

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



Gazettes & Debates Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. PB-025
Block 'G'

Acc. No. 24.....
Dated. 15 April 2009

(Vol. XXXIII contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 80.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

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

R. K. Chadha
Joint Secretary

Harnam Dass Takker
Director

Vandna Trivedi
Joint Director - I

Prabhakar Mohanty
Joint Director - II

Nalin Kumar
Assistant Editor

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

CONTENTS

Fourteenth Series, Vol. XXXIII, Thirteenth Session, 2008/1929 (Saka)

No.13, Friday, March 14, 2008/Phalguna 24, 1929 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 221 to 224, 227 and 228	1-39
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 225, 226 and 229 to 240	40-77
Unstarred Question Nos.2139 to 2368	77-427
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER	
Business of the House	428-430
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	430-445
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND	445-446
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA	
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	
25th, 26th, 32nd, 37th and 39th Reports	446-447
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION	
21st and 22nd Reports	447
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	
(i) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report of Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, and Law and Justice on Demands for Grants (2007-08) pertaining to the Ministry of Law and Justice	
Shri H.R. Bhardwaj	447-448
(ii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty Seventh report of Standing Committee on Rural Development on Demands for Grants (2007-08) pertaining to the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development	
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	448
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	448-453
SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS	
RE: Problems being faced by the Haj Pilgrims	453-455

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

GENERAL BUDGET (2008-09) – GENERAL DISCUSSION
 DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL) (2008-09)
 DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL)(2007-2008)

Shri Kharabela Swain	459-465
Shri Francis K. George	465-468
Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul	468-469
Shri Ramesh Dube	469
Shri Francisco Cosme Sardinha	469--470
Dr. Thokchom Meinya	470-472
Shrimati Jayaprada	472-475
Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava	475-477
Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani	477-480
Shri R.L Jalappa	480-483
Shri Pralhad Joshi	483-485
Shri Adhir Chowdhury	485-491
Shri Rajnarayan Budholia	491-494
Shri Sukdeo Paswan	495-496
Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq	496-498
Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo	498-501
Shri K.V. Thangabalu	501-505
Shri Hansraj G. Ahir	505-510
Shrimati Rupatai D. Patil	510-512
Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary	512-513
Shrimati Tejasvini Gowda	513-517
Shrimati Neeta Pateriya	517-521
Shri Francis Fanthome	521-526
Prof. Chander Kumar	526
Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy	526-529
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	529-533
Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya	534-536
Shri Sita Ram Singh	536-537
Shri Dharmendra Yadav	537-540

Shri Bikram Keshari Deo	540-544
Shri Kiren Rijju	544-546
Shri Arun Yadav	546-550
Shri Harikewal Prasad	551-553
Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar	553-555
Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar	555-557
Shrimati Archana Nayak	557-558
Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh	558-562
Shri Manoranjan Bhakta	562-564
Shri Chandra Pal Singh Yadav	564-566
Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	566-569
Dr. K.S. Manoj	569-571
Shri Harisinh Chavda	571-572
Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria	572-574
Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma	574-575
Shri Manjunath Kunnur	575-582
Shri Ashok Argal	582-583
Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain	584-589
Shri Ashok Pradhan	589-590
Shri Nikhil Kumar	590-593
Shri Ramdas Athawale	593-594
Shri P. Chidambaram	594-627
APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 2008	629-630
Motion to Introduce	
Motion to Consider	
Clauses 2 to 4 and 1	
Motion to pass	
APPROPRIATION BILL, 2008	630-631
Motion to Introduce	
Motion to Consider	
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	
Motion to pass	
KARNATAKA APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 2008	631-632
Motion to Introduce	
Motion to Consider	

Clauses 2, 3 and 1

Motion to pass

KARNATAKA APPROPRIATION BILL, 2008 632-633

Motion to Introduce

Motion to Consider

Clauses 2, 3 and 1

Motion to pass

ANNEXURE-I 643-650

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions 643

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions 644-650

ANNEXURE-II 651-652

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions 651-652

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions 651-652

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

The Speaker

Shri Somnath Chatterjee

The Deputy Speaker

Shri Chamjit Singh Atwal

Panel of Chairmen

Shri Girdhar Gamang

Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan

Shri Arjun Sethi

Shri Mohan Singh

Shrimati Krishna Tirath

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav

Secretary General

Shri P.D.T. Achary

,

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 14, 2008/Phalgun 24, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 221, Shri Eknath Mahadeo Gaikwad.

Growth Rate

*221. † SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the new World Bank Report on Global Economic Development regarding slowdown of India's economic growth rate as reported in the Navbharat Times dated January 11, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

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

Statement

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The newspaper "Navbharat Times" dated January 11, 2008 has referred to the World Bank report titled Global Economic Prospects: Technology Diffusion in the Developing World 2008, and has highlighted the likelihood of slow down in India's economic growth in 2008 and 2009. The report also makes a reference to a possible slowdown in the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of China.

(c) The growth in India's GDP in the last two years has been 9.4 and 9.6 per cent per annum. For the fiscal year 2007-08, as per the Advance Estimates of the Central Statistical Organisation, the GDP is expected to grow at 8.7 per cent.

[Translation]

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, various reports indicate it appears that the world economy is

passing through a phase of economic recession. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the steps being taken by the Government to maintain the pace of economic growth and boost the export.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there is indeed a slow down in the second half of 2007-08 which I had indicated even in the Budget speech. But the assessment made by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister as well as a large number of think tanks and research organizations, still places India's growth rate in 2007-08 at above 8.5 per cent. In the case of the EAC, the estimate is 8.7 per cent. Ordinarily 8.5 per cent and 8.7 per cent cannot be considered a bad achievement. There is indeed a slow down from last year's 9.6 per cent. What drives India's growth is; investment and consumption. We have taken a number of steps to boost investment and consumption. Many of these steps were outlined in the Budget speech. Some of them I will elaborate later today when I reply to the Budget discussion. But if investment and consumption are the two drivers of India's GDP, as long as these two drivers continue to enjoy momentum and confidence, the India's growth rate can be maintained at above 8.5 per cent.

[Translation]

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is on account of apprehension of economic slowdown that day by day share of market is falling. So I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to what steps are being taken to bring stability in the share market.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Stock market is an important indicator but we should not look at the stock market as the sole indicator of India's economy. After all, the Sensex only captures the share price movement of 30 stocks and the Nifty captures the share price movements of either 50 or 100 stocks. The stock market in India is reflecting world wide developments. In fact, it is really reflecting the developed economies as well as the Asian economies. But we have a well established regulatory system in place and the regulatory system will ensure that there is no excessive volatility in the stock market. But some volatility is to be expected especially when there is turbulence in the international financial markets.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, according to the World Bank Report, the share of agriculture has been constantly slipping from 23.4 per cent of our GDP in 2000 through 18.3 per cent in 2005 to 17.5 per cent in 2006. In such a scenario, will the Gross Capital Formation touch 16 per cent to achieve the target growth rate of 4 per cent as

envisaged in the Budget? Is the loan waiver to small and marginal farmers and related measures sufficient to rejuvenate agriculture, distress in which core sector is a primary cause of economic slow down?

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, this is my question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the question is on loan waiver which is far away from the main Question. We will talk about it when I reply to the Budget debate. I agree with the hon. Member that it is necessary to increase the gross capital formation in agriculture as a proportion of GDP to 16 per cent for the 11th Plan and only then we will achieve the target growth rate of 4 per cent. In 2003-04, the GCF to GDP was 10.2 per cent. In the three years of the UPA Government, we have increased it to 12.5 per cent in 2006-07 and 2007-08 figures are not yet available. We will have to wait for those figures but if the same trend is maintained, it should be possible to achieve 16 per cent by the end of 11th Plan. When 10.2 has become 12.5 in three years, if you extrapolate, it is possible to achieve 16 per cent by the end of the 11th Plan. But this will not happen on its own. This will happen only if the Government takes conscious measures to promote both public investment and encourage private sector investment.

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to ask a supplementary question on question No.221.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND: No, Sir, I would like to ask question No.222.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated that there is precondition to investment growth. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there has been a decline in investment during the last three - four years and whether the State Government and the Central Government propose to set up single window system at Central level for land acquisition to facilitate investment.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It has nothing to do with this. Please be fair. You are a very effective Member.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have just explained that the GCF to GDP is rising. It has risen from 10.2 per cent in 2003-04 to 12.5 per cent in 2006-07. Of course, this includes

investment made by the State Governments also. I am not claiming the entire credit for the Central Government. The Central Government, the State Governments and private investments by individual farmers, all that are included in the gross capital formation. So, investment is rising. We must make a conscious effort to continue to increase investment in agriculture year after year so that we achieve the target of 16 per cent by the end of the 11th Plan.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Now it is an accepted fact that USA is facing economic recession. There is widespread apprehension that this recession will affect our country also. Our rupee value has increased and it has already affected our exporters, especially in the textile sector and the IT sector.

So, I would like to know from the Minister what measures the Government intend to take to face this eventuality.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the hon. Member is referring to two things that are happening. One is the recession that is expected in the US. Frankly, I cannot deal with that. The US has to deal with it and we wish them well.

As far as the impact on the rupee is concerned - real effective of the exchange rate of the rupee - it is not solely attributable to the US recession. It is the result of a number of factors like our productivity gains in India both labour productivity and capital factor productivity, inflows into India and our inflation *versus* the inflation of other countries. The rupee has indeed appreciated rather significantly against the US dollar which is weakening for reasons which are relevant to the United States. But the rupee has not appreciated to the same extent against the Euro or the Yen.

Therefore, RBI constructs the real effective of exchange rate using a basket of currencies. There are two indices - one is the basket of five or six currencies and another is a basket of, I think, 30 currencies. There is some appreciation but I think what is played out in the media is the rather exaggerated appreciation *vis-a-vis* the dollar. Rupee has not appreciated to the same extent *vis-a-vis* the Euro or *vis-a-vis* the Yen. As far as we are concerned, we cannot take a view on exchange rate. What we would like is a competitive exchange rate that helps both exporters and importers and helps the competitiveness of Indian industry. A number of steps are taken to monitor inflows and a number of other steps are taken by the Reserve Bank through monetary instruments. When we find that the fiscal instruments are necessary, we take fiscal steps. Some fiscal steps have been taken in the Budget.

Implementation of NREGS

+

*222. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise categories of community assets created so far and their value in money terms since the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) across the country;

(b) the nature of irregularities noticed in implementation of the scheme;

(c) whether the Government has taken up corrective measure along with the State Governments, as far as the mal-implementation of NREGS is concerned with special reference to false muster rolls, siphoning of funds, inflated payment to contractors etc; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Under NREGA, 2.10 crore households had been provided employment during 2006-07 and 3.02 crore households have been provided employment during the current year up to February, 2008. As a result of this employment, community assets have been created. Since the launch of the Act, a total of 2330053 works have been taken up out of which 1171353 are water conservation works (50.27%), 328886 works relate to land development (14.11%), 441388 works relate to rural connectivity (18.94%) and 307850 works relate to provision of irrigation facility and horticulture plantation to land owned by SC, ST, BPL families and beneficiaries of land reforms and IAY (13.21%). State-wise works taken up so far under NREGA for creation of community assets, benefits created and expenditure incurred on them is given in Annexure.

(b) Ministry of Rural Development undertakes rigorous reviews of NREGA through independent monitors called National level Monitors and through Area Officers of the Ministry. CAG was also requested by the Ministry to undertake performance audit of NREGA for the year 2006-07 in 68 phase I districts. Some irregularities have been reported in the implementation of NREGS. These mainly relate to procedures such as application for employment, issue of dated receipts, job card formats, muster rolls, maintenance of record registers. In addition, complaints have also been received from various quarters regarding irregularities in the implementation of NREGA. State-wise details of the complaints along with the action taken by the Ministry thereon have been put on the web site www.nrega.nic.in under the heading "Complaints".

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Measures taken by the Government to check the mal-implementation of NREGS are as given below.

(1) Transparency

(i) Payment of wages through workers accounts in Banks/post offices:

(a) Instructions have been issued to state governments for coordination with the Department of Posts to ensure that accounts of NREGA workers are opened in Banks/ Post offices for payment of wages and are made fully effective during 2008-09.

(b) Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the State governments and Department of Posts to ensure smooth payment to workers through their postal accounts is being finalised.

(c) Workers accounts in Banks/Post offices have been opened in some states. Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Karnataka have taken the lead in this direction. Other states that have reported their progress so far are Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. A total of 11028779 accounts have so far been opened in these states. Remaining states are taking action in this regard.

(ii) States have been advised to conduct social audit of each and every work of NREGA within three months. Social Audit has been done in 76000 Gram Panchayats.

(iii) Citizen Information Board has been introduced. This board is to be displayed at all prominent places. This will enable the local community to know the works being undertaken under NREGA and would also facilitate the process of spreading awareness about the programme.

(2) Generating Awareness

Various steps have been taken to generate awareness about NREGA.

(i) Initiatives taken by State Government:

a) Gram Sabhas and one day orientation of all Sarpanches at the Block level have been held.

b) Leaflets and brochures in local language are being provided.

- c) Village camps have been organized by the District teams and Self help Groups are being associated in the awareness generation.

(ii) Action taken by the Central Government:

- a) CAPART has been asked to provide training to the NGOs and Civil Society organisations associated in the awareness generation campaign.
- b) The Government of India has decided to introduce awards to be known as Rozgar Jagrookta Puraskar (Employment awareness awards) to recognize the outstanding contribution by the civil society organisations for promoting effective implementation of NREGA in different states of the country.
- c) Use of media, TV spots, radio jingles, advertisements, films.
- d) Development and dissemination of brochures and peoples primers.

(3) Vigilance and Monitoring

- (i) Implementation of NREG Act is monitored on regular basis. Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up at State as well as district levels. Local MPs are the members of the district Vigilance and Monitoring Committees. Village level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have also been set up for local monitoring. Members of the Central Employment Guarantee Council also undertake field visits to various districts. National level Monitors and Area Officers visit various districts to oversee the progress of the Act. So far, NLMs have made 331 visits to Phase I and Phase II districts.
- (ii) Muster Roll verification has to be done in a campaign mode and consolidated reports sent to the Ministry. So far, 4621120 Muster rolls have been verified. 1126914 Muster rolls have been placed on the website.

(4) Regular Review of NREGA

(i) Review with State Governments

- a) During the year 2007-2008, three Regional Review Committee meetings have been held to cover review of all States. These were held at Bhubaneswar (16-17 Sept.), Jaipur (24-25 September) and Guwahati (9-10 October).

- b) Review meeting with State Secretaries (Rural Development) of all States was held on 18.12.07 in Delhi.

- c) Meeting of the Performance Review Committee was held in Delhi during 16-17 January, 2008.

- d) A meeting with State Secretaries (RD) of all States was held in Delhi in January, 2008 to discuss the draft CAG report.

(ii) State specific reviews

Five state specific review meetings have been held. These were with the Government of Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

(iii) Interaction with representatives of people

Progress of NREGA was reviewed in the interactive session with Members of Parliament held during 20th-23rd August, 2007 and 5th-6th September, 2007.

Minister of Rural Development has sent 4 letters to Chief Ministers of all States and 3 letters to Members of Parliament informing them about the status of implementation of the Act from time to time.

5) MIS/ e- Knowledge Network

- (i) A comprehensive Web-based MIS www.nrega.nic.in has been implemented which places all data in public domain. This data pertains to workers' entitlements like registration, Job cards, muster rolls, employment demanded and provided; work data like sanctioned shelf of works, work estimates, work in progress, measurement; Financial indicators like funds available/spent, amount paid as wages, materials and administrative expenses. Data software has been engineered for cross verification of records and for report generation. Details of 25001781 Job Cards and 1126914 Muster rolls have been placed on the website.

- (ii) Ministry of Rural Development has introduced e-knowledge network for effective implementation of NREGA. Innovations at worksites and local solutions are very helpful in meeting the challenges of implementation of NREGA across the country. E-knowledge network helps in lateral transfer of these local solutions, especially among the District Programme Coordinators. The knowledge network aims at connecting practitioners and providing solutions on demand through a knowledge pool built up dynamically by exchange of information, ideas and best practices.

Annexure*Community Assests created so far under NREGA (From Feb. 2006 to Feb., 2008)*

S. No.	States	Water Conservation and Water Harvesting				Provision of Irrigation faculty to Land Owned by SC and ST, Beneficiaries of land reform, Beneficiaries of IAY				Drought Proofing			
		a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d
		No. of Works	% against Total Works	Unit (Lakhs Cu. Mt.)	Expenditure (in Lakhs)	No. of Works	% against Total Works	Unit (Lakhs Hectare)	Expendi- ture (in Lakhs)	No. of Works	% against Total Works	Unit (Lakhs Hectare)	Expendi- ture (in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	254783	39.41	704.6707	60524.81	36289	5.61	0.1084	8167.53	83458	12.91	3.9169	14526.50
2	Assam	1919	7.90	5.3079	5766.43	634	2.61	0.0017	1356.07	819	3.37	0.0388	2788.09
3	Bihar	28717	21.37	79.4271	29599.31	1110	0.83	0.0031	1254.47	3573	2.66	0.1699	2983.45
4	Gujarat	12303	44.12	34.0240	5749.02	4736	16.98	0.0122	2519.86	4523	16.22	0.2196	1080.74
5	Haryana	1009	25.16	2.7908	2030.39	9	0.22	0.0000	18.12	222	5.53	0.0108	424.26
6	Himachal Pradesh	2192	8.73	6.0624	1244.45	262	1.04	0.0008	299.94	554	2.21	0.0262	345.52
7	Jammu and Kashmir	796	11.11	2.2014	706.31	433	6.04	0.0011	544.52	175	2.44	0.0083	223.81
8	Karnataka	13306	35.06	36.8043	15977.42	2588	6.82	0.0066	2570.72	4220	11.12	0.2002	5026.57
9	Kerala	3540	25.66	9.7900	2160.27	230	1.67	0.0006	190.21	255	1.85	0.0123	250.58
10	Arunachal Pradesh	39	7.51	0.1079	27.41	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00	226	43.55	0.0101	109.19
11	Madhya Pradesh	109290	24.03	302.3086	131676.76	155937	34.28	0.4210	96549.34	35196	7.74	1.6752	32192.56
12	Maha- rashtra	10980	51.86	30.3715	15826.13	62	0.29	0.0002	15.25	4322	20.41	0.2025	4584.77
13	Manipur	833	19.79	2.3040	867.86	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00	556	13.21	0.0260	717.78
14	Meghalaya	1631	20.63	4.5112	1053.36	55	0.70	0.0001	33.83	1411	17.84	0.0670	1171.82
15	Mizoram	27	1.88	0.0747	168.68	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00
16	Nagaland	216	31.76	0.5973	369.24	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00	17	2.50	0.0008	211.81
17	Orissa	30364	28.20	83.9658	15214.56	11984	11.13	0.0244	16714.69	2967	2.76	0.1383	3629.82
18	Punjab	33	0.98	0.0912	45.27	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00	473	14.01	0.0231	114.93
19	Rajasthan	27019	33.08	74.7258	64721.61	24667	30.20	0.0733	9751.15	2295	2.81	0.1083	6427.58
20	Sikkim	22	3.61	0.0608	23.26	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00	10	1.64	0.0005	4.00
21	Tamil Nadu	4417	18.84	12.2155	12941.30	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00	7	0.03	0.0003	15.80
22	Tripura	2749	5.47	7.6042	2421.24	487	0.97	0.0014	250.13	1411	2.81	0.0682	1413.64

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
23	Uttar Pradesh	27875	13.43	77.0918	32587.78	7961	3.84	0.0231	5348.00	17197	8.29	0.8218	11316.71
24	West Bengal	16829	14.34	46.5453	16500.96	2364	2.01	0.0063	1737.41	18883	16.09	0.8952	12097.30
25	Chhattisgarh	12019	11.58	33.2411	23802.78	10677	10.29	0.0315	4185.27	10437	10.06	0.4923	21365.17
26	Jharkhand	79640	38.55	220.2523	59639.26	47183	22.84	0.1264	33481.84	4118	1.99	0.1999	3156.13
27	Uttaranchal	6249	39.05	17.2847	4000.52	182	1.14	0.0005	108.38	2210	13.81	0.1036	1631.47
Total		648797	27.84	1794.4324	543712.98	307850	13.21	0.8427	175193.85	199535	8.56	9.4359	148825.80

Community Assets created so far under NREGA (From Feb., 2006 to Feb., 2008)

S. No.	States	Micro Irrigation Works				Food Control and Protection				Renovation of Traditional Water bodies			
		a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d
		No. of Works	% against Total Works	Unit (Lakhs Km.)	Expenditure (in Lakhs)	No. of Works	% against Total Works	Unit (Lakhs Km.)	Expenditure (in Lakhs)	No. of Works	% against Total Works	Unit (Lakhs Cu. Mt.)	Expenditure (in Lakhs)
1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1	Andhra Pradesh	37151	5.75	0.1832	9672.82	5149	0.80	0.7829	3756.68	47114	7.29	378.1809	38863.64
2	Assam	1676	6.90	0.0082	4352.61	2916	12.00	0.4829	15482.24	584	2.40	4.6877	2200.80
3	Bihar	7385	5.50	0.0362	8151.63	6183	4.60	0.9922	7179.49	10944	8.15	87.8468	10809.95
4	Gujarat	132	0.47	0.0006	133.98	904	3.24	0.1434	533.37	1129	4.05	9.0624	815.18
5	Haryana	386	9.62	0.0019	610.77	91	2.27	0.0140	164.18	418	10.42	3.3553	875.68
6	Himachal Pradesh	2022	8.06	0.0099	1175.79	2281	9.09	0.3620	1352.89	897	3.57	7.2001	559.23
7	Jammu and Kashmir	478	6.67	0.0024	535.92	2252	31.43	0.3556	2132.43	208	2.90	1.6696	230.56
8	Karnataka	1315	3.46	0.0064	1903.22	2029	5.35	0.3340	2501.61	2397	6.32	19.2405	2354.38
9	Kerala	1578	11.44	0.0078	924.25	3579	25.95	0.5623	1816.58	2198	15.93	17.6432	1473.62
10	Arunachal Pradesh	3	0.58	0.0000	5.68	13	2.50	0.0020	37.34	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00
11	Madhya Pradesh	11314	2.49	0.0555	9328.98	1745	0.38	0.2876	3497.36	10366	2.28	83.2073	18043.85
12	Maharashtra	43	0.20	0.0002	45.63	165	0.78	0.0271	359.15	963	4.55	7.7300	874.48
13	Manipur	329	7.82	0.0016	467.26	60	1.43	0.0093	142.17	23	0.55	0.1846	35.20
14	Meghalaya	392	4.96	0.0019	351.24	164	2.07	0.0284	238.45	931	11.77	7.4731	474.88
15	Mizoram	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00	21	1.46	0.0037	131.20	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00

1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
16	Nagaland	38	5.59	0.0002	223.46	12	1.76	0.0019	795.41	50	7.35	0.4013	74.01
17	Orissa	1745	1.62	0.0083	3084.20	936	0.87	0.1562	1219.47	6381	5.93	51.2193	8126.20
18	Punjab	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00	125	3.70	0.0203	332.68	1071	31.72	8.5969	1250.38
19	Rajasthan	1735	2.12	0.0085	4717.30	908	1.11	0.1428	2271.60	8607	10.54	69.0877	24123.72
20	Sikkim	78	12.79	0.0004	157.26	223	36.56	0.0361	409.37	19	3.11	0.1525	7.93
21	Tamil Nadu	4536	19.35	0.0223	12009.95	129	0.55	0.0206	284.89	10685	45.58	85.7678	29884.30
22	Tripura	2448	4.87	0.0121	11202.8	825	1.64	0.1299	779.83	4258	8.48	34.1789	659.09
23	Uttar Pradesh	6160	2.97	0.0299	6594.54	9140	4.40	1.4710	9806.78	29074	14.01	233.3748	37131.24
24	West Bengal	6808	5.80	0.0334	5841.63	10763	9.17	1.7152	10943.48	12961	11.04	104.0370	13970.84
25	Chhattisgarh	3085	2.97	0.0152	13605.72	586	0.56	0.0932	1888.02	9569	9.22	76.8099	18575.66
26	Jharkhand	3010	1.46	0.0149	2016.92	887	0.43	0.1380	823.52	10796	5.23	86.6586	7887.71
27	Uttaranchal	1440	9.00	0.0071	1314.43	3137	19.60	0.5004	2595.95	868	5.42	6.9674	517.12
	Total	95287	4.09	0.4680	88063.64	55223	2.37	8.8111	66080.19	172511	7.40	1384.7337	216474.97

Community Assets created so far under NREGA (From Feb., 2006 to Feb., 2008)

S. No.	States	Land Development				Rural Connectivity				Any Other activity Approved by MRD		
		a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c
		No. of Works	% against Total Works	Unit (Lakhs Hectare)	Expenditure (in Lakhs)	No. of Works	% against Total Works	Unit (Lakhs Km.)	Expenditure (in Lakhs)	No. of Works	% against Total Works	Expenditure (in Lakhs)
1	2	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
1	Andhra Pradesh	178075	27.54	6.7560	51499.78	4475	0.69	0.0583	4034.93	0	0.00	0.00
2	Assam	3335	13.73	0.1263	9576.08	11565	47.61	0.1520	47838.15	843	3.47	3168.48
3	Bihar	3128	2.33	0.1187	2812.78	54560	40.61	0.7146	57842.19	18759	13.96	19966.64
4	Gujarat	328	1.18	0.0124	281.97	3709	13.30	0.0486	3222.70	124	0.44	20.59
5	Haryana	451	11.24	0.0171	927.13	1422	35.45	0.0186	2637.59	3	0.07	6.53
6	Himachal Pradesh	695	2.77	0.0264	472.73	14130	56.31	0.1847	7485.36	2062	8.22	763.62
7	Jammu and Kashmir	1096	15.30	0.0416	1164.01	1724	24.06	0.0225	1634.86	2	0.03	3.00
8	Karnataka	2418	6.37	0.0918	2506.54	8773	23.11	0.1151	9590.75	908	2.39	1205.01

1	2	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
9	Kerala	1667	12.08	0.0633	6245.23	741	5.37	0.0097	354.07	6	0.04	0.82
10	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00	74	14.26	0.0010	47.82	164	31.60	73.19
11	Madhya Pradesh	64893	14.27	2.4635	23233.09	65493	14.40	0.8568	124166.41	594	0.13	654.08
12	Maharashtra	542	2.56	0.0206	678.46	2264	10.69	0.0296	3954.42	1831	8.65	3271.07
13	Manipur	815	19.36	0.0309	892.68	1593	37.85	0.0208	1685.27	0	0.00	0.00
14	Meghalaya	489	6.18	0.0185	370.15	2834	35.84	0.0370	3021.90	0	0.00	0.00
15	Mizoram	21	1.46	0.0008	10.71	628	43.76	0.0082	4112.27	738	51.43	411.20
16	Nagaland	16	2.35	0.0006	181.03	250	36.76	0.0033	1113.52	81	11.91	0.00
17	Orissa	362	0.34	0.0137	475.62	48186	44.75	0.8310	57640.03	4748	4.41	5994.34
18	Punjab	323	9.57	0.0122	386.09	1351	40.02	0.0177	2437.17	0	0.00	0.00
19	Rajasthan	1845	2.26	0.0700	3001.11	14315	17.53	0.1873	39615.73	282	0.35	886.40
20	Sikkim	15	2.46	0.0006	15.16	227	37.21	0.0030	265.09	16	2.62	48.99
21	Tamil Nadu	0	0.00	0.0000	0.00	3669	15.65	0.0478	8652.15	0	0.00	0.00
22	Tripura	4069	8.10	0.1546	2396.61	7829	15.59	0.1021	6720.12	26157	52.07	3889.92
23	Uttar Pradesh	12376	5.96	0.4697	10135.83	88114	42.46	1.1525	104441.79	9612	4.63	6889.20
24	West Bengal	9534	8.12	0.3618	7010.74	37609	32.05	0.4917	36531.46	1599	1.36	1465.38
25	Chhattisgarh	30822	29.69	1.1694	31105.92	24814	23.91	0.3243	49665.15	1788	1.72	3683.74
26	Jharkhand	11339	5.49	0.4304	3978.12	39845	19.29	0.5204	39371.33	9768	4.73	5088.88
27	Uttaranchal	232	1.45	0.0068	200.30	1194	7.46	0.0157	867.22	491	3.07	295.44
Total		328886	14.11	12.4798	183560.73	441388	18.94	5.7741	562886.43	80576	3.46	50689.60

Community Assets created so far under NREGA (From Feb., 2006 to Feb., 2008)

S. No.	States	Total Water Conservation Works			Total Works	
		No. of Works	% against Total Works	Expenditure (in Lakhs)	No. of Works	Expenditure (in Lakhs)
1	2	38	39	40	41	42
1	Andhra Pradesh	427655	66.15	128344.45	646494	192046.69
2	Assam	7914	32.58	30590.18	24291	92528.96

1	2	38	39	40	41	42
3	Bihar	56802	42.28	58723.83	134359	140599.92
4	Gujarat	18991	68.10	8312.29	27888	14357.41
5	Haryana	2126	53.00	4105.28	4011	7694.65
6	Himachal Pradesh	7946	31.66	4677.89	25095	13699.53
7	Jammu and Kashmir	3909	54.56	3829.02	7164	7175.41
8	Karnataka	23267	61.30	27763.20	37954	43636.22
9	Kerala	11150	80.83	6625.30	13794	13415.63
10	Arunachal Pradesh	281	54.14	179.61	519	300.62
11	Madhya Pradesh	167911	36.92	194739.51	454828	439342.43
12	Maharashtra	16473	77.81	21690.15	21172	29609.35
13	Manipur	1801	42.79	2230.27	4209	4808.22
14	Meghalaya	4529	57.28	3289.74	7907	6715.62
15	Mizoram	48	3.34	299.88	1435	4834.07
16	Nagaland	333	48.97	1673.93	680	2968.48
17	Orissa	42393	39.37	31274.25	107673	112098.93
18	Punjab	1702	50.41	1743.25	3376	4566.51
19	Rajasthan	40564	49.67	102261.80	81673	155516.19
20	Sikkim	352	57.70	601.81	610	931.05
21	Tamil Nadu	19774	84.35	55136.24	23443	63788.39
22	Tripura	11691	23.27	6394.09	50233	19650.87
23	Uttar Pradesh	89446	43.10	97437.05	207509	224251.86
24	West Bengal	66244	56.45	59354.21	117350	106099.20
25	Chhattisgarh	35696	34.39	79237.35	103797	167877.44
26	Jharkhand	98451	47.66	73523.54	206586	155443.72
27	Uttaranchal	13904	86.88	10059.49	16003	11530.83
	Total	1171353	50.27	1063157.58	2330053	2035488.18

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all know that under the flagship programme of UPA Government, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was enacted and under this, employment security is being provided all over the country. This programme is the brainchild of the Chairperson of UPA – Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. This programme will be implemented in 596 districts of India from first April. The hon'ble Minister, in reply to my question has given detailed description, however, two-four things have come up for which I would like to have a detailed reply from the Minister. I have asked about the value in term of money of work done under the NREGA, the number of job cards issued till date and the number of applications received so far. The information in this regard has not been given in the reply. There is one more discrepancy in it and one more thing should have been clarified. Till now employment has been provided to three crore two lakh households under this scheme but only 1,10,28,779 accounts have been opened. That means the bank accounts of all those households who have been provided employment have not been opened so far. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to what is the national average of NREGA as on date. How many work days are there at the caste level in term of national average?

Along with this, I would especially like to ask as to how many people have been provided employment till date in three communist states of Tripura, Kerala and Bengal.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I wish they were Communist States.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: It is because the Communists are pseudo-revolutionary at this moment.

MR. SPEAKER: If that gives you satisfaction, well you may have it, but still you are in trouble in West Bengal.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the main question. I have clarified that three crore two lakh families have been provided employment in 330 districts and more than 120 crore man days have been generated. Presently, it is peak season. So, every precaution has been taken to maintain transparency and check irregularities. The State Governments have been asked to make payment from the nearest branches of banks till 31st March and where there is no bank branches, their accounts should be opened in post offices. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have opened the accounts of all the beneficiaries. Besides, it has also been started in Jharkhand, Bihar and other States. I have given instructions that all the

payments should essentially be made through the accounts opened in the branches of banks and post offices. In the main reply to question itself, I have said that employment has been provided to three crore two lakh people and nearly one crore ten or eleven lakh accounts have been opened. There is quick progress in this regard. All the State Governments have issued orders. There were some difficulties in post offices, however, we are taking action to ensure that payment is made by 31st March. The hon'ble Member wanted to know the caste-wise details in this regard. In the year 2008-09, employment has been provided to nearly 25 percent Scheduled Castes and 36 percent Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Please tell us the national average.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Just now, I am giving you information, 40 percent women and 38 percent others have got employment. We have formulated law in such a way that at least one third women are included, however, their number is 40 percent which is more than one third and 36-38 percent Scheduled Tribes and 25-26 percent Scheduled Castes people are getting employment. This scheme is heading towards a great success. Our purpose was to provide employment and people are getting employment. Till now, such a grand wage employment programme has never been implemented in the world. The hon'ble Member has also asked about left ruled states. I would like to say specifically about Bengal that employment has been provided to 39 lakh 84 thousand families in West Bengal. Complaints have been received in this regard. People's participation, people's awareness, State Vigilance and monitoring, transparency and accountability, this five point programme has been implemented. We are involving NGOs and civil society in it as their help is essential. The cooperation of the hon'ble Members is also essential. We have started sending monthly progress report to all by E-mail. We will inform all 385 hon'ble Members, not only about NREGS but also about all rural development schemes. We are continuously monitoring through District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee headed by the local MP to ensure mass participation. Social auditing or social investigation is being discussed for a long time. In fact rules regarding the social auditing have been formulated and intimated to the State governments. Letters have been written four times to the hon'ble Chief Minister because we have to depend on the State Government and the Panchayati Raj institutions. Along with this, there is acute shortage of vigilance officers and staff and we have told the State Governments in this regard also. So, there is some variation in the overall performance. In some districts we have found exemplary performance. Experts are of the opinion that there will be water crisis in coming times, however, it is the magic of

NREGA, employment guarantee scheme that 50 percent work of the water harvesting has been done under the said scheme. We have been circulating reports to Hon'ble Members in each session in connection with all the works done in this regard viz. rural water bodies reservoirs, renovation of traditional water bodies, provision of irrigation facilities. If the Hon'ble Members come forward to participate, this revolutionary legislation will definitely help in eradicating poverty so that poor people can earn livelihood, at the same time their distress exodus can be checked. We are heading towards this success. We have completed second year of the new plan and now we are going to implement it in all the districts of the country in the third year. Therefore, participation of all the people is necessary in this regard ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister has completed his reply.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given his reply in detail, but through you, I seek ten percent of his time. First of all, I would like to know about the national average and the details of work being done within 100 days as per national average and the status of this national average in West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala. The hon. Minister has not replied this point.

My second point is that you had appointed the CAG. The administrative and technical shortcomings have been pointed out in the CAG report which are regarding the Master roll, job card, the rate and the minimum wages presented by the State Government but not being actually paid etc. The hon. Minister has termed it as a revolutionary step but in true sense, it has become a silent revolution. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please put your question, it is not a debate.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: For this revolution, the farmers did not have to shed their blood at all. For the ...* no such incident took place. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is disallowed. Please put your question. It is not a debate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER:

[Translation]

You please take your seat.

[English]

I have deleted it. Please do not get too touchy.

*Not recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This does not make any difference. If he feels somewhat relieved, let him have it.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister said that are MPs got the opportunity to participate in it. I am a Member of Parliament from West Bengal. There the opposition there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not your question. You are making a speech.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: There is one...* we know that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow this thing.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, it is very much relevant. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, the hon. Minister has dealt with it in details. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chaudhury, please put your question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: In West Bengal, MPs of the opposition party are not given any opportunity to contribute towards NREGS. These days we are not getting any information of this fund. We are not heading any monitoring committee. I would like to ask. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat now.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I am putting a direct question now.

MR. SPEAKER: That means so far all indirect questions were being put.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever you have perceived, please speak

*Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you, please take your seats.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member has expressed his desire to know about hundred days' employment. I would like to say that as many as 22 lakh families have been provided employment of hundred days. However, the average of last year is 44 Days and the current average is 41 Days. Presently, the peak season is on. This will be further carried on. Thus, so many people have got employment by now. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: You please provide the data in respect of West Bengal.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I will present the data of different States. Here, I am producing the national average. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? This is very strange.

[Translation]

Is this the way to seek reply?

[English]

Please do not do like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record one word of him.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He himself has raised the question. He wants to know the national average. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not worth listening. You please speak in short.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have stated that as many as 22 lakh families have been offered employment of 100 days. He will be apprised of the details state-wise separately. ...(Interruptions) Vigilance Monitoring Committee. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: At first, tell us about the average of West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening here?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will ask you to go out.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, that is another thing. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is the thing. What are you trying to do here? Will you please sit down?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, it is my legitimate right to know this. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I will send him the details of different states.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: You please tell us now. ...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The National Average didn't figure in the main question. His question was regarding the creation of assets and the corrective measures taken thereon. Now, he is raising the issue of national average. I have also given an oral reply to the question. But, it is not possible to produce state-wise details without going through the papers. I will apprise you of it separately. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: You have not given unemployment allowance in West Bengal. Please say about it. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It seems to be a matter of joke that the House is being disturbed and some hon. Members are enjoying it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you sit down? You are also disturbing. Behave with some sense of responsibility.

[Translation]

This is not a place to joke.

[English]

Everyday I am seeing what is going on. Important questions are being raised and this Hour is being misused.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

Hon. Members, I have got a list of 25 hon. Members who want to put supplementaries which I cannot allow. I am again prepared to allow a full discussion on the subject. I will do it. Please give notices which I will allow and I am sure the hon. Minister will agree to a discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you take your seats? We have not even completed two Questions and 27 minutes are gone. Please sit down. It will depend on me and not on you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, I will not allow you any longer. I will ask you to go out unless you take your seat. Will you go out or not?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please leave the House. Please go out.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You do all that you wish to do.

...(Interruptions)

Inflation

+

223. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been able to check the price rise and inflation;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years on quarterly basis;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has apprehended any upward pressure of inflation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

Statement

(a) Government accords topmost priority to controlling inflation, which is constantly monitored and reviewed. The headline inflation, as measured by WPI, as on February 23, 2008 at 5.02 per cent was lower than 6.20 per cent

recorded a year ago. The current inflation rate for primary articles and manufactured products also decelerated to 6.28 and 4.33 per cent from 11.58 and 6.11 per cent respectively, recorded a year ago. Annual inflation rate for the fuel and power group accelerated to 5.64 per cent from February 24, 2007, but, this group contributes less than a quarter of the overall price rise.

(b) The year-on-year quarterly inflation based on average Wholesale Price Index is indicated in the table below:

Table: Quarterly inflation rates based on WPI (per cent)

Year/ Quarter	All commodities	Primary articles	Fuel group	Manufactured products
2006-07				
Apr-Jun	4.6	6.0	8.8	2.4
Jul-Sep	5.1	6.2	7.0	3.9
Oct-Dec	5.6	8.0	4.5	5.0
Jan-Mar	6.4	11.1	2.3	6.3
2007-08				
Apr-Jun	5.4	9.8	0.3	5.7
Jul-Sep	4.1	8.9	-2.0	4.8
Oct-Dec	3.4	4.7	0.5	4.1
Jan-Feb(P)	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.2

P: Provisional

(c) and (d) Through its anti-inflationary monetary policy, the Reserve Bank of India supports government's policy of non-inflationary growth.

Anti-inflationary policies of the government include fiscal discipline, rationalization of duties of essential items, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system. The policies of the Reserve Bank of India and of the Government complement each other.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rate of inflation is increasing day by day due to erroneous economic policies of the Government. The inflation rate of 4.11 percent in January has risen to 5.02 percent in February and has further increased after the presentation of the budget which has resulted in price-hike of essential commodities. The price-rise has gone up so much so that has caused threat to the survival of the people belonging to the lower and middle

income groups. I would like to submit that our industrial production has come down from 11.6 percent to 5.3 per cent. Our manufacturing growth has come down from 12.3 percent to 5.9 percent and the consumer durables has seen a decline from 5.3 percent to 3.1 percent .

[English]

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, about the effective measures that have been taken by the Government to control the rising trend of inflation and the unbearable price rise of essential commodities.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question. This is the time to put supplementary. All these people make speeches and put irrelevant questions.

[English]

Or is it that everybody here wants to dictate the Chair?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for his supplementary.

Inflation is a matter that causes worry to every Government and inflation is on the rise. Certainly all of us should be concerned as to why inflation is on the rise and what steps can be taken to control it. Between April, 2001 and October, 2007, WPI declined from 6.28 per cent to 3.11 per cent. Since then, there has been a rise in the WPI and I would like the hon. Members to bear with me while I read out what is happening internationally and nationally which is contributing to the rise in WPI.

For example, in 2004, the average price of crude oil was 37 dollars a barrel; in April 2007, it was 65 dollars a barrel; in February 2008, it was 93 dollars a barrel; and today it is 110 dollars a barrel. I would like to cite the example of palm oil, which is the benchmark edible oil and it influences the prices of all other oils. In 2004, the price of palm oil was 471 dollars a metric tonne; in April 2007 it was 710 dollars a metric tonne; in February 2008, it was 1,177 dollars a metric tonne; and in the last fifteen days, it has increased by 100 dollars per metric tonne. This is imported from Malaysia and Indonesia. Let me just give you one more example, that is rice. Thailand rice, FOB, was 225 dollars a metric tonne in 2004; in April 2007 it was 296 dollars a metric tonne; in January 2008 it was 364 dollars a metric tonne; and today it costs 510 dollars a metric tonne.

Today, the inflation is driven by commodity prices. In the Budget speech I pointed out a number of other non-edible commodities, which I do not wish to repeat, like copper, tin, zinc, steel, etc. It is driven by commodity prices and within the commodity prices, it is driven by primary food articles.

Now, when we give Rs. 1,000/- per quintal for wheat which the farmers deserve, it will reflect in the retail prices. When there is a demand for giving Rs. 1,000/- per quintal for paddy as against the current price of Rs. 740, it will reflect in domestic prices. When States demand higher royalty for minerals, it will reflect in domestic prices.

The point is some matters are under our control. For example, for manufactured products the inflation contribution is very low. It is still well under 3.5 per cent. That can be influenced by monetary and fiscal policies. But world over food and fuel prices are not influenced either by fiscal policy or by monetary policy, certainly not by monetary policy, though to some extent by fiscal policy. We have cut duties. We have cut import duties and excise duties in order to see that these articles do not suffer tax. On food articles, there is hardly any tax.

I wish to take the House into confidence, internationally there is a rising trend in commodity prices, especially food prices. The only way we can insulate ourselves from international food prices is to become self-sufficient in a few items, like wheat, rice, sugar, edible oils and pulses. We are nearly self-sufficient in rice; we are marginal importers of wheat; but we are major importers of edible oils and pulses. As long as we are dependent on imports, we are subject to international prices.

Let me explain what steps we have taken in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: I think you have dealt with that in your reply.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes, I have.

We are taking monetary and fiscal steps. The monetary steps are listed in my reply; and fiscal steps are announced in the Budget. I am prepared to take any other fiscal steps in order to keep inflation down. But I wish to tell the House most humbly and respectfully that we are not insulated from international commodity prices and international food prices.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have mentioned just now that rise in prices of the essential commodities has a direct impact on inflation. The Hon'ble Minister argued that since they import crude oil, palm oil, so it is natural that prices will rise but there is steep rise in the prices of the foodgrains or the domestic oils. The price of steel has increased by Rs. 10 per kilo in one week, the prices of cement have gone up and due to this inflation has gone up. Hon'ble Minister has said that he is taking fiscal measures. Last week he said that it was upto the RBI to decide how to reduce the interest rates or the way by which these are the commodities of forward trading. ... (Interruptions) Are the

Government going to take any steps or not about those four commodities on which they have imposed a ban? Hon'ble Minister had made an announcement, but no effective measures are being taken. Will the hon'ble Minister take some further steps in this regard or take some steps to reduce the interest rates?

[Translation]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the hon. Member knows better than a Minister in the Government that interest rate is one of the most effective instruments to contain inflation. That is why, this is part of monetary management. When inflationary tendencies or inflationary expectations are visible in the economy, the RBI necessarily has to use the interest rate as an instrument. If inflationary expectations are contained, there is, of course, scope to reduce interest rates. But when inflationary expectations are present in the economy, we must trust the RBI to use the interest rate instrument to contain inflation. That is a well-accepted proposition and we will have to leave it to the RBI to decide what the signalling or policy rates will be.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the official indices have been registering only a marginal increase in the rate of inflation whereas the prices of all essential commodities have been registering a consistent rise, a phenomenal rise which is affecting the *Aam Admi*. Why are the initiatives taken by the Government not yielding the desired results and what concrete steps is the Government taking for us to become self-sufficient?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The last part of the question was dealt with elaborately on a number of occasions by the hon. Minister of Agriculture and very briefly in my Budget Speech. As I said, no large country like India can depend upon imports of food grains and other essential articles of food because, then, we will be importing inflation into the country. We have to become self-sufficient. That is why, we have announced the Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Yojana and the National Food Security Mission. One has an allocation of Rs.25,000 crore and the other has an allocation of Rs.4882 crore. Hopefully, in the next three to four years, we will increase rice production by 10 million tonnes; wheat production by 8 million tonnes and pulses production by two million tonnes in which event we will become self-sufficient.

As far as the first question about the index is concerned, I have not done anything to the index. This is the same index which has been there for the last ten years or more. This is the same index which is here today. It is being constructed by the same agency. I am not doing anything to the index. It is this index which reflects that the WPI declined. As I said a

little while ago answering the hon. Member Shri Kashiram Rana, it declined from a little over 6 per cent to 3.2 per cent. It is now rising from 3.2 per cent to close to 5 per cent. This index is the same index. However, there is a group now which is trying to construct a revised index reflecting the current basket of goods and services which are consumed. When that index is available, maybe, it will more accurately – from your point of view and from my point of view – reflect what is happening in the market. But I am using the indices which are available for the last several years going back nearly to 10-15 years.

MR. SPEAKER: I think there is a complete answer and the debate on the Budget is going on. So, we go to the next question.

Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid – not present.

Shri Dushyant Singh.

[English]

Wind Energy in the Coastal Areas

+

*224. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

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

(a) whether there is a vast potential for harnessing wind energy in the coastal areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action plan/strategy formulated to harness the same during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR):
(a) and (b) Statement is laid on the Table of the house.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. However, wind surveys carried out at 71 locations along the coastal areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal; Lakshadweep, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have indicated potential for harnessing wind energy at 27 locations.

(b) A wind power capacity of 7844 MW has been installed in the country as on 31.12.2007 including potential coastal areas. A target of 10,500 MW wind power capacity has been planned in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period including in potential coastal areas. Strategy for promoting wind power projects through private sector

investment is being continued during the 11th Plan by providing various fiscal incentives such as concessional import duty on certain components of wind electric generator, excise duty exemption, ten years' tax holiday on income generated from wind power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation, loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Technical support is provided by the Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET) by way of detailed wind resource assessment to identify further potential sites. This apart, higher tariff is being provided for wind power in all the potential States.

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Through you, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that there is a tremendous potential to increase power through wind energy but the funds earmarked for the purpose of wind energy is very inadequate. The Budget allocation for the year 2007-08 was only Rs.15.5 crore. For the current year, the Budget allocation is only Rs.22.5 crore. How does he estimate to reach a target of 10,500 MW of wind power by the end of the Eleventh Plan?

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make it clear about the perceptions of the hon'ble Member regarding this sector that the total investment for the wind power projects have been made through the private sector. There is no harnessing work by the Ministry in this sector. Our country has the potential of 45000 MW of wind power and till now we have registered an increase of 8500 MW to it, which is about 20% achievement. Now a system has been evolved under which private sectors are registering their participation on large scale due to which we do not have to invest in the wind energy from our budget earmarked for this purpose. It is none other than the private sector due to which investment and production are increasing. Thus, we have the potential to achieve more than the target of 10,500 MW of wind power by the end of the Eleventh plan.

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Our former President Dr. Abdul Kalam had mentioned at the 5th Wind Energy Conference something about the process of wind farms for studies in off shore areas. Is the Government considering locating wind farms, especially when we have about 7000 kilometres of coastal area? Are we thinking of reducing cost for wind power from Rs. 2.50 and Rs. 3.50 to Re. 1 and Rs. 2. Is the Government considering that? Is the Government considering our former President's view?

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, our country itself has the potential of 45000 MW of wind power from both the onshore and off-shore areas. We can also translate the views expressed by our former President into action but for this we have to enter about 20-25 kilometre inside the sea and its capital cost is very high. If we enter more into the sea, we are able to get more power, but its capital cost is high. We are also making efforts on trial basis and if we receive any proposal from the State Government, we will see to it as a trial. Inside the country technology has developed; it has been developed in the private sectors also. They are making their own experiments.

[English]

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency for promoting wind power supports the renewable energy projects by providing concessional funds. I want to know as to what is the total amount of concessional funds provided for the wind power projects through private investment upto 31st December, 2008.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you providing any fund for that?

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, IREDA about which the hon'ble Minister has mentioned is a financial institution set up by our Ministry to promote and support the renewable energy projects and it was set up at the time when no commercial bank was willing to come forward to provide financial assistance to these projects, but now-a-days so many commercial banks are willing to provide financial assistance in the field of renewable energy. We provide loans through IREDA to all those projects which we receive for promoting renewable energy.

SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask only one question from the hon'ble Minister. What position does Maharashtra get out of 27 locations where potential for harnessing wind energy has been indicated in the coastal areas of the States and how many locations are there where the wind power capacity has been installed so far?

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as desired by the hon'ble Member, we will provide him the list related to Maharashtra, but there are very vast areas of wind energy and he is talking about the coastal areas. I have also said it that this is all due to privatization, and as per mapping carried out by our Ministry surveys were conducted at 71 locations out of which 27 were found suitable for harnessing wind energy. These all are indicated on our website and the map and whoever wants to invest in this sector can install his wind machines over there.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India are making efforts to increase the production of wind energy in the coastal areas. The two Ministers associated with the Ministry of power belong to Maharashtra. One is Shri Shinde and another is Shri Vilas Muttemwar. There is an acute shortage of power for the development of the country. They have carried out surveys at 71 locations in coastal areas and identified 27 potential sites including Maharashtra and Goa where wind power projects are proposed to be set up. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to how many wind power projects are planned to be installed within a year?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member wants to know about Maharashtra.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know about Maharashtra and West Bengal also.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the hon'ble Member has asked about the potential sites of Maharashtra. There is Vijay Durg in Maharashtra which has the potential of 78 MW, but these all are being done through the private sector investment, as I am repeating it again and again.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 225 Shri Rasheed - Not present
Masood

Shrimati Manorama - Not present
Madhavraj

Q. 226 Shri Harisinh - Not present
Chavda
Shri Mohan Singh

Questions are put but Members are not interested.

[Translation]

Exodus of Revenue Officers

*227. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Group 'A' and 'B' officers working in the Income Tax, Service Tax, Customs and Excise departments who left voluntarily during the last three years and till date;

(b) whether the Government has looked into the reasons therefor and whether this mass exodus has affected the functioning of the Departments concerned and also the realisation of taxes;

(c) the details of the number of vacant posts of Assistant Commissioners of Income Tax as on 31st March in each of the last three years and the efforts are being made to fill the vacant posts of Assistant Commissioners and above at the earliest;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) A total number of 247 Group 'A' officers working in the Income Tax, Service Tax, Customs and Excise departments have left voluntarily during the last three years and till date. As far as information with regard to Group 'B' officers is concerned, the same is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) There is no mass exodus of officers from the Service. The resignation/voluntarily retirement from service has been under the relevant rules applicable to the officers of the Central Services. This is not affecting the functioning of the Department or realization of taxes adversely in any manner, because the post falling vacant as a result of the Officers leaving voluntarily are being filled up every year through Direct Recruitment or Promotions, as the case may be, as per the applicable Recruitment Rules.

(c) to (e) The details of the number of vacant posts of Assistant Commissioners of Income-Tax as on 31st March in each of the last three years is as under:-

Vacancy position in the grade of Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax

as on		
31.3.2005	31.3.2006	31.3.2007
(2004-05)	(2005-06)	(2006-07)
231	247	298

Recruitments against the above vacancies have been completed.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the Ministries of Government of India, there are important departments like department of income tax, customs and excise and service tax etc. through which the Government of India collect most of their revenue. But due to constant deterioration in their service conditions large number of officials of these departments are compelled to quit jobs by taking VRS and now they are in search of other jobs outside these departments. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Finance whether the Government are making any action plan to expedite the process of promotion avenues and improve the service conditions of these services?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, with great respect to the hon. Member I do not think that there is a very large exodus. We will have to look at the total figures. The Department of Revenue, in income tax, customs and excise and service tax wings, has a total component of 7,007 Group 'A' Officers which is the sanctioned strength. The number of resignations in 3 years and 11 months is 48 and the number of voluntary retirements is 199 making a total of 247. Now, the average per year is roughly about 60 or 65. Given a complement of 7,007, a one per cent attrition rate cannot be considered an exodus. In fact, the private sector has a much larger attrition rate and when more job opportunities are available, when the private sector pays competitive salaries and when people can go abroad, you must expect some attrition. I do not think a one per cent attrition rate is a very high rate. In fact, it is very comparable to what is happening in the private sector where the turn over is sometimes over 10 per cent.

There is a well established procedure for promotions. Wherever we have to refer to the UPSC, we refer to the UPSC and the UPSC makes the promotions. I have spoken personally to the UPSC Member and requested him to compress the time limit which they take to finalise the panels and to give us the promotion list. The Member has agreed to expedite the process, but for Group 'A', I am entirely dependent on UPSC to make the promotions.

As far as other classes are concerned, we try to expedite it to the best of our ability, but we will try to improve the situation.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have brought an improvement on a large scale at the level of commissioner and Chief Commissioner by opening large number of commissionerates. But, the departments are somewhat lenient in the matter of departmental promotions for their main work forces like inspector, section officer etc. Public Service Commission has nothing to do with them, it is entirely upto the department and the Ministry as to how they make promotions, but they are very much lenient in this matter. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether their Ministry will make efforts to expedite the process of promotion avenues by filling up all those posts which are lying vacant at the level of inspector and above?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, since the question did not pertain to promotions, I do not have the data on promotions that are being done year after year, for the last three years. I could have easily obtained the data and happily shared it with the hon. Member. But if there is any fault on my part, I will correct it.

MR. SPEAKER: The information may be sent to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

Conference on Power

+

*228. DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ:
SHRI RAMESH DUBE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a day's conference of Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories was convened by his Ministry in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held therein;

(c) whether any plan has been chalked out in this conference to ensure "Power for all" by the end of the current Five Year Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Conference of Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories was held on 19th February, 2008 at New Delhi to discuss Power Sector issues. The following themes were discussed:

- (i) Accelerated Capacity Addition: Ordering of all XI Plan projects to be completed by March, 2008,
- (ii) Reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) Losses to 15%,
- (iii) Implementation of the Rajiv Gandhi Gramen Vidyutikaran Yojana,
- (iv) Implementation of Open Access in Transmission and Distribution; and
- (v) Strengthening Intra- State Transmission and Distribution Systems under the State Sector.

(c) and (d) The objective of the Conference was to understand the difficulties faced by the States with regard to the various identified issues, with a view to address them in order to meet the targets set during the current Five Year Plan.

There was a general consensus that with the coordinated efforts of both, the Centre and States, the capacity

addition target of 78,577 MW set for the XI Plan was achievable if orders for all the projects identified under this programme were placed by the States by 31st March, 2008.

It was recognized that State distribution utilities would need to make more concerted efforts to reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses to 15%. In order to ensure faster implementation of the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), States were asked to step up the pace of rural electrification so that access to electricity for rural households would be achieved in the XI Plan. All States were requested to quickly draw up plans for developing transmission, sub-transmission and distribution systems, so as to ensure that the proposed infrastructure and investments are compatible with the XI Plan generation capacity addition. They were requested to ensure independent functioning of State Load Despatch Centres (SLDCs) at the earliest and to curb practices which were not conducive to competition and unrestricted flow of electricity and to measure open access in terms of cases sanctioned and implemented. States were specifically asked to rationalize the charges levied for open access.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the target to do rural electrification by 2009 and to provide power connection to every household in every village by 2021 was fixed by the Government in the Plan surveys in the states and the Union territories? If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell with regard to the question which has been put that not only a survey is conducted but it is also monitored regularly. We had convened a meeting of the Chief Secretaries at all India level and fixed a target of capacity addition of 78577 megawatt in the Eleventh Plan. All our orders for 64-65 thousand megawatt power had been placed by the day when we had convened this meeting. Why these problems arise? For this we had called Secretaries of all States and told them that this target cannot be achieved until it is monitored. Therefore, for this a regular process is followed in the Central Electricity Authority as to from where a project is to be brought, be it hydro or thermal. I would like to assure the House that we have ensured rural electrification under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana by 2009 and my department is to achieve the target of providing electricity in one lakh villages. We have covered 45 thousand villages so far. All villages will be covered by the targeted date.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Hon'ble Minister, Sir, still I have not got reply to my question. Have the Government taken stock of the poor power situation in Uttar Pradesh the largest State in the country where thousands of villages and

towns are still deprived of electricity? Due to this poor situation of power, recently electric trains in Western U.P. came to a standstill on their respective routes. I would, therefore, like to know how many megawatt of power is proposed to be given to U.P. during 2008-09 and the time by which it is likely to be given?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that nothing has been done to generate power in U.P. during the last 10-12 years. A little capacity addition has taken place. People have to face a lot of difficulty on account of power shortage there. We are repeatedly telling them that capacity addition will have to be done.

It is a concurrent subject like education but there is a misconception throughout the country that the work of power generation is to be done by the Government of India. It is wrong. Every state should provide electricity to its people after making assessment of its power consumption. Our task is supplementary. Even then, we are ready to extend our help in generating power as per their requirement. I would like to submit that even today power is not being generated by the States. The power supplied by us from the Central projects. I would like to make a request to the hon'ble Member to kindly help us and impress upon his State to generate more power as he is a good and powerful leader.

SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the Government of India have chalked out a very ambitious plan this year to ensure "power to all" by the end of this Five Year Plan. It is a gigantic target but it seems to be an impossible task if it is assessed on realistic basis. This Government have plenty of funds but there are no power devices like transformers, conductors and poles. The Government of India's Public Sector Undertaking—the BHEL is unable to meet the demand of these devices.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put question.

SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Let alone the other states, the power situation in Delhi and its nearby areas is not secret to any one. Through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether a number of Govt. and private power plants are lying closed due to shortage of coal and power is not being generated therein. What action Government propose to take to tackle this situation?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, such a situation is not prevailing due to shortage of coal, we have coal in huge quantity. As I have just said, there is no shortage of coal. Shri Dubeji hails from Maharashtra but he is an M.P. from Uttar Pradesh. I know well that he is concerned about Uttar Pradesh. But, I would like to tell you both the Members that power generation has reduced a lot in Uttar Pradesh for the last 10-12 years. The Union Govt. have a lot of funds for

the purpose and we have recently got Rs.28 thousand crore rupees under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Viduyikaran Yojana from the Ministry of Finance in the 11th Five Year Plan. We have no paucity of funds.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hansraj Ahir. You should all watch him. Shri Ahir gives notices; sits quietly; gets opportunities; and utilizes the time.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask a question to the hon'ble Minister. As he said that they had convened a meeting of Chief Secretaries then they would definitely have expressed their concern on shortage of power and tried to find out any way out to tackle the situation in the said meeting. I would like to point out that there is a shortage of power in almost all the States of the country. I would specifically like to say that there is a shortage of 6500 MW power in Maharashtra. A demand has been made to you to meet this shortage. Maharashtra certainly has the right to make a demand for power. I would like to ask whether the Govt. are making any efforts to purchase power from neighbouring States and provide it to other states of the country. Besides, I would also like to ask whether the Union Govt. propose to make any efforts to run under their own control those state-run power plants in which power is being generated less than the capacity like Chandrapur-based power-plant the capacity of which is 2340 MW but only 1200-1300 MW power is being generated.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: A lot of assistance is provided under the A.P.G.R.P. scheme to such type of plants. But, something new was to be done in respect of the Chandrapur-I and II plants. Earlier, a capacity of 500 MW was proposed to be enhanced. But the Govt. of Maharashtra say that they want to install the super critical machines there and there are a lot of problems in doing so. But, I would like to assure you that keeping in view the shortage of power in Maharashtra, especially in Vidarbha you hail from, we are going to install in Monda a power plant with the capacity of 1000 MW through the N.T.P.C. The pace of work in this regard is so fast that the order for the machinery of that power plant would be placed within 15 days. This is the information which I would like to share with this House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri P. Karunakaran. Please put a very brief question. Not even half a minute is there.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. You can put next time. Now, Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Adoption of Children

[Translation]

*225. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated new policy for adoption of children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a large number of couples in the country, particularly in Karnataka, are unable to adopt children in view of the limited number of adoption centers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government is aware that many children fall into wrong hands in the guise of adoption and are subject to illegal activities; and
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 facilitates the adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children. As per Section 41 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 there is no restriction in adoption on account of sex, religion or caste of the child or prospective parents.

Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) is the nodal agency at national level for adoption matters and issues Guidelines for adoption procedure from time to time. Guidelines for in-country Adoption were last issued in 2004 and for Inter-country Adoption in 2006. These guidelines are subject to regular review in order to bring more simplicity and transparency in adoption procedures and to prevent child trafficking in the name of adoption.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The legal adoption procedure of orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children is very organized and structured and only agencies recognized by the State Governments can place children in adoption both in-country and inter-country. The placement is done only after a detailed home-study of the prospective adoptive parents has been done by the agency. No case of legally adopted children

falling into wrong hands and being subject to illegal activities has come to the notice of this Ministry.

- (f) Does not arise.

Participation of Foreign Companies in the Stock Exchange

*226. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the presence of Multinational companies in the stock market has increased over a period of time;

(b) whether the Government has started to implement the measures approved by it in October 2007 to streamline the participation of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in the Indian Stock Market;

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

- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAM-BARAM): (a) Yes Sir. There has been an increase in number of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and sub-accounts operating in the Indian stock markets. Over the last six months, their number has increased from 1100 FIIs and 3388 sub-accounts registered as at end September, 2007 to 1303 FIIs and 3877 sub-accounts as at end February, 2008.

(b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it has started to implement the measures approved by it in October 2007 to streamline the participation of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in the Indian Stock Market.

(c) The salient measures approved by the SEBI Board in October, 2007 are as follows:

1. FIIs and their sub-accounts shall not issue/renew Offshore Derivative Instruments (ODIs) with underlying as derivatives with immediate effect. They are required to wind up the current position over 18 months, during which period SEBI will review the position from time to time.
2. Further issuance of ODIs by the sub-accounts of FIIs will be discontinued with immediate effect. They will be required to wind up the current position over 18 months, during which period SEBI will review the position from time to time.
3. The FIIs who are currently issuing ODIs with notional value of ODIs outstanding (excluding derivatives) as a percentage of their AUC in India of less than 40% shall be allowed to issue further ODIs only at the incremental rate of 5% of their AUC in India, subject to a limit of 40%.

4. Those FIIs with notional value of PNs outstanding (excluding derivatives) as a percentage of their AUC in India of more than 40% shall issue PNs only against cancellation / redemption / closing out of the existing PNs of at least equivalent amount.

- (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Gross Domestic Product

*229. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Gross Domestic Product achieved against the target as yet during the year 2007-08;

(b) whether the pace of achievement of the target is slow;

- (c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the target fixed for next five years with regard to Gross Domestic Product?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAM-BARAM): (a) and (b) As per Advanced Estimates of Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at constant (1999-2000) prices in the year 2007-08 is likely to attain a level of Rs.31,14,452 crore as against GDP of Rs.28,64,310 crore for the year 2006-07. Accordingly, the growth in GDP during 2007-08 is estimated at 8.7 per cent as compared to growth rate of 9.6 per cent in 2006-07. The Government does not set year-specific growth targets.

(c) The growth rate in 2007-08 declined due to a general slow down in most of the sectors except electricity, community services and the composite category "trade, hotels, transport and communications". The deceleration in the growth of agricultural sector is attributed to the slackening in the growth of rabi crops. The slower growth of consumer durables was the most important factor in the slow down of manufacturing sector. Overall, there was a deceleration in the growth of public and private consumption which affected the growth of the services sector, including construction.

(d) The National Development Council has endorsed an average growth of 9 per cent per annum in GDP for the Eleventh Five Year Plan period (2007-2012).

Relaxation in the Norms of PMGSY

*230. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE:
SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments are facing difficulties in taking up the rural road works in the hilly areas due to some unfavourable norms under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to make some specific provisions for the speedy construction of roads in the hilly areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Relaxation in norms for coverage of habitations under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) as well as the rural roads component of Bharat Nirman has been provided for hill States. Under PMGSY, all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above in the plain areas are eligible for coverage; whereas in hill States, all habitations with a population 250 persons and above are eligible. Under Bharat Nirman, all habitations with a population of 1000 persons and above in the plain areas are eligible for coverage; whereas in hill States, all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above are eligible.

(b) and (c) Having regard to the specific difficulties being faced by the hill States in the implementation of PMGSY, further relaxations have been accorded by the Ministry of Rural Development from time to time. These relaxations are as follows:-

- i. As per the original programme guidelines, population of all habitations within a radius of 500 metres (1.5 km. of path distance in case of hills) is clubbed together for the purpose of determining the population size. This cluster approach enables provision of connectivity to a larger number of habitations, particularly in the hill/mountainous areas. This provision of cluster approach has been recently amended by the Ministry of Rural Development. According to this amendment, in the blocks bordering international boundary in the hill States (as identified by Ministry of Home Affairs), all habitations within a path distance of 10 km would be treated as a cluster.

- ii. Because of difficult terrain, adverse weather conditions and relatively shorter working season for execution of PMGSY projects in hill States, time period of 18 months is now allowed for completion of Stage-I works in place of earlier provision of nine to twelve months. Time period allowed for completion of projects under PMGSY in the Plain areas is nine to twelve months.
- iii. Geometries have also been reviewed on the basis of recommendations of an expert committee and formation is now permitted with 3 m carriageway and 5.5 m roadway in the hill states, where traffic is less than 100 motorized vehicles per hour as against the earlier provision of minimum 3.75 m carriageway and 6 m roadway.
- iv. The proposal of the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir for reducing the package size from the existing Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 50 lakh has been accepted by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Loans under PMRY Scheme by Private Banks

*231. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target set, loan sanctioned and disbursed by the private sector banks under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during each of the last three years in each of the States/UTs; and

(b) the repayment position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Bank-wise details of targets allocated (physical), total number and amount of loans sanctioned and disbursed by private sector banks under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) are given in the enclosed statement-I. However, state-wise information for private sector banks is not maintained separately by the RBI in the manner desired.

(b) Demand and recovery of loans under PMRY for private sector banks is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Targets, sanction and disbursement of loans under PMRY for private sector banks

(Amount Rs. Lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	2004-05				
		Physical target (Number)	Sanctioned (Number)	Disbursed (Number)	Sanctioned (Amount)	Disbursed (Amount)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	ICICI Bank Ltd.	1158	1156	250	145.02	31.42
2	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	2042	619	421	359.57	232.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	234	126	126	85.44	84.57
4	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	1661	1040	966	477.97	433.70
5	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	945	884	660	455.68	359.42
6	Federal Bank. Ltd.	2836	2101	1315	1181.62	720.42
7	J & K Bank Ltd.	1797	1120	841	1229.61	888.84
8	Karnataka Bank. Ltd.	870	499	332	297.49	209.40
9	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	1207	736	726	324.22	312.07
10	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	0	565	450	177.96	140.23
11	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	398	230	217	153.43	139.35
12	Sangli Bank Ltd.	943	126	56	60.13	29.35
13	South Indian Bank Ltd.	1637	1574	1339	649.72	562.02
14	Tamilnadu Mer Bank Ltd.	0	692	542	394.96	302.75
15	United Western Bank	1566	692	514	436.21	332.04
16	ING Vysya Bank	2165	1285	1112	753.88	647.27
17	Nainital Bank Ltd.	450	368	368	248.24	248.24
18	City Union Bank Ltd.	526	426	426	196.79	195.07
19	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	311	297	157	160.56	80.75
Total Private Banks		20746	14536	10818	7788.50	5949.52

1	2	2005-06				
		Physical target (Number)	Sanctioned (Number)	Disbursed (Number)	Sanctioned (Amount)	Disbursed (Amount)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	ICICI Bank Ltd.	1574	1625	1376	320.73	288.22
2	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	2054	1040	762	572.39	411.92
3	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	262	165	165	97.36	96.40
4	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	1755	1277	1035	632.56	460.15
5	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	998	701	611	303.49	264.05
6	Federal Bank Ltd.	3272	2865	2375	1709.32	1057.77
7	J & K Bank Ltd.	1747	1098	786	1223.82	830.42
8	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1794	1232	1210	841.63	823.88
9	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	1070	887	880	384.86	378.22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	0	668	589	268.95	251.92
11	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	387	220	181	123.70	106.46
12	Sangli Bank Ltd.	0	94	29	45.57	14.67
13	South Indian Bank Ltd.	2372	1685	1602	615.00	576.00
14	Tamilnadu Mer Bank Ltd.	0	754	666	406.62	358.38
15	United Western Bank	1957	802	767	485.49	422.73
16	ING Vysya Bank	2449	1507	1187	817.98	688.81
17	Nainital Bank Ltd.	514	469	469	346.01	346.01
18	City Union Bank Ltd.	526	512	512	213.67	212.93
19	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	398	325	258	140.42	108.31
Total Private Banks		23129	17926	15460	9549.57	7677.25

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	2006-07				
		Physical target (Number)	Sanctioned (Number)	Disbursed (Number)	Sanctioned (Amount)	Disbursed (Amount)
1	ICICI Bank Ltd.	1906	2110	1815	568.93	487.29
2	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	2027	1716	1424	1018.82	789.76
3	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	251	75	75	42.84	42.45
4	UTI Bank Ltd./Axis Bank	0	399	320	265.17	208.15
5	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	1756	1380	1093	569.47	449.12
6	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	1049	968	803	398.19	348.27
7	Federal Bank Ltd.	3231	2981	2188	1644.22	1137.44
8	J & K Bank Ltd.	1892	1251	886	1547.85	1009.31
9	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1804	1521	1426	906.58	849.99
10	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	1324	814	813	349.27	348.46
11	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	0	792	704	296.26	265.04
12	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	444	194	185	102.85	97.50
13	Sangli Bank Ltd.	0	56	84	24.55	38.95
14	South Indian Bank Ltd.	2267	1834	1499	778.37	611.51
15	Tamilnadu Mer Bank Ltd.	0	859	771	508.08	471.02
16	United Western Bank	1318	444	309	241.10	183.17
17	ING Vysya Bank	2424	1469	1045	844.52	594.93
18	Nainital Bank Ltd.	724	75	70	58.73	53.31
19	City Union Bank Ltd.	611	491	491	189.05	188.11
20	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	447	230	192	103.85	88.94
Total Private Banks		23475	19659	16193	10458.70	8262.72

Source: RBI

Statement-II*Demand and recovery of loans under PMRY for Private Sector Banks*

Sl. No	Name of the Bank	As on March 31, 2005		
		Demand (Rs. Lakh)	Recovery (Rs. Lakh)	% of recovery to demand
1	ICICI Bank Ltd.	42.36	28.54	67.37
2	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	952.96	493.28	51.76
3	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	61.37	22.39	36.48
4	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	507.94	165.22	32.53
5	Dhanlakshmi Bank Ltd.	438.21	192.88	44.02
6	Federal Bank Ltd.	1598.39	468.72	29.32
7	J & K Bank Ltd.	1461.04	408.39	27.95
8	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1242.53	660.44	53.15
9	Karur Vysya Bank	301.24	155.78	51.71
10	Laxmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	267.52	64.80	24.22
11	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	255.05	113.38	44.45
12	Sangli Bank Ltd.	121.79	40.95	33.62
13	South Indian Bank Ltd.	963.02	333.31	34.61
14	Tamilnadu Mer. Bank Ltd.	402.15	253.64	63.07
15	United Western Bank Ltd.	1259.57	283.37	22.50
16	Vysya Bank Ltd.	673.21	195.08	28.98
17	Nainital Bank Ltd.	212.00	148.00	69.81
18	City Union Bank Ltd.	127.60	55.32	43.35
19	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	144.46	85.37	59.10
Total of Pvt. Sector Banks		11032.41	4168.86	37.79

Sl. No	Name of the Bank	As on March 31, 2006		
		Demand (Rs. Lakh)	Recovery (Rs. Lakh)	% of recovery to demand
1	2	3	4	5
1	ICICI Bank Ltd.	29.04	19.58	67.42
2	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1175.88	667.28	56.75
3	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	43.72	25.25	57.75
4	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	622.27	275.23	44.23
5	Dhanlakshmi Bank Ltd.	1221.51	515.40	42.19

1	2	3	4	5
6	Federal Bank Ltd.	1527.72	456.83	29.90
7	J & K Bank Ltd.	1696.31	772.93	45.57
8	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1529.63	931.12	60.87
9	Karur Vysya Bank	323.33	156.79	48.49
10	Laxmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	279.95	66.33	23.69
11	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	248.84	91.24	36.67
12	Sangli Bank Ltd.	121.32	42.35	34.91
13	South Indian Bank Ltd.	922.69	370.13	40.11
14	Tamilnadu Mer. Bank Ltd.	48148	312.47	64.90
15	United Western Bank Ltd.	1264.89	238.83	18.88
16	Vysya Bank Ltd.	533.59	258.99	48.54
17	Nainital Bank Ltd.	65.43	42.65	65.18
18	City Union Bank Ltd.	260.39	168.26	64.62
19	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	62.99	36.42	57.82
Total of Pvt. Sector Banks		12410.98	5448.08	43.90

Sl. No	Name of the Bank	As on March 31, 2007		
		Demand (Rs. Lakh)	Recovery (Rs. Lakh)	% of recovery to demand
1	2	3	4	5
1	ICICI Bank Ltd.	122.08	70.18	57.49
2	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1210.28	748.50	61.85
3	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	64.55	21.94	33.99
4	UTI Bank Ltd.	8.39	5.67	67.55
5	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	772.46	315.79	40.88
6	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	559.90	243.75	43.53
7	Federal Bank Ltd.	2316.64	1036.97	44.76
8	J & K Bank Ltd.	1432.20	650.28	45.40
9	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1529.63	931.12	60.87
10	Karur Vysya Bank	344.45	173.70	50.43
11	Laxmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	269.28	75.91	28.19
12	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	249.42	81.05	32.50
13	Sangli Bank Ltd.	119.75	42.29	35.32
14	South Indian Bank Ltd.	822.39	356.90	43.40

1	2	3	4	5
15	Tamilnadu Mer Bank Ltd.	390.71	210.65	53.91
16	United Western Bank Ltd.	NR	NR	NR
17	Vysya Bank Ltd.	547.33	207.08	37.83
18	Nainital Bank Ltd.	141.50	98.20	69.40
19	City Union Bank Ltd.	165.57	77.97	47.09
20	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	105.39	59.13	56.11
Total of Pvt. Sector Banks		11171.92	5407.08	48.40

Source : RBI

NR = Not reported

Gas Shortage for Power Plants

*232. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several power plants of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in the country are lying idle due to shortage in gas supply;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to meet the shortage in gas supply for NTPC power plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC Limited's six gas based power stations with total installed capacity of 3605 MW, are currently underutilized due to shortage of gas.

The estimated gas requirement to operate these plants at 90% Plant Load Factor (PLF) is around 17.35 Million Standard Cubic Meter per Day (MMSCMD). There are long-term agreements with Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) for supply of 12.93 MMSCMD of gas under Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) category for the above six gas based stations. However, due to shortage of gas, the delivered quantities are less than the contracted quantities.

During April, 2007 to February, 2008, average APM gas supply for these stations has been 9.06 MMSCMD only, leading to a shortfall in optimum gas based generation.

Station-wise net shortfall in power generation due to fuel shortage after accounting for higher cost generation on liquid fuel/Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) during April, 2007 to February, 2008 is as under:

Station	Total Generation (Million Units)	Generation loss due to Gas shortage (Million Units)
Anta	2496	568
Auraiya	3691	1067
Dadri	4795	1078
Faridabad	2388	576
Kawas	3265	1581
Gandhar	3588	1131
Total	20223	6001

(c) to (e) The gas shortage has been partially mitigated as NTPC Ltd. made arrangements for costlier Spot RLNG from major domestic suppliers, namely, Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC), Hazira LNG Ltd. (HLPL) from time to time based on requirement and availability. During April, 2007 to February, 2008, the average Spot RLNG supplies have been 2.71 MMSCMD.

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has initiated various steps to augment gas supplies for the domestic market including:

- (i) Intensification of domestic Exploration and Production (E&P) activities;
- (ii) Exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas;
- (iii) Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation;
- (iv) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Import; and
- (v) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

Urban Local Bodies

*233. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the World Bank has made a study regarding Urban Local Bodies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to increase the budget of Urban Local Bodies in the wake of above report;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (e) the further action taken by the Union Government on the findings of the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The World Bank has brought out "Synthesis Study of Public Financial Management & Accountability (PFMA) in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)". The main recommendations of the study include improving ULB budget preparation, development of model accounting rules and manuals, review and strengthening of ULB audit, capacity building, improvement in procurement performance, introduction of public finance management report card, strengthening of mechanism to ensure legislative compliance and improvement in public oversight.

(c) and (d) Government of India has launched Jawahar-lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) which envisages an assistance of Rs.50,000 crore over the Mission period of 7 years, (2005-12). The provision is aimed at providing support to ULBs for implementation of projects and reforms.

(e) The recommendations of the study have been disseminated amongst the stakeholders for further action. Measures are also being initiated under JNNURM to improve the capabilities of the ULBs in terms of financial management. These measures include adoption of modern, accrual-based double entry accounting system, reform of property tax with Geographical Information System (GIS), levy of reasonable user charges, internal earmarking within local body, administrative and structural reforms and e-governance.

[Translation]

Captive Power Generation

*234. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the present power generation capacity of various captive power plants in the country is much higher than their installed capacity;
- (b) if so, whether the surplus power generated by the captive power plants is not being fully utilized in the country;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The generation capacity of captive power plants in the country has not been higher than their installed capacity. According to information available with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), surplus electric energy to the extent of about 5200 Million Units (MU) has been exported by such captive power plants to the utilities during the year 2006-07.

The installed capacity of industrial sector captive power plants of more than 1 MW was about 22,300 MW as on 31.3.2007. The power generation from the CPPs during 2006-07 was about 81,800 million units (MU) which is 11% higher compared to the previous year, at an average Plant Load Factor (PLF) of about 41.80%. Additional generation is possible in case of higher PLF being achieved by these plants and surplus being fed into the grid. It is estimated that about 24,300 MU of additional generation could be realized from steam and gas based captive power plants in case their average PLF is raised to 75% and 80% respectively.

(d) The government has taken various legislative, policy and administrative measures to facilitate captive generation and utilization of surplus capacity.

Under the Electricity Act, 2003, captive power plants, including group captive, have been freely permitted. The Act provides that any person may construct, maintain or operate a captive generating plant and dedicated transmission lines. Under the provisions of the Act, every person, who has constructed a captive generating plant and maintains and operates such plant, shall have the right to open access for the purposes of carrying electricity from his captive generating plant to the destination of his use subject to the availability of transmission capacity.

National Electricity Policy, notified in February, 2005, emphasizes the need for bringing surplus capacity available with a large number of captive and standby generating stations in India to the grid continuously or during certain time periods. Tariff Policy, notified in January, 2006, recognizes that captive generation is an important means to make competitive power available and urges the Electricity Regulatory Commissions to create an enabling environment that encourages captive plants to be connected to the grid.

The Conference of Chief Ministers on Power Sector Issues held in May, 2007, has resolved to facilitate captive power plants to provide the spare generating capacity to the grid and strive to do away with restrictive levies, duties and regulations in a time bound manner.

Ministry of Power has been actively involved in moderating the charges / duties on open access, cross-subsidy, etc. Various conferences and seminars with the stakeholders have been held to evolve consensus and expedite action on the concerned issues, the latest being the Round Table of Forum of Regulators held on 5.11.2007 and the Conference of Chief Secretaries on Power Sector Issues held on 19th February, 2008.

[English]

Building with Ecological Parameters

*235. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any suggestions from the Planning Commission in regard to construction of modern buildings which can bear the effects of ecological changes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The Ministry of Urban Development has not received any such suggestions from the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Harassment of Consumers by Private Power Distribution Companies

*236. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received complaints regarding harassment to consumers by several Electricity Boards and private power distribution companies in the name of power theft;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received during the last one year, State-wise;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the Board of Directors of any power distribution company for violation of rules and regulations framed under the Electricity Act, 2003 or directions issued by the Electricity Regulatory Commission so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to save the consumers from their clutches?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) The Electricity Act, 2003 contains provisions for control of theft of electricity. Electricity is a concurrent subject. Therefore, these provisions are to be implemented by the concerned organizations, that is the appropriate State Government, State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC), Distribution licensee, Court having jurisdiction or the Special Court constituted by the State Government.

For protecting the interests of the consumers, the provisions of the Act relating to offence of theft of electricity have also incorporated appropriate safeguards which are summarized below:-

- Section 135 of the Act provides that the occupant of the place being searched or any person on his behalf shall remain present during the search and a list of all things seized in the course of such search shall be prepared and delivered to such occupant or person who shall sign the list; further no inspection, search and seizure of any domestic place or domestic premises shall be carried out between sunset and sunrise except in the presence of an adult male member occupying such premises. The provisions of section 135 further provide that provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, relating to search and seizure shall apply, as far as may be, to searches and seizure under the Electricity Act.
- Section 135 (1A) of the Act provides that without prejudice to the provisions of the Act, the licensee or supplier as the case may be, upon detection of such theft of electricity, may immediately disconnect the supply of electricity provided that only such officer of the licensee or supplier who has been authorized by the Appropriate Commission or any other officer of the licensee or supplier higher than the rank so authorized shall disconnect the supply line of electricity. The said section further provides that the officer of the licensee or supplier shall lodge a complaint with regard to the commission of such offence in writing in the police station having jurisdiction within twenty four hours. The section also provides that on deposit or payment of the assessed amount, the licensee or the supplier shall without prejudice to the obligation to lodge the complaint, restore the supply line of electricity within forty eight hours of such deposit or payment.
- Section 152 provides a mechanism for compounding of the offences of theft on payment of a certain amount

for various categories of consumers and once a person deposits the specified amount, he shall be, if in custody, set at liberty, and no proceedings shall be instituted or continued against such consumer or person in any criminal court.

Section 153 of the Act provides that the State Government may, for the purpose of speedy trial of offences referred to in sections 135 to 139 of the Act including theft of electricity, constitute as many Special Courts as may be necessary for such area or areas.

Under section 142 of the Act, the Appropriate State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have power to impose penalty on distribution companies for contravention of the regulations, rules made under the Act or directions issued by the Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Under section 146 of the Act, the Competent Court has jurisdiction to impose punishment and fine in case of non-compliance of any order or directions given under the Act, or contravention or attempt or abetment of the contravention of any of the provisions of the Act or any rules or regulations made there under.

Representations are received in the Ministry of Power from various sources from time to time on various issues relating to power sector including theft related matters. As can be seen from the above, action in the complaints regarding harassment in theft related cases is to be taken by the concerned authority/agency/Court. As such the Central Government does not maintain information about the action taken in individual cases by the appropriate State Government, SERCs or the Courts.

Recovery of Tax from Multinational Companies

*237. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tax collected from the Multi-National Companies (MNCs) during each of the last two years;

(b) the names of the MNCs which have not deposited the assessed tax during the above period along with the estimated amount outstanding against each, at present; and

(c) the details of the efforts made to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Income Tax Department does not maintain separate details in respect of categories such as Multi-National Companies. Multinational Companies are not defined in the Income Tax Act. However from the records available a list of tax collected above Rs 25 crores from MNCs for the last two Assessment years is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) As per the records available a list of outstanding demand above 25 crores as on 31.12.2007 is attached as statement-II. The list includes cases where demand has not fallen due for payment as on 31.12.2007.

(c) Apart from the statutory steps being taken for recovery of outstanding tax dues as prescribed under the Income Tax Act (including attachment of bank account, debtors, etc, attachment and sale of immovable property, etc) the following special measures are also being taken to expedite recovery of direct tax arrears:

- (i) Monitoring of recovery of arrears in large cases by a Task Force.
- (ii) identification of cases involving substantial amount of arrears pending before Commissioners (Appeals) and ITAT and requesting these authorities to dispose off such appeals early so that the demand can be collected during the current financial year itself.
- (iii) Requesting the President of ITAT not to allow stay of demand beyond 180 days as prescribed, in section 254(2A) of the Income-tax Act.
- (iv) Requesting Settlement Commission to dispose off high demand cases expeditiously.

Statement-I

Tax Collection from Multi-national Companies above Rs. 25 Crores only (Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Assessee	CCIT (cadre controlling region)	Tax Collected	
			Assessment Year 2006-07	Assessment Year 2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1	M/s Amway India Enterprises	Delhi	53.48	53.08
2	M/s Citi financial Consumer Finance India Ltd.	Delhi	98.14	122.00
3	JCB India Ltd.	Delhi	72.15	110

1	2	3	4	5
4	L.G. Electronics (P) Ltd.	Delhi	124.69	90.49
5	M/s. Motherson Sumi Systems (P) Ltd. (Joint Venture Company - with MNCs)	Delhi	4.92	28.83
6	Microsoft Corporation (I) (P) Ltd.	Delhi	20.60	35.67
7	M/s Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi	42.50	63.00
8	Sony India (P) Ltd.	Delhi	24.10	46.47
9	Denso Haryana (P) Ltd.	Delhi	46.83	45.5
10	Engineers India Ltd.	Delhi	47.25	Final figure not available
11	GAIL (India) Ltd.	Delhi	944.03	764.00
12	M/s Oracle (I) Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi	102.38	141.83
13	M/s Nokia Telecommunication Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi	96.19	289.87
14	M/s Nestle (I) Ltd.	Delhi	184.74	225.92
15	M/s Nortel Networks (I) Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi	14.48	43.47
16	Citibank N.A.	Mumbai	530.28	697.00
17	Deutsche Bank	Mumbai	178.75	238.00
18	Standard Chartered Company	Mumbai	515	790
19	Star India Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	41.17	64.71
20	Cadbury India Ltd.	Mumbai	40.10	35.05
21	Abbott India Ltd.	Mumbai	28.20	Final figure not available
22	Accenture Services Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	14.98	45.54
23	Castrol India Ltd.	Mumbai	56.39	89.64
24	Aventis Pharma Ltd.	Mumbai	50.60	78.80
25	Glaxo Smithkline Pharma Ltd.	Mumbai	175.05	258.83
26	Novartis India Ltd.	Mumbai	44.06	54.37
27	Procter & Gamble Home Products Ltd.	Mumbai	28.20	Final figure not available. The Advance tax payment is Rs.28 crores
28	Procter & Gamble Hygiene & Healthcare Ltd.	Mumbai	49.43	Final figure not available. The Advance tax payment is Rs.57 crores
29	Siemens Ltd.	Mumbai	114.08	190.73
30	SAP India Systems Applications and products Pvt. Ltd.	Bangalore	58	46

1	2	3	4	5
31	HP India Sales (P) Ltd.,	Bangalore	171.18	114.02
32	Bosch Ltd., (formerly MICO Ltd.)	Bangalore	199.25	303.31
33	ABB Ltd.	Bangalore	129.28	187.47
34	IBM India (P) Ltd.,	Bangalore	55.44	74.25
35	Texas Instruments India (P) Ltd.	Bangalore	21.18	41.32
36	3M India Ltd.,	Bangalore	25.08	32.21
37	Kennametal Widia India (P) Ltd.	Bangalore	20.67	29.55
38	Toyota Kirloskar Motors (P) Ltd.	Bangalore	10.01	26.98
39	Vodafone Essar Ltd.,	Chandigarh	Final figures not available	43.20
40	M/s Glaxo Smithkline Consumers Healthcare Ltd.	Chandigarh	64.21	67.72
41	Gillette India Ltd.	Jaipur	70.54	46.86
42	Madura Coats Ltd.	Chennai	14.34	27.50
43	Areva T&D India Ltd., (ALSTON)	Chennai	60.50	83.07
44	Visteon Automotive Systems	Chennai	46.51	30.00
45	Hyundai Motors India Ltd.	Chennai	278.24	129.36
46	Cognizant Technology Solutions India Pvt. Ltd.	Chennai	42.25	78.19
47	Vestas Wind Technology India Pvt. Ltd.	Chennai	60.55	76.13
48	Aban Offshore Ltd.	Chennai	53.00	50.50
49	General Motors India Pvt. Ltd.	Ahmedabad	34.33	42.48
50	Gujarat Gas Company Ltd.	Ahmedabad	34.81	40.48
51	Niko Resources Ltd.,	Ahmedabad	28.25	34.04
52	M/s ABN Amro Bank N.V.	Kolkata	192.2	346.36
53	M/s Microsoft Licensing G.P.	Delhi	56.8	60.00
54	M/s Microsoft Regional Sale	Delhi	170.00	180.00
55	M/s Mitsubishi Corporation	Delhi	27.70	28.10
56	M/s Honda Siel Cars Ltd.	Ghaziabad	90.60	133.50
57	Coca Cola India Pvt. Ltd.	Pune	57.96	39.80
58	Commins India Ltd.	Pune	91.01	116.44
59	Cummins Sales & Services India Pvt. Ltd.	Pune	22.51	24.58

Statement-II*Out Standing Tax above Rs. 25 crores from Multinational Companies (Rs. in Crore)*

Sl. No.	Name of the Assessee	CCIT (cadre controlling region)	Out Standing tax as on 31/12/2007
1	2	3	4
1	Niko Resources Ltd., Baroda	Ahmedabad	139.72
2	Skanska Cementation International Ltd.	Ahmedabad	27.07
3	M/s Nike Inc. AYs 1999-2000 to 2006-07	Bangalore	45.73
4	M/s Galileo Nederland BV(GNBV) AYs 2003-04 to 2005-06	Bangalore	50.28
5	M/s American Express India P. Ltd.	Delhi	29.48 cr
6	M/s Cargill India P. Ltd.	Delhi	25.21 cr
7	M/s Samsung India Electronics P.Ltd.	Delhi	132.84
8	Panasonic India Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi	47.52
9	Daewoo Motors India Ltd.	Delhi	442.72
10	GAIL (India) Ltd.	Delhi	52.94
11	A.P. Moller	Mumbai	113.10
12	Asian Broadcasting	Mumbai	101.18
13	Cartier Shipping Co. Ltd.	Mumbai	174.79
14	DHL Operations B.V. Netherlands	Mumbai	50.04
15	Clifford Chance	Mumbai	40.31
16	B4U International Holding Ltd.	Mumbai	43.66
17	Federal Express Corpn.	Mumbai	51.27
18	Bechtel International Inc.	Mumbai	48.65
19	M. Fabricant & Sons Inc.	Mumbai	70.67
20	Star India Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	178.42
21	Accenture Services Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	26.19
22	Procter & Gamble Home Products Ltd.	Mumbai	53.62
23	Procter & Gamble Hygiene & Healthcare Ltd.	Mumbai	29.19
24	Rational Software Corp Pvt. Ltd.	Bangalore	55.86
25	HP India Sales Pvt. Ltd.	Bangalore	47.25
26	IBM Global Services Ltd.	Bangalore	31.62
27	Coca Cola Inkay Tower Udyog Vihar Phase-V, Gurgaon	Chandigarh	29.8

1	2	3	4
28	IBM India (P)Ltd.	Banglore	45.14
29	E Funds Corporation	Delhi	40.94
30	Ericsson AB	Delhi	472.10
31	Gracemac Cocon	Delhi	136.49
32	Galileo International Inc.	Delhi	39.93
33	Asia Satellite Telecom Ltd.	Delhi	56.11
34	Amadeus Global Travel	Delhi	27.22
35	Bank of Tokyo	Delhi	61.94
36	M/s Mitsui & Co.	Delhi	49.00
37	Intelsat Global Sales and Marketing Ltd.	Chennai	26.58
38	Verizon Communications Singapore Pte. Ltd.	Chennai	28.26
39	Ansaldo energia Spa	Chennai	40.68
40	M/s Honda Siel Cars Ltd.	Ghaziabad	31.64
41	Coca Cola India Pvt. Ltd.	Pune	424.75

[Translation]

Problem of Malnutrition

*238. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

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

(a) whether women and children in various States of the country have been suffering from malnutrition over a period of time and the World Health Organisation (WHO) has laid down new norms for nutrition;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring Indian norms in line with such amended norms of WHO;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the present schemes being run by the Union Government under the Child Development Services to deal with the problem of malnutrition in the country; and

(e) the quantum of funds allocated by the Union Government to deal with malnutrition problem during each of the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) the extent of malnutrition among children (under 3 years) declined from 53.4% in 1992-93 to 46% in

2005-06, while the below normal Body Mass Index (BMI) of women was 36.2% in 1998-99, which declined to 33% in 2005-2006. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has developed the new Child Growth Standards, based on important norms for child care, nutrition and health through a multi-centric-study, carried out on 8,440 healthy breastfed infants and young children from six countries namely, Brazil, Ghana, India, Norway, Oman and United States. These standards were launched in April, 2006.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Women & Child Development jointly with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organized a National workshop on "Adoption of New WHO Child Growth Standards" on February 8-9, 2007 to deliberate on the adoption of the New WHO Child Growth Standards. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has now taken a decision to adopt these New WHO Child Growth Standards in Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

(d) The Government of India is implementing the following scheme to deal with the problem of malnutrition among children in the country:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme with the objectives:

- to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;
- to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;

- to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
- to achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and
- to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

It provides integrated services comprising:

- i. supplementary nutrition,
- ii. immunization,
- iii. health check-up,
- iv. referral services,
- v. pre-school non-formal education and
- vi. nutrition & health education.

