur district	Girls Hostel, Sattenapally
7	Chittoor district	S.W. Girls Hostel, Nagarai (V&M)
8	Chittoor district	S.W. Girls Hostel, Gudiapala (V&M)
9	Kadapa district	S.W. Girls Hostel, Pullampet
10	Kadapa district	S.W. Girls Hostel, Chitvel
11	Karimnagar district	S.W. Girls Hostel, Gambhiraraopet (V&M)
12	Karimnagar district	S.W. Girls Hostel, Husnabad (V&M)
13	Warangal district	S.W. Girls Hostel, kodakandla
14	Mahaboobnagar district	S.W. Girls Hostel, Kollapur, (V&M)
15	Mahaboobnagar district	S.W. Girls Hostel, Jadcherla (V&M)
16	Nalgonda district	S.W. Girls Hostel, Devarakonda (V&M)

1	2	3
17	Nalgonda district	S.W. Girls Hostel, Mothkur (V&M)
18	Rangareddy district	S.W. Girls Hostel, Malkajigir (V&M)
19	East Godawari District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Ravikampadu (V&M)
20	East Godawari District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Prathipadu (V&M)
21	East Godawari District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Rayavaram (V&M)
22	East Godawari District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Indukurupet (V)
23	East Godawari District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Kapileswarapuram (V&M)
24	East Godawari District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Razole-I (V&M)
25	East Godawari District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Razole-II
26	East Godawari District	S.W. Girls Hostel, I Polavaram (V&M)
27	East Godawari District	S.W. Girls Hostel, K.G. Patnam (V)
28	East Godawari District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Amalauram
29	East Godawari District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Devaguptham as Amalapuram (V&M)
30	Krishna District	Girls Hostel, Bhimavaram
31	Krishna District	Girls Hostel, Prakash Nagar, Kandrika
32	Krishna District	Girls Hostel, (Gnl.) Gannavaram
33	Krishna District	Girls Hostel, Chennuru
34	Krishna District	Girls Hostel, Vissannapet
35	Krishna District	Girls Hostel, Korukoillu
36	Krishna District	Girls Hostel, Chinnapuram
37	Krishna District	Girls Hostel, Chinnagollapalem
38	Krishna District	Girls Hostel, Nandivada
39	Krishna District	Girls Hostel, Penamaluru
40	Krishna District	Girls Hostel, Pedana
41	Guntur District	Girls Hostel, Krosuru
42	Chittoor District	S.W. Girls Hostel, K. Nagar (V&M)
43	Kadapa District	S.W. Girls Hostel, B. Mattam
44	Kadapa District	S.W. Girls Hostel, NKR Pet
45	Kadapa District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Nandimandalam
46	Karimnagar District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Mallial (V&M)

1	2	3
47	Karimnagar District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Mahadavpur (V&M)
48	Karimnagar District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Karimnagar (V&M)
49	Mahabubnagar District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Kothakota (V&M)
50	Mahabubnagar District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Atchampet (V&M)
51	Mahabubnagar District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Kosgi (V&M)
52	Mahabubnagar District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Alampur (V&M)
53	Nalgonda District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Peddavoora (V&M)
54	Nalgonda District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Nidamanoor (V&M)
55	Nalgonda District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Jajireddygudem (V)
56	Nalgonda District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Chandur
57	Nalgonda District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Kodad
58	Nalgonda District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Nampally
59	Ranga Reddy District	S.W. Girls Hostel, Dundigal (V)
60	Vizianagaram District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Vizianagaram (Hq.)
61	East Godavari District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Kakinada
62	East Godavari District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Rajahmundry
63	West Godavari District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Eluru
64	West Godavari District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Bheemavaram
65	Krishna District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Vijayawada
66	Guntur District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Narasaraopet
67	Prakasam District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Chirala
68	Prakasam District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Kandukur
69	Nellore District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Kavali
70	Chittoor District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Tirupathi
71	Kadapa District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Kadapa (Hq)
72	Anantapur District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Madakasira
73	Kurnool District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Adoni
74	Mahabubnagar District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Mahabubnagar (HQ)
75	Rangareddy District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Chavella
76	Hyderabad District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Saidabad

1	2	3
77	Hyderabad District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Ameerpet
78	Nizamabad District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Kamareddy
79	Warangal District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Warangal (Hq)
80	Khammam District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Kothagudem
81	Nalgonda District	S. W. College Girls Hostel, Muryalaguda

Statement-III

Financial assistance provided to Andhra Pradesh for SC Boys and Girls Hostels during the last three years (Rs. in lakh)

Year	SC Boys Hostels	SC Girls Hostels
2004-05	25	675
2005-06	516.2	305.59
2006-07	425	1012.5
Total	966.2	1993.09

Reservation for Minorities in the Private Sector

358. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is making any efforts for giving reservation in jobs for minorities in the private and corporate sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ASSOCHAM has constituted a Committee for giving reservation to minorities in industrial sector;

(d) if so, whether the Committee has presented any report;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate an action plan according to the Committee report; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (g) Does not arise.

[English]

Luggage Trolleys at IGI Airport

359. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the luggage trolleys at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), Delhi are in a bad and dilapidated state;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any measures to provide trolleys in good condition at IGI Airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, some trolleys which are old are being replaced with new ones over the coming months in a phased manner both at Domestic and International terminals.

Development of Tourism in Karnataka

360. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new policy to ensure faster growth of the tourism sector in Karnataka and give further impetus to public-private partnership in the sector is in the final stages of approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka has also notified a policy to encourage development of home stay facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) to what extent this will be helpful to improve the tourism in the State; and

(f) whether any help has been sought from the Central Government in implementing the same?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka has prepared a draft Tourism Policy for the period 2007-2012 for the purpose of overall development of tourism in the State.

(c) to (e) To enhance the accommodation facilities as well as to showcase the local culture and traditions to tourists, the State Government has introduced Home Stay facilities under the scheme of "Athithi".

(f) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Agreement with IAF

361. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Civil Aviation Sector is taking the help of Indian Air Force (IAF) In order to compensate the shortage of pilots in planes and helicopters;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached upon between Civil Aviation and the Indian Air Force (IAF) in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes Sir. Qualified Pilots from Indian Air Force (IAF) having sufficient flying experience are exempted from appearing in flying tests and technical examinations of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) required for issue of licence. Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited is also utilising the services of IAF pilots for their operations.

(b) and (c) Memoranda of Understanding have been signed between IAF and Air India on 05.04.2007 and between IAF and Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited on 15.02.2008 allowing IAF pilots to join these organisations.

[English]

Wastage of Agricultural Food Items

362. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wastage of agricultural food items is to the tune of US \$ 13 billion annually in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to contain this wastage of agricultural food items;

(c) whether the Vision 2015 on Food Processing Industries has sufficient provisions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the mechanism through which this vision helps in maximum utilization of agricultural food items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) According to the Vision 2015 report prepared by Rabo Bank, wastage of agricultural food items including fruits is estimated to be about US \$ 13 billion (Rs. 58,000 crore) annually, occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc.

Vision Document 2015 finalized by the Ministry envisages trebling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. The Cabinet has approved the Integrated Strategy for Promotion of Agribusiness – Vision, Strategy and Action Plan for the Food Processing Sector, based on the recommendations made by the Group of Ministers (GOM) for growth of food processing sector.

The Government, through its schemes for financial assistance and other promotional measures, facilitates creation of food related infrastructure including processing facilities aimed at reducing wastages, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life. The Ministry has been implementing various schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries. Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation / Modernization / Establishment of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grants-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, A&N Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. In addition, under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern

States, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, higher levels of assistance @ 50% upto Rs. 4.00 crore for setting up and Rs. 1.00 crore for Upgradation of fruit and vegetables processing is allowed. The Government of India has also launched the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) for holistic development of Horticulture in the country. The Government has been implementing various other Plan schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries in the country. Under these schemes financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided for Development of Infrastructure, Human Resource Development, Promotion of Quality Assurance, Codex Standards and R & D and other promotional measures to encourage development of the food processing industries.

Ministry has identified thrust areas for strategic intervention in the 11th Plan, by establishing Mega Food Parks, creation of integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels and farm level primary processing Centre-cum-cod chain, collection / aggregation centres and Strategic Distribution Centres, capacity building by setting up of National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship & Management (NIFTEM) and establishment / upgradation of quality control laboratories, which could result in increasing the level of processing, value addition of food products including perishables. The initiative being undertaken by the Ministry are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages.

New Catering Policy

363. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railway have formulated a new catering policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of new agencies to which catering contracts have been awarded during the last three years, year-wise, together with the terms of the contracts and the procedure to be followed in this regard;
- (d) the number of new catering stalls allotted during the last three years and the train numbers in which they are excepted to be provided, zone-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken to keep the prices of food items reasonable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railways' catering

policy was last revised in December 2005. Thereafter, no new catering policy has been issued.

(c) and (d) Information is being obtained from Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(e) Prices of standard meals, tea/coffee and breakfast are fixed by Railway Board taking into account the cost of raw materials, fuel, staff cost, packaging etc. Menu and tariff of a-la-carte food items are decided by IRCTC and Zonal Railways in a similar fashion. These prices are considered reasonable. Regular watch is kept to ensure that the catering licensees do not overcharge the passengers while selling standard and a-la-carte food items at stations and on trains. Action is taken against licensees overcharging railway passengers.

Upkeep and Preservation of Monasteries

364. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of tourists visiting monasteries has increased during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received reports that a number of monasteries are not maintained properly, particularly in Ladakh; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken for their upkeep and preservation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Details of numbers of visitors to centrally protected monasteries are not available as they are managed by local management committees and are not ticketed by the Archaeological Survey of India.

(c) and (d) Archaeological Survey of India has not received such reports. The monasteries declared as monuments of national importance are maintained, conserved and preserved by way of need based structural repairs, subject to availability of resources.

[Translation]

Allotment of Berths in Trains

365. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that lower berths are allotted to the persons who reserve tickets at the initial stage itself in large numbers on the same PNR number which leads to the allotment of only middle and upper berths even to the elderly persons who book tickets later on;

(b) if so, the details of the existing guidelines regarding allotment of berths in case of railway ticket reservation;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ban the practice of out of turn allotment of lower berths; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) In the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) the passengers can book berths as per their choice on first cum first served basis subject to availability of required berths at the time of booking. However, for a group of passengers booked under one PNR compact accommodation is allotted in a bay including lower, middle and upper berths as the case may be subject to availability.

Senior Citizens are automatically allotted lower berths even if they don't give their choice provided lower berths are available at the time of booking. Besides, a combined reservation quota of two lower berths per coach has been earmarked in Sleeper, AC-3 tier and AC-2 tier classes for senior citizens, female passengers of 45 years of age and above and pregnant women traveling alone.

(c) At present it is not proposed to change the existing logic.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Pricing Policy of PSUs For Non-APM Products

366. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the pricing policy followed by the PSU oil companies in respect of non-Administered Price Mechanism (APM) products; and

(b) the landed cost of imports and PSUs selling price for kerosene supply for industrial applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) The retail selling prices of non-sensitive petroleum products are being fixed on commercial terms mainly based on import parity pricing principles by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies. However, in the case of low volume Speciality Products, in addition to Import Parity, the cost of production and competitors' prices are also considered for price determination.

Currently, Kerosene is being imported to meet the deficit of PDS Kerosene supply requirements. The selling price for kerosene supplied to industrial applications is determined considering the notional Import Parity, based on the previous month's international prices for kerosene. For the month of February'08 the basic price of industrial SKO is Rs. 30,580/KL exclusive of freight duties and taxes.

Status of Education Level of Minorities

367. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the enrolment level of different minorities at the primary level in different States and the percentage of their dropouts;

(b) the main cause of such dropouts;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide additional incentives to minorities for improving their enrolment at the primary and higher secondary schools and set up a mechanism to ensure for each child of minorities go to school and reach higher education level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, District Information System of Education (DISE) 2006-07, brought out annually by the University of Educational Planning and Administration, reveals that enrolment of Muslim children is 9.39% at the primary level, and 7.52% at the upper primary level. Drop-out rates could not be worked out for want of disaggregated time-series data.

(c) and (d) The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan provides for focused targeting of funds in districts with substantial Muslim population. Under the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) scheme, 270 residential schools have been sanctioned in educationally backward blocks with substantial Muslim population.

[Translation]

International Service by the Public Carriers

368. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new flights started for going abroad by the public carriers and discontinued during the last three years;

(b) the details of the profits and losses resultant to these flights; and

(c) the number of the countries proposed to be connected by the new flights by the Government during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Projects in Eleventh Five Year Plan

369. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of civil aviation projects approved by the Government for the 11th Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the number of projects out of these started so far, State-wise; and

(c) the scheduled time by when the work is to be completed alongwith the steps taken to ensure the completion of the work on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has proposed an outlay of Rs. 12434 crores for the development of infrastructure at various airports in the country during 11th Five Year Plan. Details are at enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) The details of number of projects out of these started so far, State-wise with projected date of completion is at enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

*Airports Authority of India
The details of proposed Civil Aviation Projects
for the 11th Five Year Plan*

Sl. No.	Aerodrome Works	Airport wise scheme
1		2

Andhra Pradesh

Cudappah

- Operationalization of airport for ATR-72 operation which includes construction of runway 1500m x 30m, construction of link taxiway and apron 110m x 110m for parking of two ATR, fire station cum control tower cat. V, construction of boundary wall, augmenta

1	2
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Rajahmundry

- Construction of new terminal building for 150 passengers, car park, approach road etc.

Tirupati

- Strengthening of runway and associated pavements for operation of A-320 class of aircraft (dual wheel)
- Strengthening and extension of runway from 7500 ft. to 10000 ft. for operation of 'E' class of aircraft and upgradation of associated pavements.

Visakhapatnam

- Construction of new integrated terminal building

Vijayawada

- Strengthening and extension of runway from 6000 ft. to 7500 ft. for A-320 operation within available land and associated pavements.
- Construction of new terminal building complex for 400 passengers, car park approach road etc.

Assam

Dibrugarh

- Extension of runway.
- Construction of Terminal Building
- Construction of New Apron

Guwahati

- Construction of international terminal building for 500 passengers (15000 sqm) with two passenger boarding bridges, three escalators and three elevators, car park for 300 cars and allied facilities.
- Construction of additional parking stands for two B-777-300, four A-321
- Strengthening and extension of runway by 550m Phase-II for operation of wide-bodied aircraft and strengthening of domestic apron and link taxiway.
- Construction of new control tower cum technical block of 30m height with reference to extended runway.

Jorhat

- Construction of new terminal building complex for 400 passengers (plinth area 8000 sqm) with associated facilities.

1	2
Silchar	
1	Expansion and modification of terminal building to make total area about 6000 sqm for 500 passengers by demolishing of existing garages and expansion of car park for additional 100 cars etc.
Bihar	
Gaya	
1	Strengthening and extension of runway from 2290m to 3050m for operation of B-777-200 class of aircraft with Cat. I operation.
2	Strengthening and extension of existing apron for parking of two B-777-200 and four A-321 class of aircraft with additional link taxiway and part parallel taxiway.
Muzaffarpur	
1	Operationalization of airport for ATR-72 operation.
Gujarat	
Ahmedabad	
1	Construction of new domestic arrival block for 800 passengers.
2	Construction of new international terminal complex for 1500 passengers with three passenger boarding bridges, three escalators and three elevators.
3	Construction of new cargo complex for 20000 tonnes (4000 sqm area)
4	Construction of new control tower cum technical block of 30m height at appropriate location.
5	Construction of remaining part parallel taxiway for operation of wide-bodied aircraft after acquisition of 50 acres of land.
Bhavnagar	
1	Strengthening and extension of runway of 2300m, construction of new link taxiway, apron for three A-320 as per master plan.
2	Construction of terminal building complex for 400 passengers, car park for 200 cars, approach road etc.
Jamnagar	
1	Construction of new terminal building complex (10000 sqm) for 400 passengers, apron for 4 A-321 with additional link taxiway, two aerobridges, escalators, elevators, car park for 400 cars.

1	2
Rajkot	
1	Construction of new terminal building complex for 400 passengers, car park etc.
2	Strengthening and extension of runway from 6000 ft. to 7000 ft. including ground lighting facilities etc.
Vadodara	
1	Construction of new integrated terminal building complex for 500 passengers and associated facilities.
Surat	
1	Extension of runway, taxi track and apron shoulders including visual lighting (2250 to 3000 mtr)
2	Extension/construction of Terminal Building, car park including all services and equipments.
Goa	
1	Construction of New Integrated Terminal Building (56000 sqm) for 3400 with aerobridges, escalators, elevators and other modern facilities.
2	Expansion of apron and additional link taxiway for parking of two wide-bodied aircraft.
Jammu and Kashmir	
Jammu	
1	Extension of runway by 1300 ft. on the southern side.
2	Expansion and modification of terminal building for 500 passengers within available land
3	Expansion of apron and additional link taxiway.
Leh	
1	Construction of new terminal building complex for 400 passengers including car park etc.
2	Expansion of apron for parking of two additional A-320 class of aircraft and additional link taxiway.
Srinagar	
1	Expansion and modification of terminal building.
2	Expansion of apron with additional link taxiway.
Jharkhand	
Ranchi	
1	Construction/Expansion of integrated terminal building to cater to 600 passengers at a time with two passenger boarding bridges, three escalators, three elevators and associated facilities.

- | 1 | 2 |
|---|--|
| 2 | Expansion and strengthening of apron for parking of five A-321 / two A-310 class of aircraft, additional taxiway, part parallel taxiway etc. |
| 3 | Extension and strengthening of runway for operation of wide-bodied aircraft like A-310 / B-777-200 |

Karnataka**Belgaum**

- 1 Strengthening and extension of runway for A-321 operation (2300m x 45m), construction of new apron, link taxiway for parking of three A-320 class of aircraft including ground lighting facilities etc.
- 2 Construction of new terminal building for 300 passengers (6000 sqm)

Hassan

- 1 Development of new airport for ATR-72 operation in Phase-I.

Hubli

- 1 Construction of new terminal building complex for 400 passengers.

Mangalore

- 1 Construction of new terminal building complex (15000 sqm) for 500 passengers, car park etc.
- 2 Construction of apron, taxiway for parking of six A-321

Mysore

- 1 Construction of new runway 09/27 – 1700m x 45m and secondary runway 05/23 – 1400m x 45m with associated taxiways, apron, control tower, fire station, boundary wall and perimeter etc.
- 2 Development of new terminal building complex for 100 arriving and 100 departing passengers

Rajasthan**Ajmer (Kishngarh)**

- 1 Construction of new airport for ATR-72 operation.

Jaipur

- 1 Construction of new international terminal building complex Phase-I for 500 passengers.
- 2 Construction of new apron with link taxiways etc. in front of new terminal building for parking of 10 wide-bodied aircraft.

- | 1 | 2 |
|---|--|
| 3 | Strengthening and extension of runway from 9000 ft. to 12000 ft. Phase-II. |

Jaisalmer

- 1 Construction of new civil enclave for operation of A-320 class of aircraft (land available).
- 2 Terminal building for 300 passengers, car park etc.
- 3 Construction of apron, taxiway for parking of two A-320.

Mount Abu

- 1 Development of existing Airport.

Udaipur

- 1 Construction of new terminal building complex for 500 passengers.
- 2 Strengthening and extension of runway from 2286m to 2800m for wide-bodied aircraft operation.

UT**Chandigarh**

- 1 Construction of new terminal complex for 500 passengers, car park, approach road etc.
- 2 Strengthening and expansion of apron and additional link taxiway for A-310 / A-321.

Port Blair (CE)

- 1 Strengthening and expansion of apron and associated taxiway for parking of two A-310 and four A-321 class of aircraft.
- 2 Construction of integrated international terminal block for 500 international passengers with plinth area of 15000 sqm, car park for 300 cars, two PBB, three escalators and three elevators.

Agatti

- 1 Strengthening and extension of existing runway from 1200m to 1700m for operation of ATR-72 class of aircraft.
- 2 Construction of bridge between two islands for extension of runway and associated facilities.

Pondicherry

- 1 Strengthening and extension of runway to 1700m for ATR-72 operation and associated works.

1	2
Uttarakhand	
Dehradun	
Development of airport for B-737-800 operation	
1	Strengthening and extension of runway from 1152m to 2134m, construction of new apron, link taxiway etc.
2	Construction of new terminal building complex for 150 passengers, car park, approach road etc.
Pantnagar	
1	Strengthening and extension of runway from 1100m to 1500m for ATR-72 operation, taxiway and apron (Ph.-I).
2	Strengthening and extension of runway from 1500m to 2285m for A-320 operation, taxiway and apron (Ph.-II).
3	Construction of new terminal building complex for 100 arriving and 100 departing passengers, car park etc (Ph.-I).
4	Expansion of terminal building complex for 150 arriving and 150 departing passengers etc (Ph.-II).
Delhi	
1	Construction of BCAS, DGCA, and RED, NR offices.
2	Expansion of Corporate Hqrs. Block.
Madhya Pradesh	
Bhopal	
1	Expansion of existing terminal building in A/C & BMC.
2	Strengthening and extension of runway to 2500m for operation of A-321 class of aircraft.
3	Construction of new integrated terminal building with apron for parking of five A-321 for 500 passengers with two passenger-boarding bridges, three escalators and three elevators at new location.
Indore	
1	Construction of new integrated terminal building for 600 passengers (18000 sqm), car park for 500 cars, two aerobridges, three escalators, three elevators etc.
2	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building.
3	Strengthening and extension of runway to 3500m for operation of wide-bodied aircraft, part parallel taxiway, expansion of apron etc.

1	2
Khajuraho	
1	Construction of new terminal building complex for 500 passengers.
Himachal Pradesh	
Kullu	
1	Strengthening and extension of runway for ATR-42 operation.
2	Reclaiming of land / construction of bridge over river Beas and acquisition of land for extension of runway.
Uttar Pradesh	
Lucknow	
1	Construction of new integration international terminal building for 600 passengers (15000 sqm), car park etc.
2	Construction of new apron for four wide-bodied aircraft and taxiway and GSE.
3	Upgradation of ground lighting facility for CAT-II operation including land acquisition.
Varanasi	
1	Construction of new integrated terminal building complex for 500 passengers.
2	Strengthening and extension of runway from 2200m to 2745m for operation of wide-bodied aircraft and associated works.
Punjab	
Ludhiana (Halwara)	
1	Development of Civil Enclave at Halwara.
Behala	
1	Development of airport for ATR-72 operations.
Orissa	
Bhubaneswar	
1	Construction of additional parking stands for four A-321 and two B-777-200 and associated taxiway.
2	Construction of new international terminal complex for 500 passengers with all modern facilities like two BB, four escalators, three elevators with plinth area of 15000 sqm and car park for 500 cars.
Jharsuguda	
1	Operationalization of airport for ATR-72 operation.

1	2
West Bengal	
Cooch Behar	
1	Development of airport for ATR-72 operations.
Malda	
1	Development of airport for ATR-72 operations.
Kolkata	
1	Development of Integrated Passenger Terminal and associated works at NSCBI Airport, Kolkata.
Tirupura	
Agartala	
1	Expansion and strengthening of apron for parking of additional three A-321 and one ATR-72 class of aircraft with link taxiway, ramp area etc.
Meghalaya	
Barapani (Shillong)	
1	Construction of new terminal building for 100 passengers for operation of LCC (1500 sqm approx.) with car park for 100 cars and development of approach road.
Manipur	
Imphal	
1	Expansion of apron and additional link taxiway for parking of four A-321 and part parallel taxiway.
Sikkim	
Pakyong	
1	Construction of new airport for 50 seater aircraft operation excluding cost of land.
Nagaland	
Kohima	
1	Construction of new airport operation excluding cost of land.
Arunachal Pradesh	
Itanagar	
1	Construction of new airport for 50 seater aircraft operation excluding cost of land.
Passighat	
1	Operationalization of airport for ATR-72 operation.

1	2
Maharashtra	
Akola	
1	Development/operation of airport.
Aurangabad	
1	Strengthening of and extension of runway to 3000m for wide-bodied aircraft operation and part-parallel taxiway, expansion of apron etc.
2	Construction of new control tower cum technical block of 30m height at appropriate location.
3	Construction of new terminal building.
Baramati	
1	Development of airport for ATR-72 operation including runway of 1500m, terminal building for 100 passengers, control tower cum fire station, boundary wall etc.
Gondia	
1	Institutional Complex/Development of airport.
2	Airport infrastructure.
Juhu	
1	Development of runway, taxiway, apron and surrounding area (raising of ground by 1.2m to 1.5m as per ground slope).
Mumbai	
1	Construction of new RED Office including engineering, Finance, Administrative, Estate, Commercial and MT Pool etc.
2	Construction of New Control Tower and ATS Block.
Nagpur	
1	Construction of Terminal Building.
2	Expansion of apron and construction of additional apron area for night parking including link taxiways etc.
Pune	
1	Construction of parallel taxiway, expansion of apron and associated link taxiways for operation of A-310/A-321 class of aircraft.
2	Construction of international integrated terminal complex for 500 passengers.
Kerala	
Calicut	
1	Strengthening of runway and associated facilities for B-777-200/B-747-400 class of aircraft,

1	2
Trivandrum	
1	Construction of parallel taxi-track towards Chackai canal side
Tamil Nadu	
Coimbatore	
1	Construction of new integrated terminal complex for 500 passengers and car park etc.
2	Construction of new apron and link taxiway for parking of four A-321 and two B-777-200
3	Expansion and modification of existing terminal building.
Chennai	
1	Development of Kamraj Domestic Terminal Phase-II, expansion of existing Anna International Terminal and face lifting of existing Terminals at Chennai Airport.

1	2
2	Extension of secondary runway, parallel taxiway and bridge over Aidyar river.
Madurai	
1	Construction of new integrated terminal building complex for 500 passengers 70.00.
Trichy	
1	Construction of new integrated terminal building for 500 passengers, car park etc.
2	Expansion of apron for parking of A-321 class of aircraft including new taxiways.
Tuticorin	
1	Strengthening and extension of runway from 1350m to 1500m for ATR-72 operation, upgradation of other pavements.

Statement-II

Airports Authority of India

The Number of projects started (State-wise)

Sl. No.	Aerodrome Works Airport wise scheme	PDC
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
Tirupati		
1	Strengthening of runway and associated pavements for operation of A-320 class of aircraft (dual wheel)	Mar-08
Visakhapatnam		
1	Construction of new integrated terminal building	Apr-08
Assam		
Dibrugarh		
1	Construction of Terminal Building	Jun-08
Guwahati		
1	Construction of additional parking stands for two B-777-300, four A-321	May-08
Gujarat		
Ahmedabad		
1	Construction of new domestic arrival block for 800 passengers	Work Completed
2	Construction of new international terminal complex for 500 passengers with three passenger boarding bridges, three escalators and three elevators	Feb-09

1	2	3
Surat		
1	Development of Surat Airport	Mar-08
2	Extension of runway (From 1525 to 2250 M) and construction of new apron including strengthening of existing runway.	Mar-08
Goa		
1	Expansion of apron and additional link taxiway for parking of two wide-bodied aircraft	Mar-08
Jammu and Kashmir		
Srinagar		
1	Expansion and modification of terminal building	May-08
Jharkhand		
Ranchi		
1	Expansion and strengthening of apron for parking of five A-321 / two A-310 class of aircraft, additional taxiway, part parallel taxiway etc.	Jun-08
Karnataka		
Belgaum		
1	Strengthening and extension of runway for A-321 operation (2300m x 45m), Work completed construction of new apron, link taxiway for parking of three A-320 class of aircraft including ground lighting facilities etc.	
Mangalore		
1	Construction of new terminal building complex (15000 sqm) for 500 passengers, car park etc.	Sep-08
2	Construction of apron, taxiway for parking of six A-321	Mar-08
Mysore		
1	Construction of new runway 09/27 – 1700m x 45m and secondary runway 05/23– 1400m x 45m with associated taxiways, apron, control tower, fire station, boundary wall and perimeter etc.	Mar-08
2	Development of new terminal building complex for 100 arriving and 100 departing passengers	Dec-08
Rajasthan		
Jaipur		
1	Construction of new international terminal building complex Phase-I for 500 passengers	Jun-08
2	Construction of new apron with link taxiways etc. in front of new terminal building for parking of 10 wide-bodied aircraft	Jun-08
Udaipur		
1	Construction of new terminal building complex for 500 passengers	Feb-08
2	Strengthening and extension of runway from 2286m to 2800m for wide-bodied aircraft operation.	Jun-08
UT		
Chandigarh		
1	Construction of new terminal complex for 500 passengers, car park, approach road etc.	Feb-09

1	2	3
	Port Blair (CE)	
1	Strengthening and expansion of apron and associated taxiway for parking of two A-310 and four A-321 class of aircraft	Feb-09
	Delhi	
1	Expansion of Corporate Hqrs. Block	
	Madhya Pradesh	
	Khajuraho	
1	Construction of new terminal building complex for 500 passengers	Dec-08
	Uttrakhand	
	Dehradun	
	Development of airport for B-737-800 operation	
1	Strengthening and extension of runway from 1152m to 2134m, construction of Work Completed new apron, link taxiway etc.	
2	Construction of new terminal complex for 150 passengers, car park, approach road etc.	Jul-08
	Pantnagar	
1	Strengthening and extension of runway from 1100m to 1500m for ATR-72 operation, taxiway and apron (Ph.-I)	Mar-08
	Uttar Pradesh	
	Lucknow	
1	Construction of new integration international terminal building for 600 passengers (15000 sqm), car park etc.	Apr-09
2	Construction of new apron for four wide-bodied aircraft and taxiway and GSE	Sep-08
	Varanasi	
1	Construction of new integrated terminal building complex for 500 passengers	Dec-08
	Orissa	
	Bhubaneswar	
1	Construction of additional parking stands for four A-321 and two B-777-200 and associated taxiway.	Mar-08
	West Bengal	
	Cooch Behar	
1	Development of airport for ATR-72 operations.	Sep-08
	Tirupura	
	Agartala	
1	Expansion and strengthening of apron for parking of additional three A-321 and one ATR-72 class of aircraft with link taxiway, ramp area etc.	Jun-08
	Meghalaya	
	Barapani (Shillong)	
1	Construction of new terminal building for 100 passengers for operation of LCC (1500 sqm approx.) with car park for 100 cars and development of approach road.	Jun-09

1	2	3
Maharashtra		
Akola		
1	Development/operation of airport/Strengthening of Runway	Work completed
Aurangabad		
1	Construction of new terminal building	Dec-08
Gondia		
1	Institutional Complex/Development of airport	Aug-08
Nagpur		
1	Construction of Terminal Building	Apr-08
Pune		
1	Construction of parallel taxiway, expansion of apron and associated link taxiways for operation of A-310 /A-321 class of aircraft	Mar-08
Kerala		
Calicut		
1	Strengthening of runway and associated facilities for B-777-200 / B-747-400 class of aircraft	Apr-08
Trivandrum		
1	Construction of new International Terminal Building apron, apronpark and other allied services towards chakai side.	Mar-09
Tamil Nadu		
Madurai		
1	Construction of new integrated terminal building complex for 500 passengers 70.00	Feb-09
Trichy		
1	Construction of new integrated terminal building for 500 passengers, car park etc.	Mar-08
2	Expansion of apron for parking of A-321 class of aircraft including new Work completed taxiways.	

Exploration of Oil

370. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARJA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey for the exploration of oil in different places in the country has been started by the Government during the current year;

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

(c) the details of the progress made in this regard as on date; and

(d) the details of the salient features of the new oil exploration licensing policy chalked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) to (c) Yes Sir, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has started geophysical survey in the country during the current year in the areas namely Narmada-Cambay/Deccan Syncline, Gulf of Kutch, Kutch, Central India, East & West Coast of India, UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Nagaland, Manipur, Cuddapah, Western Offshore in India and KG Basin. The details about type of survey and status regarding these surveys are at the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) The salient features of the seventh round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VII) in vogue are at enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I**Status of Geophysical Survey under Execution as on 25.2.2008**

Sl.No.	Area of Survey	Type of Survey	Status
1.	Narmada-Cambay/Deccan Syncline	Analysis of aerial images / remote sensing data	Collection & analysis of data in progress.
2.	Gulf of Kutch	MS & MMT	Work in progress.
3.	Kutch	2D onland seismic survey.	Acquired 481.40 LKM till 15.02.08
4.	Central India	Land MT	Sihore-Akola profile is completed (63 Stns) Indore-Jalgaon Profile to taken up.
5.	East & West Coast of India	Speculative: Offshore Seismic	API Completed
6.	UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, WB, Nagaland, Manipur, Kutch & Cuddapah	Speculative: AeroGM Survey	HRAM over BLK 3 in progress; acquired 5,989 Kms till date.
7.	Western Offshore in India	Speculative: Reprocessing	Reprocessing in progress.
8.	KG Basin	Speculative: CSEM	Started on 02.02.08; acquired 660 sq. km. till date.

Statement-II**Salient Features of the Seventh Round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VII) in vogue are as under:**

- The possibility of seismic option alone in the first phase of the exploration period.
- Up to 100% participation by foreign companies.
- No signature, discovery or production bonus.
- No mandatory state participation.
- No carried interest by National Oil Companies (NOCs).
- Income Tax Holiday for seven years from start of commercial production.
- No customs duty on imports required for petroleum operations.
- Biddable cost recovery limit: Up to 100%.
- Option to amortise exploration and drilling expenditures over a period of 10 years from first commercial production.
- Sharing of profit petroleum with Government of India based on biddable pre-tax investment multiple achieved by the contractor.
- Royalty for onland areas is payable at the rate of 12.5% for crude oil and 10% for natural gas. For shallow water

offshore areas, royalty is payable at the rate of 10% for both crude oil and natural gas. For deepwater offshore areas (beyond 400 m iso-bath) royalty is payable for both crude oil & natural gas at the rate of 5% for the first seven years of commercial production and thereafter at the rate of 10%.

- Fiscal stability provision in the contract.
- Freedom to the contractor for marketing of oil and gas in the domestic market.
- Liberal provisions for assignment.
- Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, based on United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) model, applicable.
- To facilitate investors, a Petroleum Tax Guide (PTG) is in place.

Saharanpur Railway Station

371. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to improve the dilapidated condition of Saharanpur Railway Station;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by when renovation of this railway station is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Saharanpur is an "A" category station and all passenger amenities as per minimum essential amenities norms have already been provided at this station. To further improve the condition of railway station, improvement works such as development of second entry, improvement of façade of station building, replacement of roof of station building and improvement to passenger platform have been taken up.

(c) Improvement/renovation works have been planned for completion by 31st August, 2008.

[English]

Curbing of Rise in the Steel Prices

372. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations from the various organizations to curb rising steel prices;

(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 STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) The Government has received a number of representations on steel prices from different segments of the steel consuming industry suggesting measures like asking the producers to reverse the price increase, withdrawing export incentives on steel exports and reduce import duty on steel.

(c) The steel sector in the country is deregulated and therefore the price of various steel products are decided by the prevailing market conditions primarily depending upon demand supply situation and the landed cost of imports. Nonetheless, on the appeal of the Honourable Steel Minister the major steel producers in the country have reduced steel prices on various categories of steel by Rs. 500-1000/- per tonne in February 2008. Further, a Steel Price Monitoring Committee (SPMC) has also constituted, which provides an interface between the producers and consumers of steel, under the aegis of Ministry of Steel, to discuss issues related to steel price movements in the country.

Overbooking in the Flights

373. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India's London-Chicago flight were offloaded on January 8, 2008;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the rules and regulations in such cases when passengers with confirmed tickets have to be offloaded on account of over booking;

(d) whether there have been such incidents in the past with Air India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the compensatory benefits are provided by airlines to passenger in such circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per international industry practice, airlines overbook their flights to optimize utilization of capacity, as all passengers booked on a flight do not turn up at the airport. However, at times more passengers than expected do turn up and the airline has no option but to resort to offloading.

(c) For passengers holding tickets, paid in Indian Rupees, for destinations to USA, UK and Europe, the compensation is granted in the form of a Miscellaneous Charges Order (MCO), which can be used for future transportation.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) One incident occurred in December, 2007 when 25 passengers were off-loaded. Eleven incidents of off-loading occurred in January, 2008. Compensatory benefits as per rules were provided to the off-loaded passengers.

Defective LPG Cylinders

374. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any representation from State Government of Tamil Nadu regarding supply of defective LPG cylinders which may lead to risky consequences;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the quality and standard of gas cylinders supplied by Indian Oil/ oil companies to the consumers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No representation has been received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu regarding supply of defective LPG cylinders.

(c) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are procuring LPG cylinders from cylinder manufacturers who are approved by the Oil Industry Technical Committee (OITC) and have valid manufacturing licences from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE). Strict control is exercised by BIS over the manufacturing process. LPG cylinders procured by OMCs meet the required quality standards.

LPG cylinders received from distributors/transporters at the bottling plants are mandatorily checked for their quality and genuineness to avoid the entry of fake and outlived cylinders in circulation. On detection of sub-standard / spurious cylinders, these are confiscated and thereafter de-shaped / crushed to prevent their re-entry into circulation.

Apart from the legal action, which can be taken against any supplier of spurious LPG equipment, in case any distributor is found in possession of spurious equipments or inducts such equipment in the distribution system, Marketing Discipline Guidelines, provide inter alia, for confiscation of equipment, imposition of fine and recovery at penal rates for the 1st and 2nd offences and termination of distributorship in the event of a 3rd offence.

Financial Assistance to the Blind Students

375. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is financially assisting the blind students;

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

(c) whether the Government is also providing hostel facilities in favour of the blind students particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State Governments are also sharing financially, to help blind students particularly in Madhya Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details of guidelines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (f) A number of activities for empowerment of persons with disabilities including blind are undertaken through the Non-Governmental Organisations, for which grants-in-aid are provided by the Government.

With the help of grants-in-aid, Hostel facilities to the blind students of 74 schools/vocational training centres, including 4 centres in Madhya Pradesh, are being provided through the Non-Governmental Organisations.

LPG Connections in Tamil Nadu and U.P.

376. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of domestic LPG connections in Tamil Nadu and U.P.;

(b) the number of applications in the waiting list;

(c) the number of LPG connections released in Tamil Nadu and U.P. during last 3 years; and

(d) the details thereof, year-wise, company-wise, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that as on 1.1.2008 they are having 93.98 lakh domestic LPG connections in the State of Tamil Nadu and 101.19 lakh connections in the State of Uttar Pradesh. OMCs have not reported any waiting list pending with them for release of new domestic LPG connections in the State of Tamil Nadu, while Indian Oil Corporation Limited has reported a waiting list of 12338 in the State of Uttar Pradesh as on 01.02.2008 for release of new domestic LPG connection with their LPG distributors.

(c) and (d) OMCs have reported that during the last three years and April – December 2007 they have released 23.21 lakh and 23.78 lakh LPG connections in the States of Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh respectively. The year-wise, company-wise and district-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the concerned OMCs.

Increase in Prices of Fertilizers

377. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the prices of fertilizers have increased rapidly during the years five years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to find ways to reduce the production cost of fertilizers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the prices of fertilizers?

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): (a) and (b) The selling price of fertilizers under the subsidy regime has remained constant for the last 5 years. The selling prices of the subsidized fertilizers are placed at enclosed Statement-I.

(c) to (e) The cost of production of fertilizers largely depend upon the price of feedstocks/inputs. The price of natural gas which is the preferred feedstock for production of urea is based on market forces except for the natural gas under Administered Price Mechanism (APM). The price of other fertilizer inputs depend upon their prevailing international prices which has risen sharply over last 5 years, as can be seen from the details at enclosed Statement-II.