The steps taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS include.

- The scheme has been expanded twice in the year 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 during the Tenth Five Year Plan.
- The Government has doubled the financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Re.1 to Rs.2/- per beneficiary per day.
- From the year 2005-06, 50% cost of supplementary nutrition is also being shared with the States/UTs.
- Constant emphasis on States to:
 - Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms;
 - Ensure effective convergence of health, nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.
 - Nutrition Awareness Campaigns

(e) The details of State-wise funds released under ICDS are enclosed as the statement-I and statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise position of funds released under ICDS Scheme (General) to the States in 2005-06 to 2007-08

(Rupees in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State	2005-06	ICDS (G)	
			2006-07 Released	2007-08 Released (upto 10.03.2008)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	14750.69	21877.67	24015.86
2	Bihar	5036.11	20976.12	15660.39
3	Chhattisgarh	4412.01	4561.5	9498.18
4	Goa	373.53	397.96	507.00
5	Gujarat	9917.54	12732.62	11050.69
6	Haryana	5312.47	6015.49	7115.76
7	Himachal Pradesh	3480.88	2882.29	2565.16
8	Jammu and Kashmir	4989.19	5410.99	5201.09
9	Jharkhand	4288.33	7845.37	9191.01
10	Karnataka	14176.11	19122.28	13934.16
11	Kerala	5725.65	8115.91	13369.29
12	Madhya Pradesh	9498.48	13002.16	15367.06
13	Maharashtra	16808.92	20433.15	25105.71
14	Orissa	10600.69	12137.96	13506.53

1	2	3	4	5
15	Punjab	5591.61	5861.62	4019.54
16	Rajasthan	7459.77	13809.14	12885.03
17	Tamil Nadu	15212.94	12786.6	11171.43
18	Uttaranchal	2861.67	1676.39	2360.95
19	Uttar Pradesh	31989.58	24768.42	37189.40
20	West Bengal	19391	17182.73	23845.30
21	Delhi	1290.03	1379.78	1569.21
22	Pondicherry	233.684	195.22	234.36
23	Andaman and Nicobar	212.824	174.11	175.55
24	Chandigarh	156.87	163.41	189.39
25	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	70.1	62.33	51.70
26	Daman & Diu*	47.736	56.78	48.00
27	Lakshadweep	42.67	38.34	64.63
28	Arunachal Pradesh	1780.28	3145.86	2006.05
29	Assam	22462.56	16077.475	8582.93
30	Manipur	1664.87	3631.405	1843.42
31	Meghalaya	2158.35	2114.925	1289.14
32	Mizoram	1476.66	1573.255	1008.16
33	Nagaland	2531.64	2471.22	1465.77
34	Sikkim	354.75	782.6	253.31
35	Tripura	2779.91	4475.41	1463.76
36	Life Insurance Corpn.	800.00	1200.00	200.00
	Total	229940.10	269138.48	278004.92

Statement-II*Release of funds on supplementary nutrition – 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08*

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Released 2005-06	Released 2006-07	Released 2007-08 (As on 10.03.2008)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4745.42	9052.04	13718.25
2.	Bihar	8260.92	11828.92	13548.40
3.	Chhattisgarh	3133.33	2953.64	3515.24
4.	Goa	115.13	175.41	169.52

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Gujarat	3339.82	4297.21	3855.01
6.	Haryana	1810.62	2829.56	5216.72
7.	Himachal Pradesh	660.00	629.63	1017.58
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	343.56	653.20	917.69
9.	Jharkhand	761.49	11154.47	6997.88
10.	Karnataka	7379.97	9407.65	6787.71
11.	Kerala	1738.28	3666.11	3520.80
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5457.86	5770.97	10320.67
13.	Maharashtra	9869.23	8443.33	16770.11
14.	Orissa	6697.98	6646.40	6295.06
15.	Punjab	1246.53	3138.07	819.66
16.	Rajasthan	5534.27	8571.57	6067.07
17.	Tamil Nadu	3703.59	3451.94	3521.89
18.	Uttaranchal	18125.13	41902.48	45232.09
19.	Uttar Pradesh	705.72	1347.89	344.87
20.	West Bengal	6348.24	5916.07	11021.60
		89977.09	141836.56	159657.82
21.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	80.39	93.67	67.45
22.	Chandigarh	76.33	154.76	46.17
23.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22.59	22.59	96.57
24.	Daman and Diu	13.74	13.74	
25.	Lakshadweep	7.52	39.91	27.75
		200.57	324.67	237.94
26.	Delhi	737.49	694.29	516.47
27.	Pondicherry	85.72	55.03	200.64
		823.21	749.32	717.11
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	113.41	879.60	461.37
29.	Assam	3066.67	3711.54	3376.61
30.	Manipur	664.58	914.32	645.08
31.	Meghalaya	687.17	1023.42	1007.99
32.	Mizoram	471.24	488.97	535.20
33.	Nagaland	929.07	1188.71	824.82
34.	Sikkim	118.48	95.77	64.68
35.	Tripura	407.06	707.69	759.54
		6457.68	9010.02	7675.29
	Total	97458.55	151920.57	168288.16

Forest Rights Act, 2006

*239. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rules under Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has not come into force as yet; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the land rights of tribals and forest dwellers?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2008 for carrying out the provisions of the Act have been notified on 01.01.2008.

Copies of the Act and the Rules are available on the website (www.tribal.gov.in) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The forest rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers are indicated in Chapter II of the Act.

[English]

Ultra Mega Power Projects

*240. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

S. No.	Name of the Project	Location	State	Status
1.	Sasan Ultra Mega Power Project	Near Sasan village in Sidhi District	Madhya Pradesh	Bidding Process completed and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has been transferred.
2.	Mundra Ultra Mega Power Project	Near Tundawanda village in Kutch District	Gujarat	Bidding Process completed and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has been transferred.
3.	Krishnapatnam Ultra Mega Power Project	Krishnapatnam village in Nellore District	Andhra Pradesh	Bidding Process completed and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has been transferred.
4.	Tilaiya Ultra Mega Power Project	Site near Barhi to the North East of Tilaiya Dam in Hazaribagh District	Jharkhand	The bidding process is currently in progress.

Among the remaining projects, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has in consultation with the State Government identified a suitable site near Bedabahal village in Sundergarh District for setting up of an UMPP in Orissa. However, the approval for the identified site and for water allocation for the proposed UMPP has not been provided by the Government of Orissa so far. For the Chhattisgarh UMPP,

(a) the present status of the proposed Ultra Mega Power Projects;

(b) whether the Government is facing any difficulty in the implementation of these projects;

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

(d) the time-by which the construction work is likely to commence thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Power had launched an initiative for the development of coal based Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs), each of about 4000 MW capacity. These projects are being developed on a Build, Own and Operate basis, and the project developers are selected through a tariff based competitive bidding process initiated/to be initiated by project specific shell companies which have been formed as wholly owned subsidiaries of Power Finance Corporation, the identified nodal agency for this initiative. These projects are envisaged to come up in the 12th Plan.

After finalization of sites in consultation with the States, the bidding process was initiated in respect of four Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) and has been completed in three projects. The details are as under:

a site near Salka and Khamaria villages in district Sarguja has been short listed in consultation with the State Government. The finalization of sites and initiation of the bidding process for setting up of UMPPs in the States of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka are contingent upon necessary inputs/clearances from the respective State Governments.

(d) As indicated above, so far the bidding process has already been completed in respect of three UMPPs. The selected bidders have to commission the projects in keeping with the time schedule specified in the Power Purchase Agreements, which have become effective on the date of transfer of the Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). So far no deviation has been reported in the time schedules of these three UMPPs. According to information received from Central Electricity Authority, construction activities have commenced at site in respect of one project, that is Mundra UMPP in Gujarat, whose SPV was the first one that was transferred to the identified project developer.

[Translation]

Setting up of Juvenile Courts

2139. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the juvenile courts have been set up in every district of the country as stipulated in Protection of Child Rights Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether all the States/UTs have constituted State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) As per Section 25 of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, State Government is required to designate one court in each district to be a children's court for speedy trial of offences against children or of violation of child rights. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has written to State Governments for designating children court. However, no State has confirmed so far in this regard.

(d) to (f) As per Section 17 of Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, the State Government are required to constitute State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights in their respective States. The Ministry has written to State Governments for constituting State Commissions. However, as per records available only, Goa has constituted a State Commission so far.

[English]

E-Filing of Taxes

2140. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether e-filing of taxes have been made mandatory for corporate tax payers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any increase has been noticed in the collection of taxes as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any problem has arisen as a result of such decision; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

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

(b) It is proposed to make the scheme of e-payment of taxes mandatory for the following categories of taxpayers:-

(i) All corporate assesses;

(ii) All assesses (other than a company) to whom provisions of section 44AB of the Income-tax Act are applicable.

In this regard, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has already issued a Press Release No.402/92/2006-MC(05 of 2008) as early as the 23rd January, 2008.

(c) and (d) The new provision for e-payment of taxes is proposed to be implemented with effect from 01.04.2008. It is, therefore, pre-mature to predict any increase in the collection of taxes attributable to this initiative.

(e) and (f) The Income-tax Department is fully prepared to deal with any problem which may arise in the course of implementation of this decision.

Dibang Valley Hydel Power Project

2141. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Hydel Power Project in Dibang valley;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether clearance of the project has been accorded; and

(d) if so, the estimated cost of the project and the names of the States likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Dibang Multipurpose Project of 3000 MW capacity on the Dibang river has been entrusted to National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC) for development. This is a multipurpose project with attendant benefits of flood moderation etc. and is located about 1.5 Km upstream of the confluence of the Ashu Pani River with Dibang river, in the Lower Dibang Valley District of Arunachal Pradesh. The project is expected to be completed in 9 years after investment approval.

(c) and (d) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has accorded its concurrence to the project on 23.01.2008. The Public Investment Board (PIB) in its meeting held on 28.01.2008 has recommended the project at an estimated cost of Rs. 15,886.40 crores at November, 2007 Price Level. The project is to be accorded investment approval after all the statutory clearances such as environment and forest clearance etc. have been obtained by NHPC. The power

from the project is expected to be supplied to the States in the North Eastern Region and also to other deficit States in the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions.

[Translation]

Closed Demat Accounts

2142. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- the number of demat accounts lying closed in the country and the amount involved therein;
- the State-wise details thereof;
- whether information regarding PAN number has not being made available by such customers;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the number of demat accounts released within a year and amount involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The details of accounts frozen on account of non-compliance with the PAN requirement as on March 8, 2008 are as under:

Depository	No. of frozen Accounts (In lakh)	Value of Securities in frozen Accounts (Rs. crore)
NSDL	15.25	51,750
CDSL	3.42	10,981

State wise details of the frozen accounts with Depositories are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) The details of accounts unfrozen during 1st January 2007 and 8th March 2008 are as under:

Depository	No. of Accounts unfrozen (In lakh)	Value of Securities in unfrozen Accounts (Rs. crore)
NSDL	22.19	4,51,000
CDSL	2.65	1,52,916

Statement

State-wise No. of Frozen Accounts with Depositories as on 8th March, 2008

State	NSDL	CDSL
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar	102	44
Andhra Pradesh	1,50,357	23,782
Arunachal Pradesh	38	16
Assam	8,499	1,928
Bihar	34,305	6,540
Chandigarh	2,817	85
Daman & Diu	21	—
Delhi	1,12,296	13,966

1	2	3
Goa	4,001	420
Gujarat	1,38,301	38,772
Haryana	29,437	8,025
Himachal Pradesh	4,825	1,026
Jammu and Kashmir	10,407	472
Karnataka	1,07,567	14,644
Kerala	67,910	20,087
Lakshdweep	2	—
Madhya Pradesh	41,308	17,108
Maharashtra	2,00,548	72,821
Manipur	72	—
Meghalaya	248	78
Mizoram	6	—
Nagaland	132	13
Orissa	17,607	3,126
Pondicherry	1,857	145
Punjab	37,189	9,521
Rajasthan	30,502	23,876
Sikkim	166	29
Tamil Nadu	1,66,005	19,226
Tripura	978	59
Uttar Pradesh	1,23,358	39,126
West Bengal	79,300	12,323
Others	1,55,271	15,124
Total	15,25,432	3,42,382

[English]

Premature withdrawal of Deposits

2143. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether the nationalized and private banks are not paying interest on premature withdrawal of deposits;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the RBI has issued guidelines to the banks in this regard; and
- if so, the details alongwith the compliance of the banks thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) It has been brought to the notice of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that some banks have been offering special term deposit products to customers, in addition to regular term deposits, with special feature such as lock-in periods, differential rates of interest, no premature withdrawal during the lock-in period,

non-payment of interest in case of premature withdrawal during the lock-in period, etc. RBI has thereafter advised banks vide its circular dated October 25, 2007 that special schemes, with lock-in periods and other such features floated by some banks, are not in conformity with the RBI instructions and banks are advised to discontinue these schemes with immediate effect and report compliance. A copy of circular is available at RBI website (www.rbi.org.in).

In terms of RBI's extant instructions, a bank, on request from the depositor, should allow withdrawal of a term deposit before completion of the period of the deposit agreed upon at the time of making the deposit. The bank will have freedom to determine its own penal interest rate of premature withdrawal of term deposits. The bank should ensure that the depositors are made aware of the applicable penal rate along with the deposit rate. While prematurely closing a deposit, interest on the deposit for the period that it has remained with the bank will be paid at the rate applicable to the period for which the deposit remained with the bank and not at the contracted rate. No interest is payable, where premature withdrawal of deposits takes place before completion of the minimum period prescribed. However, the bank, at its discretion, may disallow premature withdrawal of large deposits held by entities other than individuals and Hindu Undivided Families. The bank should, however, notify such depositors of its policy of disallowing premature withdrawal in advance, i.e., at the time of accepting such deposits.

[Translation]

Loan to Farmers of Maharashtra

2144. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether loan at the rate of six percent interest given by the Government to the farmers of Maharashtra is only for one year;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Government of Maharashtra for continuously providing loan at six percent interest rate to all the farmers of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) The Government of Maharashtra has introduced the scheme of providing interest subvention @ 1 per cent per annum to the credit agencies to enable them to provide crop loans (upto Rs.3.00 lakh per farmer) at six per cent during 2006-07, which continued during 2007-08. The scheme designed by the State Government covered the entire State including Vidarbha region.

This State Government Scheme runs alongwith that of Government of India (Gol) Scheme and this ensures that farmers in Maharashtra receive Short Term Credit at 6% with an upper limit of Rs.3 lakh on the principal amount since 2006-07. Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks are being provided interest subvention on their own involvement of funds @ 2%. The Government is also providing interest subvention to NABARD for providing concessional refinance to RRBs and Cooperative Banks for the purpose. Gol's scheme continues for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09. The State Government is providing additional subvention on the current crop loans provided by the agencies to enable them to dispense credit at 6 per cent to the farmers.

[English]

Delay in Release of Funds for NREGS

2145. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any delay in release of funds under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether some State Government have requested the Union Government for immediate release of funds under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) NREGS is demand based. Funds are released to districts on receipt of a proposal from them for release of funds along with necessary documents including utilisation certificates showing at least 60% utilisation of available resources.

Tax Concessions during the Tenth Plan

2146. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the tax concessions given during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) whether these were meant for the rich people; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Every year, in the Budget, there are large number of tariffs which are increased or decreased. All such decreases can be treated as tax concessions. There are also any number of amendments brought in to simplify procedures, to encourage growth in selected sectors, to provide support to certain

sections etc. All these can also be treated as tax concessions. Sometimes, changes are brought in during the year which also can be treated as concessions. These will cover income tax, central excise, customs, service tax etc. It will be difficult to enumerate all these concessions that have been given over a five year period. However, these concessions help to promote savings by individuals; exports; balanced regional development; creation of infrastructure facilities; employment; rural development and scientific research & development etc. Decisions concerning tax concessions are taken by the Government keeping in view the public interest at large and it cannot be concluded that the incentives are designed to benefit only the rich.

[Translation]

Brokers' Margin

2147. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposes to make such law in which an investor will have to pay margins to broker only once;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase margins to NSE;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are likely to make an overall review in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of any other action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. SEBI has specified the margins to be collected by the Exchanges from brokers. However, the quantum, the form and the mode of collection of margins from clients is left to the discretion of the brokers.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) SEBI has informed that it is not considering an overall review of the risk management system.

(f) SEBI has advised Stock Exchanges to ensure that brokers provide daily report to each client, clearly bringing out his margin liability. It has also advised the Exchanges to commence public awareness programmes with special focus on the margin system.

[English]

Compulsory Certification of Market Intermediaries

2148. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to recognise a stock exchange as market intermediary;

(b) whether in a bid to improve the quality of services available to investors, SEBI has made certification mandatory

for all market participants handling investors' money and acting as advisory;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the investors are benefited by this step of SEBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The criteria for recognition of stock exchanges have been specified in Section 4 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.

(b) and (c) Under the SEBI (Certification of Associated Persons in the Securities Markets) Regulations, 2007, SEBI shall notify from time to time the categories of associated persons who would be required to obtain the certification and also the date from which such certification would be necessary.

(d) Certification would improve the quality of intermediation and better services to investors.

[Translation]

Expansion of Tribal Sub Plan Area

2149. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan had requested the Union Government for expansion of Tribal Sub Plan Area in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which approval to said proposal is likely to be accorded by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, the State Government of Rajasthan has requested for expansion of Tribal Sub Plan Area which includes Scheduled Area, Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) block and MADA Clusters. This has been examined and clarifications are awaited from the State Government of Rajasthan. No time limit can be set.

[English]

Delay in Release of Funds under Rural Development Schemes

2150. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding delays in the receipt of funds by the districts and panchayats for various rural development schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the release of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development releases centre share to the State Governments, mostly in two installments to District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) and Zilla Parishads (ZPs) etc. as per the programme guidelines. First installment is released during April - May, if there is no condition laid down during the release of 2nd installment during previous year. Second installment is released after utilization of 60% of available funds including first installment released by Centre and State Government and completion of other procedures laid down for release of second installment. The Ministry took various measures to quicken releases of Central Share including electronic transfer of funds. There has been no delay in release of funds. As per cash management system, 67% of the Budget Estimate for 2007-08, should have been released by 31.12.2007. However, the Ministry of Rural Development released 75.17% against the target of 67%.

Development Plan for Bangalore

2151. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is yet to clear 20 projects formulated for Bangalore and Mysore under its ambitious seven-year Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Union Government is likely to clear these projects;

(d) whether some organisations have been selected for this; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) 49 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and 8 DPRs have been submitted by Bangalore and Mysore respectively. Out of above 37 DPRs have been approved for Bangalore and 3 DPRs have been approved for Mysore respectively under Urban Infrastructure & Governance (UIG) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

(c) to (e) The projects submitted by the Cities are considered by Central Monitoring & Sanctioning Committee under JNNURM for approval, after being appraised by the Technical Appraisal Agencies viz. Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Central Public Health Engineering & Environment Organisation and Urban Transport Division of this Ministry.

Flourosis Mitigation Centre at Gandhinagar

2152. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the required detailed proposals from the State Government of

Gujarat regarding setting up of the Regional Flourosis Mitigation Centre at Gandhinagar;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Electronic Medium in Banks

2153. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to encourage the use of electronic medium for the withdrawal of cash from the bank in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the Automated Teller Machines, bank-wise, location-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up more A.T.Ms centres and to implement Truncated Cheque System; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has been encouraging the use of electronic payment channels for money transfers and the use of ATM for cash withdrawal. In order to facilitate the wider use of ATM, an Approach Paper was placed on RBI website seeking public comments. The paper proposed the use of any bank ATM, without payment of service charge, by customers, irrespective of the customers bank.

In order to encourage the use of electronic payment channels for money transfers, the approach paper proposes that with effect from 1st April 2008, all payment transactions for Rs. 1 crore and above between RBI regulated entities i.e. banks, primary dealers and NBFCs as well as in RBI regulated markets may be mandated to be undertaken through electronic mode only. This move will not only reduce risk by moving large paper-based value retail payments to safer electronic mode, but will also bring greater efficiency and customer convenience to the payment systems.

(c) The details regarding State wise ATM deployment by public sector banks is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) The ATM deployment by banks is decided by individual banks. The cheque truncation system being implemented by RBI, has become operational from February 01, 2008, with 10 pilot banks. After the full implementation of the project at New Delhi, it is proposed to implement the system for inter-city cheque collection in the country.

Statement

State-wise deployment of ATM's as on December 31, 2007

Sl.No.	Bank Name	Andaman & Nicobar	Andhra Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Bihar	Chandigarh	Chhattisgarh	Dadra, Nagar Haveli	Daman	Delhi	Diu	Goa	Gujarat	Haryana	Himachal Pradesh	Jammu & Kashmir
	Public Sector Banks																
	Nationalised Banks																
1	Allahabad Bank	0	6	0	4	8	3	3	0	0	17	0	0	3	5	0	1
2	Andhra Bank	0	470	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	23	0	4	4	2	0	0
3	Bank of Baroda	1	43	0	5	10	0	13	2	1	75	0	10	220	23	4	2
4	Bank of India	0	25	0	0	10	2	3	0	0	30	0	8	39	7	0	1
5	Bank of Maharashtra	0	12	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	19	0	7	16	11	1	0
6	Canara Bank	2	93	0	3	28	15	7	1	0	112	0	19	39	34	6	4
7	Central Bank of India	0	26	0	2	17	7	7	0	0	28	0	3	28	7	0	1
8	Corporation Bank	0	60	0	1	4	5	8	0	0	101	0	22	58	25	3	1
9	Dena Bank	0	7	0	0	1	1	8	0	1	14	0	2	99	6	0	0
10	Indian Bank	0	42	0	7	1	3	0	0	0	21	0	2	24	5	0	1
11	Indian Overseas Bank	0	59	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	34	0	2	15	10	0	2
12	Oriental Bank of Commerce	0	95	0	3	2	14	8	0	1	62	0	6	31	43	6	4
13	Punjab & Sind bank	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Punjab National Bank	0	34	0	5	28	19	28	0	0	180	0	3	38	78	42	25
15	Syndicate Bank	1	97	1	1	6	4	2	0	0	67	0	10	25	20	2	1
16	UCO Bank	0	12	0	7	3	2	7	0	0	17	0	1	9	2	4	1
17	Union Bank of India	0	75	0	9	10	11	16	0	0	55	0	6	67	21	5	1
18	United Bank of India	0	1	0	6	2	1	0	0	0	9	0	1	2	0	0	0
19	Vijaya Bank	0	21	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	14	0	1	14	3	0	0
20	State Bank Group																
20	State Bank of India	7	686	4	152	172	44	135	1	0	205	0	44	249	74	33	26
21	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	16	0	0	4	7	0	0
22	State Bank of Hyderabad	0	358	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	4	3	0	0
23	State Bank of Indore	0	2	0	0	0	1	18	0	0	7	0	0	5	1	0	0
24	State Bank of Mysore	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
25	State Bank of Patiala	0	1	0	0	1	18	0	0	0	18	0	0	2	84	43	1
26	State Bank of Saurashtra	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	2	0	179	1	0	0
27	State Bank of Travancore	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	0
	Other Public Sector Banks																
28	IDBI Ltd.	0	26	1	2	5	6	12	1	0	57	0	8	41	15	3	1
	Total	11	2270	6	208	312	170	282	5	3	1205	2	160	1215	462	152	73

Statement

State-wise deployment of ATM's as on December 31, 2007

Jharkhand	Karnataka	Kerala	Lakshadweep	Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Manipur	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Nagaland	Orissa	Pondicherry	Punjab	Rajasthan	Sikkim	Tamil Nadu	Tripura	Uttar Pradesh	Uttarakhand	West Bengal	Total
12	5	1	0	11	12	0	0	0	0	7	0	7	7	0	11	0	63	5	20	211
1	21	6	0	3	33	0	0	0	0	19	1	1	0	0	30	0	3	0	7	632
14	34	23	0	39	157	0	3	0	0	15	1	20	82	0	65	0	144	16	56	1078
16	22	8	0	24	127	0	0	0	0	7	1	5	5	0	28	0	15	1	27	411
0	14	1	0	14	187	0	0	0	0	2	1	12	5	0	7	0	16	1	12	344
18	357	168	0	31	173	0	0	0	0	14	4	46	12	0	334	1	99	9	38	1667
7	6	12	0	27	44	0	0	0	0	7	1	7	12	1	25	0	44	3	24	346
3	265	48	0	14	102	0	1	0	0	9	1	18	15	1	82	0	56	4	34	941
0	13	3	0	13	72	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	5	0	16	0	15	1	4	288
1	21	24	0	3	45	0	0	0	0	4	13	5	9	0	257	0	10	0	18	516
1	14	27	0	2	19	0	0	0	0	7	5	13	6	0	179	0	23	2	14	439
1	42	8	0	29	77	0	0	0	0	10	0	78	31	2	42	0	82	18	31	726
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
13	21	37	0	65	90	0	1	0	0	20	1	129	96	1	33	1	187	67	51	1293
7	183	68	1	16	66	0	1	1	1	10	3	15	6	1	96	0	72	7	24	815
6	13	10	0	15	15	0	0	0	0	35	3	9	13	1	16	1	14	3	35	255
17	60	94	0	67	202	0	0	0	0	25	1	20	24	1	95	0	91	7	56	1036
6	2	1	0	0	9	1	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	2	3	2	7	0	99	161
0	59	16	0	3	27	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	2	0	13	0	12	1	5	203
108	330	173	0	274	605	4	15	3	5	299	11	128	110	6	647	9	443	123	444	5569
0	2	1	0	4	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	319	0	5	0	3	1	4	391
0	42	1	0	0	55	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	3	488
0	1	0	0	220	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8		4	0	7	4		294
0	260	1	0	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	20	0	1	0	5	315
0	2	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	215	10	0	3		19	3	2	432
0	2	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	3	1	0	210
0	8	286	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	33	0	2	0	2	348
14	16	12	0	38	190	0	0	1	1	10	0	17	27	2	53	1	41	7	20	628
245	1815	1029	1	919	2361	5	22	5	7	512	49	767	807	18	2113	15	1472	280	1039	20047

[English]

Credit Guarantee Fund Trust Scheme

2154. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the banks joined the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust Scheme for Small Industries (CGTSI);

(b) whether the private and foreign banks can also join the scheme;

(c) if so, the number of private and foreign banks joined the CGTSI scheme as on date; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage the private and foreign banks to join the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of the banks who have joined the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust Scheme for Small Industries (CGTSI) presently known as Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As on date, 13 Private Sectors Banks have joined the above scheme.

(d) Chief Executives of all the eligible banks including private and foreign banks are explained the details of the scheme as well as the benefits of joining the scheme.

Statement

Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) of CGTMSE as on February 29, 2008

Total No. of Member Lending institutions (MLTs) = 57

(A) Scheduled Commercial Banks

(i) Public Sector Banks (20 nos.)

- 1) Allahabad Bank
- 2) Andhra Bank
- 3) Bank of Baroda
- 4) Bank of India
- 5) Bank of Maharashtra
- 6) Canara Bank
- 7) Central Bank of India
- 8) Corporation Bank
- 9) Dena Bank

- 10) IDBI Limited
- 11) Indian Bank
- 12) Indian Overseas Bank
- 13) Oriental Bank of Commerce
- 14) Punjab & Sind Bank
- 15) Punjab National Bank
- 16) Syndicate Bank
- 17) UCO Bank
- 18) Union Bank of India
- 19) United Bank of India
- 20) Vijaya Bank

(ii) SBI and Its Associate Banks (8 nos.)

- 1) State Bank of India
- 2) State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur
- 3) State Bank of Hyderabad
- 4) State Bank of Indore
- 5) State Bank of Mysore
- 6) State Bank of Patiala
- 7) State Bank of Travancore
- 8) State Bank of Saurashtra

(iii) Private Sector Banks (13 nos.)

- 1) HDFC Bank Ltd.
- 2) ICICI Bank Ltd.
- 3) ING Vysya Bank Ltd.
- 4) IndusInd Bank Ltd.
- 5) The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
- 6) The Nainital Bank Ltd.
- 7) The South Indian Bank Ltd.
- 8) The Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.
- 9) Axis Bank
- 10) Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
- 11) The Federal Bank Ltd.
- 12) Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.
- 13) Kamataka Bank Ltd.

(B) Regional Rural Banks (13 nos.)

- 1) Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh
- 2) Baroda Eastern Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank, Raebareli, UP
- 3) Chikmagalur-Kodagu Gramin Bank
- 4) Chaitanya Godavari Grameena Bank, Guntur
- 5) Durg Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank, Rajnandgaon
- 6) Haryana Gramin Bank, Rohtak, Haryana
- 7) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank, Dharwad
- 8) Nainital - Almora Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Haldwani, Uttaranchal
- 9) Pragathi Gramin Bank, Bellary, Karnataka
- 10) Prathama Bank, Moradabad, UP
- 11) Saptagiri Grameena Bank, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh
- 12) South Malabar Gramin Bank, Mallapuram
- 13) Purvanchal Gramin Bank, Gorakhpur

(C) Lending Institutions (3 nos.)

- 1) National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.
- 2) North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.
- 3) Small Industries Development Bank of India

Seasonal Agricultural Operations of NABARD

2155. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has received the proposals from State Governments that percentage of short term refinance for seasonal agricultural operations of the NABARD should be enhanced from 30 per cent to 75 per cent so that the farmers dependence on State, Central Cooperative Banks and others with high rate of interest is proportionately curtailed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from several State Governments for enhancement of short term refinance for seasonal agricultural operations of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) from 30 per cent to 75 per cent.

NABARD refinance is supplementary in nature and it cannot afford to take care of the total credit needs of client banks due to its funds constraints. At present, NABARD is entirely dependent on market borrowings at market related rates for its Short Term-Seasonal Agricultural Operations (ST-SAO) refinance and NABARD is not in a position to raise the quantum of refinance as requested. Notwithstanding this, the quantum of refinance has been increased from 30% of Realistic Lending Programme (RLP) during 2005-06 to 35% / 40% of RLP during 2006-07 and 2007-08 depending upon the level of gross Non Performing Assets of State Cooperative Banks.

To enable NABARD to provide greater refinance to the Short Term Cooperative Credit Institutions creation of a fund with a corpus of Rs.5000 crore in NABARD has been announced in the Budget 2008-09.

Possession of Vested Land

2156. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased refer to the reply given to USQ Nos. 3828, 177 and 6594 dated 24.8.2005, 1.3.2005 and 10.5.2005 regarding execution of warrant of possessions and agricultural land vested into Gram Sabha respectively and please state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken to take-over the possession of the land vested into gram sabha;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in collection of information; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir. The information has been collected and the Implementation Reports in respect of USQ Nos.3828, 177 and 6594 for 24.8.2005, 1.3.2005 and 10.5.2005 have been sent to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 11.1.2008, 18.2.2008 and 29.1.2008 respectively.

(b) According to GNCTD, the Deputy Commissioner (South) District has executed 3 number of Warrants of Possession and lands have been taken over. However, Tehsildars of Vasant Vihar and Najafgarh have not executed any Warrants of Possession. The GNCTD is facing difficulties in executing Warrants of Possession as the area is heavily built up. However, all efforts are under way to execute all the Warrants of Possession. Tehsildar Vasant Vihar and Tehsildar Najafgarh. have not executed any Warrants of Possession

during the last 3 years. Details of the Warrants of Possession executed by Block Development Officer (BDO, South) are given in the enclosed Statement-I. A total of 383 Warrants of Possession are pending for execution with BDO, South (180), Tehsildar, Vasant Vihar (98) and Tehsildar, Najafgarh (105). Details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

The Deputy Commissioner (South) has been taking monthly and bi-weekly District Task Force Meetings comprising of various inter-related agencies such as, Revenue Department, EDO (South), Delhi Police, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Delhi Traffic Police to get back the possession of

the vested gram sabha land. A total of 61 Warrants of Possession are lying pending for execution in respect of Sainik Farms. This includes Neb Sarai - 22, Devli - 30 and Khanpur - 09. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-III. Similarly, there were 149 execution cases pending before Revenue Assistant, Hauz Khas for issuing Warrants of Possession. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-IV. However, no Warrants of Possession are pending before Revenue Assistant, Vasant Vihar. Several steps such as regular hearing for early dates and issuing notices to concerned parties were undertaken to issue the Warrants of Possession.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view (a) and (b) above.

Statement-I

Details of Warrants of Possession by Block Development Officer (South District)

S.No.	Case No.	Date of issue of WOP	Name of Village	Khasra No.	Area (Bigha - Biswa)
1	24/RA/HK/2000	07.01.04	Mehrauli	9/12/2	(0-7)
				9/18	(2-5)
				9/19	(4-16)
				9/22	(4-16)
				9/23	(4-8)
				Total	16 Bigha-12 Biswa
2	285/RA/HK/2002	07.01.04	Mehrauli	10/14	(4-16)
				10/17	(4-16)
				10/24	(4-7)
				10/25	(4-16)
				16/2	(2-4)
				10/7	(4-6)
Total	25 Bigha-5 Biswa				
3	275/RA/HK/2002	07.01.04	Mehrauli	10/8/2	(3-0)
					Total 3 Bigha
Grand Total - 44 Bigha 17 Biswa					

Statement-II

Detail of Warrants of Possession Pending with Tehsildars [Vasant Vihar, Najafgarh and BDO (South)]

S. No.	Case No.	Case Title	Date/Year of issue of WOP
1	2	3	4
Village Chatterpur			
1.	77/RA/HK/02	G.S. V/s.Shanti Devi	23.09.04
2.	75/RA/02	G.S. V/s Atender Pal	-do-
3.	76/RA/02	G.S. V/s Rajinder Kumar	-do-

1	2	3	4
4.	286/RA/05 & 142/RA/99	G.S. V/s Shanti Devi	-do
5.	—	G.S. V/s LK.Bedi	14.10.04
Village Asola			
6.	—	G.S. V/s Kanni Ram & Ors	11.07.01
7.	6/RA/2000	G.S. V/s Rajshree Pawar	2003
8.	217/RA/HK/03	G.S. V/s Master Gurpreet Singh	11.07.01
9.	172/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Lal Chand	2002
10.	22/RA/HK/02	G.S. V/s Vidhi Construction	2003
Village Satbari			
11.	85/RA/02	G.S. V/s Vinod Krishan Khanna	08.01.04
Village Saidulazab			
12.	12/RA/03	G.S. V/s Mangal Singh & Ors	2004
13.	—	Gyan Parkash	16.11.04
14.	—	Ram Singh & Ors	23.09.04
15.	99/RA/HK/02	Ran Singh	23.09.04
Village Jonapur			
16.	236/RA/01	G.S. V/s Bishan Singh Bedi	20.09.04
17.	238/RA/01	G.S. V/s Arun Jain & Ors	05.06.04
18.	467/RA/95	G.S. V/s Braham Prakash & Ors	29.07.02
19.	493/RA/86	G.S. V/s Gayasi	2002
20.	269/RA/02	G.S. V/s Ashok Kumar Family Trust	23.09.04
Village Fatehpur Beri			
21.	16/RA/03	G.S. V/S Amit Aggarwal & Ors	23:09.04
Village Aya Nagar			
22.	262/RA/HK/02	G.S. V/s Dharamvier & Ors	07.01.04
23.	263/RA/HK/02	G.S. V/s Lakhmi Chand & Ors	07.01.04
24.	264/RA/HK/02	G.S. V/s Hari Ram & Ors	07.01.04
25.	—	G.S. V/s Prem Pal Malhotra & Ors	01 .03.02
26.	—	G.S V/s Chandu	12.09.02
27.	261/RA/95	G.S. V/s Ram Kall	08.01.04
28.	—	G.S. V/s Daya Ram & Ors	12.09.02
29.	—	G.S. V/s Mahender & Ors	04.04.03

1	2	3	4
30.	—	G.S. V/s Jaggi & Ors	-do-
31.	—	G.S. V/s RajPal & Ors	-do-
32.	—	G.S. V/s Modern Mateu Hite Saity	-do-
33.	—	G.S. V/s Dharam Pal	01.11.02
34.	261/RA/HK/02	G.S. V/s Tariff & Ors	07.01.04
35.	269/RA/HK	G.S. V/s Nathi Ram	08.01.04
36.	124/RA/97	G.S. V/s Anand Naidu	29.05.03
37.	267/RA/HK/02	G.S. V/s Ram Nath & Ors	01.03.02
38.	208/RA/HK/02	G.S. V/s Imperial Estate Pvt. Ltd	12.02.02
39.	—	G.S: V/s Chajjui	07.08.03
40.	168/RA/02	G.S. V/s Girdhari & Ors	01.03.02
41.	269/RA/95	G.S. V/s Kartar Singh	-do-
42.	272/RA/01	G.S. V/s Smt.Prem Kumar	-do-
43.	271/RA/01	G.S. V/s Hukam Singh	-do-
44.	140/RA/02	G.S V/s.Chander & Ors	-do-
45.	139/RA/02	G.S. V/s Dharam Pal & Ors	12.09.02
46.	143/RA/HK/02	G.S. V/s Ganagi Ram & Ors	12.09.02
47.	240/RA/02	G.S. V/s Daya Ram Uday Ram	-do-
48.	140/RA/02	G.S. V/s Ram Nath & Ors	-do-
49.	—	G.S. V/s Bhopander Kur	-do-
50.	—	G.S. V/s Chhotu	-do-
51.	265/RA/02	G.S. V/s Satish & Ors	07.01.04
52.	—	G.S V/s Imart & Ors	04.04.03
53.	—	G.S. V/s Kanni & Ors	04.04.03
Village Bhatl			
54.	319/RA/96	G.S V/s Krishan Lal	16.11.04
55.	151/RA/HK/03	G.S. V/s Pamela Rocks	-do-
56.	178/RA/HK/03	G.S. V/s Smt.Dhalan W/o Aflaton	23.09.04
57.	176/RA/02	G.S. V/s Rumali & Ors	-do-
58.	185/RA/02	G.S. V/s Natho	-do-
59.	187/RA/02	G.S. V/s Nathya & Ors	-do-
60.	184/RA/02	G.S. V/s Mohit Nahta through Asha Nahta	-do-

1	2	3	4
61.	183/RA/02	G.S. V/s Resh S/o Sant Ram	-do-
62.	174/RA/02	G.S. V/s Sudan & Ors	-do-
63.	169/RA/02	G.S. V/s Rishi	-do-
64.	179/RA/02	G.S. V/s Smt.Nathya W/o Pat Ram	-do-
65.	168/RA/02	G.S. V/s Surgh	-do-
66.	188/RA/02	G.S. V/s Kishan & Ors	-do-
67.	126/RA/03	G.S. V/s Shri Jain	2003
68.	181/RA/02	G.S. V/s Rishi & Ors	2003
69.	182/RA/02	G.S. V/s Kusham & Ors	2003
70.	175/RA/02	G.S. V/s Chandu	2003
71.	170/RA/02	G.S.V/s Pehlad & Pawan	2003
Village Devli			
72.	163/RA/02	G.S. V/s Budhu & Ors	12.09.02
73.	47/RA/03	G.S. V/s Rakesh Anand	24.07.03
74.	130/RA/2000	G.S. V/s Delhi Towers Pvt. Ltd.	24.07.03
75.	44/RA/HK/03	G.S. V/s Delhi Towers Pvt.Ltd.	24.07.03
76.	215/RA/01	G.S. V/s Kartar Singh	24.07.03
77.	131/RA/2000	G.S. V/s Sanjiv Kohli	-do-
78.	162/RA/02	G.S. V/s Suraj Narayan	12.09.02
79.	205/RA/02	G.S. V/s Neelu Chaddha	10.01.03
80.	148/RA/02	G.S. V/s Saroj Kumar Aggarwal	12.09.02
81.	158/RA/HK/02	G.S. V/s Mandeep Malik	-do-
82.	160/RA/02	G.S. V/s. Pardeep Singh	-do-
83.	157/RA/02	G.S. V/s Nikhil D Sinha & Ors	-do-
84.	156/RA/02	G.S. V/s Smt.Kanta & Ors	-do-
85.	155/RA/02	G.S. V/s Devika Aggarwal	-do-
86.	207/RA/02	G.S. V/s Gayani Ressen	10.01.03
87.	208/RA/02	G.S. V/s Smt.Ballar & Ors	10.01.03
88.	154/RA/02	G.S. V/s Manohar Singh & Ors	12.09.02
89.	164/RA/02	G.S. V/s Manit Ragtogi	-do-
90.	153/RA/02	G.S. V/s Rajesh Kapour	-do-
91.	203/RA/02	G.S. V/s Nafe Singh	10.01.03

1	2	3	4
92.	202/RA/02	G.S. V/s Ram Kala & Ors	10.01.03
93.	295/RA/91	G.S. V/s Kaptan Singh	—
94.	220/RA/89	G.S. V/s Kaptan Singh	06.06.03
95.	159/RA/02	G.S. V/s Manish Rehan	12.09.02
96.	161/RA/02	G.S. V/s Smt.Bhagwati	-do-
97.	147/RA/02	G.S V/s Devender Nath	-do-
98.	149/RA/02	G.S V/s Devender Nath	-do-
99.	150/RA/02	G.S. V/s Kamaldeep Kaur	-do-
100.	152/RA/02	G.S. V/s Baldev Singh Mohan	-do-
101.	151/RA/02	G.S. V/s Rekha Battra & Ors	-do-
Village Neb Sarai			
102.	4A/RA/HK/96	G.S. Ranjit Singh	16.11.04
103.	—	G.S. V/s Sahab Singh	27.12.04
104.	5A/RA/96	G.S. V/s Braham Singh & Ors	16.11.04
105.	07/RA/99	G.S. V/s Ramautar & Ors.	-do-
106.	27/RA/02	G.S. V/s Ravender Singh & Ors	-do-
107.	6A/RA/02	G.S. V/s Dalip Bora	-do-
108.	8A/RA/96	G.S. V/s Jagdeve Singh & Ors	-do-
109.	2A/RA/96	G.S. V/s Sandi Savitari	-do-
110.	3A/RA/96	G.S.V/s Karan Singh	-do-
111.	467/RA/96	G.S. V/s Deep Chand	-do-
112.	468/RA/96	G.S. V/s Mangtu	-do-
113.	466/RA/96	G.S. V/s Laxman Singh	-do-
114.	205/RA/01	G.S. V/s Devi Singh	23.09.04
115.	362/RA/02	G.S. V/s Kuldeep Singh	-do-
116.	364/RA/02	G.S. V/s Dayawati & Ors	-do-
117.	363/RA/02	G.S. V/s Kishan	-do-
118.	101/RA/09	V.S. V/s Ramawati & Ors	-do-
119.	282/RA/02	G.S. V/s Susan Singh	-do-
120.	283/RA/02	G.S. V/s Sahib Singh & Ors	-do-
121.	287/RA/02	G.S. V/s Dayawati	-do-
122.	91/RA/99	G.S. V/s Om Prakash	-do-
123.	3A/RA/96	G.S. V/s Karan Singh	16.11.04

1	2	3	4
Village Sultanpur			
124.	452/RA/96	Bohia Ram	16.11.04
125.	431/RA/96	Narayan Dass	16.11.04
126.	40/RA/02	Narjit Kaur	23.09.04
127.	316/RA/02	Mahesh Kumar Lalwani	2004
128.	230/RA/HK/02	Ranjit Singh	22.01.05
Village Khanpur			
129.	110/RA/03	G.S. V/s Laxmi Narayan	07.08.03
130.	115/RA/03	G.S. V/s S.C. Kanwar	-do-
131.	111/RA/03	G.S. V/s Kailash Chand	-do-
132.	112/RA/03	G.S. V/s Capt. Surender Kumar	-do-
133.	108/RA/02	G.S. V/s Smt. Jailinder Kaur	-do-
134.	116/RA/03	G.S. V/s Laxmi Narayan & Ors	-do-
135.	113/RA/03	G.S. V/s Shiv Lal	-do-
136.	114/RA/03	G.S. V/s Major Harish Kumar Dhawan	-do-
137.	117/RA/03	G.S. V/s Lakhi Ram & Ors	-do-
Village Mehrauli			
138.	275/RA/02	Bhim Singh	07.01.04
139.	91/RA/02	Hem Chand Gupta & Ors	-do-
140.	289/RA/HK/02	Ram Narain	-do-
141.	254/RA/HK/01	Ashok Kumar Suri	06.01.04
142.	90/RA/97	Bishan Singh & Ors	08.01.04
143.	71/RA/92	Shula Singh	08.01.04
144.	465/RA/95	Usha Mehta	07.01.04
145.	—	Vinit Jain	-do-
146.	89/RA/97	Renu	08.01.04
147.	277/RA/02	Neeraj Aggarwal	06.01.04
148.	181/RA/00	Laxmi Agency	-do-
149.	242/RA/02	Jai Bhagwan Aggarwal	-do-
150.	24/RA/00	M/s Rajiv (P) Ltd	07.01.04
151.	14/RA/92	Sanjeev Nanda	08.01.04
152.	279/RA/02	Salek Chand Jain	06.01.04

1	2	3	4
153.	364/RA/93	Jagini Lal	08.01.04
154.	139/RA/97	Vir Singh & Ors	-do-
155.	115/RA/02	Vinod Kumar Aggarwal	06.01.04
156.	117/RA/02	Gurdev Gill	-do-
157.	42/RA/94	Mahinder Singh	-do-
158.	394/RA/02	Sachin Gandas	07.01.04
159.	143/RA/89	Jogi Ram	08.01.04
160.	116/RA/02	Uma Rani	06.01.04
161.	23/RA/00	Rattan Lal Bagaria	08.01.04
162.	367/RA/93	Smt. Sobha	08.01.03
163.	368/RA/93	Anil Kumar	06.01.04
164.	354/RA/02	Sunil Dass	06.01.04
165.	90/RA/02	GOC Fashion Pvt. Ltd.	08.2004
166.	359/RA/93	Sher Singh	08.2004
167.	27/RA/92	Prem Chand & Ors	23.09.04
168.	230/RA	Usha Jain	-do-
Village Deramandi			
169.	259/RA/02	G.S. V/s Bhuley	07.01.04
170.	357/RA/02	G.S. V/s Veenka Seth	-do-
171.	245/RA/01	G.S. V/s Krishan Chand	-do-
172.	248/RA/02	G.S. V/s Giri Raj	-do-
173.	240/RA/02	G.S. V/s Krishan Kishore	-do-
174.	258/RA/02	G.S. V/s T.A. Bhukhari	-do-
175.	247/RA/HK/01	G.S. V/s Rati Ram	-do-
176.	241/RA/02	G.S. V/s Mahender Kumar	-do-
177.	243/RA/HK/03	G.S. V/s Vikram Kashyap	-do-
178.	244/RA/02	G.S. V/s Smt. Malik Kapoor	-do-
179.	249/RA/02	G.S. V/s Lekh Ram	-do-
180.	246/RA/02	G.S V/s Suraj Jain	-do-
181.	348/RA/2000	G.S. Rangpuri Vs R.K.Jai Construction Pvt. Ltd.	28.5.2001
182.	347/RA/2001	GS. Rangpuri Vs. Ramesh Kr.Aggarwal	-do-
183.	357/RA/2001	GS. Bagdola Vs. Mahendra Singh	-do-

1	2	3	4
184.	353/RA/2001	GS. Bamnoli Vs Nafe Singh	-do-
185.	358/RA/2001	GS. Pochanpur Vs Daya Singh & Ors	28.5.2001
186.	350/RA/2001	GS. Samalka Vs Anil Kumar Kh.No. 56/21	-do-
187.	356/RA/2001	GS, Samalka Vs Ever Sign Agro Kh. No. 25/17/2(4-0), 56/15 (1-10)	-do-
188.	352/RA/2001	GS. Bharthal Vs Smt.Oma	-do-
189.	354/RA/2001	GS. Bamnoli Vs Lakhkram	-do-
190.	362/RA/2001	GS. Bharthal Vs Mahavir Prasad	-do-
191.	360/RA/2001	GS. Dhulsiras Vs Ratan	-do-
192.	349/RA/2001	GS. Bamnoli Vs Narayan Singh	-do-
193.	355/RA/2001	GS. Dhulsiras Vs Meer Singh	-do-
194.	438/RA/2001	GS. Amberhai Vs Hitesh Bhardwaj	19.11.01
195.	422/RA/2001	GS. Kapashera Vs Poddar Contribution	-do-
196.	418/RA/2001	GS. Rajokari Vs PDJ Properties	-do-
197.	417/RA/2001	GS. Kapashera Vs Moti Ram	-do-
198.	431/RA/2001	GS. Vs Rishi Kr	-do-
199.	439/RA/2001	GS. Vs G.D. Siddhu	-do-
200.	435/RA/2001	GS.Bijwasan Vs Pushpanjali Farms	-do-
201.	421/RA/2001	GS. Vs Bihari Saran Mehra	-do-
202.	433/RA/2001	GS. Vs Pushpanjali Farms	-do-
203.	434/RA/2001	GS. Vs Pushpanjali Farms	19.11.01
204.	440/RA/2001	GS. Vs Raj Singh	-do-
205.	416/RA/2001	GS. Bhathal Vs Mamta Devi Aggarwal	-do-
206.	423/RA/2001	GS. Mahipalpur Vs Sri Chand & Ors	-do-
207.	427/RA/2001	GS. Rangpuri Vs Dhanpati	-do-
208.	425/RA/2001	GS. Rajokari Vs Sat Prakash & ors	-do-
209.	432/RA/2001	GS. Vs Ajay Kr. Sood	-do-
210.	424/RA/2001	GS. Rangpuri Vs Imrati Devi	-do-
211.	430/RA/2001	GS. Rajokari Vs Ashraf & Co Pvt. Ltd.	-do-
212.	43/RA/2002	GS.Saihapur Vs Pyare & Ors.	15.5.02
213.	41/RA/2002	GS. Masoodpur Vs Amrit Lal	-do-

1	2	3	4
214.	38/RA/2002	GS. Bijwasan Vs Umed Singh	5.8.02
215.	257/RA/2000	GS. Samalka Vs Paper product company	4.9.02
216.	273/RA/2000	GS. Rangpuri Vs Kartar Singh	4.9.02
217.	25/RA/2003	GS. Ghitorni Vs Daya Ram	24.2.03
218.	58/RA/2003	GS. Vs Chander	15.9.03
219.	50/RA/2003	GS. Vs Bhudha	-do-
220.	62/RA/2003	GS. Vs Rameshwari	-do-
221.	54/RA/2003	GS. Vs Dharamvir Sharma	-do-
222.	61/RA/2003	GS. Mahipalpur Vs Kanwaljit Kochar	-do-
223.	60/RA/2003	GS. Vs Shyam Sunder Aggarwal	-do-
224.	51/RA/2003	GS Bijwasan Vs M/s.Green Valley Resort	-do-
225.	53/RA/2003	GS Amberai Vs Kure Ram & others	-do-
226.	52/RA/2003	GS Rajokari Vs Dev Kripa Developers	-do-
227.	55/RA/2003	GS Rangpuri Vs M/s Cheyven Investors	-do-
228.	57/RA/2003	GS Samalkha Vs Chander Singh	-do-
229.	56/RA/2003	GS Ghitorni Vs Rohtash	-do-
230.	59/RA/2003	GS Rangpuri Vs Rajender Kumar	-do-
231.	6/RA/2003	GS Mahipalpur Vs Hari Ram	24.2.03
232.	8/RA/2003	GS Vs Hawa Singh	-do-
233.	7/RA/2003	GS Mahipalpur Vs Manish	24.2.03
234.	10/RA/2003	GS Vs Swaroop Singh	-do-
235.	9/RA/2003	GS Vs Desh Raj	-do-
236.	15/RA/2003	GS Vs Daryao Singh	-do-
237.	16/RA/2003	GS Vs Tirthram & others	-do-
238.	18/RA/2003	GS Vs Surjan Singh	-do-
239.	11/RA/2003	GS Vs Gram Sudhar Sewa Samiti	24.2.03
240.	13/RA/2003	GS Vs Sultan Singh	-do-
241.	12/RA/2003	GS Vs Ram Rattan	-do-
242.	19/RA/2003	GS Vs Brahma & others	-do-
243.	17/RA/2003	GS Vs Sule Chand	-do-
244.	14/RA/2003	GS Vs Daryao Singh & Ors	-do-
245.	22/RA/2003	GS Samalkha Vs D.P. Sharma	-do-

1	2	3	4
246.	23/RA/2003	GS Rajokari Vs Dhanpati	-do-
247.	21/RA/2003	GS Bamnoli Vs Amarjeet & others	-do-
248.	24/RA/2003	GS Rajokari Vs Ranjan Rahul	-do-
249.	20/RA/2003	GS Bijwasan Vs M/s. C. Lal & Co	-do-
250.	18/RA/2004	GS Rajokari Vs Padma Devi	16.2.04
251.	19/RA/2004	GS Salahpur Vs Star State Management	-do-
252.	103/RA/2004	GS Vs Prem Nath Bhatia	30.7.04
253.	21/RA/2004	GS Masoodpur Vs Chotu & ors	16.2.04
254.	38/RA/2004	GS Ghitorni Vs Jagmal & others	19.3.04
255.	39/RA/2004	GS Vs Surajo Devi	-do-
256.	20/RA/2004	GS Vs Chandro & others	16.2.04
257.	37/RA/2004	GS Vs Lakmiri & others	19.3.04
258.	43/RA/2004	GS Vs Rishal & others	-do-
259.	41/RA/2004	GS Vs Shanti & others	-do-
260.	104/RA/2004	GS Rajokari Vs Shish Ram	30.7.04
261.	101/RA/2004	GS Kapashera Vs B.P Kandhari	-do-
262.	102/RA/2004	GS Vs Jagdish & others	-do-
263.	100/RA/2004	GS Vs Arun Kumar & Ors	-do-
264.	99/RA/2004	GS Bijwasan Vs Pyare Lal	-do-
265.	40/RA/2004	GS Ghitorni Vs Surender Kumar	19.3.04
266.	42/RA/2004	GS Vs Parmali	-do-
267.	36/RA/2004	GS Vs Ram Pal	-do-
268.	52/RA/2004	G. Amberai Vs Gurcharan Lal	11.6.04
269.	53/RA/2004	GS Vs Shish Ram	-do-
270.	54/RA/2004	GS Vs Jageram	-do-
271.	55/RA/2004	GS Ameberai Vs Rishal Singh	-do-
272.	56/RA/2004	GS Vs Meer Singh	-do-
273.	429/RA/2001	GS Ghitorni Vs Firreu & Sukh Ram	19.11.2001
274.	437/RA/2001	GS Vs Babu	-do-
275.	436/RA/2001	GS Vs Ballu	-do-
276.	351/RA/2001	GS Vs Dharpal	27.9.04
277.	34/RA/2001	GS Bijwasan Vs Pushpanjali	11.12.01

1	2	3	4
278.	115/RA/2002	GS Vs Ballu Ram & ors	20.5.02
279.	1751/2000	G.S. Surhera Vs Mange Ram	07.10.02
280.	496/99	G.S. Mundela Khurd Vs Kitas Singh	14.08.03
281.	95/89	G.S. Kair Vs Mohinder Singh	07.10.02
282.	520/99	G.S. Jhalijhuli Vs Samarh	07.10.02
283.	284/2000	G.S. Jaffarpur Vs Randhir	07.10.02
284.	285/2000	G.S. Jaffarpur Vs Saroj	07.10.02
285.	287/2000	G.S. Jaffarpur Kalan Vs Ranvir	07.10.02
286.	288/2000	G.S. Jaffarpur Kala Vs Yogender	07.10.02
287.	286/2000	G.S. Jaffarpur Kala Vs Hoshier	07.10.02
288.	514/2000	G.S. Saraspur Vs Prithi	22.05.03
289.	303/2000	G.S. Jaroda Kalan Vs Inder	07.10.02
290.	317/2000	G.S. Chhawla Vs Chander	14.08.03
291.	236/2000	G.S. Dichan Vs Mam Chand	07.10.02
292.	179/88	G.S. Goela Khurd Vs R.L. Singh	07.10.02
293.	318/2000	G.S. Chhawla Vs Ramesh Kumar	14.08.03
294.	310/2000	G.S. Chhawla Vs Suraj Mal	29.04.03
295.	173/03	G.S. Chhawla Vs Daryao Singh	07.10.02
296.	319/2000	G.S. Chhawla Vs Ram Kishan	21.05.03
297.	168/02	G.S. Chhawla Vs Pradeep	07.10.02
298.	313/02	G.S. Chhawla Vs Balbir	07.10.02
299.	314/2000	G.S. Chhawla Vs Balbir	07.10.02
300.	105/2000	G.S. Tajpur Vs Dayanand	07.10.02
301.	218/2000	G.S. Roshanpur Vs Yashvir	07.10.02
302.	25/2000	G.S. Jharoda Kala Vs Mool	07.10.02
303.	130/2000	G.S. Dichaon Kala Vs	
304.	24/2000	G.S. Goela Khurd Vs Umed Singh	07.10.02
305.	216/2000	G.S. Kakrola Vs Sri Bhagwan	21.05.03
306.	217/2000	G.S. Kakrola Vs Saroj	07.10.02
307.	246/2000	G.S. Nangli Sakrawati Vs Ram Kumar	07.10.02
308.	243/2000	G.S. Nangli Sakrawati Vs Kanti Rani	07.10.02
309.	257/2000	G.S. Goela Khurd Vs Anand Singh	21.05.03

1	2	3	4
310.	260/2000	G.S. Mundela Kalan Vs Rajender	21.05.03
311.	261/2000	G.S. Mundela Kalan Vs Sri Kishan	07.10.02
312.	262/2000	G.S. Mundela Kalan Vs Ram Kumar	07.10.02
313.	263/2000	G.S. Mundela Kalan Vs Sahib Singh	21.05.03
314.	87/01		14.08.03
315.	104/2000	G.S. Dichaon Kala Vs Mam Chand	07.10.02
316.	237/2000	G.S. Dichaon Kala Vs Monhinder Singh	07.10.02
317.	11/01	G.S. Bakargari Vs Hari Singh	14.08.03
318.	320/02	G.S. Malikpur Vs Rattan Singh	07.10.02
319.	310A/2000	G.S. Chhawla Vs Bhagwan Singh	14.08.03
320.	41/2000	G.S. Dichaon Kala Vs Ramand	14.08.03
321.		G.S. Bakar Vs Charander	14.08.03
322.	84/01	G.S. Kutapur Vs Rohtashq	07.10.02
323.	85/01	G.S. Katabapur Vs Khen Etc.	07.10.02
324.	125/2000	G.S. Katabapur Vs Abiy Ram	05.05.03
325.	173/01	G.S. Jharoda Vs Hari Singh	05.05.03
326.	196/01	G.S. Jhorda Vs	
327.	192/01	G.S. Katabapur Vs Daryao Singh	05.05.03
328.	172/01	G.S. Mundek Kala Vs Sri Kishan	22.02.03
329.	189/01	G.S. Masodabad Vs Rajender	05.05.03
330.	190/01	G.S. Masodabad Vs Asha Goela	05.05.03
331.	193/01	G.S. Jharoda Kala Vs Abhay Ram	05.05.03
332.	210/01	G.S. Mundel Kalan Vs Sada Ram	29.04.03
333.	211/01	G.S. Mundela Kala Vs Umed Singh	29.04.03
334.	141/2000	G.S. Dichaon Kalan Vs Aradhanawel	22.05.03
335.	110A/02	G.S. Katababad Vs Hari Aggarwal	03.10.03
336.	538/99	G.S. Masoodabad Vs Vipan Kumar	12.12.03
337.	530/99	G.S. Masoodabad Vs Suraj Prakash	12.12.03
338.	287/01	G.S. Chhawla Vs Sudhan	21.05.03
339.	15/02	G.S. Pandwali Kalan Vs Chet Ram	14.08.03
340.	289/01	G.S. Katabapur Vs Pehlad	14.08.03
341.	124/02	G.S. Pardwala Khurd Vs Vikram	14.08.03

1	2	3	4
342.	227/02	G.S.Tajpur Khurd Vs Chandeer	14.08.03
343.	229/02	G.S. Dinpur Vs Jagdish	14.08.03
344.	291/02	G.S. Chhawia Vs Deepak	05.05.03
345.	139/02	G.S. Shukarpur Vs Tirath Ram	12.12.03
346.	140/02	G.S. Shukarpur Vs Kalawanti	12.12.03
347.	119/02	G.S. Dichaon Kala Vs Khazan	12.12.03
348.	206/02	G.S. Pandwali Kalan Vs Sarder	12.12.03
349.	/02	G.S.Chhawia Vs Bhoop Singh	03.11.03
350.	120/02	G.S. Dichaon Vs Ramand	03.11.03
351.	258/02	G.S. Dinpur Vs Petha	12.12.03
352.	243/02	G.S. Haibatpur Vs Major Umrao Singh	03.11.03
353.	255/02	G.S. Goela Khurd Vs Randhir	03.11.03
354.	314/02	G.S. Tajpur Vs Saroj	03.11.03
355.	272/2000	G.S. Nangli Sakrawati Vs Harjeet	12.12.03
356.	270/2000	G.S. Nangli Sakrawati Vs Gurminder	12.12.03
357.	27/03	G.S. Katabapur Vs Mander	12.12.03
358.	28/03	G.S. Katabapur Vs Daya Chand	12.12.03
359.	41/2000	G.S. Chhawia Vs Bose Bhar	12.12.03
360.	52/2000	G.S. Chhawia Vs Bhagwan Singh	12.12.03
361.	50/2000	G.S. Chhawia Vs Deepak Bhardwaj	12.12.03
362.	02/2000	G.S. Chhawia Vs SVM Construction	12.12.03
363.	02/2000	G.S. Khaira Vs Sri Krishan	12.12.03
364.	03/2000	G.S. Khaira Vs Sita Ram	12.12.03
365.	26/2000	G.S. Masoodabad Vs Arvind	12.12.03
366.	521/99	G.S. Jhafhali Vs Mahender	12.12.03
367.	411/99	G.S. Malikpur Vs Amar Singh	12.12.03
368.	218/2000	G.S. Kakruli Vs Mange	12.12.03
369.	08/01	G.S. Kakruli Vs Mahinder	12.12.03
370.	55/01	G.S.Chhawia Vs Shokeen	12.12.03
371.	391/89	G.S. Kharkhari Jatwal Vs Murari	31.01.04
372.	392/89	G.S. Kharkhari Jatwal Vs Hardwari Lal	31.01.04
373.	369/89	G.S. Kharkhari Jatwal Vs Pritami	

1	2	3	4
374.	348/89	G.S. Kharkhari Jatwal Vs Bharam	
375.	234A/2000	G.S. Kharkhari Jatwal Vs Krishan Chand	04.03.04
376.	349/88	G.S. Kharkhari Jatwal Vs Rajender Singh	04.03.04
377.	97/91	G.S. Kharkhari Jatwal Vs Jagdish	04.03.04
378.		G.S. Kharkhari Jatwal	04.03.04
379.	128/88	G.S. Kharkhari Jatwal Vs Ranvir Singh	04.03.04
380.	128/88	G.S. Kharkhari Jatwal Vs Har Chand	04.03.04
381.	444/97	G.S. Kharkhari Jatwal Vs Balawan Sigh	04.03.04
382.	447/98	G.S. Kharkhari Jatwal Vs Surinder Singh	04.03.04
383.	394/88	G.S. Kharkhari Jatwal Vs Kishan Chand	03.01.04

Statement-III*Details of Warrants of Possession pending in respect of Sainik Farms***Village Devil**

1.	163/RA/02	G.S. V/s Budhu & Ors	12.09.02
2.	47/RA/03	G.S. V/s Rakesh Anand	24.07.03
3.	130/RA/2000	G.S. V/s Delhi Towers Pvt. Ltd.	24.07.03
4.	44/RA/HK/03	G.S. V/s Delhi Towers Pvt. Ltd.	24.07.03
5.	215/RA/01	G.S. V/s Kartar Singh	24.07.03
6.	131/RA/2000	G.S. V/s Sanjiv Kohli	24.07.03
7.	162/RA/02	G.S. V/s Suraj Naryan	12.09.02
8.	205/RA/02	V.S. V/s Nellu Chaddha	10.01.03
9.	148/RA/02	G.S. V/s Saroj Kumar Aggarwal	12.09.02
10.	158/RA/HK/02	G.S. V/s Mandeep Malik	-do-
11.	160/RA/02	G.S. V/s Pardeep Singh	-do-
12.	157/RA/02	G.S. V/s Nikhil D Sinha & Ors	-do-
13.	156/RA/02	G.S. V/s Smt. Kanta & Ors	-do-
14.	155/RA/02	G.S. V/s Devika Aggarwal	-do-
15.	207/RA/02	G.S. V/s Gayani Ressen	10.01.03
16.	208/RA/02	G.S. V/s Smt. Ballar & Ors	10.01.03
17.	154/RA/02	G.S. V/s Manohar Singh & Ors	12.09.02
18.	164/RA/02	G.S. V/s Manjit Ragtogi	-do-
19.	153/RA/02	G.S. V/s Rajesh Kapour	-do-

1	2	3	4
20.	203/RA/02	G.S. V/s Nafe Singh	10.01.03
21.	202/RA/02	G.S. V/s Ram Kala & Ors	10.01.03
22.	295/RA/91	G.S. V/s Kaptan Singh	—
23.	220/RA/89	G.S. V/s Kaptan Singh	06.06.03
24.	159/RA/02	G.S. V/s Manish Rehan	12.09.02
25.	161/RA/02	G.S. V/s Smt. Bhagwati	-do-
26.	147/RA/02	G.S. V/s Devender Nath	-do-
27.	149/RA/02	G.S. V/s Devender Nath	-do-
28.	150/RA/02	G.S. V/s Kamaldeep Kaur	-do-
29.	152/RA/02	G.S. V/s Baldev Singh Mohan	-do-
30.	151/RA/02	G.S. V/s Rekha Battra & Ors	-do-
Village Neb Sarai			
31.	4A/RA/HK/96	G.S V/s Ranjit Singh	16.11.04
32.	—	G.S. V/s Sahab Singh	27.12.04
33.	5A/RA/96	G.S. V/s Braham Singh & Ors	16.11.04
34.	07/RA/99	G.S. V/s Ramautar & Ors	-do-
35.	27/RA/02	G.S. V/s Ravender Singh & Ors	-do-
36.	6A/RA/02	G.S. V/s Dalip Bora	-do-
37.	8A/RA/96	G.S.V/s Jagdeve Singh & Ors	-do-
38.	2A/RA/96	G.S.V/s Sandi Savitari	-do-
39.	3A/RA/96	G.S. V/s Karan Singh	-do-
40.	467/RA/96	G.S. V/s Deep Chand	
41.	468/RA/96	G.S. V/s Mangtu	16.11.04
42.	466/RA/96	G.S V/s Laxman Singh	-do-
43.	205/RA/01	G.S. V/s Devi Singh	23.09.04
44.	362/RA/02	G.S. V/s Kuldeep Singh	-do-
45.	364/RA/02	G.S V/s Dayawati & Ors	-do-
46.	363/RA/02	G.S V/s Kishan	-do-
47.	101/RA/99	G.S. V/s Ramawati & Ors	-do-
48.	282/RA/02	G.S. V/s Susan Singh	-do-
49.	283/RA/02	G.S. V/s Sahib Singh & Ors	-do-
50.	287/RA/02	G.S. V/s Dayawati	-do-
51.	91/RA/99	G.S. V/s Om Prakash	-do-
52.	3A/RA/96	G.S. V/s Karan Singh	16.11.04

1	2	3	4
Village Khanpur			
53.	110/RA/03	G.S. V/s Laxmi Narayan	07.08.03
54.	115/RA/03	G.S. V/s S.C.Kanwar	-do-
55.	111/RA/03	G.S. V/s Kailash Chand	-do-
56.	112/RA/03	G.S. V/s Capt. Surender Kumar	-do-
57.	108/RA/03	G.S. V/s Smt. Jailnder Kaur	-do-
58.	116/RA/03	G.S. V/s Laxmi Narayan & Ors	-do-
59.	113/RA/03	G.S. V/s Shiv Lal	-do-
60.	114/RA/03	G.S. V/s Major Harish Kumar Dhawan	-do-
61.	117/RA/03	G.S. V/s Laxhi Ram & Ors	-do-

Statement-IV*Details of Warrants of Possession Pending for Issue with RA (Hauz Khas)*

Village Chatterpur			
1.	177/RA/2000	G.S. V/s Dhanwati D/o Jay Dayal Nath	13.02.03
2.	38/RA/2000	G.S. V/s Imperial Estate Pvt. Ltd	15.02.03
3.	148/RA/2000	G.S. V/s Des Raj, Balbir & Ors	2003
4.	76/RA/2000	G.S. V/s Rahul Bhatia	13.02.03
5.	179/RA/2000	G.S. V/s Seo Raj Balbir & Ors	13.02.03
6.	149/RA/2000	G.S. V/s Anil Kumar	18.02.03
7.	44/RA/HK/04	G.S. V/s Blue Sky Estate P Ltd.	18.02.03
8.	6/RA/HK/04	G.S. V/s Green Leaf Perpoeties	04.10.04
9.	8/RA/HK/04	G.S. V/s Red Bricks P Ltd.	22.09.04
Village Asola			
10.	267/RA/HK/02	G.S. V/s Oriental Promoters	04.02.04
11.	103/RA/99	G.S. V/s Pehlad Etc.	2001
12.	175/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Pehlad	06.07.01
13.	243/RA/93	G.S. V/s B.D. Sharma	-do-
14.	180/RA/99	G.S. V/s Shiv Dayal	-do-
15.	146/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Hari Chand	-do-
16.	178/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Murti & Ors	-do-
17.	148/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Ram Karan	-do-
18.	151/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Bir Wati	-do-

1	2	3	4
19.	155/RA/99	G.S. V/s Bhuley	-do-
20.	163/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Horam	-do-
21.	171/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Binni & Ors	-do-
22.	157/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Raghubir	-do-
23.	154/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Bhuley	-do-
24.	149/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Mangal	-do-
25.	141/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Ami Chand	-do-
26.	174/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s B.B. Aggarwal	-do-
27.	184/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Ami Chand	-do-
28.	142/RA/DC/99	G.S. V/s Mani	-do-
29.	150/RA/99	G.S. V/s Pehlad	-do-
30.	140/RA/99	G.S. V/s Shish Ram	-do-
31.	253/RA/96	G.S. V/s Dhiraj	-do-
Village Satbari			
32.	216	G.S. V/s Chandgi Ram & Ors	13.02.03
Village Saidulazab			
33.	263/RA/01	G.S. V/s Jai Pal Singh	13.02.03
34.	102/RA/02	G.S. V/s Manjit Singh	2003
35.	163/RA/HK	G.S. V/s R.D. Nagai Charitable Edu. Society	18.02.03
36.	80/RA/HK/02	M/s Sobha Project Pvt. Ltd.	09.07.04
37.	—	Rajiv Gupta	09.07.04
Village Maidangarhi			
38.	108/RA/02	G.S. V/s Tara Devi	11.02.04
39.	136/RA/01	G.S. V/s Maha Singh	13.02.03
40.	293/RA/02	G.S. V/s Serial Engineering Pvt Ltd	02.09.03
41.	163/RA/95	G.S. V/s Jagi Ram, Puran Singh Etc.	20.04.04
Village Jonapur			
42.	235/RA/01	G.S. V/s Akash Jain	13.02.03
43.	232/RA/01	G.S. V/s Parwati Aggarwal	2003
44.	233/RA/01	G.S. V/s Kamal Kapoor Ratan	2003
45.	230/RA/01	G.S. V/s Sudhir Oberoi	2003
46.	64/RA/00	G.S. V/s Smt. Shanty Devi Jain	18.02.03

1	2	3	4
47.	61/RA/00	G.S. V/s Smt. Umesh Kumari	-do-
48.	57/RA/00	G.S. V/s Smt. Guri Mohan	-do-
49.	59/RA/00	G.S. V/s Narender Kumar	-do-
50.	15/RA/00	G.S. V/s Aruna Kapoor	-do-
51.	14/RA/99	G.S. V/s Indu Khanna	-do-
52.	62/RA/00	G.S. V/s Shayam Sahani	-do-
53.	170/RA/00	G.S. V/s Rajiv Bal	18.04.03
Village Fatehpur Beri			
54.	473/RA/96	G.S. V/s Pehlad S/o Rimal	18.02.03
55.	474/RA/96	G.S. V/s Chattan Singh Nepal Etc.	-do-
56.	RA/HK/96	G.S. V/s Jai Pal	-do-
57.	266/RA/02	G.S. V/s Ram Nath	2003
58.	1008/RA/02	G.S. V/s Ram Nath	-do-
59.	17/RA/03	G.S. V/s Ran Singh	-do-
60.	1009/RA/02	G.S. V/s Sargam Farm Public Ltd. Co	-do-
61.	256/RA/02	-do-	-do-
62.	147/RA/04	G.S. V/ Har Lal Etc.	2004
63.	146/RA/03	G.S. V/s Jasarathi	06.09.03
64.	145/RA/03	G.S. V/s Jagdish Etc.	-do-
Village Aya Nagar			
65.	98/RA/97	G.S. V/s M/s Ridge Farms Developing	2003
66.	—	G.S. V/s Chajju	05.07.03
67.	SDM/RA/HK	Anand Kumar Vs G.S. Aya Nagar	2002
68.	189/RA/HK/03	G.S. V/s Rajesh Goil	2003
69.	269/RA/HK/03	G.S. V/s Smt. Gangadai	12-2003
70.	190/RA/HK/03	G.S. V/s Rajender Pankje	2003
71.	188/RA/HK/03	G.S. V/s Amrender Singh	01-2004
72.	48/RA/02	G.S. V/s Khima	2001
73.	40/RA/02	G.S. V/s Dharampal & Ors	11-2001
74.	31/RA/02	G.S. V/s Karambir S/o Udmi Ram	11.12.01
75.	49/RA/02	G.S. Dharampal & Ors	2001
76.	01/RA/02	G.S. V/s Dharam Pal	11.12.01

1	2	3	4
77.	45/RA/02	G.S V/s Smt. Mishri	11.12.01
78.	199/RA/02	G.S. V/s K.R. Sons Darshan Investment	2001
79.	3/RA/HK/02	G.S. V/s Kirshan Kumari	Nov., Dec., 2001
80.	47/RA/02	G.S V/s Navrang Comercial Co	-do-
81.	145/RA/02	G.S. V/s Jaggi Ram & Ors	Aug., Sept., 2002
82.	160/RA/02	G.S. V/s Modern India Pvt	-do-
83.	144/RA/HK	G.S. V/s Rad Pal & Ors	-do-
84.	147/RA/02	G.S. V/s Imrati	-do-
85.	191/RA/91	G.S. V/s Mahender & Ors	-do-
86.	146/RA/02	G.S. V/s Kannu & Ors	-do-
87.	176/RA/91	G.S. V/s Hari Chand	2002
88.	279/RA/95	G.S. V/s Jagat Singh	2002
89.	194/RA/03	G.S. V/s Sidharth Rastogi	2001
90.	—	G.S. V/s Gidhans Karm Viasstt	2003
91.	279/RA/95	G.S. V/s Jagat Singh Atar Singh	2001
92.	—	G.S. V/s Niti Prakash	2002
Village Bhati			
93.	137/RA/94	G.S V/s Vimal Kapoor	2003
94.	177/RA/02	G.S. V/s Salu Ram & Ors	20.04.04
95.	180/RA/02	G.S. V/s Khem Chand & Ors	2003
96.	139/RA/03	G.S. V/s Group Benefit Trust	2004
97.	309/RA/02	G.S. V/s Krishan Lal Bagga	2003
98.	310/RA/02	G.S. V/s Chanda	05.07.03
Village Neb Sarai			
99.	214/RA/01	G.S. V/s Chotu Jagram & Ors	12.02.03
100.	—	G.S. V/s Hari Chand	2003
101.	85/RA/02	G.S. V/s Amit Suresh Sethi	15.02.03
102.	96/RA/02	G.S. V/s Parmod Kumar Jain	15.02.03
103.	86/RA	G.S. V/s B.B.Chopra	15.02.03
104.	84/RA	G.S. V/s Mrs. Afsana Bharwa	15.02.03
105.	202/RA	G.S. V/s Devi Singh & Ors	15.02.03
106.	227/RA/01	G.S. V/s Maha Singh, Jaswant Singh	15.02.03

1	2	3	4
107.	—	G.S. V/s Surender Singh Jagender etc.	2003
108.	206/RA/01	G.S. V/s Devi Singh	15.02.03
109.	139/RA	G.S V/s Sunita Jain	-do-
110.	130/RA	G.S. V/s Sunita Jain	-do-
111.	131/RA/99	G.S. V/s Hila Ram Chander Paryan	-do-
112.	98/RA	G.S. V/s Kumari Miranwach	-do-
113.	135/RA	G.S V/s Anil Mittal	-do-
114.	483/RA/96	G.S. V/s Ram Dass	2003
115.	136/RA	G.S. V/s Ran Singh	15.02.03
116.	138/RA	G.S. V/s Chottu Jag Ram	-do-
117.	137/RA	G.S. V/s Snehleta Gulia & Ors	-do-
118.	40/RA	G.S. V/s Des Ram	22.06.91
119.	—	G.S. V/s Sarbati	2002
120.	306/RA/02	G.S V/s Veere	2003
121.	103/RA/02	G.S. V/s Braham Pal	28.01.04
122.	—	G.S.V/s Raj Kumar	21.07.04
123.	—	G.S. V/s Ram Pal	2004
124.	98/RA/HK/99	G.S. V/s Suni Chopra & Ors	30.09.04
Village Sultanpur			
125.	469/RA/96	Daya Ram	09.07.04
126.	34/RA/02	Sumitri & Ors	20.04.04
127.	258/RA/01	Jaghir & Ors	13.02.03
128.	228/RA/01	Narayan Singh	13.02.03
129.	315/RA/95	Gopi Ram	07.08.03
130.	185/RA/01	Mahender Singh	11.02.04
131.	35/RA/02	Kusum Aggarwal	21.07.04
132.	36/RA/HK/02	R.L. Kadia	21.07.04
Village Ladha Sarai			
133.	221/RA/03	G.S V/s Satya Prakash	2004
134.	884/RA/03	G.S V/s Vijay Kumar Kalra	2004
135.	177/RA/03	G.S V/s Kanhya Lal Kanoda	2004

1	2	3	4
Village Khanpur			
136.	109/RA/02	G.S V/s Shanti Krishan Mohan	05.07.03
137.	149/RA/03	G.S. V/s Jai Ram	07.2004
138.	150/RA/03	G.S. V/s Smt. Neha Kaur	2004
139.	76/RA/97	G.S. V/s Satish Chand Malhotra	09.07.04
Village Mehrauli			
140.	356/RA/93	Arun Kapoor	2003
141.	868/RA/HK/03	Anil Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Kamal Kumar	2003
Village Chandan Hola			
142.	5/RA/HK03	G.S. V/s Ramesh Chand	20.04.04
Village Deramandi			
143.	—	G.S. V/s Smt.Chander Kala Gaur	09.07.04
144.	358/RA/03	G.S. V/s Smt. Saroj Jain	2003
145.	359/RA/04	G.S. V/s Lajeevan Sahani & Ors	20.04.04
146.	360/RA/04	G.S. V/s Sunil Kumar Tandon	20.04.04
147.	248/RA/02	G.S. V/s Giri Raj	2003
148.	257/RA/02	G.S. V/s Ranjeet	2003
149.	860/RA/HK	G.S. V/s Jagat Singh	2003

Excise Evasion by Steel Companies

2157. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cases of excise evasion by some steel companies have come up to the notice of Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years; and
- (c) action taken by the Government thereon?

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

Team of Officials of MCD to China

2158. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is planning to send a team of eight to ten senior officials to Beijing, China in connection with upcoming Commonwealth Games, 2010;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of projects lying with MCD for execution and latest position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) MCD has reported that no such proposal is under consideration at present.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) Details of projects to be executed by Municipal Corporation of Delhi, relating to Commonwealth Games 2010, are as given in the Statement.

Statement*Report regarding projects to be executed by M.C.D. for Common Wealth Games 2010.*

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Present Status
1.	RUB on Railway level crossing near Vivek Vihar Railway Station connecting G.T. Road to IIT Vivek Vihar	Work is in progress (Physical progress-5%)
2.	Improvement of major roads. (i) JLN Marg from Ring Road to Thompson Marg (ii) Mehrauli Gurgoan Road, Roads near Siri Fort & Asiad Village Complex	AA/ES accorded
3.	Improvement of surroundings of Old & New Delhi Railway Station, improvement of parking area, bus stand	New Delhi Railway Station - Tender under preparation. Old Delhi Railway Station - Work under award
4.	50 Mechanical sweeper, fancy dustbins, fluorescent overcoats for employees	EOI under preparation
5.	Face lifting and beautification	Standard details are under preparation.

ULIP

2159. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LIC Agents are luring the existing unit linked insurance policy holders with a fraudulent promise of 200% return on a zero investment plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that the agents are circulating the papers printed with LIC logo on this about the above policies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the IRDA has repudiated these fraudulent claims of agents by issuing advisories in print media that returns on unit-linked insurance policies are not guaranteed; and

(f) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that it has received complaints against LIC agents for circulating leaflets projecting high returns on unit linked products. One of the leaflets projected an assumed growth rate of 20% on LIC's Profit Plus Unit Linked Plan while an other leaflet showed annual growth of 25.5% on LIC's Money Plus Plan.

IRDA has also informed that it has received complaints against the agents for circulating unapproved sales literature with LIC logo on it promising high returns on unit linked products.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. IRDA has informed that it has in a press release on 1st March, 2007 cautioned the public not to be carried away by such unapproved sales literature and take informed decisions on the basis of proper disclosures made by the representatives of insurers. Further, Life Insurance Corporation of India has also advertised in the newspapers that returns under the Unit linked products are not guaranteed.

Social Banking

2160. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the concept of social banking;

(b) whether the Government is considering to provide the concept of social banking; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Government to promote it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank has taken a number of initiatives for bringing the financially excluded population into the formal financial system. The major initiatives include, advising banks to make available a basic banking 'no-frills' account with low or nil minimum balances, simplified know your customer (KYC) procedure for opening accounts, introduction of a General Purpose Credit Card (GCC) facility up to Rs. 25,000/- at rural and semi-urban branches of banks, advising the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) to identify one district for 100% financial inclusion, etc. Further, in certain less developed states, such as those in North Eastern Region, Bihar, Chhatisgarh and Uttarakhand, Working Groups appointed by the Reserve Bank have made specific recommendations

for financial inclusion, strengthening financial institutions and improving currency and payments systems.

Besides, the Rangarajan Committee on Financial Inclusion has also submitted its final report to Government of India on 4th January, 2008. Meanwhile, based on the recommendations for the interim report of this Committee, the Government of India (GoI) has already taken a number of steps for implementation of this report. One of the important steps is the decision to constitute the Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) for meeting the cost of promotional and developmental interventions and the Financial Inclusion Technology Fund (FITF) to meet the cost of technology adoption, with an overall corpus of Rs. 500 crore each, with initial funding to be contributed by the Central Government, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Mini and Micro Power Projects

2161. SHRI SURESHANGADI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey of mini and micro-hydro power projects have been made by the Government in the country;

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

(c) the number of such power projects functioning in each State as on date;

(d) the number of proposals in regard to setting up of mini and micro power projects pending for clearance as on date, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which the proposal would be accorded clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR):

(a) and (b) Identification of potential sites for mini / micro / small hydro projects and their survey is carried out by the respective State Governments / Agencies. State-wise details of the number of potential sites identified and their estimated potential is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) So far, 615 small hydro projects (up to 25 MW) aggregating 2108 MW have been set up in the country. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) No clearance is required from the Central Government for setting up of mini / micro / small hydro projects (up to 25 MW station capacity).

Statement-I

State-wise number of potential sites identified and their estimated potential

(upto 25 MW capacity)

S.No.	Name of State	Identified Number of Sites	Total Capacity (in MW)
1	Andhra Pradesh	489	552.29
2	Arunachal Pradesh	566	1333.04
3	Assam	60	213.84
4	Bihar	94	213.75
5	Chhattisgarh	164	706.62
6	Goa	9	9.10
7	Gujarat	292	196.97
8	Haryana	33	110.05
9	Himachal Pradesh	547	2268.41
10	Jammu and Kashmir	246	1411.72
11	Jharkhand	103	208.95
12	Karnataka	128	643.16
13	Kerala	247	708.10
14	Madhya Pradesh	99	400.58
15	Maharashtra	253	762.58
16	Manipur	113	109.10
17	Meghalaya	102	229.81
18	Mizoram	75	166.94
19	Nagaland	99	196.98
20	Orissa	222	295.47
21	Punjab	234	390.02
22	Rajasthan	67	63.17
23	Sikkim	91	265.54
24	Tamil Nadu	176	499.31
25	Tripura	13	46.86
26	Uttar Pradesh	220	292.16
27	Uttaranchal	458	1609.25
28	West Bengal	203	393.79
29	Andaman and Nicobar Island	12	7.91
Total		5,403	14,294.24

Statement-II**State-wise Number and Aggregate Capacity of SHP Projects Installed (upto 25 MW)**

(As on 29-2-2008)

Sl.No.	State	Projects Installed	
		Nos.	Capacity (MW)
1	Andhra Pradesh	59	180.83
2	Arunachal Pradesh	68	45.240
3	Assam	4	27.110
4	Bihar	7	50.400
5	Chhattisgarh	5	18.050
6	Goa	1	0.050
7	Gujarat	2	7.000
8	Haryana	5	62.700
9	Himachal Pradesh	63	162.615
10	Jammu and Kashmir	32	111.830
11	Jharkhand	6	4.050
12	Karnataka	72	464.000
13	Kerala	16	98.120
14	Madhya Pradesh	10	71.160
15	Maharashtra	29	211.325
16	Manipur	8	5.450
17	Meghalaya	4	31.030
18	Mizoram	16	17.470
19	Nagaland	10	28.670
20	Orissa	6	7.300
21	Punjab	29	123.900
22	Rajasthan	10	23.850
23	Sikkim	14	39.110
24	Tamil Nadu	14	89.700
25	Tripura	3	16.010
26	Uttar Pradesh	9	25.100
27	Uttarakhand	89	82.620
28	West Bengal	23	98.400
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	5.250
Total		615	2108.34

Overhead Water Tanks

2162. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that DDA has not built overhead water tanks in some new sectors under the Rohini Residential Schemes causing a lot of difficulty to allottees due to low water pressure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which DDA proposes to built overhead water tanks in these areas; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that the construction of overhead water tanks in DDA housing pockets has not been approved by Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC). However, the Under Ground Reservoir (UGR) in the residential pockets with designed pump capacity, takes care of low water pressure in the area.

Benami Transactions and Prohibitions Act

2163. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Benami Transactions & Prohibitions Act and rules and regulations framed thereunder have come into force;

(b) whether any insufficiency has been reported/ come to the notice of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 could not be implemented as it contained grave infirmities. The Rules for implementing the Act can be framed only after amending certain provisions of the Act.

(c) The areas of grave infirmities have been discussed with the Ministry of Law and have been sorted out in consultation with them. A draft of the Bill and a draft Cabinet Note for amending the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988, is under preparation.

Drinking Water

2164. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has analysed the drinking water requirement of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The subject relating to overall planning for water resources comes under the purview of Ministry of Water Resources. As per the Report of National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development, Ministry of Water Resources, 1999 the demand for water for various years is projected as follows:

National water requirements for Domestic & Municipal Use

(Qty in Km3)

Scenario	Year 2010	Year 2025	Year 2050
Low Demand-Total	42	55	90
High Demand-Total	43	62	111

Shortage of Drinking Water in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2165. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the acute shortage of drinking water in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to meet the drinking water crisis; and

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose during 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Urban Development have accorded technical and administrative approval to proposal of Andaman and Nicobar Island Administration to raise the Height of Dhanikari Dam in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to augment water supply to Port Blair.

(c) The funds allocated for urban water supply in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are shown against the demand for grants for the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is the Administrative Ministry in respect of all Union Territories. Funds for Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the year 2008-09 shall be allocated after demand for grants for next financial year is Tabled in the Parliament.

Lifting of Ban on Recruitment

2166. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether reduction of vacancies in Government has affected its working;

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

(c) whether the Government intends to lift the ban on recruitment for the jobs in Government sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Generation of vacancies and their filling up is a continuous process for which respective Departments take action from time to time, within the frame work of existing instructions/rules and also keeping in mind the functional requirement of the posts.

(c) and (d) There is no ban on recruitment in Central Government.

Reservation under ST Quota

2167. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tribals converted into Christianity from Scheduled Tribes continue to be legally eligible for reservation under ST quota;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is considering any amendment to make them eligible for reservation under ST quota; and

(d) if so, the time by which such amendment would be effective?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Transport Bottlenecks in Metropolitan Cities

2168. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether metropolitan cities and large urban centres are facing major transport bottlenecks leading to road congestion Pollution and a number of related problems;

(b) whether the Government is working on various alternative to address these issues; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Urban Transport is a State subject. However, realizing the seriousness of rapidly growing problem of urban transportation, Government has approved National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) in April, 2006. The Policy provides guidelines to the States/cities to design their urban transport strategies.

The Government is providing Central financial assistance for urban transport projects through various schemes like Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), scheme of Ministry of Finance for financial support to Public Private Partnership in Infrastructure and budgetary support, etc.

Further, to address the various issues of urban transportation, advisory letters have been issued to all States/UTs for prioritizing investment in public transportation, non-motorised mode of transport, running of city bus service on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, integration of land use and transport planning, developing parking policy and using intelligent transport system for integration across various modes of transport and traffic management etc.

Energy Security

2169. SHRI K. J. S. P. REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the scientists are deliberating energy security to meet the ever increasing demand of energy in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the present situation of energy security in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Power has not organized any meeting/conference of scientists to deliberate upon energy security issues.

However, the Planning Commission had set up an Expert Committee to prepare an integrated energy policy under the chairmanship of Member (Energy), Planning Commission. According to information received from Planning Commission, it has released the Expert Committee Report on the Integrated Energy Policy (IEP) in August, 2006 and the Report is available on its web site. The IEP addresses the issues of Energy Security in detail.

The IEP places special emphasis on the fact that India's energy security is critically dependent on the ability to not only provide energy for various industrial and commercial needs but also the ability to provide life line levels of modern commercial energy to all the households. Accordingly, energy

security would, inter alia, be dependent on these factors. However, to enhance energy security, highest priority has been accorded for development of all indigenous sources of energy and also on providing accessibility to all households in a time bound manner.

[Translation]

Amendment of Existing Acts for ST

2170. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to amend the existing Acts/laws relating to Scheduled Tribes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Separate Power Sub-station for Delhi Metro

2171. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate power sub-station to supply power to Metro Rail in the Capital city of Delhi;
- (b) whether the electricity will also be supplied to the colonies nearby the proposed power sub-station;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which it will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Ltd. has reported that 8 power receiving sub-stations are being set up for Phase II of Delhi Metro.

(b) DMRC Ltd., not being a licensee, is not authorized to supply power to the nearby colonies. It falls under the jurisdiction of power distribution companies (DISCOMs).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) DMRC Ltd. has planned to commission the sub-stations by September, 2010 progressively.

Rural Development Schemes

2172. SHRI N.S.V.CHITTHAN:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN:
DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently reviewed the performance of rural development schemes being implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the shortcomings noticed in their implementation;

(c) whether the Government has received reports from the Monitoring Agencies regarding improper implementation of these schemes in some parts of the country;

(d) if so the details of such complaints; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) Review of rural development schemes/programmes is a continuous process. The purpose of such review meetings is to take stock of the implementation of various rural development schemes, exchange of experiences, difficulties at grass root level and their feasible solutions. In addition of programme-wise reviews held with the States, PRC meeting for all States was held at Delhi on 12-13 April, 2007 and regionwise meetings were held on 17th & 18th September, 2007 at Bhubaneswar, 24th & 25th September, 2007 at Jaipur, 9th & 10th October, 2007 at Guwahati and again for all States on 17th & 18th January, 2008 at New Delhi. The Minister (RD) also held special review of implementation of NREGA at Lucknow and Mumbai. It was observed in these review meetings that due to shortage of staff and lack of training the programme implementation suffers. Secondly, the NE States face difficulties in providing State Share due to financial resource crunch in their respective States. Thirdly, unavoidable circumstances like natural calamities and election of political representatives etc. result in delaying utilization of funds.

The performance of rural development programmes in most of the States was found to be satisfactory by the Monitoring Agencies as well as in the review meetings being conducted by the Ministry.

(e) The State Governments have been advised to take corrective measures for effective implementation of rural development programmes.

SPV for setting up of Power Projects

2173. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has signed an agreement with Coal India Ltd. to form a Special Purpose Vehicle to set up power plants in the country;

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

(c) the manner in which SPV will be beneficial for both the companies; and

(d) the time by which the power is likely to be produced from each of such plants covered under the SPV?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) NTPC Ltd. and Coal India Ltd. (CIL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 15th March, 2007 to jointly undertake development, operation and maintenance of Coal Blocks and Integrated Coal Based Power Projects. However, no Joint Venture agreement has been finalized so far.

Details/Salient features of the MOU are as under:

- NTPC Ltd. and CIL to co-operate and promote one or more Joint Venture (JV) Companies with the aim of jointly undertaking the development, operation & maintenance of Coal Blocks and Integrated Coal Based Power Projects.
- Execution of identified project(s) to be set out through a separate detailed agreement.
- The Parties to have equity holding of 50% each in the JV Company unless otherwise mutually agreed.
- The JV Company(ies) to arrange necessary funds for the project without any recourse to NTPC Ltd. and CIL.
- The Parties to nominate equal number of Directors on the Board of the respective JV Company(ies).

The proposed venture will benefit NTPC Ltd. and CIL by way of utilizing the synergies between the two companies for combined operation drawing upon their strengths in the respective core areas of power production and coal mining.

Grant regarding interest cost of Narmada Project

2174. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is actively considering for lump sum grant towards the huge interest cost of the Narmada Project which is supplying drinking water to many villages in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Motor Vehicle Insurance

2175. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the time period for which the policy holders of motor insurance have to wait for settlement of their claim by Insurance Companies in case of theft of their vehicle;

(b) the time period for obtaining no trace certificate from the police authorities in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has asked the police authorities to reduce the time period for obtaining no trace certificate from police; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association (GIPSA) has reported that there is no time limit fixed for the policy holder to wait for settlement of any motor vehicle theft claim. The claims are

however, settled on receipt of Investigator's report, First Information Report (FIR), Final Report of the Police Authorities or the Court-approved Final Report of the Police, as per the practice in the States / UTs, where theft has taken place. 'No Trace Certificate' from the Police Authorities is generally issued after 30 days of filing the FIR. The Final Report of the Police is, however, required for settlement of motor vehicle claims.

Setting up of Mega Power Projects

2176. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Mega Power Projects in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether some of such power projects are likely to be set up in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Details of power projects included in the 11th Plan having capacities meeting the requirement of Mega Power Policy Guidelines proposed to be set up by the organizations under the Central and State Governments are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As may be seen from Annex, following projects are proposed to be set up in Bihar:

Sl. No.	Name of Project/ Agency	Capacity (MW)	Remarks
(i)	Kahalgaon STPS, St-II (Ph-1 & II) - Unit-5, 6 & 7 NTPC	3 x 500	Unit 5 – Commissioned in March 2007 Other two units under construction
(ii)	Barh STPS St-I- NTPC	3x660	Under Construction
(iii)	Barh STPS St-II - NTPC	2x660	New Project
(iv)	Nabinagar TPP JV of NTPC & Railways	4x250	Under Construction

Statement

State-wise list of Power projects in the Public Sector included in 11th Plan having capacities meeting requirement of mega power policy guidelines

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Executing Agency	Fuel	Capacity (MW)	Likely year of Commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
Arunachal Pradesh					
1	Subansiri Lower 8x250=2000 MW	NHPC	Hydro	2000	2011-12
2	Kameng 4x150= 600 MW	NEEPCO	Hydro	600	2011-12

1	2	3	4	5	6
Himachal Pradesh					
3	Parbati St. II 4x200= 800 MW	NHPC	Hydro	800	2011-12
4	Parabati-III 4x130=520 MW	NHPC	Hydro	520	2010-11
5	Kol Dam 4x200= 800 MW	NTPC	Hydro	800	2009-10
Jammu and Kashmir					
6	Baglihar-1 3x150=450 MW	JKSPDC	Hydro	450	2008-09
Sikkim					
7	Teesta St. V 3x170=510 MW	NHPC	Hydro (one unit commissioned)	510	March 08
Uttaranchal					
8	Loharinagpala 4x150=600 MW	NTPC	Hydro	600	2011-12
9	Tapovan Vishnugad 4x130=520 MW	NTPC	Hydro	520	2011-12
Bihar					
10	Kahalgaoon STPS St. II Ph I & II 3x500 MW	NTPC	Coal	1500	U5-March, 2007- (Already Commissioned) U6-2007-08 U7-2008-09
11	Barh STPS St-I 3x660	NTPC	Coal	1980	U1-2009-10 U2-2010-11 U3-2010-11
12	Barh-II 2x660	NTPC	Coal	1320	U-1 -2011-12 U-2- 2011-12
13	Nabinagar TPP 4x250	JV of NTPC & Railways	Coal	1000	U-1- 2010-11 U-2- 2011-12 U-3- 2011-12 U-4- 2011-12 (best effort)
Chhattisgarh					
14	Sipat STPS St-1 3x660	NTPC	Coal	1980	U1-2008-09 U2-2008-09 U3-2009-10
15	Sipat STPS St-II 2x500	NTPC	Coal	1000	U-I Commissioned U2-2008-09
West Bengal					
16	Durgapur Steel 2x500	DVC	Coal	1000	U-1- 2010-11 U-2- 2010-11

1	2	3	4	5	6
17	Mejia Extn. 2x500	DVC	Coal	1000	U-1- 2009-10 U-2-2009-10
18	Raghunathpur TPP Ph-I 2x600	DVC	Coal	1200	U-1-2010-11 U-2-2011-12
Jharkhand					
19	Maithon Right Bank 2x525	DVC	Coal	1050	U-I-2010-11 U-2-2011-12
20	Kodarma TPS 2x500	DVC	Coal	1000	U-I-2010-11 U-2 -2010-11
*21	North Karanpura STPP 3x660	NTPC	Coal	1980	U 1-2011-12 U 2 -2012-13 U-3- 2012-13
Andhra Pradesh					
22	Simhadri TPP 2x500	NTPC	Coal	1000	U-I-2010-11 U-2 -2011-12
Assam					
23	Bongaigaon 3x250	NTPC	Coal	750	U-I-2010-11 U-2 -2011-12 U-3 -2011-12
Tamil Nadu					
24	Ennore TPS 2x500	JV of NTPC and TNEB	Coal	1000	U-1-2010-11 U-2 -2011-12
*25	Tuticorin JV 2x500	JV of NLC & TNEB	Coal	1000	U-1&2-2011-12
Haryana					
26	Indira Gandhi STPP (Jhajjar) 3x500	JV of NTPC Govt. of Delhi & Haryana	Coal	1500	U-I-2010-11 U-2 -2010-11 U-3-2010-11
27	Hissar TPP 2x600	HPGCL	Coal	1200	U-I-2009-10 U-2-2009-10
Maharashtra					
*28	Mauda 2x500	NTPC	Coal	1000	U-I -2011-12 U-2 -2011-12
29	Bhusawal Extn. 2x500	MAHAGENCO	Coal	1000	U-I -2011-12 U-2-2011-12
Madhya Pradesh					
*30	Malwa TPP 2x600	MPPGCL	Coal	1200	U-I-2010-11 U-2-2011-12

1	2	3	4	5	6
Uttar Pradesh					
31	Anpara D 2x500	UPRVUNL	Coal	1000	U-1-2010-11 U-2-Commissioned
Tripura					
*32	Tripura Gas	Tripura Power Development Co. Pvt.Ltd. JV of IL&FS, ONGC & Govt. of Tripura.	Gas	750	2011-12
Rajasthan					
*33	Kalisindh 2x500	RRVUNL	Coal	1000	2011-12
Total				35210	

* Construction yet to start.

Abbreviations used:-

NHPC : National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd.
 NEEPCO : North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.
 NTPC : NTPC Ltd.
 JKSPDC : Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation

DVC : Damodar Valley Corporation
 HPGCL : Haryana Power Generation Corporation Ltd.
 MAHAGENCO : Maharashtra Power Generation Company Ltd.
 MPPGCL : MP Power Generating Company Ltd.
 UPRVUNL : Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.
 RRVUNL : Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.

Power Supply in Delhi

2177. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Capital Territory of Delhi is facing huge power shortage;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government for uninterrupted power supply in Delhi particularly during the forth coming Commonwealth Games to be held in 2010?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Delhi has witnessed marginal energy and peak shortage of 0.5% and 1.1% respectively during the period April, 2007 - February, 2008.

(c) Electricity being a concurrent subject under the Constitution, supply and distribution of electricity to different areas and different categories of consumers in a State is within the purview of the concerned State Government/State Power Utilities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of State Government(s) by commissioning power projects through Central Public Sector Undertakings. Memoranda of Understanding/Power Purchase Agreements have been signed by Delhi for availing power from various

Central Generating Utilities, like, NTPC, Damodar Valley Corporation, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and Tehri Hydro Development Corporation. By the Commonwealth Games, 2010, Delhi will receive power out of the joint venture - Aravali Thermal Power Project (TPP) (installed capacity 1500 MW), Meja Expansion TPP (installed capacity 1000 MW), Koderma TPP (installed capacity 1000 MW), Durgapur TPP (installed capacity 1000 MW) of DVC, and Dadri-II TPP Expansion (installed capacity 980 MW) of NTPC. Besides this, Government of Delhi is in the process of establishing Pragati Phase-II (Bawana Project) of 1500 MW and Pragati-III (Barnauli Project) of 750 MW.

[Translation]

Entry in Share Market by PSBS

2178. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the volatility in share market the Government has directed the public sector banks not to enter the share market; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The banks purchase / sell shares as per their commercial

judgement in accordance with their Board approved investment policies and Reserve Bank of India / Securities & Exchange Board of India guidelines.

**Delay in Construction Work
Under PMGSY**

2179. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the roads approved under fourth phase of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the work has started on the above projects;

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

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be started on the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) the rural road projects are executed by the State Governments and the State is required to furnish 'On-Line' all the data information in the relevant module of the Online Management and Monitoring System. The list of road works approved is available on the website www.pmgsyonline.nic.in. The details of the progress of the PMGSY is available in the website www.pmgsy.nic.in and www.omms.nic.in.

(b) to (d) Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, project proposals for Phase-IV amounting to Rs. 1007.76 crore for 2301 road works having length of 4230.69 km have been approved. As per the monthly progress reports submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, 1724 road works with road length of 3086.86 km have been completed and an expenditure of Rs. 763.92 crore has been incurred. The State Government has now reported that there is a need to drop about 186 roads. Now there are about 135 roads which are still to be contracted out for construction. The State Government have indicated that work on these roads is likely to start within a month.

[English]

**World Bank Survey regarding
Drinking Water**

2180. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per a recent survey conducted by the World Bank, Delhi's water management and its availability has been ranked as the worst in the cities surveyed by the Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any serious efforts to study the water supply problems in the National Capital Region in order to improve the quality and quantity of the Delhi's water supply; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has informed that a study was conducted by Price Water House Cooper in the year 2003-04. In the study, no ranking was given to Delhi's water management.

(c) and (d) The study conducted by Tata consulting Engineers, advised construction of 53 additional Under Ground Reservoirs (UGRs) and Booster Pumping Stations (BPSs) in Delhi for rationalizing the water supply to different areas of National Capital. About 14 of these Under Ground Reservoirs (UGRs) are already commissioned. Another 9 Under Ground Reservoirs (UGRs) are likely to be commissioned this year. After commissioning of the Under Ground Reservoirs (UGRs), the supply of water shall be made through the Under Ground Reservoirs (UGRs) and the direct tapplings from the trunk mains shall be removed.

Besides for improving water management, Delhi Jal Board has already placed a supply order for 305 bulk meters to be installed on all the major distribution points and after installation of these bulk meters, a precise water accounting would be possible and the non revenue water identified area-wise.

The incidence of Non Revenue Water is also because of poor metering. In absence of meters, the supply is being billed on flat rate basis and under this system the water billed is much less than the actually being consumed. Steps for procurement of domestic meters have been initiated.

DJB has also engaged a Consultant for survey and preparation of document for out-sourcing maintenance including leakage management of water mains (about 500 Kms. long). It is expected that leakages from water mains shall be efficiently managed after award of this work.

Various other short-term/long-term measures taken/proposed to be taken to enhance the water availability in Delhi include construction of independent lined canal from Munak to Haiderpur, construction of recycling plants, development of tube-wells in the National Capital Region, additional allocation from surplus Ravi Beas water, construction of up-stream storage projects, etc.

Issue of Shares

2181. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications submitted to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by the Indian Companies in pursuant to Notification No. FEMA1170/2007-RB dated 29.11.2007;

(b) whether companies have not been issued shares in certain cases even after a lapse of 180 days of receiving of funds and equity instruments;

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

(d) whether RBI would facilitate expeditious issue of equity shares to companies where definite action plan for allotment of equity instruments with full details has been submitted for approval;

(e) if so, the details of cases where specific approval has been granted by the RBI; and

(f) the details of queries raised case-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Linking SHGs with Panchayati Raj

2182. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the specific provisions made for the women under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and implementation position thereof;

(b) the number of women beneficiaries assisted during each of the last three years and the current year State-wise/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government is formulating any action plan to link Self Help Groups with Panchayati Raj Institutions with the assistance of the World Bank to make women self-dependent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a), (c) and (d) Under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) special emphasis has been given to the vulnerable groups among the rural poor. Accordingly the women will account for atleast 40% of the swarozgaris (50% of the Self Help Groups formed in each block should be exclusively for the women). The SGSY is implemented by District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) with the active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the banks, the line departments and the NGOs. The DRDAs are expected to coordinate in effective implementation of the programme. The Panchayati Raj Institutions play a crucial role in implementation of the scheme such as identification and approval of the list of beneficiaries, identification of key activities, monitoring the performance of the Swarozgaris including repayment of bank loans by them, reviewing the performance of SGSY scheme in its General Board Meetings etc. The Ministry has no action plan to link Self Help Groups with Panchayati Raj Institutions with the assistance of the World Bank to make women self-dependent.

(b) The number of women swarozgaris assisted State-wise/UT-wise during 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto Jan.2008) is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

*Total No. of Women Swarozgaris Assisted under the SGSY during 2004-05,
2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08 (upto Jan, 08)*

S.No.	States/U.T.	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (upto Jan, 08)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	69780	120032	621600	85019
2	Arunachal Pradesh	582	914	897	222
3	Assam	38121	33769	49549	37041
4	Bihar	31111	40311	43988	25464
5	Chhattisgarh	12315	10413	16091	17043
6	Goa	410	368	453	397
7	Gujarat	10377	11220	10912	8362
8	Haryana	8543	9865	10376	6832
9	Himachal Pradesh	5454	5049	3917	3193
10	Jammu and Kashmir	2237	2534	3477	163
11	Jharkhand	25572	43619	45452	33717
12	Karnataka	44984	42010	40094	45606
13	Kerala	19089	17770	17357	15654
14	Madhya Pradesh	22899	29114	28818	26360
15	Maharashtra	53177	59005	70356	50974
16	Manipur		1572	2783	2279
17	Meghalaya	2994	1139	1738	446
18	Mizoram	629	962	6558	3441
19	Nagaland	1165	1528	2143	1026
20	Orissa	55952	57307	63126	45574
21	Punjab	2712	3304	6319	5182

1	2	3	4	5	6
22	Rajasthan	16701	16836	22582	14243
23	Sikkim	883	847	907	804
24	Tamil Nadu	72642	37977	50838	70407
25	Tripura	5897	1946	5728	5200
26	Uttar Pradesh	76790	88707	88959	81279
27	Uttaranchal	6777	10490	6981	4806
28	West Bengal	16577	12701	23741	13140
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	360	587	85	362
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli				
31	Daman and Diu	23	8		
32	Lakshadweep	2	3	6	37
33	Pondicherry	1386	865	1293	1019
Total		606141	662764	1247132	605292

[English]

Construction of Houses for the Poor

2183. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to construct 60 lakh houses for homeless poor by 2008-09;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details of the houses proposed to be built;
- (c) whether any demand from the States has been received by the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (e) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a policy for homeless people in coordination with the State Governments; and
- (f) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, under 'Bharat Nirman' Programme, 60 lakh houses are envisaged to be constructed for rural BPL households in a period of four years from 2005-06 to 2008-09. This programme is being implemented through Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). State-wise targets are fixed on year to year basis depending on the budgetary allocation. A Statement showing State-wise physical targets fixed under IAY and the houses constructed from 2005-06 to 2007-08 so far, is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Indira Awaas Yojana is an ongoing allocation-based Scheme. State-wise physical targets are fixed based on the housing shortage in rural areas and the poverty ratio of the State. The housing shortage as intimated by the Office of Registrar General of India based on 2001 Census, is taken into account. No proposal is required from the State Governments in this regard.

(e) and (f) A Draft Rural Housing Policy has been prepared and circulated to the State Governments for their comments.

Statement*State-wise houses targetted and constructed under Indira Awaas Yojana during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08*

(Unit in nos.)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08#	
		Houses Targetted	Houses Constructed	Houses Targetted	Houses Constructed	Houses Targetted	Houses Constructed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	130130	132521	138342	146403	192148	144433
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4603	5327	4939	4600	6765	3699
3.	Assam	101790	104353	109214	125441	149593	92416
4.	Bihar	384111	331651	408350	349053	567171	333448
5.	Chhattisgarh	20124	26578	21393	20818	29714	3502
6.	Goa	801	615	852	1115	1183	636
7.	Gujarat	63819	65602	67846	65195	94234	64299
8.	Haryana	8960	9743	9526	10375	13231	7067
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2873	3031	3054	3317	4242	1875
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8924	8231	9487	10667	13177	7124
11.	Jharkhand	34261	75403	36423	57246	50589	30814
12.	Karnataka	50136	56944	53299	49088	74029	30194
13.	Kerala	27880	36413	29639	30817	41167	19528
14.	Madhya Pradesh	40022	59420	42548	54544	59096	38383
15.	Maharashtra	78478	94274	83430	78427	115879	56624
16.	Manipur	3996	4962	4287	3460	5872	3379
17.	Meghalaya	6959	6678	7467	4183	10228	1758
18.	Mizoram	1483	2182	1591	2178	2180	1250
19.	Nagaland	4605	7949	4941	6321	6768	5628
20.	Orissa	75465	87070	80228	81345	111431	84430
21.	Punjab	11081	7868	11780	8250	16362	9754
22.	Rajasthan	32070	38471	34094	33397	47354	18331
23.	Sikkim	881	1296	945	1554	1294	1063
24.	Tamil Nadu	52101	66434	55389	27919	76932	88837
25.	Tripura	8967	11902	9621	10612	13178	1622
26.	Uttar Pradesh	172527	185541	183414	165469	254750	173893
27.	Uttaranchal	7863	21722	8359	17239	11611	10998
28.	West Bengal	104098	99259	110667	128838	153709	70065

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1238	90	1316	62	1828	159
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	206	101	219	77	305	0
31.	Daman and Diu	92	6	98	8	136	11
32.	Lakshadweep	80	48	85	88	118	92
33.	Pondicherry	617	238	655	261	910	66
Total		1441241	1551923	1533498	1498367	2127184	1305378

Position as on 12.03.2008

Oustees on Kaniha Power Project, Orissa

2184. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of norms fixed by the National Thermal Power Corporation for providing employment to the oustees of thermal power plants in the country;

(b) whether any employment has been provided to the oustees of Kaniha National Thermal Power Plant in Orissa;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) NTPC Ltd.'s power plants are highly automated state-of-the-art plants requiring very high skill levels and limited number of persons for its operation, maintenance and other support functions. However, employment to the oustees is considered according to the approved Rehabilitation Action Plan (RAP)/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of the specific project formulated with the concurrence of the respective State Governments.

(b) to (d) NTPC Ltd. has informed that employment has been provided to the oustees of Talcher-Kaniha project as per suitability and requirement to the extent possible, in line with the discussions and decisions taken in the meeting held by the Chief Minister, Orissa on 19.08.1991. According to the decisions taken in the above meeting, various rehabilitation options were considered of which one of them was provision of jobs. Against that provision, direct jobs have been provided to 435 affected persons at Talcher-Kaniha. In addition, affected persons have also been engaged through contracting agencies.

Notary Public

2185. SHRIMATI P. SATHEÉDEVI:
SHRIMATI C.S.SUJATHA:

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

(a) the number of Notaries Public in the country, state-wise;

(b) whether the number of such notaries has been reduced in various States particularly in Kerala; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir;

(c) Does not arise.

Ground water Recharging Schemes by NABARD

2186. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been given Rs. 1,800 crore for groundwater recharging schemes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India is implementing the scheme of groundwater recharging. The funds for the scheme are to be channelized through the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

So far, no funds have been released to NABARD under the scheme. The Scheme is to be operated in all the over-exploited, critical and semi-critical blocks of the seven hard rock states of the country, i.e., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The total number of blocks/mandals/talukas to be covered are given below:

States	Semi-critical	Critical	Over exploited	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	175	77	219	471
Gujarat	69	12	31	112

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka	14	3	65	82
Madhya Pradesh	19	5	24	48
Maharashtra	23	1	7	31
Rajasthan	14	50	140	204
Tamil Nadu	57	33	142	232
Total	371	181	628	1,180

VAT on AAY Grains

2187. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether Value Added Tax (VAT) is levied on the foodgrains under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY);
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the imposition of tax puts additional financial burden on the State Governments; and
- if so, the details thereof and steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) State VAT, being a tax on sale or purchase of goods within a State, is a State subject by virtue of Entry 54 of State List of the Constitution. An Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) has been constituted to deliberate upon and decide all matters concerning State VAT. The Empowered Committee monitors all the issues related to VAT. The Central Government has no direct role to play in this regard, except that of a facilitator.

Social Audit under NREGS

2188. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA:
DR. K.S. MANOJ:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- whether the Government has made social auditing necessary under all the rural development schemes in the country;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether social audits of projects under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) have been stalled in some States;
- if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Rural Development has adopted five pronged strategy for all rural development programmes. These are (i) awareness generation, (ii) people's participation, (iii) transparency, (iv) accountability-social audit through Gram Sabha and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) States have been directed that social audit of each and every work of NREGA should be completed within three months and the Ministry be apprised of the results of the social audit. Members of the Central Employment Guarantee Council are actively participating in the Social audit.

Solar Energy

2189. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

- the number of Solar Photovoltaic(PV), Solar Water Heating Systems and Solar Thermal Systems set up by Government during the last three years, State-wise;
- the total installed capacity and the total energy being generated therefrom as on date;
- whether the Government has introduced a new scheme of mega size grid interactive solar power plant;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the total investment estimated to be increased therein during the Eleventh Five Year Plan by the public and private sectors in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Under the solar energy programmes of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy a total of 74,203 solar home lighting systems, 11,328 solar street lighting systems, 83,378 solar lanterns, 659 solar pumps, 956 kWp capacity of solar PV plants and 57,532 solar cookers have been installed during the last three years. A state wise list of these systems is given in the enclosed statement. The programme on solar water heaters is implemented through Banks and other

financial institutions, therefore, state wise details are not maintained. During the last three years about 10 lakh square metre solar thermal collector area has been installed in the country, mainly for solar water heaters.

These systems are estimated to save about 608 million units of electricity in a year.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Recently the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has announced a demonstration programme to support mega watt size grid interactive solar power generation projects, up to a maximum capacity of 50 MW, in the country. Any registered company, as project developer, would be eligible to set up solar power projects on build, own and operate basis. Proposal from each project developer with a maximum aggregate capacity of 5 MW, either through a single project or multiple projects of a minimum capacity of 1 MW each, would be considered.

A maximum of 10 MW capacity solar power generation projects would be considered in a State. Preference would be given to the projects from the States where the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have announced or are in the process of announcing tariff for solar power.

For projects approved and commissioned by 31st December, 2009, the Ministry will provide generation based incentive up to Rs.12 per kWh for solar photovoltaic power and Rs.10 per kWh for solar thermal power fed to the grid by the solar power project developers, after taking in to account the tariff provided by the SERC or the utility. The Ministry will also provide incentive to the concerned utility and the State Nodal Agency, which will be involved in implementation and monitoring of the projects in that State.

(e) Investment of about Rs. 1,000 crore is expected by public and private sectors through installation of 50 MW capacity solar power plants during the 11th plan period.

Statement

State-wise SPV Installations under MNRE SPV Programmes during last three years (2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07)

S.No.	State/UT	Solar Photovoltaic Systems						
		Street Lighting System Nos.	Home Lighting System Nos.	Solar Lantern Nos.	Stand Alone Solar Plants (kWp)	Grid connected Solar Plants (kWp)	Solar Pumps Nos.	Solar cookers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	154	163	3000	0	2	6	918
2	Arunachal Pradesh	183	1020	5000	25	0	15	
3	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4	Bihar	571	990	5490	0	0	0	
5	Chhattisgarh	1226	4645	0	0	0	47	64
6	Goa	144	170	0	0	0	0	
7	Gujarat	2482	1200	0	0	5	11	46060
8	Haryana	1729	5600	0	0	2	0	5700
9	Himachal Pradesh	1300	3000	0	0	0	0	814
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0	3330	9136	0	4	0	
11	Jharkhand	248	1500	0	0	0	0	
12	Karnataka	270	4786	0	0	2	55	
13	Kerala	0	0	1500	0	0	0	
14	Madhya Pradesh	340	1630	0	0	0	0	
15	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	203

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
16	Manipur	120	2750	5000	0	0	0	
17	Meghalaya	0	4200	20000	0	0	0	
18	Mizoram	0	1400	0	0	9	0	
19	Nagaland	0	200	2345	0	0	0	
20	Orissa	256	1008	1146	0	0	3	250
21	Punjab	371	1350	0	25	25	0	
22	Rajasthan	900	10466	0	100	0	5	
23	Sikkim	0	1000	0	0	14.7	0	
24	Tamil Nadu	184	0	4000	0	0	0	
25	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	
26	Uttar Pradesh	200	0	0	25	0	509	2294
27	Uttarakhand	500	8627	20000	50	0	8	1229
28	West Bengal	150	11625	0	0	200	0	
29	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	5500	0	0	0	
30	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	
32	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	
33	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	100	0	0	
35	Pondicherry	0	0	1261	25	0	0	
36	Others	0	3543	0	0	342.3	0	
Total		11328	74203	83378	350	606	659	57532

[Translation]

Disbursement of Loan

2190. SHRI PUSP JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loan disbursed against the target fixed by Public Sector Banks under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) alongwith the number of beneficiaries during each of the last two years and as on date in each of the States/Union Territories; and

(b) the total number of applications lying pending for approval of PSBs during the above period, State-wise/ Union Territory-wise?

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

Fast Track Courts

2191. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government has received direction from the Hon'ble Supreme Court to prepare a feasibility report in respect of disposal of criminal cases pending over five years in trial courts through fast track courts;

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

(c) whether the Government has prepared any road-map for structural reforms to reduce volume of pending cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India in Transfer Case (Civil) No. 22/2001, Brij Mohan Lal vs. Union of India & Others, that inter alia, deals with matters relating to Fast Track Courts which have been constituted for disposal of long pending sessions cases, has in its Order dated 20.11.2007 mentioned as follows:

"Having heard Mr. Narasimha, learned amicus curiae and the learned Solicitor General of India, we are of the opinion that the charts, supplied by the former, may be considered the basis by the Law Ministry for arriving at a decision in regard to the transfer of cases from criminal to civil, and in particular, the cases which are more than 5 years old, for disposal by the Fast Track Courts.....".

Government is examining the matter and has called for detailed information from the State Governments and the Registries of the High Courts with regard to the number of Fast Track Courts, strength in these courts, number of pending criminal cases, availability of infrastructure, etc.

(c) and (d) Government has taken several steps including deciding to increase the strength of Judges in the High courts and the Supreme Court, setting up of Fast Track Courts, setting up of special tribunals like the Central Administrative Tribunal, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, etc. for facilitating reduction of pendency of cases in the courts. Government also has under implementation a scheme of computerization of district and subordinate Courts to facilitate speedier disposal of cases. Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged. With a view to ensuring expeditious disposal of

cases, the Civil Procedure Code has been amended, inter alia, limiting the number of adjournments that can be given to a party and the concept of 'Plea Bargaining' has been introduced through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2005. Through the Gram Nyayalays Bill, it is proposed to bring justice to the doorsteps of the rural people by creating over 5000 courts in the intermediate Panchayat level thereby reducing pendency.

Water Shortage for Hydro Power Generation

2192. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether substantial decrease in the water level has been registered in major dams viz. Bhakra, Pong, Thein, Rihand, Matatila, Gandhisagar, Bansagar, Indira Sagar and Baragi etc. generating hydroelectricity in Northern India;

(b) if so, whether electricity generation capacity of these dams has been adversely affected due to decrease in water level;

(c) the details of electricity generation capacity of these dams and decrease in electricity generation registered in megawatt during the last six months; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The water levels in the current year in the Bhakra, Pong, Thein, Rihand, Gandhisagar, Bansagar, Indirasagar and Bargi are lower than the levels on the same day of last year except in Matatila. The details of water level in respect of these dams are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Dam	Reservoir level (ft.)		Reservoir level (ft.)		Deviation (-)/(+) of level w.r.t. last year (ft.)
		Date	Level	Date	Level	
1.	Bhakra	6.3.08	1553.53	6.3.07	1596.10	(-)42.57
2.	Pong	6.3.08	1297.98	6.3.07	1344.69	(-)46.71
3.	Thein Dam (Ranjit Sagar)	6.3.08	1632.02	6.3.07	1648.98	(-)16.96
4.	Rihand	6.3.08	842.00	6.3.07	843.70	(-)1.70
5.	Matatila	5.2.08	997.11	5.2.07	994.19	(+)2.92
6.	Gandhi Sagar	6.3.08	1273.98	6.3.07	1291.21	(-)17.23
7.	Bansagar	28.2.08	1079.13	28.2.07	1084.78	(-)5.65
8.	Indira Sagar	6.3.08	815.94	6.3.07	817.78	(-)1.84
9.	Bargi	23.2.08	1353.35	23.2.07	1356.96	(-)3.61

(b) No, Sir. The electricity generated in the current year upto Feb. 08 is more than the generation in same period of the last year in case of Pong, Gandhisagar & Indirasagar whereas the electricity generation in case of Bhakra, Thein (Ranjit Sagar), Rihand, Matatila, Bansagar & Bargi is less than the energy generation in the same period last year. The details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Dam	Total Generation (in MU)		Deviation (+/ -) of Gen. w.r.t. last year
		2007-08 Upto Feb., 08	2006-07	
1.	Bhakra	4778.98	5093.00	(-)314.02
2.	Pong	1702.58	1366.00	(+)336.58
3.	Thein (Ranjit Sagar)	1453.19	1589.28	(-)136.09
4.	Rihand	542.20	890.54	(-)348.34
5.	Matatila	65.91	124.63	(-)58.72
6.	Gandhisagar	478.19	397.15	(+)81.04
7.	Bansagar	1185.86	1263.46	(-)77.60
8.	Indira Sagar	2637.72	2514.02	(+)123.70
9.	Bargi	414.09	496.77	(-)82.68
		15257.72	15733.85	

The annual generation from reservoir based hydro power stations depends on the inflow during the year due to rainfall and snowmelt carry over storage and the quantum of water released for irrigation through the machines. The reservoir level at the end of the year depends on the inflow and quantum of release for irrigation / power generation. The generation from a reservoir based power station will be higher if the quantum of water released through machine for irrigation is more and this will result in decrease in the reservoir level.

(c): The details of electricity generation capacity (installed capacity) and available capacity of these dams are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Dam	Installed Capacity (MW)	Capacity currently available (MW)
1.	Bhakra	1325	1325
2.	Pong	396	396
3.	Thein (Ranjit Sagar)	600	600
4.	Rihand	300	250
5.	Matatila	30.60	30.60
6.	Gandhisagar	115	115
7.	Bansagar	425	425
8.	Indira Sagar	1000	1000
9.	Bargi	90	90

In case of Rihand, one unit is under Major shutdown and hence not available. No decrease in generation capacity from these dams has been registered in the last six months.

(d) Question does not arise.

Health Insurance

2193. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private/foreign insurance companies are cheating their customers of Health Insurance due to ambiguous guidelines of these companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated guidelines for Health Insurance Schemes as reported in the *Economic Times* dated November 30, 2007; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these guidelines are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that no instance has come to their notice where an insurance company may have cheated their customers of health insurance.

(c) and (d) Health Insurance business is regulated by IRDA, which had set up Committees on various aspects of health insurance and is currently examining the report of such Committees. IRDA plans to come out with separate guidelines for health insurance in due course through a consultative process involving all stakeholders.

Schemes for Housing

2194. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any centrally sponsored new scheme has been formulated by the Government to extend housing facility in small towns of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), launched by the Government in 2005 caters to provision of housing and basic services to urban poor in 63 specified cities under the sub-mission of Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and in other cities and towns under Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). Further, a provision of Rs.30 crores has been made in the current financial year 2007-08 to provide for interest rate subsidy scheme for extending housing loans to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and the Low Income Group (LIG), in the urban areas.

[English]

Setting up of Hydro Power Projects in Bhutan

2195. SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge potential of hydro power generation in Bhutan;

(b) if so, the details of hydro power projects being executed by the Government in collaboration with the Government of Bhutan; and

(c) the estimated cost, the power generation capacity, the completion date and the per unit power purchase agreement of each power project in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes Sir, Bhutan's hydropower potential is estimated to be in the region of 30,000 megawatts (MW) of which about 16,000 to 20,000 MW is estimated to be technically feasible.

(b) and (c) Cooperation between India and Bhutan has been highly successful and to the mutual benefit of both countries. Surplus power generated from the hydropower projects is exported to India. Under a bilateral Agreement signed in July, 2006, Government of India has agreed to purchase 5000 MW of power from Bhutan by the year 2020.

The details regarding Government of India assisted hydropower projects in Bhutan are as follow:-

Name of Project	Year of Commissioning	Installed Capacity	Total cost (Rs. Crores)	Power sale tariff (Rs./Unit)
Chukha	1986	4x84=336 MW	247	2.00
Kurichhu	2001	4x15=60 MW	560	1.80
Tala	2007	6x 170=1020 MW	4327	1.80
Punatsangchhu-I	Under Construction	6x182.5=1095 MW	3514.08 (Estimated cost only)	Not firmed up

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance for Drinking Water Projects

2196. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be please to state:

(a) the details of the drinking water projects being run/completed in the country with the assistance from the World Bank, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the quantum of aid/funds received therefrom for each project along with the utilization of such aid/funds;

(c) whether several drinking water projects in various States particularly Chhattisgarh are lying pending with the Government in the way of getting special assistance from the World Bank;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) A list containing details of the ongoing water supply projects in the country with the assistance from the World Bank is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No proposal for fresh state sector drinking water supply project is lying pending for posing to World Bank.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement*Details of World Bank assisted ongoing water supply projects*

(Amount in million US \$)

S. No.	Name of the Project	State	Donor/ LN-CR No.	Date of signing	Date of closing	Loan/ credit amount	Cumulative disbursement*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Kerala rural water supply and environmental sanitation project	Kerala	IDA/ 3431-IN	04.01.2001	30.09.2008	55.50	55.274

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Second Karnataka rural water supply and sanitation project	Karnataka	IDA/ 3590-IN	08.03.2002	31.12.2008	136.60	121.398
3.	Maharashtra rural water supply and sanitation project	Maharashtra	IDA/ 3821-IN	30.09.2003	30.09.2009	181.00	168.516
4.	Uttaranchal rural water supply and sanitation project	Uttarakhand	IDA/ 4232-IN	16.10.2006	30.06.2012	120.00	14.604
5.	Punjab rural water supply and sanitation project	Punjab	IDA/ 4251-IN	26.02.2007	31.03.2012	154.00	5.000
6.	Karnataka urban water sector improvement project	Karnataka	IBRD/ 4730-IN	18.02.2005	31.12.2008	39.50	29.047
7.	Karnataka municipal reforms project	Karnataka	IBRD/ 4818-IN	02.05.2006	30.04.2012	216.00	24.308
8.	Third Tamil Nadu urban development project	Tamil Nadu	IBRD/ 4798-IN	14.09.2005	31.03.2011	300.00	64.307

* upto January 2008

Crop Loan

2197. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of crop loan provided to the farmers at the interest rate of 7% during each of the last two years and as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Pursuant to the Budget announcement 2006-07, Government of India (GoI) has launched the interest subvention scheme, which ensures that farmers receive Short Term Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs.3 lakh on the principal amount since 2006-07. Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks are being provided interest subvention on their own involvement of funds @ 2% per annum. The Government is also providing interest subvention to NABARD for providing concessional refinance to RRBs and Cooperative Banks for the purpose. This scheme is in operation since Kharif 2006.

As per provisional data available, during the year 2006-

07, PSBs, RRBs and cooperative banks have provided Rs. 49604 crore, Rs. 15755 crore and Rs. 21833 crore respectively as crop loans to the farmers. The Data Reporting System of Reserve Bank of India does not generate state-wise details.

Target and Collection of Taxes

2198. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether revenue collection has exceeded the target during the Financial year 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the breakup of collection under the various heads; and

(c) further measures taken to increase revenue of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The details of revenue collection during the financial year 2007-08 are as under:

(i) Direct Taxes –

The break-up of the collection up to February, 2008 is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)			
Direct Taxes	BE 2007-08	RE 2007-08	Revenue realized during April, 2007-February, 2008
Corporate Tax	168401	186125	139241
Personal Income Tax (Including FBT, STT, BCTT)	98774	118320	93112
Other Taxes	315	315	323
Total	267490	304760	232676

(ii) Indirect Taxes –

(Rs. in Crore)			
Indirect Taxes	BE 2007-08	RE 2007-08	Revenue realized during April, 2007 - January, 2008 (Provisional)
Union Excise Duty*	129043	126709	97559
Customs Duty	98770	100766	84258
Service Tax	50200	50603	39559
Total	278013	278078	221376

*Exclusive of cess not administered by Department of Revenue

The revenue collection from Direct Tax and Indirect Tax during the current financial year 2007-08 has not yet exceeded the target. With the current trend of growth in Revenue collection, however, the Budget Estimate will be exceeded and the Revised Estimate is likely to be achieved.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to improve collection of revenue. Some of these are –

Spreading knowledge about TDS & TCS provisions by organizing training programme for Govt. departments and PSUs; Monitoring of the recovery of arrears by a Task force; Monitoring of advance tax payments by top taxpayers;

Detection of new areas of violation/avoidance of the provisions of TDS and taking action for proper deduction and deposit of TDS; Computerization of the Departmental business processes and databases for linking of information and reporting of high value transactions; Collection of data of purchase of luxury goods and issuance of notices in suitable cases; Multi-media campaign to encourage voluntary compliance of tax laws; Strengthening of tax administration by providing extra manpower and adequate infrastructure; Strengthening of audit capacity; Automation of business process, so that revenue risk is identified expeditiously and addressed in a scientific manner, Taxpayer education; Dissemination of information relating to various laws and levies; regular monitoring of commodity-wise/service-wise revenue; faster completion of pending investigations for issue of show cause notices, strengthening tax administration in key areas such as Service Tax, Internal Audit, Ports, etc.; inclusion of deterrent provisions in central excise laws; monitoring of export obligations under the export promotion schemes, etc.

[English]

CFL Bulbs in Government Buildings

2199. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to replace bulbs and tubelights with CFLs in Government buildings and Government hospitals and dispensaries etc.;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has decided to adopt energy efficiency measures by replacing 40 watt tubelights and GLS bulbs with CFLs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir. CPWD is generally using CFL fittings only in New Government buildings and Government Hospitals. Incandescent bulbs and conventional fluorescent tube lights are being replaced in phased manner with CFL/T-5.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) MCD has been providing Energy Efficient fitting in all new sites and replacing old 40 watt tube lights and GLS bulbs in phased manner.

(d) Given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Zone	Name of building	Fittings/Lamps proposed to be replaced
1.	City	M/s GLM Hospital near Kamla Market, E-in-C office, Car Parking, Asaf Ali Road, Zonal office building, CR Zone Scooter Parking, Policlinic Sadar Bazar, Dr. Ambedkar Stadium, Delhi Gate Ayurvedic Hospital, Balimaran, Horticulture Department, JLN Marg.	1912
2.	Sadar Paharganj	Zonal Office Building, School Medical Scheme, M & CW Centres, Dispensary	1430
3.	Karol Bagh	Municipal Buildings	375
4.	Civil Lines	Zonal office building 16, Rajpur Road, RBTB Hospital & ID Hospital & Hindu Rao Hospital, Kashmeree Gate under Civil Lines Zone	8680
5.	Shahadra North	Swami Dayanand Hospital, Maternity Home Yamuna Vihar, Maternity Home Karwal Nagar, Maternity Home Yamuna Vihar B2 Block, Maternity Home Dilshad Colony, Maternity Home Chandi Walla, Chest Clinic Karwal Nagar, Zonal Office Building.	2619
6.	Shahadra South	Zonal Office Building, Karkardooma Sh(S) Zone, House Tax Building, Geeta Colony, House Tax Building, Joshi Colony, Polyclinic Shahdara, Chest Clinic, Shahdara, Chest Clinic, Patparganj, M&CW Patparganj, M&CW Center, Khichripur/Kalyanpuri	1085
7.	South	Zonal Office Building, Green Park	185
8.	Central	Zonal Office Building, Lajpat Nagar, Poly Clinic Badarpur, Poly Clinic, Jungpura, Kalkaji Hospital, TB Hospital, Nehru Nagar, Lajpat Nagar Hospital.	1556
9.	Najafgarh	Zonal Office Building	160
10.	Narela	Poly Clinic, Alipur, Poly Clinic, Narela, Maternity centre Bakhtawar Pur, Maternity Centre, Narela PHC, Bawana PHC Kanjhawala, Maternity Centre, JJ Colony Narela	601
11.	West	Zonal Office Building, Poly Clinic Rajesh Nagar, Tilak Nagar Hospital	1195
12.	Rohini	Zonal Office Building	423

Change in Logo of Public Sector Banks

2200. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Public Sector Banks have recently changed their 'Logo';

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

(c) the expenditure incurred on it by each of such Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Canara bank has recently launched a new brand identity which includes change of its logo.

(b) After a thorough and systematic exercise and examining a matrix of factors, Canara Bank has decided to

refresh its brand identity, which could be a critical contributor to their future growth and diversification. The new brand image/identity is aimed at making the Bank more customer-focused, market-driven and employee-friendly. The aim was to go from a "traditional brand experience to a contemporary and memorable brands experience". The new brand identify for Canara Bank is based on the idea of a bond and is a representation of the close ties between the Bank and its stakeholders – from customers and employees to investors, institutions and society at large.

(c) Canara Bank has incurred expenditure of Rs. 1.87 were which includes consultation fee paid to the brand consultants and launch expenses.

Loan process for Industrial Sector

2201. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in taking loans from banks by the industries due to complicated process of advancement of loan and recession in industrial sector;

(b) whether one of the reasons is the higher rate of interest on loans in India as compared to other countries;

(c) if so, whether in the atmosphere of global competition and industrial recession, banks have any plan to attract companies for loans by simplifying the loan process; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith Government's reactions thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. Provisional information available with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from select scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) up to November, 2007 indicates that credit to the industrial sector recorded the highest year-on-year growth of 25.3 per cent followed by credit to the agriculture sector (21.4 per cent), services sector (20.8 per cent) and personal loans (20.0 per cent): Industry's share in total non-food bank credit has also increased from 38.3% in November, 2006 to 39.2% in November, 2007.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Currency

2202. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of counterfeit/fake currency notes from neighbouring countries is taking place on large scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise for each of the last three years; and

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

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

[English]

Unauthorised Construction in SFS Flats

2203. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has constructed four storeyed SFS flats in different localities in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of such flats, locality-wise and period of construction alongwith number of flats allotted and yet not allotted;

(c) whether a number of allottees of top floor of such flats have constructed extra rooms/barsati/store-room/toilets/offices on the roof;

(d) if so, whether it has been permitted/legalised by the DDA; and

(e) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the defaulters and officials of DDA in connivance of whom such construction has taken place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) A statement indicating the details of SFS/HIG flats, locality-wise and period of construction, as furnished by Delhi Development Authority (DDA), is enclosed. DDA has stated that all SFS flats have already been allotted.

(c) and (d) The DDA has informed that under the policy of permitting additions/alterations in flats constructed by the DDA, a barsati on the roof terrace of the top floor in addition to mumty is allowed. This barsati should preferably be adjoining to the mumty and equivalent to the size of the room below so that construction of wall over wall is ensured at terrace level. This is further subject to the provision of access to the residents of the block for maintenance of water tank, plumbing system, fixing of TV/Cable antennae etc.

(e) The action against violation is taken immediately after the detection as per the procedure prescribed in Delhi Development Act, 1957.

Statement*Details of SFS Houses completed year-wise (upto March 2007)*

S.No.	Year	Locality	SFS Houses			Total
			Cat-I	Cat-II	Cat-III	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	1980-81	Malviya Nagar Ext.				
		(a) Pkt F	-	36	36	72
		(b) Pkt K, Gr-I & II	128	80	16	224
		(c) Pkt N, Gr-I&II	-	60	60	120
2.	-do-	Malviya Nagar Ext.	-	152	152	304
					Total	720
1.	1981-82	C/o of SFS Houses at Seikh Sarai Pkt.A,360 Houses 44 Cat-III, 92 Cat-II, Gr-I-42 Cat-III, 84 Cat-II, Gr-II, 45 Cat-III, 79 Cat-II-Gr-III	0	300	180	480
2.	-do-	Niti Bagh	14	28	-	42
3.	-do-	Hauz Khas, Mahrauli, (512 DUs)Gr-I	-	84	126	210
4.	-do-	Yousuf Sarai, 396 DUs, Gr-I	-	48	72	120
5.	-do-	Yousuf Sarai, 396 DUs, Gr-II	-	72	108	180
6.	-do-	Basant Enclave, Gr-I to IV	132	142	142	416
7.	-do-	Munirka Ext., Near JNU (312 DUs) Gr-I & II	-	38	57	95
8.	-do-	Munirka (upto DTC Depot) at Vasant Vihar Gr-I & II	-	68	136	204
9.	-do-	Kalka Ji Near Yamuna Apartment (114 DUs)	-	18	36	54
10.	-do-	Kalka Ji Ext. Gr-I 64 DUs	64	-	-	64
11.	-do-	Kalka Ji Near EPD Pkt B	-	72	-	72
12.	-do-	Alaknanda, Kalka Ji Pkt-A	-	64	96	160
13.	-do-	Kalka Ji Near Community Center Gr-I & II	62	236	56	354
14.	-do-	Sidhartha Enclave (152 Cat-III & 76 Cat-II)				
		Gr-I	-	44	88	132
		Gr-II	-	14	28	42
		Gr-III	24	168	-	192
15.	-do-	Rajouri Garden 458 DUs Gr-I	-	54	54	108
16.	-do-	Shalimar Bagh, Paschimi, Pkt.C Blk.B			314	314
17.	-do-	Asian Games Village Complex, Type I-V			853	853
					Total	4092

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	1982-83	Seikh Sarai Pkt B & C (77 DUs)	-	51	24	75
2.	-do-	Hauz Khas	-	68	102	170
3.	-do-	G.K-I	-	32	32	64
4.	-do-	Near Yamuna Appartment (114 DUs)	-	20	40	60
5.	-do-	Munirka Near JNU Gr-I	-	58	87	145
6.	-do-	Vasant Village (144 Cat-3, 114 Cat-2, 132 Cat-1 & 88 Sr. Gr)	-	4	4	08
7.	-do-	Basant Vihar Near RBI Staff Qtr.	-	10	20	30
8.	-do-	Naraiana	16	32	-	48
9.	-do-	Sidhartha Enclave (160 SFS)	-	32	64	96
10.	-do-	Rajauri Gardern G-8 Area (458 SFS)	18	8	240	266
11.	-do-	Rajauri Gardern (212 DUs)	-	52	52	104
12.	-do-	Rajauri Gardern Pkt-E	-	200	200	400
13.	-do-	Malviya Nagar Ext.(464 houses)	-	44	22	66
					Total	1532
1.	1983-84	Seikh Sarai				48
2.	-do-	Kalkaji West of CCG-II				150
3.	-do-	Kalkaji Ext. West of CC Gr-I				138
4.	-do-	Kalka Ji, Near Desh Bandhu College				270
5.	-do-	Kalka Ji, Opp. Hr. Sec. School, Block G				60
6.	-do-	Kalka Ji, Ext. Pkt. A-IV				272
7.	-do-	Alakananda Pkt-A, Gr-III				144
8.	-do-	East of Kailash, Block -B				144
9.	-do-	Pachim Puri (450 SFS)				200
10.	-do-	Sukhdev Vihar (504+220 SFS)				400
11.	-do-	Bodella Ext. Pkt-B				100
12.	-do-	Janak Puri Pkt-D/B				84
13.	-do-	Majid Moth (24 Cat-III +12 cat-II)				36
					Total	2046
1.	1984-85	Alaknanda Pkt-A	-	152	152	304
2.	-do-	Alaknanda Pkt B&C	-	216	216	432
3.	-do-	Alaknanda Community Center	-	84	168	252

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	-do-	Vasant Kunj Pkt-A (Kishan Garh)	-	200	200	400
5.	-do-	Malviya Nagar Ext. (Saket)	-	260	121	381
6.	-do-	Seikh Sarai	-	96	96	192
7.	-do-	Kalka Ji Ext. (Ring Road)	-	136	38	174
8.	-do-	East of Kailash Block A&B	-	68	136	204
9.	-do-	Pachim Puri Pkt A-V Gr-II (450 SFS)	-	-	250	250
10.	-do-	Bodella Ext. Pkt B 224 Cat-II	-	124	-	124
11.	-do-	Sukhdev Vihar	-	192	48	240
12.	-do-	Janak Puri Blk-B Pkt-D 1, Cat-II	-	15	-	15
					Total	2968
1.	1985-86	Sukhdev Vihar (744/728 SFS)	-	44	44	88
2.	-do-	Gulabi Bagh	-	-	130	130
3.	-do-	Janak Puri	-	-	192	192
4.	-do-	Pachim Puri Pkt-D Gr-I	-	-	273	273
5.	-do-	Vikas Puri Pkt-GD-II	-	-	560	560
6.	-do-	Bodella Ext. Mahavir Nagar	-	-	72	72
7.	-do-	Janak Puri, DP-II				24
8.	-do-	Motiya Khan (312/240 SFS)				224
9.	-do-	Mall Road (240/180 SFS)				120
10.	-do-	Pitam Pura Pkt-SD				512
11.	-do-	Wazir Pur Phase-III				180
12.	-do-	Pitam Pura Pkt-J (D)				296
13.	-do-	Shalimar Bagh Blk-B, Pkt- W				176
14.	-do-	Shalimar Bagh Blk-B, Pkt-				96
15.	-do-	Sidharatha Ext. Pkt -B Gr-I				160
16.	-do-	Kilokari Pkt C, Gr-VIII (144 DUs)				40
17.	-do-	Kilokari Gr-I (264 SFS)				120
18.	-do-	Kilokari Pkt C-Gr-VI (240 SFS)				56
19.	-do-	Alaknanda Gr-IV Pkt B & C				16
20.	-do-	Kalu Sarai				196
21.	-do-	Alaknanda Pkt-D				416
22.	-do-	Kishan Garh Sect-A				768
23.	-do-	Gautam Nagar				52
					Total	4767

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.	1986-87	Trilok Puri (North of Lakh)				368	
2.	-do-	Alkananada Kalka Ji (West of CC)				36	
3.	-do-	Motia Khan (312/248 SFS)				16	
4.	-do-	Mall Road (240/188 SFS)				51	
5.	-do-	Ashok Vihar Ph-IV (405 SFS)				09	
						Total	480
1.	1987-88	Sidhartha Ext.Pkt-C				120	
2.	-do-	East of Kailash				186	
3.	-do-	Kilorki Pkt-B				48	
4.	-do-	Saket, M.B. Road				98	
5.	-do-	Gautam Nagar				26	
6.	-do-	Sidhartha Ext .				120	
7.	-do-	Sidhartha Ext. Pkt C-Gr-III				136	
8.	-do-	Alakananada				64	
9.	-do-	Mandakni Enclave				24	
10.	-do-	Ashok Vihar Ph-IV				396	
11.	-do-	Mall Road (240/100 SFS)				09	
12.	-do-	Shalimar Bagh Blk-B Pkt-F				160	
13.	-do-	Rajori Gardem, G-8 area				80	
14.	-do-	Sukhdev Vihar additional houses				48	
15.	-do-	Sukhdev Vihar (720 SFS)				12	
16.	-do-	Pachim Puri, (320/528 SFS)				320	
17.	-do-	Janak Puri				120	
18.	-do-	Pachim Vihar (528 SFS) G-17	-		208	208	
19.	-do-	Maya Puri Gr-I, II & III				288	
20.	-do-	Vasant Kunj Sect-B, Pkt-I				290	
21.	-do-	Vasant Kunj Sect-B Pkt				144	
22.	-do-	Vasant Kunj Sect-B Pkt-II				256	
23.	-do-	Vasant Kunj Sect-C Pkt -II				560	
24.	-do-	-do-				819	
25.	-do-	Vasant Kunj Sect-C Pkt -9				238	
26.	-do-	Katwariya Sarai (MS Flat)				112	
27.	-do-	Vasant Vihar Opp JNU				160	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
28.	-do-	Vasant Kunj Sect-D Pkt-1				384	
29.	-do-	Vasant Kunj Sect-D Pkt-2				624	
30.	-do-	Vasant Kunj Sect-D Pkt-3				640	
31.	-do-	Vasant Kunj Sect-D Pkt-4				240	
32.	-do-	Kishan Garh Sect-A				144	
33.	-do-	Kishan Garh Sect-A Pkt-A				190	
						Total	7262

1988-89

1.	-do-	C/o 1140 Houses at Paschimpuri, GH- 13	1128			1128
2.	-do-	C/o 320 houses at Trilokpuri	320			320
3.	-do-	C/o 904 houses at Trilokpuri	452			452
4.	-do-	C/o 816 at Trilokpuri	784			784
5.	-do-	Vasant Kunj, Sec. B, Pkt.8, 9,10,11,3, 7 & 8.	2788			2788
6.	-do-	C/o 64 houses at Pitampura, Pkt. L (G)	128			128
7.	-do-	C/o 208 SFS at Shalimar Bagh.	208			208
8.	-do-	C/o 400 houses at Sec.VIII, Rohini	480			480
9.	-do-	Houses at Sarita Vihar, Pkt A.	175			175
10.	-do-	-do- Pkt A, Gr.III	210			210
11.	-do-	-do- Pkt A, Gr.IV	70			70
12.	-do-	-do- Pkt A, Gr.IV	196			196
13.	-do-	-do- Pkt B, Gr.I	179			179
14.	-do-	-do- Pkt B, Gr.II	109			109
15.	-do-	-do- Pkt B, Gr.III	196			196
16.	-do-	-do- Pkt C, Gr.III	230			230
17.	-do-	-do- Pkt C, Gr.II	230			230
18.	-do-	-do- Pkt H&J, Gr.I	120			120
19.	-do-	-do- Pkt. H&J, Gr.II	120			120
20.	-do-	-do- Pkt F&G	70			70
21.	-do-	-do- Pkt F&G Gr.IV	90			90
22.	-do-	-do- Pkt F&G Gr.V	120			120
23.	-do-	-do- Pkt F&G, Gr. VI	108			108
24.	-do-	-do- Pkt F&G Gr. VIII	70			70

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
25.	-do-	Houses at Saidulzaib	70			70	
26	-do-	Houses at Sidhartha Extension	120			120	
27.	-do-	EPDP houses at Kalkaji	1			1	
28.	-do-	Pkt B, Gr.III at Sarita Vihar	196			196	
29.	-do-	-do- Pkt F&G Gr.V	120			120	
30	-do-	240 SFS at Sukhdev Vihar	3			3	
						Total	9091
1.	1989-90	Madipur, Rohtak Road (120 SFS) Gr-3				120	
2.	-do-	Kalkaji Opp. Blk-B				144	
3.	-do-	Sarita Vihar Pkt-2 Gr-4				120	
4.	-do-	Sarita Vihar Pkt-2 & 1 Gr-5				120	
5.	-do-	Sarita Vihar Pkt-2 Gr-3				100	
6.	-do-	Sarita Vihar Pkt-B (Balance Work)				14	
7.	-do-	Sarita Vihar Pkt-C Gr-I				42	
8.	-do-	Sarita Vihar Pkt-K&L Gr-I, 2 & 3				424	
9.	-do-	Vasant Kunj				558	
						Total	1642
1.	1990-91	SWZ					
	-do-	Pkt 5 & 6				285	
	-do-	Pkt 2				28	
	-do-	Pkt 4				124	
	-do-	Pkt 7 & 8				80	
2.	-do-	SEZ					
	-do-	SFS Houses at Sarita Vihar Gr- 1				140	
	-do-	SFS Houses at Mandakni				12	
	-do-	SFS Houses at Blk -B, Kalka Ji				12	
3.	-do-	West Zone					
	-do-	(a) 356 SFS Cat-II Pkt-II at Madipur					
		SH 132 SFS DUs Gr-I				132	
		(i) 92 DUs Gr-II				92	
		(ii) 132 SFS DUs Gr-III				132	
	(b)	232/240 SFS Houses in Pkt GH-12					
		area Pachim Puri				240	
	(c)	356 SFS Houses (348 Actual) in GH-IV Pachim Puri				348	
						Total	1625

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	1991-92	South West Zone				
	-do-	Sect-B, Pkt 5 & 6				335
	-do-	Sect-B, Pkt 2 & 3				390
	-do-	Sect-A, Pkt A				50
	-do-	Sect-B, Pkt 4				286
	-do-	Sect-C, Pkt 2				48
2.	-do-	South East Zone				
	-do-	SFS houses at Gr-II, Pkt-F & G, Sarita Vihar				140
	-do-	SFS houses at Pkt-F & G, Sarita Vihar				60
	-do-	SFS houses at Pkt-D & E, Sarita Vihar				497
3.	-do-	West Zone				
	-do-	208 SFS houses at Main Rohtak Road, Madipur.SH: 85/52 (Actual)				52
	-do-	112 SFS at GH-5 Ph-I, Bodella				112
4.	-do-	North Zone				
	-do-	16/12 SFS Cat-II at Motia Khan				12
					Total	1982
1.	1992-93	South East Zone				
	-do-	SFS at Sarita Vihar				28
	-do-	SFS at Sarita Vihar				20
2.	-do-	South West Zone				
	-do-	Sect-A, Pkt-A Vasant Kunj				48
	-do-	Sect-A, Pkt-B & C Vasant Kunj				64
	-do-	Sect-C Pkt-7, Gr-F Vasant Kunj				156
	-do-	Sect-C, Pkt-6 & 7, Gr-G Vasant Kunj				152
	-do-	Sect-C, Pkt-6 & 7 Gr-E Vasant Kunj				120
	-do-	Sect-C, Pkt-Vasant Kunj				21
	-do-	Sect-C, Pkt-Gr-A Vasant Kunj				80
	-do-	Sect-C, Pkt-Gr-C Vasant Kunj				176
	-do-	Sect-C, Pkt-Gr-II Vasant Kunj				194
	-do-	Sect-C, Pkt-Gr-D Vasant Kunj				168
	-do-	Comm.-Cum-Staff housing complex Ber Sarai				80
	-do-	Sect-C, Pkt-IV Vasant Kunj				08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
3.	-do-	West Zone					
	-do-	208 SFS (Actual 200 houses at Main Rohtak Road) Village Madipur SH: 28 SFS houses at Madipur Gr-II				28	
4.	-do-	536 SFS DUs in Blk C, Sect-19, Rohini Ph-II				536	
5.	-do-	North Zone					
	-do-	72 SFS Flat at Pkt-B (U) Pitam Pura				72	
						Total	1941
1.	1993-94	South West Zone					
	-do-	Sect-B Pkt-5 & 7 Vasant Kunj				04	
	-do-	Sect-B Pkt-I Vasant Kunj				10	
	-do-	Sect-C Pkt-6 & 7 Vasant Kunj				120	
	-do-	Sect-B Pkt-2 & 3 Vasant Kunj				13	
	-do-	Sect-C Pkt-9 Gr-D Vasant Kunj				08	
2.	-do-	136 SFS houses in Sect-II, Pkt-I, Dwarka Ph-I				128	
3.	-do-	Rohini Zone					
	-do-	480 SFS Cat-II houses in sect-11 (Ext.)				480	
	-do-	448 SFS Cat-II houses in sect-18 Rohini				448	
4.	-do-	North Zone					
	-do-	376 SFS Houses at east of Mukharjee Nagar	-	188	188	376	
5.	-do-	East Zone					
	-do-	54 SFS + 18 LIG houses at Mayur Vihar (Balance Work)				54	
						Total	1641
1.	1994-95	Dwarka					
	-do-	720 SFS in Sect-19 Pkt-II, Dwarka, Ph-I				728	
	-do-	384 SFS in Sect-3 Dwarka Ph-I				384	
	-do-	452 SFS /MIG/LIG houses in Sect-12, Pkt-I				112	
2.	-do-	North Zone					
	-do-	80 SFS Cat-II & III Pkt-L, Pitam Pura	-	40	40	80	
3.	-do-	East Zone					
	-do-	912 SFS houses at Kondali Gharoli					
	(i)	192 SFS houses Gr-I				192	
	(ii)	192 SFS houses Gr-II				192	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	(iii)	192 SFS houses G-III				192	
	(iv)	160 SFS houses G-IV				160	
	(v)	176 SFS houses G-V				176	
4.	-do-	South West Zone					
	-do-	Sect. -A, Pkt-A & B, Vasant Kunj				16	
	-do-	Sect. -A, Pkt-6 & 8, Vasant Kunj				08	
						Total	2240
1.	1995-96	South West Zone					
	-do-	Sect -B, Pkt 6 & 7 Vasant Kunj				08	
2.	-do-	East Zone					
	-do-	Construction of 240 SFS houses Gr-I at Kondali Gharoli				48	
	-do-	Construction of 190 SFS houses Gr-V at Kondali Gharoli				16	
	-do-	Construction of 101 SFS houses at Gazi Pur				101	
						Total	173
1.	1996-97	Dwarka					
	-do-	Sect-6, Pkt-I, Dwarka				212	
	-do-	Sect- 1, Pkt-I, Dwarka				136	
	-do-	Sect-4, Pkt-MLU, Dwarka				228	
	-do-	Sect-5, Pkt-MLU, Dwarka				167	
	-do-	Sect-5, Pkt-MLU, Dwarka				197	
	-do-	Sect-9, Pkt-2, Dwarka				540	
	-do-	Sect-7, Dwarka				182	
	-do-	Sect- 10, Dwarka				176	
	-do-	Sect-22, Dwarka				672	
2.	-do-	North Zone					
	-do-	Sect -A5, Narela				128	
	-do-	Motia Khan, Blk 2 N 5				84	
3.	-do-	Rohini					
	-do-	Pkt-6, Sect-23, Rohini				288	
	-do-	Pkt-7, Sect-23, Rohini				272	
4.	-do-	East Zone					
	-do-	Gazi Pur				88	
5.	-do-	South East Zone					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	-do-	Sukhdev Vihar				15	
	-do-	F & G Seikh Sarai				104	
6.	-do-	South West Zone					
	-do-	Near Peera Garhi				177	
						Total	3666
1.	1997-98	South East Zone					
	-do-	SFS at sect-8, Jasola				376	
	-do-	SFS at Sect-7, Jasola				376	
	-do-	Prefab, Sample houses at Vasant Kunj				06	
2.	-do-	North Zone					
	-do-	Blk-D Pkt-A, Shalimar Bagh				200	
	-do-	144/140 houses sect-A5, Narela				12	
3.	-do-	Dwarka					
	-do-	151 SFS houses & 182 MIG houses sect- 12 Dwarka				151	
	-do-	SFS houses in sect-9				164	
	-do-	SFS houses in Sect-9				144	
	-do-	176 SFS houses in Sect-I, PH-I				176	
	-do-	SFS in Sect-13, Dwarka				176	
						Total	1781
1.	1998-99	Dwarka Zone					
	-do-	Const. of 460 SFS houses in Sect-9, Dwarka				160	
						Total	160
1.	1999-00	Dwarka Zone					
	-do-	Const. of 24 SFS houses in Sect-1, Dwarka, Ph-I				24	
	-do-	Const. of 224 SFS houses in Sect-12, Pkt-III, Dwarka				224	
2.	-do-	South West Zone					
	-do-	Const. Of 592/584 SFS houses at Sect-D, Pkt-5 & 6, Vasant Kunj				304	
3.	-do-	South East Zone					
	-do-	Const. SFS houses in Sect-D, Dwarka, Ph-II				166	
	-do-	Const. of 98 SFS house at Sarita Vihar				98	
	-do-	Const. of 240 SFS houses Pkt-B, Sect-13, Dwarka				240	
						Total	1056
2000-01							
1.		C/o SFS houses in Sec. 13, Pkt.B, Dwk, Ph.II	248			248	
2.		C/o 836/848 Sec.D, Pkt.6, Vasant Kunj.	264			264	
3.		C/o 888 Sec.C, Pkt.9, Vasant Kunj	72			72	
4.		C/o 304 SFS & 227 S/G, Pkt.4, Sec. 12, Dwk, Ph.I, Gr.I to III	304			304	
						Total	888

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2001-02						
1.	C/o 28 at Sec. 1, Pkt. 1		28			28
2.	414 DUs with CC block, Sec.18-A, Dwarka		414			414
3.	C/o 536/648 at Sec. 1, Sec.D, Vasant Kunj.		272			272
4.	C/o 172 HIG houses Sec. A, Pkt.B, Vasant Kunj.		172			172
5.	C/o 592 at Sec.D, Pkt.5 & 56, V. Kunj.		288			288
6.	C/o 200 HIG, Blk.D, Pkt.A, Shalimar Bagh, Ph.II		200			200
7.	C/o 144 HIG Blk. D, Gr.III, Pkt.A, Shalimar Bagh		144			144
8.	C/o 42 + 5 HIG houses Pkt.D, Sarita Vihar.		47			47
9.	Sec. 13-B, Dwarka.		150			150
Total						1715
2002-03						
1.	C/o 96/104 SFS houses Blk. D, Pkt. A, Shalimar Bagh.		104			104
2.	504/160 houses Pkt. K&L, Sarita Vihar		160			160
3.	526 SFS houses Sec.		526			526
Total						790
2003-04						
1.	C/o 32 HIG at Vasant Kunj.		32			32
2.	C/o 504/344 houses at Pkt. K&L, Sarita Vihar.		328			328
3.	Sidhartha Extension.		56			56
Total						416
2004-05						
1.	Shalimar Bagh		160			160
2.	Dwarka Sec.18-B		568			568
3.	Dwarka, Sec.12		198			198
Total						926
2005-06						
1.	Dwarka, Sec.19-B		440			440
2.	Shalimar Bagh		400			400
3.	Sarita Vihar, Pkt. K&L		16			16
Total						856
2006-07						
1.	795 DUs Vasant Kunj, D-6		140			140
Total						140
Grand total						56596

UBS Branch in India

2204. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Bank of Switzerland has been awarded approval for opening of its branches in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a licence to the UBS Bank AG of Switzerland to upgrade its representative office in Mumbai to a branch. The terms and conditions applicable to UBS Bank AG are same as applicable to any other foreign bank for opening a maiden branch in India such as obtaining a licence under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, bringing in US\$ 25 million as assigned capital, etc. Further, the foreign banks have to take permission from RBI for appointment of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) before commencement of business, and are also required to comply with the directives and other guidelines issued by RBI on maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) / Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), various categories of advances / deposits, interest rates chargeable on advances and payable on deposits, priority sector advances, income recognition, assets classification, provisioning for bad/doubtful debts on a prudential basis, transparency in the Balance Sheet, capital adequacy, acquisition of immovable properties in India, engagement of ex-patriates and deployment of foreign funds in Indian business, etc.

Social Responsibility of Corporate Sector

2205. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken initiatives to ensure that companies fulfil their social responsibilities like investment in education, healthcare for the poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) There is no statutory obligation on companies to undertake any specified levels of investment in social sectors to fulfil social responsibilities.

(b) Does not arise.

Karmakar Committee

2206. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations of Dr. K.G. Karmakar Committee report approved by Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether the Government has issued order on the approved part of the recommendations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The recommendations of Dr. K.G. Karmakar Committee which have been approved by the Reserve Bank of India and the action taken on them are given in the statement.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide letter dated 11th September, 2006 set up a Task Force to deliberate on empowering Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) Boards for operational efficiency under the Chairmanship of Dr K.G. Karmakar, Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The recommendations approved by RBI and required to be implemented by RRBs were communicated by them (RBI) to the Chairmen & Managing Directors of the sponsor banks vide their letter dated 30.7.2007. The Government has not issued any specific orders on these recommendations.

Statement**Task Force on Empowering RRB Board for Operational Efficiency – Action Taken Report**

Para No.	Recommendation	Action taken
1	2	3
1	Out of 605 districts, RRBs have been able to cover 525 districts. The feasibility of covering the uncovered districts may be explored.	Accepted. Sponsor banks advised to initiate action vide letter dated July 30, 2007.
2	RRBs to consider providing a range of products for all financial needs and focus on financial inclusion through progressive use of technologies and low cost alternative delivery channels like BCs and BFIs.	As at para 1 above.
3	The relationship between sponsor banks and RRBs needs to be changed into a synergistic one, beneficial to both banks. An MoU be executed between the sponsor banks and the Govt of India with regard to the performance of the RRBs under various key parameters. Sponsor banks may, as usual, sign MoUs with their sponsored RRBs.	As at para 1 above.

1	2	3
4	<p>RRB Chairman be given due weightage for promotion to the next higher grade in the parent institution as and when they are eligible. The pay, allowances and incentives should be attractive so as to encourage performance.</p>	As at para 1 above.
5	<p>Majority of non official directors on the Boards of RRBs need to be adequately oriented towards the functions of RRBs and their responsibilities as nominee Directors.</p>	<p>Accepted. College of Agricultural Banking, Pune has been advised to devise suitable programmes for non official directors.</p>
6	<p>The role of sponsor bank should be supportive and broadly confined only to extending management support, nominating members in the Board of Directors, providing funds, providing expert guidance/ help in investment related issues, conducting management audit till alternative arrangements are made by the RRBs themselves and assisting RRBs in all HR matters referred to them by the RRBs.</p>	<p>Accepted. Instructions have already been issued to sponsor banks to guide RRBs in various areas.</p>
7	<p>SARFAESI Act may also be extended to RRBs.</p>	<p>Accepted. Notification has already been issued by GOI in this regard.</p>
8	<p>Chairmen of RRBs, should be appointed as members of the Empowered Committee (EC) constituted by RBI.</p>	<p>Accepted. Circular issued to Regional Offices.</p>
9	<p>Once the process of amalgamation is over, the RRBs be subjected to the same level of safeguards and regulatory norms regarding capital adequacy as applicable to commercial banks.</p>	<p>RRBs have been advised to disclose their capital adequacy in their balance sheets with effect from March 2008. Based on this, a road map will be drawn to achieve the norms as may be stipulated.</p>
10	<p>RRBs should develop their own internal capacities including setting up of separate investment cells, risk evaluation system, positioning of trained personnel, etc. Till such time they are able to nurture adequate expertise within the institution, RRBs could take the help of sponsor banks, primary dealers and mutual funds.</p>	As at para 1 above.
11	<p>RRBs may be allowed to deal in NRE / FCNRB, etc. in consortium with sponsor bank. Besides, RRBs should be given freedom to place their money in term deposits with any bank.</p>	<p>Accepted. Suitable instructions have been issued to RRBs.</p>
12	<p>RRBs may focus on enhancing incomes from other sources by way of issue of bank guarantees. RRBs in consortium with sponsor bank may enter into remittance services not only within the district/state but also across the country and in some cases to foreign countries.</p>	As at para 1 above.
13	<p>While 60% of the advances may be earmarked for the priority sector with a sublimit of 40% for agriculture and agro processing, the banks may lend 40% for other commercial purposes. With the help of refinance the banks can increase the CD ratio to 80% in two years</p>	As at para 1 above.
14	<p>The RRBs may be encouraged to play a credit-led leadership role by providing credit across the supply chain including storage, processing, transportation, marketing and retailing that can result in overall advantage for all participants in the rural sector.</p>	As at para 1 above.

1	2	3
15	RRBs may join in consortium finance arrangements on pari passu basis with public sector banks/ DFIs.	Accepted. Circular issued to RRBs.
16	The bank may arrange technical and commercial extension services with the help of professional agencies and technology platforms.	As at para 1 above.
17	RRBs need to build up rural banking skills and recognise acceptable banking risks so as to mitigate them in lending decisions.	As at para 1 above.
18	Matters relating to categorisation of branches, staffing norms and promotion policies and other HR matters may be studied in depth by a Committee/ Task Force, set up for the purpose by RBI/GOI. (i) Where banks have introduced a four-tier structure, they may revert back to the three-tier structure of Head Office-Controlling Office - Branches (ii) The delegation of powers should be such that about 75% of the sanctions are made at the branch level and upto 95% at controlling office level	Accepted. A Committee was set up by GOI to look into HR and staffing norms of RRBs. (i) This has been examined by the committee. (ii) As at para 1 above.
19	Human Resources Management:	GOI had set up a committee to look into HR and staffing norms of RRBs. Its report has since been submitted.
20	RRBs may set up a computerised data processing system.	As at para 1 above.
21	RRBs need to take up computerisation of major areas of operations, MIS in branches, controlling offices and HO in the next 3 years by adopting an Action Plan.	Accepted. Reserve Bank has set up a Working Group for technology upgradation of RRBs.
22	Though the K.P. Agarwal Committee had recommended the computerisation of 50% of branches by 31 March 2007, progress has not been satisfactory. The lack of uniformity in the software is another major issue to be resolved as they move along the path towards greater consolidation.	Same as at para 21 above.
23	Recommendations for RRBs in North Eastern Region.	Accepted. Empowered Committee of Reserve Bank advised to take action.

Infrastructure Building in Cities

2207. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the infrastructure building drive in mega cities of the country was started in 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details of the mega cities greatly benefited by the scheme State-wise till the end of 2006-07;

(c) whether any of the State Government's proposal under this scheme is still pending with regard to release of funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof specifically from Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Five Mega cities covered under Centrally Sponsored

Scheme of infrastructure development in mega cities were Mumbai (Maharashtra), Kolkata (West Bengal), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) and Bangalore (Karnataka). the scheme has been subsumed in Jawaharalal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in December 2005 and formally closed w.e.f. 1.4.2007.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Dabhol Power Plant

2208. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved an increase in the power generation capacity of the Dabhol power plant in Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether there is any shortage of gas for optimum operation of the Plant; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the efforts being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Presently, power generation at Ratnagiri Gas & Power Private Limited (RGPPL) is not affected due to shortage of gas supply.

**Investment by Insurance Companies
in Infrastructure Sector**

2209. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the private insurance companies investment in infrastructure sector during each of the last five years, company-wise;

(b) the amount invested by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in infrastructure development during each of the last five years; and

(c) the percentage of such investment to total premium income of LIC during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of the investment in infrastructure sector made by private insurance companies during each of the last four years, company-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The amount invested by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for development of infrastructure during each of the last five years is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)				
2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
6297.98	12042.86	11366.81	13850.84	17297.18

(c) The percentage of such investment to total premium income of LIC during the last five years is as under:-

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
11.53%	18.97%	15.14%	15.26%	13.54%

Statement

Investments in Infrastructure and Social Sector by Private Insurance Companies

Name of the Insurer	Accretion Basis (Rs. Crores)			
	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
Life Insurers				
HDFC Standard Life Insurance	37.57	127.48	27.97	18.63
Max Newyork Life Insurance	108.03	41.82	47.72	14.24
ICICI Prudential Life Insurance	82.28	67.07	54.46	41.02
Birla Sunlife Insurance	32.42	10.23	3.31	13.29
Tata-AIG Life Insurance	81.20	56.84	29.86	9.87
Om Kotak Life Insurance	17.87	13.07	19.23	1.20
SBI Life Insurance	135.22	109.71	93.17	30.80
Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance	103.44	67.89	27.75	8.59
Metlife Insurance	60.78	13.82	4.23	10.64
Reliance Life Insurance	13.97	11.40	6.98	2.84
ING Vysya Life Insurance	23.52	29.30	30.95	0.43
Aviva Life Insurance	41.94	7.94	0.56	6.58

1	2	3	4	5
Sahara Life Insurance	1.61	4.11	18.54	5.73
Shriram Life Insurance	0.01	34.95	0.00	0.00
Bharathi Axa Life Insurance	24.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Insurers				
Reliance General Insurance	65.57	4.90	6.16	11.42
Royal Sundaram General Insurance	19.52	43.89	20.60	24.25
IFFCO Tokyo General Insurance	37.97	32.26	16.96	0.98
Tata AIG General Insurance	14.35	19.15	4.81	5.67
Bajaj Allianz General Insurance	73.64	8.98	21.07	22.72
ICICI Lombard General Insurance	264.62	56.86	31.14	18.12
Star Health and Allied Insurance Co.	9.84	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cholamandalam MS General Insurance	0.20	14.04	4.48	10.75
HDFC General Insurance Company	0.43	0.41	5.02	10.67

Base year taken for calculating accretion of funds in 2002-03. Hence information is provided for four years.

The following five companies have been registered in the year 2007-08:

1. Future General India Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
2. IDBI Fortis Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
3. Apollo DKY Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
4. Future General India Assurance Co. Ltd.
5. Universal Sompo General Insurance Co. Ltd.

Discrimination with Bank Officers in Transfer/Posting

2210. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government / State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur has received representation from VIPs between July, 2007 and as on date about discrimination with Bank Officers in transfer / posting; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Some representations have been received from VIPs by the Union Government and State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur (SBBJ) on postings and transfers of officers in SBBJ. The Public Sector Banks, including SBBJ, enjoy managerial autonomy in

transfers and postings of staff and officers and these are made by the banks as per their transfer policy, subject to administrative exigencies.

Setting up of Anganwadi Centres

2211. SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests from various State Governments particularly from North Eastern States and other hilly States to relax the population norms in terms of setting up of Anganwadi Centres in their States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) In compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court directions contained in its Order of 29.4.2004 to increase the number of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) so as to cover 14 lakh habitations, the Government of India invited suggestions, in December, 2004, from the States with regard to population norms that could be adopted for sanction a Project/AWC & Mini AWC to cover far flung/scarcely populated areas.

(b) The details of the suggestions received are given in the enclosed Statement .

The decision taken thereon was incorporated in the 1st Report of the Inter Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) submitted in

June, 2005. These population norms were further relaxed in the year 2007. The details of which are as under:-

**Anganwadi Centres
For Rural/Urban Projects**

400-800 - 1 AWC

800-1600 - 2 AWCs

1600-2400 - 3 AWCs

Thereafter in multiples of 800 - 1 AWC

For Mini-AWC

150-300 - 1 Mini-AWC

**For Tribal/Riverine/Desert, Hilly and other difficult areas/
Projects**

300-800 - 1 AWC

For Mini-AWC

150-300 - 1 Mini-AWC

While sanctioning AWCs, priority is also given to predominantly SC/ST and Minority habitations.

Statement

Suggestions received from States on population norms

Sl.No.	States	AWCs			Mini AWCs		
		Rural	Tribal	Urban	Rural	Tribal	Urban
1	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2	Karnataka	300-1449	300-1449	300-1449	Less than 300	Less than 300	Less than 300
3	Chhattisgarh	500	300	700	Nil	Nil	Nil
4	Sikkim	600	300	1000	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	West Bengal	350	350	350	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8	Chandigarh	1000	700	1000	Nil	Nil	Nil
9	Meghalaya	300 & above	300 & above	300 & above	Less than 300	Less than 300	Less than 300
10	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Tripura	500	200 (In Rural Tribal Areas)	700	-	100 (In Hilly inaccessible Tribal Areas)	-

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme

2212. DR. P.P KOYA:

SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

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

(a) the details of additional Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)/Mini-AWCs to be opened in the country, State-wise/UT-wise, particularly in West Bengal and Lakshadweep;

(b) the details of the funds allocated to various States/UTs for the said purpose;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide hot meal as supplementary nutrition having micronutrients through Anganwadi Centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) State-wise requirements for additional

Anganwadi Centres(AWCs)/Mini-AWCs for the 3rd Phase of expansion of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme are given in the enclosed Statement .

(b) The funds are released only after the AWCs/Mini-AWCs are sanctioned by the Government of India.

(c) and (d) As per the guidelines contained in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have the flexibility to select the type of food to be provided as supplementary nutrition to Pregnant & Lactating Mothers and children below six years of age. It could be milk, pre-processed or semi-processed food or food prepared on the spot from locally available food stuff depending upon the category of beneficiaries, location of the project and administrative feasibility.

Statement

*Requirement or additional Anganwadi Centres/
Mini-Anganwadi Centres for 3rd Phase of
expansion of ICDS Scheme*

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of AWCs required	No. of Mini AWCs required
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	5964	3157
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1751	Nil
3	Assam	41510	2967
4	Bihar	5440	5440
5	Chhattisgarh	20772	6362
6	Delhi	500	Nil
7	Goa	100	Nil
8	Gujarat	3312	1126
9	Haryana	7995	260
10	Himachal Pradesh	138	539
11	Jammu and Kashmir	3094	Nil
12	Jharkhand	3538	2551
13	Karnataka	5786	2926
14	Kerala	871	129
15	Madhya Pradesh	9691	9820
16	Maharashtra	12608	3640
17	Manipur	2337	1552
18	Meghalaya	493	Nil
19	Mizoram	298	Nil
20	Nagaland	261	Nil
21	Orissa	21128	5397

1	2	3	4
22	Punjab	5897	1220
23	Rajasthan	6543	3523
24	Sikkim	245	Nil
25	Tamil Nadu	2234	1772
26	Tripura	2527	Nil
27	Uttarakhand	8375	2444
28	Uttar Pradesh	14604	22186
29	West Bengal	25018	Nil
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17	31
31	Chandigarh	130	Nil
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil
33	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil
34	Lakshadweep	9	11
35	Pondicherry	100	Nil
Total		213286	77053

Inclusion of Communities in the List of Scheduled Tribes

2213. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal for inclusion of some new communities in ST list in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Proposals for inclusion of some communities including synonyms in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Karnataka have been received. These proposals have been processed as per the modalities approved in June, 1999 for deciding claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lists, which requires consultation with the concerned State Government, Registrar General of India and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and this takes time. No specific time-frame can be mentioned in the matter.

Residential Complex for IT Department.

2214. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to construct residential complex for employees of Income Tax Department; and

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

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

Government is planning to construct residential complexes for employees of the Income Tax Department.

(b) Presently the department is planning to construct residential complexes at 95 different locations in the country. The location wise details are given in the enclosed Statement

Statement

*Residential Complex for Income Tax Department.
Location wise details*

S.No.	Name of Station
1	2
1.	Abohar
2.	Akola
3.	Aligarh
4.	Almora
5.	Amravati
6.	Anantpur
7.	Balaghat
8.	Balasore
9.	Banswara
10.	Bargarh
11.	Begusarai
12.	Berhampur
13.	Bhawanipatna
14.	Bhiwani
15.	Bhubaneswar
16.	Bijapur
17.	Bilaspur
18.	Chennai
19.	Chittorgarh
20.	Daltonganj
21.	Dausa
22.	Delhi
23.	Dharamnagar
24.	Dibrugarh
25.	Gorakhpur
26.	Guntur
27.	Haldwani
28.	Haridwar
29.	Hengrabari
30.	Indore
31.	Jabalpur
32.	Jagdalpur
33.	Jaisalmer
34.	Jaigaon

1	2
35.	Jammu
36.	Jamnagar
37.	Jamshedpur
38.	Jhalawar
39.	Jhansi
40.	Jharsuguda
41.	Junagarh
42.	Kanchipuram
43.	Kannur
44.	Kanpur
45.	Karnal
46.	Kashipur
47.	Khatima
48.	Khurda
49.	Kochi
50.	Kotdwar
51.	Kudai
52.	Kubhakonam
53.	Lucknow
54.	Ludhiana
55.	Moga
56.	Moradabad
57.	Mumbai
58.	Muzaffarnagar
59.	Muzaffarpur
60.	Nagercoil
61.	Nainital
62.	Navsari
63.	Neem Ka Thana
64.	Padrauna
65.	Paradeep
66.	Pathankot
67.	Pithoragarh
68.	Puri
69.	Ramnathapuram
70.	Rampur Bushehar
71.	Rayagada
72.	RTI Hazaribagh
73.	Rudrapur
74.	Sagar
75.	Sambalpur
76.	Sangareddy

1	2
77.	Satara
78.	Sawai Madhopur
79.	Shahdol
80.	Shahjahanpur
81.	Shimla
82.	Solan
83.	Srinagar
84.	Sumerpur
85.	Tonk
86.	Trichur
87.	Trivandrum
88.	Tulsi Nagar
89.	Tuticora
90.	Udhampur
91.	Unnao
92.	Varanasi
93.	Visakapatnam
94.	Wardha
95.	Yamuna Nagar

Central Provident Fund

2215. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Provident Fund in the State of Orissa, specially in medium and Small Enterprise Sectors are being maintained properly;

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

(c) whether any industry in the State of Orissa and its KBK region have defaulted in maintenance of CPF; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The accounts of the Employees' Provident Fund are maintained in such form as prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(c) and (d) Out of 375 establishments covered in the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput(KBK) region of Orissa, 34 are reported to have defaulted. On detection of default by an establishment, action is taken under section 7A of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for assessment of contribution due. The recovery of dues is effected in accordance with provisions of the Act. This includes – attachments of bank accounts, moveable and immovable property, arrest of defaulters, etc.