However, the Government has been encouraging the industry to improve production efficiency in order to reduce costs of production. Under the New Pricing Scheme Stage-III, the efficiency norms of the existing urea units in the country has been tightened in order to reduce the cost of production

and encourage efficiency. A study on ways to further improve efficiency in existing urea units has been recently entrusted to M/s Projects & Development India Ltd. (PDIL). The report of the study is expected by the end of this year.

Statement-I

Maximum Retails Price of subsidized fertilizers

	(Rupees per MT)
Urea	4830
DAP	9350
MOP	4455
16:20:00	7100
20:20:00	7280
23:23:00	8000
28:28:00	9080
10:26:26	8360
12:32:16	8480
14:28:14	8300
14:35:14	8660
15:15:15	6980
17:17:17	8100
19:19:19	8300

Statement-II

Trends of increase in international prices

Year	YearsAverage International Prices in USD (PMT)						
	Urea	DAP	MOP	Phos Acid (C&F)	Rock Phosphate (C&F)	Ammonia (C&F)	Sulphur (C&F)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2002-03	110	183	120	342	56	126	84
2003-04	156	203	123	356	56	215	84
2004-05	202	260	180	403	59	244	90
2005-06	243	290	215	445	80	260	93.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2006-07	257	330	213	464	81	300	76
2007-08 – 1st Qtr	315	506	250	566	120	332	138
Sep' 07	336	534	306	566	121	263	237
January, 2008	404	790	322	566	245	379	556

Regulation of Supply and Distribution Order, 2000

378. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and statistics of action taken under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 for various malpractices, total FIRs registered and their disposal, during last three years, with State/year-wise and malpractice-wise break-up; and

(b) the statistics and details of action taken by oil marketing companies against the erring LPG distributors in terms of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship Agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
(a) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the diversion / black – marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) is prohibited. The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage. Information on total FIRs registered and their disposal is being collected.

(b) OMCs have taken action against 4226 LPG distributors in the country during the last three years and during the period April, 2007 – January, 2008 under the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines / Distributorship Agreement. The details of action taken are available with the Director (Marketing) of the concerned OMCs.

Losses to the Oil Companies

379. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies in the country are incurring huge losses;

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

(c) whether the oil companies have sought compensation from the Government to offset the losses incurred by them; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) The international prices of crude oil and petroleum products have remained high and volatile. In April 2007, the Indian basket was \$ 65.5 per barrel, which rose to \$ 89.5 per barrel in January 2008 and is currently at its highest level of % 94.96 per barrel (on 20.2.2008). As India imports about 3/4ths of its crude requirements to service the domestic demand for petroleum products, international oil prices play an important role in domestic pricing. A passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in hardship to the common man, the retail selling prices of petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG have not been increased in tandem with the international oil prices. The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are incurring under-recoveries on domestic sale of sensitive petroleum products namely petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG. The under-recoveries, have been mounting every year and are as under:

	(Rs. in Crore)		
Period	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (P)*
PDS kerosene	14,384	17,883	19,012
Domestic LPG	10,245	10,701	14,727
Petrol	2,680	2,027	6,980
Diesel	12,284	18,776	31,089
Total	39,593	49,387	71,808

*Provisional figures

(c) and (d) To ensure the financial viability of OMCs and to protect the interest of the common man, the Government has adopted the principle of 'equitable burden sharing' between the Government and the oil PSUs. In this context, Government has issued oil bonds, while the upstream oil companies have contributed by offering discounts to OMCs on crude oil and petroleum products. The details are given below:

(Rs. in Crore)			
Company	2005-06	2006-07	Apr-Dec'07 (Prov.)
Issue of Oil Bonds	11,500	24,121	11,526.92
Discount from Upstream Companies	14,000	20,507	15,873
Total	25,500	44,628	27,399.92

Classical Language In Kannada

380. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee of Linguistic Experts of Sahitya Akademy set up to consider to award classical language status to Kannada has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the report alongwith the further action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the time by which a final decision to declare the Kannada as classical language is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allocation of Funds for the Welfare of Disabled Persons

381. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether allocation of Central funds towards education, employment and other welfare measures for disabled people, particularly disabled children is abysmally low as reported in a recent World Bank Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being proposed by the Government to create and provide congenial education and employment facilities to the disabled people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The Government has taken various steps to promote education and employment facilities for persons with disabilities in recent years. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), inclusive education of children with special needs is being promoted. There has been general increase in allocation of funds for education of children with disabilities with the implementation of SSA. Apart from reservation in employment in Government establishments, the Government has approved a Central Sector Scheme to promote employment of disabled persons in private sector. The World Bank has not submitted final report.

[Translation]

New Train from New Delhi to Ranchi

382. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is actively contemplating to introduce a new train from New Delhi Ranchi via Bokaro, Gomo, Kodarma so as to address long pending grievances of the people of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard till now; and

(d) the time by which the proposed train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Introduction of Ranchi-Delhi Garib Rath Express (bi-weekly) has been announced in Railway Budget 2008-09.

[English]

Reserves of Oil and Gas In Jammu and Kashmir

383. Ms. MEHBOOBA MUFTI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any survey to ascertain the potential of oil and gas reserves in Jammu and Kashmir;

- (b) if so, the details of the survey;
- (c) the areas where there are possibilities of the existence of gas and oil;
- (d) the quantity of oil and gas reserves; and
- (e) the time by which production from such blocks will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) has carried out surveys in the state of Jammu and Kashmir for ascertaining the potential of oil and gas reserves in the state.

(b) to (d) Extensive geological surveys have been conducted by ONGC, supplemented with Gravity Magnetic and 2563 Ground Line Kilometre (GLK) of 2D seismic data acquisition. ONGC has also drilled four exploratory wells, two in the Jammu hills part of the Himalayan foothills and the other two in Karewa Basin in Kashmir Valley. So far, no commercial hydrocarbon reserves have been found in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

(e) The feasibility of production of oil and gas can only be ascertained after establishment of commercial quantities of oil and gas reserves in Jammu & Kashmir.

[Translation]

Wastage of Fruits and Vegetables

384. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of fruits of total production of fruits and vegetables in the country, being processed, State-wise;
- (b) whether in the absence of adequate processing and storage facility, the fruits worth billion of rupees get wasted;
- (c) if not, latest official figures in this regard;
- (d) the reasons for not providing adequate processing facilities by the Government so far;
- (e) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT

SAHAY): (a) to (c) According to the Vision 2015 report prepared by M/s Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., the utilisation of fruits and vegetables for processing is estimated to be around 2.20% of the total production, and wastage of fruit and vegetables is estimated to be about Rs. 33,000 crore occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting like inadequate post – harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage and processing facilities etc. Percentage of Fruits & Vegetables used for processing, State-wise, based on information available in respect of units registered under Fruit Products Order, 1955 is given at enclosed Statement.

(d) to (f) For promotion of fruits and vegetables processing industries, financial assistance is provided by Ministry of Food Processing Industries in the form of grant under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation / Modernisation / Establishment of food processing industries, for setting up of new unit or for expansion of existing fruits & vegetables processing unit. Under this Scheme, MFPI extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum or Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas. In order to ensure speedy disbursement of the financial assistance, the Ministry has decided to decentralize the disbursement procedure through banks under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation / Modernization / Establishment of food processing industries w.e.f. 01.04.07. Now the applicants will be able to avail of grant / assistance through the neighbourhood banks which have already appraised the project and provided loans to them.

Since one of the major constraints for low level of processing in agro-food products is lack of infrastructure such as cold chain facilities and inefficient supply chain, the Ministry is working on launching a revamped comprehensive Cold Chain Infrastructure Scheme, during the 11th Plan, for creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels-farm level primary processing centre-cum-cold chain, collection / aggregation centers and Strategic Distribution Centers. The initiative being undertaken by the Ministry are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages.

Ministry has identified thrust areas for strategic intervention for the 11th Plan, by establishing Mega Food Parks, Cold-chain / value addition and preservation infrastructure, capacity building by setting up of National

Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship & Management (NIFTEM) and establishment / upgradation of Quality Control Laboratories, which could result in increasing the level of processing, value addition of food products, including perishables.

Statement

Percentage of Fruits & Vegetables used for processing, State-wise, based on information available in respect of units registered under Fruit Products Order, 1955

S.No.	State	Percentage of Fruits used for processing (%)	Percentage of Vegetables used for processing (%)
1	2	3	4
1	Assam	0.3223	0.1908
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.0004	0.00
3	Manipur	0.0898	0.0013
4	Meghalaya	0.0363	0.0085
5	Mizoram	0.1819	0.0154
6	Nagaland	0.1636	0.0894
7	Sikkim	3.8117	2.0755
8	Tripura	0.0887	0.0082
9	Andhra Pradesh	4.53	1.22
10	Tamil Nadu	3.80	0.84
11	Karnataka	2.08	3.42
12	Kerala	0.35	0.20
13	Pondicherry	0.41	3.29
14	West Bengal	1.62	0.052
15	Orissa	0.61	0.0025
16	Bihar	0.08	0.003
17	Jharkhand	0.32	0.057
18	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.03	0.0125
19	Delhi	726 *	4.90
20	Uttar Pradesh	0.90	0.17

1	2	3	4
21	Chandigarh	284 *	21
22	Rajasthan	1.0	0.37
23	Jammu and Kashmir	3.51	0.04
24	Punjab	0.47	3.97
25	Haryana	8.38	0.66
26	Uttaranchal	0.07	1.15
27	Himachal Pradesh	18.27	0.36
28	Maharashtra	1.13	4.15
29	Gujarat	1.20	2.63
30	Madhya Pradesh	1.19	0.50
31	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00
32	Goa	0.07	3.32
33	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	5.98
34	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00

* Fruit processed procuring from other states.

Expansion and Renovation of Railway Stations in Rajasthan

385. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations in Rajasthan where expansion and renovation works have been started during the last financial year;

(b) the names of stations where the said works have been sanctioned and yet to be started; and

(c) the time by when the said work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Expansion and renovation works have been started during the last financial year viz 2006-07 on the following railway stations in Rajasthan:

Chittourgarh, Bharatpur, Gangapur City, Bayana, Swaimadhampur, Bhawani Mandi, Chaumahla, Dakaniya Talav, Jhalawar Morak, Indergarh, Lakheri, Dhaulpur, Kherli, Nadbai, Mandavar Mahava Road, Bansipaharpur, Ajmer, Udaipur City, Abu Road, Falana, Rani, Bikaner, Lalgarh,

Sriganganagar, Jaipur, Bandikui, Alwar, Jodhpur, Pali Marwar, Jaisalmer, Barmer & Nagaur.

(b) and (c) The expansion and renovation works sanctioned in the State of Rajasthan along with the expected dates of their commencement are as under:

S.No.	Station	Works likely to start from
1.	Rai-ka-bagh	March 2008
2.	Merta Road	March 2008
3.	Degana	March 2008
4.	Makrana	April 2008
5.	Balotra	April 2008
6.	Bansipaharpur	April 2008

[English]

Petronet LNG Terminal at Kochi

386. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction or other activities have begun at Puthuvaypeen in Kochi in connection with Petronet LNG;

(b) if so, the present status of the project; and

(c) the time by which the project would be completed and commence functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSA PATEL): (a) to (c) PLL is setting up a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal at Kochi. All pre-project activities have been completed. Various statutory approvals have been obtained. Site leveling work has been completed and construction of boundary wall of LNG terminal is almost complete. Work on non-plant buildings, viz., administrative building, warehouse, workshop and occupational health centre, has started. EPC contract for construction of LNG storage tanks has been awarded. LNG terminal side grading work has already started. Co-developer agreement for Puthuvaypeen SEZ has been executed between PLL and Cochin Port Trust (CPT); and it has been approved by the Department of Commerce. The project is targeted to be completed and commissioned by the third quarter of 2011.

For meeting LNG requirement of , Kochi Terminal, PLL is at final stage of negotiations with an Australian supplier

for supply of 2.5 Million Metric Tonnes per annum (MMTPA) LNG on long term basis from Gorgon project.

Replacement of Incandescent Lamps with CFLS

387. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways are planning to replace 26 lakh incandescent lamps with energy-efficient Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) under the Clean Development Mechanism of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether by replacing incandescent lamps the Railways can earn carbon credit under UNFCCC;

(d) if so, the details of carbon credit;

(e) whether any private players are involved in this drive; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tender for replacement of about 26 lakh incandescent lamps with energy efficient CFLs has been floated on 10.1.08 and will open on 29.2.08.

(c) . Yes, Sir.

(d) The project can earn about 1.6 lakh tonnes of Certified Emission Reduction, proportions of which will be utilized to offset the cost of CFLs.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Tender will open on 29.2.08.

Automation of Retail Outlets

388. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil marketing companies are lagging behind in automation of their retail outlets;

(b) if so, the target date stipulated to complete automation of retail outlets and steps taken to meet the deadline;

(c) the total number of complaints received by oil marketing companies concerning sale of adulterated

petroleum products at the retail outlets during the last three years and how many of them found to be true; and

(d) the measures taken to check adulteration of petroleum products at retail outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) As on 15.02.2008, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have completed approx 60% automation of the Retail Outlets (ROs) selling more than 200 KL per month. Automation of balance 40% ROs is scheduled to be completed by October 2008.

(c) During the last three years i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, OMCs have received 177 complaints out of which 16 complaints were found established. Action has been taken by OMCs against ROs dealers based on the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines / Dealership Agreement. The action taken includes termination of dealerships, imposition of fines, suspension of supplies etc.

(d) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

In spite of above, the possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

In order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives viz., Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Use of Marker in Kerosene, Revision of MDG etc.

Upgradation of Railway Schools/Colleges

389. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway schools have been upgraded to meet the modern day requirements/facilities with a

focus on introduction of new subjects at college level so that students get trained on minimum facilities required;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether any study has been conducted to find out problems of the school staff and the students;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Upgradation of educational facilities in Railway Schools with changing times is a continuous process and such changes as are required and necessary directions received from Education Boards or received in the form of demands raised by employee beneficiaries or from Zonal Railway administrations are introduced/adopted in school curriculum having regard to the resources available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Supply of Ethanol Mixed Petrol at Pure Petrol Price

390. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the widespread complaint in the country that the Oil Marketing Companies are supplying pure petrol mixed with ethanol and the petrol pumps are supplying this mixed petrol at pure petrol price; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) According to IS: 2796:2000 amendment, 5% anhydrous denatured ethanol (conforming to S: 15464: 2004) can be used for blending with motor gasoline. Motor Spirit (MS) blended with 5% ethanol meets BIS specification for MS in totality. Accordingly, ethanol blended petrol with 5% ethanol is being dispensed from the retail outlets of OMCs in the notified States and Union Territories. As BIS specifications are met, the product is sold as petrol and the companies are not making any differentiation on the basis of blending ethanol. Further, depending on ethanol availability in a supply location, blending is done.

The calorific value of ethanol is less than that of MS by almost 40%. The typical calorific value of ethanol is 26750 KJ/KG as against the typical calorific value of MS which is 43500 KJ/KG. In the blended MS, the reduction in calorific value of the blended fuel will be less than 2%, as compared to the MS without ethanol which is insignificant. However, the octane number of ethanol is 100 as against more than or equal to 88 of MS. As ethanol has a higher octane number, it helps in increasing the octane number of the blended fuel which facilitates better combustion and thus helps in net reduction of tail pipe emissions.

In view of the above, marketing ethanol blended petrol at the price of unblended petrol is fully justified.

ILS and CAT-III System at IGI Airport

391. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Instrument Landing System (ILS) at IGI airport is not functioning properly causing inconvenience to the passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of flights diverted during the year as a result therefor;

(c) whether the various airlines were unable to use the CAT-III system for landing at IGI airport in the month of January this year;

(d) if so, whether the Government has since taken any corrective steps to ensure that ILS and CAT-III system at the IGI airport function in a smooth way; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Instrument Landing System (ILS) CAT-III at IGI Airport, Delhi is functioning satisfactorily. However, on two occasions in January 2008, ILS CAT III could not be made available due to non-availability of remote status indication of glide path. Disruption took place for two hours on 10th January and one hour 50 minutes on 11th January 2008 as a result of which 5 flights were diverted on 10.1.2008. There was no diversion on 11.1.2008.

(d) and (e) A temporary remote cable was laid from glide path via existing unit and remote indication was provided.

Book Stall Contractors in Indian Railways

392. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have transferred/handed over the management of bookstalls to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways have taken a decision for sharing the licence fee/royalty from book stalls as the ratio of 75% to IRCTC and 25% to the Indian Railways;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of the number of book stall contractors on Indian Railways whose contract has not been renewed during last one year, zone wise; and

(f) the reasons for not renewing their contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) With a view to upgrade and professionalise the services, the management of bookstalls at A, B and C category stations, has been handed over to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

(c) and (d) The revenue sharing between IRCTC and Railways has been kept as 75% and 25% as per provision of Memorandum of Understanding keeping in view the fact that IRCTC will need to develop organizational set up for the business and handle the day to day management of stalls.

(e) and (f) As the present Book stall Policy is sub-judice, zonal railways have been advised to maintain status quo.

Employment to Disabled Persons

393. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of physically and mentally disabled people are without any employment.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to launch special scheme to provide them gainful employment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) As per NSSO survey of 2002, the percentage of disabled persons seeking and/or available for work was 1.2% in urban areas and 0.6% in rural areas. The Government has launched a scheme to promote employment of disabled persons in private sector. The Scheme envisages payment of employer's contribution to Employees Provident fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for the first three years for providing employment to persons with disabilities. The benefit of the scheme is for the persons with monthly wages upto Rs.25,000/- per month. The scheme covers all persons with defined disabilities.

**Setting up of New Airports
in NCR**

394. PROF. M. RAMADASS:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 895, dated November, 2007 regarding 'Airport at Greater Noida' and to state:

(a) whether the proposal for setting up a new Greenfield International Airport at Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar District in Uttar Pradesh has been considered;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the proposed airport at the said place is likely to be completed; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to set up the new airports in the National Capital Region (NCR)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has considered the proposal for setting up of International Airport namely Taj International Aviation Hub (TIAH) at Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar District of U.P. The Government has decided that legal issues relating to the contractual agreements entered into with the developers of IGI Airport, Delhi need to be examined and which may get affected due to the proposed Jewar airport. The matter is being examined by a Group of Ministers.

(c) State Government of Uttar Pradesh propose to make the proposed, airport operational by 2011-2012.

(d) There are no plans at present to set up new airports in the National Capital Region.

[Translation]

**Incidents of Looting/Theft/Dacoity
in the Trains**

395. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incident of looting, dacoity, theft, murder and other crimes in the trains have increased in the country recently;

(b) the number of cases reported in each zones during the last three years, till date;

(c) the details of financial losses suffered due to such crimes;

(d) whether the Railway police force deployed in trains to check crime in trains are not adequate;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have taken any effective steps to check completely the incident of crime in the trains; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The number of cases of looting, dacoity, theft, murder and other crimes reported in trains with details of financial losses suffered due to such crimes over Zonal Railways during the last three calendar years (till date) is at enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Only important trains are being escorted with the available strength of staff. All trains could not be escorted due to paucity of staff. Steps have been taken to augment the strength of RPF in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

(f) and (g) It is pertinent to mention that maintenance of law and order is State subject and power to investigate in IPC crimes are vested with Police. Registration and detection of IPC crimes is the responsibility of Government Railway Police which works under the control of the State Governments and as such, Ministry of Railways has to depend largely on them for control of crime over Railways.

In spite of the above fact, Railways is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways by deploying Railway Protection Force staff to escort trains for security of passengers.

The following preventive measures are being taken for the security of passengers:-

1. Important and affected mail / express trains are being escorted in coordination with GRP.
2. The train escorting parties are being briefed to remain extra vigilant in trains at the affected stations / sections.
3. Necessary announcements are frequently being made through Public Awareness System and use of loud hailers at the general coaches of the trains and during line bandobast to desist passengers for purchasing / accepting eatables from unauthorized hawkers and unknown persons while traveling by train or at the platform.
4. Regular coordination meetings are being conducted with State Police and Government Railway Police to discuss crime trends and formulate effective strategies to contain crimes.
5. Ladies' compartments of sub-urban trains are normally being escorted by GRP. Special Squads comprising women TTEs and women RPF personnel are deployed in vulnerable sub-urban sections, especially during the non-peak hours when likelihood of commission of crime against women is more.
6. Regular drives are conducted by RPF against male passengers traveling in ladies compartments and the offenders detected are prosecuted under the provisions of the Railways Act.

Statement

Rly	Year	Murder	Dacoity	Robbery/ Loot	Theft of Pgrs' belongings	Other Crimes	Value of property looted (in Rupees)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CR	2005	3	7	13	932	4	14230828
	2006	4	11	15	791	7	17552656
	2007	5	4	21	1123	5	27267191
	2008	1	2	3	92	1	2337627
ER	2005	0	5	9	263	0	1131862
	2006	2	17	13	316	0	3355030
	2007	3	7	11	203	0	2089513
	2008	0	0	0	10	0	203500
ECR	2005	3	34	33	301	24	1237480
	2006	2	45	31	413	49	5358231
	2007	1	34	25	316	21	1586247
	2008	0	3	2	15	3	164440
ECoR	2005	3	3	16	246	175	4903430
	2006	7	9	17	282	223	3312651
	2007	6	5	21	254	205	3183120
	2008	0	0	0	0	0	0
NR	2005	8	6	12	394	0	9156264

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	2006	10	4	11	409	0	17559542
	2007	9	2	7	386	0	1705958
	2008	0	0	0	0	0	0
NCR	2005	4	6	4	454	0	1949344
	2006	0	0	6	316	0	2914835
	2007	2	2	9	408	0	3034385
	2008	0	0	0	22	0	598975
NER	2005	0	2	7	41	8	2104946
	2006	2	1	13	55	10	790267
	2007	3	9	2	50	2	915880
	2008	0	0	0	0	0	0
NFR	2005	4	9	17	185	27	1348268
	2006	4	4	8	154	29	2440084
	2007	0	14	11	108	47	2489909
	2008	0	0	0	5	5	112400
NWR	2005	1	0	4	181	0	2167567
	2006	0	0	2	181	0	2355569
	2007	3		2	194	0	3577923
	2008	0	0	0	0	7	160600
SR	2005	1	1	6	237	0	7154878
	2006	0	0	6	181	0	985912
	2007	1	0	5	183	0	2044693
	2008	1	0	1	12	10	368790
SCR	2005	5	3	6	504	0	20030003
	2006	0	4	6	477	0	16736640
	2007	2	5	8	361	0	16615480
	2008	0	0	0	23	0	649750
SER	2005	3	6	6	164	64	5035480
	2006	1	2	7	225	55	3471834
	2007	0	2	3	184	54	4918366
	2008	0	0	2	16	3	478400

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SECR	2005	0	0	3	183	6	3698764
	2006	0	1	3	183	12	3554706
	2007	0	0	1	156	12	12094942
	2008	0	0	0	0	18	276220
SWR	2005	17	1	8	475	0	10056191
	2006	22	4	9	398	0	15963140
	2007	19	4	22	311	0	172879622
	2008	0	0	4	22	0	441450
WR	2005	1	0	27	963	0	7711761
	2006	9	0	37	1032	0	11685367
	2007	3	1	26	1027	0	7161395
	2008	0	0	0	91	0	3851922
WCR	2005	1	5	12	789	0	14106214
	2006	2	6	3	741	0	12079978
	2007	0	7	4	641	0	10561620
	2008	0	0	0	52	0	5044700
Total	2005	54	88	183	6312	308	106023280
	2006	65	108	187	6154	385	120116440
	2007	57	96	178	5905	346	272126244
	2008	2	5	12	380	47	14688774

Hike in the Steel Prices

396. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of steel are being hiked arbitrarily by the steel companies;

(b) if so, the details of prices hiked from time to time by the steel companies during the last three years along with the percentage thereof;

(c) whether any permission has been taken from the Government by these companies before increasing the prices;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Steel prices are determined by market factors such as demand and supply situation, landed cost of imports, price and availability of substitutes etc. Since there are a multitude of players and various other determinants in the domestic steel market, possibility of steel companies hiking prices arbitrarily does not arise.

(b) The details of price movement of representative categories of steel products on quarterly basis, in the retail market of Mumbai during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) The steel sector in the country is deregulated and a liberalized scenario, prices are determined by the

free interplay of market forces. Therefore, respective steel producers take commercial decisions including those on prices themselves. Nonetheless, on an appeal from the Honourable Steel Minister the major steel producers in the country have reduced steel prices on various categories of steel by Rs.500-1000/- per tonne in February 2008. Further,

a Steel Price Monitoring Committee (SPMC) has also constituted, which provides an interface between the producers and consumers of steel under the aegis of Ministry of Steel, to discuss issues related to steel price movements in the country.

Statement

Retail Price at Mumbai on Quarterly Basis

(In Rs./tonne)

Period	Pig iron LM Gr.IV	TMT 10mm	Wire Rods 8mm	Rounds 16mm	Plates 12mm	HR Coil 2.5mm	CR Coil 0.63mm	GP Sheets 0.63mm	Pencil I Ingot/ Billets 100mm
1st February, 2008	21500	35500	32250	33250	34500	35500	38500	43500	28600
15th December, 2007	20000	33000	30800	30800	33750	34250	38000	42750	26600
Variation 1st Feb 08/15th Dec 07	7.5%	7.58%	4.71%	7.95%	2.22%	3.65%	1.32%	1.75%	7.52%
15th September, 2007	19000	30150	30250	29250	33750	33750	36750	39250	25350
Variation 1st Feb 08/15th Sept 07	13.16%	17.74%	6.61%	13.68%	2.22%	5.19%	4.76%	10.83%	12.82%
15th June, 2007	19000	32500	30000	30500	34500	34000	38000	40000	25300
Variation 1st Feb 08/15th Jun 07	13.16%	9.23%	7.50%	9.02%	0.00%	4.41%	1.32%	8.75%	13.04%
15th March, 2007	18500	29500	27750	28000	34250	34250	38500	40500	25075
Variation 1st Feb 08/15th Mar 07	16.22%	20.34%	16.22%	18.75%	0.73%	3.65%	0.00%	7.41%	14.06%
15th Dec., 2006	17700	29250	26625	26250	31500	31750	35000	41000	22225
Variation 1st Feb 08/15th Dec 06	21.47%	21.37%	21.13%	26.67%	9.52%	11.81%	10.00%	6.10%	28.68%
15th Sept., 2006	17300	26250	26250	25750	32000	32000	34000	41000	21875
Variation 1st Feb 08/15th Sept 06	24.28%	35.24%	22.86%	29.13%	7.81%	10.94%	13.24%	6.10%	30.74%
15th June, 2006	17000	26750	25250	25750	31000	31250	32500	37000	19775
Variation 1st Feb 08/15th Jun 06	26.47%	32.71%	27.72%	29.13%	11.29%	13.60%	18.46%	17.57%	44.63%
15th March, 2006	16800	25250	24500	24250	26500	27000	30500	34500	21275
Variation 1st Feb 08/15th Mar 06	27.98%	40.59%	31.63%	37.11%	30.19%	31.48%	26.23%	26.09%	34.43%
15th Dec., 2005	16800	25250	22300	24750	26000	26250	32000	36000	18850
Variation 1st Feb 08/15th Dec 05	27.98%	40.59%	44.62%	34.34%	32.69%	35.24%	20.31%	20.83%	51.72%
15th Sep., 2005	17500	28000	26500	27250	28000	27000	33500	37000	20800
Variation 1st Feb 08/15th Sept 05	22.86%	26.79%	21.70%	22.02%	23.21%	31.48%	14.93%	17.57%	37.50%
15th June, 2005	18300	30000	27800	28500	30500	30500	34500	39000	21000
Variation 1st Feb 08/15th Jun 05	17.49%	18.33%	16.01%	16.67%	13.11%	16.39%	11.59%	11.54%	36.19%

[English]

Signalling System in the Railways

397. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of accidents occurred between April 2000 and March 2007 due to signal failure;

(b) if so, the number of people killed and injured in such accidents;

(c) whether the Government is using inferior and locally fabricated equipments which are causing these signal failures;

(d) if so, whether the Government has taken steps to replace the inferior equipments which are already installed in signalling system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Twenty two train accidents were caused due to signal failures between April 2000 to March 2007.

(b) Twenty one people were killed and one hundred seventy people were injured in such accidents.

(c) No, Sir. All the safety equipments used in signaling system are taken from approved sources.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Budget Airlines

398. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government to start Budget airlines to operate International Flights;

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

(c) whether the Government of Kerala had applied for starting an Airline to operate flights to Middle East; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Except Kerala, the Government has not received any proposal from other State Governments to operate budget airlines in international

routes. Though no proposal for formation of any airline by the name 'Air Kerala' is pending with the Government for clearance, the Government of Kerala had informed that a public limited company, 'Air Kerala International Services Limited' has been registered as a Special Purpose Vehicle for a budget airline project. Government of Kerala requested this Ministry for exemption to the proposed airline from the stipulated conditions relating to fleet size and the length of operation in the domestic sector for an airline to be considered for international operations. This request was not considered in the light of the existing Government Policy regarding the minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft and experience of 5 years continuous operations in domestic sector for permitting an Indian scheduled carrier to operate international services.

Rajdhani Express Train Between New Delhi to Goa

399. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a new Rajdhani Express train between Goa to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the time by when this proposal is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal to introduce a new Rajdhani Express train between Goa & New Delhi. However, it has been announced in the Railway Budget 2008-09 to increase the frequency of 2431/2432 Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express running via Madgaon (Goa) from bi-weekly to tri-weekly.

[Translation]

Reservation for Minorities in the Educational Institutions

400. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide reservations for minorities in the educational institutions;

(b) if so, whether steps are being taken by Government to set up educational institutes and to provide better education to minorities in minority dominated areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the National Knowledge Commission is against providing reservations to minorities along with Muslims in the educational institutions;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the reservation policy will be implemented in all sectors i.e. education, employment and health; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) There is no proposal, at present, to provide reservation to minorities in educational institutions.

(b), (c), (f) and (g) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Oil Security

401. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evaluated the probable impact on oil imports in the event of natural disaster in oil producing countries as a consequence of Globe Warming during coming decades after 2011 as predicted by IPCC of United Nations with clear indication of submerging most of the coastal cities of the world including Mumbai by 2030;

(b) if so, the overall impact on the energy scenario in the country indicating (Oil) PSU-wise status projected thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the proposed investment, target and achievement made so far on the domestically viable alternative fuel mechanism and future research on this crucial subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) No, Sir.

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

(e) The Government is making efforts on continuous basis to ensure oil security in the country and also making

investments in research and development of domestically viable alternative fuel in the country, as follows:

i. Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

ii. Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

iii. Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

iv. Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

v. Arresting decline from ageing fields.

vi. Acquisition of exploration acreages and oil producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

vii. Construction of Strategic Storage of crude oil of 5 MMT capacity at three locations viz. Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur.

viii. ONGC Energy Centre has been formed. The Centre will carry out R&D as well as D&C (demonstration and commercialization). The Centre is run by a Trust which has eminent experts. So far, work on three projects has begun. Also ONGC and BARC have signed an MOU on a collaborative R&D project on "Thermo-chemical processes for Hydrogen production from water", to harness nuclear energy for producing Hydrogen, a clean secondary fuel from water.

ix. IOC's R&D Centre has studied the entire value chain of bio-diesel from plantation to field trials. IOC has entered into a MOU with Indian Railways to study the complete value chain of bio-diesel. The project is one of its kind in the country where every aspect of Jatropha bio-diesel is being studied. It is expected that the production of Jatropha seeds will start from the end of 2008. IOC jointly with Tata Motors has completed field trial run on 43 buses using 10% bio-diesel blends. IOC has signed a MOU in November, 2007 with Government of Chhattisgarh for formation of Joint Venture for carrying out bio-diesel business in State. Government of Madhya Pradesh has also allotted non-forest waste land to IOC for plantation of Jatropha.

x. Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme is being implemented in almost all the States under the coordination of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

- xi. In the areas of the alternative fossil fuels IOC has been participating in Coal Bed Methane (CBM) exploration and exploitation activities and in consortium with ONGC has been awarded two CBM blocks in the State of Jharkhand.

Protection of Monuments

402. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified the decaying monuments all over the country;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) There are 3667 monuments that are centrally protected and preserved to by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and 3573 monuments under State protection. A National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities has been set up, to among other things, create a comprehensive data base of monuments in the country.

Owing to their antiquity, monuments do suffer from decay and require periodical conservation / restoration. Yearly conservation programmes for structural repairs, chemical preservation and horticulture operations are drawn up by 24 Circles and Science and Horticulture Branches of ASI as per the needs of the monuments and availability of resources. Funds are allotted to the Circles and Branches for implementation of the yearly conservation programme. Details of works approved and the allotment of funds during the current financial year 2007-08 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The Allotment of Funds and Number of Works Approved for the Year 2007-2008.

Sl. No.	Name of Circles/ Branches	Number of Works approved for the year 2007-08	Allocation of funds at BE stage for 2007-08 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Agra Circle	87	555.00
2.	Aurangabad Circle	97	850.00

1	2	3	4
3.	Bangalore Circle	346	775.00
4.	Bhopal Circle	66	585.00
5.	Bhuvaneshwar Circle	58	325.00
6.	Chennai Circle	37	515.00
7.	Chandigarh Circle	68	435.00
8.	Delhi Circle	84	800.00
9.	Dehradun Circle	19	160.00
10.	Dharwad Circle	86	575.00
11.	Goa Circle	16	80.00
12.	Guwahati Circle	16	130.00
13.	Hyderabad Circle	91	575.00
14.	Jaipur Circle	49	285.00
15.	Kolkata Circle	27	325.00
17.	Lucknow Circle	88	450.00
18.	Mumbai Circle	39	350.00
19.	Patna Circle	65	400.00
20.	Ranchi Circle	7	60.00
21.	Raipur Circle	48	225.00
22.	Srinagar Circle	29	290.00
23.	Shimla Circle	19	125.00
24.	Thrissur Circle	15	210.00
25.	Vadodra Circle	32	340.00
26.	Horticulture Branch	246	1330.00
27.	Science Branch	183	710.00
28.	D.G. Office (Reserve)		72.00
Total		1918	11532.00

Extension of Amrita Express

403. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend the Amrita Express between Thiruvananthapuram to Palakkad to Mettupalayam;

(b) if so, whether the capacity of the train will be increased when it is extended upto Mettupalayam; and

(c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Merger of IDA with Basic Pay

404. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI RAO :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved the merger of 50 per cent Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) with the basic pay of profit-making Central Public Sector Enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to merge 50% of Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) w.e.f. 01.01.2007 with the basic pay of the employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) following the 1997 IDA pattern scales of pay, to the CPSEs, which are not loss making and are in a position to absorb the additional expenditure on account of merger of 50% of IDA from their own resources without any budgetary support from the Government. This has also been extended to the employees in the IDA pattern pay scales in the Food Corporation of India.

[Translation]

Welfare Programmes for SCs in Gujarat

405. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to check the irregularities being followed in the welfare programmes for the person belonging to SC's in the States including Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate any plan to provide direct assistance to these people;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKHSMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Ministry monitors the welfare programmes for SCs through periodical inspections by Central/State Governments and designated agencies. Besides detailed report which includes audited accounts, utilization certificates, annual reports, list of beneficiaries, list of staff etc. is also obtained and scrutinized.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Slaughter Houses and Meat Processing Units

406. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to start projects relating to construction of slaughter houses and meat processing units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the places selected for starting these projects; and

(d) the total amount likely to be spent by the Government on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has proposed to launch a comprehensive scheme of Modernization of Abattoirs because the Indian meat industry is highly disorganized and in need of better hygiene and safety standards in slaughter facilities keeping in view the emerging threats of the diseases communicable to humans from animals/birds. At present, most of the Municipal slaughter houses lack facilities for scientific slaughtering of animals and are not fit for production of clean, wholesome meat. Similarly, there are very poor facilities for utilization of animal slaughter waste and improper disposal of these wastes creates public nuisance and often pose a serious threat of environmental pollution and health hazards.

To address these issues, the qualitative and quantitative capacities of the abattoirs need to be upgraded and these are required to be linked with commercial processing of meat, both for domestic consumption and exports besides

discouraging unauthorized slaughtering. Based on detailed discussion with stakeholders, industries and State Governments, during the 11th plan, the scheme "Modernization of existing Abattoirs/Setting up of Modern abattoirs" has been modified to induct private capital, better technology, backward and forward linkages. The proposed scheme will be implemented preferably under PPP mode with the involvement of local bodies (Municipal Corporations and Panchayats) and will have flexibility for involvement of private investors/ Exporters/ FDI on a BOO/BOT/JV basis. Regulatory functions will continue to be discharged through local bodies. This will enable the local bodies to participate in the venture and also be assured of a stream of income.

(c) The Ministry has already circulated the details of proposed scheme to all the State Governments and requested to identify at least 3 to 5 potential locations in each State to implement the scheme. The selection of the project location will be based on the recommendation of the State Government for each of the project location and subject to the submission of detailed project report for the identified locations, selection of private investor through transparent bidding process and achievement of financial closure for the project.

(d) During the 11th five year plan Ministry has proposed to spend Rs. 628 Crores for the scheme of "Modernization of existing abattoirs/ setting up of Modern abattoirs".

[English]

Special Container Train Connecting Ports

407. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) is running special container train connecting to ports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating therein the names of Ports and States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) is providing container train services to all major container ports from its hinterland Inland Container Depots (ICDs) connecting these ICDs to various ports like Jawahar Lal Nehru Port (Maharashtra), Mumbai Port (Maharashtra), Chennai Port (Tamil Nadu), Kolkata Port (West Bengal), Tuticoin Port (Tamil Nadu), Cochin Port

(Kerala), Kandla Port (Gujarat), Mundra Port (Gujarat) and Pipavav Port (Gujarat).

Drilling Activity in CBM Block

408. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has not taken any steps to start the drilling activity in the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Block awarded to it in the State of Gujarat in 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to induct a third partner for exploration of CBM Block in order to get the production started at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) The exploration activities in the CBM Block BS(3)-CBM-2003/2 were initiated by ONGC after obtaining license for the acreage on 10.09.2007. 8 Core holes and 2 Test Well locations were firmed up. A smaller rig was planned for drilling core holes to reduce costs. An experienced Company, namely, M/s MECL was engaged by ONGC for initial drilling. Due to technical problems, they failed to achieve the target. In place of M/s MECL, M/s Quipo, a mobile drilling rig was hired by ONGC on 8.8.2006. ONGC has completed drilling activities in the Block by 16.8.2007 within the extended period of contract.

(c) and (d) On 14th June, 2006, Principal Secretary, Energy & Petrochemical Department, Government of Gujarat had requested for induction of a third partner to expedite exploration activity and complete the minimum work programme (MWP) well in time. However, ONGC had communicated to Government of Gujarat that they have hired a mobile drilling rig to complete the MWP. ONGC has also completed the MWP within the extended time.

Budget Hotels

409. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced a new incentive scheme for all budget category hotels that are commissioned after April 1, 2007; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism has announced the scheme to provide incentive to hotels of 1 to 3 star and heritage basic categories all over the country, where the hotel projects have been commissioned and classified w.e.f. 01.04.2007 to 31.03.2008. The incentive will be in the form of capital subsidy of Rs. 2.00 lacs per room subject to maximum of Rs. 30.00 lacs to one star hotel, Rs. 3.00 lacs per room subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lacs to two star hotel, Rs. 3.00 lacs per room subject to a maximum of Rs. 100.00 lacs to three star and Heritage Basic category hotels.

Handling of Security of Railway Stations by the Private Firms

410. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private firms will take care of the security of railway stations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has chalked out the terms of reference of such an important task for the private firms to perform their duties at the railway stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is a policy decision which requires consideration of security concerns of railway stations, vital installations of railways etc.