Opening of Land Customs Station

2216. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to open Land Customs Station on Indo-Nepal border in Madhubani district of Bihar;

(b) If so, the progress made in this regard; and

(c) the time by which Land Customs Station is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir. A proposal for opening of Land Custom Station at Laukaha in the Madhubani district of Bihar on Indo-Nepal Border was discussed during the course of review of India-Nepal Treaty of Trade.

(b) and (c) A decision in the matter can be taken during the bilateral talks on the review of India-Nepal Treaty of Trade.

Land for Socio-Cultural Activities

2217. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has allotted a Land to National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) in Delhi for the development of Community Centre-cum-Commercial Complex for providing Socio-Cultural Activities under the Delhi Master Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof with location;

(c) whether Community Centre-cum-Commercial Complex has been made operational; and

(d) if not, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The plot of land measuring 24280.568 sq.m. allotted to NBCC on 13-8-2001 at Pushp Vihar, New Delhi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The NBCC has informed that the building has been completed and MCD has been approached for grant of completion certificate.

Investment in the IPO of Reliance Power Ltd.

2218. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation, General Insurance Corporation and State Bank of India Mutual Funds invested heavily in the Initial Public Offer of Reliance Power Ltd. in January, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the loss incurred due to steep fall of Reliance Power Limited's Initial Public Offer on the first two days of its listings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and State Bank of India Mutual Funds (SB IMF) had subscribed to Initial Public Offer of equity shares of Reliance Power Ltd., the details of shares allotted to them and average cost per share are as under:-

Institution	Shares allotted	Average Cost Per Share
LIC	26,23,848	Rs.450/-
GIC	7,47,799	Rs.450/-
SBIMF	6,22,723	Rs.450/-

(c) While there has been notional loss to LIC, GIC and SBI Mutual Fund arising out of the fall in the share price of Reliance Power Limited in the first two days of its listing, there has not been an actual loss to these institutions as no shares, of the said company were sold by them during those two days. SBI MF has however sold 3,78,275 shares thereafter at an average price of Rs.451.70, thus showing a marginal profit.

Primitive Tribals in Orissa

2219. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of existing policy of the Government to bring back and develop the primitive tribal groups to the mainstream;

(b) the number of primitive tribal groups alongwith their population living in Orissa as per the Census conducted in 1991 and 2001;

(c) whether the Government is aware that a primitive tribal group Mankirdia exist in Jashipur area Mayurbhanj District of Orissa and is struggling for survival; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing a 100% centrally funded scheme viz. "Development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)" for the conservation and overall development of PTGs. The scheme is extremely flexible and it enables taking up activities like housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, cattle development, construction of link roads, installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, social security including insurance or any other innovative activity meant for the socio-economic development

of PTGs. During current Plan period, the scheme is being implemented with the help of comprehensive "Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) Plan for PTGs", aiming at habitat development, formulated by various State Governments and Union Territory Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, on the basis of requirement assessed through Base Line Surveys.

(b) As per information submitted by the State Government, there are 13 PTG communities living in the State of Orissa. The total population of PTGs of Orissa was 58225 as per 1991 Census. The PTG-wise population figure of 2001 Census is not available. However, the population of PTGs of Orissa, as per Base Line Survey conducted by the State Government during 2007 is 78519.

(c) and (d) As per CCD Plan submitted by State Government of Orissa for the Eleventh Plan period, for the Mankirdia PTGs inhabiting Jashipur block of district Mayurbhanj, the State Government has identified certain priority areas viz. provision for providing cultivable land, housing, health facilities, residential education, connectivity, drinking water system and irrigation facilities, for attention. The Ministry has released Rs. 10.00 crore during current financial year for the development of PTGs of Orissa including Mankirdia PTGs.

[Translation]

Scholarship to Scheduled Tribes Students

2220. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has increased the amount of post matric scholarship to Scheduled Tribes students in each States/Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the scholarship provided under the said schemes to the ST students during each of the last three years alongwith the number of beneficiaries, State-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government is contemplating to share with State Governments the committed expenditure to be borne by them under the above scholarship schemes; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) There has been no increase in the rates of Scholarship disbursed under the post matric scholarship scheme to Scheduled Tribe students since 01-04-2003.

(c) The details of funds released under the scheme State-wise during the last three years alongwith the number of beneficiaries is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) The State Governments receive 100% Central Assistance over and above the committed liability which is required to be borne by them from their own

budgetary provisions. The committed liability is equal to the actual expenditure incurred by them during the terminal year of the last Five Year Plan period. The North-Eastern States including Sikkim have been exempted from the burden of committed liability and receive 100% Central Assistance under the scheme.

Statement

Funds released under the Scheme of PMS alongwith number of beneficiaries during last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Amt.	Bene.	Amt.	Bene.	Amt.	Bene.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	1084.23	107562	3606.79	132252	4403.27	147213
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	13347	0	13347	0	0
3	Assam	100	15117	1200.32	44832	2360.46	102730
4	Bihar	0	1785	0	2982		
5	Chhattishgarh	206.45	46752	1254.04	57803	853.71	63365
6	Goa	12.09	557	6.04	617	70.445	675
7	Gujarat	222.43	97923	2447.59	89030	910.67	96287
8	Himachal Pradesh	9.17	2810	6.61	3153	0	3930
9	Jammu and Kashmir	196.07	6010	508.08	4611	200	12048
10	Jharkhand	200	20452	841.26	21626	461.07	15396
11	Karnataka	400	37468	2020.5	41978	1178	44814
12	Kerala	146.14	5783	289.72	6301	311.42	7493
13	Madhya Pradesh	899.04	55019	288.7	54073	2092.405	62217
14	Maharashtra	1042.86	77923	1031.44	88908	750	99759
15	Manipur	538.97	31427	1794	32796	1316.45	33183
16	Meghalaya	926.28	43962	1925.31	45000	550	43791
17	Mizoram	900.99	38368	840.85	25920	1153.02	27886
18	Nagaland	507	30309	982.5	29416	2694.79	31820
19	Orissa	0	33623	100	34608	1410.34	43313
20	Rajasthan	1792.57	73297	1261.98	43682	3496.74	123186
21	Sikkim	15.01	647	9.94	1131	9.63	1231
22	Tamil Nadu	49.05	2108	17.86	1786	75.53	2854
23	Tripura	296.19	7438	195.14	8802	348.183	10512
24	Uttar Pradesh	107.62	5079	56.07	4986	93.68	4900
25	Uttarakhand	137.5	10277	85.05	12241	312.26	14536

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26	West Bengal	345.31	20764	245.21	15804	447.92	16020
27	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2.74	184	3.09	292	3.416	376
28	Daman and Diu	0	24	0	30		156
Total		10137.71	786015	21018.09	818005	25503.409	1009691

*[English]***Hydro Power Generation**

2221. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote private sector participation in Generation of Hydro Power in the country as reported in the Hindustan Times dated January 4, 2008;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The article titled "Yarn makers Alps launches power subsidiary" in the 'The Hindustan Times' dated January 4, 2008 is not based on any official release from the Government but merely seeks to project the foray of a particular private company into development of hydel projects. The Government has taken various steps to promote private sector participation in the power sector development including hydro power development.

Investment through participatory notes

2222. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce some more disclosure clauses for the investment through Participatory Notes for specific identification of investor;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government for the present because at this point of time, it is felt that the disclosure norms laid down under the SEBI (Foreign Institutional Investors) Regulations, 1995 for FIIs issuing Participatory Notes are adequate.

Requirements under JNNURM

2223. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some states are reluctant to fulfil the requirements of JNNURM like repeal of Urban Land Ceiling Act, Rent Control Act, etc., for taking up infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, the names of the states which have not fulfilled the requirements; and

(c) the action the Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) All the states covered under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) have committed to undertake the reforms mandated under the Mission including Repeal of Urban Land Ceiling Act, Rent Control Act, etc., and so far none of the States have expressed their reluctance to complete the reforms in the Mission period.

*[Translation]***Construction of Hostels for STs**

2224. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hostels constructed for STs under the centrally sponsored scheme during the last three years with the number of beneficiaries, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the amount of financial assistance allocated and released for the construction of said hostels during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any mechanism for monitoring of the above scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The number of Hostels for STs sanctioned by the Ministry during the last three years to various State Governments/ UTs, with number of beneficiaries, their locations and the amount of financial assistance sanctioned is given in the enclosed statement. There is no provision in the scheme for State-wise allocation of funds as it is a demand driven scheme and grants are released on the basis of complete proposals received from States/UTs which include utilization certificates for previous releases, provision for State's matching share in the State's budget and detailed cost estimates based on PWD/CPWD schedule of rates duly certified by the competent authority.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Funds for fresh proposals for hostels are released only after ensuring Utilisation Certificates and physical progress reports in respect of grants released during previous years. The officials of the Ministry, when on tour, also visit the projects sanctioned by the Ministry under this scheme.

Statement

Sl. No	Name of the States/UTs	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07			Locations	
		Amt	Hostel	Benf.	Amt.	Hostel	Benf.	Amt.	Hostel	Benf.		
1	2	3	4	0	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	120.00	5	825	1. Adikmet, Hyderabad 2. Adilabad, Adilabad 3. Narasampet, Warangal 4. Bhadrachalam, Khammam 5. Chintur, Khammam
2.	Anumachal Pradesh	20.50	बकाया	0	-	21.43	1	40	180.07	6	400	1. Namsing, Mebo 2. Seram, Mebo 3. Borguli, Mebo 4. Kongkul Hemlet, Seram, Mebo 5. Bana, East Kanieng (Boys Hostel) 6. Bana, East Kameng (Girls Hostel)
3.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	165.00	21	503	1. Lanjoda, Farasgaon, Bastar 2. Baya, Kasdol, Raipur 3. Raingakhhar, Bodala, Kawardha 4. Chiffi, Bodla, Kawardha 5. Bodla, Bodla, Kawardha 6. Koyalikhebera, Kaniker 7. Gariband, Raipur 8. Durg, Durg 9. Banakot, Baderajpur, Bastar 10. Vishrampur, Baderajpur, Bastar 11. Kawardha, Kawardha 12. Bodala, Kawardha 13. Koyalibeda, Koyalibera 14. Lekherpur, Sarguja 15. Katghora, Korba 16. Panthejar, Kaniker

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

17. Sarakela

18. Jagannathpur,
West Singhbhum

7.	Jammu-Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	204.99	2	200	1.	Anantnag, Anantnag
												2.	Srinagar, Srinagar
8.	Karnataka	120.00	Arrears	0	86.00	5	250	1. Kestur, Tumkur	170.79	4	200	1.	Bylakuppe, Mysore
								2.	Kundugola, Dharwad			2.	Begli Hunasenahalli, Kolar
								3.	Hagari Bommanhalli, Bellary			3.	Rona, Gadag
								4.	Molakalmur, Chitradurga			4.	Javagondanahalli, Chitradurga
								5.	Chirathagonda, Bellary			1.	Kanjavam, Jhabua
9.	Madhya Pradesh	300.00	Arrears	0	724.00	Arrears	0	—	305.00	20	1000	2.	Diaboli, Jhabua
												3.	Budva, Sahadol
												4.	Ramnagar, Mandla
												5.	Badi, Raisen
												6.	Piploda, Ratlam
												7.	Bagdara, Sidhi
												8.	Paratha, Burhanpur
												9.	Lachruva, Chhindwara
												10.	Jwalamukhi, Umeria
												11.	Kothalkund, Betul
												12.	Ratampur, Betul
												13.	Kothalkund, Betul
												14.	Belgaone, Belaghat
												15.	Bagod, Khargson
												16.	Pagara, Dhar
												17.	Jhimiya, Khargone
												18.	Dimathoda, Katni
												19.	Nanpur, Jhabua
												20.	Saconar, Chhindwara

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10. Maharashtra	242.04	11	875	1. Gondimpa, 194.46 Chandrapur			Arrear	0	0	0	0
				2. Rajpura I, Chandrapur							
				3. Rajpura II, Chandrapur							
				4. Khandbara, Nandurbar							
				5. Navapur Nandurbar							
				6. Gondiya							
				7. Talasari, Thane							
				8. Chikhaldia, Amaravati							
				9. Allepalli, Gadchiroli							
				10. Shahpur, Thane							
				11. Rajur, Ahmednagar							
11. Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	142.70	6	270	1. Adimjati Complex, Imphal	3	243
									2. Old Lambulane, Imphal		
									3. Canchipur, Imphal		
									4. Tamei, Tamengong.		
									5. Khoupum, Tamengong		
									6. Blue Academy, Churachandpur.		
									200.00	2	200
12. Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1. North Eastern Hill University, Shillong (Boys' Hostel)		
									2. North Eastern Hill University, Shillong (Boys' Hostel)		

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
13.	Nagaland	151.00	2	2	200	118.52	2	200	1. Boys hostel Paren	221.09	2	200	1. Nagaland University, SASRD Campus, Medziphema (Boys' Hostel)
									2. Girls Hostel, Kohima				2. Nagaland University, SASRD Campus, Medziphema (Girls' Hostel)
14.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56.50	21	840	1. Baghada, Mayurbhanj	
												2. Sulipada, Mayurbhanj	
												3. Jambadi, Mayurbhanj	
												4. Singda, Mayurbhanj	
												5. Melhanitopha, Mayurbhanj	
												6. Mahabla, Mayurbhanj	
												7. Kuladohari, Mayurbhanj	
												8. Uphagadia, Mayurbhanj	
												9. Kujidhi, Mayurbhanj	
												10. Aniakuda, Mayurbhanj	
												11. Kusumasole, Mayurbhanj	
												12. Deul, Mayurbhanj	
												13. Badmundhabani, Mayurbhanj	
												14. Jhinkiria, Mayurbhanj	
												15. Mayurbhanj, Mayurbhanj	
												16. Gadigan, Mayurbhanj	
												17. Khurunia, Mayurbhanj	
												18. Chikitamzla, Mayurbhanj	
												19. Manika, Mayurbhanj	
												20. Kundabai, Mayurbhanj	
												21. Mananda, Mayurbhanj	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
15. Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	190.50	17	575	1. Balotara, Badmer 2. Shaktargarh, Bhiwara 3. Mangrol, Barra 4. Sawaimadhopur, Sawaimadhopur 5. Bhinder, Udaipur 6. Sikroy, Dausa 7. Naddol, Pali 8. Jhallara, Udaipur 9. Todabhi, Karauli 10. Mandaroyal, Karauli 11. Ranivada, Jalaur 12. Malar, Jodhpur 13. Mundawar, Alwar 14. Samranaia, Barra 15. Jaipur, Jaipur 16. Udaipur, Udaipur 17. Kota, Kota
16. West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	6.71	1	60	1. Santuri, Purulia	0	0	0
17. IIT, Delhi	234.88	Arrears	0	0	0	64.21	Arrears	0	0	440.91	0	0
18. Punjab University, Chandigarh	65.12	2	90	1. Punjab University, Chandigarh (Boys' Hostel)	100.79	Arrears	0	0	0	0	0	0
				2. Punjab University, Chandigarh (Girls' Hostel)								
19. Univ. of Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.00	1	200	1. Univ. of Delhi
Total	1300.00	33	2065	0	0	1565.00	15	820	0	114	6178	0

Note:- Arrear means this amount relates to the hostels sanctioned in previous years. No new hostel has been sanctioned in that particular year. Therefore, number of beneficiaries and location of the hostel have not been mentioned for that year.

*[English]***Utilisation of Funds Under Sector Reforms Project**

2225. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be please to state:

(a) whether the funds provided by the Union Government for drinking water schemes under the Sector Reforms Project have been fully utilized by the State Governments till 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the targets fixed and achieved under the project, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to withdraw the scheme from the districts which failed to implement the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU):

(a) and (b) Water is a state subject and the State Governments are responsible for ensuring potable drinking water supply. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). In 1999, sector reforms in drinking water sector were introduced as decentralized, community-managed and demand-driven Sector Reform Projects on pilot basis in 67 districts out of 27 States. In 2002, the reforms were upscaled

as Swajaldhara in the entire country and Sector Reform Projects in those districts were subsumed in Swajaldhara programme. Since it was a demand-driven community-managed programme,, no targets were fixed. In view of the recommendations made in the annual State Ministers' Conference held in January, 2006, since 2007-08, the quantum of funds to be utilized on schemes to be implemented on Swajaldhara principles and also the quantum of community contribution for the same, have been left to the discretion of the States.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Scrapping of IPOs by Private Companies

2226. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many Private Companies have scrapped their Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) before their closing dates;

(b) if so, the number of companies which have scrapped their IPOs during the last three months; and

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

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

(b) The details of IPOs withdrawn by three companies in last three months are as under: -

Name of Company	Issue Size as per original Price Band (Rs. Crore)	Open Period	Date of Withdrawal of Issue	Reasons for withdrawal as indicated by the merchant banker
Wockhardt Hospitals Ltd.	702-778	31.01.08 to 07.02.08	07.02.08	Minimum subscription not received
Emaar MGF Land Ltd.	7161-8100	01.02.08 to 11.02.08	08.02.08	Adverse market sentiments
SVEC Constructions Ltd.	34-38	04.02.08 to 13.02.08	12.02.08	Weak investor sentiment and weak market

(c) Various measures have been taken to develop a deep and liquid market and protect the interests of investors in securities while improving safety, transparency and efficiency of the market. The major reforms undertaken in this regard include: screen based trading system, dematerialization of securities, corporatization and demutualization of exchanges, settlement through clearing corporation, trading in derivatives, etc. The measures recently taken by SEBI in respect of public issues include qualified institutional placement, fast track issuances, use of electronic modes for IPO refunds, discount to discovered price for retail investors, etc.

*[Translation]***Tribal Museum**

2227. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government proposes the setting up of "Tribal Museum" in the country;

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

(c) the time by which these museums are likely to become functional;

(d) whether Union Government has received any proposal from Government of Maharashtra for setting up of a "Tribal Museum"; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Under its Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Research & Training: Grants-in-aid to Tribal Research Institutes", this Ministry has provided funds to eighteen Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) set up so far by various State/UT Governments, for a number of activities including, setting up running of tribal museums for preserving, exhibiting and educating visitors on tribal arts and culture.

(d) No, Sir

(e) Does't arise.

[English]

EWS Housing

2228. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to provide various kinds of incentives to the real estate developers for constructing houses for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Land being a State subject, the question of extending incentives to the real estate developers for constructing houses, including for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) comes under the purview of State Governments and the concerned Urban Local Bodies. However, the National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy-2007 (NUHHP) which was laid on the Table of both the Houses of the Parliament on 7.12.2007 refers to use of innovative spatial incentives like relaxation of Floor Area Ratio (FAR), in the context of enhancing the supply of houses for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and the Low Income Group (LIG). It also envisages encouraging more efficient use of scarce urban land through review of authorized FAR in line with international practices.

Transfer of Urban Development Schemes

2229. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to transfer some central sector urban development schemes to state sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be transferred?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Pending Proposals under Rural Development Programmes

2230. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals and special projects submitted by the Maharashtra Government pertaining to rural development lying pending for clearance as on date;

(b) the reasons for pendency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development receives proposals from the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for release of funds under various schemes of this Ministry. These proposals are examined with respect to the programme guidelines by the concerned Project Approval/ Sanctioning Committees. Incomplete proposals are referred back for requisite information and clarifications, etc. A total of 53 proposals Special Projects under Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarogor Yojana (SGSY) have been received from the Government of Maharashtra since inception of the scheme. Out of these, 13 proposals have been sanctioned so far, 29 proposals have been returned to the State Government or sponsoring agencies for various reasons and 11 project proposals are at various stages of processing. Appraisal and approval/ clearance of proposals is a continuous process and depends on various factors like their fulfilling the prescribed guidelines, economic viability and BPL focus, etc.

*[English]***Kopili Hydel Power Project**

2231. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 275 MW Kopili Hydel Power Project at Umrangso in NC-Hills has been subject to continuous threat and frequent attacks by militants;

(b) if so, whether the power generation capacity of the plant has been adversely affected during the last two years and the current year; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for optimum operation and power generation in the plant?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The Kopili Hydro Electric Project located in North Cachar Hills District of Assam is surrounded by dense forest from all sides and comprises three power stations of capacities 4x50 MW (Kopili-I), 2x25 MW (Khandong) and 1x25 MW (Kopili-II). The three power stations and the various installations are located at a distance of 15-25 km from the Project Headquarter at Umrangso. The project is sensitive from the security point of view as various militant groups are operating in the area. As informed by the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO), the Project management has been receiving continuous demands and threats from various militant groups.

(b) After a militant attack on the shift duty personnel of NEEPCO on 11.02.2008, the generation from the power station had been temporarily affected. The 200 MW Kopili-I Power station had to be put under shutdown from 12.02.2008 to 21.02.2008, while the 50 MW Khandong Power Station was shut down from 12.02.2008 to 15.02.2008 and the 25 MW Kopili Stage II from 12.02.2008 to 16.02.2008 consequent to the militant attack on 11.02.2008. During this period there was generation loss to the tune of 20 Million Units from these power stations.

The generation from these Power Stations was restored after security cover of Assam Police was provided by the Government of Assam to the employees and to the installation. The units are since in operation as per the normal schedule given by the North East Regional Load Dispatch Centre (NERLDC).

(c) The matter regarding repeated threats by the militant groups to NEEPCO employees has been taken up with the Government of Assam. It has been informed that one platoon of Assam Police has been provided by the State Government initially at the Kopili Power station for escorting the shift duty personnel of the Power Plant. Thereafter, the

security setup has been further strengthened subsequently by posting another two platoons of the Assam Police Battalion at Khandong & Umrangso. In addition, one company of the BSF and one company of Assam Rifles are also based at Umrangso to provide security cover to the employees of NEEPCO and to the installations.

*[Translation]***Health Insurance**

2232. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether insurance companies have asked for any exemption from conditions of Health Insurance;

(b) if so, the details of these conditions thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage health insurance?

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) Insurance companies are free to introduce health insurance products keeping in view the demand factors and financial viability with the approval of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) under file and use guidelines. However, the Government of India subsidises the premia in respect of certain categories of beneficiaries under the following schemes providing health insurance: -

- (i) Universal Health Insurance Scheme,
- (ii) Handlooms Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme,
- (iii) Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana, and
- (iv) Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

Besides above mentioned schemes, the Micro Insurance Regulations of IRDA also encourage the availability of low cost insurance plans.

*[English]***Thefts and Pickpocketing in Metro Rail**

2233. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DMRC is aware of the increasing incidents of theft pick-pocketing reported from various metro stations in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last two years;

(c) whether the DMRC has taken any steps to prevent such incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on 'the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Works under CAPART

2234. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects sanctioned by Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) during the last three years, State-wise/UT-wise;

(b) the works taken-up under these projects;

(c) whether any NGOs have been involved in the work;

(d) if so, whether the Government has proper mechanism to monitor the works of the NGOs and VOs involved in these projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) has sanctioned 1701 projects during the last three years. The State-wise/UT-wise number of projects sanctioned during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The main works which have been taken up relate to excavation/renovation of water storage tanks, construction of rain water harvesting tanks using ferro-cement technology, construction of wells/bore-wells, leveling and improvement of land for agriculture, afforestation, training programmes for skill upgradation for wage/ self-employment, construction of vermi compost pits, construction of check dams, organization of general awareness camps, rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, organization of Gram Shree Melas etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The works of the NGOs are monitored by the empanelled Institutional Monitors of CAPART at three stages viz. pre-funding appraisal before sanction of the project, Mid term evaluation(s) after release of first/subsequent install-

ment(s) of funds and post completion monitoring after the receipt of the completion report and other relevant documents from the NGO.

Statement

State-wise/UT-wise No. of Projects Sanctioned during last three years (2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of projects
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	218
2.	Assam	38
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
4.	Bihar	48
5.	Chhattisgarh	21
6.	Chandigarh	4
7.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1
8.	Daman and Diu	2
9.	Delhi	12
10.	Gujarat	80
11.	Haryana	89
12.	Himachal Pradesh	52
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	35
14.	Jharkhand	38
15.	Karnataka	201
16.	Kerala	108
17.	Madhya Pradesh	58
18.	Maharashtra	87
19.	Manipur	63
20.	Meghalaya	1
21.	Mizoram	6
22.	Nagaland	18
23.	Orissa	118
24.	Punjab	16
25.	Rajasthan	98
26.	Sikkim	4
27.	Tamil Nadu	70

1	2	3
28.	Tripura	12
29.	Uttar Pradesh	93
30.	Uttaranchal	33
31.	West Bengal	74
32.	Goa	0
33.	Pondicherry	1
Total		1701

Information Technology in Banking Sector

2235. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an advisory group for the use of information technology for providing better banking facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its term of reference;

(c) whether the suggestions of the advisory group have been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it would be implemented?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Indo-Japan Currency Swap Facility

2236. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Japan Currency Swap Agreement has got the authorization of Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) A proposal for bilateral agreement between India and Japan to exchange a maximum amount of US \$ 3 billion for respective domestic currency to meet temporary Balance of Payment (BOP) problems, by either country, for an initial period of 90 days at a specified interest rate payable on dollar amounts received and thereafter through renewals, up to a maximum period of 630 days, is under consideration of Government of India. Final decision in the matter is yet to be taken.

Arms and Ammunition with Customs

2237. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the current stock of arms and ammunitions in the Customs Shop;

(b) the details regarding the persons entitled to purchase arms from the customs department;

(c) the criteria laid down for pricing of arms; and

(d) whether some concession is given to MPs and VIPs for purchase of weapons for self defence and pricing thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As per the enclosed statement.

(b) Only sitting Members of Parliament can purchase confiscated non-prohibited bore weapons from the Customs Department.

(c) Pricing of arms and ammunitions is done on the basis of prevailing market price.

(d) No price concession is given to MPs/VIPs for purchase of weapons for self defence.

Statement

Stock position of Fire-arms as on 10-03-2008

S.No.	Bore/Size of weapons	Pistols	Revolvers	Gun/Rifles
1.	.12"	-	-	3
2.	.22"	19	29	13
3.	.25"	12	-	-
4.	.30.06"	-	-	3
5.	.32"/7.65mm	2	16	-
6.	.380"	22	-	-
Total		55	45	19

Stock position of ammunition as on 10-03-2008

(In numbers)				
S.No.	Bore/Size of weapons	Pistols	Revolvers	Gun/Rifles
1.	.12"	-	-	2380
2.	.22"	4725	-	-
3.	.25"	5000	-	-
4.	.32"/7.65mm	714	2400	-
Total		10439	2400	2380

Annual Returns under Companies Act

2238. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sizeable number of companies have not filed their annual returns as envisaged under the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure strict compliance of the Act in this regard?

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

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) In cases of non-compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 in so far as it pertains to filing of statutory annual returns, the Ministry has taken various steps including facilitation in filing such returns on-line with the implementation of e-Governance programme, striking off the names of defunct/ inactive/ non-compliant companies from the Registry, issuance of show cause notices and filing of prosecutions, wherever merited, in accordance with the provisions of the Act. As a result of the above, there has been improvement in the compliance rate in filing of Annual Returns during the period of last three years.

Statement**Companies at work**

Companies at work as on	Number of companies
31. 03. 2005	6,79,649 of which 40,059 companies were incorporated during 2004-05 in respect of which the filing of annual returns had not become due
31. 03. 2006	7,32,169 of which 54,020 companies were incorporated during 2005-06 in respect of which the filing of annual returns had not become due
31.03.2007	7,43,628 of which 51,708 companies were incorporated during 2006-07 in respect of which the filing of annual returns had not become due

Annual Returns filed by the Companies at work

Financial Year	Number of Annual Returns filed
2005-06	1,90,252
2006-07	2,94,340
2007-08 (from 01.04.2007 to 29.02.2008)	3,22,943

Suo-motu Action taken on striking off the names of companies from the Registry

Scheme/action	Number of companies
Under Simplified Exit Scheme 2003	29,289
Under Simplified Exit Scheme 2005	24,884
Through <i>suo-motu</i> action taken by the Registrars under Section 560 of the Act	54,883
Total number of companies struck off the Registry	1,09,056
Number of companies against which proceedings under Section 560 are in progress	69,017

Democratization of JNNURM

2239. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some organizations have demanded democratization of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission through active involvement of 60 per cent of the urban population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Indian Corporates are involved in the functioning of the Mission; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that the working of the Mission is transparent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Citizen Participation is envisaged in the formulation of City Development Plan (CDP). The reforms committed by the States and Cities in the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) seek to ensure citizen participation and transparency.

(c) Under Technical Assistance Programme of the Asian Development Bank, Assistance is provided to the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission Directorate of Ministry of Urban Development for supporting Technical Cell attached to the Mission.

(d) One of the reforms committed by States & Cities envisages enactment of Public Disclosure Law. JNNURM also envisages active citizen participation. The association of Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Community Participation Fund (CPF) are steps in this direction.

Corporate Debt Restructuring Package

2240. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some companies have not been honouring their commitments under the corporate debt restructuring package and owes around Rs. 8,000 crore to financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) As reported by Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) Cell, as on January 31, 2008, CDR has been approved in respect of 162 cases with an aggregate debt of Rs. 81,806 crore. Out of these only 29 cases involving aggregate debt of Rs. 3,393 crore had faced difficulty in implementing the restructuring and thereby not honouring their commitments.

In the event of the failure of restructuring packages, the reliefs and concessions provided under the CDR restructuring package are withdrawn and the lenders concerned are free to resort to other recovery measures under their respective loan covenants.

Land Acquisition by DDA

2241. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of land acquired in village Palam, New Delhi for Delhi Development Authority Dwarka Project-Khasra Number-wise;

(b) whether DDA has taken over the possession of the acquired land;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any encroachment on the said acquired land; and

(e) if so, action taken to remove the encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The details as provided by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) DDA has reported that out of 4693 Bigha 9 Biswa of land acquired for Dwarka Project in Village Palam, possession of 3906 Bigha has been handed over to DDA by the Land and Building Department of the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD).

(c) Possession of 787 Bigha 9 Biswa could not be handed over by the Land and Building Department of GNCTD to DDA due to built up structures at site.

(d) and (e) DDA has further reported that approximately 30 Bighas of land taken over by it is under unauthorised

encroachment and there is a stay order of Court on 24 Bighas. The remaining 6 Bighas in Tot Lots has also been encroached. DDA has also indicated that it is proposed to carry out demolition on land which is not covered by any stay order of the Court.

Statement

The details of land acquired in Village Palam New Delhi for Delhi Development Authority Dwarka Project Khasra Number wise.

Khasra No.	Area Bigha-Biswa
1	2
1/125	4-04
2/12	4-01
6	3-06
7/1	1-04
8/2	3-12
8/1	1-04
9	4-17
11	3-00
12/1	2-10
12/2	0-10
13	4-09
14	4-16
15	4-16
16 min	1-13
16 min	0-02
17/1	2-01
17/2/2	2-00
18	3-16
19	4-16
20	4-11
21	4-16
22	4-16
23	4-16
24/2	3-04
25/2	1-07
3/11 min	2-01
12 min	3-07

1	2	1	2
16	3-06	6//1	4-16
17	4-18	2/1	1-4
3//18	6-14	2/2	3-12
19	5-18	3	4-16
20/2	3-05	4	4-16
21	3-08	5	4-12
22/1	0-16	6	4-16
22/2	1-19	7	4-16
23/1	2-02	8	4-16
23/2	2-08	9/1	1-04
24/2	1-19	9/2	3-12
25/2	3-04	10	4-16
4//21	5-19	11	4-16
22	4-18	12	4-16
23	4-19	13	4-16
5//1	3-12	14	4-16
2	2-10	15	4-16
3	3-8	16	4-16
4	3-04	17	4-16
5/5	4-09	18	4-16
8	6-08	19	4-16
9	4-16	20	4-16
10	4-16	21/1	1-03
11	4-16	21/2	3-13
12	4-16	22/1	2-08
13	4-16	22/2	2-08
18	4-16	6//23/1	2-07
19	4-16	23/2	2-09
20	4-16	24	4-16
21	4-16	25	4-16
22	4-16	7//1	4-16
5//23	4-16	2	4-16

1	2	1	2
3/1	2-8	6	4-16
3/2/2	1-15	7	4-17
4/1/2	0-8	13	2-07
4/2	0-11	14	4-07
5/2	4-8	15	4-16
6/2	1-13	16	4-16
7/1/2	2-12	17	4-07
7/2	1-04	18	6-07
7/1/1	0-13	21	3-02
8/2	1-03	22 min	4-14
9/2	4-16	8//23 min min	3-05
10	4-16	24 min	3-13
11	4-16	25 min	3-05
12/2	1-19	9//5 min	1-04
13/1	1-19	6 min	3-18
13/2	0-14	7 min	2-10
14/1	3-12	8 min	0-19
14/2	1-4	9//12 min	3-2
15	4-16	13	4-16
16/1	4-5	14/1	2-08
16/2	1-19	14/2	2-08
17	4-16	15	4-16
18/1	1-04	16	4-16
18/2	3-12	17/1	3-12
20/2	3-02	17/2	1-4
21/2	1-00	18	4-16
22/2	4-10	19	4-16
23	4-16	20	4-17
24	4-16	22	6-10
25/1	2-08	23/1	2-07
25/2	2-08	23/2	2-07
8//5	4-16	24/1	3-07

1	2	1	2
24/2	1-05	10/2	2-08
25	4-16	11/1	1-03
10//2	2-07	11/2	2-10
5/1	1-18	11/3	1-03
5/2	1-08	12	4-16
11//1/1	2-17	13	4-16
1/2	2-16	14/1	1-02
2	4-16	14/2	1-2
3	4-16	14/3	2-3
4	4-07	12//15/1	1-03
5 min	0-06	15/2	2-08
5 min	0-10	15/3	1-03
6	6-08	16	4-16
7	4-12	17	4-7
11//8	3-12	18/1	3-07
9	2-02	18/2	2-14
12//1 min	1-00	19/1	5-04
2 min	1-02	19/2	3-04
3 min	1-08	20/1	1-02
4/2/2	0-15	20/2	2-10
4/3/2	0-18	21/1	1-02
5/2	1-03	21/2	2-10
5/3/2	1-03	21/3	0-16
6/1	2-08	22	3-00
6/2	2-08	23	3-12
7/1	2-03	24/1	1-02
7/2	2-03	24/2	3-05
8/1	1-04	25	4-16
8/2	3-12	13//1	4-16
9/1	4-06	2	4-16
9/2	0-10	3	4-16
10/1	2-08	4	4-16

1	2
5	4-16
6/1	3-12
6/2	1-04
7	4-16
8	4-16
9	4-16
10	4-16
13//11	4-16
12	4-16
13	4-16
14	4-16
15/1	1-03
15/2	3-13
16	4-16
17	4-16
18	4-16
19/1	2-08
19/2	2-08
20	4-16
21	4-16
22	4-16
23	4-16
24	4-16
25	4-16
14//1/1	3-12
1/2	1-04
2/1	3-12
2/2	1-04
3	4-16
4	4-16
5/1	3-16
5/2	1-00

1	2
6/1	2-08
6/2	2-08
7/1	3-12
14//7/2	1-04
8	4-16
9	4-16
10	4-16
11	2-12
12	3-07
13	5-00
14	4-16
15	4-16
16	4-16
17	4-02
18	1-06
15//2	3-05
3/1	2-08
3/2	3-02
4	6-04
5	5-16
16//1/1	1-07
1/2	1-05
1/3	2-04
2/1	2-08
2/2	2-08
3/1	2-08
3/2	2-08
4/1	2-08
4/2	2-08
5	4-16
6	4-16

1	2	1	2
7	4-16	6	4-16
16//8	4-16	7	4-16
9/1	2-08	8	4-16
9/2	2-08	9	4-16
10	4-16	10	4-16
11	4-13	11	4-16
12/1	4-12	12	4-16
12/2	0-07	13	4-16
13	4-16	14	4-16
14	4-16	15	4-16
15	4-16	16	4-16
16	4-16	17/1	2-08
17	4-16	17/2	2-08
18/1	2-08	18	4-16
18/2	2-08	19	4-16
19	4-16	20	4-16
20	4-16	21	4-16
21	4-07	22	4-16
22/1	2-08	7//23	4-16
22/2	2-08	24	4-16
23/1	2-08	25	4-16
23/2	2-08	18//1	4-16
24	4-16	2	4-16
25	4-16	3	4-16
17//1	4-16	8	4-16
2/1	3-07	9/1	3-12
2/2	0-12	9/2	1-04
2/3	0-17	10/1	2-08
3/1	1-05	10/2	2-08
3/2	3-11	11/1	2-08
4	4-16	11/2	2-08
5	4-16		

1	2	1	2
12	4-16	20//1/1	3-00
13	4-16	1/2	2-17
18	4-16	2	6-09
19/1	0-14	3	6-02
19/2	4-02	24//1	4-18
20/1	2-08	24//7	3-17
20/2	2-08	8	6-01
21	4-16	9	5-15
22/1	1-19	15	3-17
22/2	2-17	25//73	4-08
23	4-16	4	4-16
19//1	4-16	5	4-16
2/1	3-12	6	4-17
2/2	1-4	7	4-16
3/1	4-11	8	4-16
3/2	0-10	9	6-06
8	4-11	10	2-06
9/1	3-12	11	2-08
9/2	1-04	12	4-16
10	4-16	13	5-19
11	4-16	14	3-18
12	4-16	15	4-6
13	4-16	16	4-5
18	4-16	28//6/2	1-19
19	4-16	15/1	3-12
20/1	4-09	16/2	2-13
20/2	0-07	29//11/2	2-14
21	4-16	12/2	4-04
22	4-16	13	4-16
23/1	2-08	16	4-11
23/2	2-08	21	1-13
		29//22	4-13

1	2	1	2
23	4-16	11	2-19
24	2-01	12	4-16
25	7-02	13	4-16
30//2/2	1-13	18	4-16
4/2	1-00	19	4-16
10/2	0-11	20/1	2-08
31//3	1-13	20/2	3-12
4	2-14	21	4-16
5	3-14	22	4-16
6	4-12	23	4-16
7	5-12	35//3	3-19
13	4-16	4	5-12
18	4-16	5/2	0-11
23	4-16	5/1	4-5
33//17	4-07	6	4-16
18	4-16	7	4-10
19	3-19	14	1-06
22	4-04	15	5-10
23	4-12	36//1/1	4-8
34//1	5-16	1/2	0-08
2	4-16	2	4-16
3/7/3 min	0-09	3/1	2-8
4/1-2	5-06	36//3/2	2-08
3/7/3 min	3-01	4	4-16
4/3	0-10	5	4-16
5	4-16	6	4-16
6	5-16	7/3	2-12
7	5-6	8	4-16
34//8	3-08	9	4-16
9	3-05	10	4-16
10	4-04	11	4-16

1	2	1	2
12	4-16	11/1	2-11
13	4-16	11/2	2-05
14/1	4-07	12	4-16
14/2	0-09	13	4-16
15	4-16	14	4-16
16/1	3-12	15/1	3-06
16/2	1-04	15/2	1-10
17	4-16	16	4-16
18	4-16	17/1	2-08
19/1	2-08	17/2	2-08
19/2	2-08	37//18	4-16
20	4-00	19/1	2-08
22/1	5-01	19/2	2-08
22/2	0-09	20	4-16
23	4-16	21/1	4-02
24/1	2-09	21/2	0-09
24/2	2-07	21/3	0-09
36//25	4-16	22/1	3-12
37//1	2-07	22/2	1-04
2	4-13	23/1	1-04
3	4-16	23/2	3-12
4/1	2-08	24	4-16
4/2	2-08	25/1	1-4
5	4-16	25/2	3-12
6/1	3-11	38//14/1	4-08
6/2	1-05	15	3-00
7	4-16	16	4-16
8/1	2-08	17	2-05
8/2	2-08	24/1	4-8
9/1	2-08	24/2	1-02
9/2	2-08	25	4-16
10	3-19	39//3	3-13

1	2	1	2
4/1	2-08	6/1	2-15
4/2	2-08	6/2	2-15
5	4-16	7/1	1-16
6	4-16	7/2	1-09
7/1	3-16	7/3	0-09
7/2	1-00	8	2-10
39//8/1	2-01	42//1	4-16
8/2	2-14	2	4-16
10	3-08	3/1	3-09
13	4-04	3/2	1-04
14/1	3-12	4/1	4-07
14/2	1-04	4/2	0-12
15/1	3-08	5	4-16
15/2	1-08	6	4-16
16	4-16	7/1	2-08
17/1	2-08	7/2	2-08
17/2	2-08	8	4-16
18	4-09	9/1	2-08
22	3-16	9/2	2-08
23	4-12	10/1	2-08
24/1	3-12	10/2	2-08
24/2	1-04	11/1	3-12
25/1	3-04	11/2	1-04
25/2	1-12	12/1	1-12
40//5	2-12	12/2	3-04
19	4-5	42//13/1	1-12
41//1/1	0-11	13/2	2-08
1/2	3-18	13/3	1-07
2	6-00	14/1	1-04
3	3-19	14/2	3-12
41/4	4-16	15/1	2-08
5	5-15	15/2	2-08

1	2
16	4-16
17	4-16a
18/1	2-09
18/2	1-09
19	4-16
20/1	2-08
20/2	2-08
21/1	1-09
21/2	3-12
22	4-16
23	3-19
24	5-00
25	5-15
43//1/1	1-04
1/2	2-16
1/3	00-05
43//3/1	3-12
3/2	1-04
4/1	1-04
4/2	3-12
10	4-06
11/1	2-01
48//1	4-16
2	4-16
3	4-6
4	4-16
5	4-16
6	4-16
7/1	2-08
7/2	2-08
8	4-06

1	2
9	4-16
10	4-16
11	4-16
12	4-16
13	4-06
14	4-16
15/1	1-04
15/2	3-12
16/1	3-12
16/2	1-04
17	4-16
18	4-06
19	4-16
48//20/1	1-05
20/2	2-02
20/3	1-10
21/1	1-05
21/2	3-10
22/1	1-12
22/2	2-12
23	3-16
24	4-16
25	4-16
49//1/1	1-04
1/2	3-12
2	4-16
3	4-06
4	4-16
5/1	2-14
5/2	2-02
6	4-16
7	4-16

1	2	1	2
8	4-06	20	4-16
9	4-16	21/1	2-08
10	4-16	21/2	2-08
11	4-16	57//22	3-12
12	4-16	23	3-15
13	4-06	24/1	0-16
14	4-16	24/2	4-00
49//15	4-16	25/1	2-08
16	4-16	25/2	2-08
17	4-16	58//1/1	2-00
18	4-06	1/2	2-16
19	4-16	2/1	4-02
20/1	2-08	2/2	4-02
20/2	2-08	9	4-13
21	4-16	10/1	4-07
22	4-16	10/2	0-12
23	4-06	11/1	2-08
24	4-16	11/2	2-08
25	4-16	12/1	2-08
57//1	4-16	12/2	2-08
2/1	5-17	19	4-04
2/2	0-08	20	4-16
9/1	2-03	21	4-16
9/2	1-16	22/1	1-12
9/3	0-18	22/2	1-10
10/1	1-11	22/3	1-02
10/2	2-03	69//3/1	3-10
10/3	0-18	3/2	1-02
11	4-06	70//6	5-08
12	5-08	70//15/1	4-06
16	0-05	15/2	0-10
19	6-00	71//1	4-16

1	2
2	4-16
3	4-16
6/1	0-05
6/2	0-08
4	4-15
5	4-08
6/3	3-05
6/4	4-14
6/5	0-08
7	3-12
8	4-00
9	3-04
10	3-06
72//1	4-16
2	4-16
3	4-16
4/1	3-14
4/2	1-02
5/1	3-12
5/2	1-04
7	4-16
8/1	4-12
8/2	0-07
9	4-16
10/1	1-02
10/2	1-00
10/3	1-03
72//11	5-15
12	4-16
13/1	3-09
13/2	1-04
14/1	3-00

1	2
17	4-16
18/1	1-04
19/1	5-03
19/2	0-05
20/1	3-06
20/2	0-14
21	6-03
24/1	1-12
73//1	4-16
2/2	3-12
2/1	1-04
3/1	2-12
3/2	1-13
4	4-14
5/1	3-11
5/2	1-05
6	4-00
7/1	1-00
7/2	2-04
73//7/3	1-05
8	4-13
9/1	4-12
9/2	0-07
10/1	1-02
10/2	3-12
10/3	0-02
11	4-16
12	4-16
13	4-16
14	4-16
15	5-00
16	4-15

1	2	1	2
17	4-16	25/2	2-09
18/1	3-12	76/3	2-08
18/2	1-04	4	4-14
19	4-16	5/1	3-04
20/1	5-12	5/2	1-12
20/2	1-04	6	4-16
22	3-08	7/1	3-13
23	4-16	7/2	1-03
24	4-16	76/8/1	2-07
25/1	2-09	8/2	2-09
25/2	0-05	9/1	3-04
25/3	2-05	9/2	2-09
74/25/1	2-07	10/1	1-10
25/2	3-18	10/2	2-5
75/13	1-12	11	4-16
14	3-18	12	4-16
15	6-02	13/1	2-07
16	4-16	13/2	2-09
17	4-16	14/1	2-07
18/1	2-02	14/2	1-19
18/2	1-09	14/3	0-04
18/3	1-05	15/1	1-12
19	3-16	15/2	3-04
20	0-08	16/1	2-09
21/1	3-19	16/2	2-07
21/2	1-02	17/1	4-11
22/1	2-02	17/2	0-05
22/2	2-00	18	4-16
23	4-15	19/1	4-05
24/1	1-05	19/2	0-16
24/2	3-11	20/1	3-08
25/1	2-07	20/2	1-08

1	2
21/1	4-11
21/2	0-05
22	4-11
23/1	3-12
23/2	1-04
76//24/1	1-04
24/2	3-12
25	4-16
77//1/1	2-08
1/2	1-04
1/3	1-04
2	4-16
3	4-16
4	4-16
5	4-16
6	4-16
7	4-13
8/1	2-07
8/2	1-04
9	4-16
10/1	3-12
10/2	1-04
11/1	2-08
11/2	2-08
11/2/1	1-15
12	5-10
14	1-09
15	4-17
16	3-18
19	3-08
77//20	4-16
21/1	4-11

1	2
21/2	0-05
22	3-08
23	2-14
24	4-05
25	4-16
87//9	6-01
10/1	2-00
10/2	3-06
10/3	2-08
11	2-09
12	4-00
13	2-05
18	3-03
19	4-11
89//2	4-16
7	3-12
8	4-16
9/1	3-19
9/2	0-17
10	4-16
11/1	4-01
12	4-16
13/1	4-10
89//13/2	0-06
14/1	0-03
14/2	3-09
15/1	0-14
15/2	0-08
18/1	3-12
18/2	1-04
19/1	3-18
19/2	0-18

1	2	1	2
20	4-16	7	4-16
21/1	4-09	8	3-12
21/2	0-07	17	4-16
22	4-16	13	4-17
23/1	3-12	14	4-16
23/2	1-04	15	4-16
99//1/1	3-12	16	4-16
1/2	0-05	18/1	2-08
2	4-16	18/2	2-08
3	4-14	19	2-19
4	4-16	21	1-02
5	4-16	22	4-17
6	4-16	100//23	4-16
7	4-16	24	4-16
8/1	4-06	25	4-16
8/2	0-12	101//14	2-01
99//9/1	2-06	15/1	1-00
9/2	2-10	15/2	1-19
10	3-10	16/1	1-02
12	3-19	16/2	3-14
13/1	2-16	17	3-05
13/2	2-00	24	4-05
14	4-16	25	4-16
15	4-16	106//1	4-16
16	4-16	2/1	2-08
17	4-16	2/2	2-08
18	5-19	3	4-16
24	4-17	4	4-16
25	4-16	5	4-16
100//4	4-04	6	4-16
5	4-16	7	4-16
6	4-16	8	4-16

1	2
9/1	3-12
9/2	0-08
9/3	0-09
9/4	0-04
9/5	0-04
10	4-16
106//11	4-16
12	4-16
13	4-16
14	4-16
15/1	2-08
15/2	2-08
16/1	3-12
16/2	1-04
17	4-16
18	4-16
19	4-16
20/1	1-12
20/2	0-16
20/3	0-16
20/4	1-12
21	4-16
22/1	2-06
22/2	2-10
23/1	2-06
23/2	2-10
24	4-16
25	4-16
107//1/1	1-12
1/2	3-04
2/1	1-12

1	2
2/2	3-4
3	5-4
107//4	4-16
5/1	4-08
5/2	0-08
6	4-16
7	4-16
8	4-08
9	4-16
10	3-00
12	2-12
13/1	1-04
13/2	0-18
13/3	2-14
14	4-16
15/1	1-05
15/2	1-05
15/3	2-06
16/1	2-08
16/2	2-08
17/2	2-07
17/1	2-08
18/1	1-04
18/2	0-19
25	5-19
108//1	4-16
2	4-16
3/1	3-12
108//3/2	1-04
4	4-16
5	4-16
6	4-16

1	2	1	2
7	4-16	3/1/2	1-19
8	4-16	3/2/2	0-02
9	4-16	4/1/2	0-01
10	4-16	4/2/2	1-01
11/1	2-12	9/1/2	0-19
11/2	0-16	9/2/2	0-13
11/3	1-08	10/1	2-13
12	4-16	10/2	2-01
13/1	2-08	11/1/2	1-02
13/2	2-08	11/1/1	0-05
14/1	1-04	12	2-02
14/2	3-12	120//1	4-16
15/1	1-04	2	4-16
15/2	3-12	3	4-16
16	4-16	4	4-16
17	4-16	5	4-16
18	4-16	6/1	2-17
19	4-16	6/2	1-19
20/1	0-12	120//7/1	1-04
20/2	4-04	7/2	3-12
21	4-16	8/1	2-08
22	4-16	8/2	2-08
23	4-16	9/1	1-04
24	4-16	9/2	1-16
25	4-16	9/3	1-16
119//1/1	3-14	10	4-16
1/2	0-11	11	4-16
1/3	0-11	12/1	2-00
2/1	0-10	12/2	1-18
2/2	0-05	12/3	0-18
2/3	0-05	13/1	2-07
2/4	3-15	13/2	1-11

1	2	1	2
13/3	0-18	113//6/1	0-09
14	4-16	15/1	0-12
15/1/2	3-12	16/1	0-12
15/2/2	0-09	25/1/2	0-01
17/2	0-12	25/2/2	0-11
18/2	1-14	118//5/1/2	0-06-10
19/2 min	1-14	5/2/2	0-05-10
19/2 min	1-10	6/1	1-02
20/1	1-16	15/1/1	0-13
20/2	2-05	15/2/1	0-07
20/3/2	0-13	15/3/1	0-07
21/2	0-10	16/2/1	1-02
121//1	4-02	31//8/1	0-08
2	4-16	8/2	5-15
3	4-16	32//1	4-09
4	4-16	34//14	4-16
5	4-16	64//5/1 min	0-07
6/1	2-08	65//1/1	0-05
6/2	2-08	1/2/1	0-01
7	4-16	2/1/1 min	0-01
8	4-16	2/2/1 min	0-01
9	3-13	3/1/1	0-01
13	3-12	10/1/1 min	0-02
14/1	2-06	10/2/1 min	0-04
14/2	2-10	12/1	0-10
15	4-16	13/1	0-03
16	4-16	68//11/1/1	0-06
17	3-12	11/2/1	0-03
25/2	2-03	18/1 min	0-07
153	13-10	19/1/1 min	0-05
155	28-05	19/3/1	0-03
156	5-17	23/1	0-01

1	2	1	2
24/1 min	0-02	7	4-16
25/1	0-05	14	4-16
25/2	0-03	15	4-16
69//8/1/1 min	0-01	16	4-16
8/2/1 min	0-02	17	4-16
8/3/1	0-01	24	4-16
7/1	0-08	25	4-16
15/1 min	0-07	20//4	6-03
5//6	3-16	5/1	3-12
7	5-08	5/2	2-04
14	4-16	21//1	5-18
15	4-16	2	6-02
16	4-16	21//3	6-06
17	4-16	4	4-16
24	4-16	5/1	0-16
25	4-16	5/2	3-16
18//4	4-16	6	2-00
5/1	2-08	7	1-18
5/2	2-08	22//1/1	1-04
6	4-16	1/2	3-12
7	4-16	2/1	1-05
14	4-16	2/2	3-11
15	4-16	3/1	2-08
16	4-16	3/2	2-08
17	4-16	4	4-16
24/1	1-12	5	4-16
24/2	3-04	6	4-16
25/1	1-4	7	4-16
25/2	3-12	8	4-16
19//4	4-16	9	4-16
5	4-16	10	4-16
6	4-16	11	4-16

1	2	1	2
12	4-16	11/1	2-08
13	4-16	11/2	2-08
14	4-16	12	4-16
15/1	2-08	13	4-16
22//15/2	2-08	14/1	2-08
16/1	2-08	14/2	2-08
16/2	2-08	15	4-16
22//17	4-16	16/1	4-11
18/1	1-04	16/2	0-09
18/2	3-12	17	4-16
19/1	2-08	18	4-16
19/2	2-08	19/1	2-08
20	4-16	19/2	2-08
21	4-16	20	4-16
22	4-16	21	4-16
23	4-16	22/1	3-11
24	4-16	22/2	1-00
25	4-16	23	4-04
23//1/1	2-04	24	4-04
1/2	2-07	25	4-04
1/3	0-08	24//11	6-14
2	4-16	24//12/1	2-14
3	4-16	12/2	4-00
5/1	2-08	13	1-14
5/2	2-08	16	5-14
6	4-16	17	6-10
7/1	2-08	18	4-16
7/2	2-08	19	4-16
4	4-16	20	4-16
8	4-16	21	4-16
23//9	4-16	22	4-16
10	4-12	23/1	2-08

1	2	1	2
23/2	2-08	15	4-16
24	4-16	16	4-16
25	4-16	17	4-16
25//19	3-12	18	4-16
20	4-16	19/1	2-08
21	4-16	19/2	2-08
22	4-16	20	4-16
23/1	5-5	21	4-04
23/2	2-01	26//22	4-04
24	5-18	23/1	1-04
25	4-19	23/2	3-00
26//1/1	2-08	24	4-04
1/2	2-08	25/1	2-08
2/1	2-08	27//1/1	1-04
26//2/2	2-08	1/2	3-12
3/1	1-12	2/1	3-00
3/2	3-04	2/2	1-16
4/1	1-12	3	4-16
4/2	3-04	4	4-16
5	4-16	5/2	2-08
6	4-16	7	4-16
7	4-16	8/1	3-12
8	4-16	8/2	1-04
9	4-16	9/1	3-00
10/1	2-08	9/2	1-16
10/2	1-04	10	4-16
10/3	1-04	11	4-16
11	4-16	12	4-16
12	4-16	13	4-16
13/1	4-06	14	4-16
13/2	0-10	17	4-16
14	4-16	18	4-16

1	2
19	4-16
20	4-16
21	4-16
27//22	4-16
23	4-16
24	4-16
25	4-16
28//1/1	4-12
1/2	0-07
2/1	2-08
2/2	2-08
3/1	2-08
4/1	2-08
5/1	2-08
9	4-15
10	3-08
30//1	4-16
31//1	4-16
2	2-16
8/1 min	0-06
9	4-16
10	4-16
11	4-16
12	4-16
19	4-16
20	4-16
21	4-04
22/1	2-07
31//22/2	2-08

Hotel on the Site of Eastern and Western Courts

2242. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan under consideration of the Government to demolish the Eastern and Western courts to develop more Hotels to meet the shortage of accommodation for the 2010 Commonwealth Games; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

Integrated Basic Infrastructure Projects in Villages

2243. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared and implemented the project for establishing integrated basic infrastructure in villages; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the villages selected for the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing through State Governments / Union Territory Administrations a number of rural development programmes namely, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Wastelands Management Programme (IWMP), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Various rural infrastructure and amenities are also created under these programmes.

Except NREGA all other above schemes are under implementation in rural areas and NREGA also will be extended in all the districts from 1.4.2008. The basic infrastructure of all weather roads are constructed under PMGSY. Amenities of safe drinking water and sanitation are provided in the ARWSP and TSC schemes. Houses to the poor are provided under IAY. The NREGA provides 100 days employment to each rural household in addition to creation of durable assets in rural areas.

Dividend Tax Exemption

2244. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount is given as exemption from long term capital gains tax (Dividend Tax Exemption) and tax holidays for big business;

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

(c) whether the Government has examined the long term benefits accrued due to such exemption; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Long term capital gains in respect of listed securities are exempt from income-tax. However, the revenue foregone on account of this exemption has not been quantified.

The Income-tax Act provides a number of tax incentives to industry, which also benefit big business. The revenue foregone in the last three years, on account of such incentives, is as follows:-

Financial Year	Revenue Foregone on account of Tax Incentives to Companies (in Rs. Crore)
2004-05	57,852
2005-06	34,618
2006-07	45,034

(c) and (d) The deductions and exemptions extended to big business are reviewed regularly and those which have outlived their utility are withdrawn.

Maintenance of Parks by DDA

2245. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA maintain public parks;

(b) if so, whether a large number of public parks are not being maintained by DDA; and

(c) the details thereof and the time by which DDA proposes to convert these public parks into green areas?

Year	Amount earmarked	Amount released	Target set	Number of beneficiaries
2005-06	Rs. 7.95 cr	Rs. 7.95 cr	667	400
2006-07	Rs. 15.90 cr	Rs. 15.90 cr	667 (existing)+667(new)	400(existing)+376(new)

Fellowships are not awarded State-wise.

(e) UGC has been appointed as nodal agency for implementation of the scheme.

Committee on Health Insurance for Senior Citizens

2247 SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate committee had earlier recommended that standalone health insurance companies should be set up for better penetration;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) DDA has informed that the Parks in its jurisdiction are being maintained.

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme

2246. DR. M. JAGANNATH:

SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for ST students for pursuing M.Phil and Ph.D courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its eligibility criteria and duration thereof;

(c) the total amount earmarked for the scheme and actual amount disbursed during each of the last two years;

(d) the target set and the achievements made alongwith the beneficiaries, State-wise/UTs-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/likely to be taken for effective implementation of this scheme in the States/UTs?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fellowships are provided through the University Grants Commission to ST students who have a post graduate degree, to pursue M.Phil, and Ph.D courses, in any university/institution recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Up to 667 such fellowships may be awarded annually. The rate of fellowship will be at par with the UGC fellowships as amended from time to time. The maximum duration of the fellowship is 5 years.

(c) and (d) The details of amount earmarked and disbursed, target set and number of beneficiaries during last two years are as under:

Year	Amount earmarked	Amount released	Target set	Number of beneficiaries
2005-06	Rs. 7.95 cr	Rs. 7.95 cr	667	400
2006-07	Rs. 15.90 cr	Rs. 15.90 cr	667 (existing)+667(new)	400(existing)+376(new)

(b) whether the Committee on Health Insurance for Senior Citizens has also asked the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) to promote standalone health insurance companies and initiate necessary action for separate treatment of such companies to ensure their viability;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Based on the recommendations of the working Group on Health Insurance, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) constituted in 2004, a separate sub-committee for examination of regulatory issues pertaining to registration of "stand-alone" health insurance companies. The sub-committee submitted its report in 2005 which recommended encouraging formation of standalone health insurance companies to improve penetration of health insurance.

(b) The Committee on Health Insurance for Senior Citizens constituted by IRDA, *inter-alia*, recommended desirability of promoting "stand alone" health insurance companies. The recommendations of the Committee are under examination in IRDA.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Schemes for Old Women and Widows

2248. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for assistance to old women and widows;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Women and Child Development is running 'Swadhar -A Scheme for women in Difficult Circumstances' to cater to the requirements of various types of women in distress in diverse situations including destitute old women and widows. The package of services made available under the Scheme includes provision for food, clothing, shelter, health care counseling and legal support, social and economic rehabilitation through education, awareness generation, skill up gradation and behavioral training. The Scheme also supports a Help-line for women in distress. The details of Swadhar Scheme are available at the Ministry's website www.wcd.nic.in.

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

Credit Rating of Cities

2249. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has commissioned a credit rating exercise of various cities during the last year;

(b) if so, the cities/towns covered thereunder and the likely benefits therefrom; and

(c) the time by which the above exercise is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Government of India has commissioned financial credit rating exercise in respect of various Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the Mission Cities under Urban Infrastructure & Governance (UIG) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) during 2007.

(b) and (c) The exercise is aimed at enhancing the preparedness of ULBs to approach market to finance its projects. List of cities and ULBs in respect of which credit rating exercise has been undertaken is given in the enclosed statement. Out of the above list credit rating for 42 ULBs has been completed.

Statement

States	Sl.No.	Urban Local Bodies
1	2	3
Assam	1	Guwahati
Meghalaya	2	Shillong
Manipur	3	Imphal
Mizoram	4	Aizwal
Tripura	5	Agartala
Nagaland	6	Kohima
Arunachal Pradesh	7	Itanagar
Sikkim	8	Gangtok
Maharashtra	9	Greater Mumbai
	10	Mira-Bhayandar
	11	Thane

1	2	3
	12	Navi Mumbai
	13	Kalyan Dombivli
	14	Pune
	15	Pimpri Chinchwad
	16	Nashik
	17	Nagpur
	18	Nanded-Waghala
Kerala	19	Thiruvananthapuram
	20	Cochin
Karnataka	21	Bangalore
	22	Mysore
Goa	23	Panaji
Uttar Pradesh	24	Kanpur
	25	Lucknow
	26	Allahabad
	27	Varanasi
	28	Meerut
	29	Agra
	30	Mathura
Bihar	31	Patna
	32	Bodhgaya
Gujarat	33	Ahmedabad
	34	Vadodara
	35	Surat
	36	Rajkot
West Bengal	37	Kolkata
	38	Howrah
	39	Asansol
Jharkhand	40	Jamshedpur (notified area)
	41	Dhanbad
	42	Ranchi
Jammu & Kashmir	43	Jammu
	44	Kashmir
Punjab	45	Ludhiana
	46	Amritsar

1	2	3
Chandigarh	47	Chandigarh
Haryana	48	Faridabad
Uttaranchal	49	Dehradun
	50	Haridwar
	51	Nainital
Himachal Pradesh	52	Shimla
Delhi	53	Delhi
Tamil Nadu	54	Chennai
	55	Coimbatore
	56	Madurai
Andhra Pradesh	57	Hyderabad
	58	Vishakapatnam
	59	Vijayawada
Orissa	60	Bhubaneswar
	61	Puri
Chhattisgarh	62	Raipur
Pondicherry	63	Pondicherry
Madhya Pradesh	64	Indore
	65	Bhopal
	66	Jabalpur
	67	Ujjain
Rajasthan	68	Jaipur
	69	Ajmer

Bouncing of Cheques

2250. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cheque bounce incidents have been increasing during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in the future;

(d) whether the apex court has ruled that 10 per cent of bounced cheques amount should be paid to the courts as court fee; and

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to make any regulation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The database maintained by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), does not generate information as called for.

(c) to (e) The Negotiable Instruments Act was amended in December, 2002 with an objective of making the provision relating to the bouncing of cheques more stringent. These amendments, inter-alia, provide for increase in imprisonment term from one year to two years, for summary trial of the cheque bouncing cases, for making the offences compoundable, etc.

Further RBI on June 26, 2003 issued guidelines to the banks which inter-alia, prescribe that banks should consider taking strong action against account holder such as non-issuance of cheque books, closure of current account in the event of dishonor of a cheque valuing rupees one crore and above on four occasions during the financial year. Further, if a cheque is dishonored for a third time in a particular account of the drawer during the financial year, banks are required to issue a cautionary advice to the concerned constituent in this regard.

SEZs in New and Renewable Energy Sector

2251. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

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

(a) whether any Special Purpose Vehicle has been formulated for the Special Economic Zones for New and Renewable Energy Sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR):

(a) and (b) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a non-banking financial company under the administrative control of this Ministry, is envisaging formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle to facilitate setting up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for production of renewable energy equipment. Presently, IREDA is in the process of discussing the issue with interested State Governments and Private Sector parties.

(c) and (d) Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka,

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have evinced interest to facilitate setting up of such SEZs. However, the final decision with regard to setting up a SEZ would depend on various techno-economic considerations of investors.

[Translation]

Pension Policy in Insurance Companies

2252. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) has proposed to the Government to make it mandatory for the public and private sector companies to provide pension policy to their employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of employees of insurance companies likely to be benefited by this proposal;

(d) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that no proposal has been made by it to the Government to make it mandatory for the public and private sector companies to provide pension policy to their employees.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) IRDA has reported that providing pension policy to the employees of public and private sector companies does not fall under its purview.

Loan to Farmers

2253. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint has been received against the Public Sector Banks regarding disbursement of loans to the farmers at the time of Rabi and Kharif crops;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government during each of the last two seasons, bank-wise, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the concerned bank officials;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to ensure easy flow of loan to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, all banks have a robust internal grievance redressal mechanism to address all customer complaints including those relating to disbursal of loans to the farmers. Various instructions have been issued to banks from time to time in this regard. Any customer who has a genuine grievance, which may include refusal of loans to the farmers, is attended to by the concerned bank.

(e) Government of India (Gol) has taken the following steps to ensure availability of timely and affordable credit for farm sector:-

- The Gol is providing interest subvention to banks since Kharif 2006-07 to ensure Short Term crop loans upto Rs.3 lakh to farmers at interest rate of @ 7% per annum at the ground level.
- The Gol has stipulated a target of Rs.2,25,000 crore and 2,80,000 crore for agriculture credit flow by all the banks during 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.
- Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks have been successful in financing 50 lakhs new farmers during each of the last three year.
- Banks have simplified the procedure for documentation for agricultural loans.
- Loans upto Rs.50,000/- have been made collateral and margin free and the requirement of 'No Dues Certificate' has been dispensed with.
- Banks have been advised to provide all eligible farmers with Kisan Credit Cards.
- Banks have been instructed to achieve financial outreach through provision of a General Credit Card to households, to open "No Frills" accounts with limited overdraft facilities, to extend financial outreach by utilizing services of Civil Society Organisation like Farmers Clubs, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Post Offices as Business Facilitator/Business Correspondent, etc.

Offices of Revenue Deptt. on Rented Premises

2254. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of offices under Central Board of Direct Taxes and Central Board of Excise and Customs that are running from the rented premises in the country;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Government on the payment of rent on the said premises;

(c) whether arrangements have been made for constructing offices in place of the rented premises; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has hired 573 office premises. Information in respect of Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC) is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) CBDT has been allocated Rupees 250 crore for the Financial Year 2007-08, towards rent. CBEC has paid Rupees 53.52 crore for rent of office premises as on 31.12.2006.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government is continuously receiving and processing proposals from field formations and issuing sanctions for constructing office buildings in lieu of rented premises wherever it is justified by cost benefit analysis. During the current Financial Year till date sanctions amounting to Rs. 9.18 crore has been accorded towards construction of own office buildings for the Income Tax Department.

Mismanagement in PSB's in UP

2255. DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding mismanagement prevailing in the rural branches of the State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank in Uttar Pradesh;

(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 FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank have reported that they have not received any complaint regarding mismanagement prevailing in their rural branches in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

VAT related Problems

2256. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain States have not complied with the VAT Empowered Committee Tax Rates on goods causing trade diversion and consequent revenue loss to the neighbouring States; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) State VAT, being a tax on sale or purchase of goods within a State, is a State subject by virtue of Entry 54 of State List of the Constitution. An Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) has been constituted to deliberate upon and decide all matters concerning State VAT. The Empowered Committee monitors all the issues related to VAT including compliance by the States of VAT rates decided by Empowered Committee. The Central Government has no direct role in this regard except that of a facilitator in this important tax reform process.

Scheme for Rural Landless People

2257. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to launch a new scheme for rural landless people in cooperation with the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of the liability of the Union Government and the State Governments; and

(c) the details of the eligibility criteria and the benefits that are to be extended through the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU):

(a) to (c) No such proposal has been finalised.

Mega Power Policy

2258. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has failed to fulfil its power sector capacity creation for the past fifteen years;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to rationalize the existing mega power policy to give additional concessions to mega power projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Additions to generation capacity are made in the Central, State and Private Sectors. In the five Year Plans, capacity addition targets for these sectors are fixed separately. The performance of these sectors in terms of achievement keeps varying from Plan to Plan. The comparative statement in respect of the last three Plans is given below:

	VIII Plan	IX Plan	X Plan
Central Sector			
Target (MW)	12858	11909	22832
Actual (MW)	8157	4504	13005
%	63.44	37.8	56.9
State Sector			
Target (MW)	14870	10747.7	11157
Actual (MW)	6835.2	9554	6245
%	45.9	88.9	55.9
Private Sector			
Target (MW)	2810	17588.5	7121
Actual (MW)	1430.4	5061	1930
%	50.9	28.77	27.10
Total			
Target (MW)	30538	40245.2	41110
Actual (MW)	16422.6	19119	21180
%	53.77	47.5	51.5

(b) to (d) The existing mega power policy is under review at present.

Revamping the Associate Banks of SBI

2259. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India (SBI) proposes any revamping at the top level of its associate banks;

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

(c) whether the State Bank of India (SBI) has submitted any proposal to Reserve Bank of India in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Sec-

tion 29 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 empowers SBI to appoint Managing Directors of these banks with the approval of RBI. In October / November, 2007, SBI had submitted proposals to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for appointment of Managing Directors of its 7 Associate Banks. RBI has conveyed its approval in respect of 4 Associate Banks and has taken up one proposal for due diligence. The remaining two proposals have been withdrawn by SBI.

Violation of MRTP Act by Soft-drinks Company

2260. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the soft drinks manufacturers are violating the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act on a large scale in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, the names of those soft drinks manufacturers against whom complaints have been registered for violating the MRTP Act during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such soft drink manufactures?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) Certain complaints were received by the Commission in the past alleging that some manufacturers of soft drinks were violating the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act. No complaint against soft drinks manufacturers has been registered during the fast two years. The details of complaints against soft drink companies are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Being a quasi-judicial body, the MRTP Commission would adjudicate and dispose of the cases in process before it and after completion of proceedings make orders on the same as it deems fit, and Government has no decision/ action to take in these cases.

Statement

Sl. No.	Enquiry No.	Title
1	2	3
1.	RTPE 60/2001	Kanti Beverages Pvt. Ltd. & Anr., Mumbai Vs. 1. Coca Cola Co., Georgia, USA 2. Coca Cola India Ltd., Gurgaon. 3. Hindustan Coca Cola Bottling, Gurgaon (In progress with MRTP Commission)

1	2	3
2.	UTPE 10/2003	P.K. Rastogi, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. Vs. Pepsi Foods Pvt. Ltd. & Ors., New Delhi. (In progress with MRTP Commission)
3.	MTPE 01/2003	Sathkumar Alias Sachhu Shethy M/s Sheena Agency, Malyan District, Thane, Maharashtra Vs. Dukes & Sons (P) Ltd. & Another, Mumbai (In progress with MRTP Commission)
4.	CA 01/2005	Vikas Pepsi Agency, Gorakhpur, Fatima Padri Bazar, Gorakhpur Vs. Territory Development Manager, Pepsi Cola India Marketing Co., Gorakhpur and Another (In progress with MRTP Commission)

[Translation]

Slum Settlement and Upgradation

2261. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has considered to provide basic amenities to the people living in the Jhuggi clusters in the country and settle them there by upgradation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Government has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005 with the objective of assisting cities and towns in the provision of infrastructure and basic amenities to the urban poor. The Sub-Mission of Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) – for 63 identified cities, and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHS DP) – for other cities/ towns – provide Additional Central Assistance to address the problems of housing and basic services such as water, sanitation, roads, streetlights etc. in Jhuggi clusters/ slums/ low-income localities for the benefit of the urban poor.

*[English]***Interest Rate on Rural Credit**

2262. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the existing rates of interest for operation of credit activities in the rural areas in the country;
- (b) the manner in which it has benefited the rural people;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to reduce the interest rate on rural credit; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) As per the interest rate policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), interest rates on loans given by commercial banks (including loans given to the farm sector) have been deregulated, except for interest rates on loans up to Rs 2 lakh, which should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) of the bank concerned. Commercial Banks are, therefore, free to decide their lending rates on loans above Rs 2 lakh subject to the announcement of BPLR. Banks are also free to lend at sub-BPLR rates to creditworthy borrowers based on an objective and transparent policy, subject to the approval of their Boards. Banks decide their BPLR by taking into account, inter alia, cost of their funds, transaction cost and risk cost.

The interest rates on loans given by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Co-operative Banks have also been deregulated.

The above initiatives would substantially benefit the rural people.

However, to reduce the burden of interest on Crop Loans availed by farmers for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06, an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's liability on the principal amount upto Rs. 1,00,000/- each was credited to their account. Thereafter, from Kharif 2006, to ensure that the farmer receives Short-Term Production Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lacs on the principal amount, the Government is providing interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their lending from their own resources and refinance at concessional rates to cooperative banks and RRBs on their borrowings from NABARD. The scheme is continuing for 2007-08 and 2008-09 also.

Further, in the Union Budget 2008-09, the Government has announced a debt waiver and debt relief scheme for farmers, which covers all agricultural loans disbursed by

Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks upto 31st March, 2007 and overdue as on 31st December 2007. The scheme stipulates complete waiver of all loans that were overdue on 31.12.2007 and which remained unpaid until 29.02.2008 for small and marginal farmers, while there is a One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for other farmers during the same period. The OTS covers a rebate of 25% against payment of the balance amount of 75%.

Additional Projects of ICDS Scheme

2263. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

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

- (a) the number of additional projects of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme initiated during 2007-08; and
- (b) the funds allocated for infrastructure development under the said scheme for each State particularly Andhra Pradesh during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The requirement for 792 Projects has been incorporated in the proposal for the 3rd Phase of expansion of the ICDS Scheme, the exercise for which, has been initiated during 2007-2008.

(b) The funds are released only after the additional Projects are sanctioned by the Government of India.

Home Loans

2264. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

SHRI S. A.JAYA KUMAR:

SHRI P. MOHAN:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of home loans disbursed by various banks during each of the last three years;

(b) the percentage of home loans disbursed in rural areas, semi-urban areas, towns and cities;

(c) whether some private sector banks have decided to reduce interest rates on home loans despite the declaration of RBI's monetary policy recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to direct public sector banks to reduce the interest rates on home loans on the lines of private sector banks;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government proposes to introduce an interest subsidy scheme on home loans to the economically weaker sections; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) According to information reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the total amount of housing loan outstanding as on 31st March, 2005, 2006 and 2007 was as under:

	(Rs. crore)		
	2005	2006	2007
Amount outstanding	133,908	185,181	230,689

Source: Report on Trend and Progress in Banking of India, 2006-07

However, information on disbursement of housing loan is not available.

(b) The percentage of housing loan outstanding for rural, semi-urban, urban and metropolitan areas to total outstanding housing loan as on 31st March, 2006 (latest available) is as under:

	Rural	Semi-urban	Urban	Metropolitan
	10.00	13.14	25.16	51.70

Source: Basic Statistical Returns of Scheduled Commercial Banks for 2006

(c) to (f) With effect from October 18, 1994, the RBI has deregulated the interest rates on advances above Rs.2 lakh and these interest rates are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their Boards subject to their Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) and Spread guidelines.

However, the public sector banks have been advised to consider adjustment of interest rates particularly in the housing and the consumer durables sector.

(g) and (h) A proposal to provide interest subsidy on housing loan for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG) in urban areas is under consideration of the Government of India. The details of the scheme are being worked out.

Competition Commission of India

2265. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted the Competition Commission of India;

(b) if so, the details of composition and functions of the Commission;

(c) whether the Commission is fully functional; and

(d) if not, the time by which the Commission is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (d) The Competition Commission of India was established in October, 2003 but could not be duly constituted under the Competition Act, 2002 due to legal challenge before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court delivered its judgement in the matter in January, 2005. Keeping in view the ruling of the Apex Court and the need to provide an appropriate institutional structure for regulation of competition in India, some amendments were proposed to the Competition Act, 2002. These proposals were included in the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 which was approved by the Parliament in Monsoon Session, 2007 and has since been enacted.

The Competition Act, 2002, as amended, provides that the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson and not less than two and not more than six other members. There shall also be a Competition Appellate Tribunal to hear and decide appeals against the orders of the Commission and to decide on matters relating to compensation.

The Commission presently comprises only one Member and as such is not in a position to take up enforcement functions under the Competition Act. The Competition Appellate Tribunal is yet to be established. Action has since been initiated to duly constitute the Commission and the Competition Appellate Tribunal and provide necessary infrastructure and staff. The Commission is likely to become fully operational during 2008-09.

Village Electrification in A & N Islands

2266. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to provide

solar energy under remote village electrification programme during the last three years;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR):
 (a) The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has not submitted any proposal to this Ministry to provide solar energy under Remote Village Electrification Programme during the last three years.

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

Micro Finance Institutions

2267. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
 PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Self Help Group benefited through the Micro Finance Institutions during the last three years in each State /UT;
- (b) the number of families benefited alongwith the percentage of BPL families as on date in each State/UT;
- (c) whether the poor sections of the society are being exploited by Micro Finance Institutions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons therefor;
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop the exploitation of above borrowers; and
- (f) the present status of statutory framework for regulations of Micro Finance Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The Self Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Programme, facilitated by NABARD since 1992, is the flagship microfinance programme in the country. As on 31st January 2008, 30,83,811 SHGs (provisional figures) have been provided Rs.20,342.21 crore by the Banking System.

Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) are presently not regulated. As such the Data Reporting System does not generate such data.

(e) and (f) The Government has introduced a bill in Lok Sabha on 20.03.2007 called "The Micro Financial Sector (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2007" to create environment friendly policy for micro-finance services in the country. The bill is intended to provide a formal statutory

framework for the promotion, development and regulation of the micro finance sector and is before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance.

Complaints Against Banks and Insurance Companies

2268. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received a large number of complaints against various Banks and Insurance Companies about their functioning;
- (b) if so, whether there has been an increase in such complaints during the last quarter in the recent past as compared to previous years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise, company-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the reasons for such increasing trend;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the remedial measures taken by the Government to check such trend in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (c) Complaints for the period 2006-2007 against scheduled commercial banks and Insurance Companies is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Complaints dealt by Banking Ombudsman for the quarter ending September, 2007 and December, 2007 are 11,562 and 10,061 respectively. The above statistics clearly indicate that there has been a significant decline in complaints for the quarter ending December 2007. However, there is some increase in the number of complaints against Insurance Companies.

(d) to (f) The reasons for the increase in number of complaints in the case of some Insurance companies is on account of the growing pool of insurance consumers, increased level of awareness amongst the insured persons, increase in the choice of consumer products offered by various companies, etc.

Due to the increase in the number of grievances, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) had set up a committee to look into the grievance redressal system of the insurers under the Chairmanship of Shri V. Kamesam, MD, Institute of Insurance and Risk Management (IIRM). The recommendations of the Committee have been examined and insurers are being advised to improve upon their grievance redressal system.

To strengthen grievance redressal mechanism among banks, Indian Banks' Association has advised all the member

Banks to ensure that a suitable mechanism is set up for receiving and addressing complaints from its customers/constituents with specific emphasis on resolving such complaints fairly and in a time bound manner, banks should give wide publicity to the grievance redressal machinery through advertisements and also by placing them on their web sites, etc.

Banking Ombudsman Scheme is in operation since 1995. Banking Ombudsman is an independent body with powers to settle disputes quickly and inexpensively. Any customer whose grievance relating to certain services rendered by the bank has not been resolved by bank to his satisfaction can approach the concerned Banking Ombudsman. The scheme has been amended in 2006 and 2007 to make it more customer friendly.

Statement

*Complaints Received at Banking
Ombudsman Offices for the period 2006-07*

S.No.	Name of the Bank	Total No. of Complaints Received
1	2	3
	Scheduled Commercial Bank	34,499
	Public Sector Banks	21,660
	Nationalised Banks	10,543
1	Allahabad Bank	410
2	Andhra Bank	411
3	Bank of Baroda	837
4	Bank of India	698
5	Bank of Maharashtra	202
6	Canara Bank	929
7	Central Bank of India	908
8	Corporation Bank	223
9	Dena Bank	251
10	Indian Bank	391
11	Indian Overseas Bank	392
12	Oriental Bank of Commerce	411
13	Punjab National Bank	1,837
14	Punjab & Sindh Bank	191
15	Syndicate Bank	451
16	UCO Bank	432

1	2	3
17	Union Bank of India	671
18	United Bank of India	180
19	Vijaya Bank	179
20	IDBI Bank	539
21	State Bank Group	11,117
22	State Bank of India	8,579
23	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	986
24	State Bank of Hyderabad	262
25	State Bank of Indore	343
26	State Bank of Mysore	127
27	State Bank of Patiala	288
28	State Bank of Saurashtra	147
29	State Bank of Travancore	385
	Private Sector Banks	9,036
	Old Private Sector Banks	825
1	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	175
2	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	13
3	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	39
4	City Union Bank Ltd.	11
5	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	22
6	Federal Bank Ltd.	133
7	ING Vysya Bank Ltd.	162
8	Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.	44
9	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	28
10	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	42
11	Laxmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	18
12	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	22
13	Nainital Bank Ltd.	15
14	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	3
15	Sangli Bank Ltd.	25
16	SBI Commercial and International Bank Ltd.	2
17	South Indian Bank Ltd.	47

1	2	3
18	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	24
	New Private Sector Banks	8,211
19	Axis Bank	456
20	Centurian Bank of Punjab Ltd.	435
21	Development Credit Bank Ltd.	47
22	HDFC Bank Ltd.	2,048
23	ICICI Bank Ltd.	5,048
24	Indus Ind Bank Ltd.	63
25	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	113
26	Yes Bank Ltd.	1
	Foreign Banks	3,803
1.	ABN Amro Bank Ltd.	842
2.	Abu Dhabi Commercial bank Ltd	-
3.	American Express Bank Ltd.	83
4.	Antwerp Bank Ltd.	-
5.	Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.	-
6.	Bank of America NA	5
7.	Bank of International Indonesia	-
8.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait B.S.C.	-
9.	Bank of Ceylon	-
10.	Bank of Nova Scotia	-
11.	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsuu	1
12.	Barclays Bank PLC	-
13.	BNP Paribas	3
14.	Calyon Bank	-
15.	Chinatrust Commercial Bank	-
16.	Citibank NA	1,182
17.	Development Bank of Singapore Ltd.	-
18.	Deutsche Bank AG	41
19.	HSBC Bank	676
20.	J P Morgan Chase Bank	-
21.	Krung Thai Bank Public Co. Ltd.	-
22.	Mashreqbank PSC	1
23.	Mauritius Bank	-
24.	Mizuhho Corporate Bank Ltd.	-

1	2	3
25.	Oman International Bank S.A.O.G.	1
26.	Sinhan Bank	-
27.	Societe Generate	-
28.	Sonali Bank	1
29.	Standard Chartered Bank Ltd.	967

S.No.	Name of the Insurer	Total No. of Complaints Received 2006-2007
-------	---------------------	--

1.	The Oriental Insurance Company Limited	202
2.	The New India Assurance Company Limited	484
3.	United India Insurance Company Limited	482
4.	National Insurance Company Limited	490
5.	ECGC of India	1
6.	Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited	77
7.	Tata AIG General Insurance Company Limited	94
8.	Royal Sundaram Alliance General Insurance	54
9.	IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Limited	28
10.	Reliance General Insurance Company Limited	13
11.	Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company	13
12.	ICICI Lambard General Insurance Company Limited	232
13.	HDFC CHUBB General Insurance Company	13
14.	Agriculture Insurance Company Limited	0

Total	2183
--------------	-------------

S.No.	Name of the Insurer	Total No. of Complaints Received 2006-2007
-------	---------------------	--

1	2	3
1.	HDFC Standard Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	79
2.	Reliance Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	14
3.	TATA-AIG Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	73

1	2	3
4.	Max New York Life Ins. Co.	50
5.	Aviva Life Ins. Co. Pvt. Ltd.	70
6.	Birla Sun Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	65
7.	SBI Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	122
8.	ICICI Prudential Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	148
9.	Met Life India Ins. Co. Ltd.	11
10.	Sahara India Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	1
11.	Bajaj Allianz Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	209
12.	Kotak Mahindra Old Mutual Life Ins. Co.	44
13.	ING Vysya Life Ins. Co. Pvt. Ltd.	23
14.	Life Insurance Corpn. of India	1730
15.	Sriram Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	1
16.	Bharti AXA Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	0
17.	Futur Generali India Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	0
18.	AMP Sanmar Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	The Company is converted to Reliance Life Ins. Co. Ltd.
Total		2640

Sardar Sarovar Project

2269. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has instructed the participating States of Sardar Sarovar Project to co-operate in the matter of paying their share due to Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the participating States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) When Government of Gujarat brought to the notice of Ministry of Water Resources that the participating State Governments were not releasing their shares in this regard, Ministry of Water Resources had written to the participating State Governments for payment of their respective share to Gujarat. This matter has also been discussed several times in the meetings of the Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee and was last discussed on 25.10.2007 wherein States were requested to expedite the

payment of their share costs to the Government of Gujarat and take up any issues relating to disputes with the Government of Gujarat.

(c) The participating States have since released a part of their share with some disputed and undisputed amounts still pending for release.

Taxing the Income from Share Market

2270. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of current provisions for taxing the incomes from the stock market;

(b) whether investors are exempted from payment of income tax if they have held the particular scripts for more than a year;

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to further reduce this period in view of major slides that took place on the bourses recently; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The income arising from transactions in the stock market may either be taxed as capital gains or as business income; depending upon the facts of a particular case.

(b) Yes, Sir. Such exemption from payment of income tax is applicable only to capital gains arising from the transfer of an asset held for more than one year, being an equity share in a company or a unit of an equity oriented fund, and where such transactions have been charged to securities transaction tax.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A reduction in the holding period, as suggested, will encourage investors to sell their shares which could cause further slide in the market. Therefore, the proposal to reduce the period of holding is not acceptable.

LIC Health Plus Plan

2271. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched LIC Health Plus Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons likely to be benefited with this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that it has launched a unit linked Health Plus plan on 04.02.2008 for persons aged between 18 and 55 years and their spouse and children. The Plan provides the following insurance cover:

Hospitalisation - 'Hospital Cash Benefit'

Major Surgeries - 'Major Surgical Benefit'

While 'Hospital Cash Benefit' is on per day basis, the Major Surgical Benefit is as a percentage of sum assured depending on the type of surgical procedure. Besides, the policy also provides for reimbursement of domiciliary treatment expenses out of the policyholder's fund value.

Other details of the LIC's Health Plus Plan are available on LIC's website:- licindia.com.

(c) LIC has reported that as on 29th February, 2008, it has sold 42,341 policies under this plan. It proposes to sell two lakh policies by 31st March, 2008.

World Bank Assistance in States

2272. SHRI. RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank is supporting the individual State Governments through their loan/credit for overall infrastructure developments in the States;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned/provided to each State during financial year 2007-08;

(c) whether World Bank has sanctioned/approved any loan/credit to Bihar State for support and implementation of critical structural reforms to attain sustainable and inclusive development there; and

(d) if so, the amount sanctioned and the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

World Bank approved projects for the States in the Financial Year 2007-08

(In US \$ million)

S.No.	Project Name	Approval Date	IBRD Amt.	IDA Amt.	Total Amt.
1	Bihar Development Policy Loan	20-Dec-07	150.0	75.0	225.0
2	Himachal Pradesh Development Policy Loan I	25-Sep-07	135.0	65.0	200.0
3	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project (Supplement)	25-Sep-07	32.0	32.0	64.0
4	Rampur Hydropower Project	13-Sep-07	400.0	0.0	400.0
5	AP Rural Poverty Reduction (Additional Financing)	10-Jul-07	0.0	65.0	65.0
6	Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project -"JEEVIKA"	14-Jun-07	0.0	63.0	63.0
7	Himachal Pradesh State Roads Project	05-Jun-07	220.0	0.0	220.0
8	Mizoram Roads - Additional Financing	22-May-07	0.0	18.0	18.0
9	Andhra Pradesh Community-Based Tank Management Project	19-Apr-07	94.5	94.5	189.0

The loans are governed by standard terms and conditions of the World Bank.

Debt Relief to Farmers

2273. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently announced debt relief package for the debt ridden farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has fixed any criteria for debt relief to farmers;

- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number of farmers benefited as a result thereof and the total amount involved therein; and
- (f) the time by which the above package is to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) In the Union Budget 2008-09, the Government has announced a debt waiver and debt relief scheme for farmers, which covers all agricultural loans disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks upto 31st March, 2007 and overdue as on 31st December, 2007. The scheme stipulates complete waiver of all loans that were overdue on 31.12.2007 and which remained unpaid until 29.02.2008 for small and marginal farmers, while there is a One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for other farmers during the same period. The OTS covers a rebate of 25% against payment of the balance amount of 75%. It has been announced in the Budget 2008-09 that the implementation of the debt waiver and debt relief scheme is to be completed by June 30, 2008.

Metropolitan Cities in Uttar Pradesh

2274. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cities included in the category of metropolitan city in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether any proposal is lying pending with the Government in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the procedure being adopted to include it into the category of Metropolitan city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) As per the Census of India 2001, 6 cities namely, Kanpur, Lucknow, Varanasi, Agra, Meerut and Allahabad are classified as Metropolitan Cities in Uttar Pradesh.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) As per the Census of India 2001, town/urban agglomeration having population of more than 10 lakh are classified as Metropolitan City.

[Translation]

Pancheshwar Power Project

2275. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pancheshwar Power Project was formulated many years back with the collaboration of Nepal to generate 5000 megawatt of power;

- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for such a long pendency; and

- (c) the efforts being made by the Government in commissioning of this project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) India and Nepal have agreed, under the 1996 Mahakali Treaty, to jointly develop the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (5600 MW) on the Mahakali river, where it forms the border between the two countries. Field investigations have been completed. To finalize the Detailed Project Report (DPR), there are some outstanding issues which are yet to be resolved between India and Nepal. These issues are -

- (i) Assessment of water availability downstream of Pancheshwar Dam
- (ii) Evaluation of re-regulating dam site (Pumagiri or Rupaligad)
- (iii) Project benefits
- (iv) Evaluation of power installation and phased development
- (v) Cost apportionment.

These issues were discussed in the 20th meeting of the Joint Group of Expert (JGE) of India & Nepal held in October, 2004, wherein it was decided to form a small Joint Group under the Chief Engineers concerned to look into all these issues. The Group held its first meeting from 20-21 December, 2004 at Kathmandu. Further discussions have not taken place with Nepal.