New Measures to Compete with Private Airlines

411. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry proposed to initiate new measures to compete with cheap private airline who are offering fares lesser than 2-tier AC fare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the concession in fares in AC trains are proposed to be given from current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railways are aware of the competition in the Airlines sector particularly due to low cost Airlines. However, Airlines are offering only a very limited number of seats at low fares and have conditions attached to travel, booking and cancellations. Following steps have been taken by the Railways to gear up to the competition:-

(i) Developing additional seating capacity in trains by introducing additional trains.

(ii) Enhancing the load of more patronized trains to the maximum to meet the demand.

(iii) Attaching additional coaches in trains to clear waiting list.

(iv) Improving utilisation of coaching stock so as to ward off the shortage of coaches.

(v) Introduction of Scheme for Frequent Travellers (SOFT).

(c) and (d) A variable Fare Scheme was introduced under Dynamic Pricing Policy in the current financial year (2007-2008). Concession given in fares in AC Classes is as under:-

Class	Busy Season	Lean Season
AC First	3%	6%
AC 2-Tier	2%	4%
AC 3-Tier (81 berths)	4%	8%
AC Chair Car (102 seats)	4%	8%

Exploration/Production of Oil

412. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Turkmenistan has offered a preferential treatment to India oil companies in exploration and production of oil and gas in that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Misuse of Domestic LPG Cylinders

413. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the large scale misuse of the domestic LPG cylinders, especially in 4 wheel vehicles;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of cases registered during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the misuse of domestic LPG cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) The possibility of misuse of the domestic LPG cylinders, especially in 4-wheel vehicles cannot be ruled out due to the wide gap between the retail price of LPG for domestic use and market price for auto LPG. During the last three years and April-December, 2007, 6997 motorists were caught by the Road Transport Authorities for which assistance was provided by the Oil Marketing Companies. The State-wise details are available with the State Governments as the registration of such vehicles is done by the District Authorities.

(c) In order to stop misuse of domestic LPG cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provides for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in misuse of LPG.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributors (a) in accordance with the provisions of the MDG. MDG provides for following action against the distributor:-

- Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
- Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence.
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against misuse of domestic LPG. Similarly, the Weights and Measures Departments of the States / UTs initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found supplying under-weight LPG cylinders. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the misuse of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisement, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity / malpractice to the OMCs.

The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godowns, delivery points, as well as en-route to ensure that no misuse takes place. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only cylinders with the specified weight are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced with a fresh refill cylinder without any charges levied by the OMCs.

Refining Capacity of Digboi Refinery

414. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to enhance the refining capacity of Digboi Refinery from the present 0.56 million metric tonne to at least 1 million tonne;

(b) if so, the progress made so far and the capacity sanctioned;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to declare Digboi as "Oil Heritage Site";

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the oil sectors in Assam are taking up long term scheme to improve the roads, academic and socio-cultural institutions in oil producing districts of the State under the 'Corporate Social Responsibility' programme; and

(f) if so, the details of scheme and the amount earmarked thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The existing capacity of Digboi Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) is 0.65 million metric tonnes per annum (MMPA). IOCL has no plan to enhance existing refining capacity of Digboi Refinery.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) The details of the expenditure incurred during last three years by Oil Public Sector Undertakings in the State of Assam under the 'Corporate Social Responsibility' programme to improve roads, education, drinking water, socio-cultural activities etc. are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Rupees in lakhs

Company	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
IOC	67.22	81.43	77.62
NRL	106.29	127.26	309.06
BRPL	108.37	105.34	103.47
GAIL	39.20	53.00	67.00
OIL	633.16	1152.49	1212.36
ONGC	48.35	47.02	111.71

Buffer Stock of Urea

415. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to maintain a buffer stock of urea to 10 to 12 major States to avoid shortage during the coming Kharif season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the States so identified for this purpose and the quantity of urea proposed to be maintained in the identified States?

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): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Department will operate a buffer stock of urea through the State Institutional Agencies/fertilizer companies in major

consuming States up to a limit of 5% of the seasonal requirement to meet with the unforeseen eventuality, if any, during Kharif 2008. States identified for operating the buffer stock are as follows:

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Karnataka
3. Tamil Nadu
4. Gujarat
5. Madhya Pradesh
6. Maharashtra
7. Rajasthan
8. Haryana
9. Punjab
10. Uttar Pradesh
11. Bihar
12. Jammu and Kashmir
13. Orissa
14. West Bengal

Coal Bed Methane Blocks

416. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have made any in depth analysis to find out the reasons for failure of obtaining Coal Bed Methane Blocks;

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

(c) the extent to which ONGC has been able to improve their performance for future bidding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) In third round of bidding for exploration and exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM-III), 10 blocks were offered under international competitive bidding process. Out of 10 Blocks, ONGC submitted bid for 5 blocks only based on the techno economic evaluations. As ONGC did not get any of the Blocks for which bids were submitted, the analysis carried out by ONGC revealed as under:-

1. Shortfall of score on account of no CBM production in the last three years, except test flow. It has been found

- that Indian companies having CBM acreage have reported flaring of gas as 'production'. With the same analogy, ONGC is producing CBM gas since 1997.
2. Shortfall of score on account of work programme due to rational optimization of time.
 3. All of the companies have saturated the physical work programme score as was also done by ONGC. However, unlike ONGC they have aggressively reduced time to obtain full score.
 4. The fiscal packages offered by majority of the Companies have been exceptionally aggressive.
 5. Although new Indian players in the field track. Technical capability, the same was compensated by forming strategic alliances with foreign operators with minor PI.
 6. As per classification of coalfields the present Blocks fall in low rank Category for which such aggressive bidding was totally unexpected.

However, based upon the lessons learnt by ONGC from this round, ONGC shall be making adaptations in its bidding strategy in the forthcoming rounds.

UTS Facility

417. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Unreserved Ticket System (UTS) facility is available at all the stations across the country;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the timeframe by which Government would bring all railway stations under UTS facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Facility of UTS in being implemented in a phased manner. All stations upto "E" category are proposed to be covered in the next two years.

Revival of Andhra Pradesh Fertilizer Plant

418. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has planned to revive few fertilizer plants across the country to bridge the demand and supply gap of fertilizers;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has decided to revive Andhra Pradesh Fertilizer Plant at the cost of Rs.3500 crore up to 2011;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has received proposal from the Government of West Bengal to revive fertilizer plant in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken / proposed to be taken in this regard?

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): (a) to (c) On 12.4.2007 the Government had decided, in principle, to examine the feasibility of revival of all closed units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) including the Ramagundam Unit in Andhra Pradesh subject to the confirmed availability of gas. At this stage no definite cost can be indicated.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

Services of AI to Middle-East Countries

419. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the indefinite delay and cancellation of certain services of Air India to middle-east destinations from Calicut and Thiruvananthapuram frequently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken by the Government to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) From August, 2007 to December, 2007, only 13 Air India flights from Calicut and Thiruvanthapuram experienced delays and cancellations of flights due to technical and operational reasons. The frequent inclement weather in the Malabar region also adds to the delays and cancellations of flights on account of factors beyond human control.

(c) Air India tries its best not to cancel any flight from / to Calicut. In order to avoid/minimize delays in future, the airline has rationalised flights and crew allocation and is closely monitoring and taking corrective action on a daily basis. A Punctuality Coordination Cell has been functioning round the clock at Mumbai airport and a Corporate Level Control Room has also been set up at Delhi, which will be integrated with the Hub Control set up, so as to coordinate with various flight handling departments with a view to ensuring punctuality of flights.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion at Jabalpur-Nainpur Balaghat Railway Line

420. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gauge conversion work in Jabalpur-Nainpur Balaghat under South East Central Railway is going on at a very slow pace;

(b) the steps taken/being taken to expedite the said work;

(c) whether any proposal to connect 42 kilometre distance from Nainpur to Mandala Fort under South East Central Railway has been received;

(d) if so, the time by which work of gauge conversion is likely to be started;

(e) whether the survey work for gauge conversion from Nainpur junction to Dada Dhaniram Ashram Maharajpur of Mandala Fort has been completed or the survey likely to be conducted by the Railways;

(f) whether the Railways propose to provide sufficient budget to complete the gauge conversion work within stipulated time; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Earthwork and bridgeworks have been taken up, wherever land is available along Balaghat-Nainpur-Jabalpur section. Besides, traffic block has been imposed on Balaghat-Katangi section for gauge conversion work. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources.

(b) State Government is being actively pursued to expedite handing over of possession of the balance land to the Railways so that the work on the detour alignment can

been taken up. Besides, gauge conversion of Balaghat-Katangi is targeted for completion during 2008-09.

(c) Yes, Sir. Demands have been received occasionally from some of the elected public representatives for conversion of the existing Nainpur-Mandla Fort narrow gauge section into broad gauge.

(d) and (e) Preparation of an updated combined survey report for gauge conversion of Chhindwara-Nainpur and Nainpur-Mandla Fort sections has been taken up. Baba Dhaniram Ashram is located at about 2.5 Kms away from Mandla station and is well-connected by road from the existing station.

(f) and (g) Budget allotment for various new/ongoing works are made as per their operational priorities and overall availability of resources. An outlay of Rs. 60 crore has been provided for this work in the Budget 2007-08 and an outlay of Rs. 60 crore has been proposed for this work in the Budget 2008-09.

Investment in SAIL

421. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to invest heavily in the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in order to meet the challenge of proposed heavy investment by Mittal Steel in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) In order to maintain its predominance in the Indian steel sector and to face global competition, the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has drawn up an expansion plan covering its five integrated steel plants and special steel plants. SAIL proposes to increase production of hot metal from present level of 14.6 million tonnes per annum (2006-07) to 26.2 million tonnes per annum by the year 2010-11 at a present indicative cost of Rs.54,000 crores. The financing of investment would be met by SAIL primarily from its internal resources and balance from market borrowings, if required.

Besides capacity enhancement, the growth plan adequately addresses the need of SAIL Plants towards eliminating technological obsolescence, energy saving, enriching product mix, pollution control, developing mines & collieries to meet higher requirement of key inputs,

introduce customer centric processes and have matching infrastructure facilities in the Plant to support higher production volumes.

[English]

**Historical Sites of Ramayana
and Mahabharat**

422. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many sites mentioned in Ramayana and Mahabharata are attractions to foreign and Indian pilgrim tourists;

(b) if so, which are the sports / sites visited by maximum number of tourists during last one year;

(c) the steps initiated by the Government to improve the facilities at these sites;

(d) whether there is any proposal from the Sri Lankan Government to help them to improve the facilities of such sites mentioned in Ramayana; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Details regarding the number of tourists visiting places mentioned in these epics are not maintained by Archaeological Survey of India.

(c) Improvement of facilities at tourist destinations including pilgrim sites is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. They may be financially assisted under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Circuits, which is administered by the Ministry of Tourism.

The Archaeological Survey of India provides tourists amenities at centrally protected monuments / sites according to their needs and subject to availability of resources.

(d) The ASI has not received any such proposal.

(e) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

**Doubling and Electrification of
North Eastern Railway Lines**

423. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any scheme for the doubling and electrification of railway lines in certain sections of the North Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be started and completed;

(d) whether the electric operated locomotive are also to be started in North Eastern Railways;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is any scheme for electrification of Railway tracks of some sections under the North Eastern Railways;

(g) if so, whether North Eastern Railways has been provided with sufficient resources for the doubling and electrification of the railway lines;

(h) if not, the reasons therefor;

(i) whether the construction of a paralleled railway bridge over Ghaghara river at Chowkaghat in Gorakhpur-Barabanki section is necessary; and

(j) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) 13 doubling and 1 electrification project in North Eastern Railway have been taken up. The details are as under:

S.No.	Name of the Project	Kms
1	2	3
Doubling		
1.	Ghaghaghat-Chaukaghat	5.63
2.	Sahjanwa-Munderwa	48.99
3.	Munderwa-Babhnan	45.25
4.	Burhwal-Barabanki	29.00
5.	Bhatni-Jiradei	38.11
6.	Baitalpur-Bhatni	28.07
7.	Mau-Indara	8.00
8.	Gorakhpur Cantt.-Baitalpur	34.00

1	2	3
9.	Babhan-Mankapur	30.15
10.	Ekma-Jiradei	43.60
11.	Dominganj-Sahjanwa	11.70
12.	Ekma-Chhapra	28.00
13.	Gonda-Mankapur	28.17

Electrification

1.	Barabanki-Gorakhpur-Chhapra	548
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The doubling of Ekma-Chhapra and Gonda-Mankapur has already been completed. The other works have been taken up and are likely to be completed in a period of about 3 years as per availability of resources.

(d) to (f) Electrification of Barabanki-Gorakhpur-Chhapra rail line has been taken up as a part of Barabanki-Barauni electrification project. With the completion of electrification of this route, electric locomotive shall be operated.

(g) Adequate resources are being provided for the above mentioned doubling and electrification works.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) and (j) Yes Sir, the work of construction of parallel railway bridge over Ghaghra river has been included in the Budget 2006-07 and the work taken up.

[English]

Landing and Take off Runways

424. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to dedicate two runways at IGI International Airport separately for landing and take off;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this facility be extended to other airports in metropolitan cities in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has issued instructions that planes should run in a straight line and are locked with

Radio Signals while approaching the runway for landings; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Segregated mode of operation has been started with effect from 25th December, 2007 wherein one runway is used exclusively for arrivals and other exclusively for departures.

(c) and (d) At Mumbai airport, cross runway operations have been started. There is a proposal to start cross runway operations at Chennai also. At other airports, there is no requirement for such operations at present.

(e) Aircraft follow one of the Instrument Approach to Land (IAL) Procedures for landing which are designed as per International Civil Aviation Organisation standards.

(f) IAL procedures are designed with the help of Instrument Landing System / Very High Frequency Omni Range / Distance Measuring Equipment / Non Directional Beacon for the use by aircraft for a particular runway.

Adulteration of Petrol and Diesel

425. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether petrol pump owners throughout the country particularly in the capital are indulging in adulteration of petrol and diesel in connivance with the oil companies;

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

(c) the number of petrol pumps selling adulterated petrol, identified so far, State-wise during the last three years;

(d) the number of guilty persons against whom action has been initiated during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government have taken any steps to break the nexus between oil companies and petrol pump owners; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEIUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various

adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel. Government is not aware of any nexus of petrol pump owners and officials of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). OMCs have also reported that they have no established case of involvement of their officers in adulteration cases.

However, there are provisions under the Conduct Discipline and Appeal Rules of respective OMCs as also the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), 2005, to take

action against officers found involved in irregularities/malpractices, including adulteration.

(c) and (d) State-wise details of suspected cases of adulteration of petrol & diesel and number of retail outlets terminated due to adulteration by OMCs during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) and (f) Does not arise, in view of reply to parts (a) & (b) above.

Statement

Name of States/UTs	Number of suspected cases of adulteration			Number of Retail Outlets terminated		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	6	15	12	1	3	10
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bihar	2	8	6	0	0	4
Chhandigarh	2	0	0	0	0	0
Chattisgarh	1	8	5	0	0	2
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	3	6	3	0	1	2
Goa	0	3	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	18	8	18	5	2	5
Haryana	6	4	8	1	2	9
Himachal Pradesh	0	1	0	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	1	3	2	0	0	0
Jharkhand	1	0	1	0	0	0
Karnataka	11	7	6	0	0	4
Kerala	3	7	4	0	3	5
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	8	10	15	1	2	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maharashtra	14	10	12	0	3	4
Manipur	0	0	1	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	1	0	0	0	0
Orissa	3	8	4	0	1	2
Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Punjab	13	10	8	0	0	4
Rajasthan	12	14	13	1	2	7
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	11	6	11	2	0	6
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	21	26	19	2	8	13
Uttarakhand	4	1	1	0	0	0
West Bengal	6	15	4	2	3	3
Total	146	171	154	15	30	84

**Production of Crude Oil
by ONGC and Oil**

426. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of crude oil by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) have remained more or less stagnant in the last 10 years and these companies have failed to meet the crude oil production targets during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the poor performance of these companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken to improve the performance of these companies and the steps taken to bridge the demand and supply gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) Yes, Sir. The major oil fields of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) are old and have crossed their plateau period of production and entered in the natural declining phase which is a common phenomenon in any Petroleum Upstream Industry.

(b) and (c) Production is monitored continuously by their boards as well as by the Ministry. Corrective measures are taken to overcome any variations.

(d) Several steps have been taken/are in hand to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities and to bridge the demand and supply gap in the country, which include the following:

- (i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of NELP.
- (ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.
- (iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

- (iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.
- (v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.
- (vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.
- (vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.

Supply of Gas to Power Projects in Gujarat

427. SHRI BHARATSINH MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total requirement of gas supply for various power projects in Gujarat;
- (b) the quantum of gas being supplied at present by Union Government; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the gas supply for power projects in Gujarat as per requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The total gas requirement, as on 31.12.2007, for various gas-based power stations in Gujarat is 15.56 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) at 90% Plant Load Factor (PLF) and Gross Calorific Value of 9,000 Kcal/SCM.

(b) The quantity of gas supplied to power projects in Gujarat during the first three quarters of 2007-08 was around 10.91 MMSCMD. Out of this, 4.13 MMSCMD was supplied by GAIL.

(c) The Government of India has initiated various steps to augment gas supplies for the domestic market. These cover:-

- (a) Intensification in domestic E&P activities;
- (b) Exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas;
- (c) Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation;
- (d) LNG Import; and
- (e) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

Recruitment of Employees In Group 'D' Posts

428. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways had taken up the recruitment of "D" Group post in various Railway Zones all over the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such recruitment process Zone-wise;
- (c) whether the process of such recruitment in any of the Zones has been stalled; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for such suspension of recruitment process after it was once started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Exercise for recruitment of Group 'D' staff is underway on some zonal railways.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In case of South Western Railway, the recruitment process has been stalled due to demand from local groups for limiting recruitment to local youths only. As regards Northern Railway, the recruitment exercise itself has been cancelled owing to leakage of question paper.

Welfare of Muslim Community

429. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal to frame a concrete programme to address the discrimination being faced by minorities especially Muslims;
- (b) if so, the action taken thereto; and
- (c) the steps Government has taken for the welfare of muslims during the last three years, in each State?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Sachar Committee had recommended that an Equal Opportunity Commission should be set up to look into the grievances of deprived groups. The recommendation was accepted in principle and an Expert Committee was set up in August 2007 to examine the structure and functions of such a Commission.

(c) A statement regarding decisions taken on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee, which

examined the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community, has been laid on the table of the House on 31.08.2007. The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, announced in June 2006, addresses many concerns about the relative socio-economic and educational backwardness of Muslims.

Empowering Mentally Challenged Persons

430. SHRI SRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise date and percentage of mentally retarded population in India; and

(b) the steps the Government proposes to take persons so as to empower them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) According to the Census 2001, there are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities in India who constitute 2.13 percent of the total population. The mentally retarded persons are 22.64 lakhs and constitute approximately 0.23% of the total population in the country. The State-wise details are enclosed as Statement.

(b) The physical, social and psychological empowerment of persons with disabilities is promoted through Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) and Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of aids/Appliances (ADIP) Scheme. The seven National Institutes also take up programmes for empowerment of persons with disabilities through their outreach programmes. Government has been promoting the self-employment of persons with disabilities by providing vocational training and loan on concessional rates through National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC).

Statement

State-wise Data of Mentally Challenged Persons as Per Census 2001

S.No.	State/UT	Persons with mental disability
1	2	3
1	Jammu and Kashmir	24,879
2	Himachal Pradesh	17,315
3	Punjab	63,808

1	2	3
4	Chandigarh	1,799
5	Uttaranchal	19,888
6	Haryana	49,595
7	Delhi	26,043
8	Rajasthan	109,058
9	Uttar Pradesh	286,464
10	Bihar	165,319
11	Sikkim	799
12	Arunachal Pradesh	1,261
13	Nagaland	2,630
14	Manipur	4,723
15	Mizoram	2,851
16	Tripura	6,661
17	Meghalaya	3,196
18	Assam	47,475
19	West Bengal	270,842
20	Jharkhand	55,922
21	Orissa	103,592
22	Chhattisgarh	43,614
23	Gujarat	103,221
24	Daman and Diu	274
25	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	275
26	Maharashtra	213,274
27	Madhya Pradesh	115,257
28	Andhra Pradesh	155,199
29	Karnataka	92,631
30	Goa	3,578
31	Lakshadweep	216
32	Kerala	141,686
33	Tamil Nadu	127,521
34	Pondicherry	2,286
35	Andaman and Nicobar	669
Total		22,63,821

Vacant Posts in the PSUs

431. SHRI AMTIAYA NANDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) number of posts of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Managing Director and Director are vacant in the Public Sector Units (PUSs), Unit-wise;

(b) the time by when the above vacancies have not been filled and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to fill up the vacant posts in PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) and (b) As per available information, 12 posts of Chief Executives and 28 posts of Functional Directors are presently vacant in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) for more than 3 months. The reasons for the above vacancies include, delay in obtaining vigilance clearance/approval of competent authority for appointment to such posts, delay in taking over of charge by the appointee, sudden vacancies, curt cases, etc.

(c) The filling up of vacant posts of Chief Executives and Functional Directors in CPSEs is a continuing process. Government has issued detailed guidelines indicating the defined time frame for filling up such posts in CPSEs. The guidelines inter alia provide that the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) makes its recommendations at least 6 months in advance of the date of occurrence of vacancies and communicates the same to the concerned Ministry/Department for completing other formalities.

Rail Route in Kilometers

432. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of meter gauge rail lines in terms of route in kilometers in India at present;

(b) whether some of these lines are lying damaged for quite long;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken proposed to be taken to rebuild and restore these lines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The total length (route

kilometers) of meter gauge rail lines of Indian Railways as on 31.03.2007 is 10,621 kilometers.

(b) to (d) Junagarh – Visavador (Meter Gauge) Section of Bhavnagar Division of Western Railway got breached in June 2007. Restoration work is in progress and likely to be completed by 31st March 2008.

Grants-in-Aid to NGO's for the Scheme "Disabilities"

433. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of NGO's that have been receiving Grants-in-aid under the scheme 'Disabilities' in Andhra Pradesh for the last three years; and

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned by the Government, to the NGO's of Andhra Pradesh during the above period and their achievement thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Government of India does not have any "Disabilities" Scheme. However, under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme and the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances, during the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, a sum of Rs. 221551289, Rs.189435559 and Rs. 29779946 respectively were released to 170, 168 and 158 NGOs respectively in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Revision in Guidelines and Prices of Decontrolled Drugs

434. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority proposes to revise the guidelines regarding fixing, controlling and revising the prices of decontrolled drugs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the price increase it proposes to allow to the Pharma companies annually and the basis of such increase in prices?

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): (a) and (b) NPPA has been monitoring/fixing the price of non Scheduled formulations

as per the guidelines issued by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. Government/NPPA has revised the limit of price increase in respect of non-Scheduled formulations from the earlier level of 20% to 10% per annum with effect from 01.04.2007.

**Joint Gas Exploration Projects in Gujarat
by Gail India Ltd. and HPCL**

435. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) propose to undertake joint gas exploration projects in Gujarat and other States in the country;

(b) if so, the oil and gas bearing blocks identified for the purpose;

(c) the estimated storage of gas available there; and

(d) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Exploration and Production Projects Co-operation and the same is being actively pursued. The MoU is comprehensive and not limited to Gujarat or any other state.

GAIL and HPCL are partners in 14 exploration blocks awarded under sixth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VI) Out of these 14 blocks, 11 blocks are in deep water offshore, 1 Onland (Rajasthan), and 2 in Shallow water, Offshore (Mumbai).

The blocks in which the two companies have participating interest are in exploration stage and the quantum of Oil and Gas reserves will be known after exploration and appraisal subject to discovery.

[Translation]

Security at the Airports

436. SHRI KIREN RIJJU:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Government is receiving continuous threat of terrorist attacks at airports and plane hijack;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to form separate security system in view of these threats;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by when the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Information regarding likelihood of attempts at hijacking from civil Indian airports and terrorist attacks are received from time to time both from Government agencies as well as unverified sources. However, every information received is assessed, categorized and necessary action taken.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) by way of formulating procedures and measures on aviation security in compliance with the National Aviation Security Programme approved by the Government, has taken adequate and effective steps to regulate aviation security.

The following plans have been formulated to provide adequate security at airports to meet the threat perceptions:-

- (i) Contingency Plan to deal with unlawful interference with the civil aviation operations has been circulated to all airports in the country for keeping up their preparedness against any unlawful interference at all time;
- (ii) Counter Terrorist Plan has also been prepared to effectively deal with any contingencies;
- (iii) BCAS also prepares National Aviation Security Quality Control Plan every year for aviation security Audit, Inspections, tests etc to ensure compliance of aviation security standards and procedures by all agencies.

[English]

International Flights from Bangalore

437. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made/being made to operate direct flights from Bangalore to major cities of the world; and

(b) the status of such efforts and proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) During the bilateral air services consultations held between January, 2007 to January, 2008, Bangalore has been granted as point

of call to the designated airlines of Kuwait, UAE (Sharjah), Saudi Arabia and Oman. In addition, SAARC countries have also been granted Bangalore as a point of call in India. Actual operations to/from a particular airport depends on commercial decision of the airlines. At present, Air India and 10 foreign carriers are operating 22 and 71 services/week respectively to/from Bangalore.

**Agreement with a Foreign Company
for Exploration in Karnataka**

438. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Karnataka has expressed the possibility of petroleum products and natural gas reserves in the State;

(b) if so, whether State Government has inked an agreement with a foreign company for exploration of petroleum products and natural gas in the identified places of the State to give the said possibility a concrete shape; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) not applicable in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

**Construction of Airports at the
Tourist Spots**

439. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to construct/develop airports at famous tourist spots in the country particularly in Agra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the project of modernisation of 35 non metro airports, the airports at tourist spots like Agra,

Agatti, Aurangabad, Goa, Jammu, Khajuraho, Madurai, Trivandrum, Udaipur and Varanasi have been taken up for development / modernisation. In addition, there are plans for development of Kullu, Mysore & Srinagar airports, too.

At Agra, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already completed major development and upgradation works like expansion and modification of the terminal building with air conditioning system to cater to 500 passengers at a time with all modern amenities including customs and immigration arrangements to handle limited international chartered flights; expansion and strengthening of apron, construction of a new link taxiway alongwith other associated infrastructure.

[English]

**Shortage of Employees
in AI**

440. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of employees in the Air India Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to fill up the vacant posts in AI company; and

(d) the total number of contract employees for the service of Air India Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) At present, there is no shortage of employees in the company except in certain technical categories like pilots, engineers etc. In these categories, the recruitment exercise is being conducted from time to time as per requirement.

(d) At present there are 2402 employees working on contract basis in the National Aviation Company of India Limited and its subsidiaries.

**Recommendations of Committee
on Greenfield Airports**

441. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed a three member committee under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister to finalise the policy for Greenfield airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether the said committee has submitted its recommendations to the Government regarding allowing private airports in the country including Metros;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the main recommendations made by the committee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The Committee on infrastructure in its meeting held on 1.11.2007 referred the Policy for Greenfield Airports to a Sub-Committee consisting of Finance Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Minister of Civil Aviation to consider the issues regarding approval of Greenfield airports within 150 km of existing airports and streamlining of the approval process involving multiple entities.

(d) and (e) The Sub-Committee has recommended a detailed approval mechanism for airports falling with-in and beyond 150 Km of existing airports. The policy is being processed for obtaining the approval of the competent authority.

Funds Collected Through Railway Safety Surcharge

442. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the collection and utilization of the money collected through railway safety surcharge, year-wise for the last three years;

(b) whether the Railways propose to subsume such surcharge in the passenger fare; and

(c) if so, the likely impact of such inclusion on passenger fares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The appropriation to Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) have been made from the following sources;

1. Safety Surcharge collected from the Passenger.
2. Allocation form Railway Revenue.
3. Amount received from General Revenue.

The year-wise details of appropriation to SRSF and Expenditure allocated to SRSF is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Surcharge collected from Passenger	Allocation from Railway Revenue	Amount received from General Revenue	Expenditure
2004-05	679.16	100.00	2975.00	3677.78
2005-06	748.60	0.00	2499.00	2783.14
2006-07	817.86	0.00	1365.00	1955.60

(b) Yes, Sir. The Railway Safety Surcharge now stands subsumed in Passenger Fares on as is where is basis in the form of a Development Charge with effect from 01.04.2007.

(c) There is no effect on the chargeable Passenger Fares of any class.

Misleading Advertisements by Airlines

443 SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to deceptive advertisements by some airlines offering lowest fares ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 500 but taking hidden charges upto Rs. 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether fuel surcharge and congestion charges are being imposed as taxes by them; and

(d) if so, the action taken to ensure total transparency in ticketing practice and ban misleading advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Some airlines were showing fares as basic fare and Taxes. They were including Passenger Service Fee, congestion charges and fuel surcharge under the heading taxes/surcharges. The Government noticed this anomaly and asked the airlines through DGCA to indicate the correct position. Now the airlines have started clearly indicating various components of the ticket correctly on their website/tickets.

[Translation]

Cultural Relations

444. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries with which Government of India is having the cultural relations alongwith the details

of cultural programmes held during the last three years including current year;

(b) the features of the said programmes alongwith the details of expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Indian cultural centres have also been set up in the foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the details of their activities?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Near-Misses Incidents

445. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of near — misses reported over Delhi's air space in the last few months;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There have been six air proximity incidents reported in the last six months over Delhi Flight Information Region.

(b) Most of these incidents have occurred during simultaneous departure from both the runways. Co-ordination failure was the primary cause of the incidents.

(c) and (d) Standard operating procedures (SOP) are regularly formulated and revised depending upon Air Traffic and safety requirements. The following steps have been taken to enhance safety level and prevent recurrences (i) modernisation of Air Traffic Services, (ii) implementation of Safety Management System at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport to mitigate the risk of accident / incident, (iii) implementation of flexible use of airspace for reducing traffic congestion in airspace (iv) modification of SOP / co — ordination procedure for simultaneous runway operations. As per the new procedure one runway is used exclusively for arrival and the other for departure.

(e) Does not arise.

Concessions to HIV/AIDS Victims

446. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways is considering offering fare concession as high as 75% to HIV/AIDS patients travelling on its network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the effect of such concessions on the railway revenue;

(d) the patients of other categories who are also being offered concessions; and

(e) if so, the details and number of patients in a year avail of this facility on an average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) The matter is under consideration.

Concession to Senior Citizens

447. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government extends any concession to senior citizens while traveling by planes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of senior citizens availed such facility during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government owned airlines, erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines offer a discount of 55% and 50% respectively on the normal fares to senior citizens. The senior citizen discount is available to Indian nationals residing in India. Senior Citizen discount is available from the age of 65 years in case of males and 63 years in case of females. The concession is available for both circle trip and one way trip, with re-routing permitted and no restriction on minimum stay.

(c) The details in respect of number of senior citizens who availed the facility in erstwhile Indian Airlines during the last three years are as follows:

2005 — 75570, 2006- 26162, 2007- 7745

Erstwhile Air India does not maintain a record of these details.

Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme

448. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of merit-cum-means scholarship scheme for minority students that have been given during the last three years and total amount released;

(b) the figures year-wise, community-wise and State-wise;

(c) the time by when money is released;

(d) whether sufficient publicity has been given to these scholarships so that students get the benefits of the same; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Scheme of merit-cum means based scholarship to students belonging to minority communities has been launched only in 2007-08. The State/UT-wise and community-wise details as on date, are enclosed of statement.

(c) to (e) The details of the scheme are available on the website www.minorityaffairs.gov.in. It has been publicised widely by the Ministry of Minority Affairs and also by State Government/UT administrations. Fifty top institutions listed in the scheme were informed separately. The scholarship, which includes course fee and maintenance allowance, is released together to the State/UT concerned, for disbursement to the institutes and students concerned.

Statement

Status of State/UT-wise and community-wise distribution of scholarship under the scheme of merit-cum means based scholarship to students belonging to the minority communities

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of Scholarships sanctioned					Total	Total amount released (Rs. in crore)
		Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Parsi		
1	Karnataka	678	105	2	Nil	Nil	785	2.22
2	Orissa	70	9	Nil	2	Nil	81	0.22
3	Kerala	778	627	Nil	Nil	Nil	1405	3.11
4	Tamil Nadu	361	392	Nil	Nil	Nil	753	2.02
5	Bihar	1444	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1444	3.36
6	Madhya Pradesh	360	17	15	1	Nil	393	1.04
7	Goa	8	21	Nil	Nil	Nil	29	0.07
8	Chandigarh	4	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	5	0.01
9	Himachal Pradesh	7	Nil	3	1	Nil	11	0.25
10	Assam	492	9	2	1	Nil	504	1.33
11	Delhi	142	9	27	Nil	Nil	178	0.46
Total		4344	1189	50	5	Nil	5588	14.09

Penalty on Delay/Cancellation of Flights

449. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to bring out a new policy that provides for penalizing airlines for any harassment to passenger when flights get cancelled or delayed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that some of the airlines were not complying with the norms of International Air Transport Association;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to lay down any policy to penalise airlines as the Government does not intend to regulate commercial aspects of airlines. However, airlines have been advised to publish on their website the details of facilities offered by each airline so that passengers are aware of them.

(c) to (e) International Air Transport Association, (IATA) is an association of airlines and IATA norms are applicable to member airlines.

Special Train Between Karur-Trichy-Chennai

450. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the huge rail traffic between Karur-Trichy-Chennai;

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

(c) whether the Railways are aware of the long pending demand for running of a new/special trains between Karur-Trichy-Chennai sections;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Railway thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The passenger traffic between Karur-Trichy-Chennai sectors is increasing as per details given below:-

Year	Number of reserved passengers booked
2005	784173
2006	1533145
2007	1644505

(c) and (d) Four coaches have been earmarked in 6607/6608, Chennai Egmore-Mangalore Express for the

passengers from Karur in both the directions. Further, 2689/2690 Chennai—Nagercoil Express via Karur also serves Karur-Chennai Passengers. Besides, special trains are run subject to operational feasibility, availability of resources and traffic justification.

(e) Does not arise.

Training to Pilots

451. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total time taken to train a person into a commercial pilot is likely to come down;

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

(c) whether it will produce the lower quality pilots for come down the training period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) requirements only provide for the minimum flying hours required for issue of Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL). The time within which these flying hours can be acquired depends upon the respective flying training institutions. In view of the lesser time taken by the foreign flying institutes to train a person for commercial pilot, flying institutes in India are trying to reduce their total time of training. However, no such directive has been issued by DGCA. The flying clubs are required to maintain the standards of training and quality of pilots coming out of such training as per DGCA requirements.

Railway Projects in Kerala

452. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway Projects submitted by Kerala Government during the last three years;

(b) whether the Railways have agreed to implement these projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Record of each and every demand received for new railway projects is not maintained. However, some of the proposals for new railway projects received from Government of Kerala during the last three years is as under:-

S.No.	Proposal	Action Taken
1.	Rail connectivity to Vallarpadam	The rail connectivity to Vallarpadam has been taken up as a deposit work of Cochin Port Trust.
2.	Kollengode – Thrissur (Trichur) New line	Survey has been completed. In view of heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, this proposal could not be considered.
3.	Nilambur-Nanjangud Town new line	Survey has been completed and survey report is under examination.
4.	Extension of Sabari rail line to connect Pathanamthitta Punalur-Thiruvananthapuram	On the suggested alignment area, an updating survey for Erumeli-Punalur-Thiruvananthapuram new line has already been completed and its survey report is under examination.
5.	Nedumangad – Thenmalai new line	
6.	Thalassery-Mysore new line	Survey has been taken up.
7.	Ernakulam-Kayamkulam via Kottayam & Alleppey doubling	With the sanctioning of Kuruppantara-Chingavanam & Haripad-Ambalapuzha dubbings during 2007-08, doubling of entire Kottayam route and upto Ambalapuzha on Alleppey route has been taken up.
8.	Chengannur-Mulanturutti doubling	Work has been taken up.
9.	Electrification of Shoranur-Mangalore	Survey and technical feasibility is proposed to be taken up during 2008-09.
10.	Electrification of Thiruvananthapuram-Kanniyakumari	Work has been taken up.
11.	Electrification of Thrissur (Trichur)-Guruvayur	
Complaints About the Missing Parcels and Goods		carried by railways in goods trains including goods train involved in accidents.
<p>453. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:</p> <p>(a) whether there is procedure to register complaints about the missing parcels and goods carried by goods train involved in the accident;</p> <p>(b) if so, the facts thereof and the details in this regard;</p> <p>(c) whether the Railways proposes to formulate a uniform procedure for dealing with loss of goods/parcels in such circumstances;</p> <p>(d) if so, the details thereof; and</p> <p>(e) the steps taken by the Railways to finalise the procedure for early disposal of such cases?</p> <p>THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is a uniform procedure to register complaints and their dealing in connection with non-delivery/missing, loss, damage etc. to parcels and goods ;</p>		<p>(b) A notice is required to be served within six months from the date of booking by the consignor/consignee to the Railway administration to which parcel/goods are entrusted for carriage or to the Railway administration on which the destination station lies or to the Railway on which the accident takes place.</p> <p>(c) A uniform procedure the dealing with loss of goods/parcel, in case of train accidents, has already been formulated.</p> <p>(d) The procedure is as under:-</p> <p>(i) The consignee, the endorsed consignee or consignor can lodge his complaint for non receipt, damage or short receipt etc. of his consignment within 06 months from the date of booking of goods either to booking railway, destination railway or the railway on which loss, damage or partial shortage has taken place. The complaint for not receipt of parcels or goods can also be made to 'Not Received Cells' (NR Cells) of Zonal Railways.</p>

- (ii) As soon as a complaint for non-delivery, short delivery, or loss of consignments is received in the claims office of a Zonal Railway, it is registered and a separate file is opened on the subject.
- (iii) A letter of acknowledgement giving the case number is sent to the complainant and essential documents like Parcel Way Bill, Railway Receipt, beejuck etc required for expeditious settlement of the claim are called for if not already furnished.
- (iv) The Claims Office then calls for Missing and Damage Goods and accident reports connects them if already received in advance and examines the claims taking into consideration the factual and legal position.
- (v) If it is a case of non-delivery of complete consignment or part of a consignment, effort is made to trace and deliver the consignment.
- (vi) Notice is also served on the adjoining Railways to trace and dispatch delayed or missing consignments.
- (vii) The title of the claimant and the amount of compensation payable is verified.
- (viii) For claims cases above Rs. 74,999, prior concurrence from the Associate Finance is taken and the claim is sanctioned by the competent authority.
- (ix) The cheque is prepared by the Account Department and dispatched to the claimant.

(e) The following steps have been taken by the railways for early disposal of the claims cases:

- (i) Commodity claims cells have been set up Zonal Railways to provide single window clearance and special camps are held to settle pending goods/parcel claims after every three months.
- (ii) Railways have been instructed to settle the claim cases within a specified time period. Railways have also been instructed to trace the consignments on end to end basis. Moreover, prior fixation of staff responsibility and inter-railway liability has been dispensed with to ensure expeditious settlement of claims.

Nutrient Based Fertilizer Pricing System

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

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to implement a nutrient based fertilizer pricing system to help farmers get fertilizers such as diammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of potash (MOP) and complexes at cheaper rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Union Government is considering to set up an independent regulatory authority for the fertilizer sector to fix selling prices and subsidy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) to (c) The nutrient based pricing of subsidized fertilizers is aimed towards providing various subsidized nutrients to the farmers at a uniform price across all subsidized fertilizer products. The Group of Ministers (GOM) has also "in-principle" approved the Nutrient Based pricing of fertilizers. A proposal for decision in the matter is under preparation. Since a final decision in the matter is yet to be taken, no time frame can be indicated at this stage.