Transfer of DDA Work to Delhi Government

2276. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to transfer works of DDA to Government of NCT of Delhi and make it as a regulatory body;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received representations from the people in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

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

(c) and (d) Some representations regarding the functioning of DDA had been received by the Committee set up by the Government to look into various matters relating to unauthorized construction and misuse of premises in Delhi and to suggest a comprehensive strategy to deal with it. The report of the Committee has been examined and no decision has been taken to transfer the work of DDA to GNCTD.

[English]

Opening of Bank Accounts

2277. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has relaxed the norms for opening of bank accounts in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any target has been fixed by the Government for opening of accounts in Public Sector Banks and Private Banks; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued detailed guidelines on 'Know your Customer'(KYC) norms and Anti Money Laundering Standards to be followed by banks while opening accounts in banks vide its circular dated November 29, 2004. These guidelines were revised in August, 2005 to simplify KYC norms, to enable people from low income group to access banking services. These guidelines, inter-alia, provide that a bank can open account of a person based on introduction by another account holder who has been subjected to proper KYC procedure. In order to achieve greater financial inclusion, RBI has further simplified these guidelines in February, 2008 This was aimed at removing rigidity in the interpretation of existing guidelines as far as documentation for verification of identity is concerned.

Further, with a view to achieve the objective of greater financial inclusion, all Scheduled Commercial banks were advised to make available a basic banking "No Frills" account either with a nil or very low minimum balances as well as charges that would make such accounts accessible to vast sections of population.

(c) and (d) The Government has accepted some of the recommendations of Rangarajan Committee on financial inclusion. Accordingly., in the Budget 2008, the Finance Minister has asked banks to ensure that every year 250 new accounts are opened per branch.

Small Savings with Post Offices

2278. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the total amount of small savings with Post Offices has gone down;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government recently announced incentives to promote various postal saving schemes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The gross collection under Small Savings Schemes during last ten months, viz., April 2007 to January 2008 at Rs. 1,11,234 crore has declined by 22.5% compared to the corresponding period of the last financial year, at Rs. 1,43,552 crore. Small savings schemes are intended mainly to provide a safe avenue of investment for small income earners who may have limited access to other avenues of investment.

However, over a period of time, investment options available have increased both in number and variety offering a wider choice to investors for their savings. Deregulation of the interest rates relating to banks, financial institutions and debt markets have also contributed to directing the flow of savings into instruments other than small savings schemes of the Government which are subjected to administered interest rates.

Among the recent measures to promote Small Savings Schemes, Government has increased the maximum deposit ceiling of Rs. 3.00 lakh and Rs. 6.00 lakh under the Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) scheme to Rs. 4.5 lakh and Rs. 9.00 lakh in respect of single and joint accounts respectively. Bonus at the rate of 5 per cent of the deposits has also been made available in respect of the deposits made under Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) Scheme on or after 8th December, 2007 upon maturity of the deposit. Further, the benefit of Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961 has been extended to the investments made under 5-Year Post Office Time Deposits Account and Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, with effect from 1.4.2007. In addition, the small savings schemes are also promoted and popularised through print and electronic media. Seminars and meetings, providing training to the various agencies involved in mobilising collection in small savings schemes, are also organised regularly. A website of the National Savings Institute under Government of India, Ministry of Finance has also been launched to facilitate interface with the public through wider dissemination of information on small savings and on-line registration and settlement of investors grievances. The website address is www.nsiindia.gov.in.

Relaxation in Age under IGNOAPS

2279. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
 SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
 SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
 SHRI AMITAVA NANDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the age of beneficiaries under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) for 65 to 60 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the details of year-wise funds released to the

States under National Old Age Pension Scheme during the last four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU):
 (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal is under consideration to provide pension to persons who are 60 years or higher and belonging to a household below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India, by lowering the age limit from 65 years to 60 years under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS).

(c) The proposal is at the stage of Inter-Ministerial consultation.

(d) Funds are released to the States for National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in a combined manner, which includes National Old Age Pension Scheme, National Family Benefit Scheme and Annapurna. The details of year-wise funds released to the States under NSAP and Annapurna during the last four years is given in the statement.

Statement

Release of funds during 2004-05 to 2007-08 under NSAP & Annapurna

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	States/UTs	Combined Releases for NSAP & Annapurna			
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	6742.62	6746.70	11975.33	12481.39
2	Bihar	10684.21	13213.06	36002.20	23750.32
3	Chhattisgarh	2888.60	2880.35	7321.40	5622.63
4	Goa	50.13	66.95	66.95	101.77
5	Gujarat	0.00	3582.50	4507.10	2262.35
6	Haryana	1310.94	1311.73	3296.25	2520.10
7	Himachal Pradesh	410.12	547.17	1389.08	1177.55
8	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	735.10	1381.41	1708.65
9	Jharkhand	3459.41	4615.34	10257.15	8823.43
10	Karnataka	3903.45	5207.76	9043.49	10738.86
11	Kerala	2872.43	2874.17	4056.39	4541.79
12	Madhya Pradesh	6185.44	7649.45	17387.80	17841.47
13	Maharashtra	8275.35	10234.03	22213.91	18515.77
14	Orissa	5896.20	5899.77	17021.72	11778.67
15	Punjab	673.00	897.89	1289.03	1127.04

1	2	3	4	5	6
16	Rajasthan	3051.30	3754.48	8533.24	11081.73
17	Tamil Nadu	7038.76	7043.03	13159.76	15726.90
18	Uttar Pradesh	19839.69	19851.70	37824.45	30347.68
19	Uttarakhand	1223.51	1224.26	3217.41	1688.41
20	West Bengal	7988.73	7993.56	15220.45	12234.31
Sub Total		92493.89	106329.00	225164.52	194070.82
North Eastern States					
21	Arunachal Pradesh	311.58	415.46	759.11	358.27
22	Assam	8217.33	8218.02	15866.36	15466.42
23	Manipur	0.00	628.92	1062.92	1319.89
24	Meghalaya	0.00	684.72	1190.80	871.07
25	Mizoram	146.87	195.85	345.32	288.09
26	Nagaland	335.16	447.02	1016.72	723.47
27	Sikkim	190.68	190.69	304.33	360.78
28	Tripura	1119.23	1119.32	2386.92	2181.74
Sub Total		10320.85	11900.00	22932.48	21569.73
Union Territories					
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	20.00	20.00	78.42	12.63
30	Chandigarh	16.00	16.00	16.00	30.91
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15.00	15.00	78.42	30.00
32	Daman and Diu	5.00	4.00	4.00	6.69
33	NCT Delhi	273.00	567.00	567.00	3640.00
34	Lakshadweep	4.00	5.00	5.60	0.57
35	Pondicherry	54.00	115.00	115.00	115.00
Sub Total		387.00	742.00	864.44	3835.80
Grand Total		103201.74	118971.00	248961.44	219476.35

* Released upto December, 2008.

[Translation]

ADB and World Bank Assistance to States

2280. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) the details of the projects being run in States, particularly in Rajasthan with the assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank (WB);

(b) the names of the States which have sought the assistance from the ADB and the WB for the future projects; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) At present, there are 25 ongoing State projects with ADB loan assistance, including Rajasthan, amounting to US \$ 3303.23 million and 46 ongoing projects amounting to US \$ 8620.3 million with

World Bank assistance. In Rajasthan, two ADB assisted loans have been approved for (i) Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project amounting to US \$ 250 million; and (ii) Rajasthan Urban Sector Development Investment Program amounting to US \$ 273 million, under which the first Project amounting to US \$ 60 million is ongoing. The three WB assisted projects approved for Rajasthan are (i) Rajasthan Health Systems Development Project amounting to US \$ 89 million, (ii) Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project amounting to US \$ 140 million, and (iii) Rajasthan Second District Primary Education Project amounting to US \$ 74.4 million.

(b) and (c) The pipeline projects approved for ADB and World Bank funding include proposals for the following States: Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

[English]

Education Loans

2281. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh proposes to give loans to students at very low rate of interest for higher education under "PAVALA VEDDI" Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria for recovery of loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per report of the Convener Bank of State Level Bankers' Committee, i.e. Andhra Bank, 'PAVALA VEDEDI' Scheme of Andhra Government is extended to Self Help Groups only and there is no proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to extend education loan under the scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

Merger and Acquisition of Companies

2282. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of merger and acquisition deals by companies are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details of these deals; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to streamline the process of mergers and acquisitions by companies?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) Under the Companies Act, 1956 matters relating to Mergers/Amalgamations/Schemes of Arrangements of Government Companies, as defined under the Companies Act, 1956 are dealt with by the Central Government. The details of the cases involving mergers/amalgamations presently under consideration of the Government are enclosed given in the statement.

(c) A new Companies Bill, based on a comprehensive review of the Companies Act, 1956 and containing inter-alia, proposals for streamlining the process of mergers and acquisitions by companies in India, is under preparation and, after requisite approvals, is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament for its consideration.

Statement

Schemes of mergers/amalgamations/rearrangements involving Government, companies under consideration of the Central Government under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956

- (i) Scheme of Amalgamation of M/s. Tamilnadu Goods Transport Corporation Limited (In liquidation) with M/s. State Express Transport Corporation Tamil Nadu Limited;
- (ii) Scheme of Amalgamation between M/s. Karnataka Small Industries Marketing Corporation Limited and M/s. Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation Limited;
- (iii) Scheme of Amalgamation between M/s. Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited and M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Limited; and
- (iv) Scheme of Arrangement between NGEF Limited (In liquidation) and NGEF Property Development Corporation Limited and NGEF Motors & Transformers Limited and NGEF (Hubli) Limited and Their Respective Shareholders and Creditors in Respect of NGEF Limited.

Opium Cultivation

2283. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total areas under opium cultivation at present in the country State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has a proposal to increase opium production; and

(c) if so, the details of the areas under opium production proposed in 2008-09 and subsequent years during Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The State wise area (in hectares) licensed for cultivation of opium during the current crop year 2007-08 is as under:-

S.No.	Name of State	Area in hectares licensed for cultivation of opium poppy during the crop year 2007-08
1	Madhya Pradesh	2830
2	Rajasthan	1844
3	Uttar Pradesh	6
Total		4680

(b) and (c) The decision to increase opium production or otherwise will be taken while finalizing the General Licensing Conditions. The General Licensing Conditions for the opium crop year 2008-09 are likely to be finalized only by August/September 2008. Similarly, the area under cultivation for subsequent years will be decided while finalizing the General Licensing Conditions for those years.

Review of Policy in IMF

2284. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether the structure and Policy Orientations promoted by richer countries in respect of IMF Quotas have remained unchanged during the last 60 years;

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

(c) whether growing economies of India, China and others are contributing 50 percent to the world growth; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in the matter to review the policy and structure in respect of credit limits and voting powers in view of the contribution of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The current allocation of quotas in the IMF is mainly based on a set of five formulae that have remained in vogue for last few decades. There have been some changes but these have been too small to have any significant impact on quota structure.

(c) and (d) Latest report of World Economic Outlook, (October 2007) indicated that India, China & Russia accounted for one-half of global growth over the past year. Discussions to reform the IMF quota structure and voting powers are in progress and India is actively participating in these.

Eco-City Project

2285. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work in connection with the Eco-city project has been stalled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the anomalies and start it again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Central Pollution Control Board has initiated the Eco-city Project with the objective of improving environment and bringing in visible results through implementation of identified environmental improvement projects. The identified projects relate to sewerage and drainage, solid waste management, traffic and transportation and plantation and landscaping. Under the Eco-city Programme, Central Pollution Control Board has provided funds to Municipalities for implementation of the project, on 50:50 cost sharing basis. The eco-city Programme has been launched in five towns namely Kottayam, Tirupati, Puri, Ujjain and Vrindavan. As per the reports of respective executing agencies, the schemes are at various stages of implementation.

[Translation]

Cooperative Bank

2286. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of Cooperative Banks functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether many cooperative banks in the country are incurring losses;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for incurring losses;

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for arresting losses and to improve the financial conditions of these banks;

(e) whether the Government proposes to allow the rebate under section 80(P) of Income Tax Act to cooperative Banks; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of State-wise Cooperative Banks operating in the country as on 31 March 2007 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) 4 State Cooperative Banks (SCBs), 88 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), 8 State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) and 194 Primary Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs) had incurred losses during the year 2005-06.

The reasons for losses of the Cooperative Banks were poor recovery, low volume of business, high cost of management, inadequate follow up action on recovery of loans, low resource base, low borrowing membership, lack of skilled manpower, high cost of funds, low yield on assets, inadequate margins, inadequate legal action, frequent changes in CEOs, etc.

(d) The revival package for short-term cooperative credit structure (STCCS), based on the report of Prof. Vaidyanathan Committee has been finalised by the Government of India (GoI). The package envisages a total outlay of Rs.13,596 crore of which 68% would be shared by GoI. So far, 17 states have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the GoI and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and a sum of

Rs. 1,185 crore has been released by GoI to four States. Further, the GoI and the State Governments have reached an agreement on the package for reviving the long-term cooperative credit structure (LTCCS). The cost of the package is estimated at Rs. 3,074 crore, of which the Central Government's share is Rs. 2,642 crore or 86 % of the total burden.

As regards Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs), to ensure regulatory coordination and cooperation under the existing legal framework, RBI has entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with State Governments. As part of the MoU, a Task Force for Urban Co-operative Banks (TAFUCB) has been set up in each of the States which have signed the MoU for identification of and drawing up of a time bound action plan for revival of potentially viable UCBs and for non-disruptive exit for non-viable UCBs.

(e) and (f) The demand for exemption of Cooperative Banks from income tax under Section 80P of the income Tax Act was considered by the Government. However, the same has not been found to be acceptable since only the profit making entities have been covered under the scheme and there seems no point in exempting them.

Statement

Details of Cooperative Banks as on 31 March 2007

Sl. No.	State/ Union Territory	SCBs	DCCBs	SCARDBs	PCARDBs	UCBs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	22	*	*	118
2	Bihar	1	22	1	*	5#
3	Chhattisgarh	1	6	1	12	
4	Gujarat	1	18	1		284
5	Haryana	1	19	1	19	
6	Jharkhand\$	*	8	*	*	
7	Karnataka	1	21	1	177	288
8	Kerala	1	14	1	46	60
9	Madhya Pradesh	1	38	1	38	74@@
10	Maharashtra	1	31	1	29	622##
11	Orissa	1	17	1	46	14
12	Punjab	1	18	1	87	16###
13	Rajasthan	1	27	1	36	39
14	Tamil Nadu	1	24	1	181	131**
15	Uttar Pradesh	1	50	1	*	77\$\$

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16	Uttaranchal	1	10	*	*	
17	West Bengal	1	17	1	24	51+
18	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	1	1	
19	Jammu and Kashmir	1	3	1	*	4
20	Andaman and Nicobar	1	*	*	*	
21	Arunachal Pradesh	1	*	*	*	
22	Assam	1	*	1	*	17@
23	Chandigarh	1	*	*	*	
24	Delhi	1	*	*	*	15
25	Goa	1	*	*	*	
26	Manipur	1	*	1	*	
27	Meghalaya	1	*	*	*	
28	Mizoram	1	*	*	*	
29	Nagaland	1	*	*	*	
30	Pondicherry	1	*	1	*	
31	Sikkim	1	*	*	*	
32	Tripura	1	*	1	*	
All India		31	367	20	696	1815

\$ SCB Not started functioning

* - No Banks, SCARDB is operating with the help of its branches.

@ - Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh

- Bihar and Jharkhand

@@ - Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

- Maharashtra and Goa

- Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh

** Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry

\$\$ - Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand

+ - West Bengal and Sikkim

SCBs - State Cooperative Banks

DCCBs - District Central Cooperative Banks

SCARDBs - State Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank

PCARDBs - Primary Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank

UCBs - Urban Cooperative Banks

Urban Services Authority

[English]

2287. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has suggested all the State Governments to set up a multi-dimensional centralized Urban Services Authority for grievances redressal;

(b) if so, the names of States which have the authority; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

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

Mechanism to Check Banking Frauds

2288. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism to check the frauds being committed in nationalized banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a part of its supervisory

process has been sensitizing banks from time to time about common fraud prone areas, modus operandi of frauds and measures to be taken by them to prevent/reduce the incidence of frauds in banks. As per the guidelines issued by RBI from time to time to banks, as also as per their internal policies, banks have been taking various measures to check/prevent frauds. Some of the measures are as under:

- Introduction of proper systems and procedures within the bank to eliminate the possibilities of frauds.
- Introduction of a system of concurrent audit.
- Review of working of internal inspection and audit machinery in banks by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors.
- Constitution of Special Committee of the Board exclusively for monitoring of large value frauds of Rs.1 crore and above.
- Examining staff accountability and instituting disciplinary action against the staff involved in frauds.

Further, a computerized Fraud Reporting and Monitoring System (FRMS) has been introduced by RBI to enable banks to report data relating to frauds in electronic form.

(c) Does not arise.

Cash Reserve Ratio regarding RRB

2289. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) being deposited by the Regional Rural Bank (RRB) at Reserve Bank of India (RBI);

(b) whether the RBI is paying interest on CRR; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) At present, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are required to deposit in the form of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) 7.5% of their Demand and Time Liabilities with Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

(b) With effect from the fortnight beginning March 31, 2007 RBI is not paying any interest on the CRR balances.

(c) Does not arise.

LIC Share in Insurance Sector

2290. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) share in the insurance sector during each of the last five years;

(b) whether the market share of LIC in insurance sector has increased during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of the Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) share in the insurance sector during each of the last five years in terms of policies issued and the first year premium areas under:

Financial	Market Share (%)	
	Policies	First Year Premium
2002-03	96.70	94.34
2003-04	94.21	87.04
2004-05	91.50	78.07
2005-06	89.08	71.44
2006-07	82.83	74.18

(b) to (d) LIC has reported that in an evolving market, where the total business is expanding speedily and number of players are going up, the market share of the leading player, i.e. LIC, will lessen. However, consolidating the market share is a continuous process and during the last year LIC has shown 118% growth in premium, which has resulted in increasing its market share to 74.18% in 2006-07 from 71.44% 2005-06.

Gender Budget Cells

2291. SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gender Budget cells have been created in all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has also asked the State Governments to implement the gender budgeting; and

(d) if so, the response received therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) At present 53 Ministries/Departments have set up Gender Budgeting Cells as given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is disseminating the strategy and tools of Gender Budgeting in the States by organizing Regional Workshops / Seminars on Gender Budgeting.

Statement

List of Ministries/Departments which have set up Gender Budgeting Cells (GBCs)

Sl. No.	Ministries / Departments
1	2
1.	Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation
2.	Department of Biotechnology
3.	Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals
4.	Deptt. of Civil Aviation
5.	Deptt. of Coal
6.	Deptt. of Commerce
7.	Ministry of Culture
8.	Deptt. of Consumer Affairs
9.	Department of Development of North-Eastern Region
10.	Department of Drinking Water Supply
11.	Ministry of External Affairs
12.	Deptt. of Elementary Education & Literacy
13.	Ministry of Environment and Forests
14.	Deptt. of Family Welfare
15.	Department of Fertilizers
16.	Deptt. of Food & Public Distribution
17.	Deptt. of Industrial Policy & Promotion
18.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
19.	Ministry of Information Technology
20.	Deptt. of Heavy Industry
21.	Deptt. of Health
22.	Ministry of Home Affairs
23.	Ministry of Labour & Employment
24.	Deptt. of Legal Affairs
25.	Legislative Department
26.	Deptt. of Mines

1	2
27.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources
28.	Deptt. of Ocean Development
29.	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
30.	Ministry of Panchayati Raj
31.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
32.	Deptt. of Posts
33.	Ministry of Power
34.	Ministry of Rural Development
35.	Deptt. of Science and Technology
36.	Deptt. of Secondary Education & Higher Education
37.	Ministry of Small Scale Industries, Agro and Rural Industries
38.	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
39.	Deptt. of Scientific & Industrial Research
40.	Deptt. of Shipping
41.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
42.	Deptt. of Telecommunications
43.	Ministry of Textiles
44.	Ministry of Tourism
45.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
46.	Deptt. of Urban Development
47.	Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation
48.	Ministry of Women and Child Development
49.	Ministry of Water Resources
50.	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
51.	Ministry of Defence
52.	Ministry of Corporate Affairs
53.	Ministry of Steel

[Translation]

Tax Evasion by Telecom Companies

2292. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the breakup of service tax deposited by all the mobile phone service providers during the financial year 2007-08;

(b) whether some of the mobile service providers charge service tax from subscribers and do not pass it on to the Government and also evade Capital Gains Tax; and

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

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

[English]

Shortage of Coal

2293. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some coal based thermal power projects have been closed down and many of them are running below their power generation capacity due to shortage of coal;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) No coal based thermal power station in the Country has been closed down for want of coal.

During the current year (April 2007-February 2008), the actual Plant Load Factor (PLF) of coal based thermal power stations in the country was 78.49% against a target of 77.40%. However, the PLF of two pit head power stations of NTPC, namely Farakka STPS (1600 MW) and Kahalgaon-I TPS (840 MW) was 82.63% and 91.03%, as compared to their respective PLF target of 84.02% and 91.74% due to less production in their linked Rajmahal (Eastern Coalfields Ltd.) mines. Rigorous monitoring of supply of coal to the power stations is being done at all levels, for optimising coal supply to the power stations from various sources.

Projects for BPL from Gujarat

2294. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a project/proposal from the Government of Gujarat for construction of flat, apartments for the below povertyline families (BPL); and

(b) if so, the time by which the project will be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Union Government has approved 36 projects received from Government of Gujarat under the Sub-Mission of Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) as under:

Scheme	No. of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost (Rs. Crore)	Total no. of Dwelling Units Approved
BSUP	13	1268.87	87,504
IHSDP	23	227.49	18,405
Total	36	1596.36	1,05,909

Approval of additional projects to the State of Gujarat will depend on submission of project reports conforming to scheme guideline and availability of budget allocation as determined by the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Reviewing IT Definition

2295. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed / is reviewing the scheme for revising the definition of income-tax;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to levy tax on the dividend of the companies;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the interest on post office deposit schemes and on mutual funds is being exempted from Income Tax; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There is no definition of "income-tax" under the Income tax Act, 1961 ('Act'). However, clause (43) of section 2 of the Act defines "tax" in relation to the assessment year commencing on the 1st day of April, 1965 and any subsequent assessment year to mean

income-tax chargeable under the provisions of the Income tax Act, 1961, and in relation to any other assessment year, income-tax and super-tax chargeable under the provisions of the Act prior to the aforesaid date. This definition was reviewed and Finance Act, 2005 amended the said definition w.e.f. 1.4.2006 to include fringe benefit tax payable under section 115WA of the Act in respect of the assessment year commencing on 1.4.2006 and any subsequent assessment year.

(b) and (c) Under the existing section 115-O of the Income Tax Act, 1961, tax is already levied at the rate of fifteen per cent, on the amount of dividends declared, distributed or paid by a domestic company on or after 1st April, 2003. Vide Finance Bill, 2008, it has been proposed that in the case of a domestic company, the amount of such dividend will be reduced by the amount of dividend received by the domestic company from its subsidiary, subject to the fulfillment of certain specified conditions. Dividend distributed by a domestic company which is subject to Dividend Distribution Tax under section 115-O of the Act is exempt in the hands of the recipient under section 10(34) of the said Act. Levy of tax on dividend in the hands of the recipient is not under consideration.

(d) and (e) Income by way of interest, premium on redemption or other payment on such securities, bonds, annuity certificates, savings certificates and other certificates and deposits, including those of Post Office, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf, is exempt under section 10(15)(i) of the Act, subject to the conditions and limits specified in such notification.

Under section 10(35) of the Act, exemption is available in respect of any income (other than income arising from the transfer of units) received in respect of the units of (i) a Mutual Fund registered under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, or regulations made thereunder; or (ii) such other Mutual Fund set up by a public sector bank or a public financial institution or authorised by the Reserve Bank of India and subject to such conditions as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf.

[English]

Business position of Insurance Companies

2296. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of public/private and foreign insurance players allowed for business in the country; and

(b) the profit/loss earned by them in life insurance/general insurance for the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that as on date it has granted registration to 37 insurance companies - 18 in the life segment, 18 in the non-life segment and one in the re-insurance segment. The details of the profit/loss earned by life insurance/general insurance companies for the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Profit/Loss of Life Insurers/General Insurers/Re-insurer

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Insurer	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
Life Insurers				
Private Insurers				
1	Birla Sun Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	(13,974)	(8,113)	(6,061)
2	ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	(64,891)	(18,788)	(21,162)
3	ING Vysya Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	(17,757)	(12,400)	(9,376)
4	HDFC Standard Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	(12,556)	(12,875)	(8,973)
5	Max New York Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	(6,047)	(6,006)	(9,966)
6	Reliance Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	(31,511)	(9,840)	(5,401)
7	Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	(7,170)	(9,854)	(3,676)
8	SBI Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	383	202	(1,150)
9	Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	(11,047)	(4,442)	(1,645)

1	2	3	4	5
10	TATA-AIG Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	(7,236)	(5,391)	(4,559)
11	Met-Life India Insurance Co. Ltd.	(1,197)	(9,774)	(4,881)
12	Aviva Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	(13,175)	(14,387)	(9,097)
13	Sahara Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	(51)	(784)	(747)
14	Shriram Life Insurance Co. Ltd@	950	218	
15	Bharti Axa Life Insurance Co. Ltd.#	(8,043)		
16	Future General India Life Insurance Co. Ltd.*			
17	IDBI Fortis Life Insurance Co. Ltd.*			
Public Insurer				
18	Life Insurance Corporation of India	77,362	63,158	70,837
Non-Life Insurers				
Private Insurers				
1	Royal Sundaram Alliance Insurance Co. Ltd.	2,119	863	501
2	Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.	7,537	5,156	4,709
3	TATA AIG General Insurance Co. Ltd.	2,157	1,360	1,224
4	Reliance General Insurance Co. Ltd.	162	1,437	583
5	IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Co. Ltd.	2,713	1,462	1,472
6	ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd.	6,836	5,031	4,835
7	Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Co. Ltd.	1,249	(312)	(334)
8	HDFC CHUBB General Insurance Co. Ltd.	200	441	(799)
9	Apollo DKV Life Insurance Co. Ltd.*			
10	Future General India Assurance Co. Ltd.*			
11	Universal Sompo General Insurance Co. Ltd.*			
12	Star Health@	(259)	(126)	
Public Insurers				
13	New India Assurance Co. Ltd.	145,995	71,638	40,223
14	Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd.	49,727	28,392	33,052
15	National Insurance Co. Ltd.	42,128	(10,625)	13,112
16	United Insurance Co. Ltd.	52,886	42,523	30,771
17	ECGC	36,970	22,176	7,614
18	Agriculture Insurance Co. Ltd.	4,898	5,181	16,846
Re-Insurance Company				
19	General Insurance Corporation of India (Re-Ins.)	153,134	59,852	20,002

* Registered as Insurance Company in 2007-08

@ Commenced operations in 2005-06

Commenced operations in 2006-07

[Translation]

**Eklavya Adarsh Awasiya Vidyalaya
and Ashram Vidyalaya**

2297. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Eklavya Adarsh Awasiya Vidyalaya (EAAV) and Ashram Vidyalayas functioning in the country as on date, state-wise/UT wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of such vidyalayas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is no EAAV and Ashram Vidyalaya in some of the States/UTs;

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

(f) the norms for providing grants-in-aid for these vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) A Statement indicating State-wise number of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) functioning in the country under the programme of grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India and details of Ashram Schools sanctioned to the State Governments/ UTs since 1992 to till date under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas are given in the enclosed statement-I and II respectively.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to increase the number of EMRS at present. The centrally sponsored scheme of Establishment of Ashram School in TSP Areas is need based and demand driven,

(d) and (e) There are no EMRSs in the States of Assam, Bihar, Goa and Meghalaya. State of Goa started getting funds under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India from the year 2006-2007 whereas the EMRSs were sanctioned prior to this period. Initially Bihar was sanctioned four EMRSs and after bifurcation of the State, the location of the four EMRSs came under the State of Jharkhand. Assam and Meghalaya were sanctioned EMRSs but these were shifted to other State for non-starting of construction for a long period. EMRSs have not been sanctioned to UTs as Grant under Article 275 (1) is released to State Governments only. The States of Bihar, J&K, West Bengal, Goa, Sikkim and UT of Daman and Diu and

Andaman & Nicobar have not so far availed of grants under the centrally sponsored scheme of Establishment of Ashram School in TSP Areas.

(f) For one EMRS an amount of Rs. 2.50 crore as non-recurring grant for construction and a maximum recurring grant of Rs. 72.50 lakh annually for a school functioning with full strength of 420 students are provided as grant in aid. The cost of the construction of the school building of Ashram Schools is equally shared between the Centre and the State in ratio of 50:50. In case of UTs, the Central Government bears the entire cost of the building.

Statement-I

S. No.	State	No. of EMRS sanctioned	No. of EMRS functional
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	8	8
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	0
3	Assam	0	0
4	Bihar	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	8	8
6	Goa	0	0
7	Gujarat	10	10
8	Himachal Pradesh	1	1
9	Jammu and Kashmir	2	0
10	Jharkhand	4	4
11	Karnataka	4	4
12	Kerala	2	2
13	Madhya Pradesh	12	8
14	Maharashtra	4	4
15	Manipur	3	0
16	Meghalaya	0	0
17	Mizoram	1	0

1	2	3	4
18	Nagaland	3	1
19	Orissa	11	10
20	Rajasthan	9	7
21	Sikkim	2	1
22	Tamil Nadu	2	2
23	Tripura	3	3
24	Uttar Pradesh	1	1
25	Uttarakhand	1	0
26	West Bengal	7	5
Total		100	79

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Ashram Schools
1.	Andhra Pradesh	85
2.	Assam	02
3.	Gujarat	147
4.	Daman and Diu	01
5.	Kerala	22
6.	Madhya Pradesh	312
7.	Manipur	02
8.	Orissa	28
9.	Rajasthan	02
10.	Tamil Nadu	21
11.	Tripura	10
12.	Uttar Pradesh	10
13.	Karnataka	33
14.	Maharashtra	214
15.	Chhattisgarh	97
16.	Uttaranchal	10
17.	Jharkhand	02
Total		985

*[English]***Rationalization of Rates of Duty on Pharma Products**

2298. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tax-exemption available to small and medium scale pharmaceutical enterprises within and outside State;

(b) whether Government has received request in this regard;

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

(d) whether the Government is considering a review of the excise duty regime for the non-tax exempt States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which such a review is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Pharma units are eligible for general small-scale industries excise duty exemption scheme. As such, units having clearance value upto Rs 4 crore in the preceding financial year are eligible for full excise duty exemption on their first clearances upto Rs 1.5 crore in a financial year, subject to certain conditions. In the States of Uttarakhand & Himachal Pradesh, new units or units undertaking substantial expansion are fully exempt from excise duty, while such units in the North East, Jammu & Kashmir and Kutch are entitled for refund of duty paid in cash.

(b) Government had received requests for increasing eligibility limit under SSI exemption Scheme for pharma units and enhancing the exemption limit. Government had also received requests for reducing the normal rate of excise duty from 16% to 8%/4% on pharmaceutical products including drugs.

(c) to (e) In the budget 2008-09, the issue of excise duty on pharma products was examined and excise duty on pharmaceutical products including drugs has been reduced from 16% to 8%. The tax-exemption under small scale exemption scheme was also examined and it was decided not to make any change for the present.

Complaint Against Handling of Terminals by Stock Brokers

2299. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has received complaints against the manner of closing of terminals when the stock market fell in January, 2008;

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

(c) whether any fund is maintained with the stock to overcome the crisis pertaining to non-payment of margin monies by the traders;

(d) if so, the reasons for not using the funds by the exchanges;

(e) whether any officials of the exchanges were held responsible for the said lapses;

(f) if so, the details thereof exchange-wise; and

(g) if not the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. SEBI has received complaints alleging that some investors were not able to trade during the stock market fall in January 2008. Some of them also allege that their broker terminals were deactivated. These complaints have been taken up with the respective stock exchanges for expeditious redressal.

(c) No, Sir. However, the exchanges maintain the Settlement Guarantee Fund which is utilised to meet the shortages arising out of non-fulfilment/partial fulfilment of the funds obligations by the brokers in a settlement subject to norms specified by SEBI. The exchanges also maintain investor protection fund which is utilised to honour the claims of clients of defaulting brokers or where the broker is unable to pay such claims.

(d) to (g) Do not arise in view answer to (c) above.

Private Sector in JNNURM

2300. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to involve private sector in the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Guidelines of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) provide for involvement of private sector through:

(i) Encouraging Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).

(ii) Earmarking of at least 20-25% of developed land in all housing projects (both Public and Private Agencies) for EWS/LIG category with a system of cross subsidization.

The modalities of effecting Public-Private Partnerships are to be worked out at the level of State/UT Governments.

[Translation]

NSTFDC

2301. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the fund allocated and utilised under the schemes initiated by National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) alongwith the number of beneficiaries during the last three years and also during the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether NSTFDC is facing financial difficulties in implementation of various schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to allocate more funds to implement the above schemes without disruption; and

(e) if so, the modalities worked out by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) A statement showing State-wise allocation and disbursement of funds made by NSTFDC alongwith the corresponding number of beneficiaries covered under its schemes for income generating activities and marketing support assistance for the years 2004-05 to 2007-08 is enclosed. The financial assistance is channelised through the Government owned agencies/ bodies authorized for the purpose i.e. State Channelising Agencies.

(b) and (c) NSTFDC has reported that it has sufficient funds for implementation of sanctioned schemes.

(d) and (e) Allocation of more funds to NSTFDC for implementing its schemes would depend upon the need/ requirement projected by the Company.

Statement

Statewise/Yearwise Status of National Allocation, Gross Sanctions and Disbursements alongwith corresponding Number of Beneficiaries during respective years for Income Generating Activities & Marketing Support Assistance Scheme of NSTFDC

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2004-05				2005-06				2006-07				2007-08 (as on 29/02/08)			
		Allocation for sanctions	Fund Disbursed Amt.	No. of Bene.	Allocation for sanctions	Fund Disbursed Amt.	No. of Bene.	Allocation for sanctions	Fund Disbursed Amt.	No. of Bene.	Allocation for sanctions	Fund Disbursed Amt.	No. of Bene.	Allocation for sanctions	Fund Disbursed Amt.	No. of Bene.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
1	Andhra Pradesh	612.00	1181.71	2965	573.00	311.36	409	512.00	898.90	11813	622.00	623.32	1252				
2	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	0.00	0				
3	Arunachal Pradesh	80.00	0.00	0	80.00	0.00	0	72.00	0.00	0	87.00	0.00	0				
4	Assam	419.00	0.00	0	377.00	0.00	0	337.00	0.00	0	409.00	0.00	0				
5	Bihar	83.00	0.00	0	87.00	0.00	0	77.00	0.00	0	94.00	0.00	0				
6	Chhattisgarh	833.00	734.07	170	755.00	765.46	411	675.00	716.15	295	819.00	262.20	263				
7	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	0.00	0				
8	Goa	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	0.00	0				
9	Gujarat	898.00	0.00	0	854.00	0.00	0	763.00	500.00	3380	926.00	0.00	0				
10	Himachal Pradesh	50.00	16.22	5	50.00	25.40	9	50.00	84.24	161	50.00	0.00	0				
11	Jammu and Kashmir	128.00	65.71	15	126.00	51.40	12	113.00	234.54	80	137.00	361.25	237				
12	Jharkhand	881.00	530.74	295	809.00	284.14	111	723.00	143.10	60	877.00	174.74	344				
13	Karnataka	279.00	202.90	1120	395.00	257.10	315	353.00	100.20	334	429.00	320.00	1475				
14	Kerala	50.00	17.09	33	100.00	18.45	41	100.00	14.25	35	100.00	11.16	33.00				
15	Lakshadweep	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	24.20	19	50.00	27.82	24	50.00	6	3.00				
16	Manipur	92.00	0.00	0	112.00	0.00	0	100.00	0.00	0	121.00	0.00	0				
17	Maharashtra	1066.00	436.83	652	978.00	999.96	413	874.00	1068.51	1560	1061.00	69.84	18				
18	Meghalaya	221.00	0.00	0	227.00	0.00	0	203.00	0.00	0	246.00	56.98	217				
19	Madhya Pradesh	1411.00	0.00	0	1396.00	576.89	436	1247.00	32.94	6	1514.00	0.00	0				
20	Mizoram	100.00	0.00	0	100.00	0.00	0	100.00	0.00	0	104.00	0.00	0				
21	Nagaland	155.00	244.09	56	202.00	163.93	40	181.00	172.74	40	219.00	153.00	37.00				
22	Orissa	1025.00	27.84	8	929.00			830.00	6.05	2	1008.00	0.00	0				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
23	Rajasthan	798.00	336.01	271	810.00	345.42	350	724.00	179.64	344	878.00	57.79	164
24	Sikkim	50.00	116.00	40	50.00	394.13	186	50.00	386.18	306	50.00	284.6	179
25	Tamil Nadu	84.00	0.00	0	74.00	0.00	0	66.00	0.00	0	81.00	0.00	0
26	Tripura	124.00	0.00	0	113.00	0.00	0	101.00	329.65	232	123.00	31.23	7
27	Uttaranchal	50.00	11.2	8	50.00	34.27	8	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	0.00	0
28	Uttar Pradesh	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	0.00	0	50.00	0.00	0
29	West Bengal	555.00	704.30	6896	503.00	301.03	2999	449.00	768.20	6292	545.00	253.34	2497
	Total	10294.00	4624.71	12534	10000.00	4553.14	5759	9000.00	5663.11	24964	10800.00	2665.45	6726

Cluster based Projects

1	Wedi- Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0
	Total	10294.00	4624.71	12534	10000.00	4553.14	5759	9000.00	5663.11	24964	10800	2665.45	6726
	Budgetary Allocation (10000.00)				(1/4)10000.00)			(9000.00)					

Note: Annual allocations are given in the brackets. But due to minimum allocation of Rs. 50.00 lakhs for each SCA in the State/UT total budgetary allocation amount indicated is higher upto the year 2005-06

B. Marketing Support Assistance

S.No.	Name of the State Allocations	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08 (as on 28/02/08)	
		Allocation	Fund Disbursement	Allocation	Fund Disbursement	Allocation	Fund Disbursement	-Allocation	Fund Disbursement

S.No.	Name of the State Allocations	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08 (as on 28/02/08)					
		Allocation	Fund Disbursement	Allocation	Fund Disbursement	Allocation	Fund Disbursement	-Allocation	Fund Disbursement				
1	TRIFED	0.00	0.00	0	250.00	100.00	2000	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	150.00	3000
2	Girijan Co-operative Corporation Ltd. (GCC), Andhra Pradesh	500.00	500	283000	1000.00	750.00	113400	1050.00	1080.00	125600	1000.00	850.00	116500
3	NCDC -Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	300.00	300	90000	0.00	0.00	0
	Total	500.00	500.00	283000	1250.00	850.00	115400	1350.00	1380.00	215800	1000.00	1000.00	11950
	Grand Total (Income Generating + Marketing Support Assistance)	10294.00	5124.71	295534	10000.00	5403.14	121159	10000.00	7043.11	240764	12000.00	3665.45	126226

Note: * Actual sanction is considered as allocations for F.Y. 2004-05 and 2005-06 in respect of Marketing Support Assistance

*[English]***UN Report on Rural Sanitation Projects**

2302. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main points mentioned in the UN Report on sanitation in India;

(b) whether the United Nations has appreciated some States for making good progress in providing access to sanitation facilities in the rural areas in pursuance of the Millennium Development goals;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the United Nations has agreed to provide help and assistance to some States particularly Karnataka for providing sanitation facilities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU):

(a) The United Nations brings out a report called "Human Development Report" (HDR) on a different theme every year, covering the whole world. The HDR for 2006 was titled "Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the global water crisis", which inter-alia covered the status of sanitation in the world. The Report states that safe water and sanitation are fundamental to human development. When people are deprived in these areas, they face diminished opportunities to realize their potential as human beings. The Report also documents the systematic violation of the right to water, identifies the underlying causes of the crisis and sets out an agenda for change.

(b) and (c) The mechanism in the United Nations for monitoring Millennium Development Goal for Water Supply and Sanitation is the Joint Monitoring Programme, managed by WHO and UNICEF. The last global report on the issue was brought out in 2006, called "Meeting the MDG drinking water and sanitation target: the urban and rural challenge of the decade." This report does not mention any state of India specifically.

(d) and (e) There is no agreement with United Nations for providing sanitation facilities.

*[Translation]***Study on Condition of Tribals**

2303. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently conducted any study for the reasons behind poor economic condition of tribals and the persons living in the forests in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons living in forests in the country and the number of tribals amongst them;

(d) whether permission is given to the people other than tribals to live and earn their livelihood in forests; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Such information is not maintained in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(d) and (e) Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of forest Rights) Act, 2006, notified for operation with effect from 31.12.2007 certain forest rights vests in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who primarily reside in and who depend on the forests or forest lands for their bona fide livelihood needs.

*[English]***Commonwealth Games Village**

2304. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the M/o Environment and Forests (MoEF) has recommended Safdarjung Airport instead of the area near Yamuna river-bed for construction of Commonwealth Games Village; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not accepting the recommendations of the EAC of M/o EF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The Expert Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment and Forests had mentioned Safdarjung Airport as a possible alternative of Games Village site in October, 2006.

(b) The Commonwealth Games Federation had approved the Village site in November, 2003.

Balconies in Dwelling Units

2305. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether small DDA plot holders in Delhi have built balconies on their first and second floors upto 2-3 feet beyond their plot on the roadside and are charged penalty for the same by the DDA;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the penalty charged;

(c) whether such activity is permitted under the law; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to allow balconies in the case of small plots upto 60 sq. mtrs. by charging some nominal penalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) As per Unified Building Bye-laws, 1983, as amended from time to time, in case of residential buildings, only a balcony or balconies at roof level of a width of 0.9 meter overhanging in setbacks within one's own land is/are permitted. As for hanging projections, the Bye-Laws permit certain types of projections into open spaces, such as, cornice, chajja, weather shade, canopy, balcony and certain types of cantilever strictly within the individual plot. Projections on public land are not permitted.

(d) No proposal is under consideration of the Government to allow regularization of hanging projections on public land.

Mobilisation of Funds by REC

2306. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
ADV. SURESH KURUP:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has approached the Union Government to borrow one billion in the current fiscal year through external commercial borrowing (ECB);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the permission has been accorded by the Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has not approached the Union Government to borrow

one billion in the current fiscal year through External Commercial Borrowings (ECB). However, REC had requested Reserve Bank of India to grant approval for raising External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) of US\$ 500 million.

(c) and (d) The permission has not been accorded so far.

[Translation]

Destitute Children

2307. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to prevent female foeticide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has allocated required funds in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, under the overall umbrella of National Rural Health Mission, the centrally sponsored programme called Save the Girl Child is being implemented and incorporates girl child survival before and after conception through implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994 (PC & PNDT) by regulating misuse of pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex selection, and promotion of girl child in the country.

The activities under the above programme includes IEC and publicity, strengthening the implementation of PC & PNDT Act, capacity building and networking with stakeholders, monitoring and evaluation of PNDT Clinics.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has reported that Rs.10 crore has been allocated for the activities of PC & PNDT Act for the financial year 2008-2009.

Mutual Funds

2308. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has put pressure on the public sector banks to mobilise funds under Mutual Funds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the Government therefrom; and

(d) the safeguard made for the investors, interests in the Mutual Funds?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(d) SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 provide for a framework for functioning and operation of a Mutual Fund so as to protect the interest of unit holders.

Poor Condition of Rural Women

2309. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has started any helpline to provide relief and assistance to rural women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Women & Child Development is running the Scheme of "Swadhar – A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances" under which Help-line facilities are available for women in distress in both rural and urban areas. The details of the Scheme are available at the website of this Ministry namely www.wcd.nic.in.

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

[English]

Salaries in Public Sector Banks

2310. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the salaries of the employees of the Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the approximate likely burden on the exchequer on account of this revision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The eighth bipartite settlement between Indian Banks' Association (IBA) representing, *inter-alia*, the Managements of the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and the Unions/Associations of

employees in PSBs has come to an end on the 31st October, 2007. The next wage settlement for the revision of salary is due from 1st November, 2007. The Workmen Unions, Officers Associations and the Bank Karmachari Sena Mahasangh have submitted their charter of demands to the IBA.

(c) The likely burden on PSBs due to wage revision will depend upon the wage agreement.

Financing by NABARD

2311. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced its contribution to NABARD funds meant for re-financing long-term agricultural operations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether RBI had brought NABARD under the corporate tax net;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the amount NABARD pays as tax annually;

(e) whether NABARD has to borrow money from the market at higher interest rates as RBI has de-listed NABARD bonds as non-priority sector bonds; and

(f) if so, its impact on NABARD operations as to fund flow and interest applicable to Banks and borrowers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a), (b), (e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Pursuant to the budget announcement 1992-93, a policy decision was taken by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to transfer larger share of its profits to the Union Government. Accordingly, RBI discontinued the practice of appropriating large amounts from its profits to the two long-term funds maintained by National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) and the National Industrial Credit (Long-Term Operations) Fund and National Housing Credit (Long-Term Operations) Fund maintained by RBI. Presently, the appropriations have been limited to a sum of Rs. 1 crore to each of these funds.

The constraints faced by NABARD due to closure of General Line of Credit (GLC) as well as other low cost borrowing instruments has been drawing the attention of the Government since long. With a view to provide NABARD's access to long-term resources at cost-effective rates, the Finance Act 2005 has provided a new financial instrument called the 'Zero-Coupon Bonds (ZCBs)'. In this context, NABARD has floated 'ten years zero coupon bonds'.

Besides, pursuant to Budget Announcement 2007-08, on 26th January, 2008 NABARD issued Rural Bonds

amounting to Rs.5,000 crore. These Bonds are eligible for tax exemption under Section 80C of Income Tax Act, 1961. Budget Announcement 2008-09 stipulates creation of a fund of Rs.5,000 crore in NABARD to enhance its refinance operations to short term cooperative credit institutions.

(c) and (d) Tax exemption, generally, is granted to a new organisation to compensate for exposure to unascertained risk in their relatively new sphere of operations. In the case of NABARD, set up vide the NABARD Act, 1981, the benefit of tax exemption was granted to it for 20 years. Over time, the risk confronting NABARD came to be fully defined and, therefore, there was no economic rationale for granting any further tax exemption. Accordingly, the exemption was withdrawn from financial year 2001-02 (Assessment Year 2002-03).

NABARD has paid Rs.337.40 crore and Rs.349.00 crore of tax (after adjusting for refund) for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

PWD Schedule of Rates for NREGS

2312. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether real wages of regular women workers in rural areas has declined despite the ongoing National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to reduce the gender bias and disparity in wage payments under the said scheme;

(c) whether the Government has directed the States to adopt Public Works Department (PWD) schedule of rates for works under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. Under NREGA, wages are being paid on Task Rate Basis. The out turn of a worker is measured and wages are paid to the workers in accordance with the out turn norms fixed by the State Governments. NREGS is demand driven. Adult members of all rural households having job cards are entitled to get employment under the Act for doing unskilled manual work on demand subject to an over all ceiling of 100 days in a financial year. In para 6 of Schedule-II of the Act, it has been provided that priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work

under the Act. Para 34 of Schedule II of the Act also provides that in case of every employment under the scheme, there shall be no discrimination solely on the ground of gender and the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 shall be complied with.

(c) No, Sir. The directives issued in this regard to the States refer to the clarification that Schedule of rates (SORs) of various executing agencies for similar nature of activities and outputs in the same area must be same. States have also been asked to get these SORs notified by the competent authority of the State as SORs would have horizontal application across the departments/agencies.

(d) Do not arise.

Probe of Cases by SFIO

2313. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the cases investigated by Serious Fraud Investigation Officer(SFIO) since its inception;

(b) whether the investigation in respect of many big companies have been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action taken by the Government to expedite the investigations?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) 30 cases have been investigated by SFIO since its inception and investigation in 18 cases is in progress.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of the investigated companies are given the enclosed as Statement-I and of cases in progress are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement-I

List of cases investigated by SFIO

S.No.	Name of the Company
1	2
1.	M/s. Deawoo Motors India Ltd.
2.	M/s. DSQ Software Ltd.
3.	M/s. Design Auto Systems Ltd.
4.	M/s. Bonanza Biotech Ltd.
5.	M/s. Vatsa Corporation Ltd.
6.	M/s Triumph International Finance India Ltd.

1	2
7.	M/s NH Securities Ltd.
8.	M/s KNP Securities Pvt. Ltd.
9.	M/s NV Parekh Securities Pvt. Ltd.
10.	M/s Panther Fincap and Management Services Ltd.
11.	M/s Panther Investrade Ltd.
12.	M/s Panther Industrial Products Ltd.
13.	M/s Triumph Securities Pvt. Ltd.
14.	M/s Luminant Investrade Pvt. Ltd.
15.	M/s Classic Credit Ltd.
16.	M/s Saimangal Investrade Ltd.
17.	M/s Classic Share & Stock Broking Services Ltd.
18.	M/s Goldfish Computer Pvt. Ltd.
19.	M/s Nakshatra Software Pvt. Ltd.
20.	M/s Chitrakoot Computers Pvt. Ltd.
21.	M/s Manmandir Estate Development Pvt. Ltd.
22.	M/s. Mardia Chemicals Ltd.
23.	M/s. Sound Craft Industries Ltd.
24.	M/s. Adam Comsof Ltd.
25.	M/s. Kolar Biotech Ltd.
26.	M/s. Usha India Ltd.
27.	M/s. Malvika Steel Ltd.
28.	M/s. Koshika Telecom Ltd.
29.	M/s. Shonkh Technologies Ltd.
30.	M/s. Morepan Laboratories Ltd.

Statement-II*List of cases for which investigation is in progress*

S.No.	Name of the Company
1	2
1.	M/s. Shonkh Technologies International Ltd.
2.	M/s. JVC Industries Ltd.
3.	M/s. JVG Publication Ltd.
4.	M/s. JVG Hotels Ltd.
5.	M/s. JVG Steels Ltd.
6.	M/s. JVG Techno India Ltd.

1	2
7.	M/s. JVG Holdings Ltd.
8.	M/s. JVG Farm Fresh Ltd.
9.	M/s. JVG Housing Finance Ltd.
10.	M/s. JVG Overseas Ltd.
11.	M/s. JVG Finance Ltd.
12.	M/s. JVG Leasing Ltd.
13.	M/s. JVG Securities Ltd.
14.	M/s. JVG Departmental Stores Ltd.
15.	M/s. SHCIL Services Ltd.
16.	M/s. Systems India (America) Ltd.
17.	M/s. Krishi Export Commercial Corporation Ltd.
18.	M/s. Leafin India Ltd.

*[Translation]***Loans to Farmers**

2314. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether the existing loan amount to farmers by the banks is much less;
- whether this compels the farmers to go for loans to the money lenders and commission agents;
- if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- whether the Government proposes to double the existing credit limit for loan amount;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) No, Sir. The details of targets set and achieved for the disbursement of loan to farmers by all banks during the years 2004-05 to 2007-08 have shown a continuous increase over year-on-year basis. The details are as follows:

Year	(Rs. in crore)	
	Target	Achievements
2004-05	1,04,500	1,25,306
2005-06	1,41,000	1,80,486
2006-07	1,75,000	2,29,400
2007-08	2,25,000	*1,62,701
2008-09	2,80,000	-

* Provisional figures upto December, 2007

Besides, the Government of India (GoI) has taken the following steps to ensure availability of timely and affordable credit for farm sector:

- The Government of India (GoI) is providing interest subvention @ 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their own funds and concessional refinance to Cooperative Banks and RRBs since Kharif 2006-07 to ensure Short Term crop loans upto Rs.3 lakh to farmers at interest rate of @ 7% per annum at the ground level.
- Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks have been successful in financing 50 lakhs new farmers during each of the last three year.
- Banks have simplified the procedure for documentation for agricultural loans. Loans upto Rs.50,000/- have been made collateral and margin free and the requirement of 'No Dues Certificate' has been dispensed with.
- Banks have been advised to provide all eligible farmers with Kisan Credit Cards.
- Banks have been instructed to achieve financial outreach through provision of a General Credit Card to households, to open "No Frills" accounts with limited overdraft facilities, to extend financial outreach by utilizing services of Civil Society Organisations like Farmers Clubs, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Post Offices as Business Facilitator/Business Correspondent, etc.

[English]

Basic Amenities in Metropolitan Cities

2315. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to mass exodus from villages to the cities the metropolitan cities of the country are lacking in basic amenities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) In post-independence era while population of India has grown three times, the urban population has grown five times. The ever increasing number of slum dwellers causes tremendous pressure on urban basic

services and infrastructure. In order to cope with massive problems that have emerged as a result of rapid urban growth, the Government has launched the Jawaharalal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005 with the basic objective of assisting cities and towns in the provision of infrastructure and basic amenities to the urban poor. The Sub-Mission of Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) - (for 63 identified cities) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) - (for other cities/towns) address the problems of housing and basic services such as water, sanitation, roads, streetlights etc. In slums/ low-income localities for benefit of the urban poor.

Levy on Sale of Power to Other States

2316. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to allow the power producing States to charge levy on sale of power to other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been received by the Government from any State in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) During the Conference of Chief Ministers on Power Sector Issues held on 28th May, 2007 the Chief Minister of Orissa had raised the issue of levy of duty on generation of power by the concerned State Governments. During the Conference, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh had demanded 12% power at variable cost or the right to tax generation of power.

However, some other States had objected to additional compensation to coal bearing States, as any such move will increase the cost of power. At present, the host State, in which the Central Thermal Power Station is located, is given 10% special allocation as the home state share. Further, the coal bearing states are being compensated through payment of royalty on coal, the rates of which have been revised from time to time.

As such no proposal for levy of duty on sale of power to other States is under consideration of the Government.

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana

2317. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the Government under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana during the 10th Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the number of people benefited under the scheme;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enhance the allocation under the scheme during the 11th Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Details are given in enclosed as Statement.

(b) During the 10th Five Year Plan, 36831.37 lakh mandays were generated under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY). Number of people benefited under SGRY is not maintained at Central level.

(c) and (d) SGRY is in operation in 264 districts in the first year of the 11th Five Year Plan, that is, 2007-08. Entire SGRY programme will be subsumed in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme with effect from 1st April, 2008.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	States/UTs	Central Allocation of Funds				
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (588 Districts)	2006-07 (388 Districts)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	18977.31	22014.18	23487.18	28139.33	10903.95
2	Arunachal Pradesh	986.98	1142.85	1246.98	1524.09	1403.65
3	Assam	25626.43	29673.53	32368.00	39560.89	25385.99
4	Bihar	36327.51	42137.71	46512.14	55724.88	21299.37
5	Chhattisgarh	9286.06	10769.37	13108.64	15705.09	4937.19
6	Goa	158.36	183.93	336.74	403.44	417.64
7	Gujarat	7728.31	8966.17	10283.30	12320.13	8741.19
8	Haryana	4290.25	4976.97	5417.38	6490.41	6048.66
9	Himachal Pradesh	1806.79	2096.00	2281.48	2733.38	2296.24
10	Jammu and Kashmir	2154.84	2499.61	2681.02	3212.07	2628.03
11	Jharkhand	24828.98	28803.56	31543.52	37791.40	3338.58
12	Karnataka	14098.08	16353.72	17539.74	21013.87	16224.75
13	Kerala	6325.52	7337.56	7870.10	9428.94	8116.50
14	Madhya Pradesh	21841.08	25338.23	28308.64	33915.78	16854.62
15	Maharashtra	28002.67	32483.24	34672.18	41539.76	25703.73
16	Manipur	1719.36	1990.89	2172.42	2655.18	2403.18
17	Meghalaya	1926.22	2230.43	2433.74	2974.57	1946.47
18	Mizoram	445.73	516.13	563.18	688.33	556.39
19	Nagaland	1321.29	1529.96	1669.40	2040.38	1752.72
20	Orissa	21353.15	24769.56	26567.30	31829.53	9623.95
21	Punjab	3461.06	4017.63	6025.60	7219.10	6753.65
22	Rajasthan	10710.59	12424.25	13318.66	15956.71	12542.23
23	Sikkim	493.50	571.44	623.52	762.08	562.78

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	Tamil Nadu	16564.43	19214.77	20538.10	24606.12	18850.46
25	Tripura	3104.49	3594.77	3922.76	4794.48	3820.26
26	Uttarakhand	4258.87	4940.35	5242.62	6281.04	4920.58
27	Uttar Pradesh	63243.32	73362.27	78495.06	94042.72	56504.34
28	West Bengal	23729.76	27526.41	29524.26	35372.18	15660.57
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	139.88	162.34	220.94	264.70	274.01
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	109.27	126.77	145.46	174.27	180.40
31	Daman and Diu	30.27	35.17	70.50	84.46	87.44
32	Lakshadweep	48.16	55.95	110.50	132.39	137.05
33	Puducherry	154.50	179.28	223.94	268.30	277.74
Total		355253.02	412025.00	449525.00	539650.00	291154.31

Note: During 2006-07, 200 districts were subsumed in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

2318. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central Outlay under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the amount of money actually released;

(c) the targets achieved so far;

(d) whether any proposal from the State in this regard is pending with the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI

SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the allocation of cess funds is made on normative basis but funds are released based upon the financial progress. Statement-I indicating State-wise normative allocation of funds and the releases made during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (till date) is enclosed.

(c) A Statement-II indicating State-wise Physical and Financial progress under PMGSY since its inception of the programme till January, 2008 is enclosed.

(d) and (e) PMGSY is a demand driven programme. Funds are released to the State Governments subject to fulfilment of prescribed conditions which include utilization of atleast 60% of funds released earlier and completion of specified percentage of works in the preceding years, submission of Utilization Certificate, Audit Reports and the other prescribed documents. The proposals for release of funds are scrutinized and Grants-in-Aid released where the prescribed condition have been met. It is a continuous process.

Statement-I

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the State	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Central Allocation	Central Release	Central Allocation	Central Release	Central Allocation	Central Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	100	187.69	100	155.09	105	274.55
Arunachal Pradesh	52	53.81	52	54.22	57	102.03
Assam	176	156.82	176	431.05	181	405
Bihar	332	234.29	332	570.5	337	655.34

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chhattisgarh	235	307.57	235	708.52	240	830.89
Goa	5	0	5	0	5	0
Gujarat	60	70.56	60	117.2	65	144.56
Haryana	25	20.56	25	200.43	30	216.21
Himachal Pradesh	82	171.27	82	139.9	87	246.23
Jammu and Kashmir	60	70.35	60	0	65	72.74
Jharkhand	170	152.7	170	56.83	175	0
Karnataka	105	143.02	105	45.73	110	271.49
Kerala	25	42.41	25	15	30	0
Madhya Pradesh	435	376.29	435	1165.27	440	1342.18
Maharashtra	140	141.92	140	108.85	145	513.96
Manipur	28	6.33	28	0	33	77.67
Meghalaya	40	7.5	40	0	45	0
Mizoram	27	60.99	27	27	32	21.96
Nagaland	25	56.03	25	0	30	0
Orissa	268	305.29	268	641.78	273	546.83
Punjab	30	48.9	30	80.63	35	360.21
Rajasthan	229	434.82	229	1154.06	234	1566.23
Sikkim	25	41.2	25	36.85	30	172.46
Tamil Nadu	85	58.95	85	20	90	71.03
Tripura	35	21.76	35	74.5	40	88
Uttar Pradesh	370	644.69	370	325.19	375	766.59
Uttaranchal	95	14.29	95	12.79	100	78.74
West Bengal	221	355.58	221	123.69	226	523.16
Total	3480	4185.59	3480	6265.08	3615	9348.06

Releases include the aid component from ADB & WB and Loan from NABARD

Statement-II

Physical & Financial progress under PMGSY (Phase - I to VIII+ ADB/WB)

(Rs. in crore, Length in Km)

States	Value of proposals cleared	Amount Released (Upto 18.02.2008)	No. of road works	Length of road works	Length of road works completed (upto Jan.'08)	Length of road works completed (upto Jan.'08)	% completed works (upto Jan. '08)	% Length Completed (upto Jan. 08)	Exp. upto Jan. '08)	% Exp to Amount released (upto Jan. '8)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1 Andhra Pradesh	2189.94	1441.11	4968	15495.73	4234	11515.55	85.23	74.31	1389.70	96.43	
2 Arunachal Pradesh	646.71	335.71	519	2285.38	378	1594.21	72.83	69.76	287.99	85.79	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	Assam	3719.83	1557.35	2062	8223.54	951	3310.00	46.12	40.25	1400.08	89.90
4	Bihar (REO)	976.08	426.82	1239	3445.83	741	1704.27	59.81	49.46	361.95	84.80
5	Bihar (NEA)	4914.38	1121.76	1990	12824.99	192	1863.12	9.65	14.53	946.04	84.34
6	Chhattisgarh	5354.15	2349.05	4271	21688.76	1768	9236.67	41.40	42.59	2280.14	97.07
7	Goa	9.72	10.00	90	178.16	72	158.70	80.00	89.08	5.32	53.20
8	Gujarat	897.82	434.62	2392	5910.91	1588	3281.18	66.39	55.51	475.62	109.43
9	Haryana	904.54	572.71	284	3279.57	153	2137.44	53.87	65.17	453.74	79.23
10	Himachal Pradesh	2195.77	806.97	1929	11723.79	794	5454.80	41.16	46.53	818.36	101.41
11	Jammu and Kashmir	1024.51	217.55	445	2512.70	113	272.58	25.39	10.85	164.55	75.64
12	Jharkhand	1132.52	563.45	982	5042.15	522	2722.13	53.16	53.99	513.85	91.20
13	Karnataka	1752.08	823.46	2483	11310.04	1769	6034.93	71.24	53.36	795.47	96.60
14	Kerala	492.32	136.97	765	1570.31	256	461.82	33.46	29.41	136.14	99.39
15	Madhya Pradesh	9815.91	4325.74	9694	43452.25	3627	16893.46	37.41	38.88	3987.42	92.18
16	Maharashtra	3245.83	1213.59	4148	15852.13	2221	5969.12	53.54	37.86	1115.43	91.91
17	Manipur	273.04	180.50	849	1266.84	528	1102.12	62.19	87.00	166.07	92.01
18	Meghalaya	185.34	123.17	373	917.02	307	727.43	82.31	79.33	119.39	96.93
19	Mizoram	480.38	271.89	144	1926.32	73	1280.25	50.69	66.46	237.51	87.36
20	Nagaland	320.69	161.56	237	2463.67	187	1956.79	78.90	79.43	154.42	95.58
21	Orissa	6003.03	2351.48	5412	19156.66	2365	7959.82	43.70	41.55	2095.22	89.10
22	Punjab	787.16	617.14	627	2807.94	523	2139.62	83.41	76.20	523.55	84.83
23	Rajasthan	7418.34	4508.19	11186	45424.00	8287	28019.73	74.08	61.68	4169.37	92.48
24	Sikkim	392.45	318.56	221	2119.21	91	1812.37	41.18	85.52	189.09	59.36
25	Tamil Nadu	724.18	582.90	2604	5040.68	2223	4121.95	85.37	81.77	528.79	90.72
26	Tripura	1344.51	250.89	881	2710.67	256	613.49	29.06	22.63	179.75	71.64
27	Uttar Pradesh	7383.82	3277.37	15183	35686.13	10104	17926.43	66.55	50.23	3086.12	94.47
28	Uttarakhand	759.48	306.86	473	3388.52	194	844.89	41.01	24.93	276.79	90.20
29	West Bengal	3456.60	1845.31	1718	10685.94	964	5258.92	56.11	49.21	1675.25	90.78
	Grand Total	68801.13	31132.68	78169	298389.84	45481	146373.79	58.18	49.05	28543.12	91.68

Figures upto Jan.'08 (in Bold letter)

Infrastructure Financing

2319. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
DR. K.S. MANOJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Deepak Parekh Committee on infrastructure financing has been put into action;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to allow the financing of infrastructure projects by domestic pensions and provident funds as reported in the Financial Express dated December 12, 2007; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) A few recommendations of the Deepak Parekh Committee have been put into action e.g. electronic trading and reporting platform have been started in the OTC market for corporate bonds; banks can invest in unrated debt instruments upto 10% of their total non SLR investment; a bank can classify any investment in securities with fixed and determinable payments under the Held to Maturity category if it has the intention to hold the same to maturity; and an overseas subsidiary of IIFCL has been registered in London which will borrow a small portion of forex reserves from the RBI to lend to Indian infrastructure companies.

(c) and (d) So far the Government has not proposed to allow the financing of infrastructure projects by domestic pensions and provident funds.

[Translation]

Land Allotted to Hospitals

2320. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Hospitals and Nursing homes allotted land at concessional rate;

(b) the details of compliance of free treatment conditions for the poor; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) A list of hospitals to whom land has been allotted on concessional rate by Delhi Development Authority & Land and Development Office is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court in Writ Petition No. 2866/2002 titled as "Social Jurist vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors, an Inspection Committee headed by the Principal Secretary, Health, Govt. of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has been constituted to monitor free treatment for poor patients to be provided by private hospitals who have been allotted land on concessional rates.

The Committee inspects these hospitals and submits periodic reports to the Principal Secretary (Health) in respect of hospitals providing free treatment to the eligible categories of patients.

Statement**Delhi Development Authority Institutional Branch****List of Hospitals and Nursing Homes Allotted Land on Concessional Rates.**

Sl. No.	Name of Society
1	2
1.	Aishi Ram Batra Public Ch. Trust
2.	Gujarmal Modi Hospital & Research Center
3.	Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust
4.	Flt. Lt. Raja Dhal C. Trust
5.	Sunder Lal Jain Ch. Trust
6.	Madam Chanan Devi Eye Hospital
7.	Indian Spinal Injuries Center
8.	Deepak Gupta Memorial Ch. Foundation
9.	Ganesh Das Chawala Ch. Trust
10.	Araya Vaidasala Kottalaya
11.	Pamarath Mission Hospital
12.	Venu Charitable Society (Eye Hospital)
13.	Laxmipat Sighnania Medical Foundation
14.	Dharam Shila Cancer Foundation & Research Center
15.	Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Society
16.	Escort Heart Instt & Research Center
17.	Sondi Charitable Trust
18.	Sant Nirankari Mandal
19.	Lala Munni Lal Mange Ram Ch. Trust
20.	Manav Sewarath Trust
21.	Vikrant Children Medical Foundation

1	2
22.	Multan Sewa Samiti
23.	Devki Devi Foundation
24.	Human Care Medical Trust
25.	B.R. Bhawani Medical Ch. Trust
26.	Nirogi Ch. Medical Ch. Trust
27.	Dr. Narain Dutt Shrimali Foundation
28.	Param Shakti Peeth
29.	Unique Hospital and Research Institute
30.	Shanti Memorial Society
31.	Madhukar Multi-Specialty Hospital
32.	B.R. Jesa Ram Hospital
33.	Dr. B.L. Kapoor Memorial Hospital
34.	Balaji Medical & Research Center
35.	Jaipur Golden Ch. Trust
36.	Mukand Lal Memorial Foundation
37.	National Heart Institute
38.	Foundation of Applied Research in Cancer
39.	Vivekanand Pratishthanm
40.	Birla Center for Medical Research
41.	Khosla Medical Institute & Research Center
42.	Maha Durga Ch. Trust
43.	Asthma & Bronchitis Foundation (Delhi University)
44.	Bala Sahib Gurudwara
45.	National Society for Prevention of Blindness (Small Hospital)
46.	All India Society for Health aid Education Research
47.	Lala Gela Ram Memorial Medical Research Center (Dental Hospital)
48.	Delhi Cheshire Home (Hospital for Disabled Person)
49.	Delhi E.N.T. Hospital & Research Center (E.N.T. Hospital & Research Center)
50.	V.N. Gupta Ch. Trust
51.	Sarvodaya Health Foundation
52.	Mai Kamali Wali Jan Kalyan Ch. Trust
53.	Walia Charitable Trust
54.	Mahasati Mohan Devi Jain Shikshan Samiti (Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital)

1	2
List of Hospital Allotted Land by Land & Development	
1.	Sir Ganga Ram Hospital
2.	Veeranwali International Hospital (Delhi Hospital Society)
3.	Dr. Vidya Sagar Kaushalya Devi Memorial Trust (VIMHANS)
4.	Mool Chand Khairati Rara Hospital
5.	St. Stephens Hospital.

An addl. strip of land meas. 772 sq. yd. was allotted to R.B. Seth Jessa Ram Hospital for expansion of the Hospital. Initially the land has been allotted by DDA

[English]

Rate of Interest on Farm Credit

2321. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal/scheme to subvert the rate of interest for providing Farm Credit;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat has pointed out some difficulties for implementation of interest subvention scheme for providing Farm Credit; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government to mitigate the difficulties faced by the Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Government has decided to ensure that farmers receive Short Term Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs.3 lakh on the principal amount since 2006-07. Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks are being provided interest subvention on their own involvement of funds @ 2%. The Government is also providing interest subvention to NABARD for providing concessional refinance to RRBs and Cooperative Banks for the purpose. This scheme continues for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat informed that the cost of funds of Cooperative Banks in Gujarat are on the high side and therefore they are not in a position to implement the scheme. They, further, suggested that:

- Government of India to consider provision of interest subvention to Cooperative Banks on their own involvement of funds.
- NABARD's refinance to Cooperative Banks to be to the extent of 85% of their crop loans.

- NABARD's refinance to be available to all Section 11(1) non-compliant banks.

Government of India decided to provide subvention of 2% p.a. to the Cooperative Banks for short term credit disbursed out of their own resources with an upper limit of Rs.3.00 lakh on the Principal amount per borrower.

Financial Assistance by NABARD

2322. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds drawn from the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) window of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as on date;

(b) the amount allocated thereunder, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints regarding disparity in financial assistance provided by NABARD; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) For meeting funds required for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, (PMGSY), a sum of Rs. 3707.3836 crore has been drawn from the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) window of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

(b) There is no State wise allocation of NABARD funds. Funds are drawn from the special window of NABARD keeping in view the expenditure requirement of different States. State-wise release of funds during the current financial year is as under:-

S. No.	Name of State	Rs. (in crore)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	160.39500
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52.03000
3	Assam	250.00000
4.	Chhattisgarh	268.62000
5.	Gujarat	112.01000

1	2	3
6.	Haryana	116.39000
7.	Himachal Pradesh	139.90000
8.	Karnataka	165.36000
9.	Madhya Pradesh	464.89000
10.	Punjab	210.21000
11.	Rajasthan	834.65000
12.	Sikkim	105.96000
13.	Uttar Pradesh	462.21000
14.	Bihar	364.75860
Total		3707.3836

(c) and (d) No complaint has been received regarding disparity in financial assistance provided by NABARD for implementation of PMGSY.

[Translation]

Employment to Visually Handicapped in Banks

2323. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Banks to give employment to the visually handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the banks complied with the Supreme Court's above directives and those have failed to do so; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the erring banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The Government is not aware of any specific instruction issued by the Supreme Court to banks to give employment to the visually handicapped persons. However, the Government has, from time to time, issued broad guidelines on reservation for physically handicapped persons, both in direct recruitment and in promotion in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Financial Institutions. The Government's guidelines to the PSBs and Financial Institutions relate to identification of posts suitable for the visually handicapped, the orthopaedically handicapped and for the hearing impaired. While in direct recruitment there is 3% reservation (1% for each category of handicapped), reservation in promotion to persons

with disabilities is available only in promotions made from sub-staff cadre to the clerical cadre i.e. from Group 'D' to Group 'C' and within Group 'C'. The Government's guidelines on reservation for physically handicapped persons are required to be complied with by the PSBs and Financial Institutions. In case any complaint/representation is received by the Ministry with regard to implementation of Reservation Policy of the Government in Public Sector Banks/Financial Institutions, the same is examined in consultation with the concerned Bank/Institution, for taking appropriate remedial actions, if so warranted.

[English]

Smart Card to the Poor

2324. SHRI. KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue Smart Card for giving financial benefits to rural and urban poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Government has announced in Budget 2008-09 that on a pilot basis, the State of Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh will introduce a smart card based delivery system to deliver food grains under Public Distribution System.

Waiving off Loans of Mining Companies

2325. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government waived off the loans of mining companies during last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefore alongwith the names of the beneficiary companies; and

(c) the losses suffered by the Union Government/ State Government thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Union Government has waived liabilities of two Public Sector mining companies during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Information is provided in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Liabilities waived	Amount waived (Rs in crores)	Reasons for waiver
Year: 2006-07		
Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited		
Interest as on 31.03.2005	51.56	
Penal interest as on 31.03.2005	7.28	
Conversion of outstanding government loan to equity effective from 31.03.2005	30.80	Financial restructuring of the company to improve its financial health.
Conversion of non-plan loan into equity effective from 31.03.2005	15.00	
Total	104.64	
Year: 2007-08		
Hindustan Copper Limited		
7.5% non-cumulative redeemable preference share and its adjustment against accumulated losses	180.73	
Restructuring of capital through reduction of face value of equity share from Rs 10 to Rs 5 and its adjustment against accumulated losses	382.21	Financial restructuring of the company to improve its financial health.
Conversion of non-plan Government loan into equity	50.00	
Total	612.94	
Total waiver over 2006-08	717.58	

Schemes Under JNNURM

Total financial impact of the waivers on Gov finances is Rs 717.58 crore which is only a notional loss as the liabilities were waived to improve the financial health of the companies.

2326. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flagship scheme Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission launched in 2005, States are not coming forward with the schemes for upliftment of urban poor in sizeable number;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for proper implementation of the scheme and encourage States to come forward with scheme for urban poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) State Governments are coming forward with a large number of projects for seeking Additional Central Assistance for the upliftment of the urban poor. So far more than one million houses have been approved under the Sub-Mission of Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) with a total project cost of Rs.20416 Crore. To speed-up the submission of detailed project reports for approval by the Sanctioning Committee at the Central level, 59 capacity building/training programmes have been conducted by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation for State and Urban Local Body officials and other stakeholders. Hon'ble Prime Minister has addressed the Chief Ministers of all States to accord priority to slum development and provision of basic amenities to the urban poor under JNNURM. The Minister for Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation has also taken up the matter with Chief Ministers from time to time. To facilitate effective implementation of programmes, the Government is providing support for strengthening project management at the State and local levels.

Review of Appointment System of Judges

2327. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to review the present system of appointments of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Government do not propose to bring about any change in the present system of appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Setting up of Bank Branches

2328. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for setting up of new bank branches in different parts of the country; and

(b) the number of new bank branches set up during the last one year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under its branch authorization policy has given banks the freedom to select centres for opening of new branches. However, while granting approvals, RBI ensures that the approvals include centres in rural/underbanked districts also. Generally, all proposals for opening bank branches in underbanked districts/rural areas are considered favourably. Further, new private sector banks are required to ensure that at least 25% of their total branches are in semi-urban and rural centres on an on-going basis.

A Statement containing details of State-wise number of bank branches of Commercial Banks opened during the year 2006-2007 is enclosed.

Statement

State and Union Territory-wise Number of Bank Branches of Commercial Banks opened in the country during the year 2006-07

Sl.No.	State/U.T. Name	April 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007
1	2	3
1	Andaman and Nicobar	3
2	Andhra Pradesh	192
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3
4	Assam	31
5	Bihar	44
6	Chandigarh	16
7	Chhattisgarh	36
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	7
9	Daman and Diu	2
10	Delhi	118
11	Goa	15
12	Gujarat	156
13	Haryana	104
14	Himachal Pradesh	38

1	2	3
15	Jammu and Kashmir	22
16	Jharkhand	36
17	Karnataka	167
18	Kerala	146
19	Lakshadweep	-
20	Madhya Pradesh	76
21	Maharashtra	222
22	Manipur	1
23	Meghalaya	2
24	Mizoram	5
25	Nagaland	5
26	Orissa	89
27	Puducherry	9
28	Punjab	138
29	Rajasthan	139
30	Sikkim	5
31	Tamil Nadu	257
32	Tripura	6
33	Uttar Pradesh	234
34	Uttarakhand	31
35	West Bengal	115
Total		2470

Source: RBI's Master Office File (Latest Updated Version) on Commercial banks
 Note: Commercial Banks include all Scheduled Commercial Banks and Local Area Banks

Vanishing Companies

2329. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- the details of the vanishing companies as on date;
- the total money lost by investors in these companies;
- whether the Union Government has traced out the directors and promoters of these companies;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Out of the companies that came

out with the IPOs during 1992-98, a total of 229 companies were originally identified as vanishing companies. With the continuous efforts of the Ministry, 116 companies have been traced back, resulting in the number of vanishing companies being reduced to 113. Subsequently, 8 more companies that came out with IPOs during 1998-2001 have been included in the list of vanishing companies. Thus, the total number of vanishing companies stands at 121 as on date.

(b) The total amount raised from the public by these 121 vanishing companies through IPOs is approximately Rs. 819,16 crore.

(c) to (e) The Government has taken following action against the vanishing companies and their Promoters/Directors:

- Prosecutions have been filed in 109 cases for violations of various provisions of the Companies Act, 1956.
- FIRs have been filed in 104 cases under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- SEBI has debarred 100 companies and 378 directors u/s 11B of the SEBI Act from entering capital market for a period of five years.

Easing of Acquisition Norms

2330. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned PSBs want Fed Reserve to ease acquisition norms appeared in the Business Line dated January 1, 2006;

- if so, facts of the matter reported therein; and
- the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Government / Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are aware of some difficulties being faced by Indian banks opening/operating branches in United State of America (USA). The Government/RBI have been taking up these issues with the concerned host countries, including with US Authorities, at appropriate levels.

Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2004

2331. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
 SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:
 SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:
 SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether responses of all State Governments have been received by the Union Government on proposed draft of the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2004;

(b) if so, the details of the major amendments proposed by the States; and

(c) the time by which the Amendment Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2007, approved by the Cabinet was introduced in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session, 2007 of the Parliament. Presently, the Bill is being considered by the Standing Committee on Rural Development.

Unutilized amount under Urban Employment

2332. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether about Rs.500 crores meant for generating urban employment was unutilized last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a situation; and

(c) the efforts that are being taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that such a situation does not arise in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Functioning of Central Bank of India

2333. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government reviewed the functioning of the Central Bank of India in Rajasthan and Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of the bank in the above regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The performance of the banks in the States is reviewed in the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meetings wherein the representatives of the concerned State Government also participate. In the SLBC meetings of the States of Rajasthan

and Delhi, the performance of the Central Bank of India has not been commented upon adversely. Further, during the last two years i.e. 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto 29th February, 2008) the performance of Delhi Zone of the Bank, which covers both States, has been almost at par with the overall banking sector on major business indicators.

Revamping of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme

2334. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
DR. K.S MANOJ:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to revamp Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2004 had directed the Government that the supply of nutrition in Anganwadi would not be provided through contractors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are being worked out.

(c) and (d) The Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide its Order dated 7.10.2004, inter-alia directed that:

"The Contractors shall not be used for supply of nutrition in Anganwadis and preferably ICDS funds shall be spent by making use of village communities, self held groups and Mahila Mandals for buying of grains and preparation of meals".

Following the directions, States were directed to ensure compliance of the Supreme Court Order dated 7.10.2004.

Opening of IT Office in the Country

2335. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to open some more Income Tax Offices at residential complexes in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the field formations spread all over the country and the same shall be laid on the table of the House at the earliest.

[Translation]

Violation of Norms by Private Power Distribution Companies

2336. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
 PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
 SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
 Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private power distribution companies in the National Capital Territory of Delhi are supplying power to other States at higher tariff in order to earn more profit;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against these companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Distribution Companies are regulated by the concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commission under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003.

The following has been intimated by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission:-

1. The peculiar load demand pattern in Delhi translates to huge shortfalls in availability of power during peak seasons and peak load periods during days vis-a-vis the power tied-up through long term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for NCT of Delhi. These shortfalls are met by procuring power at market rates. During off-peak period, there are some surpluses of power which are, similarly, traded through bilateral trading/Unscheduled Interchange (UI) and the revenue so realized helps in partly off-setting the purchases made at market rates to meet the peak demand. In other words; such sales help reduce the revenue gap to a certain extent.
2. The private Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) in the NCT of Delhi as also the NDMC and MES are supplying power to the other States only when there is surplus power available over and above the requirement in their respective distribution area. The revenue realized by these utilities on account of sale of such surplus power is accounted for in the Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) and finally leads to reduction in revenue gap.
3. The Commission vide its Order dated 31.3.2007 re-assigning the Power Purchase Agreements to the distribution utilities including deemed licensees in the NCT of Delhi has given the following directions to all the distribution utilities regarding sale of surplus power:-

"If the allocation results in any excess capacity in the hands of any of the Distribution Companies/agency at any time, such excess capacity shall be offered to other distribution utilities in Delhi at the first instance and only if such spare capacity cannot be absorbed within Delhi, it shall be offered to others. Necessary arrangements for this purpose shall be evolved in the Power Procurement Group constituted by the Government of NCT of Delhi."

Inclusion/Exclusion of Communities in ST List

2337. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:
 SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
 Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals for inclusion/exclusion of some communities in the list of ST; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has over the years received proposals in excess of 1000 from various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and also from other sources for inclusion in/exclusion from and other modifications in the list of Scheduled Tribes in various States/ Union Territories.

[English]

NTPC and PGCIL in Abroad

2338. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and the National Thermal Power Corporation are having operations in other countries also;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the investments made by them abroad?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) is providing consultancy services to various utilities in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Dubai, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Similarly, NTPC is also providing consultancy services to UAE, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. It has a representative office in Dubai, UAE since November, 2006 for business development. It has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Government of Sri Lanka and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) on 29th December, 2006 for setting up a 500 MW coal fired power project in the Trincomalee region with equal equity participation by CEB. NTPC has also signed an MOU with the Ministry of Energy, Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) on 22nd May, 2007 for energy cooperation.

Under this MOU, FGN has agreed to provide, subject to availability, three (3) million tons per annum of LNG at a reasonable price for a period of 25 years from its existing/Future LNG terminals to NTPC for use in NTPC's plants in India. After the tie-up for LNG supply is finalized, NTPC has agreed to build, own and operate a 700 MW gas based and a 500 MW Coal based power plant in Nigeria, subject to techno-economic feasibility.

(c) At present, neither PGCIL nor NTPC have made any investment abroad.

Energy from Rice Husk and Coconut Shells

2339. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up energy generation plants based on rice husk and coconut shells;

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

(c) the time by which the energy is likely to be generated therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is encouraging setting up of energy generation projects from biomass including rice husk and coconut shells through various technological routes such as combustion, gasification and cogeneration. A cumulative capacity of about 1400 MW has been installed as on 31.12.2007 for generation of energy from biomass mainly in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Further, a target for adding about 2000 MW biomass power installed capacity has been proposed during the 11th Plan period.

[Translation]

Interest on Vehicle Loan

2340. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks/private finance companies/financiers are charging exorbitant rate of interest on vehicle loan from their customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government against them in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) With

effect from October 18, 1994, RBI has deregulated the interest rates on advances above Rs.2 lakh and these interest rates are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their Boards subject to their Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) and Spread guidelines. Loans up to Rs.2 lakh carry the prescription of not exceeding BPLR. However, banks have the freedom to determine the rate of interest, without reference to BPLR regardless of size in respect of loans for purchase of consumer durables and other non-priority sector personal loans, which includes loans for purchasing of vehicles.

The above policy on interest rates relates to all scheduled commercial banks. There is no information available with respect to private finance companies/financer.

Expansion of Chandrapur Thermal Power Plant

2341. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposal for expansion of Super Thermal Power Plant at Chandrapur;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether any financial assistance has been provided for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) M/s. Maharashtra Power Generation Company Ltd. (MAHAGENCO) has a proposal for setting up two more units each of 500 MW at Chandrapur Thermal Power Plant. As per Electricity Act, 2003, any generating company may establish a thermal generating station without obtaining a licence under this Act if it complies with the technical standards relating to the connectivity with the grid. Concurrence of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is also not required for thermal power generation schemes.

(c) and (d) The total cost of the project is estimated to be Rs.5500 crore for which funding (loan) to the extent of 80% of the project cost has been sought from the Rural Electrification Corporation under the Ministry of Power.

[English]

Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana

2342. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:
 SHRI B. MAHTAB:
 SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
 SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
 SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
 SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
 SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:
 PROF. CHANDER KUMAR:
 CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH:
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
 SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:
 SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
 SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
 YADAV:
 SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
 SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
 SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target set and achievements made in rural electrification programme under the 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana' (RGGVY) during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the target fixed and allocation made by the Government under the Yojana for the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether due to slow pace of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, the Government proposes to revamp rural electrification programme in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The Government had fixed RGGVY targets for electrification of 10,000 & 40,000 villages during 2005-06 & 2006-07 respectively. The implementing states/agencies have reported that electrification works have been completed in 10169 villages (including 350 intensive electrification) & 40233 villages (including intensive electrification of 11527 electrified villages) during 2005-06 & 2006-07 respectively. The implementing states/agencies have also reported release of 731527 rural household connections, including 672588 BPL household connections during 2006-07, though no target for rural households electrification was fixed during 10th Plan period.

(b) After comprehensive review and evaluation of RGGVY programme implemented during X-Plan period, the Govt. has accorded approval for continuation of RGGVY during XI-Plan period. In Phase-I capital subsidy of Rs.28000 crore has been provided for electrification of about 1.15 lakh un-electrified villages and electricity connections to 2.34 crore

BPL households by 2008. The Government had fixed a target for electrification of 40,000 villages and release of 48 lakh BPL household connections during current fiscal year (2007-08).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. For effective and expeditious implementation of RGGVY and timely completion of projects, besides constant follow up & monitoring frequent review meetings are being conducted with the concerned State Governments, Implementing Agencies and CPSUs. A new milestone based monitoring system and web-based RGGVY reporting system has been developed. In addition, three tier quality monitoring system is proposed to be implemented to ensure quality of works under RGGVY.

[Translation]

Scheme for Night Shelters

2343. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
 SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether the Government has introduced any scheme to provide night shelters to the homeless and other persons spending their nights on the city footpaths;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount released therefor during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the names of the cities where the said scheme is being run presently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELWA): (a) to (d) The Central Government had introduced a Centrally Sponsored Community Night Shelter Scheme in 1988-89 to provide night shelter and pay and use toilet facilities to all urban shelterless. However, the scheme has been transferred to the State Sector with effect from 1.4.2005 and no allocation or release has been made by the Central Government from 2005-06 onwards.

[English]

NREGA Knowledge Centre

2344. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
 SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has created a mail group called NREGA Knowledge Network to implement the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in a better way;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the rural people are not aware of the various schemes of the Government and thus remained unaware of the benefits of the various rural development schemes; and

(d) If so, the appropriate action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Rural Development has introduced e-knowledge network for effective implementation of NREGA. Innovations at worksites and local solutions are very helpful in meeting the challenges of implementation of NREGA across the country. E-knowledge network helps in lateral transfer of these local solutions, especially among the District Programme Coordinators. The knowledge network aims at connecting practitioners and providing solutions on demand through a knowledge pool built up dynamically by exchange of information, ideas and best practices.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Awareness generation is the most important tool for success of any rural development scheme. To ensure that more and more people get benefits under such schemes, programmes are given wide publicity through Local vernacular newspapers, films, cultural forums, leaflets and brochures in local language. NGOs and Self help Groups are being associated in the awareness generation.

Use of CFL Bulbs

2345. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details and guidelines of the scheme evolved by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to provide Compact Fluorescent Lamps at the price of the common electric bulbs in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government has taken initiative for the implementation of this scheme;

(c) If so, the State-wise details as on date; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Ministry of Power, through Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), has prepared a scheme to provide Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) at the price of common electric bulbs in the country by leveraging the Clean Development Methodology (CDM) Carbon Emission Rights (CERs) revenues, that will accrue as a result of reduced energy consumption by use of CFLs. The Government has prepared a Programme of Activities to enable replication of the scheme in the household sector of the country. All the states are invited to participate in the scheme.

(c) Government of India approved one pilot project each for Haryana and Andhra Pradesh as per the specified procedure of CDM Executive Board.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction and Improvement of Drains/Storm Water Drains In Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2346. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify some projects under the urban infrastructure development projects in Andaman & Nicobar Islands especially construction and improvement of drains/storm water drains;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Deducting Tax from Pension of the Disabled Ex-servicemen

2347. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has investigated the matter of some banks deducting tax from pension of the disabled ex-servicemen;

(b) If so, the details in this regard and reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to check the violation of Government instructions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) It has been reported in the press that some banks were deducting tax from pension of disabled ex-servicemen in violation of Government instructions. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was requested to have the matter investigated and remedial action taken. RBI had the matter examined and discovered that in one specific instance, due to oversight, the pensioner's disability pension was wrongly taken into account while calculating Income Tax.

RBI has issued instructions to all agency banks vide their circular dated August 30, 2007 to strictly adhere to the provisions of Defence Pension Payment Instructions, 2005

regarding exemption of Income Tax of the disability pension of the pensioners of Armed Forces. Banks have been advised to issue suitable instructions to all their pension disbursing branches that Income Tax should not be deducted from the disability pension paid to the pensioners of the Armed Forces. Further, for giving wide publicity, a press release was also issued by the Government to this effect.

Cost Audit Report

2348. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cost audit reports of companies such as Cipla, Ranbaxy, Dr. Reddy, Sun Pharma, Nicholas Piramal, Torrent, US vitamins, Cadila Health Care, Cadila Pharmaceuticals, IPCA, Lupin, Unichem, Aurbindo Pharma, Glenmark have not been analyzed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to investigate the matter; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (d) Cost audit of the companies is carried out under section 233B of the Companies Act, 1956 and the compliance thereof is monitored in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. All the companies mentioned in part (a) of the question are engaged in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has been availing cost audit reports of these companies from this Ministry for regulatory action by them. In addition, Department of Expenditure has also been using such cost audit reports for cost/price studies. The Government undertakes investigations as per the provisions of the law whenever any specific allegation warranting investigation is noticed.

[Translation]

Acquittal under Fera

2349. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons acquitted under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 during the last two years, state-wise;

(b) whether the Government has reviewed the action taken under this act, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Number of

persons acquitted by the Trial court in cases in which prosecution complaint were filed under Section 56 & 57 of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, during the last two years; State-wise is as under:

State	2006	2007
Maharashtra	1	8
Karnataka	3	1
Tamil Nadu	3	1
Kerala	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	-	5
Delhi	1	-
Kolkata	1	-
Total	12	21

(b) and (c) Progress of Adjudication, Prosecution and realization of penalties is periodically reviewed for appropriate action.

[English]

Review of IT Law

2350. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a reviewed and simplified Income Tax Law has been prepared by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) A reviewed and simplified Income-tax Law is presently under preparation.