(d) and (e) The Group of Ministers (GOM) looking into sustainable use of fertilizers and pertinent subsidy and pricing issues have given its "in-principle" approval for setting up of a Regulatory Authority for the fertilizer sector. A proposal for decision in the matter is under preparation.

[Translation]

Extension of Mahabodhi Express

455. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to extend Mahabodhi Express train from Gaya to Dhanbad;

(b) if so, the time by which this demand of the passengers of Jharkhand State is likely to be fulfilled; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

**Reservation for the Economically
Backward Classes**

456. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted a Commission for fixing reservation criteria for the economically backward classes which are not enjoying the benefits of reservation at present;

(b) if so, the nature of constitution of the said Commission alongwith the terms of reference thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the Commission; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a Commission consisting of a Chairperson, a Member and a Member Secretary to consider the proposal for reservation for the economically Backward Classes not covered by the existing reservation policy. The terms of references of the Commission are:

- (i) to elicit the views of State Governments/UTs and other Commissions on the subject;
- (ii) to suggest criteria for identification of economically backward classes;
- (iii) to recommend the welfare measures and quantum of reservation in education and Government Employment in consultation with the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities;
- (iv) to suggest the necessary constitutional, legal and administrative modalities as required for the implementation of their recommendations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Chemical and Petro-Chemical Projects

457. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the on going chemical and petro-chemical projects and progress thereof;

(b) the target date set for the completion and commercial production of each of those projects; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite these projects?

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): (a) and (b) The Government approved the Assam Gas Cracker Project during 2006-07. The implementation schedule approved is 60 months from the date of financial closure. However, Brahmaputra Cracker & Polymer Limited have submitted a 60 months Project Work Schedule starting April 2007. The project will produce Polypropylene (PP) 60,000 TPA and High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) 220,000 TPA.

(c) The present status is as under:

- (i) An Agreement for constituting Joint Venture Company was executed on 18.10.2006, namely M/s Brahmaputra Cracker & Polymer Limited which was incorporated on 8th January 2007.
- (ii) The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India laid the foundation stone of M/s Brahmaputra Cracker & Polymer Limited of Assam Gas Cracker Project at Lepetakata, District Dibrugarh, Assam on 9.4.2007.
- (iii) The Registered Office at Guwahati and Project Office at Dibrugarh have been made operational. Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Chief Finance Officer (CFO) have been posted.
- (iv) 2692 bighas (approx 890 Acres) of land, out of approx 1108 Acres needed for the project have been acquired by BCPL.
- (v) Feedstock Gas Supply Agreements (GSA) have been signed with M/s Oil India Limited (OIL) and with M/s ONGC on 19.9.2007 & 15.10.2007 respectively, and Natphtha Supply with M/s Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) signed on 19.9.2007.
- (vi) Oil Industries Development Board has agreed to offer a term loan of Rs.327 crore. Discussions with other Financial Institutions are under progress.
- (vii) Brahmaputra Cracker & Polymer Ltd. (BCPL) has awarded Project Management Consultants (PMC) job to M/s Engineers India Limited.

- (viii) Necessary Environmental and Pollution clearance both from State and Ministry of Environment & Forest has been obtained.
- (ix) Training programme on development of skilled manpower has been initiated.
- (x) A Monitoring Committee is in place since May 2006, under the Chairpersonship of the Secretary C&PC, which regularly reviews the progress of the implementation of the Assam Gas Cracker Project.
- (xi) Rs. 30 crores has been released by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals Government of India towards Capital Subsidy for implementation of the project.

[Translation]

Oil Exploration Project in Palk Strait

458. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has asked the Government for relocation of the site of the oil exploration project in Palk Strait; and
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has not asked the Government for relocation of the site of the oil exploration project in Palk Strait as ONGC is not holding any acreage in Palk Strait. However, ONGC is holding two nomination blocks in Cauvery Shallow Offshore in Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar.

For the Block falling in the Gulf of Mannar, ONGC was denied environmental clearance on the ground that it is falling in CRZ-1, i.e., the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. Part of the area is covered by Mannar Marine National Park.

ONGC had asked to swap the block with an alternate open acreage falling in Palk Bay. However, as there is no provision of swapping of area in nomination blocks, ONGC was not permitted to swap.

Subsidy on Fertilizers

459. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN"

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a continuous rise in the amount of subsidy on fertilizers during the year 2004-2005 to 2008-2009;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy likely to be provided during these years;

(c) the estimated amount of subsidy likely to be provided during 2008-09; and

(d) the consumer selling prices of these chemical fertilizers in the country during 2004-05 and 2007-08 separately?

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): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount of subsidy paid on fertilizers from 2004-05 to 2007-08 is as under:-

Subsidy on Fertilizers (Rs. in Crores)			
Years	Urea	P&K Fertilizers	Total subsidy disbursed in year
2004-05	10637	5142	15779
2005-06	11749	6550	18299
2006-07	15354	10598	25952
2007-08*	25654	20005	45659

*Estimated.

(c) Department of Fertilizers has estimated a subsidy requirement of Rs. 60,649.36 crore for 2008-09.

(d) Maximum Retail Price of subsidized fertilizers is as below:-

(Rupees per MT)		
	2004-05	2007-08
1	2	3
Urea	4830	4830
DAP	9350	9350
MOP	4455	4455
16:20:00	7100	7100

1	2	3
20:20:00	7280	7280
23:23:00	8000	8000
28:28:00	9080	9080
10:26:26	8360	8360
12:32:16	8480	8480
14:28:14	8300	8300
14:35:14	8660	8660
15:15:15	6980	6980
17:17:17	8100	8100
19:19:19	8300	8300

Subsidy on Water-Soluble Fertilizers

460. SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of Jalgaon, Nasik, Pune including other horticulture areas and the people's representative of Maharashtra have sought 50 per cent subsidy on water-soluble fertilizers;

(b) if so, whether the Government has decided to provide subsidy directly to the farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) No such representation has been received in Department of Fertilizers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above, question do not arise.

Amendment in Petroleum Rules 2002

461. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal for amendment in Section = 43 of Petroleum Rules 2002

(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 PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal was received from Government of Gujarat to amend Petroleum Rules, 2002 to include ship breaking activities.

(c) The Petroleum Rules, 2002 have been amended vide Notification GSR 61(E) dated 2nd February, 2007 to include ship breaking activity.

[English]

Permission for Free Travel to Boost Tourism

462. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to the likely demand of tourists to moot permit free travel to boost tourism in the country including Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No such survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Tourism. However, Ministry of Tourism has proposed to Ministry of Home Affairs for relaxation of permits to restricted areas which could result in a boost to tourism in these areas including Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Rationalisation in ATF Prices

463. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) was hiked in the year 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons alongwith the month-wise break up of the price hike effected during the above period;

(c) whether this price was slashed recently;

(d) if so, the price thereof prevailing in December, 2007 to February 2008;

(e) the rate of surcharge charged during the above months;

(f) the impact of ATF price rise on aviation industry; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to rationalize the ATF prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Incidents of Theft

464. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the frequent and increasing incidents of theft of valuables from the baggage of passengers after the security check-in of various airlines;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last two years and the number of cases solved so far;

(c) whether the airlines have taken any steps to curb such incidents of theft and to offer compensation to those whose things were stolen;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. While information regarding incidents of thefts is being collected from all airlines, to curb such incidents, all loader are frisked thoroughly before and after the loading, vigilance has been enhanced at airports, loading/unloading of checked-in baggage is done under supervision of security, automated In-line Baggage x-Ray Screening system is being introduced at major airports.

(c) to (e) Scheduled domestic airlines have taken following steps to curb the baggage theft cases:

Passengers are advised not to carry their jewellery and cash in their checked-in baggage; In-house vigilance team of airlines at major airports to check cases of theft/

pilferage; Surprise frisking of loaders before and after the loading; Loading/unloading of checked-in baggage under supervision of security/Airport services staff; Utilisation of CCTVs available at airports;

Automated Baggage Reconciliation system at metros to reduce instances of such mishandlings; Extensive training is imparted to ramp staff (especially loaders) on baggage handling; Establishment of dedicated baggage handling units at Metros;

Airlines also give compensation for baggage lost cases as per company policy, which has been displayed on their respective websites.

Entry of Stray/Wild Animals on the Runways

465. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA" : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entry of unauthorized persons and stray/ wild animals into the runway is increasing at various airports in the country;

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

(c) the number of such cases of entry into runway reported during the last three years;

(d) the safety measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government at various airports in the country, particularly at IGI airport, Delhi; and

(e) the action taken against the officials found responsible for such lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 47 cases of entry into runway have been reported in the last three years.

(d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Air Safety Circular and Guidelines regarding apron discipline at airports to prevent unauthorised entry on the runway. Regular joint aerodrome inspections are carried out by Airport operators. Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Met officials and DGCA to take preventive measures to reduce such incidents. Perimeter wall has been erected at all Airports Authority of India (AAI) managed airports as per BCAS standards of Safety Requirements and perimeter is being guarded by security staff. Airport Security Committee

Meetings are held regularly to check on security lapses and to reduce the menace of stray/wild animals. At Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airports, NGOs are contracted to trap and relocate animals from air side after acquiring permits from Wildlife Department of Government of Delhi. Wire fencing is done on interface area on airport to stop blue bulls entering on the airside. Delhi International Airport Private Limited has planned to detain two field experts from an NGO round the clock, atleast for a year (covering all seasons), so that a permanent solution is found for animal problems occurring at IGI airport. Ecological measures to reduce the population of stray/wild animals are also planned.

(e) Action against officials, is found responsible for lapses, is taken by AAI as per their rules.

[Translation]

Setting up of CIPET in Rajasthan

466. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested for setting up a branch of Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET), in the State;

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

(c) the present status of the proposal?

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): (a) to (c) Government of Rajasthan vide their letter dated 20.12.2003 had requested this Ministry for setting up of CIPET centre at Jaipur. The project has been approved by the Government of India. Land for the project has been allotted by Government of Rajasthan and the Foundation Stone was laid by the Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Steel, on 1st November, 2006. The construction of the building has started. The Diploma courses have been started in rented premises since August, 2006 and the second batch of students are undergoing training at the Centre.

[English]

Advanced Training in Aviation

467. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are national initiatives for advanced training in the field of aviation including flying;

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

(c) whether Rajiv Gandhi Aviation Academy in Kerala has flying operation and is proposed to be elevated as a National Institute;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has taken various initiatives for advanced aviation training. Funds have been released to Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) for upgradation of civil and electrical infrastructure and for procurement of additional trainer aircraft including computer based training aids and equipment. IGRUA has also entered into a management contract with M/s. CAE, a reputed international organisation in this field, to professionalise its management. The Government has also decided to set up a world class institute at Gondia in Maharashtra as Joint Venture Enterprise under the aegis of Airports Authority of India. The other flying clubs in the country are also supported by the Central Government by way of providing funds for acquisition of trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Aero Club of India.

(c) to (e) The Rajiv Gandhi Aviation Academy has been set up by the State Government of Kerala. The institute is not operational presently. There is no proposal with Ministry of Civil Aviation to elevate the academy as National Institute.

[Translation]

Historical Sites of Ramayana

468. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that several places associated with Sri Ram, Sita, Ravana and Hanuman ji have been found during excavation being conducted by the Sri Lanka Government;

(b) if so, the outcome of excavation carried out so far;

(c) whether the Government of India inspired by the efforts of Sri Lanka Government propose to cooperate with them in excavation of places associated with Sri Ram, Sita, Ravana and Hanuman;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
(f) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) The Archaeological Survey of India has no information regarding such archaeological excavations by the Government of Sri Lanka.

[English]

High Speed Passenger Corridor

469. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Railways have sought any technical cooperation from French National Railways to set up high-speed passenger corridors in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether any discussion on this issue have been held with the officials concerned during the recent visit of French President to India; and
(d) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the fifth Indo-French Steering Committee meeting held on 15.01.2008 in New Delhi with SNCF International, France (a French National Railway Company), French side shared their experience of high speed trains in France with the Indian side. Both sides endeavoured to have a concerted approach regarding any seminars to be held by French Railways on the subject in India.

Cleanliness of the Railway Station

470. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the station premises and trains generally remain dirty despite the fact that about 1.4 crore passengers frequent the railway stations and travel in the trains every day all over the country;
(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

- (c) whether the Railways proposes to impose fines and imprisonment on people who dirty its premises;
(d) if so, the details in this regard;
(e) whether the Railways proposes to set up a separate authority for supervision of cleanliness and apprehending offenders;
(f) if so, the details thereof;
(g) the time by which such authority will start functioning; and
(h) the other steps taken/being taken to maintain a clean and hygienic environment in station premises and in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Provision for imposition of fines and imprisonment on persons found dirtying railway station premises & trains already exists under section 145(b) of the Railway's Act 1989 as committing nuisance. The section 145(b) reads as under:

"if any person in any railway carriage or upon any part of railway commits any nuisance or act of indecency or uses abusive or obscene language may be removed from the railway by any railway servant and shall, in addition to the forfeiture of his pass or ticket, be punishable with imprisonment, which may extend to six months and with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees. Provided that in the absence of special and adequate reasons to the contrary to be mentioned in the judgement of the court, such punishment shall not be less than;

- (i) a fine of one hundred rupees in the case of conviction for the first offence; and
(ii) imprisonment one month and a fine of two hundred and fifty rupees, in the case of conviction for second or subsequent offence."

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

(h) To improve the standard of cleanliness at railway stations, steps like introduction of mechanised cleaning, provision of washable aprons, provision of 'Pay & Use' toilets, cleanliness awareness campaigns etc. have been

undertaken. Regular inspections are conducted by various officials at the railway stations to monitor cleanliness and also to identify weak areas and take remedial measures. Besides, there is a system of periodic inspections by multi-disciplinary Service Improvement Groups (SIGs) of appropriate level to inspect passenger amenities including cleanliness at stations and running trains and to suggest/take remedial measures for rectifying the deficiencies and shortcomings. Drives are launched from time to time particularly during rush seasons to have greater impact.

New Airports in Bangalore and Hyderabad

471. DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:
SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sites on which the new airports have been constructed in the country particularly in Bangalore and Hyderabad;

(b) the details of the air traffic/passengers to be handled and the facilities to be made available at these airports;

(c) the time by which these airports will be operational;

(d) whether the old airports in those cities are likely to be closed; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not keeping them operational instead of closing them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The site of the new Bangalore international airport falls east of Bangalore-Hyderabad National Highway No. 7 between 29 Kms and 30 Kms from Bangalore and 4 Kms south of Devanhalli town and that of the new Hyderabad airport is situated near Shamshabad in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh about 20 Km south of the present Hyderabad airport at Begumpet.

(b) The initial phase of the Bangalore and Hyderabad International airports are capable of handling 11.40 million and 12 million passengers respectively. The Terminal areas of Hyderabad and Bangalore Airport are 1,05,300 sq.m. and their peak hour passenger capacities are 3200 and 2733 respectively.

(c) The new airports at Shamshabad and Devanhalli are likely to be opened during the next month.

(d) and (e) In accordance with the provisions of the Concession Agreements signed with respective Airport Companies by the Government of India, the existing airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore will be closed for commercial use after the new airport becomes operational.

Setting up of New Airports

472. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has urged the State Governments to identify the new locations for setting up of the new airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has also proposed some encouraging steps to acquire lands for setting up new airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Looking into the capacity and infrastructural constraints, all stakeholders including the State Governments are encouraged to identify locations for setting up new airports and bring forward such proposals for the consideration of Union Government. Issue of land acquisition is a State subject and State Government take necessary steps as per respective State Laws.

Disinvestment of NEPA

473 SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to fully disinvest NEPA Ltd.;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to safeguard the interests of the workers of the unit;

(d) if so, the details of the rehabilitation scheme for the workers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES

AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH):
 (a) and (b) Nepa Ltd. is a sick PSE under reference to Board for industrial and Financial Reconstruction since May 1998. The plant and machinery are old and required substantial investment for upgradation. The Government has decided to revive the company through Joint Venture partner by disinvestment of Government of India Equity, preferably to the extent of 74% or 100%. Nepa Limited (Disinvestment of Ownership) Bill 2007 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha for getting Parliamentary approval of disinvestment of Nepa Ltd. The Bill has been referred to Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry on 17.12.2007.

(c) to (e) The Bill provides that every officer or other employee of the Nepa Ltd., except the Chairman and Directors, serving in its employment immediately before the disinvestment of the Nepa Ltd., shall continue in office or service after such disinvestment, on the same terms and conditions as if the disinvestment of the Nepa Ltd., had not been made and shall continue to do so until the expiry of the period of one year from the date of such disinvestment. Where an officer or other employee of the Nepa Ltd. opts not to continue in the employment or service of the Nepa Ltd., such officer or other employee shall be deemed to have resigned.

Hike in the Oil Prices

474. PROF. M. RAMADASS:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank estimated the average price of crude oil per barrel to rise from 71.2 dollars in 2007 to 85 dollars in 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that this record rise in prices affects the prices of food and other non-fuel commodities including metal prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to control adverse impact of rise of oil prices on other products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
 (a) and (b) The World Bank in its annual report titled "Global Economic Prospects 2008" has estimated the average price of crude oil to rise from \$ 71.2 per barrel in 2007 to \$ 84.1

per barrel in 2008. The simple average of Dubai, Brent and West Texas Intermediate crude oils has been considered. The highlights of the report as regards to crude oil demand and prices are as follows:-

- Higher oil prices have reduced growth in global oil demand, particularly in high-income OECD countries. In non-OECD economies, the demand for oil has grown by just over one million barrel a day since 2005, significantly below the level in 2004.
- As demand eased and non-OPEC supply increased, OPEC countries reduced their output to prevent a fall in prices.
- While the emerging supply-demand factors will keep the oil markets somehow balanced over 2007-09, prices are expected to remain above \$75 a barrel for the coming two years.

The average price of Indian Basket crude from Jan'08 to Feb'08 (upto 22.02.08) has been \$ 90.19 per barrel.

(c) to (e) As passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in inflationary impact, the Government has taken certain measures to ensure that the burden was shared by all the stakeholders, namely:-

Government – Issue of Oil Bonds;

Oil companies – Upstream / Refinery Discounts; and

Consumers – Minimal Price Increase

Accordingly, the Government has issued oil Bonds and Upstream Oil Companies have contributed by offering discount on crude oil and petroleum products, to partially compensate the under-recoveries of OMCs as per the details given below:

Year	Rs. in Crores	
	Oil Bonds issued by Government	Contribution by Upstream Oil Companies
2005-06	11500	14000
2006-07	24121	20507
Apr-Dec'07	11257*	15873#
Total	46878	50380

*For Apr-Sep'07

Apr-Dec'07 (Provisional)

In this context, a marginal increase in petrol and diesel prices by Rs. 2/litre and Rs. 1/litre respectively was made with effect from 15.2.2008 which is actually in the nature of a restoration of retail prices to the price level operating before February, 2007.

Despite the steep increases in international oil prices, the Government has not increased the prices of PDS Kerosene during the last six years. The price of Domestic LPG has remained unchanged during the last three years.

In addition to the above, to reduce the burden on the consumer, Central Taxes on sensitive petroleum products have been consciously rationalized. The Central Government levies no taxes – customs or excise – on PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG. The customs duty on petrol and diesel has been reduced from 10% to 7.5% effective 14.6.2006 and the ad-valorem component of excise duty reduced from 8% to 6% effective 1.3.2007. Considering its widespread use for cooking purposes, LPG (domestic) has been placed under the 'declared goods' category, thereby limiting State Governments levy of sales taxes to 4%.

The above measures have been adopted to keep the inflation rate within reasonable limits. The Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will continue to protect the interests of consumers.

[Translation]

Impact for Fog on Flights

475. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI PUSP JAIN:
DR. P.P. KOYA:
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether National and international flights had to be diverted / cancelled / delayed from various airports of the country due to fog during the winter season;

(b) if so, the details and the total amount of loss incurred by National Carriers as a result thereof;

(c) the details of measures taken by the Government to combat the problem of fog; and

(d) the details of anti-fog equipments installed at every airport in the country alongwith the amount of funds spent / proposed to be spent thereon by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some airlines do not maintain details related to delays due to 'landing restrictions' or late clearance for take off. It is, therefore, not possible to compute loss on this count.

(c) In accordance with ICAO guidelines, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already installed CAT III B ILS at IGI airport, New Delhi, Which permits operation of aircraft up to Runway Visual Range (RVR) of 50 meters which can be used by airlines with certified pilots. All airlines are directed/encouraged to plan their operations with aircraft and pilots capable of operating under such low visibility conditions. In addition, Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) have also been installed at 42 other airports to enable aircraft operation in low visibility conditions.

(d) Fog is a natural phenomenon and no anti-fog equipment are available. Hence, does not arise.

[English]

Revamping of Defunct Fertilizer Plants of HFCL and FCIL

476. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Fertilizers has sought for 5000 crores from the Finance Ministry as a Capital Support to revamp and defunct fertilizers plants of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) during the Eleventh Plan;

(b) if so, whether the money could either come by way of equity infusion by the Government or through interest free debit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has agreed to provide the assistance;

(e) if so, the number of plants are likely to be revamped out of this fund; and

(f) the extent to which this will improve the fertilizers position in the country?

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): (a) to (d) The Department of Fertilizers has sought an allocation of Rs. 5000 crore under 11th Plan as Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) towards revival

of closed units of HFCL and FCIL from the Planning Commission. The financing model for revival of closed units is yet to be finalized and is currently under discussions with the Planning Commission.

(e) Do not arise.

(f) Revival of closed units will help improve fertilizer availability in the country to a considerable extent.

[Translation]

Amendment of SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act

477. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has sought suggestions from the States in this regard;

(d) if so, the number of States who have submitted their suggestions; and

(e) the names of the States who have not submitted their suggestions so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) The suggestions towards amendments in the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 were invited from State Governments and Union Territory Administrations which were received from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Lakshwadeep and Puducherry. No final decision has, however, been taken to amend the Act.

[English]

Railway Accidents and Bomb Blasts in Railways

478. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of blasts in trains reported during 2007-08 so far zone-wise;

(b) the details of railway property damaged in such blasts during the said period;

(c) the number of persons injured/ killed in each of such incidents during the said period;

(d) the number of victims of such accidents to whom compensation has been made;

(e) whether there has been an inordinate delay in the payment of compensation to victims of rail accidents;

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to make such payment in a time bound manner; and

(g) the details of steps taken by the Railway to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Two incidents of bomb blast in passenger carrying trains were reported from April, 2007 to 2008 (till date). The details are as under:-

Railway	No. of cases	Value of Property damaged	Persons	
			Killed	Injured
East Coast Railway	1	Rs.33,77,666/-	-	-
Northeast Frontier Railway	1	Not yet ascertained	5	4

(d) Compensation is paid only after a decree is awarded on a claim filed in this regard in the Railway Claims Tribunal. So far, no decree has been awarded.

(e) and (f) Accident compensation claims are adjudicated by Railway Claims Tribunal. As this is a quasi-judicial body, no time frame can be fixed for settlement of pending claims cases. However, once a claim has been decreed, the Railways have been instructed to ensure that cheques of the decretal amount are issued and dispatched to the claimants within a period of 15 days.

(g) The following measures are being taken to improve security arrangements at important and vulnerable railway stations:-

(1) Installation of Close Circuit Televisions at vulnerable Railway Stations.

- (2) Modern security gadgets like Hand Held Metal Detectors, Door Frame Metal Detectors, Entry Scans / X-Rays Machines etc. to strengthen access control at entry / exit points.
- (3) Dog Squads at various divisions and railway stations to conduct anti-sabotage checks.
- (4) To upgrade training centers to improve quality of training to Railway Protection Force personnel.
- (5) Intensive publicity and public awareness campaigns alerting and educating all passengers / public to remain vigilant against any unidentified / unclaimed suspicious objects lying on platforms, other premises or coaches and to report to RPF / GRP / Railway officials available nearby.
- (6) Frequent announcements at all stations alerting passengers to be vigilant about suspicious movement of co-passengers and not to touch any suspicious luggage / bag especially in general compartments.
- (7) Steps to prevent entry of unauthorized persons in trains and in empty coaching rakes at originating / destination stations, before and after placement in maintenance sidings.
- (8) Close co-ordination with GRP / State Police / Central Intelligence agencies to prevent any untoward incident.

Nagpur Airport

479. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to transfer Dr. Ambedkar International Airport in Nagpur to a Joint Venture Company (JVC) for development in into world-class multimodal passenger and cargo hub;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the percentage of the Union Government's stake in the Joint Venture; and
- (d) the time frame for the completion of development work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 17.1.2008 has accorded 'in principle' approval to the proposal for transfer of Dr. Ambedkar International Airport, Nagpur to a Joint

Venture Company (JVC) of Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Maharashtra Airport Development Company Limited (MADC) for upgradation of the airport to a world class Multi Modal International Passenger and Cargo Hub with the directions that (i) the Indian Air Force (IAF) will continue to use its existing facilities in Nagpur till appropriate alternative arrangements are put in place and that any transfer of land of the IAF to the Joint Venture will take place only after concurrence by the Minister of Defence; and (ii) a Committee comprising of Cabinet Secretary, Finance Secretary, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra will examine the financial structure of the proposed JV and related issues.

(c) As per the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 18.12.2006 between Ministry of Civil Aviation/ AAI and Government of Maharashtra/MADC, MADC and AAI will have equity partnership of 51 and 49 percent, respectively in the JVC.

(d) Steps will be taken for completion of the project expeditiously.

[Translation]

Hike in the Prices of Petroleum Products

480. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of increase and decrease made in the prices of petroleum products during the last three years till date;
- (b) whether the Government are presently contemplating to increase or decrease the prices of petroleum products;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard and the criteria followed for increasing or decreasing these prices; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to give relief to the common consumers from the increasing prices of petroleum products as it affects the price of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The increase/decrease in the prices of sensitive petroleum products during the last three years with effect from 1.4.2005 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) The global prices of crude oil and petroleum products have remained high and volatile since 2004. In view of this, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are incurring under-recoveries on domestic sale of sensitive petroleum products namely petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG. As passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers will result in hardship to the common man, the retail selling prices of petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG have not been increased in tandem with the international oil prices.

The Government has adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing between the Government, the oil PSUs and consumers to protect the interests of common man, vulnerable sections of society and also the financial health

of OMCs. In this context, the Government has made marginal increase in petrol and diesel prices by Rs. 2/litre and Re.1/ litre respectively with effect from 15.2.2008 which is actually in the nature of a restoration of retail prices to the price level operating before February, 2007. The Government has issued Oil Bonds and Upstream Oil Companies have contributed by offering discount on crude oil and petroleum products to partially compensate the under-recoveries of OMCs.

Despite the steep increases in international oil prices, the Government has not increased the prices of PDS Kerosene during the last six years and of Domestic LPG during the last three years. The Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will continue to protect the interests of consumers.

Statement

Price changes of sensitive petroleum products

Date	MS	HSD	PDS SKO	Domestic LPG
	Retail Selling Price Rs./Ltr. at Delhi	Retail Selling Price Rs./Ltr. at Delhi	Retail Selling Price Rs./Ltr. at Delhi	Retail Selling Price Rs./ Cyl. at Delhi
01.04.05 (VAT implemented at Delhi)	37.99	28.22	9.05	294.75
04.05.05 (reduction of Vat rate on HSD)		26.45		
21.06.05	40.49	28.45		
25.07.05			9.08	
07.09.05	43.49	30.45		
21.05.06		9.09		
06.06.06	47.51	32.47		
21.06.06 (reduction in VAT rate)	46.85	32.25		
30.11.06	44.85	31.25		
16.02.07	42.85	30.25		
08.06.07	43.52	30.48		
08.02.08 (pollution cess in Delhi)		30.76		
15.02.08	45.52	31.76		

[English]

Special Economic Zones

481. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up special economic zones for the tourism and hospitality sectors;

(b) if so, whether the ITDC has taken any steps in this regard;

(c) whether public-private partnership model is thought about these special economic zones;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to set up SEZs for the tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Freight and Passenger Corridors
Linking all Ports**

482. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala State Government has submitted any proposal for freight and passenger corridors linking all ports and major cities in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Railway thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Status of Railway Line in Andhra Pradesh

483. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 12 new line surveys completed in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether out of 12, only 2 lines i.e., Jaggiyapet-Vishnupuram and Manoharabad-Kothapalli have been taken up for completion;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of total amount required to complete the above 12 projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The details of new line surveys completed since 2004-05 falling fully/partly in Andhra Pradesh are as under:-

S.No.	Name of the Survey	Anticipated Cost (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3
1.	Bhandrachalam-Kovvur (151 km.)	244.00
2.	Donakonda-Bitragunta (197 km.)	622.00
3.	Hyderabad-Gazwal-Siddipet-Sircilla-Vemulwada connecting Karimanagar-Nizamabad (149 km.)	308.00

1	2	3
4.	Jadcherla-Nandyal (182 km.)	566.00
5.	Machlipattnam-Repalli (45 km)	259.00
6.	Medak-Akkanapeth (18 km.)	46.00
7.	Nadikudi-Srikalahasti (308 km.)	711.00
8.	Ongole-Donakonda (87 km.)	196.00
9.	Mantralayam Road-Kurnool via Yemmanagar (111 km)	241.00
10.	Ponduru-Rajam (19 km)	53.00
11.	Jaggayyapet-Vishnupuram new line (55km.)	156.00
12.	Manoharabad-Kothapalli (148.9 km.)	378.56
13.	Tindivanam-Nagari (179.2 km)	456.00
14.	Rayadurg-Tumkur via Kalyandurg (213 km)	887.31
15.	Cuddapah-Bangalore (Bangarapet) (255.4 km.)	1000.23
16.	Attipattu-Puttur (83.3 km.) with link line to Thiruvallur	635.00
Total		6759.1

Out of the above mentioned surveys, works of new line of Jaggayyapet-Mellacheruvu, Manoharabad-Kothapalli, Vishnupuram-Janpahad, Tindivanam-Nagari, Rayadurg-Tumkur have already been taken up. Further, the work of Cuddapah-Bangalore and Attipattu-Puttur new line have been proposed in Budget 2008-09.

(d) The total estimated cost as per survey for the above mentioned 16 new line was assessed as Rs. 6759.1 crore.

Review of Major Steel Projects

484. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a team to review and coordinate measures for an early completion of major steel projects;

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

(c) the details of recommendations made by the team?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) to monitor and coordinate issues concerning major steel investments in the country.

(b) The IMG consists of following members:-

i.	Secretary, Ministry of Steel	Chairman
ii.	Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion	Member
iii.	Member (Traffic), Railway Board, Ministry of Railways	Member
iv.	Secretary, Department of Shipping	Member
v.	Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways	Member
vi.	Secretary, Ministry of Mines	Member
vii.	Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest	Member
viii.	Chief Secretary of concerned State Governments	Member
ix.	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel	Convener

Any other Ministry/State Govt. may be requested to participate as and when considered necessary.

Further, the terms of reference (ToR) of the IMG are:

To review and coordinate measures for early completion of the major steel capacities and to address various problems concerning:-

- (i) Infrastructure constraints related to ports, rail, road network.
- (ii) Availability of iron ore and coal.
- (iii) Speedy environmental clearance for project site as well as for iron ore and coal mining activities.
- (iv) Availability of land, water resources and issues concerning rehabilitation.
- (v) Any other item concerned with the major steel investments in the country.

(c) The Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) is constituted to periodically review, monitor and coordinate the issues

concerning setting up of major steel investment projects and to take appropriate actions, accordingly.

Infrastructure Facilities at Airports

485. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide better infrastructure facilities at the airports in the country;

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

(c) the funds to be invested on this proposal and the benefits likely to be accrued by the tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Measures have been initiated by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to deal with the anticipated expansion of air traffic in the country by augmenting the infrastructure all the airports under its management, like increasing the capacity of terminal buildings, constructing more parking stands for aircraft and providing longer runways subject to availability of land to be provided by State Government. Besides, new Greenfield airports are being established at Hyderabad and Bangalore, through Public-Private Partnership route.

(b) Airports selected for development in the 11th Five Year Plan, are Ajmer, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Mount Abu and Udaipur in Rajasthan; Chandigarh in Chandigarh Union Territory; Dehradun, Pantnagar in Uttarakhand; New Delhi in Delhi (through Joint Venture route); Jammu, Srinagar and Leh in Jammu & Kashmir; Khajuraho, Bhopal and Indore in Madhya Pradesh; Kullu in Himachal Pradesh; Lucknow and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh; Ludhiana in Punjab; Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda in Orissa; Kolkata, Cooch Behar and Malda in West Bengal; Muzaffarpur and Gaya in Bihar; Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar; Ranchi in Jharkhand; Agartala in Tripura; Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Silchar in Assam; Barapani (Shillong) in Meghalaya; Imphal in Manipur; Itanagar and Passighat in Arunachal Pradesh; Pakyong in Sikkim; Kohima in Nagaland; Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Vadodara in Gujarat; Akola, Aurangabad, Baramati, Gondia, Mumbai (through Joint Venture route), Juhu, Nagpur (through Joint Venture route) and Pune in Maharashtra; Belgaum, Hassan, Hubli, Mangalore and Mysore in Karnataka; Goa in Goa; Agatti in Lakshadweep Islands, Calicut and Trivandrum in Kerala; Coimbatore, Madurai, Chennai, Trichy and Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu; Cudappah, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, Vishakhapatnam and Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh; and Pondicherry in Pondicherry respectively.

(c) AAI proposes to invest Rs.6443 crores for non-metro airports and Rs.5679 crores for metro airports, during the 11th Plan period.

Austerity Measures in Aviation Sector

486. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India and Indian Airlines propose to introduce Air Tickets at lower rates to compete with private airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the efficiency of the Airlines staff and austerity measures to curb the waste expenditure to increase profit in the aviation sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As per industry practice and depending on factors such as demand/supply, seasonality, extent of competition and product features like frequency, timings, direct / indirect operations etc. Air India offers low levels of fares under multiple classes. These Easy fares, Apex fares etc. are available round the year. Special Promotional Schemes/offers are also introduced periodically to attract passengers.

(c) and (d) The merger of erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines Limited has been effected with a view to augmenting revenues and curtailing costs significantly. The management of Air India has entered into Wage agreements with various Unions which would result in abolition of restrictive and unproductive work practices as well as redundant allowances. The airline has also undertaken other cost-cutting measures like fuel conservation, re-deployment of capacity and other productivity enhancement measures.

[Translation]

Free Storage Time in the Cargo Permits at the Airports

487. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to reduce Free Storage Time in the cargo premises of the airports in order to check congestion at the airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Airports Authority of India has also decided to increase the Terminal Storage Processing (TSP) charges;

(d) if so, whether any protest has been lodged by the exporters against the increase in the Cargo charges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have issued directions for reduction in free period for import cargo from 05 working days to 72 hours (i.e. 3 working days) and for export cargo, free period for airlines is reduced from 04 working days to 48 hours whereas free period for exporters is retained at 24 hours. Thus, the total free period available for exports would be 72 hours.

(c) The Terminal Storage Processing charges were due for revision with effect from 1st September 2007. The revision has been deferred till 31.3.2008.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Oil Refinery at Kakinada in A.P.

488. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have recently decided to set up an Oil refinery at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) which ONGC Board has given its in principle approval and clearance for the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated gestation period for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is exploring the feasibility of setting up an export-oriented oil refinery at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) ONGC Board in its 150th meeting held on 30th January 2006 has noted that Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL), a subsidiary company of

ONGC, had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP), Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS) and Kakinada Sea Ports Ltd (KSPL) on 3rd September 2006 to explore the feasibility of setting up an export-oriented refinery at Kakinada, subject to techno-commercial viability of the project. ONGC has approached GoAP for an incentive package for ensuring the economic viability of the project.

**Supply of Diesel to the
Railways by IOC**

489. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) provide discounts on the rates for supply of diesel to the Railways;

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

(c) the reasons for giving discounts on the rates to the Railways;

(d) whether Indian Oil Corporation proposes to discontinue discount on the rates of diesel to the Railways; and

(e) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has been providing a discount of Rs. 1125.27 per kilolitre on the rates of diesel before excise duty and sales tax, on its supply to Railways upto 31.12.2007. A discount of Rs. 150 per kilolitre has been offered by IOC to Railways on supply of diesel from 1.1.2008 to 31.12.2008. This discount is given for volume protection and in the overall interest of business.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Incidents of Women Harassment/
Looting and Accidents**

490. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:
SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that day by day, the incidents of women harassment/looting and accidents are increasing;

(b) if so, steps being taken by the Government to prevent the same;

(c) the details of the number of cases registered in Rajasthan and other States during the last three years and the number of cases decided and the number of cases pending;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce more number of separate coaches for women to provide more security; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a marginal increase in the number of incidents of harassment of women passengers during the year 2007 compared with the previous year 2006. However, the incidents of looting and accidents have decreased in the year 2007 as compared with the previous year 2006.

Year	No. of incidents of harassment of women passengers	No. of looting of passengers	No. of accidents
2006	174	515	212
2007	199	416	191

(b) It is pertinent to mention that maintenance of law and order is a State subject and power to investigate in IPC crimes are vested with Police. Registration and detection of IPC crimes is the responsibility of Government Railway Police which works under the control of the State Governments and as such, Ministry of Railways has to depend largely on them for control of crime over Railways.

In spite of the above fact, Railways is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways by deploying Railway Protection Force staff to escort trains for security of passengers.

The following preventive measures are being taken for the security of women passengers:-

1. Ladies' compartments of sub-urban trains are normally being escorted by GRP. Special Squads comprising of women TTEs and women RPF personnel are deployed in vulnerable suburban sections, especially during the non-peak hours when likelihood of commission of crime against women is more.
2. Regular drives are conducted by RPF against male passengers traveling in ladies compartments and the

offenders detected are prosecuted under the Provisions of the Railways Act.

3. Public awareness programmes are conducted by RPF with the help of NGOs and other agencies to create an environment to prevent criminal activities against women passengers.
4. GRP and RPF staff deployed on the platforms are specially instructed to keep watch on the ladies compartments of the local suburban and mail / express trains.
5. Efforts are made to provide GRP staff / Mobile chowkies in mail / express trains near the ladies compartments for immediate help to the lady passengers in case of any need during night.
6. Ladies / general coaches are placed nearer to the guard's brake van in the trains so that in the hour of need, the train guard can immediately extend help / assistance to the lady passengers.
7. Stickers bearing Railway's logo containing MTNL telephone numbers of all the police stations / control rooms of the suburban section have been pasted on both the ends of the coaches of all the local trains for the help of the passengers.
8. Public announcements are made on all the important Railway stations to keep passengers aware of the anti-social elements.

To prevent train accidents:

Safety is the prime concern on Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken to prevent accidents. These measures include adoption of suitable and modern technologies for interlocking and signaling system, upgradation of standards of track and rolling stock, modernization of maintenance practices, replacement of over-aged assets, upgradation of training aids, like simulators, checks on observance of safety precaution and provision of Anti-Collision Device. Safety drives are launched from time to time throughout the Railways to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Introduction of Train between Allahabad and Jammu

491. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce an express train between Allahabad, Haridwar, Saharanpur and Jammu;

(b) if so, specify the time frame;

(c) whether any representations have been received from the peoples representatives and the public to introduce an express train with a view to connect the four Hindu Holy Places namely Allahabad, Haridwar, Saharanpur and Jammu;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Introduction of Express train between Allahabad-Jammu Tawi has been examined but not found feasible due to operational constraints such as terminal and path constraints.

[English]

Construction of Domestic and International Airports

492. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the places in various States where both domestic and international airports are being constructed/proposed to be constructed in public-private partnership;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the year by which these airports are expected to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Proposals have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala for setting up of international airports. The new airports coming up at Hyderabad and Bangalore would become operational

during this year. 'In-principle' approval have since been accorded for new airports at Navi Mumbai airport in Maharashtra, Mopa in Goa and Kannur in Kerala. The proposal of UP Government to set up of an airport at Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar District is under consideration.

One LPG Connection Per Household

493. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to allow only one LPG connection per household in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that a household possessing only one cylinder per connection needs to wait at least 5 to 6 days before getting a refill of their empty cylinder;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to avoid such hardship to the consumers;
- (e) whether the Government is also planning to provide alternate sources, such as biogas, for cooking purposes; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) to (d) Domestic LPG is a subsidized product. While OMCs are making all efforts to meet the genuine demand of the customers, there is a need to keep a check to prevent diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for unauthorized use. LPG distributors of OMCs are required to release LPG cylinders against bookings only and the refill supplies of domestic LPG are being made by the OMCs in accordance with the genuine requirements of customers.

At present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers and supply of LPG connection is regulated under the provisions of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 (Control Order). Amendments to the Control Order relating to restriction of LPG connections on household basis are under consideration of the Government.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have

further reported that they have supplied 8450 TMT (Thousand Metric Tonnes) of domestic LPG in the country during the period-April, 2007-January, 2008 as against 8030 TMT during the corresponding period of last year, showing a growth of 5.2%.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country due to reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the State by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

(e) and (f) About 89.9% of LPG is used as domestic LPG for cooking purposes in the country. While there is no proposal to substitute LPG with some other fuel, with the increase in availability of natural gas and the necessary pipeline distribution network in future, supplies of piped natural gas may substitute LPG supplies in some areas gradually. At present, piped natural gas is being supplied to some areas of Delhi and Mumbai.

Retail Hub Near Railway Stations

494. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are contemplating to open retail hub near Railway Stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of income generated by selling/leasing land near Railway Stations, till date;
- (d) whether the Railways have any plan to ensure participation of educated unemployed in opening retail hub of this kind; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The feasibility of attracting additional traffic by leveraging sparable railway land through partnership with agri-retail chains is under consideration.

(c) to (e) Expression of interest was invited from prospective private participants to gauge their interest in using surplus land at non-metropolitan towns for agri-retail chains. 9 (Nine) firms responded to the same showing their interest in utilisation of various land sites. Final decision regarding how to proceed further in this regard is yet to be taken.

Pilferage and Sabotage of Crude Oil and Petroleum Product Pipelines

495. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of losses suffered on account of pilferage and sabotage of crude oil and petroleum product pipelines each year during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases detected/found of pilferage, sabotage and damage to oil pipelines and the action taken against the offenders each year during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take more stringent and effective steps to ensure that the culprits are punished heavily for the crime by plugging the inadequacies in the existing law; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The amount of losses suffered and number of cases detected / found of pilferage, sabotage and damage of crude oil & petroleum product in respect of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) during last three years are as under:

Year	Amount of Losses	Cases Detected
2005	69,335 Ltrs.	41
2006	96,360 Ltrs.	42
2007	86,625 Ltrs.	40

In all these cases, First Information Reports (FIR) were duly lodged with respective Police Stations and more than 169 people were arrested. In most of the cases the amount lost was recovered and the net losses were negligible.

(c) and (d) ONGC & Oil have taken various measures to curb incidences of thefts/sabotage/pilferages in co-ordination with respective State Governments. However, no proposal for amendment in the existing laws is under consideration.

Diversion/Black-Marketing of Kerosene/LPG

496. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerosene/LPG are being diverted/black-marketed for adulteration/commercial use and there is an acute shortage of kerosene/LPG in the country particularly in Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check the diversion/black-marketing of Kerosene/LPG and to ensure availability of these items at fair price to consumers; and

(c) measures taken to increase the production of kerosene/LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The possibility of black marketing of Kerosene (SKO) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference. Allocation of Public Distribution System (PDS) SKO is made by Government of India to different States/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under PDS. Further distribution within the States/UTs through their PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, SKO allocation for distribution under the PDS was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/Union Territory. There has been no reduction in the PDS Kerosene to States/UTs after the financial year 2004-05. For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year. Allocations for 2007-08 have also been maintained at the same level. As on date no shortage of kerosene has been reported in any part of the country.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. However, OMCs have reported backlog in LPG in supplies in certain States in the country due to reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to

severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

With a view to distribute the subsidized PDS kerosene to the targeted beneficiaries, the Government has taken the following steps:

Kerosene: In order to check the black marketing of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene, the Central Government have made provisions in the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, according to which the dealers cannot sell PDS kerosene at a price higher than the price fixed by the Government or OMCs and that the PDS kerosene dealers should prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of store at a conspicuous place.

Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent diversion and black-marketing of kerosene under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in black-marketing and other irregularities.

Government have also approved a pilot project – 'Jan Kerosene Pariyojana' (JKP) for radically revamping the PDS kerosene distribution network with the primary objective of ensuring that this heavily subsidized product is actually made available in the required quantities at subsidized prices to the intended beneficiaries; and secondly, to thus cap, reverse and eventually eliminate the diversion of PDS kerosene for adulteration. One of the salient features of this scheme is that supplies to the sub-wholesale points will be made under the direct supervision and responsibility of the public sector OMCs. The scheme has been launched on a pilot basis in 414 blocks in the country from 2nd October, 2005. The pilot scheme has been further extended upto 31.03.2008.

With a view to checking the diversion of subsidized kerosene and in order to monitor the movement of Tank Trucks transporting petroleum products, the Government have advised the public sector OMCs for installing Global Positioning System (GPS) based vehicle tracking system on all the tank trucks. The essential features of the system is

that the vehicle carrying PDS SKO is fitted with a device and can be tracked on real time basis from the time it leaves the supply location and till it reaches the destination.

To check adulteration in auto fuels, and also to check diversion of subsidized kerosene, Government have also advised OMCs to introduce marker in adulterants. Public sector OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under this system, Marker is being put in kerosene in all depots. This system heralds the introduction of world-class technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. With the marker's presence, adulteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected. MS/HSD Control Order, 2005, SKO Control Order, 1993 and MDG 2005 have been amended for making provision regarding introduction of marker system in kerosene to check adulteration. A committee has been set up in the Ministry to monitor the progress of the marker system. Oil Marketing Companies in the Private sector have also been simultaneously asked to introduce marker in Kerosene as is being done by Public Sector OMCs.

LPG:

The following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes:

- (i) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of public sector OMCs is prohibited. The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.
- (ii) The officials of public sector OMCs carry out random checks at distributor's godown, delivery point, as well as en-route to ensure that no diversion/black marketing takes place. As per the MDG in established cases of diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, the following action is taken against the distributor.
 - (a) Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
 - (b) Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and

(c) Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

(c) To improve the production of petroleum products including kerosene/LPG, measures are being taken to improve the production of crude oil. Following steps are being taken to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities in the country to meet the growing demand:-

- (i) Carving out and placing on offer more and more areas for exploration under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- (ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.
- (iii) Use of stimulation technique for increasing production from existing fields.
- (iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.
- (v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.
- (vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.
- (vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional sources of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.

Attari Railway Station

497. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received representations regarding improvement of infrastructure i.e., roads, sheds, platform space at Amritsar and Attari railway station for handling Indo-Pak trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have also received any representation to rename the Attari Railway station as Attari Sham Singh; and

(d) the action taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A representation from the Amritsar Exporters Chamber of Commerce for repairs to approach roads and other infrastructural facilities at Amritsar and Attari railway station has been received in the month of January 2008.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry for approving renaming of railway station based on the request by the State Government concerned and seeking views of various agencies including Ministry of Railways. No request has been received from Ministry of Home Affairs so far in this regard.

Shifting of Headquarters from Mumbai to Ahmedabad

498. SHRI BHARATSINH MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any proposal from Gujarat Government for shifting the Headquarters of Western Railways from Mumbai to Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Gujarat Government having a considerable share in passenger and goods traffic in Western Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Gujarat Government as a consignor or consignee does not have considerable share in passenger and goods traffic on Western Railways. However, Gujarat State is having considerable share in passenger and goods on Western Railway.

Sale of Air Tickets in Post Offices

499. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started selling air tickets at different post offices in Karnataka with the co-operation of different Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to sell the air tickets in other states through post offices also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Department

of Posts has implemented a pilot project of selling air tickets of Deccan Aviation Limited in select 511 e-enabled. Post Offices in Karnataka Postal Circle from 2nd July, 2007.

- (c) No, Sir.
(d) Does not arise.

Funds Disbursed for Disabled Persons

500. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the funds distributed to various states for disabled persons is not utilized;
(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
(c) the total funds earmarked for disabled persons for the last three years; and
(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Funds for disabled persons are not distributed States-wise.

(c) and (d) Under the Scheme of Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances and the provision of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, Rs. 174.64 Crores, Rs.170.34 Crores and Rs. 172.20 Crores had been earmarked for the persons with disabilities during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

Restructuring of SAIL

501. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) is incurring heavy losses, despite continuous Government's help;
(b) if so, the details alongwith reasons therefor; and
(c) the details of financial support given, so far, to restructure Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) since April, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Steel

Authority of India Limited has been continuously making substantial profits since 2003 – 04. The details of annual profit after tax are as under:

(Rs. in crore)				
2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Apr-Dec'07
2512	6817	4013	6202	5160

(c) No budgetary support has been extended by the Union Government to the Steel Authority of India Limited for restructuring, since April, 2006.

Investment in the Public Sector Enterprises

502. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of total investment in the big industries operating in public sector till the end of March, 2007;
(b) the value of trade carried out by these industries during 2006-07; and
(c) the total amount earned as profit by these industries during the period?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Total investment in 244 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), including 27 CPSEs under construction, as on 31.3.2007 was Rs. 421089 crore.

(b) The total turnover of 217 operating CPSEs during 2006-07 was Rs. 964410 crore.

(c) The net profit of 217 operating enterprises taken together was Rs. 81550 crore.

Investment in the Foreign Companies by Public Sector Oil Companies

503. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether public sector oil companies have made capital investment in the foreign companies in the foreign countries during the last few years;
(b) if so, the names of those public sector companies who have invested in the foreign companies by the end of

December, 2007 alongwith the amount of such capital investment; and

(c) the capital investment made by the above companies in indigenous oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The capital investment made by major public sector oil companies in foreign companies in foreign countries and the capital investment made by these companies in indigenous oil companies is as under:

(Rs. Crore)

Name of the Company	Amount of investment made in foreign companies	Amount of investment made in indigenous oil companies
ONGC	30855.00	3914.62
OIL	.0022	483.65
IOCL	523.15	2560.76
BPCL	17.45	56.81
HPCL	7.21	1115.22
GAIL	155.67	556.29

Methodology of Granting Funds to NGO's

504. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion and the methodology being adopted by the Government for granting funds to the NGOs;

(b) the total number of NGOs in the country and how many of them have been granted funds/aid during last three years, country-wise;

(c) whether any misuse of funds/aid have been reported to the Government during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against those NGOs;

(e) how many of defaulting NGOs have been prosecuted and the outcome thereof; and

(f) how many of them have been debarred for further aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Financial assistance is provided to the Non-Governmental Organizations subject to fulfillment of the following criteria:

- (i) Non profit making society registered under an appropriate Act with an appropriate administrative structure and a duly constituted managing/executive committee.
- (ii) Registration for a minimum period of two years at the time of applying for grant in aid.

Financial assistance is provided to NGOs as per the norms laid down in the schemes. The details are available in the Annual Report of the Ministry.

(b) The Ministry does not maintain any data of the total number of Non Governmental Organisations in the country. However, the total number of NGOs given grant-in-aid under various schemes of the Ministry during last three years is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) to (f) The details of those NGOs who have been blacklisted and further debarred from grant-in-aid and action taken during last three years is given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Total Number of NGOs given grant-in-aid under various schemes of the Ministry during last three years

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme	688	741	687
2	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for Scheduled Castes	253	348	335
3	Integrated Programme for Older Persons	444	415	407
4	Coaching & Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including SCs, OBCs & Minorities (Pre-revised)	49	55	58

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
5	Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aida/Appliances (ADIP)	144	138	87	7	Assistance to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of OBCs	190	148	83
6	Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse	321	295	277	8	General Grant in aid programme for assistance in the field of Social Defence	18	11	38

Statement-II*Details of NGOs debarred for further grant-in-aid during last three years*

Sl.No.	Name of the Organisations	Status Report
1	Talagarda Harijan Sahi Mahila Samiti, At-Gaikanpali, Post – Taparia, Via-Gopalpur, Distt-Sundergarh, Orissa	The NGO has been blacklisted. StateGovt. has been requested for recovery of grant
2.	Orissa Voluntary Association for Rural Socio Development, At – Kaliapat, Post-Gopikud, Distt. Jagatsinghpur, Orissa	The NGO has been blacklisted. State Govt. has been requested for recovery of grant
3.	Peoples Organisation of Orientation and Renovation, At & PO Nuagaon, Via Srigida, Distt – Keonjhar, Orissa	The NGO has been blacklisted. State Govt. has been requested for recovery of grant
4.	National Youth Service Action and Social Development Research Institute, Santhasara, Post Santhapur, Via-Gondia, Distt-Dhenkanal, Orissa	The NGO has been blacklisted. State Govt. has been requested for recovery of grant
5.	Shri Damodaran Sanjeevaiah Memorial High School, Sector-6, Bhilai Nagar, District – Durg, Chhattisgarh	The NGO has been blacklisted. State Govt. has been requested for recovery of grant
6.	Ayush Foundation, D-4, Panchvati Apartments Panchvati Cross Road, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	The NGO has been blacklisted and further grant has been stopped.
7.	Gram Chetna Seva Samiti, House of Shri Dhanajay Rathor, Reti Phatak, Kila Gate, Loha Mandi, Gwalior, MP	The NGO has been blacklisted and further grant has been stopped.
8.	Adarsh Shivam Social Development Society, House of Shri S.C. Tiwari, Bharoli Road, Near S.P. Office, Bhind, MP	The NGO has been blacklisted and further grant has been stopped.
9.	Rajiv Gandhi Memorial pre-examination coaching centre, Near Ram Mandir, Bidar, Karnataka	District Administration has been requested to recover the amount from the organization and remit the same of the Ministry as arrears of land revenue.
10.	Independence pre-examination coaching centre, No. 1, Muniyappa Layout, New Police State Road, K.R. Puram, Bangalore, Karnataka	District Administration has been requested to recover the amount from the organization and remit the same of the Ministry as arrears of land revenue.
11.	Tapasvi Sewa Charitable Trust, Behind Globe Cinema, Nadiad, Distt. Kheda, Gujarat	The NGO has been blacklisted. State Govt. has been requested for recovery of grant
12.	Central English Academy, Patna, Bihar	The NGO has been blacklisted. State Govt. has been requested for recovery of grant
13.	Youth Mobilisation for National Advancement, Patna, Bihar	The NGO has been blacklisted. State Govt. has been requested for recovery of grant

Security Checks at the Railway Stations

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase security check for goods and passengers at certain Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the stations where security will be upgraded; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Sensitive Stations have been identified. 'Expression of Interest' has been invited on outright purchase basis or through Public Private Partnership (PPP) on BOOT (Build, Own, Operate and Transfer) basis to develop 'Integrated Security System' over hundred Railway Stations of Indian Railways. Besides this other measures like filling up vacancies, augmentation of manpower etc. are also being taken.

Development Fee at Hyderabad and Bangalore Airports

506. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether new airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore are likely to be opened shortly;

(b) if so, whether the outbound passengers will have to pay a hefty user development fee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the airlines CEOs are worried about losing passengers from these booming towns by increasing user development fee;

(e) if so, whether CEOs had a meeting with Aviation Secretary to do something about new charges; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that passengers are not overcharged as development fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per Concession Agreements signed by Government of India (GOI) with Hyderabad International

Airport Limited (HIAL) and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), both Airport Companies are allowed to charge User Development Fee (UDF) with effect from Airport Opening Date, duly increased in the subsequent years with inflation index from embarking domestic and international passengers, for the provision of passenger amenities, services and facilities.

(d) to (f) Secretary, Civil Aviation had a meeting with Chief Executive Officers of Scheduled Airlines on 5th February, 2008, wherein, amongst other things, UDF issue was discussed. Their suggestions are under the consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Acquiring Oil and Gas Equity Assets in the Foreign Countries

507. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts have been made to acquire oil and gas equity assets in the foreign countries during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected benefit of the said acquired assets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) In last three years, ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) as well as other National Oil Companies (NOCs) such as Oil India Ltd. (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) have acquired participating interests in 35 Oil and Gas projects in 20 countries.

(c) Besides commercial benefits to the Oil Companies, equity oil abroad also provides national energy security. While in normal circumstances the Oil/Gas could be sold on commercial consideration, in times of national requirement, the same can be brought to India irrespective of commercial considerations.

[English]

Applications for Regional Airlines

508. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for the operations of new regional airlines;

(b) whether a large number of regional airlines have come into operation during the last year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether large number of applications for new regional airlines are pending for consideration and introduction;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the new regional airlines are likely to be put into operation particularly in southern sectors in the country;

(f) whether NRIs also get licenses for operation of regional airlines; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements for scheduled regional air transport service.

The concept of regional airline has been introduced with a view to promote air connectivity within a region, expand air travel services for Tier II and Tier III cities and between specific regions. There are four regions identified as

North, South, West, East/ North-East coinciding with the Flight Information Regions (FIRs) as defined by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The regional airlines are not permitted to operate on category I routes. However, the regional airlines of the southern region which has 3 metros would be allowed to operate between the metros within the southern region namely Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad.

The airline can operate with minimum of 3 aircraft and the equity requirements are as under:-

(i) Airlines operating with aircraft with take off mass equal to or exceeding 40,000 kg.

(a) Upto 3 aircraft – Rs. 30 crores, (b) for each additional aircraft, additional equity investment of Rs. 10 crores will be required, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 crores after which no further equity enhancement is required.

(ii) Airlines operating with aircraft with take off mass not exceeding 40,000 kg.

(a) upto 3 aircraft – Rs. 12 crores, (b) for each additional aircraft paid up capital of Rs. 4 crores will be required subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 crores after which no further equity enhancement is required. There may be no need for further enhancement of equity if the paid up equity/ reserves of Rs. 50 crores is available with the airline. It is however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

(b) and (c) Four companies namely M/s. Star Aviation for Southern Region, M/s. MDLR Airlines and M/s. Jagson Airlines for Northern Region, and M/s. ZAV Airways for North/ Eastern Region have been granted initial NOC to operate Scheduled Air Transport (Regional) Services.

(d) and (e) Four applications for new regional airlines are under process. Operationalisation of regional airlines will depend upon applicants fulfilling the laid down requirements, their operational preparedness and commercial planning.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. NRI are eligible to invest upto 100% in regional airlines.

Decongestion of Platforms during Festive Season

509. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government in a major step towards decongesting platforms during the festive season had decided not to sell platform tickets at New Delhi railway station from 20th to 31st December and in the month of November, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the average daily sale of platform tickets at New Delhi railway station;

(d) the loss in terms of revenue the Government had suffered during the period the ban was imposed and step Government has planned to make up the loss;

(e) whether the interests of the senior citizens and disabled persons was kept;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) whether such similar decisions would be taken in future in respect of other major cities of India if the present experiment proved successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) For decongesting platforms during festival seasons from 20th to 31st December 2007, sale of platform tickets was banned for one shift from 16.00 to 24.00 hours. From 7th to 15th November 2007, sale was banned in all the three shifts.

(c) The daily average sale of platform tickets at New Delhi railway station was 23,067 in 2007.

(d) Monetary loss was not taken into consideration as this step was taken keeping the security reasons and decongestion of platforms in view.

(e) and (f) Keeping in view the interests of senior citizens and disabled persons, platform tickets were provided to them at the assistance booth near entry gate during the evening shift from 20th to 31st December 2007 and whole period from 7th to 15th November 2007, depending upon the need and the merits of these persons.

(g) The concerned zonal railway will take suitable steps depending upon the situation.

Welfare Schemes for Senior Citizens

510. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the problems being faced by the senior citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes/programmes formulated and enforced for welfare of the senior citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing Scheme for financial assistance to the NGOs under the Plan scheme: "Integrated programme for Older Persons" in which financial assistance is provided for maintenance of old age homes, day care centres and mobile medicare units for the welfare of senior citizens.

The National Policy on Older Persons identifies the problems faced by senior citizens as financial security, food and nutrition, shelter, health, protection of life and property etc.

Appointment of Compassionate Grounds

511. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge number of applications for appointment on compassionate grounds are pending with the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Division-wise and the reasons of delay for such a huge backlog;

(c) whether the Railway have taken any steps for early filling up of such compassionate appointments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha. However, occurrence of death and medical invalidation of personnel on the Railways is a continuous process. Therefore, there is always likelihood of a few cases pending at a particular point of time.

(c) and (d) Welfare Inspectors are deputed to contact the family members of Railway servants dying in harness or who retire on medical grounds and to conduct enquiry into the details as soon as the applications are submitted for such appointment. Constant monitoring at Divisional/Head Quarter level is done. Selection is done on monthly basis and compassionate appointment. Adalats are also held to dispose off the complaint cases.

(e) Does not arise.

Introduction of LPG in Fibre Glass Cylinders

512. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to introduce LPG in fibre glass cylinders imported from Norway to prevent malpractice of LPG distribution.

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the shortage of LPG cylinders in present from has prompted the Government to go in for fibre glass cylinders;

(d) whether a Committee has been constituted by the Department of Consumer Affairs to identify the problems being faced by LPG consumers particularly with regard to malpractices in distribution;

(e) if so, what are the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(f) the other steps taken by the Government to meet the huge shortage of LPG supply across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has conveyed "in principle" approval to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for expanding the product line by way of introduction of composite cylinders for marketing domestic LPG, subject to there being no subsidy element in the LPG to be marketed through these composite cylinders.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No Committee has been constituted by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to identify the problems being faced by LPG consumers.

(f) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in some States of the country due to reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January, 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour etc. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

Visit of Railway Delegation to Israel

513. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level railway delegation had visited Israel in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the objectives of such visit;

(c) the details of various issues of mutual cooperation discussed by the said delegation with Israel;

(d) whether the Railway propose to seek Israeli cooperation for installation of advanced simulators and radio system for the rail network; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A high level Indian Railways delegation headed by the Minister of State for Railways visited Israel on invitation from Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Road Safety to attend International conference on "Railway Novelty, Regulation and Safety" hosted by Israeli Railways at Tel Aviv, Israel from 17th to 19th December, 2007.

(c) During the Conference the India delegation also met the Israeli Railway delegation headed by their Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Road Safety and discussed latest development and exchanged information about Railway safety and improving passenger and freight traffic carrying capacities.

(d) and (e) There are no such plans as at present.

Transportation of Gas by Iran to India

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

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Petroleum Ministers of India and Pakistan has decided to visit Iran to discuss a multi-billion dollar project to transport Iranian gas to India via Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Iranian Government has given deadline to India to formally agree to its participation after finalizing the content of the \$ 7.4 billion gas export deal with Pakistan.

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Iran proposed to hold a meeting of the Oil Ministers of Iran, Pakistan and India on February 12-13, 2008 at Tehran. Government examined the invitation received from Iranian side in this regard and it was decided

that it would be necessary to have a bilateral meeting between India and Pakistan before having a trilateral meeting at the Ministerial-level. It was also suggested that instead of a trilateral Ministerial meeting, a trilateral meeting at the level of officials be held.

(c) No, such communication has been received from Iranian Government.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

**New Passenger Train from
Dhanbad to Bilaspur**

515. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to run a new passenger train from Dhanbad to Bilaspur via Gomiya, Bermo and Barkakana to facilitate a large number of people traveling between Dhanbad Junction in Jharkhand and Bilaspur Junction in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Railway Project In Chhattisgarh

516. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway submitted by Chhattisgarh Government during the year 2007-08;

(b) the present status of those proposals;

(c) whether the inadequate allocation of funds for rail projects of Chhattisgarh has been hampering the progress of work on these projects; and

(d) if so, the steps taken for ensuring adequate allocation of funds for timely completion of said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The detailed record of each and every demand received for projects is not maintained.

However, in the recent past, demands have been received from the State Government and the elected public representatives mainly for construction of Dalli-Rajhara-Jagdarpur, Barwadih-Chirimiri, Bilaspur-Mandla-Jabalpur new lines and Raipur-Dhamtari gauge conversion.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed among Ministry of Railways, Government of Chhattisgarh, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) on 11.12.2007 for construction of Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat-Jagdarpur new line and land acquisition has been taken up on Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat segment. An updating survey for Barwadih-Chirimiri new line has been proposed in the Budget 2008-09. Survey for Bilaspur-Mandla-Jabalpur new line was conducted in the past but project could not be considered for being taken up. An updating survey for Raipur-Dhamtari gauge conversion has been completed recently.

(c) and (d) The ongoing projects in Chhattisgarh are being progressed as per their operational priorities and the availability of resources. The Railways have taken a number of initiatives to get additional resources from other than the normal budgetary support to expedite the completion of these projects.

[English]

Setting up of Steel Plants

517. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Steel Plants set up in the country during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) whether any of these plants have started commercial production;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the employment generated by each Plant;

(e) whether any step has been taken by them to provide employment to the local people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) During the Tenth Plan Period 149 private steel players have signed an Memorandum of Understandings with mineral rich states of Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh for setting up of iron and steel plant. Out of these, 47 private steel players have

commenced their iron and steel production partially. State wise details are enclosed in the Statement.

(d) The steel units, which have commenced production, are yet to achieve their full planned capacity. Therefore, a complete figure on employment generation in these units is not available.

(e) The recruitment of local people in the steel projects is governed by the extant policy of the concerned State Governments.

(f) Does not arise in view of above.

Statement

List of Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been signed with the State Government of Orissa

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Investment Rs. in crore	Date of Signing of MoU	Present status & progress	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	M/s Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd.	Lapanga, Samabipur	Phase-I- Phase-II-	1.2 1.6	1650 1850	15.05.2002	Commenced production of steel
2	M/s Aarti Steel Ltd.	Ghantikhali, Athagarh, Cuttack	Phase-I- Phase-II-	0.5 0.5	512 374	01.10.2003	Commenced production of sponge iron & steel
3	M/s Adhunik Metalicks (P) Ltd.	Chadrihariharpur, Rourkela, Sundargarh	Phase-I- Phase-II-	0.26 0.15	202.5 197.5	01.10.2003	Commenced production of steel
4	M/s Scaw Industries (P) Ltd.	Gundichapada, Dhenkanal	Phase-I- Phase-II-	0.25 0.55	310 514	01.10.2003	Commenced production of steel
5	M/s Deo Mines & Mineral (P) Ltd.	Bonai, Sundargarh		0.325	316	01.10.2003	Show cause notice has been issued. The company has filed the writ petition in the High Court of Orissa
6	M/s Visa Industries Ltd.	Jharkhapura, Duburi, Jaipur		0.35	345.78	26.12.2003	Commenced production of pig iron
7	M/s SMC Power Generation Ltd.	Hirma, Jharsuguda	Phase-I- Phase-II-	0.25 0.15	141 314	26.12.2003	Commenced production of steel
8	M/s Shyam DRI Power Ltd.	Pandoli, Rengali, Sambalpur		0.27	224.71	09.02.2004	Commenced production of sponge
9	M/s Orissa Sponge Iron Ltd.	Gurla, Govindpur, Sambalpur	Phase-I- Phase-II-	0.35 0.6	395 642	26.08.2004	Commenced production of steel
10	M/s SPS Sponge Iron Ltd.	Badmal Growth Centre, Jharsuguda		0.29	210	26.08.2004	Commenced production of sponge iron
11	M/s Maharashtra Seamless Ltd.	Kalinganagar Industrial Complex, Duburi, Jaipur	Phase-I- Phase-II-	0.3 0.18	245 205	26.08.2004	Site selection has not yet completed
12	M/s OCL India Ltd.	Rajgangpur, Sundargarh		0.25	204.21	27.11.2004	Commenced production of steel
13	M/s Maheswary Ispat (P) Ltd.	Rampel, Khuntuni, Cuttack		0.25	210.00	27.11.2004	Commenced production of steel

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	M/s Monnet Ispat Ltd.	Mangalpur, Dhenkanal		0.25	281.09	27.11.2004	Land acquisition is under progress
15	M/s Aryan Ispat & power (P) Ltd.	Bomlai, Rengali, Sambalpur		0.30	393.14	27.11.2004	Commenced production of sponge iron
16	M/s Maithan Ispat Ltd.	Kalinganagar Industrial Complex, Duburi		0.27	335.25	27.11.2004	Commenced production of sponge iron
17	M/s Sree Metaliks Ltd.	Loidapada, Barbil, Keonjhar		0.25	190.44	27.11.2004	Commenced production of steel
18	M/s MSP Metaliks (P) Ltd.	Marakuta, Jharsuguda		0.26	260.59	27.11.2004	Land acquisition is under progress
19	M/s Action Ispat & Power (P) Ltd.	Pandripathar & Marakuta, Jharsuguda		0.25	270.00	27.11.2004	Commenced production of sponge iron
20	M/s Patnaik Steel & Alloys Ltd.	Purunapani, Joda, Keonjhar		0.27	337.42	04.05.2005	Likely to commence production
21	M/s Rathi Udyog Ltd.	Potapally-Sikridi, Sambalpur		0.30	272.85	04.05.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
22	M/s Viraj Steel & Energy Ltd.	Gurupali, Pandalo, Sambalpur		0.30	207.00	04.05.2005	Commence production of sponge iron & steel
23	M/s Deepak Steels & Power Ltd.	Topodih, Barbil, Keonjhar		0.25	195.31	04.05.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron
24	M/s Konark Ispat Ltd.	Hirma, Jharsuguda		0.25	196.50	04.05.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
25	M/s Beekay Steel & Power Ltd.	Uliburu, Barbil, Keonjhar		0.28	319.80	04.05.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron
26	M/s BRG Iron & Steel Co. (P) Ltd.	Khurunti, Dhenkanal		0.25	228.05	04.05.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron
27	M/s Jain Sponge (P) Ltd.	Durlaga, Jharsuguda		0.30	251.77	04.05.2005	Likely to commence production
28	M/s Jindal Stainless Ltd.	Duburi, Jaipur	Phase-I- Phase-II-	0.8 0.8	1,612.00 5,016.00	09.06.2005	Commenced production of Ferro Chrome
29	M/s Rungta Mines Ltd.	Kamando, near Koira, Sundargarh and Jharaband, Dhenkanal (1 MTPA each)		2.00	2275.00	3.11.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
30	M/s Brand Alloys Ltd.	Palaspanga, Keonjhar		0.27	307.54	3.11.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
31	M/s Eastern Steels & Power Ltd.	Lahandabud, Jharsuguda		0.25	254.00	3.11.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32	M/s Jai Balaji Jyoti Steels Ltd.	Tanisar, near Lathikata, Sundargarh		0.33	321.14	3.11.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron & steel
33	M/s Welspun Power & Steel Ltd.	Bhadrak district or Cuttack of nay other suitable location in the State		3.00	5828.15	01.10.2006	Land acquisition is under progress
34	M/s Uttam Galva Steels Ltd.	Location is yet to finalized		3.00	6103.80	3.10.2006	Land acquisition is under progress
35	M/s SSL Engery Ltd.	Nuahata near Babarpal, Angul	Phase-I- Phase-II-	3.00	4339.00 4270.00		Land acquisition is under progress
36	M/s MGM Steels Ltd.	Nimdiha, Motagaon, Denhkanal		0.25	208.10	22.12.2006	Land acquisition is under progress
37	M/s Surendra Mining Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Barahamus Nimidiha, Motagaon, Dhenkanala, Bonai, Sundergarh		0.25	221.62	22.12.2006	Commence production of sponge iron
38	M/s Crackers India (Alloys) Ltd.	Gobardhanpur, Konjhar		0.25	236.39	22.12.2006	Commence production of sponge iron

List of Mega Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been signed with the State Government of Orissa

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Investment Rs. in crore	Date of Signing of MoU	Present status & progress	
1	M/s Tata Steel Ltd.	Kalinganagar Industrial Complex, Duburi, Jajpur	1st Module- 2nd Module-	3.00 3.00	10,400 5,000	17.11.2004	Land acquisition is under progress
2	M/s Sterite Iron and Steel Company Ltd.	Palasponga, Keonjhar	Phase-I- Phase-II-	3.4 1.7	9782 2720	15.10.2004	Land acquisition is under progress
3	M/s ESSAR Steel Orissa Ltd.	Paradeep		4.00	10,721	21.04.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
4	M/s POSCO India Project (P) Ltd.	Paradeep		12.00	51,000	22.06.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
5	M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Beneficiation Plant at Deojhar, Keonjhar & Steel Plant at Angul		6.00	13,135.02	3.11.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
6	M/s Bhushan Steel & Strips Ltd.	Meramundali, Dhenkanal		3.00	5,828.15	3.11.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron & steel billets
7	M/s Mittal Steel Company N.V.	Patna, Keonjhar		12.00	40,000	21.12.2006	Land has been identified. The DPR has not submitted.

*List of Iron & Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been signed
with the State Government of Jharkhand*

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Investment Rs. in crore	Date of Signing of MoU	Present status & progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	M/s Monnet Ispat Limited	Hazaribagh	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.8 (b) Steel – 0.7	1400.00	05-02-03	Production not Started
2	M/s Vallabh Steel Limited	Gamharia	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.3 (b) Steel – 0.2 (c) Pig Iron – 1.5	288.00	26-02-04	1st phase Commissioned
3	M/s Aadhunik Alloy & Power Ltd	Kandra	(a) Sponge Iron – 1.98 (b) Steel 2.6	970.00	26-02-04	1st phase Commissioned
4	M/s Nilanchal Iron & Power Ltd.	Chandli	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.5 (b) Steel – 0.20	450.00	26-03-04	1st phase Commissioned
5	M/s Jharkhand Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	Ramgarh	(a) Sponge Iron – 1.08 (b) Steel – 0.20	400.00	26-02-04	1st phase Commissioned
6	M/s Abhijeet Infrastrucure Pvt. Ltd.	Hazaribagh	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.25 (b) Steel – 0.11	300.00	26-02-04	Production not Started
7	M/s AML Steel & Power Ltd.	Saraikela – Kharsawan	(a) Sponge Iron – 1.54 (b) Steel – 0.20	2000.00	26-02-04	1st phase Commissioned
8	M/s Corporate Ispat Alloy Limited	Hazaribagh	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.25 (b) Steel – 0.11	300.00	26-03-04	Production not Started
9	M/s Annpurna Global Ltd.	W. Singhbhum	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.201 (b) Steel – 0.1	500.00	26-03-04	Production not Started
10	M/s Prasad Groups Resources, Pvt. Ltd.	Near Patratu	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.105 (b) Steel – 0.22	400.00	26-03-04	Production not Started
11	M/s Prakash Ispat	Chaibasa	Pig Iron – 0.2	71.40	26-03-04	Production not Started
12	M/s Horizon Loha Udyog Ltd. (M/s Horizon Eximp Ltd.)	Chaibasa	Sponge Iron – 0.4	74.15	26-03-04	Production not Started
13	M/s Spectrum Mercantile Pvt. Ltd.	Chaibasa	Sponge Iron – 0.4	74.15	26-03-04	Production not Started
14	M/s Chaibassa Steel Pvt. Ltd.	W. Singhbhum	Sponge Iron – 0.4	74.15	26-03-04	Production not Started
15	M/s Chhattisgarh Electricity Co. Ltd.	Karra, Ranchi	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.45 (b) Steel-0.4	6500.00	01-06-04	Production not Started
16	M/s Electro Steel Casting Ltd.	Chandli	(a) Sponge Iron – 1.3 (b) Steel 1.0	200.00	19-05-04	Production not Started
17	M/s Balajee Industrial Product Ltd.	Chaibasa	Sponge Iron – 0.12	122.00	01-06-04	In production

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18	M/s Pawanjal Steel & Power Ltd.	Lohargaga	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.2 (b) Steel – 0.4	1000.00	01-06-04	Production not Started
19	M/s Balaji Metal & Sponge Ltd.	Chaibasa	(a) Sponge Iron – 1.08 (b) Steel – 0.1	160.00	01-06-04	Production not Started
20	M/s R G Steels Pvt. Ltd.	Near Patratu	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.09 (b) Steel – 0.06	122.00	26-03-04	Production not Started
21	M/s Sunflag Iron & Steel Com. Ltd.	Saraikela – Kharsawan	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.06 (b) Steel – 0.49	937.61	07-08-04	Production not Started
22	M/s Hy-Grade Pellets Ltd.	W. Singhbhum	(a) Steel Iron – 7.5 (b) Steel – 10 (c) Pellet Plant 8	4285.00	17-11-04	Production not Started
23	M/s BMW Industries Ltd.	Chandil	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.21 (b) Steel – 0.5 (c) Pig Iron – 0.5	591.00	12-04-05	Production not Started
24	M/s Anindita Traders & Investment Ltd.	Ramgarh	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.334	94.00	12-04-05	1st phase Commissioned
25	M/s Narbheram Gas Point Pvt. Ltd.	Jamshedpur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.135 (b) Steel 0.045	200.00	12-04-05	Production not Started
26	M/s Goel Sponge Pvt. Ltd.	W. Singhbhum	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.115 (b) Steel – 0.09	67.00	12-04-05	Production not Started
27	M/s Rungta Mines Ltd.	Chaibasa	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.51	517.00	12-04-05	Production not Started
28	M/s Raj Refractories (P) Ltd.	Bundu	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.6 (b) Steel – 0.06	68.50	12-04-05	Production not Started
29	M/s Contisteel Limited	Chandil	(a) Sponge Iron – 1.2 (b) Steel – 1.4 (c) Liquid Steel – 1.25 1	1560.00	18-07-05	Production not Started
30	M/s Kohinoor Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Buladih near Chandil	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.225 (b) Pig Iron – 0.12	410.00	18-07-05	1st phase Commissioned
31	M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Ghatshila	(a) Sponge Iron – 5.0 (b) Steel – 5.0	11500.00	05-07-05	Production not Started
32	M/s Bhushan Power Steel Limited	Asanboni, Jamshedpur	(a) Sponge Iron – 1.5 (b) Steel 3.0	6510.00	23-07-05	Production not Started
33	M/s Kalyani Steel Ltd.	Silli, Ranchi	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.23 (b) Steel – 1.0	1883.00	23-07-05	Production not Started
34	M/s Tata Steel Ltd. (Green Field Project)	Maoharpur/ Chandil	Integrated Steel Plant – 12.0	42000.00	08-09-05	Production not Started
35	M/s Tata Steel Ltd. (Expension)	Jamshedpur	Integrated Steel Plant – 5.0	11000.00	08-09-05	Production not Started
36	M/s V.S. Dempo & Company Pvt. Ltd.	Manoharpur	Integrated Steel Plant – 0.5	1016.00	04-10-05	Production not Started
37	M/s Mittal Steel Co. N.V.	Not decided	Integrated Steel Plant – 12.0	40000.00	08-10-05	Production not Started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
38	M/s Jindal South-West Steel Ltd.	Hesalong, Nimdih	Integrate Steel Plant – 10.0	35000.00	09-11-05	Production not Started
39	M/s Ranchi Integrated Steel Limited	Silli, Near Muri	Integrated Steel Plant – 1.5	5452.00	30-12-05	Production not Started
40	M/s Essel Mining Industries Ltd.	Jagnathpur, W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant – 1.0	500	05-05-06	Production not Started
41	M/s Sesa Goa Limited	Saraikela – Kharawan	Integrated Steel Plant – 0.5	300	07-09-06	Production not Started
42	M/s Mukund Steel	Barlanga, Hazaribagh	Integrated Steel Plant – 2.0	1800	07-09-06	Production not Started
43	M/s Feegrade & Company Pvt. Ltd.	Guraa & Rangamati W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant – 0.3	250	11-09-06	Production not Started
44	M/s Bonai Industrial Company Limited	Kundubera & Singh Pokharia, W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant – 0.25	300	11-09-06	Production not Started
45	M/s Rungta Mines Limited	Chalbasa	Integrated Steel Plant – 4.5	1050	11-09-06	Production not Started
46	M/s Vini Iron & Steel Udyog Limited	Lupungdih, Chandil, Saraikela Kharawan	Integrated Steel Plant – 0.6	355	14-09-06	Production not Started
47	M/s Narsingh Ispat Limited	Khunti, Chandil, Sararikela Kharawan	Mini Steel – 0.25	150	14-09-06	Production not Started
48	M/s Core Steel & Power Ltd.	Musabani, Ghatsila	Mini Steel – 1.0	1000	29-12-06	Production not Started
49	M/s Ispat Industry Ltd.	Nandpur Manoharpur	Integrated Steel Plant – 2.8	2500	12-01-07	Production not Started
50	M/s Ma Chandi Durga Ispat Ltd.	Nala Block Jamtara	Integrated Steel Plant -1.1	1250	09-02-07	Production not Started
51	M/s Jagdamba Fiscal Services Ltd.	Raneshwar, Sikaripara, Dumka	Integrated Steel Plant – 1.1	1000	09-02-07	Production not Started
52	M/s Brahmi Impex Ltd.	Ajfalpur, Balablock, Jamtara	Integrated Steel Plant – 1.1	1000	09-02-07	Production not Started
53	M/s Adhunik Corporation Ltd.	Kumrabad, Dumka	Integrated Steel Plant -1.1	1250	09-02-07	Production not Started
54	M/s Traingle Trading Pvt. Ltd.	Pathanmara	Steel Plant – 0.24	200	14-02-07	Production not Started
55	M/s Premier Ferro Alloys & Securities Ltd.	Barlanga	Steel Plant – 1.0	750	23-02-07	Production not Started
56	M/s Pushp Steel & Mining (P) Ltd.	Goridih and Rugri new Chowka	Steel Plant – 0.25	150	24-02-07	Production not Started
57	M/s Sarthak Industries Ltd.	Rajkharawan	Steel Plant – 2.2	2000	26-02-07	Production not Started