E-Governance Programme for Cities

2351. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the cities covered under the e-governance programme;

(b) whether the Government has approved an ambitious programme named National Mission Mode Project programme for 323 cities in the country enabling citizens to register and then receive death and birth certificates, pay property-tax, water and power bills and submit building plans online, anywhere anytime;

(c) if so, whether the Cabinet Committee has already given a go ahead for Rs.787 crore project for this in the 11th Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the time by which e-governance programme for all 323 cities is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) Ministry of Urban Development has prepared a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), viz. "National Mission Mode Project on e-Governance in Municipalities" for implementation in 423 cities and towns having population of one lakh and above over a period of five years. The Scheme has been designed to cover 8 services/management functions within urban local bodies, i.e. (i) Registrations and issue of birth and death certificate, (ii) Payment of property tax, water supply and other utility bills and Management of utilities that come under ULBs, (iii) Grievances and suggestions, (iv) Building plan approvals, (v) Procurement and monitoring of projects including E-procurement and Project/Ward works, (vi) Health program including Licenses and Solid Waste Management, (vii) Accounting system, and (viii) Personnel Information System. The total estimated Central share for implementation of the scheme is Rs.676 crore. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) considered the proposal for implementation of this scheme in 423 cities/towns on January 24, 2007 and directed that the proposal be considered as part of the Eleventh five Year Plan. The Planning Commission was accordingly requested to consider the scheme as part of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Planning Commission after considering the proposal has decided the following:

- The scheme would be a part of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for 35 cities with population of over 10 lakh and a new CSS for other cities and towns.
- However, the new CSS for cities and towns other than 35 cities would wait for the present till the implementation is watched in 35 cities as part of JNNURM.

As approved by the Government, it has been decided to implement the e-Governance in Municipalities programme in 35 cities with population of over 10 lakh as part of JNNURM.

Committee on Agrarian Reforms

2352. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted five sub-groups under the Committee on the Agrarian Reforms to work on various aspects of the land reforms policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per the terms of reference of the "Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms", in the first meeting of the Committee, held under the chairmanship of Minister for Rural Development on 19.2.2008, it was decided to set up seven Sub-groups with the following topics/terms of reference:

Sub-groups	ToR/topics assigned
1	2
Sub-group I	To conduct in-depth review of the land ceiling programme in the country including status of distribution of land declared surplus, continued possession by the rural poor of the allotted land and expeditious disposal of land declared surplus but held up due to litigation and to suggest appropriate and effective strategies in this regard. To suggest ways for identification, management, development and distribution of Government/wasteland to the landless. To review the progress of distribution of Bhoodan and Gramdan land in the States and suggest measures for distribution of the remaining Bhoodan/Gramdan land to the landless.
Sub-group II	To examine the issues of tenancy and sub-tenancies and suggest measures for recording of all agricultural tenants and a framework to enable-cultivators of land to lease in and lease out with suitable assurances for fair rent, security of tenure and right to resumption. To examine the issues related to homestead rights and recommend measures for providing land for housing to the families without homestead land and providing approach roads/connectivity for the habitations/homesteads of the poorer or weaker sections.
Sub-group III	To examine the governance issues and convergence of policies relating to land and suggest institutional mechanisms including role of PRIs and PESA for effective implementation of land reform programmes. To examine measures to provide women greater access to, and due rights in, land and other productive assets.

1	2	<p>To examine the issue of setting up of fast track courts/mechanism for speedy disposal of land-related litigation cases.</p> <p>To examine the issues related to environmental/ecological factors in relation to land and suggest appropriate measures in that regard.</p>
Sub-group IV		<p>To examine the issues relating to alienation of lands belonging to the Scheduled Castes or tribal lands including traditional rights of the forest-dependent tribals and other traditional forest dwellers, and to suggest realistic measures including changes required in the relevant laws for restoration of such lands to them.</p> <p>To examine the issues related to alienation due to market forces of the lands belonging to the poorer or weaker sections and to suggest appropriate ameliorative measures in this regard.</p>
Sub-group V		<p>To suggest measures for modernization of land management with special reference to updating of land records, proper recording of land rights and speedy resolution of conflicts and disputes relating to land.</p>
Sub-group VI		<p>To ensure access of the poor to common property and forest resources.</p> <p>To look into the land use aspects, particularly of agricultural land, and recommend measures to prevent/minimize conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, consistent with the development needs of the country.</p>
Sub-group VII		<p>To study the systems of Land Management in the North-East and recommend appropriate measures in relation to them.</p>

Employment Generation for the Urban Poor

2353. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana is very tardy and even the ministry has not been able to spend the allocated amount under SJSRY fully;

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

(c) whether Government has undertaken to modify the existing guidelines for this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which these guidelines are likely to be finalized;

(e) the extent to which the modified guidelines are likely to help urban poor to get employment and steps taken or being taken to utilize the allocated amount within stipulated time in consultation with State Governments; and

(f) other schemes of employment generation for the urban poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The allocations under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) have been fully utilized by the Ministry during the last three years.

(c) and (d) During the course of implementation of the scheme, it was observed that the guidelines of the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) need modification to make it more focused and effective in tackling the needs of urban poor. Accordingly proposals have been prepared for revising the guidelines of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) will focus on self employment of urban poor with entrepreneurial and other support through Micro Business Centres and also on high quality skill upgradation of the urban poor. As per prescribed procedure, the proposal for revision of the guidelines will be placed before the competent authority for approval in due course of time.

(e) It is expected that the revised Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) will effectively help the urban poor in setting up enterprises and also getting high quality skill training so that they can earn enough to run their family decently and rise above the poverty line. Ministry has already pressed upon States/UTs to gear up the machinery for effective implementation of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and utilize the funds released to them under the scheme.

(f) Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is the only urban poverty alleviation scheme targeting exclusively the urban poor living below poverty line.

Allocation under NREGS

2354. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total fund earmarked/allocated and released for implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) during 2007-08;

(b) the fund provision for the Scheme under the Eleventh Plan;

(c) whether the fund allocation is likely to be hiked by Rs.4000 crores during the year 2008-2009; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) NREGA is demand based and, therefore, funds are not allocated under NREGA. A budget provision of Rs. 12000 crore had been made for NREGA for the year 2007-08. During 2007-08, a sum of Rs. 12044.98 crore has been released to the States as on 10.3.2008.

(b) Under the Eleventh Plan, a provision of Rs. 1, 00,000 crore has been made for implementation of NREGA.

(c) and (d) In his Budget speech, Finance Minister has announced that a budget provision of Rs. 16,000 crore will be made for NREGA for the year 2008-09 which is Rs. 4000 crore more than the budget provision made for NREGA for the year 2007-08.

Recovery of NPA from Big Defaulters

2355. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recovery suits have been filed against some of the top defaulting companies for the recovery of Non-performing Assets (NPAs) of banks and Financial Institutions in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years alongwith the due amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Banks / Financial institutions (Fis) adopt various strategies for recovery of their Non-performing Assets (NPAs) in accordance with their Board approved policies such as Corporate Debt Restructuring, re-scheduling of loans, action under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, sale of NPAs to Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) / other banks / Fis, settlement with the borrower under the One Time Settlement Schemes, filing suit before the Debt Recovery Tribunals, etc. Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL) is maintaining a database on suit-filed accounts of Rs. 1 Crore and above and suit-filed accounts (wilful defaulters) of Rs. 25 Lakhs and above. The information is available at its website www.cibil.com.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme

2356. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the physical and financial targets vis-a-vis achievements of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme in Orissa;

(b) the number of Anganwadi Centres running in their own buildings and on rent; and

(c) the number of Anganwadi workers belonging to SCs and STs category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The physical and financial targets vis-a-vis achievements of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in Orissa is as under:

Target	Achievement
Physical	2007-2008
326 ICDS Projects (cumulative)	326 ICDS Projects operationalised (cumulative)
41697 Anganwadi Centres (cumulative)	41697 Anganwadi Centres operationalised (cumulative)
Financial	Under ICDS General, an amount of Rs. 12137.96 lakh during 2006-07 and Rs. 13506.53 lakh during 2007-08 (till date) have been released to Government of Orissa. For supplementary nutrition, an amount of Rs.6646.40 lakh during 2006-07 and Rs.6295.06 lakh during 2007-08(till date) have been released to Government of Orissa.

Development of New Cities in Delhi

2357. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANANI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has prepared a plan for development of five new mega-cities in Delhi;

(b) 14133 Anganwadi Centres are running in their own building and 3344 AWCs are running in rented premises as on December, 2007.

(c) Out of reporting AWCs, 4094 Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) belongs to SCs and 3092 AWWs are STs as on 31.12.2007.

- (b) if so, the details of the plan; and
- (c) the total investment proposed to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) As part of Urban Extension envisaged in the Master Plan of Delhi 2021, to accommodate additional population, new urbanisable areas have been earmarked. The following draft Zonal Plans have been prepared and approved by Authority to accommodate the proposed population in New Urban Extension areas.

Zone 'J'	(South Delhi-II)
Zone 'K-1'	(West Delhi-II)
Zone 'L'	(West Delhi-III)
Zone 'N'	(North West Delhi-III)
Zone 'P-II'	(North Delhi)

These have been interpreted as mega-cities by a section of Press. The draft zonal plans are in the process of finalisation. A provision of Rs.10 crore has been made in the Budget of 2008-09 to carry out further studies.

Films from the Gulf

2358. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a spurt in the Indian stock markets from Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) based in Gulf countries;
- (b) whether they have any bearing on stability of stock market; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been an increase in the number of FIIs/ sub-accounts based in Gulf countries, viz. Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, engaged in the Indian stock markets and their net investments over the period 2005 to 2007.

(b) and (c) The stock market is dynamic in nature and the market movement is influenced by demand and supply interplays as well as a host of other factors.

The movement in stock market indices is a function of perception of the economy or a sector or of index stocks. It also depends on economic factors, domestic and international events, market sentiments, level of floating stock available, corporate performance and future economic growth. The stock market capitalizes the present and future values of

growth opportunities while evaluating the growth of all sectors in economy. The FIIs, cannot, therefore, be said to have any bearing on stability of the stock market.

Safety Standards for Power Plants

2359. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether power plants in the country are observing/implementing international safety standards; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Safety aspects in power plants as also in other industries are governed by the Factories Act, 1948 and Rules made thereunder. The boilers in thermal power stations are designed and manufactured in compliance with the Indian Boiler Act, 1923 and Indian Boiler Regulations, 1950 made thereunder. Some Thermal Power Plants of NTPC Limited and other utilities have obtained "OHSAS-18001" certification – an international standard which prescribes the requirements for occupational health and safety management system, similar to the Indian standard, "IS-18001".

Central Electricity Authority has invited comments/suggestions on the draft regulations for 'Safety requirements for construction, operation and maintenance of electric plants and electric lines' prepared by them under Section 73 (c) of the Electricity Act, 2003.

Pending CCDU Proposals

2360. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is establishing Communication and Capacity Development Units (CCDU) in various States for Drinking Water and Sanitation;
- (b) if so, whether separate units are being sanctioned for States where Drinking Water and Sanitation are dealt with by different Ministries/Departments; and
- (c) the number of proposals for sanctioning separate Communication and Capacity Development Units lying pending for approval with the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Proposals for separate Communication and Capacity Development Units have been received from Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala. All proposals have been accepted and funds have been released in 2007-08 for Gujarat, West Bengal and Kerala.

*[Translation]***Monitoring of Welfare Schemes**

2361. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether implementation of national level sponsored programmes and schemes for Women and Children are not being monitored properly in the country resulting in wastage of most of the central funds;

(b) the number of Non Government Organisations found guilty in monitoring the implementation of above programmes and schemes during the last three years alongwith the names thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government to recover the misappropriated funds and the action taken against the members of the Non-Government Organisations during the last three years alongwith the State-wise names of these NGOs; and

(d) the details of the action taken against Government officers and employees found involved therein alongwith the nature of action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir. All the schemes of Ministry of Women and Child Development are being properly monitored through an in-built system of monitoring in each scheme.

(b) and (c) None. However, the Central Social Welfare Board an associated organization of the Ministry of Women and Child Development has found two Non Governmental Organisations guilty during the last three years and blacklisted them. The concerned State Social Welfare Boards have been ordered to take action against these blacklisted organizations. State-wise names of these NGOs has been given in the enclosed statement.

(d) No Government officer/employee found involved, hence no action is warranted.

Statement**Bihar:**

1. Bhagwan Budh Vikas Seva Samiti
Mother Teresa School Camps
North Mandiri, Banaghat
South of Kalik Mandir Patna, Bihar.

Uttar Pradesh:

2. Nagesh Serve Seva Sansthan
Village- Attahaisa
Distt. Bahraich
PO Mustafabad
U.P.

*[English]***High Maternal Mortality in West Bengal**

2362. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether maternal mortality rate is very high in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to check high maternal mortality rate in assistance with UNICEF and State Commission for women; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per Registrar General of India, the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in West Bengal is 194 per 1,00,000 live births. The comparative figures of MMR in the major States of the country are enclosed as Statement.

(b) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched by the Government of India in the year 2005, in order to improve the availability and access to quality health care, including services for Immunization and Safe Motherhood seeks to provide effective health care to rural population, throughout the country with special focus on 18 States with weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure.

In order to bring about a reduction in MMR, the Government of India is implementing the following key interventions all over the country including the State of West Bengal:

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women; Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every 1000 population to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women; operationalizing Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRU) and 50% of all Primary Health Centers for providing 24X7 delivery services by 2012; augmenting the availability of Skilled Manpower by means of different skill based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendant Training, Training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarian Section; prevention and treatment of Anemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets; organizing of Village Health & Nutrition Day at Anganwadi

center; supplementary nutrition to pregnant and lactating women under the ICDS scheme; implementation of Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities, including District Hospitals, CHCs and PHCs to improve quality of services by providing infrastructure, equipment and specialist man-power; Strengthening of Health Facilities, that is, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHCs) Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub Centres (SCs), by providing them with funds including untied grants, Annual Maintenance Grants (AMG) and Corpus Funds to improve service delivery; Setting up of Rogi Kalyan Samitis (Hospital Management Committees) at District Hospitals, CHCs and PHCs; Setting up of Village Health and Sanitation Committees at village level.

(c) and (d) All development partners, supporting the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, including United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), have agreed in principle to move towards a programme approach under the common framework of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) II Programme.

Statement

Maternal Mortality Ratio India and State wise
(Source: RGI, (SRS), 1997-'98, 1999-'01, 2001-'03)

Major State	MMR (1997-98)	MMR (1999-01)	MMR (2001-03)
India Total*	398	327	301
Assam	568	398	490
Bihar/ Jharkhand	531	400	371
Madhya Pradesh/ Chhattisgarh	441	407	379
Orissa	346	424	358
Rajasthan	508	501	445
Uttar Pradesh/ Uttaranchal	606	539	517
Andhra Pradesh	197	220	195
Karnataka	245	266	228
Kerala	150	149	110
Tamil Nadu	131	167	134
Gujarat	46	202	172
Haryana	136	176	162
Maharashtra	166	169	149
Punjab	280	177	178
West Bengal	303	218	194
Others	-	276	235

*: Includes Others

ULIP

2363. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the proportion of Unit Link Insurance Policy (ULIP) in percentage of total business of LIC during each of last three years; and

(b) the premium collected by LIC through ULIP Plans and the manner in which it benefits the infrastructure development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per information provided by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the proportion of Unit Link Insurance Policy (ULIP) in percentage of its total business during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Total Business		% of ULIP to Total Business	
	Policies	First Premium Income	Policies	First Premium Income
2006-07	38208575	39541.58	45.76	79.83
2005-06	31572547	18085.49	7.10	42.20
2004-05	23959703	12174.11	7.19	35.25

(b) The First Premium collected by LIC through ULIP in the last three years is as under:-

Year	Unit Linked Business	
	Policies	First Premium Income (Rs. in crore)
2006-07	17484520	31556.80
2005-06	2242227	7631.78
2004-05	1723718	4291.25

As per the Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA) Regulations, ULIP funds are invested in marketable and easily realizable assets. LIC has reported that out of its total investment of Rs. 70,981 crore under ULIP business as on 07.03.2008, an amount of Rs.6,817 crore has been invested in Equities of companies engaged in infrastructure activities.

IDSMT

2364. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of project on Integrated Development to Small and Medium Towns received from all over the country during financial year 2007-08; and

(b) the status and progress on those project reports, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Centrally sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) has been subsumed in Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) since its launch on 03rd December, 2005. Therefore, no new proposals under IDSMT have been entertained during 2007-08.

[Translation]

Houses Facilities in Metropolitan Cities

2365. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating any policy to for construction of cheaper houses for lower and middle income group people in view the rising prices of houses in metropolitan cities of the country;

(b) if so, the time by which the policy would be finalised; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) 'Land' and 'colonisation' being State subjects, it is primarily for the State Governments to provide for affordable houses for the people. However, the Central Government formulated the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy (NUHHP), 2007 which has been laid on the Table of both Houses of the Parliament on 7.12.2007 and also widely circulated amongst various State Governments and other stakeholders. The policy focuses the spotlight on multiple stake-holders namely, the Private Sector, the Cooperative Sector, the Industrial Sector for labour housing and the Services/Institutional Sector for employee housing for realizing the goal of 'Affordable Housing for All'.

[English]

Reforms in Power Sector

2366. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes new reforms package for investment in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details of the outlay fixed for the new package;

(c) the details of the component contained in the new scheme; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to achieve the various targets during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Reforms in power sector are an on-going process. Electricity is a concurrent subject. The Central Government has taken various reform initiatives, inter alia, for mobilizing investment in the power sector, such as:

1. The Electricity Act, 2003 has put in place a liberal and progressive legal framework including features like open access, non-requirement of license for generation and freely permitting captive power plants.
2. An independent regulatory framework at Centre and State levels.
3. The Appellate Tribunal for Electricity under the Electricity Act, 2003 has been made operational facilitating expeditious settlement of disputes.
4. Permitting 100% foreign direct investment in power sector.
5. The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for assisting the States in investment in sub-transmission and distribution segments and also for incentivising better financial performance by the State Power Utilities.
6. Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana with 90% capital subsidy from the Central Government for providing access to electricity in rural areas. The scheme gives a special emphasis on mechanisms for improved revenue collection.
7. The Tariff Policy notified under the Act provides for competitive procurement of power in a transparent manner in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government.
8. Mega Power Policy gives various tax incentives for promoting accelerated generation in capacity addition.

Increase in Economic Offences

2367. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Economic Offences have increased substantially during the last three years; and

(b) if so, whether Government is considering any special steps to prevent, curb and control the growth of Economic Offences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The term Economic Offence is neither clearly defined nor is its categorization uniformly accepted in order to draw accurate conclusions. However, from the data of last three years of evasion of duties of central excise, customs and service tax and show cause notices issued for contraventions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, given in the enclosed statement, no specific trend is discernible.

(b) Does not arise, in view of reply to (a) above. Nevertheless, the Government is taking appropriate steps to prevent, curb and control growth of economic offences.

Statement

(I) Details of goods seized and customs duty evasion cases detected by the Customs Department:

(Value Rupees in Crores)

Year	Seizure Value	Customs Duty Evasion Cases
2004-05	859.30	1080.40
2005-06	675.17	760.32
2006-07	689.16	900.01

(II) The number of central excise and service tax cases and duty evasion:

Year	Number of Cases detected during the year	Duty Evasion (Rupees in Crores)
2004-05	4813	2696.48
2005-06	7621	4663.33
2006-07	7199	4123.93

(III) Number of Show Cause Notices (SCN) issued under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:

Year	No. of SCNs issued
2005	780
2006	701
2007	239

Sustainable Community Managed Drinking Water Supply

2368. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for drinking water supply through Sustainable Community managed Drinking Water Supply for Rural Areas of Backward Tribal districts has been received by the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) A project proposal entitled 'Sustainable community-managed drinking water supply infrastructure for rural areas of backward tribal districts of Panchmahal and Dahod in Gujarat State' was received from the Government of Gujarat for external assistance under Japanese grant-in-aid programme, which was forwarded to the Department of Economic Affairs (DBA), Ministry of Finance. The DBA has informed the Department that the project has not been found suitable for seeking assistance from the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) ODA loan, as the amount of assistance sought is very small. The same has been communicated to the Government of Gujarat.

12.00 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

Business of the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to make an important announcement.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has requested me that in order to enable more Members to participate in the ongoing further General Discussion on the Budget (General 2008-09 and to dispose of all the questions necessary in connection with the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2008-09 and Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2007-08, the discussion may be taken up immediately after the Question Hour, the lunch hour may be dispensed with and the Private Members' Business fixed for today may be transferred to the next part of the Session.

If the House agrees, there will be no lunch break today. The Private Members' Business (Resolutions) fixed for today may be transferred to 17th April, 2008 thereby protecting the rights of the Members in whose names Private Members' Resolutions are listed in today's Revised List of Business.

Are you agreeable to this proposal?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, you have said that there is no Private Members' Business today. We would like to know at what time the Finance Minister will reply to the discussion on the General Budget ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You want to know the time of the reply of the hon. Finance Minister. We shall find it out. Let us see.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Let him give the reply at five o' clock. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Five o' clock is too late.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Should the same be taken between 5 o'clock to six o'clock?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please get the zero hour started. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow some important two or three matters of urgent public importance to be raised now. Please cooperate because this is a very important discussion. So many hon. colleagues wish to take part in this discussion and I wish to give them the opportunity because of the importance of the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, Every time, it is always Private Member's Business fixed to be taken up on a particular day, which is shifted to be discussed on some other day. It is not right.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I know that. We always sacrifice the Private Members' Business. It should not be done. On this matter, I will call a meeting and we will find out.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, this is the third time we are doing it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: It has happened so earlier also. ...*(Interruptions)* It was taken up neither on that day nor it is being taken up today. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is only being postponed. The same Private Members' Business (Resolutions) will be there on that day.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, At what time will the hon'ble Minister give reply?

[English]

We would like to be present at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): As far as timing is concerned, there is no convenience. The debate on the General Budget can continue and the Finance Minister can reply to the debate around 4.15 p.m. or 4.30 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, that is all right.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Thereafter, the other items such as Appropriation, Vote on Accounts, etc. can be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, four o' clock is all right.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Finance Minister can reply at 4.15 p.m. today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. It is agreed that the hon. Finance Minister will give the reply at 4.15 p.m. today. Thank you for your cooperation.

Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

12.03 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003:—
 - (i) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. L-7/25(5)/2003-CERC in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2007.
 - (ii) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of revenue derived from utilization of transmission assets for other business) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. F No. L-7A 06(122)/CERC-2007 in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8256/08]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007 together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8257/08]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Power, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8258/08]

- (4) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Power, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8259/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): On behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8260/08]

- (3) A copy of the "Recruitment Regulations" of Director (Ministerial) Delhi Development Authority, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 6 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2008 under section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8261/08]

- (4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Capital Region Planning Board, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8262/08]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) The Ministry of Finance for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8263/08]

- (2) Parliaments, Secretariats of the President and Vice-President for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8264/08]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8265/08]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. O.N. 2(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2008 making certain amendments in the order No. 9 dated the 16th May, 2005 under sub-section (3) of section 10 of the Delimitation Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8266/08]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 10A of the Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008:-

(i) S.O.283(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2008 deferring the delimitation exercise in the State of Assam with immediate effect and until further orders.

(ii) S.O.284(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2008 deferring the delimitation exercise in the State of Arunachal Pradesh with immediate effect and until further orders.

(iii) S.O.285(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2008 deferring the delimitation exercise in the State of Nagaland with immediate effect and until further orders.

(iv) S.O. 286 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2008 deferring the delimitation exercise in the State of Manipur with immediate effect and until further orders.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8267/08]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Notaries Act, 1952:—

- (i) The Notaries (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 669(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2007.
- (ii) The Notaries (Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 51 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8268/08]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T. 8269/08]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): On behalf of Shri Prem Chand Gupta, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Notification No. 1-CA(7)/104/2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2007 establishing the Disciplinary Directorate headed by Shri T. Karthikeyan, the Director of the Institute for making investigations in respect of any information on complaint received by it, issued under section 21 of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8270/08]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2104(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2007 establishing a Tribunal consisting of one Presiding Officer and two members to decide the dispute under section 10A of the Cost and Works Accountant Act, 1959 issued under section 10B of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8271/08]

(3) A copy of the Competition Commission of India (Term of the Selection Committee and the manner of selection of panel of names) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 111 (E) in Gazette of India dated 27th February, 2008, under sub-section (3) of section 63 of the Competition Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8272/08]

(4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 719(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2007 making certain amendments in the Schedule-VI of the Companies Act, 1956 issued under sub-section (3) of section 841 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8273/08]

(5) A copy of the Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Third Amendment) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 720(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2007 under sub-section (3) of section 842 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8274/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): On behalf of Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(iii) A copy of the Conclusion and Recommendations (Hindi and English versions) on the Annual Report of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(iv) A copy of the Action Taken Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8275/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Planning for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8276/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—
- (i) G.S.R 753(E) and G.S.R. 754(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 68/2007-Cus. (N.T.) dated the 16th July, 2007.
 - (ii) G.S.R 768(E) to G.S.R. 770(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 68/2007-Cus. (N.T.) dated the 16th July, 2007.
 - (iii) G.S.R 57(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (iv) G.S.R 741 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (v) G.S.R. 788(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (vi) G.S.R. 24(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No.20/2006-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2006.
 - (vii) G.S.R. 33(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to grant additional tariff concessions to 539 tariff items under India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.
 - (viii) G.S.R. 53(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus. dated the 23rd July, 1996.

- (ix) G.S.R. 797(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (x) G.S.R. 799(E) and GS.R. 800(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in two Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xi) G.S.R. 67(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus. dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (xii) G.S.R. 773(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 113/2003-Cus. dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 119(E) to GS.R. 128(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Customs Duty changes in context of the Budget proposals pertaining to indirect taxes as announced by Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on 29th February, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8277/08]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act. 1975:—
- (i) G.S.R. 68(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to continue anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of flexible-slabstock polyol or FSP, originating in, or exported from, the United States of America, to offset dumping and against Singapore and Japan to prevent recurrence of dumping in order to remove the likelihood of injury to the domestic industry at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 69(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding to Notification No. 120/2002-Cus. dated the 31st October, 2002.

- (iii) G.S.R. 4(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend levy of anti-dumping duty on imports of Mulberry Raw Silk originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, upto and inclusive of 1st January, 2009.
- (iv) G.S.R. 8(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 117/2003-Cus. dated the 24th July, 2003.
- (v) G.S.R. 9(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the notification No. 102/2006-Cus. dated the 29th September, 2006.
- (vi) G.S.R. 12(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 165/2003-Cus. dated the 12th November, 2003.
- (vii) G.S.R. 20(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on imports of Trimethoprim, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (viii) G.S.R. 21(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding the Notification No. 89/2002-Cus. dated the 3rd September, 2002.
- (ix) G.S.R. 28(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding the Notification No. 122/2002-Cus. dated the 31st October, 2002.
- (x) G.S.R. 29(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding the Notification No. 100/2006-Cus. dated the 29th September, 2006.
- (xi) G.S.R. 52(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of Homopolymer of vinyl chloride monomer, originating in, or exported from, Taiwan, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea RP, Malaysia, Thailand and USA and imported into India.
- (xii) G.S.R. 735(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th November, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provisionally exempt imports of nylon tyre cord fabrics, exported by M/s Quingdao Lian Chuang Stock Company Limited. People's Republic of China and imported into India from, anti-dumping duty.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 747(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Ceftriaxone Sodium Sterile, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China and imported into India.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 776(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on imports into India of Compact Fluorescent Lamps, exported by M/s Ossam China Lighting, People's Republic of China with effect from the 13th February, 2006.
- (xv) G.S.R. 777(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding the Notification No. 7/2006-Cus. dated the 13th February, 2006.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 784(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 142/2003-Cus. dated the 23rd September, 2003.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 798(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on imports of Steel Wheels originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China and imported into China.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 96(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2008, together with

an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on imports of Phosphoric acid, technical grade or food grade including industrial grade, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China.

- (xix) G.S.R. 97(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 104/2007-Cus., dated the 14th September, 2007.
- (xx) G.S.R. 129(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8278/08]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section(2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

- (i) The Central Excise (Amendment) Rules, 2008, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 40(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G.S.R. 42(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the two Notifications mentioned therein.
- (iii) G.S.R. 64(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 2/2006-CE(N.T.) dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (iv) The Central Excise (Compounding of Offences) Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 790(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (v) G.S.R. 743(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 20/2006-CE(N.T.) dated the 30th September, 2006.
- (vi) The Central Excise (Second Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No.

G.S.R. 58(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (vii) G.S.R. 81(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 45/2001-CE(N.T.) dated the 26th June, 2001.
- (viii) G.S.R. 130(E) to G.S.R. 142(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Central Excise duty changes and exemption in context of Budget proposals pertaining to indirect taxes as announced by Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on 29th February, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8279/08]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:—

- (i) G.S.R. 739(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 41/2007-Service Tax dated the 6th October, 2007.
- (ii) G.S.R. 740(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt by way of refund of service tax paid, the taxable service, namely business exhibition service provided to manufacturers of goods who are registered as exporters of such goods with any of the organizations mentioned therein for a period of upto 31st March, 2009.
- (iii) The Service Tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 791(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iv) G.S.R. 94(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 41/2007-Service Tax dated the 6th October, 2007.

- (v) G.S.R. 148(E) to G.S.R. 159(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding certain changes made in Service Tax in context of the Budget proposals announced by Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on 29th February, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8280/08]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 55(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum appointing 25th day of January, 2008 as the date of the purpose of clause (ii) of section 133 of the Finance Act, 2007 issued under section 133 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8281/08]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 41(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to specify the form of the quarterly return to be filed by units availing areas based exemptions in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, issued under Central Excise Rules, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8282/08]

- (7) A copy of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Amendment Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1837(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2007 under sub-section (3) of section 38 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8283/08]

- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications under sub-section (4) of section 23 A of the Regional Rural Bank Act, 1976:—

- (i) S.O. 2015(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2007, regarding Amalgamation of Kishan Gramin Bank, Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Rani Laxmibai Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank.
- (ii) S.O. 2162(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2007, regarding dissolution of Kishan Gramin Bank, Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Rani Laxmibai Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8284/08]

- (9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:—

(i) The Income Tax (Fifteenth Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O. 1989(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 2007.

(ii) The Income Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. S.O. 113 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8285/08]

- (10) A copy of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 2(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2008, under section 77 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8286/08]

- (11) A copy of the Notification No. F. No. DGIT (Admin.) / HRD/2007-2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2007 containing the Presidential Assent to the constitution of the Directorate of Income-Tax, Human Resource Development (HRD), Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8287/08]

- (12) A copy of the consolidated report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Public Sector Banks as on 31st March, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8288/08]

- (13) A copy of the Bangiya Gramin Vikas Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 46 in weekly Gazette of India dated the 17th November, 2007 under sub-section (2) of section 30 of Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8289/08]

- (14) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:—

(i) The Securities and Exchange Board of the India (Depositories and Participants) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. 11/LC/GN/2007/4485 in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2007.

(ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Institutional Investors) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. 11/LC/GM/2007/31/12/2007 in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8290/08]

(15) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, India, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (3) of section 20 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8291/08]

(16) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Minister, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(17) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8292/08]

(18) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution:—

(i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Defence Services) (No. CA 4 of 2008)—(Compliance Audit)—Army and Ordnance Factories for the year ended the March 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8293/08]

(ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Civil) (No. CA 2 of 2008)—Autonomous Bodies for the year ended the March 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8294/08]

(iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Scientific Department) (No. CA 3 of 2008)—(Compliance Audit) for the year ended the March 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8295/08]

(iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Defence Services) (No. CA 5 of 2008)—(Compliance Audit) Air Force and Navy for the year ended the March 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8296/08]

(19) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:—

(i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing or Lending in Foreign Exchange) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 663(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2007.

(ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 664(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2007.

(iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing or Lending in Rupees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 711(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2007.

(iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 712(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2007.

(v) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 713(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2007.

(vi) The Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 714(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2007.

- (vii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Realisation, Repatriation and Surrender of Foreign Exchange) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 715(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8297/08]

- (20) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) (under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906:—

- (i) The Coinage of the Five Rupees coined to commemorate the occasion of "State Bank of India Bicentennial Year" Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 45(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2008.
- (ii) The Coinage of the Five Rupees coined to commemorate the occasion of "Lal Bahadur Shastri Birth Centenary (1904—2004)" Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 47(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8298/08]

- (21) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 782(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing a special procedure for payment of duty in respect of pan masala and pan masala containing tobacco, issued under Rule 15 of the Central Excise Rules, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No.L.T.8299/08]

12.04 hrs.

**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA***

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha.

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account

Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th March, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th March, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No.2 Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th March, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (iv) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the V Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 13th March, 2008 agreed without any amendment to the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th March, 2008."

- (v) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 13th March, 2008."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 13th February, 2008.

12.05 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

25th, 26th, 32nd, 37th, and 39th Reports

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the following Action Taken Reports of the Public Accounts Committee:

* Laid on the Table.

- (1) 25th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "Non-realisation of Foreign exchange";
- (2) 26th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "Ganga Action Plan";
- (3) 32nd Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (2002-2003)";
- (4) 37th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "Review of Norms for re-appropriation of funds"; and
- (5) 39th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "Procurement and Utilization of Plant and Equipment in DRDO".

12.05 ½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

21st and 22nd Reports

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution:—

- (1) Twenty-first Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Eighteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution); and
- (2) Twenty-second Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

12.06 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

[English]

- (i) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in twentieth Report of Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Law and Justice on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Ministry of Law and Justice***

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I am making this statement on the status

of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Law & Justice. The present status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House, and I request that the same may be considered as read.

12.06 ½ hrs.

- (ii) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in twenty-seventh Report of Standing Committee on Rural Development on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development***

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Twentyseventh Report (27th) of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of Direction 73 A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II dated September 01, 2004.

The Twentyseventh Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (14th Lok Sabha) was presented in the Lok Sabha on 14th May, 2007. The Report relates to the examination of Demands for Grants of the Department of Land Resources for 2007-2008. The Report contained 34 recommendations. An Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Report of the Committee was sent to the Standing Committee on Rural Development on 27.8.2007.

These recommendations pertain mainly to amendment to Land Acquisition Act, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy, implementation of new schemes for watershed development, computerization/updates of land records and launching of bio-fuel scheme during Eleventh Five Year Plan.

The present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.07 hrs

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE

* Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library. See No. L.T.8300/08.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. L.T. 8301/08.

IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 17th of March, 2008, will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the following Ordinances and consideration and passing of Bills replacing these Ordinances:-
 - (a) The Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008;
 - (b) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Ordinance, 2008;
 - (c) The Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 2008.
3. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 and consideration and passing of the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
4. Consideration and passing of the National Waterway (Talcher-Dhamra) Stretch of Rivers, Geonkhali-Charbatia Stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dhamra Stretch of Matai River and Mahanadi Delta Rivers) Bill, 2006.
5. Consideration and passing of the National Jute Board Bill, 2006.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE (Jalgaon): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:-

- (1) The banana crop in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra has completely destroyed due to outbreak of cankerous disease called KARPA. The banana growers suffered a loss of 300 crore rupees. The Government should immediately provide assistance to those suffering farmers.
- (2) The district banks and financial institutions have a vital role in co-operative sector. But, they are continuously becoming sick. The Union Government should immediately take effective steps to urgently provide assistance to them in the light of the Vaidyanathan Committee's Report.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:-

1. Discussion on the withdrawal of Reserve Bank of India from the operation of many of its core functions, which are statutorily or historically devolved on it, by a policy of indiscriminate outsourcing and downsizing and non-expansion of its geographical reach, which will have a very adverse impact on the country's economy;
2. Discussion on the need to set up 'The India Infrastructure Project Development Fund' to assist States to meet project development costs and to prepare a shelf of infrastructure projects to meet the ever increasing need for development of infrastructure in the country.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:-

- (1) The Women Reservation Bill for the Parliament and State Assembly may be brought in the current Budget Session itself;
- (2) Proper compensation should be given immediately to the farmers of Dumuka Revenue Circle under Marshaghai Block of Kendrapara district of Orissa who have lost their land for the Haridaspur-Paradeep railway line.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (Bolangir): Sir, we associate her on the issue of Women Reservation Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Sir, I also associate her on this issue of Women Reservation Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a unanimous demand. Is it?

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I join in that.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Thank you, very much, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): It is not a unanimous demand ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): It is not a unanimous demand. You first introduce the bill and then you will come to know. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Except a few members, the demand has been made by the rest of the members unanimously.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, get the discussion held on this, next week, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please bring round your friend.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: He will be agreed to. If you held the discussion, everything will be alright.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:-

- (1) Need to urgently approve the Estimates of rupees four crores prepared for the construction of the Research Centre run by the CCRAS under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India at the Tadikhhet Development Block in Almora district of Uttarakhand; and
- (2) Need to approve the extension of gas pipe line from Bareilly to Haldwani to Dehradun in Uttarakhand keeping in view the huge shortage of the LPG.

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda of the Lok Sabha:-

- (1) The survey for conversion of metre gauge line into broad gauge line between Jetalsar and Dhansa in my Parliamentary Constituency has been conducted and the same was also covered in the previous budget, but the Planning Commission and the Railways postponed the work pertaining to the said extension. This item may be included in the discussion.
- (2) The cost of production of wheat has recently gone up due to which the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for the same. Therefore, the item for providing remunerative prices to them may be included in the discussion.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

1. Existing system of Public Distribution System is not sufficient throughout the country whereas 50 per cent curtailment of rice and wheat of the existing system of PDS in case of West Bengal and 80 per cent curtailment of rice and wheat of the existing system of PDS in Kerala. Need for immediate restoration of the existing system and 14 essential commodities should be supplied to both BPL and APL families.

2. If Government of India wish to be the second largest steel producer in the world within 2025, the Government should ban export of iron ore, specially haematite because reserves of iron ore will be less within 2030 and 2040.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to mention only the subject matter, not the issue.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following two items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Central Government had decided that a joint meet of Chief Ministers of States and officers will be convened before the Draft National Mineral Policy 2007 is taken up by the Cabinet. It should be considered before being finalized. I would like to submit that the Hon'ble Prime Minister had assured the Chief Ministers of five States, but it is a matter of regret that this assurance is not being fulfilled.
2. A proposal for sanctioning a rope way in Jaipur city of Rajasthan is lying pending with the Central Government. It may be considered.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is essential to take decision on these two subjects. First of all, you should ask the Central Government that it should implement the report, only after having consultation with the Chief Ministers of States.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no such system.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria – not present.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

1. General norms regarding holidays should be refixed. Reserve Bank of India's notification in the internet on 11.03.08 shows Good Friday – the date of crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the 21st March, 2008 as a working holiday in eight States, including the State of Kerala. This is not justifiable and should be withdrawn.
2. Dam safety of old dams in India to be taken most seriously and old dams like the most dangerous one, which is one hundred years old, Mullaperiyar Dam should be reconstructed.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the use of mentioning the whole thing?

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, kindly allow the following items to be included in the List of Business of next week:-

1. Establishment of Indian Institute of Technology in Gujarat;
2. Establishing Indian Institute of Science Education.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already agreed that today the discussion on General Budget will be taken up immediately after the Question Hour. Now, we have taken another 15 minutes for laying papers on the Table and other business.

12.15 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

RE: Problems being faced by the Haj Pilgrims

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now I will allow three matters. I would earnestly beseech all the hon. Members not to press for it because you have already agreed that the debate on Budget will start after the Question Hour.

Now, I invite Shri Ramji Lal Suman. Please be very brief. Please wait. I will call other two Members also.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr, Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude for giving me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, there is no need of expressing gratitude. Time is short, please speak out what you want to say.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, Haj pilgrims of our country faced a lot of difficulties this year. Baggage belonging to most of the Haj pilgrims is yet to be received and some Haj Pilgrims had to go back to the airport again to collect their belongings. Earlier when a Haji carried a luggage of more than 45kg he was charged at the rate of 13 Riyal per kilogram, during this trip charges were at the rate of 55 Riyal per kilogram. Flights of most of Hajis were delayed by 12, 18 or 24 hrs. and the Hajis who were to return to Lucknow were compelled to stay at Jeddah for upto five days. Flights were not regular, the Holy water Zam-Zam was not offered to the Hajis at the time of their arrival at airport. During this trip Zam-Zam was not offered to them. I would like to submit that even today there are hundreds of Hajis who have not received their luggage till now and they have been told that their luggage is missing.

After 1994 no Haji went for Haj by ship and we, the Haj Seva Samiti and other Organisations have been requesting the Government to shift the office of the Haj Committee to Delhi. The complaints which Hajis have, are put before the Haj Committee and the Haj Committee has no legal empowerment. It should be conferred with Legal status. This is a very serious matter. The most important is that Indian Airlines has taken the responsibility to transport them. ...*(Interruptions)* this system must be improved. Hon'ble External Affairs Minister is here. Government should pay the compensation to those Hajis who have lost their luggage. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble member, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Smt. Jaya Prada, Shri Ravi Prakash Verma, Shri Neeraj Shekhar have associated themselves with the issue raised by Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

Al right, Sumanji, you have made your point. Now please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow anything more to be recorded. Do not record.

*(Interruptions) *...*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? You have raised it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, Government must call for information in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Government will not do it.

[English]

He has raised it. You have not even taken the trouble of giving a notice.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The Government should give reply in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow any response to be given now.

* Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): Sir, the hon. Minister will respond.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister is here. He should reply on this issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot compel me to agree to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will not allow him because you are not cooperating with me. I will not allow this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you can have a brief intervention.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I would like to share one information with the hon. Member that this year this problem happened because of certain mismatch. Normally, the Haj pilgrims carry it as accompanying baggage, but this time Air India could not make arrangements, and there is a provision, a standing order in Saudi Arabia that bulk quantity of jamjam water is not permitted to be exported or to be taken outside Saudi Arabia. But to overcome this problem, during the visit of His Royal Highness, the Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, I took it up with him. He came to India just a few weeks back and he has agreed to make one time dispensation. Now our Consulates have been instructed to send it in bulk quantity and through the Central Haj Committee and the State Haj Committees, it will be distributed to all the registered Haj pilgrims.

SHRI. PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today through you I would like to request the Chair and not the Government. I would like to submit that when an issue is raised in the House, be it by way of question or through zero-hour notices or through calling attention notices, if any ruling is given thereon by the Chair or any assurance is given by the Government then it is assumed that there has been an agreement over the issue and the same shall be implemented by the Government. I had raised the issue of inclusion of Bhojpuri language in the Eighth schedule of the Constitution through calling attention motion

to which the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had already responded way back in Dec., 2006 that the whole process has been completed in this regard and a bill would be introduced in the Lok Sabha at the beginning of the next session.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): The same is about Rajasthani language as well.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Rajasthani was also supposed to be included. At that time the Chair had agreed to consider this issue sympathetically.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Prabhunath Singh, I would like to say that it is correct. Therefore, I would request the Minister

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I generally speak in your favour.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We are confident that you speak in our favour. However, I want to request you that in the past Kolkata has been the capital of Bengal, Orissa and Bihar. By that account. We have emotional affiliations with you. You are Somnath, whatsoever is requested to you, you bless and the work is done. You have every right and there are several instances to substantiate it.

MR. SPEAKER: Currently, the scene is just opposite. Somnath himself is in need of blessings.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You have the power of destruction also. I would like you to personify as Rudra and trample down the Government. This issue also pertains to the dignity and esteem of the all Bhojpuri Speaking people.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): I too associate myself with this issue.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Rajasthani language should also be included in the eight schedule.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give them one more opportunity before I take my "Sanghar" attitude. I will request the Government to make a statement about the position on this for both Bhojpuri and Rajasthani.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please present your views peacefully.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice on an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You just forgot what happened three days ago.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would now like to call Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. Please be very brief.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, let him stop first. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hindi speaking people are being killed in Assam.

MR. SPEAKER: You give the notice. You will be given an opportunity on Monday.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, but you all have agreed to it that there will be no 'Zero Hour' now.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am extremely sorry to take time from you to raise this matter, which in my opinion is a gross interference in the internal affairs of India by the Bush Administration. It has been flashed today on the small screen that the State Department of the Bush Administration has published a Report on Human Right Violation, and has referred to Nandigram. It has categorically said that there has been a massacre and breakdown of law and order, and that the Government had failed to restrain its cadres from carrying out carnage. I agree that there may be different perception on the question of Nandigram in the House, but it is not the issue. The issue is that anything that happens in India is a matter of concern of the Government of India; the Parliament of India; the State Government of India; and the people of India.

MR. SPEAKER: I think that all that we should do is that we should respond adequately by ignoring it, and treating it with the contempt it deserves.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, just one minute. My point is this. Will you and the Parliament allow the Bush Administration to issue such a Report? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dasgupta, we are not bound by it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I condemn the Report with contempt, and I ask the Parliament to join me against this interference in the internal affairs of India by the Bush Administration. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we would take up further discussion on the Budget (General) for 2008-2009. I would now call the name of Shri Kharabela Swain.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, it requires the contempt of the entire House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dasgupta, you have made your statement. No more, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, yesterday the Cabinet has taken a decision and finalized the National Mineral Policy. ...(Interruptions) The House is in Session. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The rest of the matters of urgent public importance will be taken up after the reply on the Budget discussion.

I would now call the name of Shri Kharabela Swain to start his speech on the discussion.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, it is a serious matter. Please give me a couple of minutes to speak on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you. Mr. Tripathy, I would request you to please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow you even ½ a second. Sorry, I cannot allow it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the House is in Session. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record anything.

(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I may be allowed to speak from this seat. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I am asking you to start your speech.

* Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you saying all this when it is not being recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are the Leader of a Party, and you are not listening to the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How is it possible to run the House like this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Please do not record one word.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it at the end of the day.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please deliver your speech at 6 p.m.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record it. It can be raised after the conclusion of the Budget reply.

...(Interruptions)

12.26 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET (2008-2009) –
GENERAL DISCUSSION

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT
(GENERAL) (2008-09)

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS
(GENERAL) (2007-08) – contd.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I may be allowed to speak from this seat.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you are allowed to do so.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the main thrust of the Budget proposal of 2008-2009 is loan waiver of the farmers. Of course, neither I nor my Party is against it. We are in favour of the loan waiver. Our Party has very strongly suggested relief to the farmers whose suicide has been monotonously regular. Of course, it is true that the economists of this country have painted this loan waiver of the farmers as bad politics, and bad economics also.

12.27 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair)

The hon. Finance Minister has suggested that the benefit of the loan waiver will go to 4 crore farmers and it will be to the extent of Rs. 60,000 crore. But my point is this. How did the hon. Finance Minister arrive at this figure of 4 crore farmers and Rs. 60,000 crore?

The NSS Indebted Survey for 2003-2004, which is a Government survey, says that the total number of loans overdue to farmers are to the tune of 3.8 crore. Out of these 3.8 crore, 1.5 crore are large farmers who are not going to get benefited. They are only going to get benefited to the extent of 25 per cent provided they agree to repay rest of it, that is, 75 per cent. Therefore, if we go through that NSS Report, then we find that it is going to benefit only 2.25 crore small and marginal farmers as a whole. But the hon. Finance Minister says that it will benefit 4 crore farmers.

Secondly, I am coming to another Report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Trend and Progress of Banking in India is a Report by RBI of last year. It says that outstanding crop loan by the Commercial Banks is to the tune of only Rs. 6,000 crore; for Cooperative Banks it is to the tune of only Rs. 23,000 crore; and for the Regional Rural Banks it is only to the tune of Rs. 3,000 crore. This is a Report by the RBI, which is the central bank of this country and the regulator of the Commercial Banks of this country. It says that if 100 per cent loan waiver takes place for the small and marginal farmers, then it will be only to the extent of Rs. 23,000 crore.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): You are reading a report written in the newspaper by Surjit Bhalla. You must say you accept that report. Have you analyzed it?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Generally, we are laymen, and we do not have access to all the reports as the hon. Finance Minister is having. As a Member of the Opposition, I have just stated whatever has appeared in the newspaper. The hon. Minister pretty well knows that Mr. Surjit Bhalla wrote it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You are not a layman. Mr. Swain, you said it as though it is an authentic report. You should have prefaced it by saying it is a newspaper report by an author. Then, I would have kept quiet. You did not preface that. You made it appear it was an authentic report of some official agency.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I think whatever report appeared in the newspaper is true, and what the hon. Finance Minister is saying is untrue. I will appeal to him to simply counter the points raised by me at the time of reply. Whenever

he replies, my appeal is let him contradict what I am saying. I do not say that whatever Mr. Surjit Bhalla wrote is wrong. I will say that he is right and that what the hon. Finance Minister is saying is wrong.

Now, the same report also says that the repayment made by the farmers is also very high, to the tune of 75 per cent. Only 25 per cent of the farm loans are NPAs. As a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance for the last nine years, I know that the level of repayments made by the farmers is very good and it is very high.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please complete your speech.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: If you say so, Sir, I will sit down. Should I sit down? Probably, it is very unpalatable to the party in the Government and that is why I am being asked to sit down.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We are not asking you to sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Now, the point is that even in 2006, the farmers not only repaid 100 per cent of the loans, they even paid back some portion of the old loans. When a major portion of the agricultural NPAs is already redeemed, there is also a major portion of the agricultural NPAs being written off by the commercial banks. They sometimes make the provisions, which means, they deduct it from their profits; they also do it. So, out of this 25 per cent of the outstanding loan, the banks have already written off something, and they have also made provision for something else.

So, my point is, how does the Finance Minister say that the quantum of loan waiver is that high? I say that this is a very, very exaggerated figure just dished out by the hon. Finance Minister.

The second point is, the major distress caused to the farmers is not because of these bank loans. They are actually deeply pained by obtaining loan from the village moneylenders whose rate of interest is actually very high. So, what is the relief to those farmers who have taken the loans at a very high rate of interest from the moneylenders of the village?

I will make a positive suggestion here. Instead of going for this loan waiver scheme, the Government should go for a moneylenders' debt redemption fund. If the hon. Finance Minister goes for the moneylenders' debt redemption fund, the banks could give long-term loans to the farmers in order to swap the high-cost moneylenders' loans. I think this will help farmers who have taken the loans at a very high cost from the moneylenders of the village, and they will also not commit suicides. This would have been a more effective measure than the loan waiver scheme.

The hon. Prime Minister on March 5th launched a scathing attack on the NDA and said that what he had done was nothing more than "picking up the unpaid distress bill left by the NDA Government". That means, it was the NDA Government that was the only cause of farmers' distress, all the unpaid loans got piled up on the farmers during the six years of the NDA's rule. That also means, when the hon. Prime Minister was the Finance Minister of the country in 1991 there were no farmers' loans; and when the present Finance Minister presented his dream Budget in 1996 there were no outstanding loans, and all the outstanding loans got heaped on the farmers only during the term of the NDA rule which they are now going to clear.

I will just go through the Economic Survey presented by the present Government in 2003-04. I am simply going through the Economic Survey presented by the same Government in the first year of its present term in 2003-2004. The Economic Survey says: "The economy has enjoyed the benefits of relatively low inflation with comfortable stocks of food grains, enhanced competition in product markets, and appropriate mix of fiscal and monetary policy". Was that the distress we caused to farmers? If that was the distress we caused to farmers, how could the hon. Prime Minister make that statement?

The hon. Finance Minister on page 23 of his printed Budget Speech says, "Having a lucky Finance Minister may also have helped". He himself admits that he is a lucky Finance Minister and that he has inherited many good things from the NDA Government.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I did not say that.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The hon. Finance Minister made a sarcastic comment against Shri Suresh Prabhu that the foundations of the NDA Government's economic policy were laid at the time of Akbar and Ashoka. However, he himself says that he is a lucky man.

What does the Economic Survey of 2003-04 further say? It says, "The double-digit annual average inflation rate of 10.6 per cent between 1991-92 and 1995-96..." That means, when Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister, the inflation rate was 10.6 per cent which came down to 4.2 per cent between 2001-02 and 2003-04. Who was in power during that time? It was the NDA which was in power. The present Government admits that the inflation rate came down during that time. We brought the inflation rate down from 10.6 per cent to 4.2 per cent. The Economic Survey further says that the total flow of institutional credit to agriculture, which was 31,956 crore in 1997-98 - when this hon. Finance Minister was the Finance Minister also before we came into office - increased to Rs.80,000 crore in 2003-04, the last year of the

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

(Interruptions)* ...

NDA rule. It also says that the Kisan Credit Card Scheme introduced in 1998-99 by the NDA Government had become very popular among the farmers. Then, how could the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister say that the NDA Government did nothing? How can they disregard the economic foundations laid by us? I, therefore, would say that that the hon. Finance Minister should admit whatever he stated in his Economic Survey.

The Finance Minister always talks about the delivery system. See the delivery system of the NREG Scheme! When the NREG Scheme was launched, the entire Congress party seemed to have thought that they were going to come to power for the next 20 to 30 because of that scheme.

When the Leader of the Congress Party, Madam Sonia Gandhi made a speech 2-3 times, she thumped the desks and said that it was the achievement of only the Congress Party, while the Left supporters were looking at distress because no credit was given to them at that time.

Now, it says that they do not show any enthusiasm about NREGS because it is only the NDA ruled States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar which have achieved astounding success in this programme whereas the Congress led States have become an abject failure. It is the flagship programme which are being monitored and delivered very efficiently by the NDA Governments. The expenditure of funds in the case of the Ministry of Minority Affairs shows these figures. ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): No. Please kindly withdraw that. It is not a fact. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Your Minister will reply to that.

Sir, the *Times of India* also says that the money given by this present Government on the basis of the 15 point programme for the minorities enunciated by the Prime Minister is being very efficiently spent by the BJP ruled States like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, and the coalition Government in Orissa. Who are the worst? They are the Congress ruled States like Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa and Jammu and Kashmir, and last but not least, 'the most secular Left in West Bengal'. This is the report. So, even the money given for the minorities is being very efficiently spent by the BJP. ... (Interruptions) This is the Government report. I challenge them; let them say that this is wrong. ... (Interruptions) I challenge them; let them say that this is wrong. ... (Interruptions) I say that this is correct. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Then, I will come to the *Economic Survey* of this year. In the *Economic Survey* of this year, the Government have made some policy reform options. They say that if we go for these reforms, then the economic condition of India will go up. What are they? They are: there should be coal mining privatization, the old oil fields should also be privatized, 5-10 per cent of the equity in the PSUs should be sold out, all the loss-making PSUs should be auctioned; they have also recommended that the control of sugar, fertilizer, drugs, should be phased out, and in the retail trade, a share of the foreign equity should be allowed, and increase in work week to 60 hours from 48 hours and the daily limit of 12 hours to meet seasonal demand through over-time – these should be done. Ultimately, it has also recommended for development of the urban traffic transport by the private companies.

If the Government thinks that these are the reforms which will enhance the economic conditions of this country, why they have not done it? I am charging the Finance Minister. Why they have not initiated a single reform in this year's Budget?

You can go through the performance of any other Government; whenever a Government remains for five years, at least they bring in one or two Budgets with reformative fervour. But I charge this Government; their intention may be very good. I know that this Finance Minister is a pro-reformist; the hon. Prime Minister is also pro-reformist; I know that their intention is very good; but they are very much crippled by the 'Left Paralytic Stroke!'

Whenever the Left tells them to simply bend down, they just crawl. It has become anything and everything for them to remain in power. They have no sense of honour or dignity. They only carry out whatever Left say. They have not been able to bring in the Pension Fund (Regulatory) Authority Bill. It has been cleared by the Standing Committee on Finance since the last three-four years. Similarly, the Banking Regulation Act has already been cleared by the Standing Committee on Finance but because of the opposition of the Left, they are not able to even pilot it in the Parliament. They are so scared of them.

With regard to Bharat Nirman, they talk of providing electricity to all the villages, to all the houses of the country by 2009. The hon. Finance Minister, the hon. Power Minister time and again on the floor of this House they have told that by 2009 they will provide electricity to all the houses. Out of the requirement of Rs.28,000 crore to provide electricity in this year's Budget the Government has provided only Rs.5,500

* Not recorded.

crore. It is 2008 now and 2009 is only next year. So, Sir, through you I would like to ask the Finance Minister as to when he is going to provide electricity to all the houses of this country as has been declared by the hon. Prime Minister and himself. Let him reply to it.

With regard to Orissa I would like to say that the former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, laid the foundation stone of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Bhubaneswar four years back but till now only the boundary wall has been constructed. Every year the Government say that it is starting construction this year. Even this year the Government has reduced the allocation towards this end to only Rs.50 crore. Earlier they were giving Rs.150 crore every year. Now, the Government has declared that it will provide one Central university to all the States but there is no declaration of any such Central university in Orissa.

They have also removed the tax holiday given to the new oil refinery. That means we are going to have a new oil refinery by the Indian Oil Corporation in Paradeep. Probably, the Government is not just going to give this tax-holiday. I do not know what will happen to this refinery. I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that he would extend this tax-holiday for this Paradeep Oil refinery. It is a very old project. He should not withdraw the tax-holiday so that the refinery could be set up there.

Lastly, I would like to say that this Government may have good intentions but it is totally crippled. It is incapable of extending any reformative measure and it is incapable of delivering anything. Sooner this Government goes, sooner this Government demits office, better it is for the people. So, let this Government go sooner so that a better Government could come and the economic prosperity of this country could improve.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Members that they can lay their written speeches on the floor of the House so that the time could be saved. It is permissible.

*SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir,

Budget 2008-09 has been receiving lot of praise and criticism, mainly I believe due to the various pro-agriculture declarations made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. The critics and admirers have both found good and bad with the waiver of agricultural debt to the tune of 60,000 crore. Even though for the first time in post-independent India, the Hon. Finance Minister has taken a rightful position that the waiver is only the repayment of the countries debt to the millions of ordinary farmers, who forms the back bone of our country, without their silent contribution our country would not have achieved so much in the last six decades.

To the critics and admirers Sir, I would like to ask whether the Hon. Finance Minister has really repaid the debt the country owes to our Farmers? According to me, no, even though this is a good beginning in addressing the problems which are very complex and critical and needs a drastic and whole hearted approach to solve.

I can point out a number of deficiencies as others have pointed out, in the budgetary effort in redressing the problems of our Farm sector. The focus should have been to ensure that the farmer gets remunerative prices for his produce. It is said that the waiver does not do justice to dry land farmers, as land holding is more in dry land areas compared to irrigated areas, the quantum of loan available to dry land farmers are much lower - cotton farmers get only Rs. 5000 per acre while sugarcane farmers get Rs.40000 per acre, and so a large number of farmers will not benefit since the cap is in hectare terms and not in terms of the amount of borrower.

Farmers also complain that when there is rise in the prices agricultural products, Government tries to suppress it either through imports or by banning exports, but this is not done in the case of steel or cement.

Sir, the waiver has left out a significant number of our farmers, as only 27% of the small and marginal farmers can access institutional credit while 73% depend on money-lenders and OTS scheme will only help the large farmers. The Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness under Shri R. Radhakrishana has estimated that the total debt of the agricultural sector comes to Rs. 1,30,000 crore. Also the waiver relates to only "agricultural loans" of the specified financial institutions. Here we need to look at closely the type of loans normally availed by our ordinary farmers. I can point out the case of Kerala State where the so called agricultural loans forms only less than 10% of the loans advanced by the cooperative banks, while 90% of the loans are availed by farmers in the name of household needs, medical treatment, repayment of earlier loans etc. I can site the example of four cooperative banks near to my home town, whose total loans comes to Rs.43 crore, out of which agricultural loans comes to only 2.70 crore. The rest of the amount has been availed by farmers in various other heads, for their farming and other livelihood needs. Therefore, if we plan to really help them, we need to take Farmers Debts as a whole into consideration for waiver instead of the designated Agricultural Loans of the financial institutions.

In the case of Kerala, there has been an arrears clearance campaign recently and so the majority of the overdue loans have been renewed.

Hon. Finance Minister has set the target of Rs.2,80,000 cr. Towards agricultural credit in 2008-09 and it is said that

* Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri K. Francis George]

the current years target was exceeded. We should verify how much of this was disbursed as new credit as it is said that a large amount goes as book adjustment and so does not reflect the real picture.

Sir, to sustain the good results of the loan waiver announced by the Hon. Finance Minister, I feel that certain other measures should also have been announced by him. There is no mention about the reduction of the rate of interest on agricultural loans. It must be reduced to at least 4%. We need to think about post harvest operations like value addition and marketing and better transport infrastructure for farmers to maximize their profit. We need to intensify our research and extension work to help the farmers. The recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers headed by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan should be implemented.

One critical omission in the budget Sir, is regarding the non-provision for protection of seeds, a very critical component in the development of agriculture. A special project on Mission Mode has to be started for preserving the seeds of our age old varieties, which were disease, pest and climate resistant, many of which are getting extinct. For example, Kerala has or had more than 100 varieties of plantain, many of which are now extinct. The exotic rice variety, Jeerakasala and Gandhakasala and many others of Kerala has to be preserved for future generations. Likewise, there will be many others in other parts of the country. We need to think of a project like the Norwegian Seed Vault project to protect seeds of all varieties of agricultural produce.

I welcome the provision of 1100 crore under the National Horticulture Mission for the revival of coconut, cashew and pepper. Special thrust has to be given to pepper in view of the stiff competition in the world market and the difficulties faced by our pepper farmers. We need to include more agricultural products under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme. It is a very welcome step that Tea, Pepper and Cardamom has been brought under the crop insurance scheme, but coffee has been left out and it has to be included.

To make NREGS more effective and productive, work done in the farmlands of small and marginal farmers can be brought under the scheme, as it will be of help to the farmers, will boost agricultural production and can fetch employment to the unemployed.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission should be expanded to include more towns in States like Kerala to address the critical infrastructure problems of newly emerging townships in our country.

Sir, when the CST is reduced to 2%, the resultant loss

in revenue has to be compensated by the Centre, as State finances will be under severe strain after the implementation of the 6th Pay Commission Report.

The National Savings interest rate has to be revised and the MIS bonus to be reinstated to attract more investors since as of now the net collection is minus in States like Kerala. Also withdraw service tax on rentals received by local self Government.

The duty on import of Titanium Dioxide has to be hiked to 12.5 to 15% from 10% to restrict import as due to the appreciation of the rupee import of Titanium Dioxide has surged affecting the existence of Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. and Travancore Titanium Products.

I congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister for his efforts to help the farmers of the country and would request him to consider the various measures required for their welfare in the long term.

*SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): Sir

I, on behalf of my party Shiv Sena and myself wish to draw attention of Hon'ble Finance Minister regarding waiver of the farmers' loans.

First of all, I welcome the decision of loan waiving of the farmers. However, there are some deficiencies as such:

(a) Farmers below 5 acres are eligible for total loan waiver but unfortunately Vidarbha region of the Maharashtra is totally backward region by way of irrigation, industrialization and transportation too. The land holding of above 80% farmers is more than 80% because of which they are deprived from this total loan waiver and also if there is a part of waiving by way of OTS which is formulated as 25% waiver subject to 75% repayment. I would like to draw attention of the Hon'able Finance Minister, you and all world know better that the high number of suicides of the farmers have taken place in Vidarbha. Since last 10 years about 8000 to 9000 farmers have committed suicides. Not only that, after your declaration of budget, 36 farmers in Vidarbha have committed suicides.

So that, I request the total loan waiver of the total farmers atleast of Vidarbha region.

(b) Secondly, during last two budgets, I have tried to bring to your notice that formation and functioning of Co-operative Banks is very much different from the Public Sector and Commercial Banks. In Co-operative Banks the borrower is the share holder. Unless he holds the shares of the Co-operative Bank, he is not eligible for borrowing. In case of Public Sector Banks, it is not so. Further, the value of the shares of the Share holder of the Co-operative banks remain same because it is not linked with Stock Exchange. On the

other hand, Public Sector and Commercial Banks' shares are linked with the Stock Exchange because of which they are earning indirect dividend on it.

Here, I would like to draw attention of Hon'ble Finance Minister that earnings of the Co-operative Bank is a surplus and not a profit, which is meant for distribution among the share holders in form of dividend and provision for the development fund for new technology which is adopted in view of heavy competition.

That is why, it is worth to give the exemption from Income Tax u/s 80 P to the Co-operative Banks. Whenever I met the Hon'ble Prime Minister and some of the office bearer of The National Bank's Federation to UPA Chief Hon'ble Smt. Sonia Gandhi, principally both have agreed but unfortunately it is not reflected in the Budget. So that, I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to consider the exemption of the Income Tax to the Co-operative Banking industry which is the movement of the common people.

Lastly, you have given the good relief to the middle class employees, senior citizens and the women for which I express my sincere thanks to you.

[Translation]

* SHRI RAMESH DUBE (Mirzapur): Sir, while supporting the Budget 2008-09 presented by the Hon'ble Minister of Finance, I am putting some suggestions:

- The limit of audit is Rs.40 lakh. All types of Income Tax and Excise-duty limits were increased after fixation of audit limit. The sensex also reached at 15000 points. The rate of gold is at Rs. 13000 now. Prices have increased. Since turnover of small and big businessmen has increased, so audit limit is required to be increased up to one crore rupees from the present limit of Rs.40 lakh. It would benefit small businessmen but it will not affect the income of the Government. I urge that small traders should also be considered as farmers. The only difference between them is that the farmer lives in village but the small trader lives in a city.
- Dairy (Dairy product) is supplementary to agriculture. Today, agricultural income is free from income tax. Dairy should also be free from income tax. It will help in increasing milk production.

I hope that the hon'ble Minister will agree with my point of view.

[English]

*SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA (Mormugao): Sir, After giving a very good Railway Budget to the country, the U.P.A Govt. has gone a step further to give an advice general budget to the country.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

I Congratulate the UPA Govt and Finance Minister in particular for this feat where they have covered all the sections of the society – the rich, the poor, salaried people, women and farmers in particular. Sir, most of the facets of the Budget have been touched by my colleagues. However some areas might have escaped the attention of Finance Minister.

Sir, I would like to know what would happen to marginal and small farmers who have partly or totally cleared their loans. Could you consider to give them loans for the next period without interest.

Sir, the support price given to farmers is realized only when the farmers sell the produce and for that the farmer has to produce more than what he requires for the consumption of his family. Such farmers are 20 to 30% of the total farmers in the country. In hilly states and small states like Goa the land holdings on an average are 1/4th of an acre. Such people produce for their own consumption. Therefore they should be helped by giving subsidized interests and for that the concerned states should be compensated.

The next area is poultry farming. They were also expecting to get the same relief like agricultural farmers as they are facing crisis due to bird flu in some states. We should not forget that poultry farming is an important food production sector which produces the cheapest source of animal protein and other essential nutrients for mass consumption. There is no reason why it should not be treated at par with Agriculture when Govt of India itself considers poultry as a part of agriculture. Also in recent years the cost of maize and soya bean needed for poultry feed has nearly doubled and sir if they are not given redressal in term of waiver we will see poultry farmers committing suicides and last I would request the Agriculture Minister to strengthen the I.C.A.R centre we have in old Goa and direct them to coordinate with the state department so that they produce better producing and resistant paddy seeds, better sugarcane seed and come out with better species of mangoes and cashew.

*DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Sir, I rise to support the Union Budget, 2008-2009. There is no doubt that this year's Budget is really a very good one. I do not wish to repeat the good works done by the Hon'ble Finance Minister and the UPA Government. We have Farmers' Loan Waiver, Steady Growth Rate, Flagship Programmes, Incentives to SCs, STs, Minorities and Women; Bigger Allocation for North-East (NE) Region, Tax Reliefs, Gender Budgetting and so on. These points have already been mentioned by my Hon'ble Colleagues.

Sir, I would like to dwell upon a very crucial point. I do know the ground reality in the North-East. The entire NE

* Speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Thokchom Meinya]

Region is decades lagging behind from the rest of the country. They are lagging behind in all spheres of life, e.g., Employment, Economic Opportunities, Healthcare, Infrastructure, Irrigation, Power, Water Supply, Roads and Communication and what not. So, my humble submission to the Union Government and to the Hon'ble Finance Minister is that it is a very high time to give maximum focus in the NE Region. Only paper works and lip services are not going to solve our problems.

Sir, ten percent budgetary allocation for the NE Region from every Ministry and Department is a good arrangement. But we all know how these moneys are being handled. Things are not moving in the North-East. Development is almost nil. Frustrations of the people are mounting. This might be one of the reasons why insurgent outfits are mushrooming. And people feel more alienated. Something concrete should be done otherwise it will be too late.

Sir, keeping in view the Chinese claim over Arunachal Pradesh, Demand for Sovereign independent states by insurgents, KOSOVO's unilateral declaration of Independence, volatile situation in the NE Region. I once again submit to the Union Government and the Hon'ble Finance Minister that something must be done on war footing. I strongly believe that a fast track development is the only answer. Development and employment is the only answer. Time is running out. Let us do something very fast for the NE Region.

Sir, I now seek the indulgence of this august House to the continued otherwise fluid and acute law and order situation of my State, Manipur. Months together, almost all the HODs in the State have not been staying with their families at their respective residences. They are housed in the State Guest House or in other fully security protected areas. Killings of people (civilian or otherwise including innocent ones) are frequently happening. Recently, MLA's houses are attacked with grenades. Even the Manipur Legislative Assembly was attacked by grenade. I urge upon the Union Home Ministry to extend all possible help to contain the situation at the earliest.

Sir, in this context, I would once again seek the indulgence of the august House to two important issues. The first being that of the infamous Armed forces Special Power Act, 1950 (AFSPA) and the other is the 16-point Agreement of 1960. The first one, that is, AFSPA was promulgated primarily to contain the underground elements in the State of Nagaland. In 1980, the application of the Act was extended to other parts of the NE Region and J & K; and was being kept for such a long time, which appears to be losing its utility. Justice Jeevan Reddy Committee has recommended its complete repeal and this Act deserves an immediate repeal. Hence my sincere appeal to the Union Government for immediate repeal of this Act.

The second is the 16-point Agreement of 1960. Art. 13 of the alleged Agreement talks of "Consolidation of Contiguous Naga areas". This was just a wish of the then partners of the alleged Agreement. When Nagaland State was formed in 1962 all the important points contained in that Agreement were incorporated. Hence, there is no relevancy of the Agreement now. Any left out points can and must be treated as dead.

Sir, the development activities in Manipur are very very slow. Almost all departments are full of employees appointed on contract basis. Filling up of vacant posts in many departments, on regular basis, faces a lot of problems for various reasons including court cases. All posts appointed in the State are having different large price tags. Of late, life has become very difficult in the State. Power supply, water supply and supply of essential commodities including kerosene oil are never regular in the State. Power supply is never enough even for charging the batteries of mobile phones.

Sir, the two lifelines of the State - NH 39 & NH 53 are yet to be developed to its full potential. These NHs are required to be developed for smooth flow of transports. There is little security along these NHs. Many a time the passenger buses and goods trucks have been being robbed and looted. Over and above this, heavy taxes are being levied by many organizations under different pretext. Hence, in order to secure peace and to create a working environment along these NHs, a regular Highway Protection Force (HPF) has become most essential. Hence, I urge upon the Union Home Ministry to immediately create a special HPF for exclusive deployment on these NHs. This shall help protecting these NHs from unwarranted blockades etc.

Once again, I support the Budget.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI JAYAPARDA (Rampur): The Budget presented by the hon'ble Minister of Finance is different from previous budgets. In the previous budgets, there was no mention about the farmers and the rural development but sensing that the election are near, the UPA Government changed its stance and tried to show the present budget as oriented towards farmers and rural people. So, it is like an election budget. For the last two years prices of all the essential commodities have been rising and the poor people are feeling its brunt. Vegetables have become so costly that the poor families had no choice except eating bread with home-made sauces.

In comparison to last year's budget, more funds have been given to education this year and it has been increased

* Speech was laid on the Table.

upto 20 percent. There is a proposal to start 410 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya for the Scheduled tribe girls but such schools opened earlier have not started functioning till now, as necessary facilities have not been provided there. There is a proposal in this budget to start 6000 Model Schools in the country but there is no mention about the quality education in this budget. There is only one Kendriya Vidyalaya in my parliamentary constituency, Rampur whereas there are large number of Central Government officers and employees there. Due to this, wards of persons working in armed forces and other Central Government employees do not get admission in Kendriya Vidyalaya. Navodaya Vidyalaya has also not been opened here as yet. Most of the money out of the crores of rupees provided to the State Governments is spent on administrative expenses and only around 15 percent of the funds provided under different schemes is used for the designated purpose. Though, this budget mentions the setting up of a monitoring authority, but its impact can only be known later on because whatever steps the Central Government has taken with regard to monitoring of these schemes have not been very effective and money has been wasted. Still, 6 crore children in the country do not attend school and are victims of child labour.

In this budget, stress has not been given on power generation and the demand of electricity is rising constantly. In many villages of my constituency, there is no electricity and daily power cut is for around 15 hours whereas presently all industries are running on electricity and these are on the verge of closure due to inadequate supply of electricity. The country should arrange for adequate power generation to fulfill the rising demand of power. Still 60 percent farm land in the country is dependant on rain water for irrigation. They do not face problems regarding irrigation only when it rains properly. On the other hand, there are such areas where there is more than adequate water. There every year hundreds of people die due to floods, animals of thousands of farmers die and crops worth lakhs of rupees are ruined. There are many rivers in my constituency and no work for constructing bridges over them is taking place because of which during floods the people face a lot of problems in their movements. There are some places where bridges have been constructed; but due to their faulty construction, the rivers have changed their course and in the coming days during rainy season these rivers with their changed course will become very destructive. The Government need to do something in this respect; but, it is not visible in this budget.

The health facilities being provided in the rural areas are the worst. There is neither doctor, nor nurse and even medicines are not available. The patients of rural areas are to be taken to the cities for treatment and these poor people and farmers have to spend a lot of it. There is a need to

provide good medical facilities in these villages and essential facilities are required to be provided to them. The Government has earmarked Rs.275 crore for AIDS Control programme but it has not paid attention to the plight of bidi workers who after become afflicted by T.B. and many other diseases. The Government should setup hospital at those places where these bidi workers are in good numbers and schemes should be launched for improving their health.

There are many handicrafts in the country which are in high demand in the foreign countries. There was a flourishing kite industry in the country and it was a good source of entertainment for the people. But, the Government is not doing anything for organizing and promoting these traditional modes of entertainment and competitions. The craftsmen are not getting facilities but the middlemen are making profit from those schemes which are being launched for promotion of handicrafts. Since, these artisans are not getting any benefit, so they are thinking of switching over to areas of livelihood. It is a matter of shame that in the present budget nothing has been given for handicraft sector. The women particularly in rural areas of the country are neglected even today, Only a few urban women are taking advantage of the schemes being run for women in the cities. But, in rural areas the woman are badly neglected. Until rural women are benefited, the development of rural children cannot be done.

With the passage of time, level of ground water is receding because of which the farmers have to face a lot of problems in irrigation. Every year the level of water is going down by six feet. If this situation prevalls then after fifteen years there will be water neither for irrigation nor for drinking purpose. It is a good step of the Government to waive off loans of farmers because the poor farmers have only agriculture for their livelihood. Crops have been damaged due to many disasters during last few years due to which farmers could not make saving and they were not in a position to repay loan and hence it is a welcome step. But many people have raised the questions regarding the ways of waiving off the loans if they have expressed doubt that loans distributed by the banks are nor recovered, then they would go bankrupt and who would make up the losses incurred by them. If the government propose to offset this loss then the provision should be made in the budget. But there is no such provision in the budget .Therefore the Government should clarify it.

Lakhs of people are earning their livelihood from cinema, the major means of entertainment in the country and Government earns revenue of billions of rupees from it but no provision has been made in the budget for insurance, health care, pension and welfare of the people working in this industry. The Government are not spending money on film industry in proportion to the revenue received from it.

[Shrimati Jayaprada]

Films can be produced in regional languages like Tamil, Telgu, Malyalam and Bhojpuri for the entertainment of rural people but the Government are not providing any assistance for this purpose. The Government have imposed a ban on remix films but they are in demand now-a-days hence the ban should be lifted in public interest.

Purvanchal, Bundelkhand and Ruhelkhand regions of Uttar Pradesh are lagging behind in the matter of development. Neither economic development activities are being undertaken, nor industry is being set up over there. Due to which a large number of people from these regions are migrating to cities. That is a hurdle in the way of sustainable development of the country. Though, the Government have made provision of Rs. 5800 crore for the development of backward regions of the country but it is like a drop in the ocean.

Hon'ble Finance Minister, has not given much through this budget. This budget will not cater the requirement of employment opportunities, economic development and social development. Hence, I rise to oppose this budget.

*SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Through you, Sir, I would like to tell the hon'ble Finance Minister that this budget has failed to pay attention to basic issues of our economy. Hon'ble Finance Minister has mentioned many good things in the budget. Much has been stated about Bharat Nirman Yojana, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Scheme, National Rural Health Mission, Polio Eradication, Integrated Child Development Schemes, National Draft Policy for Farmers, Accelerated Irrigation Facilities Programme, Underground Water Recharge Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme, Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Special Scheme for Districts Problems and agriculture sector. It is good that the Government have waived off the loans of farmers. But a provision for this purpose was essential to be made in the budget. But such provision has not been made. However, the farmers of the country would get some relief.

But I am sorry to say that tribal people living in forests of hill areas would get no benefit from this budget. Due to prevalent laws pertaining to forest and wild life in many states like Gujrat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand, Rural Development Schemes would not be implemented in tribal areas.

Due to forest laws the funds allocated under Rural Development Scheme are being returned in many areas of Narmada, Bharuch and Surat districts of Gujrat. In these areas no pucca road has been constructed under Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana or any other government scheme. In the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

absence of pucca roads people of the areas have to face a lot of difficulties in their movement. There are negligible facilities for education and health care. All the routes are closed for 4-5 months due to floods in the rivers and water in nullas during rainy season. In the absence of electricity and telephone facilities these areas remain cut off from the entire world. Even after 60 years of independence tribal people are leading a miserable life. The Government have enhanced the allocation from Rs. 503 crore to Rs. 805 crore but the question is whether this amount is sufficient for development and welfare of tribal people in the country. The Forest Right Bill was passed in Lok Sabha. The tribal people would get some benefits from Forest Right Bill but I would like to urge upon the Government that possession of the land be given to that tribals at the earliest having lease of land for the years and a special package be given to them for the development of the areas where reserve forest and wild life laws are in vague so that facilities of pucca roads, irrigation, telephone and electricity be made available in the areas. It is need of the hour that barren forest land be given to the tribals on lease after converting it into cultivable land and constructing small dams thereon. Financial assistance also be given to them for tree plantation so that tribal farmers could make progress. Electricity on cheaper rate and sufficient irrigation facility should be provided to all farmers of the country. By implementing the interlinking of rivers programme launched during N.D.A. regime, irrigation facility should be extended to the areas where the farmers do not have this facility. Electricity should be supplied to the farmers immediately, as per their demand by formulating uniform irrigation policy for the farmers in the country. The youths of the country are becoming disappointed day by day. Employment opportunities are getting lesser. In view of this there is a need to increase agricultural production. I would like to draw the attention of Hon. Finance Minister to the fact that there are thousands of hectares of land in the country which do not have irrigation facility. Such areas should be identified and special package should be given them so that dairy industry could be promoted through animal husbandry alongwith irrigation facility in entire country. Dairy industry is making fast progress as Mehesana Anand Dairy in Gujarat is producing milk in sufficient quantity in the country. In the remaining parts of Gujarat, employment can be provided to the unemployed people by promoting dairy industry and making arrangement for irrigation facilities.

The funds are not released timely under rural development schemes. Therefore, rural development activities are not completed in time.

Under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 330 districts have been covered in stead of 200 districts. But in most of the districts this scheme has failed. Workers get

Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 daily. Keeping in view price rise, minimum wage should be Rs. 100 per day or the wages should be paid as per price rise. The funds being given under housing scheme are inadequate. Funds should be increased.

N.D.A. Government had envisaged a scheme to construct national highways equipped with modern communication centres for providing hassle free traffic system. The work was taken up to some extent under this scheme but the construction work of National Highways is lagging behind far from its schedule presently. The hon. Finance Minister has assured in his budget speech of 2006-07 about completion of Ahmedabad-Baroda Expressway upto Mumbai. But at present construction on it is running behind its schedule. I would like to appeal the Minister of Finance to make arrangement for immediate completion of Ahmedabad-Baroda Expressway upto Mumbai. Besides, where there is a need, on this route bridges should be constructed expeditiously on Narmada and Tapti river.

I would like to request the Minister of Finance that the Common Minimum Programme of the government should be implemented in true sense, otherwise, this budget would prove beneficial for the people for a very short period.

[English]

*DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): Any budget is a mixed bag. A budget is judged—wrongly in my view—on the day it is presented. It should be marked only after the financial year is over. Once upon a time, budgets had an inviolable sanctity. Later, the budget became a bag of tricks and budget figures lost all meaning. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act has brought some discipline. Nevertheless, we still make unfounded budget promises; we still borrow too much; and many ministries cannot spend the money given to them, yet ask for more.

I am an avid reader of Mr. P. Chidambaram. He is very refreshing. Whatever he tells the Parliament, in the book he writes nothing but truth. I have taken the above paragraph from his book A View From The Outside. He has the passion of a politician and understanding of an economist. He is candid, except when he is in office. It is with the same flourish and aplomb that he presented his last budget in this government.

He has been extremely lucky, for no other finance minister in our history stayed in the job as long as he has. And he inherited a booming economy with an overflowing food stock from the NDA. The balance of payment position was excellent and the NDA had completed all the necessary

reforms. Hence for four years, without doing any reforms, Chidambaram could carry on dancing to the Left tunes, and still stay steady on the growth path.

As Chidambaram wrote about unfunded budget promises and unspent allocations—we have seen it happening in NREGA where the implementation is less than ten per cent and still it has been extended to all the 596 districts. This time the allocation is low and there are all the indications that it is being allowed euthanasia. We will see it again in the big-ticket Rs. 600 billion farmer loan write-off. This is a welcome step wrongly introduced. The FM knows, the programme is hurriedly announced, for political sloganeering, unfunded and the benefit is not targeted.

After globalisation there is a class of politicians in India who talk as if economics has to be separated and nourished as if it was an end in itself. After all, reforms are for the welfare of the people and it should have a human face. Every year banks write off over Rs 25,000 crore industry loan as bad loan. There is no hue and cry. Of late there is a thinking, promoted by the media, if you are good to the people it is bad economics and if you are good to industry it is good economics that will serve growth.

Like agriculture industry too need incentives. Investment is the dynamo of growth. The budget, however, has not really enthused the new entrepreneur class.

Congress may not benefit politically from Chidambaram's budget. For, it has not addressed the price rise. Under UPA quality of life did not improve, unlike during the NDA. On infrastructure front, the most essential aspect of growth, the UPA has been a failure. The new budget has nothing to offer on this count. Even Choudhary Devial had written off farmer loans to the tune of Rs. 10,000 crore in 1990, and it was more liberal, giving money directly to the peasant. But his party was voted out. The Congress seems to have created more problems than it can ever solve from its mindless populist binge.

What the Indian farmer immediately needs is money in hand. He needs better irrigation of his fields, power connection, cash availability on demand, urban connectivity, competitive price and non-exploitative marketing facility. There is no provision for any of this in the budget. Rural electrification, rural road scheme, crop insurance and Kisan Credit Card scheme, most of them flagship initiatives of the Vajpayee government languished under the UPA. The 2008-09 budget is also silent on all these aspects.

Yet the budget on the first day, as Chidambaram himself admits, was judged "politically correct" by large majority. In fact, we should have waited for the year-end. To see if stagnation in many areas reversed, if farmer suicides halted and if savings and consumption picked up.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani]

For four years the UPA was particularly unkind to the common man. The loan waiver and the raise in income tax exemption limit have created the euphoria. Both were long overdue. It is unfortunate that Chidambaram has made it a poll plank. No political party has the right to bribe the voter with public money. But this is exactly what Chidambaram has done.

There is the obvious fudging of figures. One, that most of the allocations on NREGA and loan waiver are exaggerated. Equally unacceptable is the communalisation of budget by selecting the Muslims as the hobgoblin. It is clear, with the Sachar Report, numerous other minority specific steps and now the special allocation for the selected 90 districts and the doubling of allocations for the Minority Affairs Ministry the UPA has whetted their political appetite. But the Congress will get only a small portion of their loyalty, as the claimants are too many. These allocations will again largely go unspent. So Chidambaram has left a large cushion to meet his deficit.

The Finance Minister has played the poll opera staying steady on the World Bank prescribed finance sector reforms. He has ensured that money goes to the coffers of the corporate and power and fund to Congress minions. The loan waiver is supposed to benefit 40 million farmers. The biggest stunner of the budget. But as I noted earlier, no provision for this whopping amount is made in the budget. The banks would be provided adequate liquidity by the government over a period of three years, says the Finance Minister. The waiver is applicable to loans disbursed by commercial banks, RRBs and cooperative banks. The cut-off is December 31, 2007. The balance sheet of these banks will be hit resulting in erosion of their net worth as the government is not talking of compensating their loss. The initial reports indicate the bank stocks taking a beating. Indian banks are entering a period of consolidation and readying for increased competition from foreign banks from April 2009. What the new situation created by the loan write-off will do to their valuations is to be seen.

The Reserve Bank of India Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2006-07 says that the waiver between the commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) may not exceed Rs 100 billion. The balance of Rs 500 billion if allocated will go to the cooperative banks, which are presided over by Congress and CPI (M) politicians in most states. What a huge poll eve bonanza. The reaction of experts to the loan waiver has been cautious and qualified. That it will not help the farmers in dry, drought-prone areas with comparatively larger holdings like in Vidarbha, Bundelkhand and Rayalseema has been commented upon. But most farmers in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa and Haryana will. And Gujarat where the last decade has

seen growing farm prosperity and a ten-fold increase in farming loans.

The farm loan waiver gives the impression that the farmers are habitual defaulters. Only ten per cent of the farmers default on loan repayment according to the NABARD reports. Two-third of the farmers, experts say, depend on local money-lenders and they will not benefit. It is likely that the money-lenders double up as farmers and corner the benefit of the loan write-off, with some help from local political bosses. Since the Finance Minister has made a claim that 40 million farmers will enjoy the largesse the opposition has a good case to demand a computerised list of the names and addresses of all the beneficiaries. This will not be difficult for the government as it has a plan to complete the process by June this year. And the Congress will learn that honesty is a better strategy.

I would like to appeal to the Finance Minister to allot funds for my home state Orissa for establishing the branch of NT's, AIIMS, Central Universities and more emphasis on the Metro Line from Bhuvaneshwar - Cuttack and Khurda respectively.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikballapur): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. I would confine myself only to the agriculturists and the waiver of agricultural loans. While words fail me to congratulate and thank the hon. Prime Minister in general and also the hon. Finance Minister in particular for their showing the generosity and good will towards the farmers of this country in waiving about Rs.60,000 crore. I thank them wholeheartedly.

On page 13 in Item No.1 the Finance Minister has said:

"Borrowed before 31st March, 2007 and overdue as on 31st of December, 2007."

Sir, this is not sufficient. I got the information from the Department of Cooperative of my State yesterday that we will be getting only Rs.810 crore of waiver as far as cooperative sector is concerned. I do not know how much relief we will be getting from the Reserve Bank of India, commercial banks and NABARD. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to advise them to send a provisional amount proposed to be waived. I have got one request. I beseech the hon. Finance Minister who is a large hearted man to replace the word 'overdue' with the word 'outstanding'. It is a small change. I am requesting the hon. Finance Minister to look into it and change one word.

The big farmers are those who are giving food to this country, who are giving cotton to our cotton mills and for exports and who are supplying oilseeds for oil, etc. Such big farmers cannot be neglected. The small and marginal farmers will

have their own problems but big farmers also have their own problems. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to waive of all the outstanding loan and allow them to start on a clean slate. If it is not possible, at least, let them waive of 50 per cent of their loans along with interest. That may cost him only Rs.12,000 crore more.

Secondly, I read a piece of speech of the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar that this waiver refers to the allied activities of agriculture also, namely, poultry, dairy, etc. I do not know fully whether this applies to other allied activities of agriculture, *i.e.*, poultry rearing, dairying, sheep rearing, purchase of tractors and sinking of irrigation wells, etc. If it is not covered, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to see that these things are also covered.

It is all right that it is a bonanza which the Government has given to us. We thank them for that. But what is next? Having worked as the President of the Bangalore Central Cooperative Bank; President of Karnataka Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank; and also having worked as the Cooperative Minister in the Ministry of Shri Ramakrishna Hegde, I have learned some lessons. So, I have a little bit of experience at my disposal. But my experience compared to the experience of the hon. Finance Minister is very little. In spite of that, I would like to say that these things will not stop further suicides and they cannot stop more agriculturists becoming defaulters.

What is it that we want? We want the Minister of Agriculture to help the hon. Minister of Finance to tide over the problems. Some agrarian improvements would have to be brought in. I would like the hon. Finance Minister to bring a Debt Relief Act or a Debt Redemption Act whereby all the loans borrowed by farmers at exorbitant rates from the moneylenders could be waived off.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please conclude now.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, I have not spoken for even two minutes. I speak rarely. You at least allow me for another 2 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I respect your age.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: This was done by the late Shri Devraj Urs when he was the Chief Minister of Karnataka. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly bring this Act immediately.

Secondly, unless you charge 4 per cent, you cannot stop the farmers from becoming defaulters. Once the farmers are growing, their aspirations for a better life will also increase. He would want his children to go to school and would obviously like to have a two-wheeler and a TV or a radio for his use. They would like to improve upon their standard of

living. Such being the case where is the surplus for him to purchase these things and educate their children. So, this interest rate of four per cent should be reduced. The Government does not lose anything, rather if the Government will consider reducing this rate, then you would not have the occasion to waive of loan for another six to eight years. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to bring in agrarian reforms.

Sir, we need to strengthen the extension wing of the Department of Agriculture. The Extension Officers have to go to the field. The Government should now consider of starting diploma courses in Agriculture to get in more people. The Government would also have to look for good production and marketing facilities should also be made available at their doorsteps. We also need to strengthen the processing activities. In my State I have seen that tomatoes are being thrown on the side of the roads because there are no persons to purchase tomatoes. Sometimes the same thing happens with onions. If the Government plans to start processing units, then these excess productions of tomatoes and onions could be put to productive use. The processed products could be exported and even used at times of scarcity in our country as well.

Sir, we must also practise cost-effective cultivation in our country. Such a thing is being introduced by one gentleman and we have to try and enhance the use of organic manure. It is very important and it would help us in reducing the cost of production.

13.00 hrs.

We have to improve infrastructure in villages like roads, etc. I remember to have read a statement of the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission a few days ago that since the receipts under direct and indirect taxes are very much higher than what was expected, that could be flowed back to villages. I appreciate and welcome it. I would request the hon. Minister to see that more funds are provided to panchayats. Nowadays, villages have become dustbins. We cannot walk freely and safely in the villages. Insanitation is there too much. Nobody is looking after sanitation and roads in villages. All roads should be made concrete roads. Proper drainage must be provided. The roads interconnecting the villages and towns should be properly maintained. This point is very important.