List of Steel Plant Projects for Which MoUs have been Signed with the State Government of Chhattisgarh

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Investment Rs. in crore	Date of Signing of MoU	Present status & progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	M/s MSP Steel & Power Private Ltd.	Raigarh	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.4 (b) Steel – 0.21	173.59	3.2.2003	Partially Commissioned
2.	M/s Sunil Sponge Iron Ltd.	Raigarh	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.09 (b) Steel – 0.1	105.11	3.2.2003	Production not Started
3.	M/s Visa Industries Ltd. Raigarh	Raigarh & Korba	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.45 (b) Steel – 0.2	1015.00	5.3.2003	Production not Started
4.	M/s Ind Agro Synergy Ltd.	Raigarh	(a) Sponge Iron & Steel Billet – 0.4	413.00	5.3.2003	Partially Commissioned
5.	M/s Anjani Steels Pvt. Ltd.	Raigarh	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.18 (b) Steel – 0.15	185.00	17.7.2003	Partially Commissioned
6.	M/s Superior Sponge Pvt. Ltd.	Durg	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.2 (b) Steel Melting Shop – 0.3 (c) Pig Iron – 0.15 (d) Rolling Mill – 0.225	330.00	29.8.2003	Production not Started
7.	M/s Nawbharat Group of Companies	Bastar, Korba, Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.5	1460.00	8.9.2003	Partially Commissioned
8.	M/s Akshaya Investment Pvt. Ltd.	Rajnandgaon	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.09 (b) Induction Furnance Unit – 0.105	115.00	8.9.2003	Production not Started
9.	M/s Vandana Energy and Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Raipur & Korba	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.15	145.00	8.9.2003	Production not Started
10.	M/s Shree Bajrang Power and Ispat Ltd.	Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.09 (b) Pig Iron – 0.06	130.00	08.09.2003	Partially Commissioned
11.	M/s National Steel & Agro Industries Ltd.	Durg	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.15 (b) Steel Melting Shop – 0.15	150.00	08-09.2003	Production not Started
12.	M/s Aryan Ispat & Power Pvt. Ltd.	Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.46 (b) Steel Billets – 0.348	860.00	16.08.2004	Production not Started
13.	M/s Godavari Power and Ispat Ltd.	Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.65 (b) Steel Billets/Ingos – 0.55	493.00	16.8.2004	Partially Commissioned
14.	M/s Vandana Global Ltd.	Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.2 (b) Mini Steel Plant – 0.15	475.00	16.8.2004	Production not Started
15.	M/s Allance Integrated Metallic Ltd.	Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.351 (b) Furnace (Ingot / Billets) – 0.16752	426.00	16.8.2004	Partially Commissioned
16.	M/s SKS Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.27 (b) Steel Melting Shop – 0.21	295.47	16.8.2004	Partially Commissioned
17.	M/s Magnum Steel Ltd.	Durg	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.3 (b) Semi & Rold Products – 0.3	212.00	16.8.2004	Production not Started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18.	M/s GPT Metal Industries Ltd.	Bilaspur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.105 (b) Induction Furnace – 0.06	139.00	16.8.2004	Production not Started
19.	M/s Chhattisgarh Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	Durg/Raigarh	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.105 (b) Steel Melting Shop – 0.1	115.65	16.8.2004	Production not Started
20.	M/s Mega Powers Builders Pvt. Ltd.	Durg/Raigarh	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.105 (b) Steel Melting Shop - 0.1	115.00	16.8.2004	Production not Started
21.	M/s Anand Ispat Udyog Pvt. Ltd.	Dantewada	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.15 (b) Induction Furnace & Concast – 0.13	110.00	16.8.2004	Production not Started
22.	M/s Feral Engineering Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	(a) Sponge Iron 0.2 (b) Steel Melting Shop 0.01	100.00	13.9.2004	Production not Started
23.	M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Raigarh	(a) Steel Melting Shop – 1.25 (b) Blast Furnace – 1.25 (c) Wire Rod / Rolling Mill – 0.7	2595.00	07.1.2005	Partially Commissioned
24.	M/s Chhattisgarh Electricity Co. Ltd.	Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.6 (b) Steel Plant – 1.0	2010.00	7.1.2005	Production not Started
25.	M/s Prakash Industries Ltd.	Champa	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.4 (b) Steel Melt Shop – 0.9 (c) Pig Iron 0.25 (d) Rolling / Wire Rod Mill – 0.6	1017.00	7.1.2005	Partially Commissioned
26.	M/s Bigboss Steel & Alloys Ltd.	Janjgir, Champa		700.00	7.1.2005	Production not Started
27.	M/s Vasundhra Steel & Power Ltd.	Bilaspur	Integrated Steel Plant – 0.4	465.00	7.1.2005	Production not Started
28.	M/s Rixon Strips Ltd.	Bilaspur	Integrated Steel Plant – 0.40	465.00	7.1.2005	Production not Started
29.	M/s Chhattisgarh Steel & Power	Janjgir, Champa	Sponge Iron – 0.38	464.88	07.01.2005	Production not Started
30.	M/s Pushp Steels & Mining Pvt. Ltd.	Borai Growth Centre, Durg	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.315	380.00	07.01.2005	Production not Started
31.	M/s Salasar Sponge & Power Ltd.	Raigarh	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.165 (b) Steel – 0.1	287.51	7.1.2005	Partially Commissioned
32.	M/s Shri Radhe Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Bilaspur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.26 (b) Steel Melting Shop – 0.05	232.50	7.1.2005	Partially Commissioned
33.	M/s Satyarth Steel & Power Ltd.	Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.22 (b) Induction Furnace – 0.182 (c) Re-rolled Products 0.0314	175.00	7.1.2005	Partially Commissioned
34.	M/s API Ispat & Powertech Pvt. Ltd.	Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.315 (b) Steel Ingot – 0.0864	158.00	7.1.2005	Partially Commissioned
35.	M/s Topworth Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Borai Growth Centre, Durg	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.21 (b) Steel Melting Shop – 0.1	129.00	7.1.2005	Partially Commissioned

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
36.	M/s Shri Shyam Global Pvt. Ltd.	Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.165 (b) Induction Furnace – 0.072 (c) Re-rolled Product – 0.06	124.00	7.1.2005	Production not Started
37.	M/s Crest Steel & Power Pvt. Ltd.	Durg	Sponge Iron – 0.231	116.5	07.01.2005	Partially Commissioned
38.	M/s Balaji Vidyut and Sponge Iron	Raipur	Sponge Iron – 0.06	105.01	07.01.2005	Production not Started
39.	M/s Texas Power Zen	Bilaspur	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.72 (b) Induction Furnace – 0.216 (c) Rolling Mill – 0.216	5550.00	22.5.2005	Production not Started
40.	M/s Tata Steel	Bastar	Integrated Steel Plant – 5.00	10000.00 (Approx)	4.6.2005	Production not Started
41.	M/s Essar Steel Chhattisgarh Ltd.	Bastar	Integrated Steel Plant – 3.2	7000.00 (Approx)	5.7.2005	Production not Started
42.	M/s Ind Synergy Limited (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Sponge Iron – 0.40	960.00	06.10.2006	Production not Started
43.	M/s Shree Bajrang Power and Ispat Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Sponge Iron – 0.60 Blast Furnace – 0.231	1400.00	06.10.2006	Production not Started
44.	M/s SKS Ispat Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Sponge Iron – 0.33 Mini Blast Furnace – 0.5	1175.00	06.10.2006	Production not Started
45.	M/s Raipur Alloys and Steel Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Sponge Iron -0.50 Steel -0.24	720.00	06.10.2006	Production not Started
46.	M/s Shree Bajrang Metallics and Power Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Pig Iron – 0.060	109.41	21.10.2006	Production not Started
47.	M/s Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd.		Integrated Steel Making Facility – 1.2	5500.00	06.10.2006	Production not Started

[Translation]

Availability of Fertilizers

518. SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- the present status of the availability of fertilizers;
- whether the Government has prepared any scheme to provide all fertilizers as per demand in all States before the next monsoon;
- if so, whether any amendment has been made in the said scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government?

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): (a) The availability of Urea, DAP & MOP during current Rabi 2007-08 season upto 31st January, 2008 have been adequate to meet the assessed requirement and to sustain sales as per enclosed Statement-I, II, & III respectively.

(b) to (e) The following steps have been taken for boosting the indigenous production. The Government has

approved the New Pricing Scheme (NPS) Stage III on 1.02.2007 to be implemented with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the NPS III, the movement of urea will be monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system. The subsidy on urea will be paid only when urea reaches the district. Further, the Department will operate a buffer stock through the State Institutional Agencies/fertilizer companies in major consuming states up to a limit of 5% of the seasonal requirement. The gap between requirement and indigenous availability of urea is met through imports.

As far as decontrolled phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers are concerned, subsidy is released on sale of

fertilizers. The responsibility of meeting the full requirement of decontrolled fertilizers in any state is with the concerned state governments. State Governments have been advised to identify at least one State Institutional Agency, which would deal with the required quantities of decontrolled fertilizers. Buffer stocking of decontrolled fertilizers by the Government of India would be made only to meet any emergent requirement.

To ensure availability of urea in all parts of the country, the freight reimbursement to urea will now be on actual rail and road leads.

Statement-I

Statewise Requirement, Availability and Sales of Urea October-January 2008 —(Rabi 2007-08)

		Final <000 MTs>											
S.No.	States	October-2007			November-2007			December-2007			January-2008		
		Require- ment in Oct-'07	Avail- ability in October '07	Sales in October '07	Require- ment in Novem- ber '07	Avail- ability in Novem- ber '07	Sales in Novem- ber '07	Require- ment in Decem- ber '07	Avail- ability in Decem- ber '07	Sales in Decem- ber '07	Require- ment in Jan- uary '08	Avail- ability in Jan- uary '08	**Sales in Jan- uary '08
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	265.00	431.95	183.54	190.00	383.71	124.62	190.00	445.21	237.70	265.00	518.46	345.25
2	Karnataka	130.00	155.40	94.63	70.00	125.35	41.12	60.00	155.18	87.66	113.00	181.67	101.50
3	Kerala	19.00	19.20	10.65	15.00	23.99	14.69	11.50	22.18	8.64	6.75	27.87	9.72
4	Tamil Nadu	110.00	150.52	119.69	110.00	155.34	130.40	110.00	143.96	105.91	82.50	124.07	71.52
5	Gujarat	125.00	181.25	45.75	195.00	291.98	127.77	215.00	341.68	268.11	185.00	256.41	210.17
6	Madhya Pradesh	129.82	235.19	166.17	296.24	324.30	223.45	348.34	324.84	244.69	94.19	143.43	98.53
7	Chhattisgarh	15.70	49.32	5.68	6.30	48.24	5.17	14.60	45.45	11.58	22.00	39.35	19.29
8	Maharashtra	131.00	243.81	68.30	145.00	311.77	105.00	183.00	312.34	168.48	164.00	293.82	156.02
9	Rajasthan	140.00	183.99	118.56	225.00	209.55	147.24	330.00	349.85	321.41	155.00	184.13	125.79
10	Haryana	140.00	354.00	148.32	255.00	413.07	180.73	325.00	407.49	231.36	220.00	223.67	173.21
11	Punjab	200.00	277.75	165.34	320.00	342.12	268.79	300.00	336.04	286.50	230.00	251.61	169.18
12	Uttar Pradesh	275.00	826.27	314.54	550.00	921.86	406.55	725.00	983.77	689.56	700.00	798.90	675.41
13	Uttaranchal	2.20	17.74	6.33	18.00	29.53	15.14	30.00	45.47	35.36	30.00	36.24	24.20
14	Bihar	178.00	187.27	84.62	228.00	276.02	158.90	258.00	366.81	291.04	218.00	343.19	265.61
15	Jharkhand	10.50	17.73	4.54	15.00	20.71	8.52	14.50	32.22	14.34	12.50	20.39	7.18
16	Orissa	20.00	89.46	13.17	10.00	83.80	3.59	10.00	83.45	10.18	30.00	80.47	28.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17	West Bengal	78.00	152.85	66.66	179.50	218.54	107.60	155.50	244.22	143.13	117.00	183.70	124.62
Total All India		1996.05	3622.81	1626.76	2864.50	4243.41	2090.33	3299.24	4677.16	3159.66	2692.21	3771.70	2640.66

* As indicated by State Government

* Figures of Receipts and Sales as per FMS as on 07.02.2008 at 10.30 Hrs.

Statement-II

Statewise Requirement, Availability and Sales of DAP October-January 2008 —(Rabi 2007-08)

Final <000 MTs>

S.No.	States	October-2007			November-2007			December-2007			January-2008		
		Require- ment in Oct'-07	Avail- ability in October '07	Sales in October '07	Require- ment in Novem- ber '07	Avail- ability in Novem- ber '07	Sales in Novem- ber '07	Require- ment in Decem- ber '07	Avail- ability in Decem- ber '07	Sales in Decem- ber '07	Require- ment in Jan- uary '08	Avail- ability in Jan- uary '08	**Sales in Jan- uary '08
1	Andhra Pradesh	70.00	82.79	78.49	65.00	51.38	48.44	80.00	98.12	92.55	70.00	86.30	80.58
2	Karnataka	32.00	42.37	42.31	25.00	23.73	20.05	28.00	29.92	26.48	50.00	34.69	32.45
3	Kerala	3.00	4.50	2.74	2.80	2.94	1.15	1.60	3.03	1.24	1.20	0.82	0.77
4	Tamil Nadu	45.00	44.22	40.20	45.00	35.23	20.93	45.00	58.63	46.63	33.75	35.11	34.17
5	Gujarat	80.00	104.34	59.83	125.00	132.57	117.75	35.00	101.45	84.87	22.00	65.65	25.53
6	Madhya Pradesh	247.13	200.72	90.41	123.28	208.44	91.08	24.59	153.13	83.17	5.00	39.42	25.38
7	Chhattisgarh	5.00	4.56	3.84	6.00	5.56	5.14	10.00	5.84	5.17	12.00	13.95	12.79
8	Maharashtra	31.00	57.15	50.14	43.00	48.77	33.25	65.00	67.50	52.99	28.00	54.12	45.23
9	Rajasthan	160.00	225.22	133.14	100.00	147.44	76.05	20.00	96.36	21.23	5.00	26.31	2.99
10	Haryana	220.00	256.99	145.65	125.00	190.04	79.49	25.00	145.30	36.07	10.00	24.73	7.44
11	Punjab	300.00	377.66	169.05	120.00	270.07	68.05	30.00	221.24	13.61	30.00	35.60	13.88
12	Uttar Pradesh	330.00	352.53	193.31	320.00	453.95	288.53	210.00	383.54	246.44	60.00	94.97	34.35
13	Uttaranchal	4.00	3.43	2.56	5.20	8.04	3.38	2.00	12.33	7.39	2.50	1.66	0.32
14	Bihar	50.00	29.89	14.13	60.00	94.17	56.92	70.00	126.25	96.40	40.00	52.81	19.82
15	Jharkhand	6.90	4.01	3.49	10.90	7.40	5.22	5.50	9.25	8.37	3.50	3.72	2.64
16	Orissa	1.40	11.28	3.17	3.80	15.48	5.87	7.00	23.32	8.73	10.00	36.76	20.82
17	West Bengal	51.00	45.97	27.49	61.00	35.54	21.01	31.00	42.64	24.10	61.00	77.41	69.92
Total All India		1648.81	1849.96	1062.12	1255.09	1738.21	949.49	704.83	1586.77	862.14	460.43	689.59	433.15

* As indicated by State Government

** Figures of Receipts and Sales as per FMS as on 07.02.2008 at 10.30 Hrs.

*Statement-III**Statewise Requirement, Availability and Sales of
MOP October-January 2008 —(Rabi 2007-08)*

Final <000 MTs>

S.No.	States	October-2007			November-2007			December-2007			January-2008		
		Require- ment in Oct-'07	Avail- ability in October '07	Sales in October '07	Require- ment in Novem- ber '07	Avail- ability in Novem- ber '07	Sales in Novem- ber '07	Require- ment in Decem- ber '07	Avail- ability in Decem- ber '07	Sales in Decem- ber '07	Require- ment in Jan- uary '08	Avail- ability in Jan- uary '08	**Sales in Jan- uary '08
1	Andhra Pradesh	90.00	54.71	46.82	40.00	34.62	26.08	40.00	45.90	41.50	60.00	36.48	34.73
2	Karnataka	46.50	37.86	23.54	26.00	30.17	9.97	30.50	52.49	24.05	32.00	52.29	33.01
3	Kerala	18.75	9.66	9.66	16.25	15.95	14.16	12.75	11.33	8.96	8.75	7.66	6.25
4	Tamil Nadu	52.00	74.23	48.04	52.00	68.04	43.54	52.00	71.35	46.67	39.00	41.68	36.22
5	Gujarat	24.00	23.32	16.94	25.00	22.12	18.79	13.00	30.30	23.58	13.00	20.82	12.95
6	Madhya Pradesh	30.00	14.74	12.40	15.00	5.45	3.27	7.50	8.24	3.98	4.50	4.51	3.50
7	Chhattisgarh	0.40	2.97	0.67	1.60	2.60	1.27	3.60	1.65	2.88	4.40	1.17	1.04
8	Maharashtra	24.00	25.24	19.53	45.00	28.71	14.71	27.00	56.30	42.89	22.50	45.72	32.71
9	Rajasthan	6.00	4.56	2.26	4.00	2.49	1.15	2.20	7.60	5.23	1.30	3.47	1.60
10	Haryana	10.00	10.57	4.94	5.00	5.63	1.08	3.00	5.49	1.46	2.00	4.58	1.00
11	Punjab	15.00	15.12	7.22	10.00	10.37	1.83	4.00	9.78	1.05	2.00	6.86	3.40
12	Uttar Pradesh	40.00	8.10	7.39	60.00	11.71	5.84	20.00	7.77	8.27	10.00	3.89	0.00
13	Uttaranchal	2.00	0.96	0.96	3.00	0.69	0.69	1.00	0.00	0.44	0.50	1.36	0.04
14	Bihar	15.00	16.02	11.40	25.00	27.93	20.36	40.00	30.67	15.33	35.00	30.76	7.31
15	Jharkhand	0.90	1.86	1.38	0.85	2.18	2.18	0.95	0.32	0.32	0.95	0.03	0.00
16	Orissa	2.60	26.33	5.09	5.60	21.74	1.33	5.90	21.39	3.26	11.00	10.08	5.85
17	West Bengal	34.00	28.71	22.44	56.00	30.78	25.79	61.00	26.13	17.94	45.00	33.97	31.14
Total All India		419.99	359.31	242.10	402.84	328.73	199.51	336.54	386.76	248.94	306.15	313.64	216.66

As indicated by State Government

* Figures of Receipts and Sales as per FMS as on 07.02.2008 at 10.30 Hrs.

*[English]***Shortage of LPG**

513. ADV. (SHRIMATI) P. SATHEEDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is denial on the part of distributing agents for registration of new consumers for LPG connection;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The enrolment of new LPG customers and release of new LPG connections is a continuous process. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have

reported that at present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers on verification of documents as per laid down procedure. OMCs have further reported that they have released 50.6 lakhs new LPG connections during the period April, 2007-January, 2008 in the country.

Railways Track Passing Through Coal Mines of Jharkhand and West Bengal

520. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway track passing through coal mine areas of Dhanbad, Jharia, Asansol and Raniganj in Jharkhand and West Bengal is posing great threat to the lives of passengers traveling through the area due to instability of track;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) As and when cases of illegal mining are noticed, Railway take immediate action to stop these activities and advise Civil Authorities also. In case any danger to railway traffic is noticed, then railway traffic is also suspended, if situation so warrants.

Rationalisation of Subsidy for Phosphate Fertilizers

521. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) has sought rationalization of subsidy for phosphate fertilizers in a more scientific way;

(b) if so, whether the present system is to give subsidy for all producers in uniform manner;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is demand from FACT for giving subsidy for sulphur component;

(e) if so, whether any request has been received from the FACT for providing special grant in aid or assistance for Caprolactum and Ammonium Sulphate; and

(f) if so, the response of the Government and the action taken in this regard thereto?

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): (a) to (f) The Government had received request from Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) for adoption of recommendations of Tariff Commission received in 2003 for nutrients 'N' & 'P' for price concession on factomphos (NPKS : 20:20:0:13), adequate compensation for increase in price of sulphur and contribution loss on account of ammonium Sulphate.

The requests have been examined and Government has decided to provide one time interim grant of Rs.200 crore to be made available to FACT to enable it to sustain its operations.

The present system to give price concession on subsidized phosphatic fertilizers is based on the decision taken by the Government on Tariff Commission's recommendations given in 2003. Fresh Tariff Commission's recommendations received in December, 2007 are under examination to the Government.

Navratna Status to NMDC

522. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the mine-wise production by National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) during each of the last three years;

(b) the profit earned and dividend paid to the Government by the NMDC during the said period;

(c) whether the Government has recommended to give Navratna status to NMDC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the target fixed for production and investment in the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The mine-wise production by NMDC Limited during each of the last three years is given below:

(Quantity in million tonnes)

	Bailadilla Sector			Donimalai Sector	
	Deposit 14 & 11C	Deposit 5	Deposit 10/11A	Donimalai	Kumara-swamy
2004-05	7.08	6.40	2.13	5.01	0.12
2005-06	8.03	6.87	2.53	5.39	0.11
2006-07	10.19	7.55	2.71	5.31	1.31

(b) The details of profit earned and dividend paid to the Government by the NMDC during the said period is given below:

		(Rs. in crore)		
Sl. No.	Particulars	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Profit Before Tax	1223.65	2770.13	3498.31
2.	Profit After Tax	755.44	1827.80	2320.21
3.	Dividend Declared	151.32	365.57	465.19
4.	Dividend to Government of India	148.88	359.66	457.67

(c) and (d) The Government has conferred Navratna status to NMDC Ltd. on 23rd January, 2008.

(e) The details of targets fixed for production and investment for the next three years by NMDC Ltd. are as under:

Financial Year	Production target as per long term production programme of NMDC Ltd. (Qty. in million tonnes)	Estimated Investment plan (Rs. in crore)
2008-09	31.00	400
2009-10	32.75	996
2010-11	34.80	1795

Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana

523. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds have been arranged to complete projects under Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana (RARSY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken to complete these projects within stipulated time period; and

(d) the details of areas that will be benefited from RARSY?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As funds could not be tied up, the scheme has not taken off. However, in order to expedite ongoing

projects, a number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through Public Partnership, Cost Sharing by State Governments, Funding from Ministry of Defence and through Ministry of Finance for National Projects. Funds have also been allocated through internal resource generation to expedite completion.

Production of CNG

524. DR. K. DHANARAJU:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to expand CNG and PNG Network in the country, particularly in Delhi, Mumbai, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu;

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

(c) whether CNG production is upto the requirement of the demand;

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of the whole country;

(e) whether the Government is considering to make any rule to cancel LPG connection of the customers who obtain PNG connection; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) The expansion of CNG infrastructure in different cities in the country is being taken up in a phased manner. In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'. Providing of CNG facilities depends upon availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability. According to information available, Piped Natural Gas is being supplied to 775119 domestic, 1287 commercial and 64 industrial consumers all over the country. There are 398 CNG stations in the country. The details of Delhi, Mumbai and Andhra Pradesh, as reported on 1st January 2008, are as follows:

S.No.	States/Places	Company	PNG Consumers			CNG Station
			Domestic	Commercial	Industries	
1	Delhi (including Noida)	Indraprastha Gas Ltd.	89132	276	9	153
2	Mumbai (including suburbs)	Mahanagar Gas Ltd.	331417	905	36	127
3	Andhra Pradesh	Bhagyanagar Gas Ltd.	Nil	Nil	Nil	9

Implementation of City Gas Distribution Projects in the State of Tamil Nadu has not been taken up, as of now.

(c) and (d) The demand for natural gas in the country is higher than its production. The Government of India has initiated various steps to augment gas supplies for the domestic market. These cover:-

- (1) Intensification in domestic E&P activities;
- (2) Exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas;
- (3) Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation;
- (4) LNG Import; and
- (5) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

(e) and (f) Amendments to the Control Order relating to customers of PNG are under consideration of the Government.

Indian Folk Arts

525. PROF. M. RAMADASS:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that most of the Indian traditional folk cultures are disappearing;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate any concrete policy to revive the Indian folk arts;

(c) whether the folk artists in the country are on the verge of starvation; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken to give incentive to the artists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Government is already implementing a variety of schemes aimed at preserving, promoting and reviving the Indian folk arts. The Government has set up seven Zonal Cultural

Centres to extend support to folk and traditional arts and artisans of the country. Through these Centres, the Government is implementing a 'Scheme for Documentation of Vanishing Art Forms' for revival and documentation of vanishing art forms. In addition to this, under the National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP) operated by Zonal Cultural Centres, folk troupes are sent to various States within the Zone as well as other States. The Zonal Cultural Centres also operate a "Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme" for promotion of traditional and folk theatre.

The Ministry of Culture is also implementing a Scheme for Promotion and Dissemination of Tribal/Folk art and Culture. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to Voluntary Organizations/Institutions/Individuals engaged in preservation and promotion of Tribal/Folk Art and Culture.

Besides, the National School of Drama is also implementing a Scheme for Promotion of Folk and Tribal Arts Theatre under which various folk and tribal theatre groups are invited to participate every year in National Theatre Festival and Bal Sangam.

(c) and (d) For supporting folk and other artists who face indigence in their old age, the Ministry is operating a scheme known as the "Scheme of Financial Assistance to Persons Distinguished in Letters, Arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents". Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 2000/- per month is given to applicants, selected by the Expert Committee, who are not less than 58 years of age and whose income does not exceed Rs. 2000/- per month.

Safety Measures Taken by the Railways

526. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken firm measures to step up the safety of passengers in the light of increasing number of accidents and terror attacks;

(b) if so, whether the Railways has also claimed that it has taken all possible steps like timely replacement of

over aged assets, adoption of suitable technology for upgradation and maintenance of track rolling stock and inter-linking system; and

(c) if so, the details of the measures taken for safety of Railways and to what extent it has been helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. All possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis for safety of passengers.

(b) and (c) In order to prevent accidents, various measures have been taken up which include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Most of the asset renewal works sanctioned under Special Railway Safety Fund have been completed and sufficient appropriation is being made to Depreciation Reserve Fund for renewal of assets on accrual basis. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of consequential train accidents from 473 in 2000-01 to 234 in 2005-06 and further to 195 in 2006-07.

Further, measures taken to beef up security arrangements include installation of close circuit televisions at selected railway stations, progressive use of modern security gadgets to strengthen access control at entry/exit points, provision of dog squads at various Divisions and railway stations to conduct anti-sabotage checks, intensive publicity and public awareness campaigns and frequent announcements at stations alerting the passengers to remain vigilant against any unidentified/unclaimed/ suspicious objects lying on railway premises or coaches as also suspicious movement of co-passengers and report to RPF/GRP/nearby railway officials, and close coordination with Government Railway Police/State Police/Central Intelligence Agencies.

Yeshwanthpur-Mangalore Express Train

527. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Yeshwanthpur (Bangalore)-Mangalore Express train (6517) is leaving Yeshwanthpur at 8.35 p.m. and train No. 6518 is leaving Mangalore at 7.45 p.m.?

(b) if so, whether the Railways have received requests for rescheduling the departure time of these trains; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Rescheduling of 6517/6518 Yeshwantpur-Mangalore Express as desired is not feasible at present.

[Translation]

Reservation for Mentally Retarded Persons

528. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided reservation to mentally retarded and mentally challenged persons in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of reservation provided to such handicapped persons in the Central Government and State Government jobs;

(c) whether this reservation quota would also be applicable to private sector companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) According to the existing provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, reservation in employment in Central and State Government establishments is provided to persons with locomotor, visual and hearing disabilities only. Reservation quota is not applicable on private sector companies. A new scheme to promote employment in private sector has been announced to cover persons with all types of disabilities recognized under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 and the National Trust Act, 1999 which includes persons with mental retardation and mentally challenged persons.

[English]

New Airports in Eleventh Five Year Plan

529. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up new airports in different States during Eleventh Five Year Plan Period;

(b) if so, the additional number of airports both domestic and international proposed to be set up in the country in that plan;

(c) whether any new airport is being constructed in Rajasthan during that plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the fund earmarked for modernisation of Jaipur Airport and progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Two Greenfield airports are under construction at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) & Bangalore (Karnataka) and they are likely to become operational in the current year. Union Government has also accorded 'in-principle' approval for setting up of greenfield airports at Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra, Pkyong in Sikkim, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, Kannur in Kerala and Mopa in Goa.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) At Jaipur airport, construction of a new international terminal for 500 passengers (estimated cost Rs. 95 crores) and apron for 10 parking stands & associated taxiways (estimated cost Rs. 26.91 crores) has been taken up. The project is expected to be completed by June, 2008.

Doubling of Railway Line in Kerala

530. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of the works on doubling of the railway network in Kerala is at very slow pace;

(b) if so, by when the doubling projects under various stages of construction and when each of them is expected to be completed; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to expedite the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Details of the projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Schedule for Completion
1	2	3
1.	Shoranur-Kuttipuram-Calicut doubling (86 kms)	Completed.

1	2	3
2.	Calicut-Mangalore doubling (221 kms)	218 kms completed and balance 3 kms during 2008-'09.
3.	Ernakulam-Mulanturutti doubling (17.37 kms)	2008-09
4.	Mavelikara-Kayankulam (7.89 kms)	2008-09
5.	Cheppad-Kayankulam (7.76 kms)	2008-09
6.	Mavelikara-Chengannur patch doubling (12.3 kms)	2008-09
7.	Cheppad-Haripad – patch doubling (5.28 kms)	2008-09
8.	Mulanturutti-Kuruppantara doubling (24 kms)	2009-10
9.	Chengannur-Chingavanam doubling (26.5 kms)	2009-10
10.	Kankanadi-Panambur section patch doubling (19 kms)	2010-11
11.	Kuruppantara-Chingavanam (26.54 kms)	2010-11
12.	Ambalapuzha-Haripad (18.13 kms)	2009-10

These project are being progressed as per the availability of resources, keeping in view their operational priority and handing over of the required land by the Government of Kerala.

(c) In order to expedite projects, a number of initiatives have been taken for generating additional resources through Public Private Partnership, Cost Sharing by State Governments, Funding from Ministry of Defence and through Ministry of Finance for National Projects. Funds have also been allocated through internal resources generation to expedite completion. Government of Kerala is also being pursued to expedite handing over of the land required for ongoing projects.

Exploration by ONGC Videsh In North Ramadan In Egypt

531. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Videsh has struck huge oil reserves in its first exploration well in North Ramadan in Egypt;

(b) if so, the flowing rate of crude oil per day;

(c) whether the explored oil can be transported to India for its domestic requirements as per the agreement entered into between ONGC Videsh and the Government of Egypt; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) and its partner IPR Energy Red Sea Inc. have made a significant new oilfield discovery in its first Exploration well North Ramadan-I drilled in the North Ramadan Concession, Gulf of Suez, Egypt. The discovery was made in April 2007 and well was tested at naturally flowing rate of 2979 barrels of oil per day.

(c) and (d) As per provisions in Production Sharing Contract, CONTRACTOR (OVL and IPR Energy Red Sea Inc.) have the right and obligation to freely export and otherwise dispose of the entitled Crude Oil. However, priority shall be given to meet the requirements of the Arab Republic of Egypt (A.R.E.) market.

Incredible India Campaign In Iran

532. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Incredible India campaign will be carried out in Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Iranian Government is contemplating to increase cooperation between the two countries and activities in culture and tourism sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The incredible India campaign focusing on Middle East also covers Iran. In addition, the India tourism Office in Dubai undertakes a number of promotional activities in Iran to boost inbound tourism to India from Iran. During the Fourteenth Session of the Joint Commission held between India and Iran on 21st and 22nd February 2005 in New Delhi, the

Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Islamic Republic of Iran for cooperation in various fields including tourism and culture.

Distribution of Natural Gas by GAIL

533. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL (India) Ltd. had recently planned to distribute natural gas in 28 more cities in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) GAIL (India) Limited had earlier planned to implement city gas distribution projects in 28 cities, out of which 13 cities had been identified by Supreme Court based on pollution level and 15 cities had been identified by GAIL based on viability.

Subsequently, GAIL (India) Limited has applied to Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) for authorization for 230 cities.

Shortage of Manpower in DGCA

534. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortage of manpower in Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) despite heavy growth of air traffic in the country as reported in "The Times of India" dated December 11, 2007.

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the shortage of manpower in the DGCA;

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

(e) the actual strength of manpower posted in various airports in the country against the sanctioned strength;

(f) the extent to which passenger safety aspect has been affected by inadequate manpower in such airports; and

(g) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As

against the sanctioned strength of 683,534 employees are in position in Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(c) and (d) The Government had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri M.K. Kaw, former Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation to review the roles and functions of DGCA. Out of the 276 recommendations 27 specifically pertain to additional manpower requirement in DGCA. These recommendations were accepted by Government for implementation.

(e) As against a strength of 199 employees sanctioned for the five major airports, 139 employees are in position.

(f) and (g) DGCA continues to effectively enforce safety and regulatory standards on all airlines/operators without compromising passenger safety. While Government takes action on continuous basis for filling up the vacant posts, proposal for revival of lapsed vacancies are taken up on need basis.

[Translation]

Basic Amenities at the Airports

535. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the basic amenities are inadequate at the airports in the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to provide such facilities;

(c) whether the Government proposes to constitute an independent Regulatory Body for the development and expansion of basic facilities at the Airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Basic amenities have been provided at all airports in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of New Terminal in Bhubaneswar

536. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to construct a new terminal at Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, the target date fixed for the completion of that terminal project; and

(c) the time by which the new terminal is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target date for completion of new terminal building is March, 2009.

(c) The terminal building is proposed to be made fully operational by May, 2009.

Profit/Loss Making PSUs

537. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the profits/losses incurred by the Central Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for the losses being incurred and the policy of Government regarding converting them into profit making or self-sustaining units;

(c) whether internally accepted three phased strategy i.e. long term objectives (Mission and Vision), proven business policy and judicious allocation of resources (human, financial and material) has been tried in the loss making PSUs; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) The profits of profit making Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and losses of loss incurring CPSEs, during the last three years, are given below:-

Year	Profits of Profit making CPSEs (Rs. in crore)	Losses of loss incurring CPSEs (Rs. in crore)
2004-05	74432	9003
2005-06	76382	6845
2006-07	89773	8223

(b) The reasons for losses are manifold and enterprise specific. However, some common problems faced by the sick and loss making Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) include obsolete plant and machinery, outdated technology, resource crunch, low capacity utilization, interest burden, stiff competition, weak marketing and surplus manpower etc.

The National Common Minimum Programme, inter alia, stipulates that while every effort will be made to modernize and restructure sick public sector companies and revive sick industry, chronically loss making companies will either be sold-off or closed, after all workers have got their legitimate dues and compensation. The private industry will be inducted to turn around companies that have potential for revival.

(c) and (d) In pursuance of this policy the Government constituted the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) as a part time advisory body to advise the Government on the proposals submitted by concerned administrative Ministries/Departments, the strategies, measures and schemes for strengthening, modernization, revival and restructuring of sick and loss making CPSEs. Based on the recommendations of BRPSE, the Government have approved revival of 28 CPSEs and closure of 2 CPSEs involving a total assistance of Rs. 8430.48 crore (i.e. cash assistance of Rs. 1976.13 crore and non cash assistance of Rs. 6454.35 crore).

Setting up of Steel plants

538. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of MoUs signed alongwith the name of companies for setting up of steel plants in the various States, particularly Jharkhand and Orissa during the last three years and the present status of projects, State-wise and Project-wise;

(b) the assessment made by the Government and the State Governments about iron ore reserves and its utilization by the Public Sector and Private Sector so far and future availability of iron ore for both the sectors;

(c) the policy guidelines adopted and issued to States for leasing the iron ore mines there;

(d) whether the present or proposed New National Mineral Policy is not conducive to setting up of steel plants in the States, as mining lease/iron ore blocks are not allotted on time to the manufacturers; and

(e) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to ensure that steel production does not suffer on account of non-availability of iron ore/iron ore blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The details of MoUs signed alongwith the name of companies for setting up of iron and steel plants in Jharkhand and Orissa during the last three years and the present status of projects, state-wise and project-wise are enclosed in the Statement.

(b) As per available information India has sufficient resources of iron ore. As on 01.04.2005 these resources are estimated at 25.25 billion tonne, consisting of 14,630 million tonnes of Haematite and 10,619 million tonnes of Magnetite, and they are continuing to increase with further exploration. Domestic consumption of iron ore in the year 2006-07 was 72 million tonnes (estimated). The production of iron ore in India far exceeds the demands of the domestic steel industries. Total production of iron ore in 2006-07 was 180.92 million tonnes (provisional).

(c) and (d) National Mineral Policy 2007 is under consideration of the Government. The allocation of iron ore is governed under Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act 1957 (MMDR Act) read with rule 35 of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 providing for end use of minerals. Under this act, the concerned State Governments examines and recommends the applications for mining lease under Section 11(3) of the MMDR Act 1957. Rule 63 A of MC Rules 1960 also provides for a time frame to dispose of the complete applications for mining lease. In case of delay, the same has to be explained in writing.

(e) An Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted to co-ordinate and monitor issues concerning major steel investments in the country which also includes the problems relating to availability of iron ore.

Statement

List of Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been signed with the State Government of Orissa

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Investment Rs. in crore	Date of Signing of MoU	Present status & progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	M/s Patnaik Steel & Alloys Ltd.	Purunapani, Joda, Keonjhar	0.27	337.42	04.05.2005	Likely of commence production

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2	M/s Rathu Udyog Ltd.	Potapally—Sikridi, Sambalpur	0.30	272.85	04.05.2005	Land acquisition is under progress	
3	M/s Viraj Steel & Energy Ltd.	Gurupali, Pandaloi, Sambalpur	0.30	207.00	04.05.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron & steel	
4	M/s Deepak Steels & Power Ltd.	Topodih, Barbil, Keonjhar	0.25	195.31	04.05.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron	
5	M/s Konark Ispat Ltd.	Hirma, Jharsuguda	0.25	196.50	04.05.2005	Land acquisition is under progress	
6	M/s Beekay Steel & Power Ltd.	Uliburu, Barbil, Keonjhar	0.28	319.80	04.05.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron	
7	M/s BRG Iron & Steel Co. (P) Ltd.	Khurunti, Dhenkanal	0.25	228.05	04.05.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron	
8	M/s Jain Sponge (P) Ltd.	Duriaga, Jharsuguda	0.30	251.77	04.05.2005	Likely to commence production	
9	M/s Jindal Stainless Ltd.	Duburi, Jajpur	Phase-I- Phase-II-	0.8 0.8	1,612.00 5,016.00	09.06.2005	Commenced production of Ferro Crome
10	M/s Rungta Mines Ltd.	Kamando, near Koira, Sundargarh and Jharaband, Dhenkanal (1 MTPA each)	2.00	2275.00	3.11.2005	Land acquisition is under progress	
11	M/s Brand Alloys Ltd.	Palaspanga, Keonjhar	0.27	307.54	3.11.2005	Land acquisition is under progress	
12	M/s Eastern Steels & Power Ltd.	Lahandabud, Jharsuguda	0.25	254.00	3.11.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron	
13	M/s Jai Balaji Jyoti Steels Ltd.	Tanisar, near Lathikata Sundargarh	0.33	321.14	3.11.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron & steel	
14	M/s Welspun Power & Steel Ltd.	Bhadrak district or Cuttack or nay other suitable location in the State	3.00	5828.15	01.10.2006	Land acquisition is under progress	
15	M/s Uttam Galva Steels Ltd.	Location is yet to finalized	3.00	6103.80	3.10.2006	Land acquisition is under progress	
16	M/s SSL Energy Ltd.	Nuahata near Banarpal, Angul	Phase-I Phase-II	3.00 3.00	4339.00 4270.00	21.12.2006	Land acquisition is under progress
17	M/s MGM Steels Ltd.	Nimdiha, Motagaon, Dehnkanal	0.25	208.10	22.12.2006	Land acquisition is under progress	
18	M/s Surendra Mining Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Barahamus Nimidih a, Motagaon, Dhenkanala, Bonai, Sundergarh	0.25	221.62	22.12.2006	Commenced production of sponge iron	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19	M/s Crackers India (Altoys) Ltd.	Gobardhanpur, Konjhar	0.25	236.39	22.12.2006	Commence production of sponge iron

List of Mega Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been signed with the State Government of Orissa

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Investment Rs. in crore	Date of Signing of MoU	Present status & progress
1	M/s ESSAR Steel Orissa Ltd.	Paradeep	4.00	10,721	21.04.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
2	M/s POSCO India Project (P) Ltd.	Paradeep	12.00	51,000	22.06.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
3	M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd	Beneficiation Plant at Deonjhar, Keonjhar & Steel Plant at Angul	6.00	13,135.02	3.11.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
4	M/s Bhushan Steel & Strips Ltd.	Meramundali, Dhenkanal	3.00	5,828.15	3.11.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron & steel billets
5	M/s Mittal Steel Company N.V.	Patna, Keonjhar	12.00	40,000	21.12.2006	Land has been identified. The DPR has not submitted.

List of Iron & Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been signed with the State Government of Jharkhand

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Investment Rs. in crore	Date of Signing of MoU	Present status & progress
1	M/s BMW Industries Ltd.	Chandil	(a) Sponge Iron 0.21 (b) Steel 0.5 (c) Pig Iron -0.5	591.00	12-04-05	Production not Started
2	M/s Anindita Traders & Investment Ltd.	Ramgarh	(a) Sponge Iron - 0.334	94.00	12-04-05	1st phase Commissioned
3	M/s Narbheram Gas Point Pvt. Ltd.	Jamshedpur	(a) Sponge Iron - 0.135, (b) Steel 0.045	200.00	12-04-05	Production not Started
4	M/s Goel Sponge Pvt. Ltd.	W. Singhbhum	(a) Sponge Iron - 0.115, (b) Steel - 0.09	67.00	12-04-05	Production not Started
5	M/s Rungta Mines Ltd.	Chaibasa	(a) Sponge Iron 0.51	517.00	12-04-05	Production not Started
6	M/s Raj Refractories (P) Ltd.	Bundu	(a) Sponge Iron - 0.6, (b) Steel - 0.06	68.50	12-04-05	Production not Started
7	M/s Contisteel Limited	Chandil	(a) Sponge Iron - 1.2, (b) Steel - 1.4 (c) Liquid Steel - 1.25	1560.00	18-07-05	Production not Started
8	M/s Kohinoor Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Butadih near Chandil	(a) Sponge Iron - 0.225, (b) Pig Iron - 0.12,	410.00	18-07-05	1st phase Commissioned

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Ghatahila	(a) Sponge Iron – 5.0 (b) Steel – 5.0	11500.00	05-07-05	Production not Started
10	M/s Bhushan Power Steel Limited	Asanboni, Jamshedpur	(a) Sponge Iron – 1.5, (b) Steel 3.0	6510.00	23-07-05	Production not Started
11	M/s Kalyani Steel Ltd.	Silli, Ranchi	(a) Sponge Iron – 0.23, (b) Steel 0 1.0	1883.00	23-07-05	Production not Started
12	M/s Tata Steel Ltd. (Green Field Project)	Manoharpur/ Chandil	Integrated Steel Plant – 12.0	42000.00	08-09-05	Production not Started
13	M/s Tata Steel Ltd. (Expansion)	Jamshedpur	Integrated Steel Plant – 5.0	11000.00	08-09-05	Production not Started
14	M/s V.S. Dempo & Company Pvt. Ltd.	Manohanpur	Integrated Steel Plant – 0.5	1016.00	04.10.05	Production not Started
15	M/s Mittal Steel Co. N.V.	Not decided	Integrated Steel Plant – 12.0	40000.00	08.10.05	Production not Started
16	M/s Jindal South-West Steel Ltd.	Hesalong, Nimdih	Integrated Steel Plant – 10.0	35000.00	09.11.05	Production not Started
17	M/s Ranchi Integrated Steel Limited	Silli, Near Muri	Integrated Steel Plant – 1.5	5452.00	30.12.05	Production not Started
18	M/s Essel Mining Industries Ltd.	Jagnathpur, W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant – 1.0	500	05.05.06	Production not Started
19	M/s Sesa Goa Limited	Saralakra – Kharswan	Integrated Steel Plant – 0.5	300	07.09.06	Production not Started
20	M/s Mukund Steel	Barianga, Hazari-bagh	Integrated Steel Plant – 2.0	1800	07.09.06	Production not Started
21	M/s Feegrade & Company Pvt. Ltd.	Guraa & Rangamati W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant – 0.3	250	11.09.06	Production not Started
22	M/s Bonai Industrial Company Limited	Kundubera & Singh Pokharia, W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant – 0.25	300	11.09.06	Production not Started
23	M/s Rungta Mines Limited	Chaibasa	Integrated Steel Plant – 4.5	1050	11.09.06	Production not Started
24	M/s Vini Iron & Steel Udyog Limited	Lupungdih, Chandil, Sarakela Kharswan	Integrated Steel Plant – 0.6	355	14.09.06	Production not Started
25	M/s Narsingh Ispat Limited	Khunti, Chandil, Sarakela Kharaswan	Mini Steel – 0.25	150	14.09.06	Production not Started
26	M/s Core Steel & Power Ltd.	Musabani, Ghatahila	Mini Steel – 1.0	1000	29.12.06	Production not Started
27	M/s Ispat Industry Ltd.	Nandpur/ Manoharpur	Integrated Steel Plant – 2.8	2500	12.01.07	Production not Started
28	M/s Ma Chandi Durga Ispat Ltd.	Nala Block Jamtara	Integrated Steel Plant – 1.1	1250	09.02.07	Production not Started
29	M/s Jagdamba Fiscal Services Ltd.	Raneshwar, Sikaripara, Dumka	Integrated Steel Plant – 1.1	1000	09.02.07	Production not Started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30	M/s Brahmi Impex Ltd.	Afjalpur, Balablock, Jamtara	Integrated Steel Plant – 1.1	1000	09.02.07	Production not Started
31	M/s Adhunik Corporation Ltd.	Kumrabad, Dumka	Integrated Steel Plant – 1.1	1250	09.02.07	Production not Started
32	M/s Traingle Trading Pvt. Ltd.	Pathanmara	Steel Plant – 0.24	200	14.02.07	Production not Started
33	M/s Premier Ferro Alloys & Securities Ltd.	Barianga	Steel Plant – 1.0	750	23.02.07	Production not Started
34	M/s Pushp Steel & Mining (P) Ltd.	Goridih and Rugri new Chowka	Steel Plant – 0.25	150	24.02.07	Production not Started
35	M/s Sarthak Industries Ltd.	Rajkharswan	Steel Plant – 2.2	2000	26.02.07	Production not Started

Upliftment of Weaker, Elderly and Disabled Persons

539. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is committed to the upliftment of weaker sections of the society and ensuring at the social security of elderly and disabled persons; and

(b) if so, the details of the programmes implemented for the purpose in States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and achievements made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The mandate of the Ministry is to implement the schemes of educational, economic and social empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Disabled persons, elderly people and victims of substance abuse.

(b) The details of programmes implemented and the funds released in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh under various schemes of the Ministry during the year 2006-07 is given at enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of programmes implemented and the funds released in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh under various schemes of the Ministry during the year 2006-07

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme		Amount released (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Upgradation of Merit of SC Students	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	62.00 45.16
2.	Caching & Allied for SCs, OBCs & Minorities (Pre-revised)	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	6.58 36.12
3.	Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCS)	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	2642.21 8680.37
4.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for Scheduled Castes	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	40.86 308.60
5.	Scheduled Castes Development Corporations	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	0.00 306.25
6.	National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	0.00 1693.20

1	2	3	4
7.	National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	0.00 410.10
8.	Post Matric Scholarships to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	1892.74 11034.58
9.	Pre Matric Scholarships to the Children of those engaged in unclean occupations	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	0.00 129.49
10.	Protection of Civil Right Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	13.00 663.23
11.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/ Appliances (ADIP)	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	109.17 2990.90
12.	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	194.43 600.52
13.	Post Matric Scholarship to the OBCs students	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	601.78 671.56
14.	Pre Matric Scholarships for OBCs	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	216.38 225.60
15.	Hostels for OBC boys and girls	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	207.79 295.12
16.	Assistance to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of OBCs	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	0.00 47.97
17.	National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	47.50 94.50
18.	Integrated Programme for Older Persons	Bihar Uttar Pradesh	0.00 96.41

Finalization of Fertilizers Policy

540. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an extraordinary delay in finalizing the fertilizers policy;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be announced?

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): (a) to (c) For urea, the New Pricing Scheme Stage-III has already been notified on 8th March, 2007 and is effective till March, 2010. For Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers covered under subsidy regime, the Concession scheme is being implemented, which is effective till March, 2008.

Delay of Flights

541. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government took a strong view of the delay of Air India and Indian Airlines flights during November-December 2007 due to various reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken/being taken to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Following a review by the Ministry, the airline has rationalized flights and crew allocation and is closely monitoring and taking corrective action on a daily basis. A Punctuality Coordination Cell has been functioning round the clock at Mumbai airport and a Corporate Level Control Room has also been set up at Delhi, which will be

integrated with the Hub Control set up, so as to coordinate with various flight handling departments with a view to ensuring punctuality of flights.

Modernisation of Non-Metro Airports

542. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY:

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to modernise non-metro airports through private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the airports which are proposed to be modernised; and

(c) the name of companies have been short listed for this purpose including the details of the bids offered by each of the companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government has decided to develop the city side of 24 non-metro airports through Public Private Partnership (PPP).

(b) Initially two airports i.e. Udaipur and Amritsar are taken up for city side development through PPP. The remaining 22 identified non-metro airports are Dehradun, Jaipur, Khajuraho, Lucknow, Varanasi, Agartala, Bhubaneswar, Dimapur, Guwahati, Ranchi, Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Bhopal, Indore, Raipur, Rajkot, Vadodara, Madurai, Mangalore, Trichy, Trivandrum and Vizag.

(c) Applications for pre-qualification from bidders for Amritsar and Udaipur have been received. Short listing of bidders has not yet been done.

Escalators at the Railway Stations

543 SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in most of the Railway Stations, the physically disabled and old passengers find it difficult to reach for want of escalators and lifts; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The lift and escalators are at present provided at few stations such as Chepauk, Tirumailai, Light House, Tiruvallikeni and Egmore in Southern Railway, Vijayawada in South Central Railway, Pune in Central Railway, New Delhi in Northern Railway

and 35 number escalators in Metro Stations. However, in the first instance, all "A-1" and "A" category stations have been provided with

- (i) standard ramps for barrier free entry,
- (ii) earmarking parking lots for vehicles used by disabled persons,
- (iii) non-slippery walkway,
- (iv) signages,
- (v) toilets suitable for needs of handicapped persons,
- (vi) water taps suitable for needs of handicapped persons,
- (vii) "May I Help You" Booths and
- (viii) Wheel Chairs.

At identified "B" category stations, the above facilities have been planned to be provided in phased manner.

In long term action plan, Railways have planned to provide facility of inter platform transfer and engraving on edges of Platforms. Inter platform transfer facility can be provided by way of connecting all the platforms at the stations through foot-over-bridge/subway with ramps or by providing lift at each platform to connect foot-over bridge/subway.

Railways have been authorised to use path ways provided at the end of the platforms (meant for parcel traffic) for the disabled persons with escorts, to facilitate inter platform transfer.

[Translation]

Wheel Impact Load Detection System in the Railways

544. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wheel Impact Load Detection System (WILDS) has been developed by the joint collaboration of Railways and IIT, Kanpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the benefits likely to be accrued by the Railways;

(d) whether the trial of the said equipment has been carried out;

(e) if so, the time by which the comprehensive use of the said equipment is likely to be made by the Railways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Wheel Impact Load Detection System developed jointly by Research Design & Standards Organisation (R.D.S.O.) and IIT/Kanpur has been installed at Ajoin Station on Lucknow-Kanpur section of northern Railway. The system is operational on two instrumented rails for detecting the wheel defects, including flats, causing excessive impact Load.

(c) Indian Railways will be able to detect rolling stock with excessive impact and detach the same for preventing the damage to rails and rolling stock.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Comprehensive use has been started and four Wheel Impact Load Detection Systems have been installed at Hospet/South West Railway, Tiruttani-Arakkonam/Southern Railway, Malada-Dallirajhara/South East Central Railway & Mahalimurup, Chakradharpur Division/South Eastern Railway.

[English]

People of Indian Origin Visiting Monuments under ASI

545. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to charge the People of Indian Origin (PIOs) visiting the monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as it does to resident Indians;

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

(c) the number of People of Indian Origin (PIOs) visit India per year on an average and how many PIOs stand to be benefited by this decision?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

Container Corporation of India

546. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) has recently slashed tariffs to win freight from roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which profit margin of CONCOR has come down after such reductions; and

(d) the extent to which business of CONCOR is likely to be increased thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recently the public tariff for haulage of empty container between various Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and also between port to ICDs has been reduced.

(c) and (d) The recent reduction is expected to result in increase in the booking of empty containers by rail which are presently carried by road and will help in off-setting the haulage costs for running of empty wagons. On overall basis, the net profitability is expected to increase.

Implementation of Sachar Committee Report

547. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has set up an expert panel to look after the effective implementation of Sachar Committee recommendations on backwardness of Muslim community;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to implement the suggestion made by Justice Sachar Committee; and

(d) the time frame for implementation of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) to (d) A statement, regarding the decisions taken on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee, has been laid on the Table of the House 31.08.2007. The implementation of the decisions is monitored closely.

Underground Fire at Jharia

548. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the underground fire in Jharia has affected Railways in that region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to ensure the safety of the people and property of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The underground fire in Jharia has affected the Railway line between Dhanbad – Jharia. As a result the said line has been closed.

Sale of Shares of Air India

549. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to sell the shares of Air India company to the private individuals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the consequences of the sale of shares in the private sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Small Airports

550. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI P. MOHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Union Government to upgrade small airports in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such airports identified for the same, estimated cost thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the above airports are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) proposes to upgrade some of its non-operational small airports in the country, subject to availability of land from the concerned State Governments free of cost and encumbrances. Upgradation work has been taken up by AAI at Mysore in Karnataka at an estimated cost of Rs. 69.29 Crores,

Warangal and Cuddapah in Andhra Pradesh, by signing of MOUs; Passighat, Tezu, Along, Daparizo and Zero in Arunachal Pradesh Kailasahar and Kamalpur in Tripura; Tura in Meghalaya, Akola, Baramati and Gondia in Maharashtra; Surat in Gujarat; Jharsuguda in Orissa; and Malda and Behala in West Bengal. These projects are at various stages of initiation/completion. As such it is not possible to indicate a definite time frame for completion at this stage.

Further, AAI have selected following small / non-metro airports for development / upgradation in the 11th Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs.6443 crores and likely completion in 2010: Ajmer, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Mount Abu and Udaipur in Rajasthan; Chandigarh in Chandigarh Union Territory; Dehradun, Pantnagar in Uttarakhnad; Jammu, Srinagar and Leh in Jammu & Kashmir; Khajuraho, Bhopal and Indore in Madhya Pradesh; Kullu in Himachal Pradesh; Lucknow and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh; Ludhiana in Punjab; Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda in Orissa; Cooch Behar and Malda in West Bengal; Muzaffarpur and Gaya in Bihar; Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar; Ranchi in Jharkhand; Agartala in Tripura; Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Silchar in Assam; Barapani (Shillong) in Meghalaya; Imphal in Manipur; Itanagar and Passighat in Arunachal Pradesh; Pakyong in Sikkim; Kohima in Nagaland; Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Vadodara in Gujarat; Akola, Aurangabad, Baramati, Gondia, Nagpur (through Joint Venture route) and Pune in Maharashtra; Belgaum, Hubli, Mangalore and Mysore in Karnataka; Goa in Goa; Agatti in Lakshadweep Islands, Calicut and Trivandrum in Kerala; Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy and Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu; Cudappah, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, Vishakhapatnam and Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh; and Pondicherry in Pondicherry respectively.

Programmes for Minority Communities

551. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes announced by the Government for minorities during the last 4 years;

(b) whether a large number of these programmes are taking time to roll out on the ground;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by Government to implement as per these programme for development of minorities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in June, 2006. The follow-up action on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee was approved in May, 2007 and a statement regarding decisions taken on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee, which examined the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community, has been laid on the Table of the House on 31.8.2007. The details of the programmes are also available on the website; www.minorityaffairs.gov.in. The programmes have been duly approved and many schemes are operational. The status of implementation is being monitored closely.

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens

552. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the processes started by the Government for proper and adequate maintenance & welfare of parents and senior citizens as per law on the subject; and

(b) the details of the welfare activities formulated by the Government in this regard particularly for senior citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing a plan Scheme namely 'An Integrated Programme for Older Persons' under which financial assistance upto 90% of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishing and maintaining Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units and to provide non-institutional services to older persons.

In addition, the government is also offering various other facilities/benefits like old age pension, higher threshold limit of exemption under Income Tax, higher rates of interest on saving schemes of senior citizens; exclusive Health Insurance Schemes through Public Sector Insurance Companies for senior citizens; travel concessions, etc.

Further, the Government has recently enacted the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 for providing need-based maintenance and better healthcare facilities to the senior citizens, setting up of old age homes in every district of the country and for institutionalization of the mechanism for protection of life and property of the senior citizens.

Surplus Revenue in the Heavy Industries

553. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the heavy industries under public sector are having surplus revenue;

(b) if so, the total amount thereof at the end of December, 2007; and

(c) the details of industrial areas under which maximum revenue is accumulated and the amount of surplus revenue with each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) 15 Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) under the Department of Heavy Industry had surplus revenue over expenditure in (2006-07). As per the latest audited results available for 2006-07, these 15 PSEs made a profit before tax of Rs.4254.42 crore are as under:-

S.No.	Name of PSE	2006-07 (Rupees in Crore)
1.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	3736.00
2.	Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd.	19.14
3.	Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd.	7.17
4.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	0.56
5.	Braithwaite Burn & Jessop Construction Co. Ltd.	1.39
6.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	166.61
7.	Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.	17.55
8.	Hooghly Printing Company Ltd.	0.20
9.	Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	120.31
10.	Hindustan Newsprints Ltd.	45.08
11.	HMT (Holdings Co.) Ltd.	40.48
12.	HMT (International) Ltd.	1.64
13.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.	2.86
14.	Praga Tools Ltd.	91.95
15.	Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Ltd.	3.48
Total		4254.42

**Installation of Fluorescent Lamps
in Railway Colonies**

554. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to save power, the Indian Railways are planning to install Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) in each of the households in its residential colonies across the country;

(b) if so, whether according to the figures, the Railways consume around 12.8 billion units of electricity around 2 billion litres of diesel every year and the Railways spend around Rs. 12,000 crores on the energy bill, which accounts for 29% of its working expenses;

(c) whether the Ministry is spending around Rs. 5,700 crores per annum for consumption of more than 13,000 million units of electricity towards energy for traction and non-traction purposes; and

(d) if so, to what extent the installation of CFLs in colonies will be helpful to the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHR R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The procurement of about 26 lakh CFLs under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is the Indian Railways initiative to reduce global warming and is estimated to save about 20 crore units (kwh) of electricity per year.

**Status of 10th and 11th Five Year
Plan in the Railways**

555. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets fixed for various works including laying of new lines and doubling of lines during the 10th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor year-wise and zone-wise; and

(d) the details of the targets for 11th Five Year Plan in Indian Railways in respect of new lines, gauge conversion, electrification and doubling of lines, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The targets for new

lines, gauge conversion, doubling, track renewals and railway electrification for the 10th Plan period were as under:-

Plan Head	Target (in Kilometers)
New Line	1310
Doubling	1575
Gauge Conversion	2365
Track Renewals	23000
Railway Electrification	1800

(d) The targets proposed for New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Railway Electrification in the 11th Five Year Plan is as under:-

Plan Head	Target (in Kilometers)
New Line	2000*
Doubling	6000
Gauge Conversion	10000
Railway Electrification	3500

* Does not include Dedicated Freight Corridors on Eastern and Western Route.

The above targets are subject to timely availability and allotment of funds for the project. For a number of New Line and Doubling projects, the implementation would also critically depend on land acquisition and forestry clearances etc.

Mudpack Treatment of Taj Mahal

556. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Taj Mahal has been yellowing due to the pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering Mud-pack Treatment to restore Taj's glory;

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

(e) the steps taken / being taken by the Government to restore the Taj's glory?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Archaeological Survey of India has set up an air pollution laboratory at Taj Mahal, Agra which regularly monitors the air quality in the ambience of Taj Mahal since 1982. The average level of suspended particulate matter (SPM) is five times higher than the permissible limit prescribed for monuments. This causes the yellowing of the marble surfaces, particularly in rain sheltered areas such as marble cladding in the arches/niches of main mausoleum, marble brackets etc.

(c) to (e) The clay pack method is used for the scientific cleaning of marble surfaces in order to safely and effectively remove superficial accretions. Fuller's Earth activated with certain suitable chemicals is used for this purpose. The marble surface to be cleaned is covered with a two millimeter thick layer of the paste of Fuller's Earth prepared in distilled water. The mud pack is covered with polythene sheets in order to allow sufficient time for action. When the paste dries naturally, it is removed from the surface with soft nylon brushes and the treated surface is washed with distilled water. The accretions are absorbed by the paste, leaving the stone surface clean. This method is non-abrasive, non-corrosive and quite effective in the removal of adherent accretionary deposits.

Clay pack treatment is presently proposed to be taken up in two phases at the Taj Mahal. In the first phase, which started in January, 2008, the portion of the monument facing the Yamuna river has been taken up. Phase II will consist of cleaning of minarets.

Railway Safety Fund

557. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are regular accidents occurring all over the country at the unmanned railway crossings;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Railway Safety Fund was created to finance works relating to rail safety measures;

(c) if so, the reasons for not using the funds for safety purposes;

(d) whether these matters have been inquired into bring to book the authorities responsible for not using the Railway Safety Fund for the purpose it was created; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Through accidents at unmanned level crossings do occur frequently, mostly

due to the fault of road users, the number of such accidents has however declined from 64 during April 2006 to January 2007 to 57 during the corresponding period of the current year.

(b) Yes, Sir. Railway Safety Fund has been set up primarily to channelise the Railway's share of the diesel cess and petrol cess, received from the Central Road Fund.

(c) The Railway Safety Fund is utilized exclusively for road related railway safety works such as construction of Road Over and Under Bridges, improvement of level crossings including their manning, etc. and not for any other purposes. A large number of works have been sanctioned from the Railway Safety Fund.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Commercial use of Defence Airstrips

558. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted techno-feasibility study of the Defence airstrips in the country particularly in Chennai;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to open Defence airstrips for commercial use;

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

(e) the number of passengers likely to use such Defence airstrips annually; and

(f) the manner in which the Government is going to increase air space for civil aircrafts after permitting commercial use of Defence airstrips?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Commercial use of Defence Airstrips at 23 locations is already taking place. Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains civil enclaves at these places. The projected passenger traffic growth at the civil enclaves maintained by AAI is enclosed Statement.

(f) Defence airspace is used for civil flights through a civil-military coordination mechanism.

Statement**Passenger Traffic at Defence Enclaves**

Sl. No.		Passenger (In Lakh)				Forecasted growth rate (in %) for the XI Plan		Forecasted traffic during 2011-12 (in lakh)	
		2006-07		2007-08 (Apr-Dec)		INT'L	DOM	INT'L	DOM
		INT'L	DOM	INT'L	DOM				
Civil Enclaves with International Status									
1	Goa	4.03	18.09	2.00	15.46	15.0	25.0	8.11	55.21
2	Bangalore (#)	12.73	68.64	11.57	64.10	30.0	30.0	46.82	254.86
3	Srinagar	0.18	6.90	0.10	6.06	6.0	30.0	0.24	25.62
4	Port Blair	0.00	5.04	0.00	5.65	0.0	25.0	-	15.38
Civil Enclaves with Custom Status									
1	Pune	0.46	15.28	0.26	12.85	12.0	30.0	0.81	56.73
Civil Enclaves with Domestic Status									
1	Jammu	0.00	4.74	0.00	4.17	-	30.0	-	17.6
2	Leh	0.00	1.41	0.00	1.42	-	10.0	-	2.27
3	Chandigarh	0.00	1.55	0.00	1.62	-	15.0	-	3.12
4	Jaisalmer(*)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-
5	Jodhpur	0.00	1.08	0.00	1.19	-	6.0	-	1.45
6	Jamnagar	0.00	0.75	0.00	0.75	-	6.0	-	1.02
7	Bhuj	0.00	0.84	0.00	0.72	-	5.0	-	1.08
8	Gwalior	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.11	-	10.0	-	0.21
9	Gorakhpur	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.05	-	3.0	-	0.04
10	Agra	0.03	0.05	0.01	0.04	-	3.0	-	0.06
11	Allahabad	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.05	-	3.0	-	0.04
12	Bagdogra	0.00	2.59	0.00	2.49	-	20.0	-	6.44
13	Jorhat	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.33	-	5.0	-	0.54
14	Tezpur	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.01	-	8.0	-	0.06
15	Silchar	0.00	1.17	0.00	1.12	-	12.0	-	2.06
16	Visakhapatnam	0.00	3.20	0.00	3.68	-	30.0	-	12.29
17	Pathankot	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.07	-	10.0	-	0.22
18	Kanpur (Chakeri)	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.04	-	3.0	-	0.01

Note: * No Operation

(#) To be closed in end March 2008 for commercial operations.

[Translation]

Extension of Sangam Express

559. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend Sangam Express 4164/4163 up to Saharanpur which is plying between Allahabad and Meerut;

(b) if so, specify the timeframe;

(c) whether the proposal of extending Sangam Express up to Saharanpur has been received through public representatives and social organizations;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Demands for extension of 4163/4164 Allahabad-Meerut Sangam Express from Meerut to Saharanpur have been received but the same has not been possible due to operational constraints such as terminal and path constraints.

[English]

Electrification of Talcher-Cuttack and Puri Rail Line

560. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electrification of Talcher-Cuttack and Puri Rail line in Orissa has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made till date; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Electrification of Talcher-Cuttack-Barang-Khurda Road-Puri rail line has already been completed.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Loss making Airports

561. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has been facing huge loss from more than 100 airports in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for making these airports profitable in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Out of 127 airports managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI), 112 airports (including 33 non-operational airports) have incurred losses during 2006-07. The major reason for incurring consistent losses at these airports is low traffic demand and low non-traffic revenue.

(c) AAI is undertaking city side development at a few non-metro airports through Public Private Partnership with a view to increase the non-traffic revenue at these airports to make them profitable in future.

Expansion of Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant

562. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved costly plan for the expansion of the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details of such plans for the next three years;

(c) whether the international market and export trends have been carefully assessed and incorporated into the risks inherent in the huge investments;

(d) if so, whether the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant is dependent on continued demand only from China;

(e) if so, the steps proposed to assess the potential returns on the huge investment being planned by the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant; and

(f) the source of funds for investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) The Government in October, 2005 has approved the expansion plan of Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) at an estimated cost of Rs. 8692 crores (base June 2005 prices) for increasing its

liquid steel capacity from 3 million tonnes to 6.3 million tonnes per annum by the year 2009.

(c) While considering the proposal for expansion, an assessment has been made in respect of the international market, export trends and internal consumption vis-à-vis the projected rate of return on the investment.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Assessment of returns on the investment for Expansion Phase-I has already been made in the Project Report. The entire capital cost of the expansion plan will be met by the VSP from internal resources and extra budgetary resources at an incremental debt equity ratio of 1:1.

Setting up of International Airport

563. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from the State Governments for setting up of international airport; and

(b) the time by which the proposals to set up new international airports would be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Proposals have been received from the State Governments Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala for setting up of international airports. Two such airports are coming up at Hyderabad and Bangalore are likely to become operational during the current year.

'In principle' approval have been accorded for new airports at Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra, Mopa in Goa, and Kannur in Kerala. The proposals of Uttar Pradesh Government for setting up of an airport at Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar District is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Construction of Under Bridges/ Over Bridges

564. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct railway under bridges/over bridges at unmanned railway crossings to bring down the number of accidents at such crossings;

(b) if so, the division-wise details in particular for Rajasthan thereof;

(c) the division-wise details regarding the existing unmanned crossings in Rajasthan;

(d) whether any case is pending in the Supreme Court in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railways have decided to replace technically feasible unmanned level crossings by Limited Height Subways. Division-wise details of Unmanned level crossings proposed for replacement by Limited Height Subways falling in the State of Rajasthan are as under:

Railway	Division	Number of LCs to be replaced by Limited Height Subways
North Western Railway	Ajmer	3
West Central Railway	Kota	8
	Total	11

(c) Number of existing Unmanned level crossings (Division-wise) in the State of Rajasthan is as under:

Railway	Division	Number of Unmanned Level crossings (Excluding D class Cattle crossings & Canal Crossings)
Northern Railway	Ambala	23
North Central Railway	Jhansi	53
	Agra	69
North Western Railway	Ajmer	366
	Bikaner	105
	Jaipur	209
	Jodhpur	552
West Central Railway	Kota	106
Western Railway	Ratlam	4
	Total	1487

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Consumer Education and research centre, Ahmedabad has filed a Writ Petition (Civil) vide case No. 162 of 2001 in which the following are the main issues raised:-

1. Seeking amendment to the extent of liability of railways regarding payment of compensation.
2. Various cases of payment of compensation and related litigations.
3. Payment of ex-gratia in the cases of accidents at level crossings.
4. Conversion of unmanned level crossings to manned level crossing gates and Railways programme for the same including the availability of funds.

[English]

Entry Fee of World Heritage Monuments

565. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign tourists prefer to make payment in dollars for their entry into world heritage monuments;

(b) if so, whether the income from entry tickets in such monuments of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has come down from the peak season from October 2007 onwards;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether ASI proposes to ban payment in dollars for entry into such monuments;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the remedial measures taken by ASI to check loss of revenue from entry tickets in such monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No such trend has been observed.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) to (f) A preliminary notification inviting comments/suggestions has been published in the Official Gazette of India on 18th January, 2008, to charge entry fee from foreign visitors @Rs.250/- per person at the ticketed World Heritage Sites and @Rs.100/- per person at other ticketed monuments.

Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Minority Communities

566. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of pre-matric scholarships for students belonging to the minority communities;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the details of the funds likely to be made available for the purpose; and

(d) the criteria fixed to avail the benefit of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The scheme is for eligible students of class I to X belonging to the minority communities. It is to be implemented through State Governments/Union Territory Administrations with funding being shared between the Centre and States in the ratio of 75:25; 100% financial assistance will be provided to Union Territories. Students with no less than 50% marks in the previous final examination, whose parents'/guardian's annual income, from all sources, does not exceed Rs. 1.00 lakh are eligible for award of scholarship. It is proposed to award 25 lakh scholarships during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Thirty per cent of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students.

Low Cost Service

567. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India Express flights which provide low cost service are stopped by Air India Company;

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

(c) the number of flights in various airports which are stopped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New Railway Division at Salem

568. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Railway Division at Salem has started functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are aware that the Salem Division is grappling with inadequate staff and also facing difficulties without adequate accommodation;

(d) if so, the details along with the action taken by the Railways thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Salem Division has become operational and started functioning with effect from 1.11.2007.

(c) to (e) At present there are 232 staff including 25 officers on the rolls of Salem Division. Further options are being called from employees to meet the balance requirements.

For providing adequate accommodation to the staff a work for "Setting up of new Division at Salem" at a cost of Rs.20 crore has been sanctioned in the year 2007-08. The work comprises of construction of office building, staff quarters and other minimum infrastructure. Meanwhile, office of the Division is functioning from temporary accommodation of 1100 sqm. Another building of 150 sqm. is also being renovated to augment office accommodation.

Foreign Tourists

569. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether up to November 2007, 4.4 million foreign tourists visited India doubling the tourists figures in a decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has drawn any projections for the tourist inflow in the country in the next financial year in view of the current turmoil in the global markets;

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

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide incentives and encourage private sector to invest in tourism sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India grew from 2.29 million in

1996 to 4.98 million in 2007 at a growth rate of 117.5%. The number of FTAs in 2007 till November was 4.40 million. The number of FTAs in 2008 is expected to be 5.57 million presuming the growth rate in FTAs observed in 2007 over 2006 to remain same in 2008 also.

(e) and (f) Tourism is overwhelmingly an industry of private sector service providers and the public sector has a significant role to play in infrastructure areas either directly or through Public Private Partnership mode.

To facilitate augmentation of budget category accommodation for tourists, the Government has asked all the State/UT Governments and other land owning agencies including Indian Railways to allocate land for building hotels, especially in the budget category. They have also been advised to follow investor-friendly land policies, adopt single window approach for promoting hotel projects, allot sites on revenue sharing basis, grant extra FAR/FSI for hotels, permit extra commercial usage in the hotels etc. so that Budget Hotels are promoted. Further, in order to increase the number of rooms in the budget category, Ministry of Tourism has floated schemes for the approval of Guest Houses and Incredible India Bed & Breakfast Establishments.

Similarly, under the scheme of assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects, the quantum of subsidy for the projects promoted by private party is either Rs.50 crore or 25% of the total project cost or 50% of equity contribution of the private promoters, whichever is less.

FDI In Greenfield Airports

570. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to open up 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in greenfield airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which this will help in the creation of new airport facilities in the non-metro cities specially with reference to cities in the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The extant policy provides for 100% Foreign Direct Investment in airport development.

(c) The foreign equity participation in the creation of new airport facilities will usher in international and bilateral cooperation with countries having the requisite expertise and financial strength.

**Employment of Disabled Persons
In Private Sector**

571. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved incentive scheme for creating 1,00,000 employment opportunities a year for the disabled persons in the private sector;

(b) if so, whether the scheme will involve an outlay of Rs.1,800 crore;

(c) whether it envisages payment by the Government towards employer's contribution to the employees provident fund and the employees State insurance;

(d) if so, the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(e) the extent to which it will help the private sector to employ the disabled persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Scheme envisages payment of employer's contribution to Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for the first three year for providing employment to persons with disabilities. The benefit of the scheme is for the persons with monthly wages upto Rs. 25,000/- per month. The scheme covers all persons with disabilities defined under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 and National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999.

**Prices of Kerosene and LPG for
below Poverty Line People**

572. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to fix different prices of kerosene and LPG for the people living below poverty line and above poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has verified the number of BPL families having LPG at present;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such double pricing will increase the black marketing; and

(f) if so, the details and steps taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Steel

573 SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increase in the import of steel;

(b) if so, whether it will create crisis in the domestic steel industry;

(c) if so, the steps taken to reduce the import of steel; and

(d) the other steps taken to promote domestic steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The growth in steel sector is driven by the growth in the Indian economy. The Indian economy has been growing at a sustained rate of 8%-9% per annum. The increase in the import of steel has been primarily to meet the additional domestic demand for steel not fulfilled by existing domestic production capacity and, hence, it will not create crisis in the domestic steel industry. Nonetheless, the Government constantly monitors the import of steel and takes appropriate steps whenever the need arises.

(d) In order to promote the domestic steel industry, the Government has taken various steps notable among them being the constitution of an Inter-Ministerial Group to monitor and coordinate the issues concerning major steel investments in the country related to infrastructure, raw material supply, environmental clearance and other resources constraints.

**Availability of Iron Ore for the
Steel Industry**

574. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Powered Consultative Panel has recently decided to recommend to the Ministry of Mines for the availability of iron ore to steel industry on the priority basis so that steel industry should not suffer on account of delays and difficulties in the allocation of captive mines;

(b) if so, the complete details in this regard and the action taken on the recommendation of the Consultative Panel;

(c) whether the Consultative Panel has also urged to bring in speed breakers to regulate the unbridled export of iron ore; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on the recommendation by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (d) No such recommendation has been made to the Ministry of Mines by the High Powered Consultative Panel. However, the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Steel in its meeting held on 7th November, 2007 at Chandigarh expressed concern about the need to ensure availability of critical raw materials like iron ore and coking coal to cater to both present as well as post expansion needs of steel plants. The Consultative Committee was also unanimously of the view that the unbridled export of iron ore must be curbed. Details of action taken on the recommendations of the Consultative Committee will be laid on the table of the House.

Free Travel by Political Party Workers

575. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that workers of various political parties freely travel in the trains without tickets to take part in the rallies being organized by the concerned parties;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that these workers forcibly occupy the seats and berths of the passengers travelling on valid tickets and the railway administration does not provide any help to the passengers;

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

(d) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Some cases of workers

of political parties travelling without tickets in trains to participate in rallies organized by their respective political parties do come to notice. All out efforts are made by the ticket checking and security staff to curb entry of such unauthorized passengers in coaches. Persons travelling without tickets are charged as per rules. Regular bona fide passengers are provided necessary help in such situations including refund of full fares in cases when they do not want to travel. The train-wise, date-wise and State-wise details of such forcible occupation of seats/berths are not maintained. As a preventive measure, special trains are run to avoid such rally participants entering the regular trains. In addition, special trains are also run on demand by political parties of Full Tariff Rates to be paid in advance.