Lastly, what happened to interlinking of rivers? Why cannot we proceed quickly to see that rivers are nationalised and interconnected? Unless you give water, how do you improve agriculture? It is not possible to do it without water. So, adequate supply of water should be there. You have provided a lot of funds for improving and developing water bodies. But where is water? Where is rain? What have you

[Shri R.L. Jalappa]

done for improving afforestation? There is only deforestation. No afforestation work is done and no officers are taking interest in this regard. The concerned Ministers should be interested to develop afforestation. Unless we go in for afforestation, we will not be able to get sufficient rains and there will be no use of improving water bodies without afforestation.

Sir, children of all farmers should be given free education upto degree level. They must be provided with sufficient scholarships irrespective of their caste and creed. This much we have to look after them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rest of the speech may be laid on the Table. Dr. Barq may speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I am very happy that you have provided funds for the welfare of minorities. But what have you done for the backward classes? You have only given a paltry sum of Rs. 164 crores. I request you to see that it is enhanced to Rs. 500 crores this year.

I am grateful that you have mentioned in your Budget speech that you are going to have a Monitoring and Evaluation Cell. It is very essential. After introduction of VAT, Service Tax and development of Income Tax, States are getting more funds. The Government of India also is contributing more funds to the States. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) *...

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): The Budget presented by Shri. Chidambaramji, has many rhetorics like the growth story is continued and more inclusive growth story.

It is really self-complimentary that the country has been maintaining on an average 8.8% growth rate which the Finance Minister terms as the ever high.

I really congratulate Shri. Chidambaramji at least for one reason that he is presenting consecutively fifth Union Budget. But for this Budget I specially congratulate him for at last looking to the distress of the farmers and for his sop-opera of 60,000 crores worth loan waiver to Indian farmers. But whether this move really is going to wipe the tears on the face of farmers and liberate them from the ever gripping clutches of distress and crisis is a matter to be seen.

In all his earlier Budgets, the FM had carefully nursed the SEN-SEX as the external brand ambassador to make the world look at India with favour.

* Not recorded.

** Speech was laid on the Table.

But this time around he had to hunt for a brand ambassador for his party in distress. One straight question I like to ask Chidambaram whose intelligent replies I always like, but this time I want not an intelligent answer but the answer that comes from his heart.

"The question is whether you are really worried about the distress of the farmers or distress of Congress party in the election year? If your answer is farmers, another question I put to you sir, then why did not you do it earlier, which would have saved many farmers across the country from the suicides that went unabated."

I am sure your answer cannot be the distress of the farmers and even if this is the answer you cannot be your usual intelligent! Now whatever is the reply of FM one thing is certain that the so-opera announced in this house is not going to help the farmers in real sense. Admittedly the eligibility for the waiver is limitation of below 2 hectares i.e. the farmer should be small and marginal. But according to one source the number of these small and marginal farmers taken loan from banks is very less.

RBI DATA: Authentic data from RBI is said to have confirmed that the non-performing farm loans in commercial banks is Rs.7367 crores only.

In contrast, farmers loan repayment record with lending commercial banks seems commendable. According to the latest RBI Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2006-07, the gross NPA of all commercial banks put together was Rs. 50,519 crore, of which the share of NPAs on farmers loans was only Rs. 7,367 crore. This is the gross figure, the net must be far less. That is, out of the farm loans of Rs. 2,30,108 crore outstanding, the gross NPA is Rs. 7,367 crore. There is, admittedly, no budgetary support! for the write-off. Yet the minister asks Parliament to support the write off of Rs. 60,000 crore of bank money, which represents public savings - something over which parliament has no control.

What about prompt tamper who have repaid I urge Finance Minister to follow the example Karnataka which prompt farmers were rewarded.

According to the National Sample Survey Organization, indebted farmers had borrowed more than 42 percent of the outstanding amount from sources ranging from moneylenders to relatives. Also, marginal farmers who own less than two acres do not get loans from formal credit institution whether this farmer actually borrows from financial institutions. They have to borrow from private sources. Radhakrishna Committee endorses this. If this the case then the FM owes replies to four specific questions.

Q. NO. 1. What is the correct position of the total outstanding overdue loans of farmers taken from institutional financiers including commercial banks co-operatives and others?

Q. NO. 2. How is the magical figure of 60,000 crores arrived at?

Q. NO. 3. Where does this huge amount come from?

Q. No. 4. Whether the FM clarifies the categories of loans covered by this waiver package?

Inclusive Growth Story: Coming back again to 9% economic growth that is more inclusive. I would like to draw the attention of the FM to a very interesting figure in this regard. "About 836 million people in the country are spending less than Rs. 20 per day can we call it as inclusive growth! The FM and PM owes a specific reply to this aspect of over economy. At one side we have been maintaining 9% growth at another end this is the situation. What kind of economy we are nurturing? What is the solution for this?

Tax Reforms: Since it is the election Budget the FM has been kind towards tax payers.

Service Tax Limit: The service taxability limit to be extended further.

Institution of Excellence: Dharwad Agriculture College to be included and special funds be released.

Communalization of Budget: Para 47 of Budget Speech of FM is full of communal flavour. A multi sectoral development plan for each of the 90-minority concentration districts is launched and for this Rs. 3780 crore huge funds is earmarked! But look at the size of funds for SC/ST a meager Rs. 1,578 crores (para 43).

Check on the Inflation: There is nothing constructive in the budget which answers for the checking the inflation. Price have daily consumable have reached sky.

Strengthening Crop Insurance Scheme: This budget does not contain any assurance of making existing crop insurance scheme more farmer friendly. Intention of AIC not at all positive.

Allocation for the PDS: A some of Rs.32667 crores is provided for Food Subsidy under PDS and other welfare programmes. But there are no constructive proposals for the strengthening of PDS system. Wheat now distributing from PDS of lowest quantity.

*SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): While participating in the discussion of the historic budget presented by our Hon. Finance Minister, who has earned ~~credit~~ ^{credit} for a plethora of programmes including the landmark debt waiver for the distressed farmers in our country, so let me seize the opportunity to appreciate the Finance Minister who deserves to be praised lavishly.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Sir, as we know that economic role of a government always reflects through Budget which includes increasing efficiency, promoting equity by using tax and expenditure programme and for redistribution of income, to foster macro economic stability and growth with a view of reducing unemployment and inflation while maintaining growth through fiscal policy and monetary regulation. This budget is a vivid replication of the economic role of an ideal government.

The common people while highlighting the budget proposals commenting upon the welfare measures initiated by this government will upset the apple cart of conservative and pseudo revolutionaries of our country. Applaud from the common people invokes diatribe from the opposition and Trojan horses who are also getting envious. It is said that the envious praise only that which they can surpass and that which surpasses them, they censure It is frivolously argued that budget proposals have been communalized. Nothing can be regrettable and beneath the dignity than this kind of parochial perception which is being nourished by our opposition.

Sir, Union Government represents the entire population of India irrespective of caste, colour, creed, religion and persuasion. National Common Minimum Programme was formulated which includes six very basic principles to promote good governance. The Charter of Governances put focus to provide equality of opportunity, particularly in education and employment for SC, ST, OBC and religious minorities. Sachar Committee suggests policy initiative to address educational career and political deprivation among Muslims. That is why, multi-sectoral development plan for each of the ninety minority concentration districts will be drawn up at a cost of Rs.3780 crore and the allocation in 2008-09 will be Rs.540 crore. A pre-Matric scholarship scheme with an allocation of Rs.80 crore next year, Scheme for Modernizing Madrasa education for which a provision of Rs.45.45 crore has been made in 2008-09. 256 branches of Public Sector banks have been opened this year until September, 2007 in districts with substantial minority population. 288 more will be opened by March 2008 and many more in 2008-09 and continuing the exercise started this year more candidates belonging to the minority communities will be recruited to the central paramilitary forces.

The measures for the minorities have been invoking hostility from the NDA conglomerates, but the fact is that stability of the country depends on the inclusive growth and through the accessibility of all communities, ~~whosoever may be to the resources and prevailing opportunities so that~~ a sense of deprivation could be obviated.

Sir, allocation to the tune of Rs. 3271 crore in respect of schemes benefiting only Scheduled Castes & Scheduled

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

Tribes and Rs. 17691 crore in respect of scheme with at least 20 per cent of benefits earmarked for SC&ST have been made in the Union Budget 2007-08. In previous budgets, the Government had announced a slew of pre and post-Matric scholarship programme for SC, ST, OBC and minorities. All of them will be continued in 2008—09 with adequate funds as summarized below for Scheduled Casts 804 crores, Scheduled Tribes Rs. 195 crore, OBC 160 crore, Minorities Post-Matric Rs.100 crore. Even for the year 2008-09, it was proposed to allocate a sum of Rs.75 crore to the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Programme to support SC, ST students pursuing M.Phil. and Ph.D. courses, leave alone umpteenth number of welfare programmes for the upliftment of SC, ST and OBC population, who are vulnerable in our country.

[Translation]

Malhotraji's question is that this year's budget is a caste based budget and efforts have been made to appease minorities. In reply to that I would like to quote the article of a well known sociologist Shri Prasad and state that it is quite apparent that new economic changes have led to the liberation of downtrodden people, last year 10 lacs commercial vehicles were launched on the Indian roads and out of the 10 lacs people driving those vehicles, some are from my village. The people of my village also got employment in thousands of factories and industries started during this period. In my village there were so many downtrodden people, who were utterly poor and they did not have any access to modern education and employment. Reservation system was of no use to them but urbanization opened vistas for them also. They went to cities. I contacted such families and found that one or two persons from each family were working in cities.

The Labour shortage caused by their migration and the money sent by them have changed the fate of the villages. Dalit women have got the maximum benefit, as a result of it their life style has changed. I agree that this is not the last destination. The life of the Dalit woman is still full of problems and sorrows. It will take an era to solve their problems.

After a long time it will be possible to make them equal to others but certainly they have witnessed the change.

Those in favour of castism will be shocked to find that today dalit woman also has time for herself. She takes branded tea, uses shampoo to clean her hairs. This image of the Dalit woman does not match with tradition and disturbs us but such changes have been made which would not disturb us. So please come to Bhandav and look at the scenario of women's liberation.

[English]

May I ask, Mr. Malhotra ji, whether the above stated welfare measures meant for SC, ST, OBC people could be categorized caste budget. I mean caste based budget.

As I observed that this is the first time that the government has been delivering blow by blow account of the progress being achieved by this government, as for example, under Bharat Nirman, it is stated that these ambitious programmes are now over thousand days old. At the current pace on each day of the year 290 habitations are provided with drinking water and 17 habitations are connected through an all weather road. On each day of the year 52 villages are provided with telephones and 42 villages are electrified. On each day of the year, 4113 rural houses are completed.

Government has launched the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an outlay of Rs.25000 crore and National Food Security Mission with an outlay of Rs. 4882 crore. The objective of National Food Security Mission is to push both production and productivity of staple foodgrains, national Krishi Vikas Yojana provides for additional assistance by Central Government as 100% grant to incentivise steps to take up agricultural development on priority and in a comprehensive manner. It is better that the NDA people should encourage the State Governments run by them to exploit the opportunity being provided by the Central Government in agriculture, social, educational and health sector.

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme allotted Rs.823 crore to provide subsidy to the beneficiaries for meeting the cost of training backward-forward linkage and to meet residual or committed liabilities under PMRY. Credit Support Programme is in vogue to provide guarantee cover to commercial banks for loan without collateral security.

I would propose the government to consider the waive of debt incurred upon micro and small entrepreneurs who are likely to have been affected by the strained international commodity prices and the appreciation of Rupee because crores of people are earning their livelihood from this sector and they are also suffering from severe financial distress. MSME Section is considered to be the largest employment generation in the country next to agriculture. It is declared a priority section. Banks used to refuse to sanction loans to units in this section in spite of the fact that repayment this section is encouragable. ...Collateral securities are demanded by the banks even for loans less than Rs.5 lac and also for loans under GTMSE. Suitable legislation is required which can redress the situation and ensure survival of the MSME Sector especially micro sector which constitutes about 80% of MSME.

Sir, I won't indulge myself in consuming more time and prefer to confine to some relevant issues concerning the State of West Bengal in general and the district Murshidabad in

particular. Sir, you are well aware that out of ninety minority concentrated districts so far identified, Murshidabad holds the highest concentration of minority people in India and virtually there is no industrial growth worth its name in existence in Murshidabad. Owing to the contiguity of the district with Bangladesh, a large number of people are involved in informal trade, like smuggling, cattle trafficking, etc.

Sir, recently, the bird flu has inflicted a severe economic hardship to the poultry farmers, including formal and informal sector. Thirteen districts were affected, which includes lakhs of poultry product traders. In spite of the lifting of the ban on poultry products by the State Government without ascertaining the ground reality and without complying the established norms and regulations, as prescribed by the World Health Organisation, the culling and mopping operation did not yield the desired result. And more so, out of political convenience the State Government started distributing the bird chicken for rearing up afresh without having any disinfection to the affected area as a result of which bird flu has resurfaced which has even shaken the confidence of the common consumer. I would propose a financial package including the waiver of loan to the poultry farmers and traders in view of the distressing situation as lakhs of poor farmers who used to earn supplementary income through poultry farming and most of the poultry farmers belong to the minority community. Annually, West Bengal used to consume 700 crore eggs out of which only half of the requisite demand is met locally.

Lakhs of people in West Bengal have been losing their hearth and home owing to the fierce erosion of river Padma and Ganga. Real estates worth crores of rupees are being wiped out by erosion. Already a great part of erosion prone area has been brought under the authority of Farrakka Barrage Project with a view to arrest the erosion, but due to the lack of adequate funds, works could not be done as much as was desired.

So, I urge upon the Finance Minister to release more funds to the Farrakka Barrage Project so that before the onset of the rainy season, a substantial anti-erosion work could be done.

On the other hand, a number of districts in West Bengal are destined to be inundated every year by the onslaught of flood, which used to entail a loss of farm produce worth crores of rupees rendering farming community in the flood prone area to be impoverished.

Sir, in this regard I would propose to infuse substantial fund for implementation of Kandhi Master Plan which could transform the agricultural scenario in the Murshidabad District. Already a detailed project report of Kandhi Master Plan has

been submitted to the Planning Commission. Your kind intervention is fervently sought to realize the long cherished dream of the common people of Murshidabad, whereby Kandhi Master Plan could be materialized.

Sir, you are also aware that a great part of agricultural land in West Bengal is considered fertile for potato growing, but due to the paucity of cold storage facilities, and the tricks of manipulative traders the potato growers are compelled to sell their produce for a song, which eventually triggers suicide. I would propose to the Government to announce the Minimum Support Price to save the potato growers from being ruined.

Sir, as far as West Bengal is concerned, there is a huge potentiality of export oriented jute products, sericulture, food processing, pisciculture and horticulture. A large number of weavers and artisans are leading a life of penury and poverty in spite of having their innovative skill, the reason being that they do not have the modern and technology intensive equipment including sufficient funds. You will be astonished to note that in the District Murshidabad, more than hundred varieties of mangoes are grown only to be wasted and to be sold distressfully for want of preservation and post-harvest management. In addition there is a huge potentiality in West Bengal for promoting tourism as the state has everything sans desert, you would have majestic hill in the North, bountiful sea in the South, Terai region on the foothills of Himalayas, the labyrinthine deltaic region in the Bay of Bengal, let alone living religious and historical places which can lure the tourists, both domestic and international.

I must appreciate the government that against all adversities, the food subsidy has been continuing on and even increased this year to the tune of Rs.32667 crore. Food subsidy is meant for providing subsidized food to the poor people, but the recent ration riot in West Bengal has debunked the much publicized PDS system, which has been infected by corruption and insensitivities. Massive funds are siphoned off by the dealers, distributors in collusion with food supply officials in West Bengal. Lakhs of fake ration cards are in circulation. Even you will be surprised to note that Bangla Deshi citizens are drawing rations from Indian soil by using bogus ration cards. The State Government of West Bengal has been failing to off take the quota from central pool while passing the blame on to the Union Government for ration debacle. The Fair Price shops in West Bengal do not display the prices of items, monthly allocation, previous month's issue quantity, issue prices and the addresses for reporting grievances. People are simply cheated by weight and quality. No social auditing is in existence to monitor the performance of PDS in West Bengal.

The deserved persons are excluded from the BPL list, while industrialists, rich people, even Member of Parliament,

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

Ghan Khan Chowdhary were included in the BPL list in West Bengal. Naturally, out of desperation, when poor people got agitated for being deprived of their quota, they are destined to be lathi-charged and fired upon by the police in West Bengal.

Sir, I shall be grateful to you if you kindly make your kind intervention into strengthening the PDS system in West Bengal and offer me the list of offtake of wheat, rice under APL, BPL or Antodaya Annapoorna Yojana made by the State of West Bengal.

I hope, I am optimistic, that the Budget Proposals will usher a new era of peace and prosperity in our country. With these words, I am concluding my speech.

[Translation]

* SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Sir, thank you very much for giving me time to express my views on the Budget 2008-09 presented by hon. Minister.

Today every person in the country is crying because of the pressure of rising prices. While cooking, women are unable to decide whether to cook dal or vegetable, dal is available at Rs. 65-70 per kg while the rates of onion, tomato and potato remain at peak through out the year. This is the condition of middle class people. You can guess for yourself the condition of the poor labour who earns Rs. 60-70 a day after a lot of hardwork. He used to eat his food with boiled potatoes but now that has also become costlier.

Hon. Minister has appealed to the traders to reduce the rates but the rates have gone up instead of decreasing. What kind of an appeal it is? It was rather good without his appeal, atleast the rates would have remained stagnant. We have continuously been registering increase in average growth percentage in other sectors, but as far as agricultural sector is concerned we are not even able to achieve the estimates of growth rates. We are providing cheaper loans to the educated service class people, business class people and the people engaged in other professions for house construction purpose but a farmer who some how manages to meet both ends and feeds his family after day and night toiling is given loans at a higher rates. Banks charge some extra as processing charges while giving loans for agricultural instruments and then only loans are sanctioned. The farmer gets deeply entangled in debts because of higher interest rates and agriculture becomes an unprofitable business that is the reason that most of the farmers are committing suicides and the Government is not paying attention to it. Every year, thousands of farmers are committing suicides and their

families are getting ruined. Even then, the Government is not taking any special steps to provide relief to them.

Hon. Minister of Finance has mentioned about a lot of ups and downs in agricultural sector. It has been assessed that growth rate in agriculture is likely to remain 2.6% only during the year. It indicates what the condition of agriculture is and what the situation is which farmers are facing while India is an agriculture dominated country and the entire country depends on agriculture in the matter of foodgrains. Even today, the farmers are dependent on rain (Inderdev) for irrigation. If the rains are well and in time then the farmers feel very happy and if Indra Dev is angry then the farmers are not given the much needed help by the Governments. The Government's announcement regarding waiving of farmers' loans to the tune of 60 thousand crore rupees is insufficient. Hon. Minister of Finance has announced waiver of farmers' loans scheme to provide relief to the agriculture sector which is reeling under severe crisis. But only some of the farmers will be benefited from it. Only those farmers will get the benefit of the loan waiver scheme who have taken loans from the institutions like Nationalised Banks, Gramin Banks and Cooperative Banks. But those farmers, who have borrowed money from commission agents and money lenders, there is no provision for them in the budget. There are around 2.75 crore such farmers in the country. Most of the farmers who committed suicide due to debt stress are such farmers only. There is no provision to cover the farmers under the assured income and insurance scheme. There is a need to provide short term crop loans to the farmers at 4% rate of interest. The farmers who have taken loans from moneylender or powerful people at higher rates of interest and are unable to repay their loans because of natural calamities, they should be provided patronage and security so that they do not commit suicide.

I would like to draw the attention of the House towards, regional imbalance prevailing in very backward Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. There the people are not even getting clean water to drink. At many places saliner or hard water is available under the ground due to which, people have to go 25-30 kms away on foot or in Bullock or by bicycle to fetch potable water and in this process their entire day is consumed and they are unable to do any other work. Ground water level is constantly going down. Wells, ponds and small or big barrage are on the verge of drying up completely. Because of unavailability of water and fodder for animals people have freed their cattle and pets. 80-90% farms have not been ploughed because there were no rains. At many places we can see the land parching all of a sudden. India is an agriculture dominated country and the farmers in the country are dependent on rain water. There is a need to link Ken and Betwa rivers and install tubewells as per requirements of the

farmers and construct lift canals and dams on rivers in the entire region through the modern resources of irrigation so as to provide water for irrigation to the farmers of Bundelkhand region at an early date.

Even today the 90% houses of farmers of Bundelkhand region are made of tiles of soil. These tile roofs get broken due to heavy hail storms. During the rainy season houses collapse due to land sliding. There is a need to provide clean and safe houses in the villages. There are no arrangement of cleanliness in the village because of which people have to face many types of diseases. All the farmers should be provided with necessary grants to construct pakka houses in place of kachcha houses.

Farmers should be given grant for pattern farming.

An Agriculture Calamity Fund should be established and evaluation of damage at the time of calamity should be done at villages level and not Tehsil level. The price of fertilizers, seeds, and agricultural equipments should be reduced by giving more subsidy and foodgrains should be kept outside VAT and Government take steps to prevent closure of sugar mills.

The minimum support price of paddy and wheat should be fixed at Rs. 1250 and 1500 respectively.

Renovation works should be carried out on priority basis to restore the almost damaged canal system of Uttar Pradesh to solve the problem of water.

A sum of Rs. 15 crore was being provided under uniform development scheme in the backward districts of the country but it has been discontinued now. The uniform development scheme has not achieved its target in all the districts and there is a need to continue it for further three years. The amount for this purpose should be announced in the House for spending during the current financial year itself (specially for the Bundelkhand region) and it should be spent under the monitoring of Members of Parliament, and proposals of public welfare should be approved by MPs and not by officers. This should be done for all Central funds.

The National Health Insurance Scheme should also include all the farmers and needy people of the country.

Old age Homes should be established in all the districts of the country and people living there should be provided with medical facilities.

The National Highway number 75-76 should be converted into four lane road from Jhansi-Jhanpur and Kanpur-Sagar.

At least 20 hours electricity supply in a day should be ensured in all the regions of the country.

A big hospital on the lines of All India Institute of Medical Science, should be established in Bundelkhand.

There is a need to open a central university, Navodaya School, Kandriya Vidyalaya, Sainik School ITI, Polytechnic and IIT.

There is a need to establish small scale industries in Bundelkhand having no industries so far.

The number of post offices should be increased as per the requirement. Speed Post service should be made available in Post offices at Tehsil level and modernization of district level post offices should be taken up. The present water level in many metropolitan cities of the country specially in NCR is depleting fast due and to the growing depletion, the problem of potable water is fast increasing, but the Government have neither taken any steps to arrest the depletion of water level nor it has any scheme for the future. The situation in rural areas is even worse. The Government is aware of the problems of urban area but it is doing nothing in this regard while many problems of the rural areas do not come to the knowledge of the Government. The ground water level in the rural areas too is fast depleting and there is an immediate need to take steps in this regard.

There is problem of rural electrification in the country. Further steps are required to be taken to solve this problem. Therefore, necessary steps should be taken to provide electricity in all the villages of the country and increase the production of power.

Around 2 crore people of our country do not have any houses. The situation in cities like Delhi is even worse. Prices of houses are skyrocketing, people earning 10 to 20 thousand rupees per month are unable to purchase a two room flat even after putting their whole life in the service. There is a need to take urgent steps by the Government in this regard.

The people of Bundelkhand have been facing severe problems due to the natural calamities (currently severe drought) affecting it for the last four years.

The entire loan of the farmers of Bundelkhand should be waived off alongwith the principle amount and national calamity should be declared there and Central assistance for foodgrains for the whole year and rehabilitation, irrigation and potable water and fodder for animal be given and youths should be prevented from migrating by providing adequate employment opportunities and special economic package should be given for infrastructural development as per the report of the study group of the Planning Commission on urgent basis.

Therefore, it is requested that special economic package should be announced in the budget to properly and remove regional disparity and Rs. 15 crore should be provided during each of the coming three years from the current financial year itself under the uniform development scheme.

*SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on budget.

All farmers should be included under the scheme to waive off for farmers. The Finance Minister has not done so. Small farmer who owns one are of land takes loan from money lenders, the hon. Minister has mentioned nothing regarding this type of loan, some solution should be worked out for them also.

The Government have done nothing for people belonging to the scheduled castes and the schedules tribes and even poor people belonging to any caste. People belonging to the SC and ST category have not been uplifted educationally and economically in rural as well as urban areas. They have not come into the mainstream of the society even after 62 years of Independence.

The Central Government should impart compulsory education from class one to B.A. level with hostel facilities to all children belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The hon. Minister should accept this demand and include it in the Budget while replying to the Budget discussion so that crores of children belonging to the SC and St category could be benefited from it.

The Central Government is providing Rs. 25 thousand under Indira Awas Yojana for the last many years while prices of bricks, cement, iron have increased many times. I demand that the Finance Minister should provide at least 50 thousand rupees under Indira Awas Yojana. The condition of farmers of the country is worse and there has been steep hike in the prices of fertilizers, seeds, insecticides and diesel. Farmers could not achieve the expected increase in crop production. Farmers are compelled to commit suicides, I, therefore, demand that the Finance Minister should reduce the prices of fertilizers, seeds, insecticides, diesel etc. for the benefit of farmers.

Sir, most of the educated unemployed people who took loan from banks have failed to repay it. Therefore all the loans taken by educated unemployed should be waived off. It would benefit thousands of them.

Sir, the Chairperson of the UPA Sonia Gandhi says that people going for regionalism would not be spared. Now it has become common to kill, intimidate and force Hindi speaking people to flee from Assam and Maharashtra. In both the states of Assam and Maharashtra the Congress is the ruling party. The terrorist outfit U.L.F.A. has been frequently perpetrating massacres of Hindi speaking people for many years whether they be from Bihar, UP, MP or any other state forcing them to flee from Assam. There is an influential minister

in the Government of Assam who helps the ULFA. As per the information available with me there is a Minister in the Cabinet of the Assam Government who has been chargesheeted in many cases. Warrants have been issued against him but the cases were hushed up through misuse of power. In this connection I had sent a letter to the former hon. President of India which was signed by 48 Members of Parliament from the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. A letter was also sent to the Prime Minister and the Chairperson of the UPA that an inquiry by the C.B.I, should be conducted into the cases against the Minister and legal action should be taken if he is found guilty. Sir, hon. Prime Minister and UPA Chairperson did not give any reply. I am grateful to the then H.E. Former President who told me through a communication that my letter has been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for conducting an enquiry.

Sir, I am sorry to say that even after so many years, the Ministry of Home did not take any action to conduct any enquiry. I mean to say that there is a difference between promise and performance of the UPA Chairperson. If this Government has will power, they should conduct C.B.I, enquiry against the said Minister of Assam and take action against him and ask the Governments of Assam and Maharashtra to ensure that no Hindi speaking person or a person speaking any other language is compelled to leave these states. If any person or any organization is found involved in such acts, action would be taken against the state government. If such type, of strict statement is given by the Central Government, the activities of those involved in spreading separatism and regionalism in the name of language and province will be curbed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq may now speak.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate hon. Minister Shri Chidambaramji for the General Budget-2008-2009. The Budget presented by him is boon for small farmers, the poor, common man and the middle class people. I congratulate him for this also. He as allocated Rs. 60 thousand crore for loan waiver of small farmers. I would like to submit that the loans of those who have taken it from the banks would be waived off but what about the loan waiver of those forty six percent poor farmers who take loan from money lenders and these are the poor farmers who often commit suicide. Therefore, they should also be helped and a way out should be found for them.

Mr. Chairman Sir, secondly, it is very clear from the

Sachhar Committee Report that the condition of Muslims is even worse than that of the Scheduled Castes. Muslims are not being supported properly. Muslims deserve Government support in view of their abysmal condition. The Fatami Report is also not being implemented. Muslims form the largest minority community of this country whose population, in my view, is thirty crores. If such a large chunk of population is neglected and if efforts are not made to support them, the country can not make progress. This time around he has allocated Rs. One thousand crore for minorities which is a paltry amount. Therefore, I demand that an amount of at least five thousand crore rupees should be earmarked for the development of minorities and he should also enhance allocation for the Moulana Azad Foundation. So far as minorities are concerned, it is my submission that only Muslims are lagging behind. There are however, other minorities also like Sikhs Christians and others but they are in small numbers. When allocation of funds is made Muslims are in disadvantage our position inspite of the fact that they are the largest minority. I have a report. I had sought a report about details of officials belonging to the Ministry of Petroleum on 26.7.2007. This report relates to minority community. There are only 15 persons belonging to minority community who work in the Ministry among them seven are Sikhs, seven are Christians and only one is Muslim. Similarly, whenever allocation is made the Muslim community is not provided its due share. I would like to tell that when the recommendations of Mandal Commission were implemented, 27 percent reservation was provided to the Other Backward Castes and the share of Muslims comes to nine percent but they are not provided even one percent instead of nine percent. I would, therefore, request that Muslims be provided reservation in proportion to their population. They should be provided their share of funds in proportion to their population out of the total allocations made for the minorities. The share of Muslims in total allocation should be reserved. For Muslims Aligarh University and Jamia Millia Islamia University which have been founded by Muslims with their hard work, the greatest help would be to accord minority character to these institutions but still these have not been accorded minority character. It is injustice to them. So far as electricity is concerned, there is acute shortage of power everywhere in this country. I hail from Uttar Pradesh and I am Member of Parliament from Moradabad. The situation with regard to power supply is very poor there. The power supply is not available even for 5-6 hours whereas an amount of Rs. 5500 crore has been allocated under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme by the Government during the year 2008-09. Therefore, I urge that power crisis should be dealt with properly. The total budget stands at Rs. 28000 crore. It should be properly utilized. India can not make progress until power crisis is solved and electricity is supplied to every household.

I have requested that injustice being meted out to Muslims should be stopped and they should be provided their due share. The country is witnessing today that Muslims of this country are loyal but they are not provided their share in that proportion. However, this budget is meant for the betterment of the people but a part of it should be spent on development of Muslims also. It is highly essential to make Muslims partners in development of the country in order to bring them into the national main stream. The budget presented by the Minister has created a wave of happiness among people and I hope that he will pay attention to address the problems of Muslims also.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Barq, we are very happy that you have concluded. Thank you very much.

13.12 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (Bolangir): Sir, let me begin by congratulating the hon. Finance Minister on his presentation of the Budget. He has painted a picture of 'Utopia' to perfection. Few men have his gift or ability to sound so convincing that those in the audience - actually get so totally mesmerized and begin to believe the picture he has projected with such poetic precision. It is only when one takes a reality check that one finds the alarming disparity between what has been said and the dismal picture as it really exists that one realizes what is going on.

Today, the nation is reeling under a severe price rise crisis. The common man or the Aam Aadmi is under immense pressure just to survive. I sincerely pray and hope that a situation does not arise now where there is a spate of suicides by the Aam Aadmi out of sheer desperation.

While I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister on several aspects of the Budget like enhancement in subsidy for Indira Awas Yojana houses, Mid-Day Meal Scheme being extended to upper primary classes, decision to set up more IITs and Central Universities in the country, a number of initiatives for women and children and the Self Help Groups and the Bharat Nirman Yojana, however, most of these are the legacies which they have inherited from the NDA Government under the able leadership of our former Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee ji and our leader Shri Advani ji. Last but not least, credit must be given to Shri Venkaiah Naiduji who was the Rural Development Minister during our Government.

I had great expectations from the hon. Finance Minister. But I am trifle disappointed. I represent Bolangir which is one of the KBK districts as we all know. I have spoken about it

[Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo]

several times. It is known for its acute poverty and backwardness. The KBK area is also known as the country's hunger zone. About 24 per cent of the BPL families in Orissa are from this region. It has a very high SC, ST population almost amounting to 54 per cent. And, 90 per cent of the population resides in rural areas and 42 per cent of the cultivable land is highland with very poor soil fertility facing severe drought. Therefore, it needs special policy initiatives and interventions.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has constantly talked of inclusive growth. Then, I wonder how come the hon. Finance Minister has not even once mentioned KBK in his Budget Speech.

As you are aware, in 2007, the Government of India discontinued the special assistance to the KBK region under the RLTA, viz., Revised Long Term Action Plan. It is only after our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, committed Rs 600 crore under the Biju-KBK Yojana that the Centre changed its mind and decided to include the KBK region in the Backward Regions Grant Fund, viz., BRGF. However, it receives a pittance compared to what it would have received, had the RLTA been extended. The backward regions grant fund allocation for the financial year 2008-2009 is Rs. 5800 crore for 250 districts. Even though 45% of it is to be spent on Bihar, UP and Orissa, it is still grossly inadequate. Ironically, Shri Rahul Gandhi has chosen to discover India starting from KBK region. Is this the Government's understanding of inclusive growth? Does it mean that only the UPA-ruled States should benefit while the rest of the country is denied their right? I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister for a special industrial incentive package for development of industrial infrastructure and industries in the KBK region on the lines of the North-East Industrial policy and other such policies. It has been known, in the past, that the Government of India has announced such packages in backward areas and Special Category States like the North-East Industrial Policy in 1997, the Sikkim Industrial Policy of 2002, J&K Industrial Policy of 2002, the Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh Industrial Policies of 2003. The KBK region which is the size of Kerala and is amongst the most backward regions of the country has a very high concentration of SC and ST population and people living below the poverty line. Hence the announcement of a special industrial incentive policy would greatly help the economic development of this area. A Memorandum on the above lines was given to the hon. Prime Minister during his last visit to Orissa. I would also request the hon. Minister for establishment of a Design Institute in Bhubaneswar, establishment of an IIT and IIM in the State, establishment of a Central University in the State and establishment of medical colleges fully in the Government

sector on a centre-State fund sharing basis, as the fee structure in private medical colleges is very high. There is an acute shortage of doctors in Orissa especially in the KBK areas. Non-availability of doctors has a direct relationship to the number of medical colleges in a State vis-a-vis requirement as per population norm. Provision of Central assistance for flood control activities in Orissa under the 11th Five Year Plan should be made. Government of Orissa has submitted proposals amounting to Rs. 386.64 crore for inclusion under Centrally-sponsored schemes during the 11th Five Year Plan. The Paradeep Refinery-cum-Petrochemicals project which has been upgraded to a 15 MMTPA project is to be executed at an estimated cost of Rs. 20000 crores. This should be expedited and completed within the scheduled time frame which is 2009-2010. Land acquisition and pre-developmental works have been completed. All concessions including deferment of Sales Tax have been granted by the State Government. Realisation of benchmark price for chrome ore and levy of royalty on iron ore on *ad valorem* basis should be considered.

There are two other issues that I want to raise. Firstly, the enhanced outlay under NREGS is very meagre. Earlier for hundred districts the budgetary allocation was Rs. 12,000 crore. But now for 596 districts the outlay is only Rs. 16000 crore. It is a five-fold increase with only 25% increase in allocation. So, how is it going to affect the districts which are already included in the scheme?

Secondly, we welcome the waiver of loans to the farmers, even though it will benefit only a very narrow section of farmers. Ideally, no distinction should have been made between the categories of farmers either between marginal and small farmers on one hand and others or between the sources of loan. But this loan waiver is only a temporary solution. It would have been better to have a permanent solution by investing this huge quantum of money in building rural infrastructure and irrigation potential by converting rain-fed farming to irrigated farming completely.

Sir, I know the hon. Finance Minister has been kind enough to increase the outlay for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and Rain-fed Area Development Programme (RADP). But it is still not enough, considering that the irrigated land is less than 5 per cent in my constituency. All our major projects like Suktel etc. are still stuck somewhere in the pipeline. More emphasis should have been placed in ensuring that the farmers are provided with good quality seeds, pesticides, fertilisers, post-harvest godowns to store their produce, forward market linkages, distinguishing between crop loans and long-term loans for agricultural development while providing agricultural credit. This would take agriculture to a higher plane of investment and growth and strengthen the agrarian framework of the nation.

Sir, in conclusion, I, once again, request the hon. Finance Minister to pay special attention to Orissa and specially to the KBK region.

I thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the General Budget for 2008-09.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I would like to say that I have a very long list of speakers with me. So, I would like to say that those hon. Members who want to lay their speeches on the Table of the House may do so and those speeches will be treated as part of the proceedings. I would also like to request those hon. Members who want to speak to speak very briefly and make only suggestions because the hon. Minister will reply to the debate at 4.00 p.m.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No, Sir. The hon. Speaker said that I should reply exactly at 5.00 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. So, I will request all the speakers to speak briefly.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: But still everybody has to speak very briefly, for about three to four minutes. Otherwise, it is not possible to exhaust the list. I am told there are 75 Members who want to participate in this debate.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Salem): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to participate in the discussion on the General Budget.

Sir, I support the General Budget for the year, 2008-09 presented by our hon. Finance Minister. I would like to thank Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and hon. Prime Minister for the benevolent support given to our Finance Minister for presenting this 'Golden Budget' in this august House. This is one of the most innovative, promising, pro-poor, development-oriented and a novel Budget unheard of in the history of Indian Parliament and Indian Government. I congratulate our hon. Finance Minister for the bold steps taken by him to steer the financial sector of this country.

Sir, the promises made to the people of this country in the National Common Minimum Programme of our United Progressive Alliance headed by our beloved Congress President Shrimati Sonia Gandhi have been fulfilled in this Budget. The hon. Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram has presented the fifth Budget of this Government in this august House in which the social sector, namely, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities, women, children, youth, kisans, weavers, artisans and almost all the sections of our society have been covered. By presenting this, not only he has made a history but also

this historic Budget has given a great relief to millions and millions of our Indian people.

Sir, India has to grow, the growth path will be made only by education and health as he has rightly mentioned. These are the two pillars of growth and thereby, this year, 2008-09, the hon. Finance Minister enhanced the budget allocation to the education sector by 20 per cent making it to Rs.34,400 crore. By SSA, mid-day meal scheme, the primary and secondary education has been covered. This has made a major impact on our country because once the education sector is built up properly, country will certainly prosper and its future is very bright.

Likewise, one of the greatest achievements of this Government is the introduction of mid-day meal scheme all over the country. The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru K. Kamraj, introduced mid-day meal scheme in Tamil Nadu and today another Tamil Leader, Shri P. Chidambaram introduced the scheme all over India. Today about 13.9 crore children are fed by this programme. This is the largest ever programme in the world today and our future is being looked after very well by spending a sum of Rs.8,000 crore. This is one of the very important factors. The children are the future of the country and today they are being helped in so many ways.

The hon. Finance Minister has also introduced a novel scheme for the educationally backward children of our country, whether they belong to SC/ST, OBC, minority, or any other community. Irrespective of community, the children, who are in need of educational loans, are getting loans and lakhs and lakhs of people are getting education in the higher education sector. Up to last year, about Rs.16,000 crore has been spent on this system.

I appreciate this and would request the hon. Finance Minister to extend this to other courses in the education sector. The students pursuing technical and medial education are being helped by this. I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to extend this other courses, like teacher training, para-medical, technical education. These are the lower rung of the system and these are also to be financed. There are people who are in need of such loans and are suffering. I hope, his benevolent gesture will certainly help them grow in the future also.

We have flagship programmes like NREGA. It was started in 200 districts and now 596 districts are going to be covered from 1st April with a sum of Rs.16,000 crore. By the experience it can be seen that the communities like SC/ST, women, etc. in the country are going to get 100 days' committed work and wages. So, the vulnerable sections, the deprived sections are going to get the benefit out of it for

[Shri K.V. Thangkabalai]

which I thank Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for her personal intervention and her interest in bringing this Bill to the Parliament.

With the last one year's experience, it can be seen that people belonging to SC/STs, particularly, women are getting employment. At the same time, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to include more and more communities, like OBC, farmers or farm labourers, in these programmes.

In this system, the mechanism of monitoring is there only by officials. I would urge the hon. Finance Minister on the floor of this august House that Members of Parliament or Legislatures, that is, the elected representatives should also be involved in the system so that more effective monitoring mechanism is there and so that they will be able to reach the people in good number.

Sir, under the JNRUM, the Government of India has taken a novel step. This year, Rs. 6,866 crore have been earmarked for that. My own constituency, Salem, is the third largest city in Tamil Nadu. We have given a proposal to the Government of India for allocating Rs. 1,600 crore for the development of Salem under Urban Renewal programme. I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to consider this and give us help under this programme.

The next issue is this. For SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities, the hon. Finance Minister has opened up a very good path to begin. In this Budget, more than Rs. 22,000 crore have been earmarked for the development of SCs and STs. This is a very great achievement for him; he has given 20 per cent additional allocation for these vulnerable sections. These sections are to be helped. That is why, he has made this provision.

For minorities also, in the next year's Plan, Rs. 3,780 crore have been earmarked for development plan. This year, Rs. 540 crore and an additional Rs. 80 crore have been allocated. The minorities are happy. At the same time, for the first time the hon. Finance Minister has increased the allocation for OBCs; he has given Rs. 164 crore for their educational upliftment. I thank him on behalf of the OBC MPs, and on behalf of the vulnerable sections and the weaker sections of the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Sir, kindly give me two minutes more to speak.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already spoken for ten minutes.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: I thank him and more allocation in the future may be made.

An important thing in the Budget is the agricultural debt relief programme. The hon. Minister has announced debt relief of Rs. 60,000 crore for the farming community. This programme is one of the highest priorities of the Government. About 82 per cent of the people who belong to the weaker sections of the country, that is the marginal and sub-marginal farmers, are going to be benefited by this great scheme. Likewise, our Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, hon. Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi ji announced six or eight months back a very novel programme of giving Rs. 7000 crore relief to the farmers, thereby completely waiving the agricultural loans in the cooperative sector. Now the Government has come out with a programme whereby the loans of all the financial sectors are going to be waived. At the same time, I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to include Tamil Nadu's request for waiving Rs. 7000 crore also whereby Tamil Nadu will get its share.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, otherwise that will not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Sir I am just concluding in one minute. The agrarian sector is the most important sector which feeds the people of India.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have spoken for 13-14 minutes, so now conclude your speech. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Our hon. Finance Minister and hon. Prime Minister have announced a novel programme for infrastructure development in this sector with Rs. 25,000 crore development plan. It is not enough.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Shrimati Rupatal Patil.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to increase it to at least Rs. 1 lakh crore for this sector to see that the second Green Revolution comes so that the country will have a benefit of the major development in the agriculture sector.

* (a) This budget provides for water related development Rs.20000 crores.

(b) Fertilizer subsidy to the tune of 32000 crore

(c) Rural Development Rs.22000 crore.

- (d) Rural infrastructure Development fund RIDE XIV Rs.14000 crore and Rural Roads under RIDF XIV 4000 crores.
- (e) National Highway Projects under NHDP Rs.12966 crores.
- (f) For food subsidy Rs.32667 crore are our commitments to implement the PDS Programme.
- (g) I urge and appeal to the Finance Minister to consider Sixth Pay Commission recommendation to support our Central Government Employees.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ***

***SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): I rise to speak on the General Budget for the year 2008-09. This is the last budget of this Government and 14th Lok Sabha and it would also be stated as an election budget.

This Government had pushed the common man into the garge of steep prices and compelled the farmers to hang themselves or die due to burden of indebtedness.

The Common man had bore the brunt of high prices of essential commodities like cement, steel, gas, fertilizers, seeds, farming inputs, electricity and water. Cost of production of crops had been rising constantly. M.S.P. was not increased and the farmer was compelled to commit suicide. Thousands of farmers either had committed suicides or are being mentally prepared to do so. During this, opposition parties and farmers launched suo-moto agitation against the Government in a number of States.

In regard to suicides by the farmers of Vidarbh region of Maharashtra, the people and opposition parties had drawn the attention of the Central Government through agitation. The Central Government had been compelled to give special package to 31 districts of the country out of which majority of districts are from Vidarbh.

The Government gave this package as a tribute to those farmers who committed suicides, laid down their lives and scarified themselves but their problems were not solved. The media and the opposition parties had played a great role in drawing the attention of the Government towards the suicides but even then suicides did not stop.

Due to criticism from all quarters the Government wake up and under the pressure of the people, announced partial

... This part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

** Not recorded.

*** Speech was laid on the Table.

waiver of the loans in this budget which has benefited 57 percent framers taking loans from banks and 43 percent farmers taking loan from Money-lenders as has been confirmed by the Radhakrishnan Committee. According to that, this is clear that only 22.6% small farmers would able to get the benefit.

Unfortunately only 17% farmers of the Vidarbha Region will be benefitted by this announcement in comparison to the farmers of other regions of Maharashtra. The farmers of Vidarbha region did not get the benefit of it whereas the Government had made this loan waiver announcement due to the suicides by the farmers of the region. The Government had failed to give benefit and the efforts of the Government to take credit is baseless. The UPA Government came to power in 2004, then why did they not waive the loans in the year 2005/2006/2007 and why did they do it now? The Prime Minister, the Finance Minister, the Agriculture Minister all were in the Government, then why did not you waive the loans in the year 2005 or 2006? This was not the decision or policy of the UPA or Congress, the Government had to take the decision due to the pressure of the public and suicides committed by farmers. The credit should be given to the farmers of Vidarbha who have committed suicide and become martyrs. Do not play politics on such suicidal cases. The UPA Government should apologize to society, farmers and farming community as these banks have earned Rs.6 lakh crores as interest from the farmers, whose loans were not waived. They earned Rs.50,000 crores from the farmers and are returning the same to them as waiving of loans.

The M.S.P. is not being given to the farmers as per their cost of production. This year M.S.P. of Rs.1000 has been given for wheat but paddy growers have been deprived of that causing injustice to them. The cost of production for wheat is more than paddy. Go through the History. There was not much difference between M.S.P. of wheat and paddy but the M.S.P. of paddy always remained higher. The UPA Government have not done justice to paddy growers by giving more M.S.P. for wheat There is a shortage of pulses in the country. Initiative should be taken to lift the ban on cost effective 'Khesari Dal' in some states including Maharashtra. The production of pulses should be increased in the country and it should not be imported.

Unfortunately, in a agriculture dominated country like ours, we have to import all the agricultural produces like wheats, pulses, edible oil, spices in addition to sugar and rice. Availability of proper irrigation facilities, seeds and electricity to the farmers at subsidized rate would definitely increase the agricultural production. A policy to provide subsidy directly to the farmers should be formulated and there should be no minus subsidy. A provision for nominal amount

[Shri Hansraj G. Ahir]

has been made in the budget for irrigation. Since there are several rivers in the country, irrigation projects should be executed on them. Availability of water to farmers will increase the production and we will become self-reliant. The irrigation projects should be undertaken for the densely forest covered areas of the states along with the areas of districts where farmers are deprived of the irrigation facilities due to forest laws and rules. The projects are not being sanctioned due to forest laws and the cost of the projects which have been sanctioned is becoming double or triple due to NPV and the compensation is being sought for forest land. State Governments are not able to bear the cost. I would like to request that the NPV should be cancelled and all the sanctioned projects in the forest areas including Hartman, Tultuli, Karwafa, Chena, lower Panganga in my constituency Gardchiroli and Chandarpur which are beneficial to agro sector which are not being implemented by the State Governments due to enforcement of forest law, should be included in national projects and be completed immediately by way of making provision in this Budget.

In view of power shortage in the country, some ultra-mega projects have been announced for power generation but not even a single one was announced for Maharashtra. There is power-cut of 8-10 hours and 12-14 hours in the urban and rural areas respectively. The economic survey shows that power generation rate has gone down to 6.6% from 7.7%. This is the failure on the part of UPA Govt. As per the Govt. statistics, only 10821 MW power was generated against the target of 12039 MW. I consider it the failure of the Govt. The States have sought power from the Centre. The States of Maharashtra has also sought 6500 MW power but it is being given only 100 MW. The demand of power can only be met if the power is purchased from neighbouring countries and provided to the States by the Central Govt. or the States are allowed to purchase the power from the neighbouring countries. I demand that more amount should be provided for power generation.

The rural people are migrating to cities due to lack of employment opportunities in the rural areas. A little amount is being paid to the rural people for their land acquired for SEZ under LA Act or any other Act and this land is being given to big industrial houses. The farmers depend on their fertile land to earn livelihood for their families. They are being rendered unemployed. The Agricultural land should not be acquired for the SEZ or any other purposes. The SEZ should be allowed to be set up only on barren land in tribal dominated areas in backward districts and the benefits of it should be extended to the people living in these backward and tribal and forest areas so as to lesson unemployment among them.

Fertile land should be acquired only in exceptional cases and sufficient compensation should be given in such cases. The arrangements should be made to provide PAP at reasonable price.

The issue of health is being ignored in the country. The conditions in the rural areas in this regard is very deplorable. According to the statistics of Ministry of Health, more than 7 thousand posts of doctors and specialists in PHC and community centers in rural areas are lying vacant. Apart from rural areas, the urban areas are witnessing the problem of malnutrition. Private health care facilities are becoming out of reach of the common man. The provision made in this budget to fulfill the need of huge investment in the health sector in order to make available the facility of special treatment along with the general health care facility to the common man is inadequate. AIIMS like institutions should be set up in all major cities of the country in order to provide special facilities to the public. I had proposed to set up the AIIMS like institution in Nagpur city which is a major city of Central India but the Government is paying no attention to my proposal. I demand that an AIIMS like institution be set up in Nagpur city. There is a huge disparity between the rural and urban areas regarding medical treatment facilities. I came to know while going through a monthly journal that there is one doctor available per seven hundred persons in urban areas while one doctor is available per eight thousand persons in rural areas. The health services available in rural areas are inadequate. People die due to small ailment there. By setting up Medical colleges in rural areas, the pass outs of these colleges may serve in rural areas. Therefore, Medical colleges should be set up in rural areas.

The problem of unemployment is assuming alarming proportions day by day. Man power is being curtailed in all the Government institutions and undertakings as well as private sector. The vacant posts are not filled up in Government sector. The educated youths are having no work or job. There is a need to fill up all the vacant posts urgently and create new posts. Initiative should be taken to stop curtailment in posts in all the undertakings. Rules should be framed seeking filling up of vacant posts by the entrepreneurs in the private sector. The Government is going to implement the recommendations of the sixth Pay Commission for the Government servants. I request the Government to provide monthly allowance to unemployed youths with no income. The Government should pay attention towards them first. I demand that a provision to provide them the unemployment allowance till they get some job or do some business be made in this Budget.

The common man should also be benefited from the national wealth like Coal, iron ore, copper, lime etc. found in some parts of the country. The Government is awarding these

mines to particular persons or group of persons in private sector on the basis of captive blocks and the benefits of it are reaching the individuals only. These blocks should be auctioned and the funds so collected should be distributed among the State Governments itself so that everyone may be benefited from this national wealth. The farmers whose farm land is acquired for the purpose of mining should get a part of whatever is earned through mining activity i.e. to the PAP. Those PAP's should get royalty for 30 years so that those farmers don't have to face unemployment after the acquisition of their land. These farmers should be duly compensated for their acquired agriculture and land; Land Acquisition Act 1984 should be amended. There is an urgent need to formulate a policy for determining the land price through negotiation.

All the families of primitive tribes including Adivasi, Kolam, Madia, Chhota Madia etc. living in various parts in the forests of the country should be provided 100 per cent housing facility. Every beneficiary should be provided a grant of rupees 50,000/- (fifty thousand rupees) under the Indira Awas Yojana by the Ministry of Rural Development. This amount should not be provided as a loan. This amount need to be enhanced.

Statements are frequently made by the Government for promoting technical education. To promote the technical education, colleges having MCVV courses were set up in Maharashtra in 1985. It is stated that grant will be provided in case the Union Government provide its share as grant. For the purpose of technical education the provision to provide grant should be made in this Budget so that justice may be done to the trainees and instructors.

As everyone has the right to justice, therefore, the law and order system should be streamlined. Though everyone has the Right to move the Supreme Court, the South Indians face a lot of difficulties in moving the Supreme Court as the Delhi-based Supreme Court is very far away from them. Therefore, a bench of the Supreme Court should be set up in Nagpur, the Central place of the country. The provision to this effect should be made in this Budget itself.

Parents are given deduction in income – tax on the expenditure to be incurred by them on the study of their wards. But if a student studies and simultaneously do some job, the student is not given any benefit on the expenses incurred by him/her on education. This should be considered. The job-doing students should be given concession in income tax for their study. With these words, I would like to say that this election budget presented by the Government would prove baseless vis-a-vis the electoral assessments on the basis of which it has been prepared and would further aggravate the problem of price-rise and unemployment. Opposing this Budget in the House, I conclude.

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important General Budget. I would also like to express my thanks to the hon'ble Minister of Finance that he has tried to present a good budget. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that the relief he has tried to provide to the farmers of the country is not adequate. I know the Government has announced to waive a loan of rupees 60 thousand crores of the farmers that is going to benefit four crore farmers. I would like to ask whether it is a justice when only the farmers of a few regions are going to be benefited from this. In Marathwara region most of the farmers have more than five acres of farmland. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to what would be the facts of these farmers?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, everybody know that the hon'ble Prime Minister had also announced a relief package for the farmers but it is also known to everyone as to what happened to them despite that. The number of suicides by the farmers have increased even after giving the relief package. I would like to tell the Minister of Finance that three or four persons have committed suicides in my constituency even after presentation of this year's budget. What is the reason behind this? So far as I understand, those farmers who need this relief more are not able to get its benefit. The officers misuse the relief meant for the farmers and thus the farmers are forced to commit suicide. Therefore, I urge that those farmers who have taken loan from the money lenders and banks should also be covered under the announcement made with regard to waiver of loans, otherwise, it may deliver bad results. When the farmers know that the loans taken by them are not going to be waived off; they shall be forced to commit suicide because till now they hoped that their loans were going to be waived off. Therefore, I request that all the farmers should be covered under this. I would like to know from the Government as to why the foodgrains are being imported? This is causing a great loss to the farmers. Why is the Government not providing such facilities to the farmers as may be useful in increasing the foodgrains production. And why is the foodgrains of lower quality being distributed? How would the human beings like to consume such foodgrains which is not even consumable by the animals. People are migrating to cities from rural areas due to unemployment in the country. The Government has completely, failed to check this migration. The Government should prepare an action plan to check the migration and to provide employment to people. You have stated that the 'Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Yojana' would be implemented throughout the country. For this, I express my gratitude to you. But mere implementing it will not serve the purpose. All the people know that corruption is rampant in National Employment Guarantee Scheme and to make it corruption-free is the biggest necessity. As the government are paying less attention towards the sugar cane

[Shrimati Rupatai D. Patil]

growers, even they are tending to commit suicide. The packages given for sugar mills are benefiting only to the owners of the mills and the farmers are deprived of these benefits. My demand from the government is that the prices of sugar-cane should be fixed for the growers and the payment should be given to them according to the prices fixed. This will bring relief to the growers and people will be inspired to grow the sugar-cane.

There is scarcity of power in the country. I would like to mention about my own state Maharashtra. The situation of power in Latur area is very bad. There is 14 hours power cut and due to this power cut the farmers can not work and children cannot study. The government is supposed to provide electricity at least for lighting one bulb in their houses. Today rising prices have affected everyone adversely because the first and foremost necessity of a poor man is two square meal a day. The prices of every article has gone up by two to three fold in the last three-four years. I don't want to go into its detail because everyone who is concerned about the plight of the poor, knows everything. But I would like to quote prices of some articles. The wheat flour was earlier Rs. 9 per kg, now it costs Rs. 14 or Rs. 16 per kilo gram. Rice which used to cost Rs. 10 per kilo gram earlier, now it costs Rs 22 to Rs. 28 per kilogram. The price of bread increased from Rs. 8 to Rs. 15, the price of tea leaf increased from Rs. 80 to Rs. 150 or Rs.180 per kilogram. The price of edible oil increased from Rs. 40 to Rs. 80 per litre. The same is with the price of petrol, diesel, cement, steel etc., which have also gone up. The price of petrol has increased from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 per litre, the price of diesel has increased from Rs. 20 to 30 per litre, the price of LPG has increased from Rs. 244 to Rs. 295 and the price of cement has increased from Rs. 125 to Rs. 240.

Sir, you have increased the grant for Indira Awas Yojana by Rs. 10,000/-. Today, a bath room for the rich cannot be constructed with Rs. 25,000, therefore, the amount that is being allocated is very less for construction of the houses for poor. The amount allocated for this scheme should be increased. I want to request to the Finance Minister that there should be provision of at least Rs. 50,000 for this scheme. Even the amount for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana needs to be increased. The prices of the commodities have gone up to such extent that they have put a question mark before the poor for their livelihood. The price of the foodgrains has gone up tremendously. Apart from all this the prices of cement, steel and other articles has gone up in double or four folds. In such a situation how can a poor build his house. The government has failed miserably even at the front of internal security. I will conclude my speech by reciting two lines to the government and to the Finance Minister.

Yadi tufan mein kashti ho to ho sakati hain tadveeren,
Yadi kashti mein tufan ho to khuda hafiz hai kashti ka,
Usko bachane wala koi nahin rahega.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Bwiswmuthiary, please be very brief.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the Discussion on the Annual General Budget for the year 2008-09.

*I rise to participate in the discussion on General Budget 2008-2009. I have mixed feelings about the Budget. Sir, I would like to let the nation know that in 2003, a new political accord was signed between the Govt. of India, the Government of Assam and a militant organization called the Bodo Liberation Tigers. As per the accord, a new political arrangement by the name Bodoland Territorial Areas District was formed within Assam under the Sixth Schedule to the constitution. To run the administration of this area autonomous, a new administrative apparatus called a Bodoland Territorial Council also was formed. But unfortunately since 2003, Government of India has been providing only Rs.100 crore every year to this area where more than 30 lakh people inhabit. This amount is not enough for an extremely backward area like Bodoland. I therefore demand that for all round development of Bodoland the Government of India should provide anywhere from Rs.500 crore to Rs.1000 crore per year. A completely separate provision should be made by the National Planning Commission to allocate and disburse this fund to Bodoland. And this Central fund should be given to the Bodoland Administration directly instead of giving it through the Government of Assam. With deep sorrow, I would like to add sir, although the Government of India has put more emphasis on Sarbashikhsha Abhiyan, but due importance has not been given to those venture schools of Bodo medium located within and outside Bodoland in Assam where students are taught through Bodo medium which has been the medium of instruction since 1963 in primary schools and gradually upgraded to upper primary schools and high schools. These Bodo medium schools could not be taken over by the Government of Assam as yet for paucity of funds. As a result Sir, 724 Bodo medium primary schools, 320 upper primary Bodo medium schools and 180 Bodo medium high schools have been facing a lot of problems. Some of the teachers who were working in these schools have already died and some are to retire very soon. I, therefore Sir, demand

*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Assamese.

that the Hon'ble Finance Minister should discuss the issue with the Hon'ble Prime Minister and provide minimum of Rs. 500 crore for the rescue and sustenance of these Bodo medium schools. Or else, great injustice would be done to the students of indigenous Bodo community of Assam. Bodo language was included in the Eighth Schedule to the constitution in 2003. Hence, Bodo people should not be deprived of their right to take education through Bodo medium. So far as education is concerned Bodoland area is lagging far behind. There is no institution for higher education. I, therefore, demand that a Bodoland Central University should be set up in our Bodoland. I support the move of the Government to set up thirty new Central Universities in the country. Along with this Central University, I demand for the setting up of one IIT, one IIM, one school of Planning and Architecture, one Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research, one National Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology, one Central Agricultural University, (one agriculture college in Udalguri), one AIIMS Model institute, one nursing training college, one National Institute of Food Technology and Management, at least 10 polytechnics, 10 textile institutes, 10 ITIs, one National Institute of Catering Service and Hotel Management, one Bodoland Bamboo Technology Institute, one National Institute of Epi (INDI), Endy and Muga Silk Technology, 10 model high schools, 10 JNV Schools, one Epi and Silk Technology Research Foundation and one Dairy Technology Institute within Bodoland. Moreover, we need a lot of financial assistance for various sectors. I therefore urge upon the Government to provide at least Rs. 5000 crores per year for developing agriculture, irrigation, industry, road and communication and power sector in Bodoland.

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA (Kanakapura): Sir, I seek your kind permission to speak from here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, but please be brief because you are a member of the ruling party.

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a member of the treasury benches, Sir, it is a great occasion for us that the UPA Government has done something for the country. It is a great occasion for us to present a pro-people Budget under the guidance of the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, under the able guidance of the hon. Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram and with the fullest support from the UPA Chairperson, Madam Sonia Gandhi.

Sir, it is a joyous moment for the farming community of this country. We have waived all the debts of small and medium farmers amounting to Rs. 60,000 crore. I do not say that it is a historical or a revolutionary step. What I meant is that the Government is not doing any charity, and it is only a fulfilment of our simplest commitment to the annadata, who is feeding this country.

Agriculture is not a profitable thing. To save our farming community from the trap of debt, this amount has been waived. It shows our solidarity and that we honour our farming community. We do not give political speeches, and we let the figures speak for itself. My Government has allocated money to strengthen the backbone of the farming community. My Government has allocated funds for water resources, for marketing and other schemes.

If you look at agricultural credit, it increased four-fold. The NDA Government, during their tenure, allocated only Rs. 80,000 crore at the rate of nine per cent, whereas our UPA Government increased it four-fold by allocating Rs. 2,80,000 crore at the rate of seven per cent. We have also laid a lot of emphasis on the augmentation of water resources under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme.

Sir, I support Government of India's decision to waive off agricultural loan of the farmers. But the farmers of the N.E. region do not get loans from the banks. What would be the Government's policy for the farmers who have been deprived of bank loans and what about the fate of the lakhs of unemployed youth of our country who had taken loans under Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana? In our N.E. region, several lakhs of unemployed youth are in debt. I therefore demand that the loans taken by the unemployed youths under PMRY also should be waived. Another important matter to which I wish to draw your attention sir, is that the Government of Assam has completely failed to maintain law and order and internal security as well. So, the Government of India should delegate the power of maintaining law and order and internal security to the Bodoland Administration. I also demand that a separate Bodoland Territorial Police Battalion should be raised and at least 10,000 youths should be recruited for this purpose. The Ministry of Defence should raise a Bodo Regiment in Indian Army in the same way as it had raised Naga Regiment some years back. New Police Stations and Police Outposts should be established in various places of Bodoland. Law and order situation has deteriorated considerably in Bodoland area...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions) *...*

The Government has allocated Rs.20,000 crore for this year, out of which Rs.5,500 crore have been given as grant and Rs.11,000 crore was allocated. The provision made during the NDA regime was only Rs.2,500 crore. It clearly shows that ours is a pro-farmer Government. I appreciate the hon. Finance Minister for implementing the Rain-fed Area Development Programme with an allocation of Rs.348 crore. The Centrally-sponsored scheme on micro irrigation was

[Shrimati Tejasvini Gowda]

launched in 2006. Within a span two years, nearly 5.5 lakh hectares of area was brought under drip and sprinkler irrigation. The target set for 2008-09 is four lakh hectares. For this purpose the Minister has allocated Rs.500 crore.

Restoration of water bodies is one of the primary objectives for command area development with an expenditure of Rs.3,500 crore. The Government is taking steps to increase the benefit of command area development to about nine lakh hectares. For this purpose the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are getting Rs.3,500 crore from the World Bank. States like Orissa and West Bengal are moving swiftly in this direction to seek assistance from the World Bank.

The Water Resource Finance Corporation has been established to fund major and medium irrigation projects. The WRFC would be incorporated as a company under the Companies Act which will help quicken the irrigation projects in the country. Of the 14 approved projects, three projects required an amount of Rs.7,000 crore. This is a step in the right direction.

I then come to crop insurance. Farmers have always been facing unforeseen destruction to their crops due to natural calamities. To provide them assured crop insurance, the UPA Government allocated Rs.700 crore. The Government has given Rs.60,000 crore as loan waiver. I would like to thank my young leader Rahul Gandhiji for coming to our help. I also request Chidambaramji to raise this up to 10 acres because farmers in dry lands are facing problem because of this area limit. If this area limit increased, it will be a great help for farmers in those areas. I would like to thank Chidambaramji and I also support the demand given by Shri Rahul Gandhi.

Sir, we should speak the truth. I am a little bit disappointed when the UPA Government stated that agriculture struck a note of disappointment. In spite of the fine start in 2007-08, it has decreased from 3.9 per cent to 2.6 per cent. It is very alarming. We can invest money in any field but if the farmers of this country are disappointed, there will be nobody to feed this country. To ensure food security of the country we must make farming a viable and profitable activity. Providing quality seeds, quality fertiliser, quality pesticides and a stable market price for their produce, will be a permanent solution to the problems of farmers. Our national policies should be agriculture-oriented and farmer-oriented since farmers represent 70 per cent of the population of the country.

The State of Karnataka has already waived the loans of farmers earlier. So, we are not going to benefit from the loan

waiver scheme now. Since we are in the Indian National Congress and speaking in the Parliament, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to extend some help to the farmers of Karnataka also who have already honestly paid their loans.

I now come to National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Our UPA Government not just talks about addressing the unemployment problem in the country but it works towards solving it. Of the 600 Districts of the country, about one fourth of them are affected by naxalism. Our Government would like to bring the youth misled by the naxalites in those Districts into the mainstream. I feel this is one of the very good programmes the UPA Government has launched. For this programme, the UPA Government has reserved Rs.16,500 crore initially. The UPA Government has assured legal guarantee to this programme. I do not think anywhere in the world a Government has assured legal guarantee for employment generation.

Minorities Corporation is getting Rs.1,000 crore; scholarship for SCs, STs, minorities is getting Rs.1,264 crore; SHG is getting Rs.40 crore; textile weavers and handloom workers are getting benefit. Elders are getting Rs.400 crore. Remuneration for *anganwadi* workers has been raised from Rs.1,000 to Rs.1,500; and Rs.500 to Rs.750.

14.00 hrs.

Eighteen lakh sisters are going to get benefit out of this scheme and on women and child development, through ICDS programme, the allocation has been raised from Rs.5293 crore to Rs.6,300 crore, and also the Women and Child Development Ministry is getting 24 per cent hike. That means, Rs.7,200 crore has been given to this Ministry. I appreciate this and I congratulate Shri Chidambaram for his pro-women, pro-children programme. An amount of Rs.11,460 crore has been provided for 100 per cent women-specific programmes; also an amount of Rs.16,202 crore is given where 30 per cent women-specific programmes.

Shri Chidambaram has increased allocation for defence up to Rs. 105 crore. I had an opportunity to visit Ladakh and other areas, along with my dear colleague and MOS, Shri Pallam Raju and we have seen how our brothers in the Army and Defence are guarding us; they are guarding our mother land in such inhospitable situations. Definitely, I thank and congratulate him and I feel very proud of my Government for the defence allocations.

Science and Technology is given Rs.85,000 crore; he is taking up a lot of things in this; for tiger conservation, he has given Rs.50 crore; one of the National Parks, Bannargatta falls in my Constituency; I particularly thank him and congratulate him on behalf of the people of my constituency.

At last, Trishakti Self-Help Groups are there; including Karnataka many States are doing wonderful job in this. Of course, they have extended LIC policies to the self-help groups. Only 35,000 groups are benefited; hon. Minister has sincerely made a request; compared to 30 lakh units, this is meagre; so, all the banks should take special steps to bring in all those 30 lakh units who are honestly paying their loans, they must be brought in under this purview.

At last, he has increased the income tax slabs for women and elderly. Altogether, it is pro-people Budget and one of the finest Budgets; this is in spite of financial challenges the country is facing; it is a pro-people Budget, to save the farmers, to strengthen the farmers, he has taken these steps.

A lot of work is done in the case of Bharat Nirman. Due to constraint of time, I am not going into them. I have a humble submission. For the last four years, even though we would like to learn in this House, we are not and we are hardly getting any time for debates. I am requesting all our elders to devote valuable time of the Parliament to debate; we would like them to do that. It is the greatest occasion for us to learn. Always we have to please; of course, we understand the difficulties that the Chair is facing.

With this request, I would like to thank the Ministry; I thank you also.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given you time whenever you asked for it. I have given you as much time as you have asked for. I have never cut short your time. I have been giving more time particularly to the woman members.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni): I hope that you would be kind enough towards me also as you have been with Tejaswiniji.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will be given as much time as was given to Tejaswiniji.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Sir, the budget which cannot curb the price rise, is a failure budget. We can say it with great pride that during the six years' tenure of NDA government the price rise was in complete check and people of the country were contented. Not only we but the masses of the country had the same feeling. I say that Lok Sabha is being dissolved time and again and election is round the corner. The government should conduct early elections so that NDA government may come to power and the people can breathe a sigh of relief and the price rise can be checked.

The budget for the year 2008-09 is not economy based but a political budget. The Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh has become drought ridden. There are cracks on

the land, wells are dry and there is no drinking water and in the rest of areas the crops of gram, lintel, peas are destroyed due to frost.

Our hon. Chief Minister has demanded a special relief package from the Central government but there is no such package in the budget presented here. I request the hon. Finance Minister not to do politics considering the plight of the people there. The U.P.A. Govt. at the center, should show mercy and sanction the special package as demanded by our state's Chief Minister so that the people get relief.

14.06 hrs.

(Dr. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY in the Chair)

This budget is neither meant for the poor, or for the woman or farmers. The budget is meant only for votes. The Government was not concerned for the people for four years and now by presenting tall figures an illusion is being created. The hon. Minister has drafted a disintegrating budget in the name of Bharat Nirman which is based on Communalism and religion. If you want to learn to draft a budget, learn it from the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Shivraj Singh Chauhan because since the BJP government has come into power in Madhya Pradesh, whatever budget has been prepared was never based on the religion, caste or class but it has been based to alleviate the poverty and plight of the people. The poverty and the plight has no caste or religion. Every one has to go through the same suffering. I request that you should not prepare a budget to disintegrate the society and the country, rather you should prepare budget for the development, for the interest of the poor and it should not be prepared with an aim at the elections only. If we say to the hon. Minister that he has prepared a budget to disintegrate the country, then why he has not made separate provisions for the poor Hindus and whatever meagre amount is provided for them is so scarce that it is not sufficient for their development respectfully. I want to narrate a saying, it is well known in the rural areas - a wolf in lamb's guise i.e. say something while keeping something else in the mind. Same is the case of the budget. This is not only a budget but has been drafted keeping the elections in mind. It is an illusion. Even the people have understood very well that these are election gimmicks. The message among people is also the same that since election is going to be held, so the UPA Government have presented such a budget to misguide the people as the budget appears to be what it is not. Food, education and medicines should be provided to the poor people at cheaper rates but the hon'ble Minister has failed in doing so. The prices of flour, pulses, rice, wheat, sugar and gas cylinders are skyrocketing and inflation keeps on increasing at a fast pace. The prices of cars have come down but common people cannot eat cars and mobiles in place of

[Shrimati Neeta Pateriya]

foodgrains. They need wheat and pulses at cheaper rates for two square meals but there is no such provision in the budget. The prices of these foodstuff have not decreased. The hon'ble Minister could not control price rise. The UPA Government have failed in controlling the price rise.

I would like to cite an example to illustrate the state of development of the country. 30 years back my Lok Sabha constituency, Siwan, was carved and after 30 years my Lok Sabha constituency has been abolished in the course of delimitation. As a Member of Siwan Lok Sabha constituency, it is my last speech on the budget. The candidates from different political parties have been elected as the Member of Parliament during these 30 years. I believe that they might also have made demands for this area. There is a narrow gauge line in my constituency. All the Members including me who have been elected as the Member of Parliament during these three years have demanded the gauge conversion and have also staged demonstration in this regard, however, till now, the said line has not been converted into broad gauge line. The Lok Sabha constituency was set up and has been abolished as well, however, no progress has been registered in this regard. It will not be an exaggeration to say that even the rail tracks of meter gauge line have started getting uprooted. Neither any engineering college nor any medical college has been set up in my Lok Sabha constituency, Siwan. This is the pace of development. If the development of the country is done with this pace then instead of alleviation, unemployment and poverty will keep on increasing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is being propagated that many a thing has been given to farmers in the budget but today in the morning I read in the newspaper that 34 farmers have committed suicide in the country since the announcement of the loan waiver scheme, whereas so much is being propagated regarding the loan waiver. I feel that unless the basic problem of the farmers is solved farmers will continue to be trapped in debt net. They need fertilizers for their fields, good quality seed, power for irrigation and irrigation water from the canals in time and unless these things are provided to them their problems will not be solved. Their problems are not going to be solved by loan waiver alone. The Government have waived bank loans. However, how many farmers take loan from the banks mostly located in towns. Most of the farmers take loans from village moneylenders and are trapped in their debt net and the interests keep on increasing at compound rate, thus, they do not have any hope of waiver of their loans. Ultimately, the farmers tend to commit suicide to get rid of their loans. Even in this loan waiver scheme there is limit of two hectare of land for farmers. My parliamentary constituency is a tribal area and I have seen that the farmers over there are in a very pathetic condition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my last period in Lok Sabha and the wishes of those who are about to leave are honoured more. So, I would like to request you to give me more time. Once a very poor person dressed in rags visited my house. He was a ghee seller. While purchasing 'ghee' I asked him whether he was very poor and had no land of his own? He said that he had sixty acres of land. I was utterly surprised to hear that he had sixty acres of land. When I wanted to know as to why was he dressed in rags and selling ghee in streets despite having sixty acres of land, he informed that his land was gritty, uncultivable and un-irrigated and produced nothing. Sixty acres of land is only in name. So, I would like to submit that the Government have waived loans of only those farmers who have only upto two hectare of land. The Government have not distinguished between irrigated and un-irrigated land. In my area even tribals have more than two hectares of land, however, their condition is such that they do not have two square meals, because there is no means of irrigation and consequently nothing is produced in that land. Thus, the Government's step is only a window dressing, having the intention to kill two birds with one stone. They want to give a message that it is the great saviour of farmers without doing anything for them or providing them any relief. The Government have fixed such a limit that none will get relief from this scheme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, farmer's commission was constituted and Swaminathan ji had given recommendations that farmers should be provided loans at 4 percent rate of interest. So, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Finance that he should provide loans to the farmers at 4 percent rate of interest.

Sir, no provision has been made in the budget to tackle naxalism and terrorism. While naxalism and terrorism pose a perpetual threat to the national security of the country. Yesterday I read in the newspaper that naxalites have presented their budget stating the details of arms to be purchased for spreading terrorism in the country. So, I would like to request the Government that it should pass the factual budget keeping in view the requirements of the country instead of presenting a populist or unrealistic budget.

I am the Member of the Committee on Science and Technology and whenever I go on tour I have get a feeling that our Scientists are discouraged. Today, pay and other facilities are being given in private sector. But the present generation of students do not want to become scientists. I have also observed that many institutions are not getting students desiring to pursue Ph. D study because they face the problem as to what he or she will do after Ph.D. Even the scientists are also discouraged to see the present system.

We will certainly have to think and do something special for our scientists who are round the clock involved in research work for our country.

We should take steps for conservation of water because presently climatic changes are taking place and our country is being affected by drought and floods. So, measures should be taken for conservation of water. Funds provided for Mid Day Meal are not sufficient to meet the need of balanced diet for a child. Besides, cost of cooking and fuel are also involved in that amount. I would like to request the Government to arrange for a cook and provide other facilities so as to lessen the burden on the State Government.

We should make sufficient provision in the budget for sports as well. We feel very ashamed with the recent performance of our country in hockey. We should make provision in our budget to promote sports and encourage sportspersons of our country so as to boost their morale and fulfil their requirements which will go a long way to glory to the country.

At the end, I would like to submit that the Government should solve the basic problems of the farmers. Their problems cannot be solved by merely waiving their loans. Besides, the Government should make available pulses, rice, wheat, jaggery, sugar, gas cylinders etc., which are the basic amenities for the poor people, at cheaper rates. I would like to extend my thanks to you for giving me time to speak and conclude.

[English]

*SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME (Nominated): Thank you for permitting me to participate in the discussion on the General Budget 2008-2009.

The budget this year addresses the paradigm of inclusive growth, sustainable development, leading to Bharat Vikas. Sir, as we tackle the challenge of emancipation of our people from poverty, ignorance and disease, to bring to them the fruits of the freedoms of a civil society that celebrates liberation.

I would in this debate focus areas:

There is no doubt that the Budget in its manifold domains be it: Bharat Nirman, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the Sarva Siksha Abiyan, the National Rural Health Mission or the socially inclusive Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission or the strengthening of the Panchayati Raj institutions, the concepts and deliveries for inclusive growth have been factored in, in terms of the **Government's Common Minimum Programme.**

* Speech was laid on the Table.

1. Education:

In this context I would like to commend the Government for the special focus on opening 410 additional Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in areas dominated by ST/SC/OBC and Minority communities. As well as IIM(s), IIT(s) and ISSER, two schools of Planning and Architecture and sixteen Central Universities in the country during the plan period.

In particular I would like to commend the foresightful scheme to nurture scientific talent that has been initiated with a provision of Rs.85 crores in this Budget. The INSPIRE programme will provide scholarships to young learners as well as secondary and higher education science graduates to encourage them to take up the challenge of building a knowledge society.

In this connection I would like to mention that the required infrastructure and curriculum framework to nurture science talent needs to be put in place: schools, colleges, and universities would require augmentation to enable these students to acquire the desired capabilities.

Coupled with this initiative is the sphere of Skill Development Mission with an outlay of 15,000 Cr. with Government and Private Sector participation, to initiate world class skill development programme. This is a much required initiative to enable industry to continue to have personnel that can keep the nation's competitive edge in place.

2. Health care:

Sir, the health care component finds a special place with the establishment of 462 thousand ASHA center (Associated Social Health Activists) to kickstart the Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojna and the National Programme for the elderly are particularly significant, alongwith the additional support to the ICDS program for attending to the needs of young mothers and children.

3. Agriculture:

Sir, the architecture of inclusive growth is particularly addressed by the incentives and sensitivities focusing the Agricultural Sector While the *loan waiver* and the *one-time settlement to farmers* has been much discussed in many diverse appreciations. The bottom line is that it is only fair that inclusion create a levelling of opportunities before a process is initiated to achieve the target of 4% growth in the agricultural sector i.e. to about 16% of GDP. To achieve this target after initiating the startline placement, the Government has provided for 2.80K crore for agricultural credit and 1,600 crore for interest subvention @ 7% per annum. In this context

[Shri Francis Fanthome]

may I mention that servicing loans at 7% is far too high for marginalised sections in any economy let alone a developing one.

Sir, the Finance Minister has made a provision for interest subvention at 7% if that is lowered to 4% a saving of 1000cr. will be affected, which can further augment the agricultural sector.

Sir, the architecture of inclusive growth covers investment in Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. Conversion of an additional 400K hectares under Drip Irrigation.

The Agriculture Insurance Scheme and the Co-operative Credit Scheme need further support of Government in order to make a difference.

4. Minorities:

May I Sir, briefly mention the need to augment resources for creation of opportunities for minorities to enhance their participation in the process of national reconstruction and emancipation.

The allocation of an additional 1000 Cr. to address the needs of nearly 16 crore minorities to take up implementation of the Justice Rajendra Sachar Committee Report, is commendable. The outcomes are now awaited in the 90 minority concentration districts of the country.

5. Women:

Sir, I would very specially like to record appreciation to the Gender Budget initiatives currently in place. As well as the 24% increase in allocation to the Ministry of Women and Child Development. This together with the resources for increase in compensation to Anganwadi workers and Helpers are bold steps taken by the Finance Minister in order to create the platform for inclusion of women. The women of the nation, despite the unequal sex ratio hold up more than half the sky. It is fitting that their augmentation has met the much needed attention.

To Conclude Sir, this Budget is popular not only because it addresses debt concerns of the agricultural sector, but also its sets in place initiatives for a new beginning with inclusion and involvement. Education, Health care, Women Empowerment and Skill Development are important instruments to kick-start new growth engines for the future of this great nation.

With these words I support the Budget proposals.

[Translation]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak on the current budget of 2008-09 and express my gratitude to you for this. Hon.

Chidambaramji has presented the budget in this House. I would like to thank the Prime Minister of the country, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, chairperson of the UPA and hon. Minister of Finance himself deserves congratulations for the facilities he has given to our farmers, the poor, the labourers, government employees and women in this budget.

Maximum possible funds have been allocated for Bharat Nirman, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Rural Health Mission and other programmes. Besides, 20 percent increase has been made in this budget for education sector. Significant allocation has been made for agriculture sector in this budget and the government have provided maximum relief to particularly debt ridden poor farmers who remained indebted for long time by waiving their loans and I would like to thank the Government for this generosity.

The blueprint of this budget reflects the picture of villages and this budget reveals that this government is giving specific attention towards villages. The slogan of this government is to move towards villages where there should be good roads, drinking water, electricity and all other facilities should be provided to agriculture labourers. The people migrate from Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and many parts of the country and when I see labourers of unorganized sector working in remote and far flung areas of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir and Uttaranchal, then I realise that the Governments of those States have done nothing for them and that is why people migrate from there on a large scale. So, the Government has made provision regarding insurance scheme for the migrated labourers out of the funds earmarked for unorganized sector and the Government deserves kudos for this. I would also like to say that this Government have allocated very huge amount for agriculture sector. Today, I was seeking that the Government have tried to provide fifty crore rupees for different sectors under mobile labs and taxing lab. But I would like to say that unless land use planning is done in a proper manner in the country under our National Agriculture Development Scheme, we can not eradicate the poverty of the farmers. Therefore, I particularly urge upon the Minister of Finance that land use planning should be done at block level in India. Every farmer and every scientist should reach each small piece of land and large scale maps should be prepared for land use planning and it should be noted which farmer wants to know which type of produce and what small farmer wants to produce. So, I request and say in every budget discussion that unless farmers change crop pattern and make land use planning, they can not become self reliant. Today, survey of India has ample opportunities regarding land use planning. Scientists may visit fields in co-ordination with agriculture universities and prepare maps on large scale. It is my special

suggestion that a separate pattern may be adopted for the entire country by preparing a land use map according to soil and climate making block level a boundary and I wish that a provision be made regarding land use planning in the 11th Plan. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance is sitting here. If such a performance is chalked out, then farmers will have to knowledge, about soil of the field, climate, quality of seed and fertilizers and it will turn out to be a success. You have waived the farmers' loan and are giving crores of rupees as subsidy but there is no proper land use planning. I do remember that once upon a time Shri L.D. Stain had prepared a plan for great Britain. Thereafter, he made it for China and again for Japan. You can find how far these countries have developed. So, it should also be implemented compulsorily.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, level of ground water in UP, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan is going down. The Level of Water Ganga and Yamuna flowing from Himalayas is going down. In 1984, when Shri Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister, he had constituted Himalaya Development Authority. A scheme was prepared for more plantation in forests of the State adjoining Himalaya. He also said that catchment area may be detected. Today, we find that water level of Ganga, Yamuna, Beas and Satluj rivers is going down. We will have to think about it and we will have to make a long term strategy to increase the water level of the rivers. I am sorry to say that this dream of late Rajivji could not be fulfilled. His dream was to increase water level of rivers by undertaking more and more plantation in forests after consulting Himalaya Development Authority. We will have to change the forest policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday in reply to a supplementary question I was told that no forest policy has been made in India as yet. The definition of forest policy have to be changed and a policy for plantation in forests will have to be chalked out so that water level of catchment areas could be increased. A policy is required to be chalked out. The Government should make a provision for this purpose in the budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the Minister of Finance stated that climatic changes are taking place. A group of scientists has been constituted for this purpose which will give their opinion in this regard. I would like that qualified and expert people should be included therein who will provide practical inputs. A seminar should be organized therefor. But organizing seminars alone will not serve the purpose. There should be a pragmatic approach towards it. A long term strategy should be prepared keeping in view the continuous fall in the level of ground water.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I am happy to note that Crop Insurance Scheme has been extended in this budget. Earlier, this scheme was confined only to rabi and kharif crops but now where there is hailstorms or low water level and low rainfall,

these areas have been divided under climatic zones and people of these areas have been included under Crop Insurance Scheme. Many such crops have been included in insurance scheme which are cash crops, Tea, rubber, tobacco, sugar, ginger, turmeric, pepper and cardamom are among them. I would also like that those areas may also be included under insurance scheme where there is more scope of horticulture – so those people of that areas could also benefit. Besides, we release huge funds to States under sectoral planning. I was going through the States' reports which reveal that many State Governments did not spend even 50% of the fund provided to them for construction of roads or for Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission or for other commissions. Today, we find that current financial year is going to end on 31st March and so many States are spending the money uselessly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: I am concluding. I would like to say that there should be a good monitoring mechanism at State and Central level and there should be quarterly monitoring. Whatever funds we give to states, should be properly utilized. Today whatever funds we allocate to states are not utilized more than fifty percent on an average, whether it is agriculture sector or horticulture sector or irrigation sector. So the work should be reviewed quarterly through proper monitoring. Those states should be panelized who do not spend money on time and in future less funds should be allocated to them because their performance is not good. So, again, I support this budget and congratulate hon. Chidambaramji for this budget. I also thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister may be termed as a "populist Budget", but not a "pro-people Budget." It has certainly some very good aspects, such as loan waiver to small and marginal farmers. But at the same time it acts only as a temporary succour to the farmers in distress. Loan waiver is applicable to those farmers who have taken loan from the scheduled banks, rural banks and cooperative societies, having up to five acres of land. But according to Dr. C. Rangarajan Committee Report, only 27 per cent of the farmers households take loan from these formal sources. Others borrow from the private moneylenders.

Though the hon. Finance Minister has announced that Rs. 50,000 crore will be the expenditure of this scheme, the Reserve Bank of India says that it is only Rs. 23,000 crore. What is the truth? We would like the hon. Finance Minister to explain the facts.

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

There are two or three problems with regard to loan waiver scheme. According to 2001 census, there are about 12,29,000 *kisan* households in this country. Only three crores are going to get the benefit of this loan waiver scheme. As I said earlier, the waiver scheme covers it partially, only the institutional loans. It does not cover the loans borrowed from the private moneylenders. The limit of five acres will also not serve the purpose. In backward and rain-fed areas, farmers having even ten acres of land are considered as small farmers because the yield is low. Most of the farming suicides are reported from these areas only. So, this package should be extended to those farmers also.

In respect of other farmers, the Budget proposes a rebate of 25 per cent against the payment of balance 75 per cent as one time settlement. That means we are again sending the farmers to private moneylenders to take money at a bigger rate of interest. Instead, a direct waiver of 25 per cent or 50 per cent should be provided to these farmers also.

There is a longstanding demand for reducing the farmers' credit rate to 4 per cent but it is not conceded. We propose to extend the loan waiver scheme to the farmers who have taken loan from the private moneylenders. Also, we demand the constitution of the National Rural Debt Relief Commission to give long-term and permanent solution to the rural indebtedness as unprecedented number of farmers committed suicide in this country. The 4 per cent interest rate to peasants is a permanent solution. Unfortunately, a section of the Press criticised this concession given to the peasants which is not correct. We reject it and appreciate the Finance Minister for this courageous act. But we would like to say that whatever has been done, it is having only a partial impact. Though it is being criticised as an election Budget, yet, at least, in the name of election, if this is given, it is a good thing.

Another major decision in the Budget is to raise the minimum exemption of the Income-tax limit. It may do help a section of the society, particularly the middle class and the Government employees. But the person getting Rs. 5,00,000 per annum and the person earning more than Rs.100 crore a year are paying the same 30 per cent income-tax. This is a very improper way of taxation. Instead, more tax should be laid on the super rich. Nothing is done to tax the dollar billionaires who are pocketing the biggest percentage of national wealth. It is a shame that somebody earns Rs.40 lakhs a minute in this country while a large number of people are living in utter poverty.

The Government is claiming that the economy is booming, the average *per capita* income is increasing. In reality, the fruits of the booming economy are not equitably distributed in the society. The gap between the rich and the

poor is widening alarmingly. According to the Government reports, even today 83.6 crore of Indians, which means 77 per cent of the population, are living in poverty. They are the vulnerable and marginal section of the society. These figures are before our eyes. Yesterday, there was in the news that eight super rich Indians ordered for supersonic jet flights which cost more than Rs.300 crore. Then, how can the Government say that the average *per capita* is increasing? I urge upon the Government to come out with the real *per capita* income by separating the incomes of the 53 super rich billionaire families with a combined wealth of 341 billion dollar wealth. It is approximately Rs.14 lakh crore. If this income is separated and then the *per capita* income of the average Indian is taken, then, the real income of our average Indians will come out. This is definitely not an inclusive growth but an exclusive growth. The real *per capita* income should reflect the sad state of affairs of our country. Sufficient amounts are not allotted in the Budget for the social security of 40 crores of the unorganised workers in the country. Further, 92 per cent of the total workforce in the country is unorganised labour and no allocations are there in the Budget.

The Government is giving more and more sops to the corporate sector. The rich gets subsidies in numerous hidden ways. The cut in excise and customs is one such way. According to our estimate, the Government has lost Rs.2,78,644 crore of potential revenue during this year on account of various exemptions, rebates and concessions provided to individual and corporate tax payers. This is 48 per cent of the total tax collection. If this amount is tapped, it is easy for the Government for not only waiving the farm loans but also sanctioning new interest-free loans to the agricultural sector and also welfare of the unorganised could have been taken care of. The problem of increasing inflation and price rise is not addressed in the Budget. Though the Planning Commission and the Government talk a lot about inclusive growth, yet, the big sections of society are kept out of the benefits of growth. I feel sorry to say that in India what we are building today is not a welfare society but a corporate society.

India stands at 128 number in human development index. That shows in which direction we are moving. A beginning is made in this Budget for minority welfare though not sufficient. I am very shocked to find that some of my colleagues from the NDA are criticising this Budget as a communal Budget. What I feel is that the amounts that have been allotted are very insufficient. That should have been appreciated. I do not agree with the acquisition of this being a communal Budget. Allocations to the health and education sectors may look higher. Percentage might have increased but it is not in accordance with the growing necessities. NCMP pledged to raise public spending in education to at least six per cent and in health to at least four per cent of GDP, yet it is

to be implemented. Overall, the Budget and general economic policies will not reduce but increase the income gaps. This is a pro-rich Budget in the guise of sops to the farmers and middle class. Budget certainly left over the welfare of large chunk of poor people. Long term and concrete steps are to be taken for the revival of crisis ridden farm sector. Increase of Budget to women and child welfare is certainly a good measure helping the Anganwadi workers and helpers with a pay hike which is overdue. But we are worried about the 60-hour working week, which is indicated in the Economic Survey. This will not be accepted. An 8-hour working days is achieved after long battles of working class. The Government should remember it and be cautious. There is also an indication that there will be sale of 5% of public sector. It is not good. It is just like selling the family jewellery which is sold only in distress, only when the country is almost collapsing. Public sector should be defended and the Government should find more resources by trying to levy taxes on rich and super-rich and should not try to destroy the public sector.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that the budget presented by Chidambaramji is a popular election budget. This budget is against the poor, against the interest of the common man and this budget will increase the gap between the rich and the poor. On the one side, there is Bharat and on the other side there is India, this will upgrade India and downgrade Bharat. This will increase inflation. The claim made by him for the development of the whole society is baseless.