Non-Gas based Urea Units

576. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-gas based urea units so far converted to gas under new Pricing Scheme, Stage-III policy and the number of such units yet to be converted;

(b) the details of the capacity addition targets fixed by the Government during the Eleventh Plan Period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve such targets in a time-bound manner?

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): (a) One unit namely Shriram Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd., Kota has converted to gas under New Pricing Scheme, Stage-III. There are 8 non-gas based units (4 FO/LSHS and 4 Naphtha) which are yet to be converted to gas.

(b) and (c) To meet this increased demand of urea by 2011-12, the Working Group on Fertilizers have projected that the additional capacity in addition to the existing operational capacity of 197 lakh Metric Ton is expected to come in the Eleventh Period as follows:

(a) 25.186 Lakh Metric Ton from capacity addition in the existing units.

(b) 33.50 Lakh Metric Ton from 3 brown field expansion projects and 11.55 Lakh Metric Ton from one green field project (total 45.05 Lakh Metric Ton).

(c) About 50 Lakh Metric Ton from revival of seven urea units of HFC and FCI in Eastern India based on natural

gas/Liquefied Natural Gas/Coal Bed Methane/Coal Gas as feedstock.

The Government under New Pricing Scheme State-III, notified on 9th March 2007 has incentivised additional urea production to encourage units to produce beyond 100% of installed capacities by making investments, if required. Further, a new policy for attracting investment in Urea sector both within the country and abroad also being finalized. The Government has also agreed to meet both the existing and future demand of natural gas of fertilizer sector in its entirety from the existing and the future discoveries of natural gas.

[Translation]

Train Accidents

577. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the recent past there has been sharp increase in the train accidents;
- (b) if so, the number of train accidents reported during the last six months;
- (c) the number of persons killed / injured in these accidents;
- (d) the main reasons for such accidents;
- (e) whether the Government has inquired into these train accidents;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the detail of the injured and deceased person along with the total compensation paid to the injured persons and to the next kith and kin of deceased persons; and
- (h) the steps taken to avert such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Instead, there has been a decline in the number of consequential train accidents during the current year as well as during the last six months period of August, 2007 to January, 2008 in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) to (d) 97 consequential train accidents have occurred during the last six months period of August, 2007 to January, 2008 causing death of 66 persons and injury to 232. Out of 97 accidents, 57 accidents are attributed to failure of railway staff, 27 due to failure of other than railway staff, 4

due to sabotage, 6 cases were incidental and 3 cases are under investigation.

(e) and (f) Each and every train accident is enquired either departmentally or through Commissioners of Railway Safety depending upon the seriousness of the accident. During August, 2007 to January, 2008 12 accidents have been taken up for inquiry by the Commissions of Railway Safety.

(g) Compensation is paid only after a decree is awarded on a claim filed in this regard in the Railway Claims Tribunal. So far, no decree has been awarded.

(h) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents which include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of accidents from 473 in 2000-01 to 234 in 2005-06 and further to 195 in 2006-07.

[English]

Cess on Air Passengers

578. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether domestic airlines charge fuel and congestion cess from passengers under the head of taxes and surcharge;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has asked the airlines to have a fair system on their practice of charging such cess.
- (d) if so, the reaction of various airlines in this regard; and
- (e) the details of action taken by the Government to check such activities of domestic airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Some airlines were showing congestion charges and passenger service fee under the head of taxes and surcharge. The Government noticed this anomaly and asked the airlines through DGCA to indicate the correct position. Now the airlines have started indicating various components of the ticket clearly and correctly on their website / tickets.

Production of Fertilizers

579. SHRI P. MOHAN:

SHRI B. MEHTAB:

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantity of fertilizers produced in the country during the last three years; unit-wise;
- (b) the subsidy sanctioned and given to the manufacturing units during the said period, unit-wise;
- (c) the total quantity of fertilizers imported during the said period;
- (d) the total demand, supply and consumption of fertilizers in the country during the said period state-wise;
- (e) the estimated requirement of fertilizers during the year 2008-09; and
- (f) the steps being taken to improve the production of fertilizers in the country to fully meet the domestic demand?

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): (a) Statement indicating unit-wise production of major fertilizers in the country during the last three years is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) Details regarding unit-wise subsidy paid on production of indigenous urea and indigenous phosphatic and potassic fertilizers (P&K) fertilizers during the last three years are at enclosed as Statement-II and III respectively.

(c) The total quantity of fertilizers imported during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	(Lakh MT)		
	Urea	DAP	MOP
2004-05	6.41	6.44	34.09
2005-06	20.57	24.38	45.78
2006-07	47.19	28.75	34.48

(d) Statement indicating state-wise requirement, availability and sales of major fertilizers viz. Urea, DAP and MOP during the last three years are enclosed as Statement-IV, V and VI respectively.

(e) Working Group on the fertilizers industry for the Eleventh Plan had projected demand of 377.75 LMT for major fertilizers namely, Urea, DAP & MOP for the year 2008-09. Department of Agriculture and Cooperative (DAC) however, makes an assessment of the requirement of major fertilizers every season, in consultation with the State Governments. Based on the consultation of DAC with State Governments, requirement of major fertilizers for Kharif 2008 is estimated at 197.08 lakh MT.

(f) Government is working towards increasing the production of capacity of chemical fertilizers, chiefly urea during the Eleventh Plan period. This is sought to be done through revival of the currently closed units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) as well as through establishment of new plants. These companies are in discussions with Gas companies for pipeline connectivity and availability of natural gas.

The Government is in the process of developing a new pricing policy for investment in urea sector in order to promote investment in urea sector and consequently to increase the indigenous production.

Statement-I

Unit-wise quantity of fertilizers produced in the country during the last three years

Name of Unit/Plant	Product Name	Production ('000 MTs)		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
Public Sector:				
National Fertilizers Limited (NFL): Nagal-I	CAN	13.9	0.0	0.0
National Fertilizers Limited (NFL): Nagal-II	Urea	494.0	480.2	481.5

1	2	3	4	5
National Fertilizers Limited (NFL): Bhatinda	Urea	536.6	518.0	511.4
National Fertilizers Limited (NFL): Panipat	Urea	531.3	503.7	508.7
National Fertilizers Limited (NFL): Vijaipur-I	Urea	926.6	916.1	874.5
National Fertilizers Limited (NFL): Vijaipur-II	Urea	939.6	926.2	974.9
Total (NFL):		3442.0	3344.2	3351.0
Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd (BVFCL): Namrup-II	Urea	0.0	32.4	60.5
Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd (BVFCL): Namrup-III	Urea	206.1	219.3	246.9
Total (BVFCL):		206.1	251.7	307.4
Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT): Udyogamandal	A/S	200.5	173.5	183.5
	20:20	101.0	143.2	141.7
Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT): Cochin-II	20:20	473.4	602.4	574.2
Total (FACT):		774.9	919.1	899.4
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF): Trombay	15:15:15	350.1	429.5	482.9
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF): Trombay-IV	20.8:20.8	223.1	222.8	35.3
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF): Trombay-V	Urea	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF): Thal	Urea	1789.9	1684.5	1861.0
Total (RCF):		2363.1	2336.8	2379.2
Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL): Chennai	Urea	473.1	368.6	473.3
	17:17:17	292.8	205.1	57.1
	19:19:19	7.5	0.0	0.0
	20:20	6.6	0.0	0.0
Total (MFL):		780.0	573.7	530.4
Total Public Sector:		7566.1	7425.5	7467.4
(Cooperative Sector:				
Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO): Kandla	10:26:26	386.6	583.4	572.0
	12:32:16	762.6	1122.6	1100.3
	DAP	1290.9	980.6	804.4
Total (IFFCO/Kandla):		2440.1	2686.6	2476.7
Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO): Kalol	Urea	554.4	544.5	559.9
Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO): Phulpur-I	Urea	565.1	551.1	573.8

1	2	3	4	5
Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO): Phulpur-II	Urea	864.7	864.6	882.8
Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO): Aonla-I	Urea	864.6	863.0	885.3
Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO): Aonla-II	Urea	865.3	874.6	880.5
Total (IFFCO):		6154.2	6404.4	6259.0
Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO): Paradeep	DAP	600.4	92.3	418.2
	20:20	32.8	156.6	332.2
Total (IFFCO:Paradeep):	633.2	248.9	750.4	
Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO): Hazira	Urea	1805.4	1806.5	1714.5
Total Coop Sector:		8592.8	8459.8	8723.9
Private Sector:				
Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC): Vadodara	Urea	303.3	313.5	253.6
	A/S	273.4	290.7	290.7
	DAP	83.9	175.9	14.2
	20:20	117.6	24.8	242.9
Total (GSFC):		778.2	804.9	801.4
Coromandal Fertilizers Ltd. (CFL)-Vizag	28:28	318.4	414.2	363.2
	14:35:14	227.0	142.4	173.8
	20:20	208.9	354.7	445.4
	10:26:26	22.3	29.2	23.6
Total (CFL):		776.6	940.5	1006.0
Shriram Fertilizers & Chemicals (SFC)-Kota	Urea	379.0	378.9	361.1
Duncans Industries Ltd. (DIL)-Kanpur	Urea	0.0	37.2	0.0
Zuari Industries Ltd. (ZIL): Goa	Urea	449.4	399.9	402.5
	19:19:19	272.5	332.8	305.7
	DAP	192.9	159.9	198.2
	10:26:26	111.2	219.2	215.3
	12:32:16	26.7	26.7	16.8
Total (ZIL):		1052.7	1138.5	1138.5
SPIC: Tuticorin	Urea	679.0	620.5	645.5
	DAP	369.6	379.5	286.5

1	2	3	4	5
	17:17:17	0.0	0.4	0.0
	20:20	34.5	20.0	38.3
Total (SPIC)		1083.1	1020.4	970.3
Manglore Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (MCF): Mangalore	Urea	335.7	399.9	370.1
	DAP	165.4	166.9	203.9
	20:20	41.2	27.5	52.9
Total (MCF):		542.3	594.3	628.9
Coromandal Fertilizers Ltd. (CFL): Enmore	16:20	116.4	180.8	183.8
	20:20	131.5	70.0	110.8
Total (CLF):		247.9	250.8	294.6
Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Co. Ltd.(GNFC)-Bharuch	Urea	637.3	642.8	626.2
	CAN	170.7	172.7	144.0
	20:20	179.7	203.5	198.9
Total (GNFC):		987.7	1019.0	969.1
Tuticorin Alkali Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (TAC)	A/C	75.2	80.0	64.8
Tata Chemicals Ltd.(TCL)-Haldia	DAP	276.1	290.1	452.0
	28:28	0.0	0.0	4.9
	14:35:14	0.0	24.4	47.5
	12:32:16	100.5	185.9	244.7
	10:26:26	159.6	192.0	357.3
	SSP	122.4	140.2	181.6
	15:15:15	2.3	12.6	0.0
Total (TCL):		660.9	845.2	1288.0
Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC): Sikka-I	DAP	286.2	322.5	425.5
Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC): Sikka-I	12:32:16	0.0	2.7	82.5
Total (GSFC/Sikka-I):		286.2	325.2	508.0
Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC): Sikka-II	DAP	279.9	311.1	419.9
	12:32:16	0.0	18.0	0.0
Total (Sikka-I&II):		566.1	654.3	927.9
Godavari Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd. (GFCL): Kakinada	DAP	616.7	673.6	616.1

1	2	3	4	5
	14:35:14	166.7	141.8	180.7
	20:20	0.0	6.4	21.4
	10:26:26	41.2	145.3	194.2
	12:32:16	66.0	66.2	75.4
Total (GFCL):		890.6	1033.3	1087.8
Indo Gulf Fertilizers (IGF)-Jagdishpur	Urea	985.4	994.9	1028.0
Hindalco Industries Ltd.:Dahej	DAP	286.3	198.1	190.9
	20:20	0.0	0.0	6.2
	10:26:26	0.0	9.9	4.2
	12:32:16	0.0	10.1	17.8
Total (Dahej):	286.3	218.1	219.1	
Deepak Fertilizers & Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (DFPCL): Taloja	23:23	89.6	54.2	62.4
Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (NFCL): Kakinada-I	Urea	657.1	703.6	726.7
Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (NFCL): Kakinada-II	Urea	735.2	675.4	597.2
Total (NFCL):		1392.3	1379.0	1323.9
Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (CFCL): Gadepan-I	Urea	961.5	970.1	973.6
Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (CFCL): Gadepan-II	Urea	894.5	931.5	952.0
Total (CFCL):	1856.0	1901.6	1925.6	
Tata Chemicals Ltd. (TCL): Babrala	Urea	968.1	960.0	1010.7
Kribhco Shyam Fertilizers Ltd. (KSFL): Shahjahanpur	Urea	861.1	897.5	872.1
Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL): Paradeep	DAP	736.8	877.6	822.3
	20:20	174.5	230.6	328.8
	16:20	0.0	0.0	1.7
	14:35:14	0.0	7.1	0.0
	28:28	23.2	0.0	0.0
	12:32:16	36.2	69.1	59.5
	10:26:26	59.2	76.3	109.9
Total (PPL):		1029.9	1260.7	1322.2
SSP Units (77 units)	SSP	2270.7	2556.2	2791.5
Total Private Sector:		17779.7	19019.5	20091.9
Total (Pub.+Coop.+Pvt.):		33938.6	34904.8	36283.2

Statement-II*Unit-wise subsidy paid during the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 in respect of Urea*

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Subsidy paid (Rs. in Crore)		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1	NFL: Nangal-II	452.51	420.85	473.13
2	NFL: Bhatinda	434.37	353.64	439.34
3	NFL: Panipat	404.68	309.35	424.83
4	NFL: Vijaipur-I	146.45	123.93	121.23
5	NFL: Vijaipur-II	320.83	350.06	391.18
6	BVFCL: Namrup-II	0.00	0.00	20.71
7	BVFCL: Namrup-II	28.64	20.70	76.28
8	RCF: Trombay-V	0.00	1.91	0.000
9	RCF: Thal	671.09	852.01	1193.00
10	MFL: Chennai	496.74	676.39	1008.89
11	GSFC (State Govt.)	217.68	57.69	98.210
12	GNFC (State Govt.)	265.46	293.98	325.71
	Total Public Sector:	3438.45	3460.51	4572.51
13	IFFCO: Kalol	319.76	151.92	401.91
14	IFFCO: Phulpur	526.58	536.03	754.97
15	IFFCO: Phulpur Expn.	865.60	913.65	1078.780
16	IFFCO: Aonia-I	158.17	95.03	181.43
17	IFFCO: Aonia-II	245.56	125.55	214.51
18	KRIBHCO: Hazira	197.59	245.94	186.37
	Total Coop Sector:	2312.26	2068.12	2817.97
19	SFC: Kota	310.48	436.36	402.40
20	DIL: Kanpur	0.00	38.90	0.00
21	ZIL: Goa	484.61	623.09	786.03
22	SPIC: Tuticorin	668.13	896.08	1112.27
23	MCF: Mangalore	384.63	461.32	640.67
24	IGCL: Jagdishpur	215.97	278.39	208.31

1	2	3	4	5
25	NFCL: Kakinada-I	184.25	144.44	224.57
26	NFCL: Kakinada-II	298.05	479.39	600.85
27	CFCL: Gadepan-I	386.49	329.26	234.81
28	CFCL: Gadepan-II	821.19	828.45	527.02
29	TCL: Babrala	382.66	329.67	313.65
30	Kribhco Shyam	361.76	87.24	209.31
	Total Coop Sector	4498.22	4932.59	5259.89
	Grand Total	10249.98	10461.22	12650.37

Statement-III

Payment of Concession to Manufacturer on the sale of Indigenous Decontrolled (P&K) Fertilizers from 2004-05 to 2006-2007

(Rs.in crore)

S.No.	Company Name	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
Indigenous DAP/Complex				
1	Coromandel Fertilizers Ltd.	301.52	369.06	626.74
2	Deepak Fertilizers & Petrochemicals Corp.	14.07	6.70	17.60
3	EID (PARRY) India Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.	211.66	281.05	404.80
5	Godavari Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd.	328.97	418.97	705.60
6	Godavari Fertilisers & Chemicals Ltd. (IFFCO)	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilisers Co. Ltd.	48.15	68.25	99.17
8	Gujarat State Fertilisers & Chemical Ltd. (S)	263.47	225.48	453.44
9	Gujarat State Fertilisers & Chemical Ltd. (Vadodara)	0.00	74.42	243.22
10	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	114.73	105.87	156.95
11	Hind Lever Chemical Ltd.	0.00	4.74	0.00
12	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)	971.71	1096.33	1287.01
13	IFFCO (GFCL)	23.99	24.80	1.83
14	Indo Gulf	0.00	0.83	0.23
15	Manglore Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd.	72.51	66.00	148.34
16	Madras Fertilisers Ltd.	138.97	99.18	87.06

1	2	3	4	5
17	Oswal Chemical and Fertiliser Ltd.	264.45	72.21	0.00
18	Paradeep Phosphate Ltd.	310.32	494.69	794.05
19	Pyrites Phosphate	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd	114.10	117.88	197.18
21	Southern Petrochemical Industries Corp. Ltd.	157.23	169.98	203.82
22	ZIL Industries Ltd.	243.99	304.83	481.35
23	Tata Chemicals Ltd. (HLL)	233.96	270.23	460.71
		3813.80	4271.50	6369.10
Plus				
	Total Payment to SSP Units	140.97	194.55	264.75
	Exp. Pre Oct. 2000	13.76	29.37	7.26
	Exp. On Special Fright	8.46	3.77	7.05
	Gross Total	3976.99	4499.19	6648.16
SSP				
1	Aarti Fertilizers	0.00	4.91	8.49
2	The Andhra Sugars Ltd.	2.79	3.39	4.44
3	Arawali Phosphates Ltd.	1.57	2.50	3.80
4	Arihant Phosphates & Fertilizers Ltd.	1.28	0.52	0.04
5	Arihant Fertilizers & Chemicals India Ltd.	0.00		0.38
6	Asha Phosphates Ltd.	0.17	0.00	0.00
7	Agri Green Fertilizer & Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.	0.00	0.76	1.65
8	Agro Phos (India) Ltd.	0.01	0.89	1.00
9	Asian Fertilizers Ltd.	3.78	4.19	4.62
10	Balaji Fertilizers Pvt. Ltd.	0.86	0.85	0.87
11	Basant Agrotech (India) Ltd.	3.49	6.05	6.98
12	Bhilai Engineering Corp. Ltd. Pulgaon	4.52	4.59	2.95
13	Bhilai Engineering Corp. Ltd. Bilaspur	5.83	6.20	8.76
14	Bharat Fertilizers Industries Ltd.	0.35	0.06	0.39
15	Bhawani Mishra Fertilizers	0.59	1.03	1.04
16	Bohra Industries Ltd.	3.01	2.93	7.13

1	2	3	4	5
17	Chemtech Fertilizers Ltd.	1.28	1.60	1.92
18	Coimbatore Pioneer Fertilizers Ltd.	2.76	3.45	4.37
19	Dharamsi Morarji Chemicals Co. Ltd.	7.35	11.98	13.79
20	Gayatri Spinners Ltd.	0.83	0.94	1.32
21	Indian Potash Ltd.	0.00	0.00	2.13
22	Indian Phosphate Ltd.	0.00	2.86	3.78
23	Jai Ram Phosphate Ltd.	2.54	3.78	3.85
24	Jai Shree Chemicals and Fertilisers (I)	2.29	2.33	3.77
25	Jai Shree Chemicals and Fertilisers (II)	2.74	4.03	4.34
26	Jai Shree Chemicals and Fertilisers (III)	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Jubliant Organosys Ltd.	0.00	9.28	12.74
28	Jubilant Organosys Ltd. (Sadhna Phos)	0.33	3.50	1.49
29	Jubilant Organosys Ltd. (AP&FL)	0.0	0.00	1.11
30	Kashi Urvarak Limited	0.01	0.00	0.03
31	Khaitan Chemcials & Fertilisers Limited (I)	11.53	5.48	21.84
32	Khaitan Chemcials & Fertilisers Limited (II)	3.07	4.80	2.06
33	Khaitan Chemcials & Fertilisers Limited (III)	0.07	1.04	5.37
34	Khaitan Fertilizer	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Kothari Industrial Corp. Limited	0.00	0.00	0.00
36	Krishna Industrial Corp. Ltd.	1.47	2.72	3.63
37	Liberty Urvarak Ltd.	3.63	4.49	6.63
38	Liberty Phosphate Ltd. (K)	0.00	0.42	1.68
39	Liberty Phosphate Ltd.	12.00	14.69	23.73
40	Mahadeo Fertiliser Ltd.	0.19	0.00	0.00
41	Manglam Phosphate Ltd.	0.34	0.01	0.03
42	Mardia Chemicals Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00
43	Madhya Bharat Phosphate Ltd.	0.28	0.92	1.76
44	Madhya Bharat Agro Products Ltd.	0.42	2.55	3.28
45	Madhya Pradesh Orgochem Ltd.	0.04	0.02	0.00
46	Maharashtra Agro Development Ind. Corp.	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
47	Mexican Phosphate Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00
48	Mukteshwar Ltd.	0.11	0.12	0.22
49	Munak Chemicals Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00
50	Narmada Agro Chemical Ltd.	0.07	0.12	0.28
51	Natraj Organics Ltd.	0.09	0.05	0.00
52	Nirma Ltd.	6.15	6.15	6.34
53	Oriental Carbon Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00
54	The Phosphate Company	5.26	7.91	9.03
55	Pragati Fertilisers Ltd.	1.22	0.83	1.15
56	Pratyusha Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd.	0.28	0.01	0.05
57	Prem Sakhi Fertilisers Ltd.	1.53	0.25	0.00
58	Priyanka Fertilisers & Chemicals	0.67	0.68	0.18
59	Rajlaxmi Agrotech India Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.25
60	Rama Phos Ltd. (I)	6.43	8.90	7.08
61	Rama Phos Ltd. (U)	2.90	3.74	11.55
62	Rashi Fertilisers Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00
63	R. C. Fertilizers	0.00	0.00	2.27
64	Revati Minerals & Chemicals Ltd.	0.01	0.00	0.00
65	Rama Krishi Rasayan Ltd.	4.48	6.15	9.13
66	Sadhna Phosphate & Chemical Ltd.	0.33	0.15	0.10
67	Sarada Fertilizer	0.00	0.00	0.00
68	Shaw Wallace	0.00	0.00	0.00
69	Shiva Fertilisers Ltd.	4.00	4.86	4.53
70	Shri Ganpati Fertilisers Ltd.	0.34	0.04	1.48
71	Shri Krishna Fertilisers Ltd.	0.43	0.09	0.00
72	Shree Acids	0.00	0.00	0.00
73	Shree ji Fertilizer	0.00	0.00	0.00
74	Shree Gajraj Fertilizer	0.00	0.00	0.74
75	Shree ji Phosphate	0.00	0.00	0.00
76	Shree Niwas Fertilizers	0.00	0.42	0.05

1	2	3	4	5
77	Sona Phosphate Ltd.	0.01	0.05	0.10
78	Subhodaya Chemicals Ltd.	0.81	1.76	2.04
79	Shurvi Colour Chemical Ltd.	0.32	0.19	0.05
80	Swastik Fertilisers & Chemicals Ltd.	1.20	1.61	2.54
81	Tedco Granites Ltd.	3.38	2.83	4.67
82	Teesta Agro Industries Ltd.	7.42	8.41	7.17
83	Tungbhadra Fertilisers & Chemicals Co. Ltd.	1.70	3.09	13.23
84	Vam Organics Ltd.	0.00	0.04	0.00
85	Jubilant Organosys Ltd. (Vam Organics Ltd.)	8.13	0.00	0.00
86	Khaitan Chemicals & Fertilizers (F)	1.05	13.92	0.52
87	T J Agro Industries Ltd.	1.23	1.68	2.13
88	V.K. Phosphate Ltd.	0.00	0.74	0.68
Total of SSP Units		140.97	194.55	264.75

Statement-IV**Statewise Availability and Sales of Urea, DAP & MOP 1st April 04 to 31st March 2005**

2004-05

Qty in (LMTs)

Product	Urea			DAP			MOP		
	Req. 1st April, 04 to 31st March 2005	Availability	Sales	Req. 1st April, 04 to 31st March 2005	Availability	Sales	Req. 1st April, 04 to 31st March 2005	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	19.50	18.55	17.46	6.25	4.66	4.48	2.85	3.58	3.39
Karnataka	9.40	9.74	9.27	3.90	4.25	4.09	2.45	3.01	2.89
Kerala	1.33	1.13	1.10	0.10	0.18	0.18	1.39	0.98	0.98
Tamil Nadu	6.60	7.67	7.45	2.20	2.90	2.81	3.00	3.19	3.15
Gujarat	11.70	12.62	12.25	4.50	5.15	5.12	0.95	1.46	1.42
Madhya Pradesh	11.35	11.05	10.34	6.00	5.01	4.62	0.42	0.58	0.52
Chhattisgarh	3.76	4.07	3.84	0.84	1.12	1.03	0.48	0.51	0.46
Maharashtra	15.25	15.80	15.14	4.25	5.46	5.30	2.00	2.33	2.16
Rajasthan	11.50	10.40	10.16	4.25	3.56	3.44	0.13	0.18	0.16
Haryana	15.15	15.60	14.74	5.35	4.84	4.68	0.22	0.25	0.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Punjab	23.00	24.28	24.04	7.25	7.01	6.63	0.55	0.65	0.57
Jammu and Kashmir	1.20	1.02	0.94	0.70	0.52	0.50	0.17	0.06	0.06
Uttar Pradesh	47.10	47.98	45.11	14.00	12.08	11.33	1.85	1.94	1.77
Uttaranchal	1.81	1.67	1.58	0.30	0.23	0.19	0.11	0.05	0.04
Bihar	14.30	13.43	12.79	3.00	1.14	0.98	1.10	0.56	0.51
Jharkhand	1.58	1.70	1.63	1.15	1.12	1.06	0.19	0.03	0.03
Orissa	4.30	3.75	3.60	0.80	0.68	0.66	0.90	0.88	0.82
West Bengal	11.50	11.13	10.83	4.61	3.58	3.33	3.32	3.26	3.16
Assam & Other N.E	2.67	2.39	2.33	0.96	0.29	0.26	0.95	0.64	0.58
Other Total	1.08	0.91	0.90	0.20	0.11	0.08	0.19	0.16	0.16
All India	214.08	214.90	205.49	70.60	63.89	60.78	23.21	24.32	23.10

Statement-V**Statewise Availability & Sales of Urea, DAP & MOP**

2005-06

Qty In (LMTs)

Product	Urea			DAP			MOP		
	Req. 1st April, 05 to 31st March 2006	Availability	Sales	Req. 1st April, 05 to 31st March 2006	Availability	Sales	Req. 1st April, 05 to 31st March 2006	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	23.50	23.53	22.18	7.05	6.12	5.96	3.86	4.61	4.13
Karnataka	9.55	11.03	10.67	4.60	5.00	4.57	2.85	3.79	3.36
Kerala	1.55	1.26	1.18	0.20	0.17	0.16	1.30	1.29	1.19
Tamil Nadu	9.50	9.06	8.78	3.50	3.87	3.64	4.50	3.76	3.67
Gujarat	12.50	13.81	13.26	5.20	6.65	5.41	1.30	1.89	1.55
Madhya Pradesh	11.55	10.97	10.20	5.95	5.76	4.66	0.50	0.91	0.57
Chhattisgarh	4.70	4.67	4.45	1.16	1.38	1.27	0.49	0.79	0.49
Maharashtra	16.75	18.19	17.21	5.85	5.84	5.13	2.45	2.92	2.47
Rajasthan	12.30	12.35	11.59	4.90	5.41	4.14	0.20	0.32	0.17
Haryana	16.00	18.00	16.44	5.60	6.64	5.10	0.30	0.55	0.36
Punjab	24.70	24.55	23.72	7.65	9.54	7.32	0.65	1.25	0.85
Uttar Pradesh	52.00	50.36	45.95	15.50	15.89	12.34	2.60	3.01	1.66
Uttaranchal	1.77	2.01	1.75	0.27	0.31	0.23	0.11	0.07	0.05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Jammu and Kashmir	1.20	1.30	1.11	0.70	0.65	0.56	0.17	0.09	0.07
Bihar	14.30	14.24	7.32	3.00	2.12	1.78	1.40	1.64	1.23
Jharkhand	1.75	1.56	1.51	1.16	0.73	0.68	0.26	0.05	0.05
Orissa	4.75	4.31	1.09	0.90	0.92	0.81	1.00	1.16	0.96
West Bengal	11.90	10.97	10.41	4.10	3.53	3.43	3.90	3.06	2.52
Assam	1.95	1.95	1.76	0.43	0.27	0.20	0.75	0.75	0.53
All India	234.26	235.65	221.37	78.06	79.76	67.53	28.89	32.11	26.08

Statement-VI**Statewise Availability and Sales of UREA, DAP & MOP**

2006-07

Qty in (LMTs)

Product	Urea			DAP			MOP		
	Req. 1st April, 06 to 31st March 2007	Availability	Sales	Req. 1st April, 06 to 31st March 2007	Availability	Sales	Req. 1st April, 06 to 31st March 2007	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	27.00	24.52	22.13	6.69	6.15	5.97	5.21	3.90	3.72
Karnataka	11.20	11.55	10.92	5.00	5.25	4.88	3.90	3.14	2.76
Kerala	1.46	1.33	1.27	0.17	0.23	0.23	1.40	1.13	1.12
Tamil Nadu	10.00	9.59	9.18	3.85	3.98	3.84	4.85	3.48	3.48
Gujarat	15.00	15.22	15.03	5.75	5.79	4.56	1.65	1.46	1.42
Madhya Pradesh	12.10	13.89	13.16	6.20	5.76	4.96	0.50	0.75	0.67
Chhattisgarh	4.90	5.93	5.53	1.38	1.59	1.27	0.52	0.67	0.59
Maharashtra	19.00	20.70	19.87	6.25	7.06	6.49	3.00	2.48	2.34
Rajasthan	13.20	12.80	12.26	5.60	4.30	4.05	0.22	0.07	0.07
Haryana	17.50	18.04	17.33	5.60	5.04	4.46	0.40	0.32	0.23
Punjab	25.00	26.16	25.74	7.90	7.60	7.12	0.90	0.52	0.47
Jammu and Kashmir	1.42	1.15	1.05	0.71	0.55	0.51	0.21	0.10	0.10
Uttar Pradesh	50.00	53.50	51.83	14.50	14.42	12.94	2.30	1.34	1.22
Uttaranchal	1.65	2.17	2.10	0.32	0.24	0.23	0.12	0.06	0.04
Bihar	17.50	16.32	16.01	4.50	3.29	2.65	2.50	1.04	1.00
Jharkhand	1.74	1.63	1.60	1.10	0.71	0.68	0.07	0.01	0.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Orissa	4.70	4.44	4.21	0.98	1.16	1.03	0.92	0.85	0.75
West Bengal	12.00	12.28	11.94	4.10	3.99	3.54	3.58	2.78	2.51
Assam and Other N.E	3.08	2.67	2.47	0.51	0.27	0.24	0.82	0.59	0.54
Other Total	1.10	0.90	0.90	0.20	0.17	0.12	0.20	0.13	0.13
All India	249.55	254.79	244.52	81.31	77.57	69.75	33.27	24.82	23.17

**Cut in the Gas Supplies to Power
and Fertilizer Units by GAIL**

580. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- whether GAIL India Ltd. has cut gas supplies to power and fertilizer units during the field shutdown period;
- if so, the details in this regard;
- whether such shutdown has adversely affected the targets of GAIL, power and fertilizer sector in the country;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUUM AND NAURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Due to shutdown taken by ONGC in its BPB Western Offshore platform, gas availability was reduced and supply to power and fertilizers units along HVJ was curtailed in accordance with the Action Plan. Against normal average supply of around 8.7 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) and 7.8 MMSCMD of APM gas from ONGC to power and fertilizers units respectively along HVJ, the average supply during the shutdown period was 4.48 MMSCMD and 2.85 MMSCMD respectively. Supply of gas from ONGC to GAIL's processing / LPG plants along HVJ also fell from normal average 2.2 MMSCMD to 1.2 MMSCMD during the shutdown period. The reduction in supply of natural gas has affected the targets of GAIL, power and fertilizers sector along HVJ pipeline.

(e) The fertilizers and power units had been informed in advance regarding the proposed shutdown, so that alternate fuel could be arranged during the shutdown period. Additional Naptha was made available to affected fertilizer units through Oil Marketing Companies. Further,

some quantity of additional gas from Panna, Mukta and Tapti (PMT) fields was supplied to fertilizer units and to GAIL's processing plants.

[Translation]

Refund of Train Fare

581. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Ministry of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- whether the Government proposes to introduce any such scheme under which the refund of fare could be taken from the Railways within five days even after missing the train;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the stations of the country where the said scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A system known as Computerized Coaching Refund Scheme is already in vogue. Under this scheme, the Exceptional Data Reports of non-turned up passengers, lowers class travel, etc., prepared by conductors/TTEs, are fed into Passenger Reservation System. Refund can be obtained from any computer terminal in the country upto five days from the scheduled departure of the train from the originating station. The time limit of five days has now been increased to thirty days.

[English]

Change In LPG Control Order 2003

582. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- whether the Government proposes to change LPG control order, 2003 to debar the CNG/PNG consumers to hold or avail LPG cylinder;

- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the reasons for debarring such CNG/PNG consumers from LPG connection; and
- (d) the total number of consumers so far using CNG/PNG gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Amendments to the Control Order relating to restriction of LPG connections to customers of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) are under consideration of the Government.

(d) It is reported that as on 1.1.2008, there are 775119 domestic PNG consumers and 345863 CNG vehicles in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 noon.

11.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Twelve of the Clock.*

12.00 hrs.

*The Lok-Sabha re-assembled at
Twelve of the Clock.*

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Let the copy of the Economic Survey be laid on the Table now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not allow the papers to be laid then what will happen?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

Item no. 2 – Shri P. Chidambaram.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Economic Survey, 2007-2008 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8112/2008]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Public Enterprises Survey, 2006-2007 (Volumes-I and II) (Hindi and English versions).

...(Interruptions)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8113/2008]

MR. SPEAKER: These are very important documents.

Item no. 4 – Shri B.K. Handique.

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): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O.1729(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2007 indicating the supplies of urea to be made by domestic manufacturers of urea to States and Union Territories during Rabi season 2007-2008 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8114/2008]

12.01 ¼ hrs.

MOTION RE: TENTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

[English]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): I beg to move the following:

"That this House do agree with the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Privileges."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Privileges."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item no. 6 – Shri Amitava Nandy.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything without my permission. Please take your seat now.

...(Interruptions)*

12.01 ½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

129th Report

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY (Dumdum): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the One-Hundred and Twenty-ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007 and the Constitution (One Hundred and Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2007.

12.01 ¾ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Evidence

[English]

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY (Dumdum): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007 and the Constitution (One Hundred and Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2007.

12.02 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, with your permission I rise to announce that the Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 3rd of March, 2008, will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. General Discussion on Railway Budget, 2008-09.

*Not recorded.

3. Discussion and Voting on:-

- (a) Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2008-09.
- (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2007-08.
- (c) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2005-06.

4. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Railways (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 and consideration and passing of the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir there is need to make the mixing of ethanol in petrol compulsory by enacting a regulation in view of the investment of crores of rupees made in the agriculture sector for the production of ethanol.

There is also a need to take effective steps by the Government to ensure that the farmers are paid adequate compensation besides other benefits in lieu of their land acquired by the CIL and its subsidiary companies for coal mining. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only 4-6 Members are left. These are simply submissions, it is not the matter of merit. Only the subject has to be mentioned.

[English]

Now, Prof. Kader Mohideen.

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (1) The Muslim Mohalla Jamats Marriage Registration system has to be legally approved by the Government throughout the country for the purpose of registration of marriages.
- (2) The Muslim Shariat Panchayat System has to be approved as a part of our legal system to settle the family disputes and thereby prevent the huge piling of cases before the courts.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, the following items shall be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. The need to set up new Airports in Tourism destinations of the country like Idukki District in Kerala State, to facilitate the growing tourism industry in the country.

2. The need for equitable distribution of unallocated share of power to power-deficient States from Mega and Ultra Mega Power Projects in the country.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL (Latur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. The need to take effective steps by the Government for providing special package to sugarcane growers by ensuring payment of remunerative prices of their crops in view of the suicides being committed by the sugarcane growers in the country.
2. The need to ensure water supply by providing financial assistance to all those drought-affected States by the Union Government in view of the problem of water supply in drought affected States assuming serious proportions in the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. K.S. Manoj-not present.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Sir, the following important items may also be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. A discussion should be conducted with regard to the economic, social and political condition of women which they are facing even after 60 years of independence of the country.
2. A discussion should also be held on lowering the marriageable age of boys and girls.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, following items shall be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Complaints of large-scale irregularities and misuse of funds under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Programme have been received in Uttar Pradesh. The B.P.L. card holders are not getting employment. The Union Government should ensure that action is taken against the officers found guilty after conducting an enquiry at their own level.
2. M.S.T. passes should be made for passengers commuting on the main railway line of Parliamentary constituency, Chail in Uttar Pradesh from stations such as Mannauri, Bharwan, Sirathu to the industrial city of Kanpur which connect cities of Allahabad, Pratapgarh, Kaushambi, Fatehpur etc. so as to provide special facilities to them.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, following two items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. The Union Government should announce relief measures within a stipulated time for resolving the problem of agriculture sector and the farmers and should procure wheat and foodgrains from the farmers of the country at the price of imported foodgrains instead of importing them from foreign countries.
2. The need to take time bound effective measures for the conservation of the river Ganga, Yamuna and the Himalayas and to protect all the rivers of the country including Shipra and Narmada from pollution and also conserve them.

[English]

MR. SEAKER: Dr. Manoj.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: It is the same thing going on, Mr. Yerrannaidu. Let these submission be over.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): I beg your pardon, Sir. I was not present when you called my name.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you should have been present in time.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:-

1. Implementation of Coastal Zone Management Notification has created great hardship to the coastal fishermen people, especially, the densely populated area of Kerala. So, I would urge upon the Government to amend the Notification.
2. Land acquisition for NHDP projects, especially, for widening the NH-47 is not realistic and not considering the social and geographic features individual States. In a country like India and diversity, uniform guidelines for all projects are not feasible. In a densely populated States like Kerala, land acquisition for NH with ROW 45 metres should be reviewed and reconsidered.

12.04 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) Committee on Estimates

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, I beg to move the following:-

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 311 of

the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from amongst themselves as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from amongst themselves as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009."

The motion was adopted.

12.05 hrs.

(ii) Committee on Public Accounts

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of the rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of the rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members

from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and the ending on the 30th April, 2009 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and the ending on the 30th April, 2009 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

12.10 hrs.

(iii) Committee on Public Undertakings

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term

beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

12.11 hrs.

**(iv) Committee on the Welfare of
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

12.12 hrs.

**MOTION RE: FORTY-FIFTH REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House of the 27th February, 2008."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House of the 27th February, 2008."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You people don't want to work?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, the issue of farmers is very important.

...(Interruptions)

12.13 hrs.

(At this stage Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

12.13 ¼ hrs.

(At this stage Shri Chandrakant Khaire and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

12.13 ½ hrs.

(At this stage Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to call the hon. Members who have taken the trouble of giving notices to raise important matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 29th February, 2008 at 11.00 a.m.

12.14 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, February 29, 2008/Phalguna 10, 1929 (Saka).

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(English Version)

Thursday, February 28, 2008/Phalguna 9, 1929 (Saka)

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187/11	NATRUAL	NATURAL
203/3 (from below)	of	on
287/3	SHRI B. MEHTAB	SHRI B. MAHTAB
320/13	MR. SEAKER	MR. SPEAKER

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