Sir, this budget will enhance price-rise. I had gone to a village, the people there were sloganeering – 'Congress Ka dekho khel, kha gai shakkar pi gai tel.' This indicates dearness, that the prices of general food items and other consumer items are increasing. It comes in Ramayan that when Surasa comes to test Shri Hanumanji "Jas-Jas Surasa Badan Badhava, Ta To Dun Kapi Rup Dikhava" which means that As Surasa increases the size, Hanuman increases the size of his body double than Surasa. Similarly as the Government is trying to control inflation, shed crocodile tears on price rise, this price rise increases more than their efforts and the rate of consumer items is increasing by leaps and bounds.

Sir, with your permission, I would like to quote, "kitchen budget hit as oil prices go through the roof." I would like to tell you the rate of Kendriya Bhandar. The rate of 1 litre Dhara refined oil during October-December was Rs. 70 per litre and it increased upto Rs. 78 on 29th December, Rs. 84 on 23rd February, and Rs. 90 on 8th March. The rate of 1 litre Fortune Sunflower, Surajmukhi oil was Rs. 72.50 on 1st December, Rs. 76.50 on 29th December, Rs. 87 on 23rd February and it was Rs. 92.50 per litre on 8th March. Now,

you can make an assessment that the rates are increasing after the Budget. Even poor people also use Palmolive Oil, its rate of 1st December was Rs. 57.50 per litre, it increase upto Rs. 59 on 29th December, Rs. 60.50 on 29th February and Rs. 63.50 on 8th March. Agmark mustered oil became so dear that common people will avoid to consume it. What is the situation of mustard oil, its rate on 1st December was Rs. 65.50 per litre, it rose upto Rs. 67.50 on 29th December, Rs. 71 on 23rd February and on 8th March it was Rs. 76.50. ... (Interruptions) the rate of two litre Saffola oil was Rs. 245 on 23rd February and it became Rs. 253 on 8th March. We can just imagine how much prices of commodities are increasing. It has become very difficult for the common man to survive and the congress people are patting their back that they have presented a very good budget. This election budget will not be helpful for long. The people of Hindustan are not fool. They understand everything. If they wanted to do something for the farmers, where they had been for four years? Where was the Government which compelled thousands of farmers to commit suicide? So far as the loans of farmers are concerned they say that they have waved the loans of farmers.

Through you, I would like to remind the Government that in the year 1989, when V.P. Singh became the Prime Minister of India and the B.J.P. and the Left were supporting the Government, then loans upto Rs. 10,000 had been waived. That time congress people were campaigning door to door that this is just an eyewash, they cannot waive the loan, from where will they have money, banks will turn insolvent, but today they are saluting the wonder. Today after 18 years, the same Congress want to take credit by doing the same; you can assess the situation.

I was discussing about inflation. I would like to quote a woman who is a housewife, and also purchases goods from the market. She said:-

[English]

"I was surprised to see the rate list of edible oil during my visit to a Kendriya Bhandar outlet. Why is there so much price variation of the same products like ghee and oil? It seems the "Aam Aadmi" plank of the UPA Government is a farce, said Pratibha Singh, a housewife residing in East of Kailash."

[Translation]

If this is the situation in the capital, Delhi under the nose of the Union Government, then what will be the situation in the States, in the villages, one can easily imagine. This is all about the price rise. Cars become cheaper as an outcome of this Budget and Roti, sugar, wheat, milk become dearer. Wheat for APL and BPL are not available in the shops and all the

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

consumer items became dearer, therefore it has become very difficult for the common man to survive. The policies of the Congress are responsible for this inflation.

They have increased the prices of petrol and diesel and are very happy by doing this. Roadways fares have been increased due to this price-rise and the passengers have to pay new fares.

On the other side, tractor loan of farmers and the prices of fertilizers as well as prices of all things have been increasing and today, it has appeared in the Newspaper that sensex came down, in the world market oil prices went up and also the price of gold rises, this is the result of their policies. Earlier they used to say that this is the impact of our policies that so much people have become rich in Hindustan, Sensex have went up so high. Now sensex is coming down, lots of small investors are repenting. Gold has become so dearer now marriage days are coming, Akshay Tritiya is there, Akhatee j is there and women will go to market to purchase the sign of suhag or ornaments for the ear. ...*(Interruptions)*. I have started just now. I need your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken eight minutes.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I have said about inflation only, now I would like to say about the loans.

Sir, we are watering the leaves but not taking care of the roots. Farmers of Hindustan take birth in loan, live in loan and die in loan. Who is responsible for this? I want to allege that the Congress has ruled the nation for 45-46 years after Independence. Congress has governed in the name of farmers, they have given the slogan – Garibi Hatao, but they have never made any effort to improve the situation of farmers. Chidambaram Sahab, this budget will increase inflation and it will make the life of the common man very difficult. You talk about common man, but you talk about special people in this budget. You are liberal, you were going to think about fiscal deficit. How you came into this? I am not understanding. Perhaps the election is coming and you have to show something to the people. They have waived the loan amounting to Rs. 60 crores and appreciating themselves that 4 crore farmers will be benefited.

Sir, through you I would like to ask that he has mentioned about one hectare and two hectares, but what type of land is that? Is that irrigated, unirrigated, hilly, ploughable or barren land? The farmers who are in possession of lease or whose names are in record, can get or claim something, but his name may not appear in the record. Suppose in my case, if my land is in the name of my dadaji in record till date. If I go and tell them to waive my loan, they may show unwillingness

and I will be compelled to run from pillar to post.. You have not talked about this. I have just quoted an example.

It would have been in the fitness of things if the loan amount of Rs. Fifty thousand to Rs. One lakh had been waived in respect of all the farmers across the country. At least this move would have resulted in some limit. Of course, he has declared the amount of Rs. Sixty thousand crore covering a limit from one hectare to two hectares. However, in such cases where there are five bighas of land with zero production, many crops were sowed but all that got destroyed or natural calamities like drought, famine or other disasters took place. How many farmers take loan from the banks. Farmers shall be exonerated from the money lenders' vicious clutches.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I am going to conclude shortly. The larger issue is how to waive the loans disbursed to the farmers. This step of the Government is not going to resolve the problem. I have just read a news-item in the newspaper. I have converted them into a couplet. "Ab bhi kishan De Rahe hain Jaan" (farmers are still committing suicide). Waiver of loans has been announced here and it has been reported in today's newspaper that as many as 34 farmers of Vidarbha region have committed suicide in the State of Maharashtra which is the native place of the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture. In the wake of the announcement of the waiver of loans, almost every political party is trying hard to bag its credit by way of propoganda. Sharad Pawarji claims that he has been the first to propose waiver of loans and on the other hand Soniajee claims so. Everybody is patting his back and in the same State of Maharashtra the farmers continue to commit suicide and the Government does not seem to be aware of this fact that the survival of the farmers is at stake. How the farmers will come out of the moneylenders' firm hold is anybody's guess.

Sir, as many as 74 percent farmers take loans from the moneylenders. They invariably charge higher rate of interest. No thought is lent to it. They put the reports submitted by M.S. Swaminathan and Radhakrishna on the back-burner. They had recommended to lower down the rate of interest to be paid by the farmers. They suggested to bring it down to the level of 4 percent but they turned a deaf ear to their recommendations. Putting all such suggestions to the oblivion, they are talking of the waiver of loans of Rs. sixty thousand crore. Sir, in a sense, it is also a serious illusion. Though we have empathy for the farmers. Farmers feed the nation. Farmers are the backbone of Indian economy. We want that facilities may be provided to farmers. I would like to say that on the pretext of waiver of loans an illusion has been created for the farmers. However the limit of waiver should be extended. It must not be restricted to two hectares but

should be enhanced to at least five-ten to fifteen hectares. Besides, the time-limit of 31st March should also be done away with and the loan in the range of fifty thousand to one lakh rupees living in villages should be waived. Only then the benefits shall accrue to the farmers. ...(*Interruptions*).

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: You please conclude.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, earlier fewer number of districts were included under the employment scheme. At that time, some funds were allocated to the scheme. But as all the districts of the country were included under the scheme, the funds were raised by merely twenty per cent. For example, earlier the amount was 16 thousand crore rupees and now the amount has been raised to 18 thousand crore rupees. It is just an example. I have exact figures with me in black and white. Under these circumstances, how would you extend the benefit of the Rozgar Guarantee Scheme to the farmers of all over India? Where would the urban poor go? Unemployed person are becoming more unemployed.

In the end, I would like to say one more thing. ...(*Interruptions*). We demand a special package for Rajasthan on the lines of special packages given under Instant Irrigation Scheme Programme to J&K, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, North-East. ...(*Interruptions*).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now. You have taken 13 minutes.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Some other members of your party also want to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: It is not in this Budget. Why? Because the condition of Rajasthan in worse than other states. Nearly, two-third area of the State is part of the Thar desert. It is drought affected and most of the area is tribal dominated. As this area is along the Indo-Pak International border, it is very sensitive. Rainfall in the State is very scanty. ...(*Interruptions*). Through you, I would like to convey it to the Government that special packages should be announced in the Budget for states like Rajasthan.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA (Karimganj): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget for 2008-09 presented by the hon. Finance Minister. I do not have the language to praise the hon. Finance Minister for placing a Budget which is appreciated by every section of people whether rich or poor, privileged or unprivileged, and all walks of life.

The Budget proposals have been discussed in detail in the House and all the provisions including the far fetched provision of exemption of agricultural loan will yield benefit to the whole nation as well as my State Assam. I was surprised hearing the speeches of the Opposition. Throughout the Budget discussion, I found that in the Opposition also there are constructive people, affirmative people who are supporting the Budget. But, just now, I heard my learned Opposition member who was saying that it is a 'dhoka'. How can it be a *dhoka*? The hon. Finance Minister has already fixed the deadline, by June all the process of loan exemption is to be completed. So, if a deadline is given, only then if it is not done, you can say *dhoka*. This is not a *dhoka*; this is a far fetched provision. This is bound to yield benefit to whole of the nation and to the peasantry class who are joyous hearing this.

Another point he was saying about petroleum prices. So far as I know, immediately after taking oath by the NDA Government, they hiked the price and that is the highest hike in petroleum price till today. Since all this we have discussed, I would not like to discuss all this now. I would only like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to some of the problems relating to my State.

Sir, in education, about Rs. 6,000 crore have been increased in this Budget. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, higher education, elementary education, all these, are going to be benefited. The hon. Minister also proposed the establishment of 6000 model schools for more effective education. Provision is also made for larger number of scholarships for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities, and OBCs. But, Sir, a section of barefooted and empty-stomach teachers who are serving in my State, they are missed out. We have a few thousand of teachers who are working in different venture schools. The schools are permitted, recognized by the State Government but these people are not getting salary since inception of the schools. After rendering life-long honorary service, many of them retired without any benefit, and they are starving. I raised the issue three times in Parliament Budget Session but no effective action was taken excepting granting some lump sum financial help to a microscopic few schools.

Now, my request to the hon. Minister is kindly consider their case. To the best of my knowledge, the requirement of

[Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya]

fund for these teachers is already placed with the Human Resource Ministry by the Government of Assam. I would request, once again, to the hon. Finance Minister to kindly consider their case because they are doing the same job as their counterparts are doing in Government schools, model schools and KVs.

So, if these people are not considered, they will remain frustrated. After long days of service, their condition is incredible. I would once again request – this is the fourth time I am making this request – you to consider them.

Sir, in my constituency, there are two districts which are minority-concentred districts. The hon. Finance Minister has allocated a sum of Rs.3,780 crore, of which he is going to release a sum of Rs. 540 crore this year for multi-sectoral development of the minority-concentrated districts. Since the two districts – Karimganj and Hailakandi – are minority-concentrated districts, I would request that these two districts should be included under this Scheme.

Another thing is that a provision has been made for modernising the *madrasa* education. Definitely this will help the percentage of employment among the minority people because they will be more qualified for the job. There is a huge demand for inclusion of *Sobahi Muktab*s under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. *Sobahi Muktab*s are those schools where the minority children are taught. Kindly consider this.

There is a heavy demand everywhere for electrification under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Viduyutikaran Yojana. For my constituency, no fund had been allotted under the Tenth Plan. So, this Yojana could not be started in the two districts - Karimganj and Hailakandi - of my constituency. In the 11th Plan, I think, there is a fund. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to see that this fund is allotted to all districts, and the national power grid can start the work.

Sir, another most important point is that the Government of India has declared some districts as 'backward districts' and they have been provided with backward region grant, and for that a sum of Rs. 5,800 crore has been allocated this time. Karimganj is the most backward districts but it is left out though adjacent districts have been declared as backward districts. Karimganj district has been deprived also. I will tell you why it is deprived. Once it was the most accessible district to the whole of India before the Independence. After the Independence, the rail link with Kolkata was closed and also the water link with Kolkata was closed. Now, it is the farthest most district and it is inaccessible almost. It was a flourishing district in trade and commerce due to its easy accessible position. But this district is not accessible now due to the transportation bottleneck. So, this district could not grow along

with other districts because of this bottleneck and day-by-day instead of developing, it is rather moving backward. It has become now more undeveloped. So, 45 per cent of the backward district grant is given to Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. I would request the hon. Finance Minister that Karimganj district be included under this and provided with the backward district grant. At the same time, I would like to remind the Government that I have repeatedly requested to open the railway link between Karimganj and Kolkata and also to re-establish the water link between Karimganj and Kolkata. If these links are established, then again this district will get back its glory and it will rather develop along with other districts.

Sir, I now come to my last point. My State, Assam was very famous for tea production. It is known to everybody. Assam tea had fetched huge revenue and foreign exchange for the country once. Now, it is in a very distressed position. The tea industry has become sick and it cannot cope up with the situation in the market.

If the Government of India does not come forward, the tea industry will extinct from Assam and several lakhs of people would be unemployed. Therefore, I would humbly request the hon. Finance Minister to take steps to help the tea industry there so that they can survive and revive their past glory.

With these few words, I conclude.

15.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Sir, I support this budget. The budget brought by the hon'ble Finance Minister tries to benefit the people of every strata. I don't want to comment on the budget. People may call it budget for election. Budget may be introduced before elections or elections may take place after budget and the governments come and go. The Government has a right to introduce budget and it must do this. From villages to cities and from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, the general public and the people of all strata have appreciated it. There is paucity of time to speak on all the points. As such, I would like to put two or three points before you.

First of all, farmer's loan waiver scheme is a very commendable effort. I would like to give some suggestions in this regard. Problems of farmers cannot be solved only by waiving their loans. The announcement of loan waiving is a good thing but we should consider other options for permanent solution of their problems. The farmers who are engaged in cultivation should get fertilizers in time and irrigation facility and pricing should be determined according to the cost of inputs. I would like that after this loan waiver further loan for

irrigation and fertilizers as provided for in this budget, should be given in time so that farmers can cultivate in time and timely supply of fertilizer should be ensured. My fourth suggestion is that in case of destruction of crops due to famine, cyclones or hailstorm, they should be compensated appropriately. The matter of small and marginal farmers have been discussed in this marathon discussion. It is true that only small and marginal farmers are being covered under this announcement, but I suggest that it should not be limited only to small and marginal farmers but all the farmers should be covered under it. In this country, different types of cultivation is carried out on vast tracts of land in various states and their produce is measured differently. Therefore, limitation of the loan waiver for the small and marginal farmers should be removed and loan taken by all types of farmers should be waived. Other issue which has become a matter of discussion is that the farmers who have taken loans from the banks will get their loans waived but what will happen to the loans taken by the farmers from the money lenders.

The Government should deliberate over this and some package should be worked out for such areas where loans are taken from the moneylenders.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to add one thing more. In this Budget, the amount of funds under many of the schemes running for the poor have been enhanced. For example, the Indira Awas Yozana under the Bharat Nirman is a big step forward. Under this scheme, Rs.20,000 used to be provided earlier for construction of a house by the poor. After that, this amount was raised to Rs.25,000. Today, the amount under this scheme has been raised to Rs. 35,000. This is a very good decision taken in the interest of the poor and it deserves unqualified praise.

I would also like to say that the states in which there has been no identification of the people living below the poverty line, the matter stands just where it has been for a number of years, but the Government have not received any representation from those states. That is why the funds under the Indira Awas Yojana are yet to be disbursed to the poor people of Bihar. That amount of money is still lying at the district and block levels due to which houses are not being constructed for the poor. I would like the Government of India to take a decision in this regard and the money earmarked by it for the poor should reach them so that they are able to construct their houses.

Reiterating my whole-hearted support for this budget, I conclude my speech.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (Mainpuri): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak during the important discussion on the General Budget for the year

2008-09. I would like to make this House aware that the National President of the Samajwadi Party and the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in 1989 hon. Mulayam Singh Yadav was the first one to have introduced the programme for the waiver of loans to the farmers of the state. When this plan was brought in, the Congress Party and the Bhartiya Janta Party, both had opposed it. But we are happy that the Finance Minister has, to some extent, taken care of the farmers in this fifth and the election budget. For this, I would like to thank the Finance Minister.

On this occasion, I would like to make the Government realize that it has not tried to acquaint itself with the real problem. In respect of the criteria of two hectares of land which has been fixed by the Finance Minister for waiving the loan, I would like to make the Government aware that area of land in hectares is not the suitable criteria for agriculture and farmers. The criteria in this regard should be based on irrigated, non-irrigated, fertile and gritty land, which has not been applied by the Government. So, I hope that the criteria of two hectares of land which has been determined by the Finance Minister, would be reconsidered by him and he would announce its removal in his reply.

Mr. Chairman, the present Government had constituted a Commission for farmers under the chairmanship of Swaminathanji. At that time, we had great expectations that the Government was sincere enough to bring about a real progress for the farmers. But I am sorry to say that the Government has made no indication to include in its budget the recommendations suggested by the Commission. Many of our Hon'ble Members who spoke earlier have also discussed about it. I would also like to associate myself with them while speaking on it. As far as I know, only one third of the farmers take loan from the cooperative societies or the cooperative banks offering loans to the farmers and the rest of the farmers take loans from the money-lenders in the villages. You know that moneylenders charge very high rates of interest, due to which the farmers are committing suicides as they find no way out. Hence, a major factor leading to suicides by the farmers is the money-lenders.

Dr. Swaminathanji recommended that farmers should be given loan at the interest rate of 4 percent, but the hon'ble Finance Minister did not consider over it. I would like to request that keeping in view the fact that more than 60 percent people of the country depend on agriculture, the Finance Minister should seriously consider over the problems of the farmers.

On the one hand, you are boasting of high rate of economic growth at the rate of 8.8 per cent about which I would humbly like to submit that while this Government undoubtedly got the economic growth rate of 8.8 percent, regrettably the growth rate of agriculture has slid down

[Shri Dharmendra Yadav]

from 3.2 per cent to 2.6 per cent which is enough indication of the plight of the farmers. Whatever might have been the policies of the UPA Government or the NDA Government towards the farmers during the previous years, the rate of agricultural growth has been continuously going down.

Chairman Sir, we, in the year 1991, implemented the liberalisation policies by way of following all the terms and conditions of the World Trade Organisation under the guidance of the then Finance Minister and the present Prime Minister. We followed the Western countries in the corporate sector, industry and so many things, but I am very sorry to say that in a country where 60 to 70 percent people are dependent on agriculture, and the Indian farmers have been exposed to competition in the world-market after accepting the terms and conditions imposed by the World Trade Organisation, have this Government provided even a modicum of relief to our farmers as compared to that which is given to the farmers in the western countries, has any subsidy been given to our farmers?

Chairman Sir, even after 61 years of independence, we are not in a position to provide DAP and urea to our farmers and you will see that by April-May the Rabi crop will come and it will be quite inadequate. This is the condition of our own country. We talk about World Trade Organisation, we talk of competing with the whole of the world through multinational companies, but are we in a position to provide any facility to our own farmers? The Government will have to ponder over it, the whole House will have to deliberate over it.

In the common minimum programme of the UPA 6 per cent on education was envisaged to be spent, but I would like to ask the Government whether they are fulfilling their promise and what is the level of the amount which is being spent. I think that this is not a secret for any of the hon'ble Members of the House. It will have to be pondered over that while on the one hand we talk of providing free primary education to all the children, on the other hand, not more than three teachers are found in any of the schools. When we are not in a position to provide even five teachers to every school, how can we expect from our children and our young ones to ever stand up to the challenges of the corporate sector or join the mainstream of the country. We will have to think over this aspect, too. The hon'ble Finance Minister and the Human Resource Minister should take a resolve here in the House that all the classes in our schools will definitely have at least a teacher each.

In view of the challenges before us due to liberalization we would urge upon the Government that as long as quality and uniform education in the country is not imparted, all-

round development of the country will not take place. There are challenges before us and the Central Government is capable to deal with them by implementing uniform education system, the best course available in the country should be implemented throughout the country so that the talents of our country may progress equally.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you might have observed the difference between the primary schools in metro cities, big cities and the countryside. Today on this occasion I am constrained to say with great regret that on the eve of 15th August, 26th January and 2nd October, we remember the dreams and ideals of Gandhiji but he had talked about employment for all and self-employment. Today, a single multinational company eats up so many small scale industries in the country. We will have to think upon this problem. I would definitely like to express my concern before the House that today if we want to take Bisleri water, we have to purchase it Rs. 18/- per litre and what about milk?

I want to say about milk that in the name of testing milk, farmers are being harassed no ends. A test report of Pepsi was published, a joint Parliamentary group was constituted. I want to ask the representative of both the UPA and the NDA about what happened to that report. Are we doing justice to the farmers of our country? We are exploiting farmers in the name of milk. Water is selling at Rs. 18/- per litre but what price milk is selling at?

Sir, I want to request that as the Finance Minister is determined to make the country progress, we have to think about all the people whether they are farmers, poor, weavers or small business small entrepreneurs of the country. He has been extending continuous help to the corporate sector. I want to say to the Finance Minister that he has spread out a very clever dragnet by posing as if wide concessions in income tax have been given. The hon'ble Minister has said that the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission are going to be implemented in the days to come. Whether the Government employees stand to gain at all by virtue of the concessions in income tax after the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission are implemented? All these questions are lying in the womb of future.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important topic.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Budget 2008-09 presented by the hon. Finance Minister.

I welcome the loan waiver scheme of over Rs.60,000 crore. However, if the scheme had been brought four years

ago in the first year of the UPA Government, they could have got enough time to analyze the various aspects of its implementation and its real impact on the lives of farmers and the Government could have come up with various projects for the benefit of the farmer. The Government declaring this scheme in the last year of its term goes beyond explanation ... (*Interruptions*) It is a welcome measure. We are not opposing it; we welcome this measure. I would like to say that it should have been taken four years ago. The recommendation of Swaminathan Committee on agriculture in the country should also have been implemented. Interest on farm loans should have been made four per cent.

Today, the *per capita* income of a farmer comes to Rs.503, as per the National Sample Survey. For a BPL farmer it comes to Rs.423 per annum per farmer. So, it is a big problem which you have to solve. At the same time, the Government is perhaps aware that in the world there is going to be a shortage of rice and wheat because the production of rice and wheat has fallen drastically. This is the time when India should play a major role in producing food grains. Dr. Swaminathan has said that while the first major landmark in Agriculture was Green Revolution, what we now need is an Evergreen Revolution. So, the Government must take steps to bring in an Evergreen Revolution, provide an impetus in irrigation.

If the Government really wants to strengthen the farm sector, all the agro based industries – like establishment of cold chains, warehousing, upgradation of storage handling, transportation, etc. - should be given the status of infrastructure. The Government should give 100 per cent tax benefit for these types of industries which should be repaid in ten consecutive years up to fifteen years. That period of ten consecutive years should start when the enterprise starts its commercial business or its activities. You have not been able to control inflation. Today, it is 5.1%. Consumer price for the *Aam Admi* is spiralling. There is no food security.

This holiday should be given to encourage the farming community and the agro-industries; then only, will the farmer get the remunerative price. Otherwise, you would keep on raising MSP every year. Now, you have raised the MSP of wheat to Rs.1000. Why did you not raise the MSP of rice to Rs. 1000? In India, more people eat rice today, right from South India to Maharashtra to North East, and to the Eastern India. All the people depend on rice. The price of rice has gone up by 83 per cent in the world market and by about 18 per cent in the wheat market.

So, considering these factors, we must be proactive in agriculture. The Central Public Sector Enterprises contribute about 76.8 per cent of the growth rate. But these CPSEs which are handling agriculture sector, their investment is 0.04 per cent and today, that has come down to 0.001 per cent.

So, these CPSEs have not played any role to develop the allied sectors of agriculture. So, agriculture and agro-industries, especially the rice-milling industries, have to be given 'infrastructure status'. Otherwise, you will never give a remunerative price to the farmers. So, it is high time that the farm sector is given the 'infrastructure status', thereby encouraging the farmers.

The farming activity is not a one-day activity; it is seasonal activity; rice grows for about six months and the short-duration varieties take about three months; wheat takes about three months; our entire agriculture depends upon the precipitation of water which we receive. We receive about 4,000 billion cubic metres of water, out of which we have been able to utilize only 30 per cent. So, how does the Government expect to achieve four lakh hectares of irrigation by the 11th Plan? Most of the projects have been neglected because of paucity of funds and Bureaucratic delay, Red tapism, etc. Regional disparity persists. Please tell Planning Commission and CWC to clear the Upper Indrawati Lift Irrigation Project.

For example, take the projects of Jharkhand. Bihar Government has totally neglected Jharkhand State; the projects that had been inaugurated by Jawaharlal Nehru, have not yet been completed. You must take steps to complete those irrigation projects.

Lastly, I would like to say regarding the Central Public Sector Enterprises. As I told you, today they contribute to about 76 per cent of our growth where 16 lakh employees are employed. But today I am sorry to state that you have not given them any excise reductions. If you had given them any excise reduction, it would have given them a level-playing field with FDI. I am sure the CPSUs where there are 16 lakh employees besides casual and contract labourers, you must at least give two per cent excise duty reduction, then only they would be able to compete with the FDIs. If you are looking at 'The Look East Policy', China has reduced it, you look West, EU has done it.

But there is one problem here; you just cannot give it to them; once you give it to them, it will be challenged by the Supreme Court. So, you have to give uniformly to everybody. So, this must be considered; they can play a major role in our agriculture development.

Health should be given 'infrastructure status'. Today you should give 100 per cent tax benefits to the health care sector and you have to provide tax holiday benefits under US 80/1A so that the health sector can come up; otherwise, the National Rural Health Mission would totally fail. Today, you do not have enough doctors to serve in the rural areas.

Take the example of Cuba. I think, the Communist and Socialist friends will be very happy with me when I say this. In Cuba, the doctors work voluntarily in other parts of the world without taking any extra pay.

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

Mid-Day Meal is a very important component. The nutritional value of the meal given under Mid-Day Meal comes to about 1200 calories. This is nothing for a growing child. The healthy nutritive diet for a child's growth must contain minimum 1800 calories. I urge the Government to kindly include protein value products in the meal so that our children are healthy, like egg, paneer etc. This will also boost the allied Agriculture Sector.

For the Commonwealth Games the allocation made is very less.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Deo, you are making very good points but there is limitation of time. Kindly conclude.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Please give me one minute more to speak.

Lastly, I would like to say that the Government has reduced the amount of money to be spent on the Commonwealth Games. To meet the budgetary requirement, please increase that amount. We have already made a bad name in hockey. I did not have the food the day we lost the hockey match. It is a great insult to our sports industry where we had got eight gold medals and today we could not qualify for Olympics. It is such a sad situation. Impetus should be given to rural sports where the talent can be exploited.

With regard to WTO, I would like to say that the Government has not proceeded with the agreement on agriculture after Doha talks. The developed countries are not agreeing to reduce the subsidy. You must give the agriculturists more sops.

To protect the tiger, which is our national animal, Rs.50 crore is too less. Today, we have 28 Tiger Reserves in the country where the staffing pattern is much below standard. Take for example, Bandhavgarh or Kanha the staff is not complete. With the Tribal Rights and Settlers Bill you will have to relocate a lot of people from the sanctuaries and the Project Tiger Areas and give them additional land. For that we must have adequate provisions in the Budget. We do not what is there in the Demands still Rs.50 crore is inadequate for this.

The Government has totally neglected the Culture Ministry. The Central Advisory Board of Archaeology has been demanding more money. Today in Bhubaneswar, the largest ancient civilization after Athens has been discovered in Shishupal Garh. Proper excavation facilities should be made available there.

The Finance Minister did not mention about KBK this time. I am very happy that Shri Rahul Gandhi went to my

constituency. I hope you must have got first hand information about the tribals living there. I hope if he had consulted me and gone there I would have given him a better picture, actual ground realities of these KBK areas where the tribals are suffering. ...*(Interruptions)* From 1993 to 2002, 3000 banks have closed. You must take steps to open more Gramin Banks and give tribals ATM cards. You should have a single window system in the banks for small and marginal farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are taking your own Members' time.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Thank you, Sir.

*SHRI KIREN RIJUJU (Arunachal West): It has been rightly stated that this is a political budget unsuccessfully tempered by the Finance Minister's desire to improve efficiencies.

Shri P Chidambaram had to balance politics inflationary tendencies, economic growth, and efficiencies while presenting the Union budget for 2008-09. He has produced a sound political budget (but too late to help the Congress in elections) that will spend and stimulate growth, but not restrain inflationary tendencies and do nothing to improve expenditure efficiencies.

Last year's deficit reduction did not account for the bonds issued to oil companies and others. The claimed revenue deficit of 1.4 per cent and fiscal deficit of 3.1 percent are hence understated by about 2 per cent. The proposed expenditures will only add to inflationary pressures.

Tax revenues to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio were 9.2 per cent in 2003-04 and 12.5 per cent in 2007-08. The buoyancy is due to superior information from modern information technology, better compliance because of lower tax rates and general economic buoyancy.

Difference between RE and BE

The use of Budget Estimates gives a different picture than when using Revised Estimates (RE) since the latter is the difference between the previous Budget Estimates and the actual expenditure, which is usually presented in the following Budget. In Budget 2007-08, for example, expenditure on education was estimates at Rs. 32352 crores but the revised estimates showed that Rs. 29588 was spent.

Malnutrition

The prevalence of malnutrition in India is double that of the sub-Saharan African region. In fact, countries poorer than India, like Bangladesh and Myanmar have better tackled this problem. Contrary to the government's claim, a NFHS III survey

* Speech was laid on the Table.

showed that malnutrition in the age group 0-6 years has declined by only 1% in the past 8 years. The intention of the government was to increase overall expenditure on health and education to 2-3% and 6% of GDP respectively but the overall expenditure seems to have stagnated at about half of these levels.

Import of wheat

For the second year running, India is importing wheat. The government has decided to import 50 lakh tonnes of wheat, ostensibly to ensure that there are enough stocks to meet the requirements of the Public Distribution System (PDS). From a wheat surplus nation only a few years ago, India today has turned into the world's largest importer of wheat.

NREGA

Allocation under wage employment schemes have not only been grossly inadequate but have actually fallen. The foodgrain component of SGRY has been reduced from 68 lakh tonnes in 2005-06 to 24 lakh tonnes in the following year to 7.3 lakh tonnes in 2007-08. The total expenditure by the government on wage employment schemes has come down from Rs. 18406 crores in 2005-06 to Rs. 16117 crores in 2006-07 to approximately Rs. 15000 crores on 2007-08. This year's allocation of Rs. 16000 crores does not compare to that of three years ago, weak governance and poor service delivery has resulted in the total degeneration of the scheme.

Rural Infrastructure

Of all the components in rural infrastructure, only telephony and electrification have done considerably well. Budgetary-allocation has stagnated this year despite some increase in the previous 3 years. Rural housing though big absolute numbers yet hardly significant when situated in the context of India's rural poor. The total achievements of 3236559 after 4 years of being operational is only 54% of the scheme's objectives of 6000000 houses.

Education

NCMP PROMISES	PROGRESS SO FAR
1	2
Raise public spending on education to 6% of GDP	At present it stands at 2.84%
Ensure national coverage of the Mid Day Meal Scheme	Currently the scheme covers 12 crore children and is being extended in upper primary level in 3479 educationally backward blocks
Establish the National Commission on Education	The Kothari Commission set up in 1964 was the last commission set up on education and no new commission has been set up yet

1	2
Health	
Raise public spending on health to at least 2-3% of GDP with a focus on primary health care	Public spending is currently at 0.99% NRHM was launched in 2005-6 with a Plan Outlay of Rs.9801 crores. Increase in outlay has been Rs 12050 crores or 11.4% less than half the promised increase of 30%
Improve control and Management of drug	Redrafting of the 2002 Drug Policy into National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006
Administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposal to control all 354 essential and 74 life saving drugs was criticised by MNCs and shelved. All essential drugs are totally exempted from excise duty or counter-vailing duty. 2. Process patent replaced by Product patent that is favoured by MNCs and not to the benefit of small and medium producers.
Reform recognising/ accrediting agencies for education/ training institutions	Six new AIIMS like institutions will be set up and Rs 290 crores has been set aside for this purpose, A proposed 5 year tax holiday to encourage hospitals to be set up anywhere in India except in specified urban agglomerations, and especially in tier-2 and tier-3 towns in order to serve the rural hinterland.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN YADAV (Khargone): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, I have got an opportunity to make my maiden speech in the House. In my opinion, 26th of February is a historical day because people have elected me with thumping majority in the bye-election for the Khargone seat of Lok Sabha and provided me an opportunity to sit among the intellectuals in this temple of democracy. Within two-three days of my being elected, I witnessed the historical moments of the Railway and General Budget, 2008-09 when the UPA Government took meaningful initiatives to take the country on the path of development by way of providing relief to the crores of farmers, poor people, minorities, youth, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of this country.

It is appreciable that under the leadership of Smt. Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson to the U.P.A., announcements were

[Shri Arun Yadav]

made to waive the loans of four crores Indian farmers and also other relief measures were announced by the hon. Prime Minister and the Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram. With the announcement of the loan waiver in the Budget to the farmers of the country, the Opposition leaders wore a gloomy look, who were shed crocodile's tears for the suicides committed by the farmers. Whenever farmers and rural people have faced economic crisis, the Congress has seriously initiated steps to mitigate the situation. In 1974-1975, the then Prime Minister, Late Smt. Indira Gandhi took a positive initiative by launching a loan relief campaign in order to protect the farmers from the clutches of the money-lenders. I would request the Finance Minister that he has provided relief to the farmers from the institutional loans but there are a large number of farmers who even today take loans from the money-lenders. Therefore, I urge him to follow the suit of Smt. Indira Gandhi's and implement the scheme, as had been started by her. Such law should be enacted in this country that will help our farmers to free themselves from the clutches of money-lenders.

15.33 hrs.

(Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after the assassination of Late Sh. Rajiv Gandhi the Government which came to power for a period of five years in our country, executed many important works in every field. But the communal and opportunist forces created an atmosphere of communalism in the country and mislead the people by arousing their religious sentiments and succeeded in forming their own Government. During their rule, the administrative and the economic structure of the country came to a tumbling halt and the entire country was in a dejected state. At that time, at the humble call of the people of India, respected Smt. Sonia Gandhi came forward to lead the nation and with her dedication, hard work and in keeping with the traditions of Nehru family she led the nation. The history witnessed that when the entire nation was pleading before leader to become the Prime Minister, that leader did not accept that office of Prime Minister rather another able person was chosen as the Prime Minister she has brought a beam of light in the dejected lives of the poor, the workers and the farmers. It is because of the many programmes and schemes started by her that every one in the country is with her. A poet has rightly said-

*"Akayla hi chala tha janibay manzil
Log militay gaie aur karanwan badta gaya"*

The General Budget presented by the Hon. Finance Minister, endeavors to provide relief to all. An honest effort has been made by the Finance Minister to bridge the gap particularly between the rich and the poor.

The Budget has been prepared keeping in view not only the interests of the farmers but also the development of every class, caste, region and area.

In fact all the relief measures announced in the Budget are real. Only ten percent of the Budget is provided for relief to the small and marginal farmers alongwith the amount of loan waived off. Hence, to improve the economic condition of the farmer, a historical step has been taken by the Finance Minister. 70 percent population of the country is agrarian and from time to time scheme for their rehabilitation should be formulated by the Government. I am very thrilled that hon. Prime Minister has followed the words of Mahatma Gandhiji which were repeated by the first Prime Minister of our country, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in his speech on the first night of Independence. In his famous speech "Trust with destiny" he said that we would not take rest till the problems of all the farmers are solved. I myself belong to a farmer's family and know their problems. The Prime Minister and the Finance Minister have realized the priority of the rural India and it is hoped that the rural India would be able to attain the same speed of development as that of modern India, the migration from the villages will stop, in cities spread of slum clusters will be checked, the growth rate of agriculture which has not been getting required momentum, will increase with the financial provisions made in the present budget. A provision of Rs. 32667 crore has been made in the Budget for Public Distribution System, which will provide relief to BPL people in our rural areas. But the need of the hour is that the State Government should properly implement it and ensure that its benefit reach the people at the grass root level.

Action taken for their upliftment in the seventeen states on the basis of Prof. Vaidyanathan Committee report has definitely strengthened our campaign. An amount of Rs. 1185 crores has been provided in 4 states. I would like to request in this regard that recommendations of the Committees constituted for long term development of the institutions at centre and state level should be implemented at the earliest. I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Finance for increasing the amount by Rs. 14000 crore for rural development under the R.O.E.S. during 2008-09. An amount of Rs. 4000 crores has been provided for private roads which would give a momentum to the pace of development.

An allocation of Rs. 5500 crores has been made under the Rajiv Gandhi Vidytkaran Yojna. This Yojna will play a vital role in illumination of the villages in our country which are enveloped in darkness. The U.P.A. Government has adopted positive attitude with regard to Crop Insurance Scheme and an amendment of this scheme is under consideration. While continuing the existing scheme, a provision of Rs. 644 crores has been made for the Kharif and Rabi crops during 2008-09. I would like to thank the hon.

Finance Minister for this and also request him to take a decision at the earliest to make the scheme under consideration more feasible in the interest of farmers. The Finance Minister has taken a positive initiative with regard to irrigation and water resources. It will definitely accelerate the pace of agricultural development and I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Finance particularly for constituting the Irrigation and Water Resource Finance Corporation. A provision of Rs. 150 crores has been made in the budget for it.

Our irrigation schemes will definitely get benefited from it. I hail from Madhya Pradesh whose life line is river Narmada and I have been brought up frolicking in the lucid stream thereof. The then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had laid a foundation stone of a dam over it in 1983 and on completion this dam was named after her. Not only the people of Nimad district but the people of entire Madhya Pradesh are getting benefited there from. This dam was her last gift to the people of Khargon and Nimad districts. The hon. Finance Minister has in the Budget provided for the Narmada Valley Development Project. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know that it is your maiden speech even then you have taken 12 minutes.

SHRI ARUN YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to a very important issue. Unfortunately an amount of Rs. One thousand crores out of the total allocation made last year by the Central Government for the Narmada Valley Development Project has lapsed. The reason is stated to be non utilization of that fund by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh led by the B.J.P. Despite this fact, hon. Minister of Finance has allocated funds for the Narmada Valley Development Project and other schemes from time to time. I myself and on behalf of the people of Nimad express gratitude to him for providing adequate funds for Omkareshwar Jal Pariyojna, Upper Veda Pariyojna, Kathora Project and the Lower Project which is to be commissioned very shortly in our area. I would request that sanction should be given to commission our ambitious irrigation project at the earliest.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a provision of Rs. 3966 crore and 18983 crore for various welfare schemes meant for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes respectively. Out of this, 20% amount has been earmarked particularly for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. For this I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Finance. The directions given to strengthen the Sarvshiksha Abhiyan would accelerate social reform. The initiative taken to enhance 20% allocation for this sector is commendable. An allocation of Rs. 34,400 crore has been made for education in the Budget of 2008-09. Allocation of Rs. 13,100 crore for the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan', Rs. 13,800 crore for the mid-day meal and

Rs. 40 crore for secondary education particularly in rural areas has been made. This amount will certainly strengthen infrastructure of education. I request you to open Navodaya Vidyalaya at Badwani in my constituency from this very session. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may also include primary education in it and ask to increase funds for the same.

SHRI ARUN YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while the people are happy with this popular budget, the opposition parties are stunned. Their criticisms are not only baseless but ludicrous also. They are asking from where the funds will come to implement the announcements made in the Budget. I would like to tell that "Ibtidaye Ishq mein hota hai kya, aage aage dekhiye hota hai kya" Why tears have dried up in the eyes of those people who had been crying in wilderness till recently?

They had also got the opportunity. They could have done a lot for farmers if they had desired so. It is quite obvious that their interests are linked with the capitalists. You know that the Sangh is an alliance of the B.J.P. and the capitalists whereas the alliance between the Congress party and farmers is well known. A number of questions were raised when the 'Garibi Hatao Andolan' was launched by Late Shrimati Indira Gandhiji. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is maiden speech of the hon. Member but he has taken 20 minutes.

SHRI ARUN YADAV: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am going to conclude shortly.

Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has very intensely reflected the relationship between the Congress party and the farmers in his Budget-2008-09. Hon. Minister of Finance has fulfilled his responsibility towards the rural India for the first time by presenting a down to earth, apt and focused budget. He has expressed his feeling in the following words:-

"Pyasi thi Jami, Lhau Sara Pila Diya,
Mujh Par Vatan Ka Karj Tha, Maine Chuka Diya"

Sir, there are plenty of provisions in this Budget for our Muslim and minority fraternity. I would like to make a submission to the hon. Finance Minister that a large number of Muslims go for 'Haj' pilgrimage from Khargon every year. They have to go to Mumbai or Delhi to catch their flights for Haj.

I would like to request you that sanction may kindly be given for construction of an International airport at Bhopal and Indore and a Haj House at Bhopal.

On this occasion, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to hon. Deputy Speaker, hon. Minister of Finance and all hon. Members present in the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, though it was your maiden speech, yet it was based on the facts. Your speech was good.

*SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salem): Sir, it is very evident from the Budget (2008-09) presented by the hon'ble Minister of Finance in the House that it is an election budget. The Prime Minister repeatedly asked the State Govts. to avoid making alluring public announcement. But the hon'ble Minister of Finance has restricted the entire Union Budget to only two alluring announcement—waiving off of loans taken by the farmers and income tax rebate just for creating a vote bank for the Govt. No initiative to check inflation and price-rise has been taken in the budget. Similarly, no preference has been given to important issues like public distribution system, workers engaged in unorganized sector, employment generation etc. While going through the Report on Economic Survey presented a day ahead of presentation of the budget in the House, it becomes very clear as to what is the real picture of Indian Economy behind jugglery of figures and alluring public announcements. As per the report on Economic Survey, the growth rate has reduced to 8.7 per cent from 9.6 per cent. The growth rate is likely to be reduced to 9 per cent from 11.6 per cent and to 2.6 per cent from 3.8 per cent in the industrial sector and agriculture sector respectively. As per the survey, if a two-digit economic growth rate is to be maintained, there is a need to bring about comprehensive reforms and maintain continuous growth in the agriculture sector. As per the figures pertaining to the eleventh five year plan, the rate of unemployment has increased to 8.3 per cent in 2004-05 from 6.1 per cent in 1993-94. The rate of population growth during 1990 to 2007 was 1.9 per cent. During the same period, a growth rate of 1.7 per cent in the rate of foodgrains production was registered. During the last four years, an actual increase in the price-rise has been 35 to 40 per cent.

Sir, what has the common man got in the previous four budgets and the current budget while the UPA Govt. always talks of common man. As per the Government's point of view, common man means only the persons belonging to middle class paying income tax. But the Govt. is neglecting the fact that the report of the Arjun Sengupta Committee constituted by them states that daily income of 78 per cent population of the country is even less than 20 rupees. The ordinary people fail to understand the complexity of budget and jugglery of figures. For the public, the availability of power, water, transport facility and education and health is the parameter of success of the budget. On this parameter, our condition is continuously getting worse. The Govt. may be claiming to bring about improvement in basic amenities but they themselves are in a

* Speech was laid on the Table.

state of confusion in this matter. The hon'ble Minister of Finance himself says that Rs. 4 are spent on benefitting a person with Rs. 1 and 58 percent of the rationed wheat is grabbed by the corrupt persons. The public distribution system has turned into one of the most corrupt Govt. Schemes. Surveys and studies conducted by the Govt. themselves reveal the fact that most of the poor remain deprived of the advantage of this scheme due to corruption. In the common minimum programme of the constituent parties of the UPA, it was decided to spend 6 per cent of the GDP on education but in the current budget, this expenditure has hardly reached 3 per cent of the GDP. Not much better provision has been made in the budget for the women's welfare. Under this head, 3.6 per cent of the total budgetary fund has been allocated as compared to 3.3 per cent during the last year. The expenditure on rural employment has actually reduced to 0.27 per cent from 0.3 per cent of GDP. The hon'ble Minister of Finance has not very willingly tried to implement comprehensively and effectively the flagship scheme called 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme' of the Govt. in the budget. He himself is not confident about this scheme. From April 1st next year, this scheme will be implemented in all the 596 rural districts of the country. But, in this scheme, only a provision of 16 thousand crore rupees has been made this year as compared to a provision of 12 thousand crore rupees made during the last year. It clearly shows that the Minister of Finance does not give so much importance to this scheme. Rampant corruption and irregularities are being observed in this scheme but there is no provision in this budget to check them. The real face of this scheme has recently been exposed in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. As per this report, only 3.2 per cent families have been provided 100 days' employment in the districts where surveys to this effect had been conducted. The Govt. claims to provide an annual income of rupees 8000 to the rural people under this scheme but the surveys reveal that the benefited rural people are earning an annual income of only rupees 1500.

Sir, the Govt. themselves are patting their back by making an announcement of providing rupees 60 thousand crore for the purpose of waiving off the loans of the highly indebted farmers. Rallies are planned to be organized from village to national level to win cheap popularity in the regard. But the Govt. are not in a position to give reply as to why they took a period of four years after all to waive off the loans of farmers which they had promised. If the same decision had been taken by them in their first budget, lives of thousands of farmers could have been saved. Two years ago, a farmer reportedly committed suicide after every 8 hours and presently a farmer reportedly commits suicide after every 4 hours. Though the Minister of Finance would give a gift of loan-waiving to those thousands of suicide-victim farmers, yet waiving off the loans, though necessary, is not a permanent

solution to the problems of farmers as well as big agro-crisis. It could be an immediate relief. The actual problem has not been thought of. The loan waiving would be done by way of banks while the root cause of this problem are the private moneylenders. As per the recent Report of the NSSO functioning under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation, only 36 percent farmers take loans from the Govt. and institutional banks. Similarly, as per the recent report of the Committee headed by Sh. C. Rangrajan, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India on the subject 'Financial Adjustment', only 27 percent farmers have access to institutional financial institutions. It means rest of the farmers take loans from the moneylenders at an interest rate of 36 to 48 percent. In the budgeting proposal, these farmers have not been taken care of. While the crisis is hovering over the entire agro-sector, then why have the Govt. not taken any stringent and positive step for the rest of the farmers? The farmers can not be saved from being heavily indebted for a long time without bringing about large scale reforms in agro-sector. The share of agro-sector in the GDP is continuously decreasing and the growth rate of agriculture is also decreasing. But, no effort has been made to make an improvement in the budget. The farmers are heavily indebted because of falling agricultural production which is no more a profit making occupation. The actual problem of the farmers is that they are not able to get seeds, manure, pesticides and irrigation facility on time and on reasonable rates. Contrary to this, they don't get remunerative price for their produce. This aspect has not been especially taken care of in their budgetary proposals. The hon'ble Minister of Finance has made a provision of 2 lac 80 thousand crore rupees in respect of agro-loans for the ensuing year and retained 7 percent interest rate on crop loans. The recommendation of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman of the Rashtriya Kisan Ayog constituted by the Govt. has been neglected wherein an interest rate of 4 percent has been suggested to be charged on agro-loan. Similarly, rupees 718 crore were earmarked last year for the crop insurance scheme which has been reduced to Rs. 644 crore this year. A provision of Rs. 69.19 crore was made in the previous year's budget for the insurance of weather-based crops, but this year, a provision of only Rs. 50 crore has been made. It clearly shows that Govt's intention and policy for farmers are not clear. Through this vote-winning budget, the Govt. have only befooled the farmers by announcing waiving off of their loans and have thereby played with the country's economy and happiness of the general public.

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister's Budget for the year 2008-09 has generated considerable euphoria. I welcome the debt waiver scheme benefiting crores of farmers. A relevant point was mentioned in the House yesterday by the

hon. Member Shri Rahul Gandhi. The Government should consider raising the land ceiling limit of 2 hectares for eligibility for total write-off taking into account land productivity and determining the cut-off date based on local cropping cycles, in places like Vidarbha.

Sir, but permit me to put it in perspective. In the last financial year, the Government wrote off taxes and duties worth a colossal Rs.2.79 lakh crore by way of customs duty exemptions, corporate tax and excise duty concessions and individual income-tax exemptions. This is more than four-and-a-half times the Rs.60,000 crore one-time debt relief now announced for farmers. Taken along with some export-related subsidies and exemptions, the write-off would be a stupendous Rs.3.37 lakh crore or 58 per cent of actual tax collections. I would quote an eminent columnist who wrote: "Nothing could be a more eloquent comment on our distorted economic policy discourse!" Doubts have also arisen as to its effective implementation. There is every chance of the process getting snared in complications relating to establishment of contacts with individual loanees, verification of claims and squaring up of the accounts. And, 42.3 per cent of agrarian loans amounting to Rs.48,000 crore were taken from moneylenders, traders, relatives and friends. Out of the Rs.48,000 crore availed of from non-institutional channels, Rs.18,000 crore was at an interest rate of 30 per cent per annum or more. The number of total accounts itself in public sector banks, as per the RBIs published data, is just 2.35 crore. Of this, small and marginal farmers account for only 78 lakh. It is an indication as to the number of farmers falling outside the banking net. Though the loan waiver scheme which was not recommended by the Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness has been announced, a more radical suggestion has been ignored.

They had recommended a one-time measure of providing long-term loan by banks to farmers to enable them to come out of the clutches of moneylenders. Further, they had recommended that Panchayati Raj institutions, civil society organizations and farmers' cooperatives should be involved in arriving at a negotiated settlement with moneylenders.

Another feasible long-term suggestion of the Dr. R. Radhakrishna led expert group for a "Money Lenders Debt Redemption Fund" to be created with a corpus of Rs. 100 crore was obviously not as dramatic as the scheme of waiver. This recommendation has, however, the merit in that it would have tackled the problem of farmers' indebtedness to moneylenders, which leads to suicides. The Hon. Finance Minister is on record post-Budget, that those who are pressing for relief of moneylenders' dues do not have a clue as to how to determine its magnitude. I would suggest that the House

[Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar]

take note of how the expert panel has commended the Left Democratic Front ruled Kerala Government's Kerala Farmers' Debt Relief Commission Bill as a model.

Why can't we bail out small and marginal farmers and make them economically viable by providing them a fair income by ensuring assured remuneration for their crops? Need I say that the rich Western nations are providing huge agricultural subsidies running into billions of dollars? In India 52% depend on agriculture as the sole means of livelihood. If a population of this magnitude is dispossessed or marginalised all talk of inclusive growth will be meaningless. Handing over land, water and seed to corporate interests bent only on profit, is renegeing on our social commitment. The poor people, legitimate owners of the land is in this market-oriented economy a liability, whereas the natural resources including water become subject to corporate plunder. Here, it is pertinent to highlight the related vital aspect of food security. The United Nations World Food Programme has issued an alert on food prices with a warning that it will persist till 2010. World food stocks are down to their lowest level in 30 years. In such a scenario, if our farmers are unable to produce crops how will the country be able to sustain unaffordable agricultural imports, impacted by the twin phenomenon of rising crude prices and crops being diverted to produce bio fuels?

I will conclude by touching upon a couple of issues. The focus given overall to women and children has to be commended. Similarly, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities have been given the special attention they deserve. However, fisher folk have a legitimate grouse that their interests have been ignored, and it has to be redressed. Both the vital sectors of education and health have drawn allocations a quarter and one-eighth the size provided to defence. Without stinting expenditure on national security, isn't it our social duty to ensure the future of our children and the health of our people?

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI JAYBEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Budget – 2008.

This budget is an inflationary budget which retards growth of the country and is merely a public alluring election budget in which common man has not been taken care of at all.

Sir, why are the budgets made by the Governments? Just to make people happy or make them aggrieved. Why

Speech was laid on the Table.

are plans made by them? For the development of the country or its destruction? It seems to me that UPA had formed this Government by giving the election slogan of 'Congress ka Haath Aam Admi ke Saath' Today after four year's experience of this Government it comes to my mind that the pocket of a common man was picked by the blade hidden in the 'hand' of Congress but how it was picked he could not even come to know about it. I would like to prove it on the floor of the House in a logical way.

While comparing with the NDA, the hon'ble Prime Minister in his speech stated that so and so was done by NDA many a time and so and so was done by us. The rates fixed by the NDA Government during its regime for pulses, rice, sugar and gas cylinder may please be retained so that a common man gets his day today commodities at those rates. The general public of the country does not want anything else but unfortunately, you are not inclined towards it at all.

"Mahanga Doodh Sasti Sharab
Sasti Car Vah Sarkar."

An ordinary house wife is not able to afford even a cup of milk to her children. What is your reply to this and your suggestions thereon. You are yourself patting your back by just waiving off farmers' loans and winning acclaims but it is regrettable that the Budget Speech is going on and simultaneously farmers are coming to the farmers rally organized by the Congress party to thank Soniaji. The question arises as to when they listened to the Budget Speech and how they reached in this programme to give their response? Screams of those farmers will be lost in the din and uproar of drums and trumpets who have borrowed loan from a money lender which they will never be able to repay.

Mr. Finance Minister, you know about it. I would like to know from you as to what will happen to the fate of 52% of farmers who have taken loans from private money lenders and whether any provision has been made in this regard. Secondly, what provisions have been made for those who have died or about to die without repaying their debts.

I would like to refer to your Common Minimum Programme wherein it has been stated that employment schemes will be launched but nothing has happened during the last four years and the situation has remained unchanged and people are still dying of unemployment, hardships and price rise.

Similarly, you had promised to bring about changes in the field of education. Even today there is dearth of teachers, classrooms, drinking water and facility of toilets in the schools. Anganwadi Centres have no accommodation. I would like to ask as to what purpose this Sarvashiksha Abhiyan serves in those schools where children of economically weaker sections who cannot afford to send their wards to private schools despite their will to do so, receive education.

The same is the case with the health services as a provision of Rs. 16000 crore has been made which constitutes 0.3 percent of G.D.P. Today health care is very costly. Life saving drugs are very costly. Our poor children and mothers suffer from anemia. It is a common problem throughout the country. It is also the reason why the mother and infant mortality rate has not come down. The Government should pay attention to conduct correct assessment and find solution to the problems.

It is good that provision of Rs. One lakh and Sixteen thousand crore has been made for the security of the country but it is also essential to take care of internal security of the country. I would like to emphasize the need to allow the Gujarat Government to pass the Gujarat control of organized crime Act.

I would, however, like to thank the UPA Government for enhancing the salaries of the Anganwadi workers and helpers. It was our demand also. They should also be provided the insurance cover because they have a major contribution in the execution of schemes run by the Governments.

In the end I would submit that NDA Government had initiated the scheme of inter-linking of rivers for better management of water which goes waste during monsoon. This Government should give more emphasis on this scheme which was aimed at reducing the difficulties caused by drought and famine. With this, I conclude.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): I welcome the step taken by the UPA Government in waiving off loan to the farmers to the tune of Rs. 60,000 crore. But I have strong doubt whether four crores of small and marginal farmers would be benefited by this or not. A report points out that 75 per cent of the small and marginal farmers will not be benefited from the loan waiver. Another study reveals that 78.5 per cent of the farmers have borrowed credit from the money lenders. If this is the fact and the real situation, who will be benefited by this loan waiver? It is only a small section of 22.5 per cent farmers who have taken loan from banks. When we divide the total loan waiver amount of Rs. 60,000 crore by the number of four crore farmers of the country, one farmer will get a meagre amount of Rs. 15,000. This is nothing but an election gimmick.

Our agricultural sector is in a great crisis. While our population growth is at 1.9 per cent, the food grain growth is just 1.6 per cent only. The neglect of agriculture resulted in farmers' suicides at Vidarbha and other parts of the country. The growth rate of agriculture during the current year is just 2.6 per cent only. Public investment in irrigation, agricultural research, rural infrastructure has been neglected for long time.

Price of essential commodities are sky-rocketing and are tightening the noose at the neck of common people. Prices of medicines, cement and vegetables are going up day by day. Prices of construction materials are shooting up. The Central Government does not have any control over the rampant increase in cement prices by the cement companies.

Even though my State, Orissa, has been constantly demanding to set up an IIT in Orissa, the demand has not been accepted till date. The Government should consider setting up an IIT in Orissa immediately.

Above all, the highest number of billionaires in Asia is in India and we are proud of that. But the highest number of poor in the world is also in India. This is the type of inequality we have. In order to address these issues, education and employment generation are very important. The Government has failed in this aspect. Therefore, I would request the Finance Minister to note the above points for implementation.

With these words, I would like to conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had been listening to the speeches of hon'ble Members consecutively for the last three days. The farmer of this country is the focal point of all these speeches. Everybody diverted his/her attention towards the farmer after the hon'ble Finance Minister waived off the loans of the farmer's worth Rs.60,000 crores. Some of our Member friends sitting on our opposite side have stated just now that the people of opposition are stunned by a loan waiver of Rs.60 thousand crore. Perhaps they are not aware that if any one had shown pro-farmer trend for the first time then it was the NDA and its Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji who had announced for the first time on 25th December, 2000 that every village with a population of 500 would be connected by good road by the year 2007. It marked the beginning of pro-farmer initiatives. You have announced a loan waiver of Rs.60 thousand crore. In my view this announcement has been made in a hectic way with hastiness in view of elections, because it seems to me that neither a survey has been conducted in this regard nor a projection has been made as to whom it will benefit and how it will be implemented. I think this loan waiver has been done keeping in view the State of Maharashtra. You have not given the statewide details of the beneficiaries and the amount to be waived off under the scheme. This has not been mentioned therein. We expect you to come out with such details while replying to the debate so that a clear picture may come up before the whole country. The estimated loan waiver in Maharashtra is likely to be around worth Rs. Five thousand crore in Marathwada. The loan waiver in the state of Madhya Pradesh to which I belong is estimated to be around Rs. four-five hundred crore.

[Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, till today we do not know which formula is adopted in determining support prices for farmers as far as I know they have worked out such a formula.

16.00 hrs.

Support price is determined by working out cost based on unskilled farmer. I would like to know from you as to who else can be more skilled person than the farmer on whose unskilledness support prices are determined by you. Just recently I have gone through a statement by the Minister of Agriculture wherein he had expressed apprehension of foodgrain shortage in the country. Again, will such shortage not occur? In a way the farmer is losing his charm towards agriculture.

Contrary to the commonly held belief till today that 75 to 80% of the country's population lives in villages, if we conduct survey of the whole country properly then we will find how many persons are leaving farming activities and migrating to cities in search of employment because they are not getting remunerative prices of their farm produce. When a farmer cannot get remunerative prices of his farm produce then why would he stick to his farming activities? Today, even a fourth grade employee in this country who gets the lowest salary wants to continue with his job, and does not like to take to farming because farming will not return him even the equivalent of his lowest salary but the point has never been discussed. The government decides the support price on the basis of the costs without having any regard to the margin of profit that the farmer should be entitled to get. If the profit margin is added to the costs while determining the support price then perhaps the farmer could be saved from this situation. Farmers in our country who have non-irrigated land hardly have two square meals a day and they are forced to work as labourer.

We want to request Hon'ble Finance Minister that there is a proverb in the countryside that better late than never. But they acted late but even now they are not fair. They are not taking measures in this regard. You have mentioned about 8.8 percent average growth but the contribution of agriculture is only 2.5 percent in it. Which type of development are they talking about? If we analyze it then contribution of service sector is 73 percent, contribution of industrial sector is 15 percent and contribution of agriculture sector is only 12 percent. It means that 75 percent people have a contribution of only 2.5 percent and with this scenario you are under illusions of taking this country to be counted among developed countries.

They have allotted funds for irrigation, they have talked about flood control but no one mentioned about droughts.

You are not including droughts in it. I belong to Madhya Pradesh and my constituency comes under Bundelkhand region. There has been continuous drought in that region for 3-4 years, you may read in newspapers that every other day the people are migrating from there. Even chaff is not available there to feed cattle. There is no job for people. People are fleeing their villages. But the drought has not been mentioned anywhere. Many areas of our country are drought affected but no allotment has been made for this purpose in this budget. The Madhya Pradesh State Government has requested the Union Government to give special package so that the State Government could help the farmers there but there is no mention about it. It has not been provided even after repeated request by the State.

I would like to request you that in this country only 79 million hectares of land is irrigated land out of the total land of 141 million hectares, and you have declared to waive the loan in which you have not mentioned about difference in irrigated and non-irrigated land. When you have determined a criteria of two hectares for the irrigated land and if a farmer takes loan for this land, you will waive his loan, but what will happen to the two hectares of non-irrigated land. However a farmer having two hectares of irrigated land does not easily fall in the debt trap.

I am happy that the hon'ble MP, Sh. Rahul Gandhi from Congress Party has also mentioned this thing that the area of irrigated and non-irrigated land covered should be extended. My constituency has become reserved, that is why I had been continuously sitting here for last three days. May be it will be my last speech, hence your protection is needed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already taken nine minutes. There are 12 Members who are still left to speak. Please, conclude your speech at the earliest.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Sir, you have given fifteen minutes to the Members to speak, so please give me some protection. I said that the hon'ble Minister had announced about the waiver of loan. Loan-waiver is not a permanent solution to improve the condition of the farmers of this country. So long as there is no speedy implementation of the schemes for irrigation and energy in this country, till then there could not be any permanent solution. You should provide irrigation facility and electricity to the farmers. You are not in a position to provide them the amount of money which is charged from them and you recover more than the required amount from them. Instead of determining the support price on the basis of the cost input it is determined on the basis of lack of skill. How can the condition of the farmer be improved in such a situation?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you yourself belong to a state which was leading in agriculture and what is the condition

today? You can realize this. I would like to request the hon'ble Finance Minister that my constituency has been continuously facing the drought conditions, so some package should specially be given to that area. Here it was mentioned again and again that we are importing wheat. You must have seen the condition and quality of that wheat. You are providing rupees eight hundred and fifty per quintal to the indigenous farmer and for the imported wheat you are paying rupees sixteen hundred per quintal. The wheat which is being imported from abroad, cannot be eaten even by animals.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This has been mentioned many times.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Sir, I have seen that wheat. I would like to bring this to your notice that total discrimination is being done with the farmers. Today, you want to take credit for a loan waiver of rupees 60 thousand crore.

Regarding the region where the farmers have committed suicide, I would like to know from the Minister whether any survey has been conducted to know what type of debts they had and from whom they had taken those loans? Whether any survey was conducted or assessment was done in this regard? The facts would have come out, if such assessment had been made.

Sir, I would conclude after giving my views in regard to education and health. You have increased the expenditure on education in the budget which is according to you, an increase of twenty percent. I, for one thing, would like to welcome them that they have said about opening six thousand model schools. Although it has not been disclosed whether these school will be opened in rural areas or in urban areas. I would like to submit that commercialisation of education in the last few years has certainly ended the scope of education in the rural areas. Whether you provide funds in the name of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan or guru shiksha, or in the name of any other scheme and keep on constructing the school buildings, but the quality of education there has come to an end. There is nothing like education. People are migrating to cities. If you have honestly provided an amount of rupees 650 crore for the construction of model schools, then Sir, I would like to request through you that these model schools should be built in the rural areas, only then, the farmers of this country will have a participation in the pace of development.

Sir, I would like to say a few words on health and conclude. You are aware of the condition today. Since the time I have come to Delhi, everyday five to seven patients are coming to us. They are suffering from cancer, heart diseases and kidney problem. Here the provision is that those who are below poverty line will be given full compensation by the

Government. Firstly, there are a few people who come under this list. I think a farmer or a worker engaged in agriculture may or may not be in the BPL list, but each and every farmer or worker suffering from cancer or heart disease or kidney problem cannot afford his/her treatment. I would like to request the Ministers through you that a criteria should be worked out for those farmers that if they are suffering from cancer, heart disease or kidney problem, they should be provided total grants-in-aid.

You know it very well that AIIMS was the only medical institute in the country where people from every corner of the country used to come for treatment. When AIIMS was set up, the population of the country was 35 crores but now it is more than 100 crores. You might have seen that there was confrontation between the Health Minister and the Director of the this Institute some time ago. Because of the confrontation a lot of specialist doctors left for the private hospitals. No specialist doctor is ready to work there. They are not getting the required facilities. I want to urge the hon. Minister through you that the medical institute, which earned reputation throughout the country, should be maintained and there should be good doctors there so that the people of the country may have the faith in the institute. The NDA Government had promised to set up six such hospitals in the country, for that you have allotted Rs. 50 crores which is quite inadequate. The allotted amount not be sufficient to erect even a single hospital. We want to request that for six medical institute in the six different states, sufficient amount should be given so that they could be established within a few years and the pressure here on the AIIMS, Delhi may come down.

I thank you for giving me time to make speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take five minutes only, otherwise, I would not be able to allot time to all of you.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKT (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hail from such place which is not discussed in the Lok Sabha. You know that the Union Territory is such territory in the country which does not come under focus nor there is opportunity for that even. I do not want to go through the discussions held for the financial condition, development of the whole country. I want to confine my argument to the place which is not discussed. Andaman and Nicobar Islands is the area where devastating Tsunami took place. I want to thank the hon. Finance Minister for his continuous sympathy towards us. He never let us fall short of funds or face financial constraints. I must say one thing regarding the Finance Minister that he has prepared this budget by putting in hard labour but he has perhaps forgotten that there are some Union Territories which have no assembly, no Legislative Assembly.

[Shri Manoranjan Bhakt]

Any talk about those places has got to be raised in the Parliament only. Unless the House supports us, no development work can be carried out there. He allotted considerable funds for the development of our state but what happened to those funds. I want to ask him whether the funds were utilized properly and how much money was returned back.

I want to say one thing with great regret that due to the disaster everything was destroyed there. The Union Government left no stone unturned for the reconstruction and development of our area. But the system prevailing in our region is different from the systems prevailing anywhere else in the country. The rest of the country has the Assembly system in place where Members of the respective Legislature Assemblies talk about the development, people's sufferings and the aids given by the Central Government for their area. Whereas in our area there is governance by one man. He would do whatever he likes to. If he wants to go for constructions, constructions will follow. If he is not inclined so, constructions will not take place. I want to say that so long as this system is not under attack and unless we are treated on an equal footing with other parts of the country by way of granting us the right to have Assembly if you do not give us authority to form assembly, that area, is unlikely to progress properly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs has submitted a report unanimously regarding constitution of Legislative Assembly there. In this report it has been stated that Had State Legislative Assembly been in Andman Nicobar Islands at the time of Tsunami, and an elected Government, the situation would have been different. The relief work would have been more effective and public would not have suffered so much. I would like to say that no action has been taken by the Government and Ministry of Home Affairs on the action taken report. Therefore, I understand that nothing would happen unless this House decides to give equal opportunity to the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. We should also get rights equal to the rights enjoyed by the people of other areas of the country. Until we get these rights the problems of people living there can not be solved. You will provide funds for development but how this fund would be utilized? Some bureaucrats will use it arbitrarily. The situation there is such that if the fare increases, they increase it arbitrarily. They do not consider it necessary to talk with us.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I don't want to give a lengthy speech. I would just like to say that you have made a very good budget and there should be equal opportunity to utilize it in every region. There is no such opportunity there and

therefore, we will not be able to take benefit of this excellent Budget. Secondly, there is tourist season now-a-days. Many tourists visit Andman Nicobar Islands. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may please conclude your speech now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKT: You rang the bell. I have just started my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have been speaking for six minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKT: I just want to say about people from far flung areas, you have always. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not like that. I always take care of you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKT: I am telling the same thing that you take care of the people from far-flung areas. I want to thank you that you considered our sufferings. I want to tell Hon. Minister that in future you should make your efforts for a Legislative Assembly in Andaman Nicobar Islands. I request for the same favour from all the Members of this House.

In coming days we should be given rights as given in other parts of the country so that we can do the development work. I am very grateful to the Prime Minister that he has formed a group of Ministers in the Cabinet to consider this issue. Hon. Minister of Finance is also a Member of this GOM. If they get the approval and help of this House, we can alleviate our poverty and sufferings and be able to keep pace with other parts of the country. You have done so much for us, I request you to do one thing more. Please complete the post-Tsunami works, which are pending, it will provide great relief to us.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV (Jhansi): Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to speak on General Budget of the year 2008-09.

Sir, in this Budget an announcement was made to waive off the loan of farmers. For this an announcement was made to waive off loans of Rs. 60,000 crore of farmers. All over the country people's reaction was from where this 60,000 crore of rupees will come. Government has now where mentioned how this amount will be collected. It may be possible that the

Government plans to collect this money from people indirectly. You said from this loans of four crore farmers will be waived off. I would like to know, through you, from the Government as loans of how many farmers will be waived off. I could not understand why ceiling of two hectares is kept as a result of this farmers all over the country are facing problems. Some farmers produce coffee, some potatoes and some sugarcane, in some places nothing is produced in two hectares of land while at some places Rs. 5 lakh produce is earned in one hectare land and at some places Rs. 5 thousand are earned from the produce. I would like to request, through you, to the Government that the basis of ceiling should be production, how much is produced and how much profit is earned by the farmer, keeping in view these bases loans of farmers should be waived off. Farmers have taken loans from all the moneylenders. But waiving off loans of such farmers is not contemplated by the Government. Interest is so high on borrowed loan that farmers are compelled to commit suicides. Today most of the farmers are committing suicide due to this reason that interest loan becomes so high day-by-day that farmers fail to pay back the loan. There is no plan of Government to waive off such loans in this Budget. Government has done nothing for the backward areas, these regions are backward since independence and always injustice has been done to them. Bundelkhand area is one such areas which comes under this area and I came from that area. In Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh hardly five thousand rupees produce is produced in one acre of land. Here also farmers having land of two acre will be waived off. I think loans of all those farmers will not be waived off. Hardly one or two percent farmers have two acres of land. Therefore, I request the Finance Minister to pay attention to it.

In the Ceiling Act of Uttar Pradesh also, farmers of Bundelkhand have been kept separate. In whole of Uttar Pradesh ceiling was on 12 acres but in Bundelkhand's irrigated region this was kept 18 acres and in unirrigated region it was 27 acres ceiling by making law. There has been no rainfall in the Bundelkhand region for the last four years. There is no other source of irrigation. The Finance Minister should make an announcement to waive off all the loans of the farmers of that areas. I have raised this issue in the House twice. Many times study tours were sent there. Some Union Ministers also visited there. Ruling party member Sh. Rahul Gandhi also went there and many leaders of Bhartiya Janta Party also visited that region. Besides this the hon. Minister of Uttar Pradesh also visited that place. All these have seen people the poor condition of the farmers there. The Central Government have sent a team of experts under the leadership of Dr. Samra which conducted study on the condition of farmers there. They also accepted that there exist imbalance in Bundelkhand area. Neither farmers have any resources nor they get water for irrigation so that they can produce any

crop there. But even after receiving the reports of so many study tours the Central Government have not announced any special package for this region in this budget.

I would request the Finance Minister to make available a special package for Bundelkhand and to declare it as separate category, like hilly areas and the Union Government should provide separate budget for it. In the same way Union Government should declare that area separate region and allot budget expenditure separately. Therefore, I request you to provide a separate budget for the development of Bundelkhand region.

I would like to make one more request to the Finance Minister that Bundelkhand Development Council should be constituted by the Union Government. If Bundelkhand Development Council is constituted then the problems of that region, like providing water for the farms and making plans for that region can better be implemented.

You have announced for waiving off the loans of farmers but this is not the permanent solution of the problem. If you want to find a permanent solution of the problems of farmers then you will have to make arrangement for providing irrigation facilities to each farm. Besides, you will have to announce minimum support price for their produce. Farmers should get remunerative prices according to the cost price of crop and the handwork they have done. Till this is ensured neither all the farmers will be benefited nor they will get remunerative prices.

I would also like to make one more request to the hon. Finance Minister. As farmers get income tax rebate similarly income tax rebate should be given to dairy industry. Co-operative sector should also get income tax rebate. When production increases in farmers farms they will prosper. Therefore, in order to increase the production Government should make arrangement for availability of resources like electricity, water, fertilizers and seeds. No provision has been made for these things in this budget. I, therefore, request the Finance Minister to pay attention to my region Bundelkhand because farmers are dying there, they are leaving the place, they do not have drinking water and food to eat. Keeping in view their condition adequate provision should be made for them in the budget. Secondly declare Bundelkhand as separate region and kindly constitute Bundelkhand Development Council.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, I want to thank you for this opportunity you have given me to speak on the General Budget 2008-2009.

[Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma]

Sir, India is mainly dependent on agriculture. But unfortunately there is no provision of separate Agriculture-Budget in our country. So, it is impossible to think about the welfare of our farmers. I hail from Bundelkhand and prior to me my colleague Shri Chandra Pal Singhji was speaking and he was giving a true picture of Bundelkhand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is drought in Bundelkhand for the last four years. Hon. Minister waived off the loans of the farmers. For this we shall congratulate and thank him. But special package should have been given to the man who was dying of hunger. But no care of him was taken. I have been demanding it for the last two years in Lok Sabha and I had put forth all these matters before the hon'ble Prime Minister and he had assumed me that he was sending a survey team and when it came with its report, we would definitely give some relief to Bundelkhand. That survey report did come but no separate provision has been made for Bundelkhand. We demand that Bundelkhand should be declared as famine hit area. Farmers and animals are dying for want of water there. The cattle are not getting fodder.

One day I was going to some village. I saw a small animal which we call Laihiya, which comes out at night. It flees at the sight of a man. As soon as it saw our vehicle, it came straight on the road and it was crying out of hunger and thirst. When hon. Minister speaks, he will definitely give some special package to Bundelkhand. He will give so much money to Bundelkhand that will make available means of irrigation there. Provide us with so much money that we can have means of irrigation i.e. a dam there. We have been demanding Pachnida dam for many years. Had it been constructed four-five districts would have got water. We have been demanding Lift Canal in Dikoli which is near Pahladghat. Had money been given for lift-canal, definitely farmers of 100-150 villages would have got water and they could have succeeded in cultivating their fields.

If a dam is constructed by checking water at Khamaghat under Sikri Vyas and if water is chucked at Betwa, it will make available water to the farmers of neighbouring areas. If we cannot arrange water for good harvest, definitely it will be injustice with them. However much money you may give, but arranging water is essential.

When hon. Finance Minister delivers his speech, kindly announce a special package for Bundelkhand. There people are dying of hunger, there is nothing to eat, farmers are committing suicide daily. Suicide incidents are not shown as suicides in Government statistics. DM has asked the village head that if anybody commits suicide in your village, he will be no more a village head. Now, he has taken a person with himself so that he may be ready to give witness that none in the village have died of hunger, none have committed suicide.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they say that that farmer has committed suicide for some other reasons. This is the situation in Bundelkhand.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have put forth your demands. Now you are repeating your demands. Please conclude now.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I laid the remaining speech on the Table of the House.

* On the one hand there is famine in Bundelkhand and while on the other hand there is scarcity of water, along with them is backbone-breaking inflation. In such circumstances, the Union Government should give special package for Bundelkhand so that complicated problem that have emerged may be solved and common man may earn their livelihood. Only then the people of Bundelkhand will express thanks for the General Budget of the Finance Minister as the General Budget is meant only for general people.

Sir, people are compelled to drink contaminated water and thus they are victims of malnutrition. This has caused an apprehension of epidemic. So, health services should also have proper budget arrangements.

Sir, free electricity connection should be given to the people doing the work of private boring in the budget for Bundelkhand area so that crop may be cultivated by irrigating from tube wells and special attention should be given to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed youth of this region and the labourers of unorganized sector.

There is a need of 500 billion investment for infra-structural reforms in India. As the Prime Minister has said that there will be limited public resources for the investment in infrastructure. Earlier there have been public-private deals which include Delhi-Noida Fly-over, Nav Sena container terminal Delhi International Air Port and the various efforts made on the part of the government. Everyday through public-private partnership more and more projects are being worked out. A proper system is needed to be embodied so that private partnership may function not only for its own benefit but also it may understand the rules fixed by the Government along with public partnership. In this matter the examples of Delhi Noida Fly Over and Nav Sena Port may be cited. The Planning Commission has considered those cases of public sector as worst wherein cheating has been done. Not only it is necessary that proper investigation may be made into such cases but also such a system should be evolved that such cases do not appear in future. As has been said in the report that India is an emerging and fascinating market for the efforts in public private partnership wherein it is pre-decided to spend

... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

more than 120 billion dollar on infrastructure during the period of 2005-2010. However, as far as public private partnership coordination is concerned there is a high risk zone. In the context of not having our good experiences in the efforts made so far for public private partnership and due to the going on objectives of public private partnership, a centralized project management division is needed which may pay attention on all public private partnership projects. This division should have experts from the fields of finance, law and business management and it should have senior public servants who have expertise in the fields of highway, ports, power, oil, gas, education and other sectors where efforts for public private partnership are being made. At this time more than hundred graduates of famous IIMs are serving on various senior posts in government services. There are suggestions for the government that it should consider about taking the services of these people for finalisation of concession agreements, to finalise the deal and also be responsible for designing and selection process. Thereafter, this division will be the centre of all activities of public private partnership. Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the farmers would have been provided the things of necessity in agriculture along with loans, it would certainly be much beneficial for the farmers because their economic condition may be improved by giving discount in the price of tractor, fertilizers and water.

Segur river merges into Yamuna at Chaparghata via Ettah near Kanpur town old city, if we stop it at Junedpur village near Malasa Bala, it will make available water in Asolpur, Godalpur. *

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I rise to support the General Budget for the year 2008-09 presented by the hon. Finance Minister but I have apprehensions too. As the Finance Minister says, I quote: "we are in the trajectory of economic growth", with 8.7% growth rate in the current year. But since the growth is not percolated down, there is widening gap between the rich and the poor. Now, the Finance Minister prophesies of 'inclusive growth mantra'. But I could see nothing new in his mantra.

I congratulate the Minister for announcing the debt waiver and debt relief for the farmers. Even though its implementation may have some drawbacks, it is a welcome step. Previously, as in the case of Vidharbha Package, only interest waiver was given. Unless waiver to the principal amount is given, it would not benefit the farmers. This was pointed out several times. This time, the hon. Finance Minister has adopted a realistic approach. But this waiver scheme too benefit only one-third of the farmers because of the stipulations put forward. Two-third of farmers have availed credits from money-lenders and other non-institutional

agencies. A good number of farmers would be excluded from the definition of small and marginal farmers as described by the hon. Finance Minister. Also, the hon. Finance Minister has not revealed how he would mobilize the funds without destabilizing the financial position of RRBs, Co-operatives and other banks.

In order to mitigate agrarian crises, the Government has declared certain packages for 31 debt-prone districts in the country and appointed certain Commissions to study the agrarian crises in certain other districts which do not come under the already declared debt-prone districts. For example, Dr. M.S.Swaminathan Commission to study the agrarian crises in "Kuttanad" of Alappuzha and Idukki districts of Kerala State has been appointed and the Commission has submitted its Report. But no action has been taken by the Central Government. Besides debt waiver, since this Report contains recommendations for the eco-conservation and sustainable livelihood for farmers of wetlands of Kuttanad, this recommendation of the Commission should be implemented without any delay. Sir, I would like to share the apprehension of the farmers of Kuttanad in this regard. Unless basic infrastructural facilities to prevent flood situation and post harvest operations are provided to the farmers of Kuttanad, debt waivers will make no difference to their life. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister to provide adequate funds to implement the Kuttanad package as Kuttanad is considered as the Rice Bowl of Kerala.

The fishermen of the country, especially the traditional fishermen, are facing acute indebtedness. The per capita income of the fishers is among the lowest in the country. That is, it is half that of the general population. It is usually said that the fishermen have only half life compared to the other citizens of the country. Being a member belonging to the fishermen community, I know the fishers are the only group of laborers who are not entitled for wages unless they get some catch from the sea. In addition to that, the rising operational costs, lack of opportunities for organized marketing, presence of middlemen, non-availability of institutional finance, reluctance of the insurance companies to provide insurance coverage to the traditional fishing crafts, etc. have thrown them into severe indebtedness.

I am glad that the hon. Finance Minister has announced debt waiver to farmers. But I am very much pained that the debts of traditional fishermen find no place in that debt waiver. The Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for Special Central Assistance of Rs.424 crore to provide debt relief for the fishermen. If some percentage of the debt waiver is earmarked for the fisher folk that would be a great relief for traditional fishermen. So I urge upon the Government to include the debt of traditional fishermen also under the debt waiver scheme announced by the hon. Finance Minister in the budget.

After Tsunami, there is depletion of marine fishery resources. More research and development should be initiated to replenish the marine fishery resource like introduction of cage culture and creation of artificial breeding centres in the sea. More over diversification of traditional fishing craft is essential. Now insurance companies are reluctant to insure traditional crafts because of the risk involved in it. Any of the national insurance companies should be directed to provide insurance to the fishing crafts as in the case of NAIS scheme.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can lay rest of your speech.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, I am laying rest of my speech.

*Operational costs of fishing crafts have been increased to many fold due to the hike in price of petroleum products. Central Government has taken a firm stand not to give kerosene for fishing and agricultural purposes. This has created more hardships to the fishermen. Diesel subsidy given in the mechanized sector is not adequate. Special quota of kerosene and diesel at subsidized rate should be given in the fishing sector. Customs and excise duty on Out Board Machines used by fishermen should be brought down.

The other day office bearers of Sea Food Exporters Association had met hon. Prime Minister to express their concern over the shattering of marine export industry, rise in operational costs, depreciation of dollar etc. all added up their crises. Some sort of tax holidays and duty drawback support should be given to the sea food exporters. Lakhs of workers especially women are dependant on this industry.

Traditional industries, especially coir are facing acute crises. As with the marine exports, coir exports is also seriously affected because of the depreciation of dollar. Special support to the coir exports in the form of duty exemptions and duty drawback should be given to the coir exports also. Budget provision for the rejuvenation and diversification of coir sector is meager and this should be enhanced.

Since others Members have already made out their remarks about the deaf-mute attitude of the budget on containment of inflation and price rise, no mention about strengthening of Public Distribution System, no provision for the implementation of Sixth Pay Commission, I would not go into the details. These are all areas which will nullify the merits of the budgets. With these words, I support the budget. *

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Sir, hon. Finance Minister has presented an excellent budget. The

*... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

people of entire country are thanking him for that. Though very few people are commenting on it but it is the best ever budget presented so far. Particularly, farmers have been given a package of Rs. 60 thousand crore, income of rupees one lakh 50 thousand has been made tax free and there are so many other things in the budget about which people are very happy.

Banaskantha is the most backward area in Gujarat. There may be other backward areas in the country. There should have been a special package to develop them because we have to encourage overall development for all. If special package is not given to them the backward areas would not develop. In my area there is lack of education facilities, there is no industry, no arrangement of irrigation and there is shortage of power. I want that there should be a special package for Banaskantha. Once I had written a letter to the Minister of Finance. In response he had said that backward states should avail the benefit of different schemes. This is not the way. A mother pays special attention to her youngest child. She has to care little for her grown up child. There should be special package for the undeveloped and backward areas. My special request is that special attention should be paid to Banaskantha. A special package should be prepared allocating Rs. five to one thousand crore for each sector i.e. agriculture, irrigation, electricity, education.

Our area is backward in respect of industry. When tax holiday for ten years was provided in Kutch, many industries developed there. Industries should be kept up by providing tax holidays for Banaskantha also. Our area is very backward in respect of education. National Universities are to be set up at some places. A National University should be set up at Banaskantha and development of Banaskantha should be ensured by constituting a Development Board and making provision for it in the Budget.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho): Sir, I thank you as you gave me an opportunity to speak. There is a provision for loan waiver of farmers in the Central Union Budget. Hon. Member, Shri Ramkripal Yadav and Bhanu Ji also talked about Bundelkhand. It has not raised there for four years and the land of that region is somewhat rough and light. Even though he had talked of providing the waiver of loan of farmers with holding of two to five acres of land the farmers of that area do not fall within that range and hence it should be dismissed. The farmers there take loan from money lenders so the information should be gathered how many farmers have taken loan from moneylenders and there should be management in this regard. Measures should be taken to ensure that farmers do not get indebted because loan waiver is not the only way to make farmers prosperous. To make farmers prosperous they should be given remunerative price

of their produce. All the industries fix a real price of their product themselves, they fix the price after taking their cost into account and it sells like hot cake. But the farmers cannot fix the price of their own product, others fix the price of their product. When they go to market then bidding starts and others bid the farmers do not have power to fix the price of their own product if you give power to evaluate the price of crops to the farmers then only will farmers be prosperous.

Sir, various natural calamities like flood, drought, hailstorms take place which destroy crops. The crop insurance scheme formulated is not practical at all, the farmers are not getting any kind of benefit from it, the crops are notified later. First of all farmers sow crop but the Government notifies later that insurance of crop will be done later on. Due to this farmers wander and they do not get benefit of crop insurance scheme. You should take field as unit in crop insurance scheme whereas you take tehsil as a unit. As many as 400 villages constitute a tehsil. If natural calamity strikes at any village then it is necessary to give the benefit of insurance assuming the field of farmer as unit. If you have to resolve the problem of flood or drought then interlink the rivers. A survey of Ken Betwa Link Project in Tikamgarh, in District Chhatrapur has been conducted, its DPR is yet to be prepared but it is being delayed. If that project gets started and succeeds then four hectare land of Chhatrapur district, three and half lakh hectares land of Tikamgarh and three and half lakh hectares land in Mahoba and Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh will be irrigated from it. I would like to submit if you will do this only then farmers will prosper. Please address the issue of loan waiver again so that all the farmers get the benefit, politics should not be done with them. You have ruled for 40-50 years continuously. Had you presented this type of budget then the country would not have been in such a condition. Please reconsider it so that all the farmers get benefit, their migration, suicides stop. If you will do this only then the farmers and country will certainly prosper.

Sir, Khajuraho is a tourist place, a special package should be given for it. There is a Darbar of Ramraja in Orchha where tourists from India and abroad come in large number so give a special package keeping in view the tourists there. Mobilise the means of communication there so that people may get employment and the area may develop. I would like to submit you that there is provision to provide 100 days employment especially under Rural Employment Scheme. There would be no exodus of people if employment is provided throughout the year in drought hit areas.

The second thing I want to say is that our Chief Minister has prepared a package to deal with drought. Since there has been no rains in the last four years there so he has demanded an amount of Rs. 24 thousand crore under this package so that arrangement of water may be made and rehabilitation of farmers may be undertaken there.

Sir, there are hundreds of reservoirs in our area built in the era of Chandels, but there is no water there. I would like to request if these ponds are dug deep and canals are improved than the people of this area will certainly get big relief in future. With this I conclude.

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Budget, 2008-09.

Overall, the special package given to the farmers on account of loan waiver was welcomed by the people. But as regards the farmers who are left out, there are two or three categories. There are farmers who have not taken loans from the banks but have taken loans from other sources. They have to be covered. Secondly, there are also farmers who are affected by natural calamities, who lost their crops and have become landless and homeless due to natural calamities like flood, erosion, landslides, etc. They have to be brought under a special package like the Special Rehabilitation Council for the labourers. There should be formation of Rehabilitation Council for the farmers who have become landless and homeless due to flood, erosion and other natural calamities.

As regards the problem of unemployment, how do the Budget proposals help us in solving the unemployment problem? NREGA could not solve the problem of unemployment in the country. Many foreign investments have got diverted from India to other countries because we do not have skilled labour. There is a good proposal for the modernisation of ITI. The ITI has to be brought under another umbrella. It should not be under the Ministry for Labour. It should be brought under a different agency and there should be a minimum 4000 new trades. Presently, there are only 200 trades in ITI. It has to be modernised with extensive allocation of trades, and should be brought under the umbrella of a different agency.

I have to draw the attention of the Government, specially the Finance Minister, to the fact that a few national projects were declared for implementation in the North-East Region. No specific amount has been mentioned in the Budget for them. It needs budgetary support. I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister on the specific allocation for those national projects.

There is one more important point pertaining to the State of Assam. There are more than 15,000 teachers in the unaided and non-governmental schools who are not getting their salaries for the last 20 to 25 years. These institutions have been established by the people. These are not private schools. They are getting recognition by the Government.

[Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma]

They are run by people but so far, they are not getting any kind of Central grant because rules are such that these schools are not covered. So, I want to request the hon. Minister, through you, that the Government should form a special project to cover all the non-government schools of Assam so that all the teachers are brought under the purview of the Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan or any other Central scheme so that all teachers get their salaries to see that education facilities are given to all sections of the society.

With these words, I thank you once again for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the General Budget for the year 2008-09.

Generous grants, compassion, righteous rule and succour to the downtrodden are the hallmarks of good governance" are the words of Saint Thiruvalluar which were quoted by the hon. Finance Minister while concluding his Budget Speech. The hon. Finance Minister has tried his best to prove that he has remained true to this philosophy while presenting the Budget.

But, Sir, what are the generous grants and succour to the downtrodden that the hon. Finance Minister has announced in the Budget? Is he referring to the waiver of loans of marginal and small farmers that were overdue on December, 31, 2007 and remained unpaid until February 29, 2008? Or, is he referring to the one-time settlement scheme of all loans of other farmers? If it is so, I am disillusioned because this succour to the downtrodden farmers is like a drop of water on the surface of hot frying pan.

The farmers are in a state of severe distress, which is misleading them to the tragic path of committing suicide. This is disheartening. Actually, the misery of farmers calls for adequate improvisation of water resources and their management, sufficient power supply, seeds and fertilizers at reasonable price, interest-free loan without any hassles, crop insurance at their door-step, scientific and technological assistance and 100 per cent freedom from moneylenders. Only then the goals of full employment, abolition of poverty and elimination of inequality can be achieved.

Now, we have to attach more importance to the linking of rivers in this country. Then only we can achieve the desired standards in our economy. Also, the common man can lead a happy life.

Regarding linking of rivers, I would like to state that there are about 30 links in this country. There are two links in

Karnataka which are Hemavathi and Netravathi. Also, there is another link called the Bedthi and Varada river. For these two links and also for the other 28 links in this country, a huge amount of money is required to execute them. They are all in the first stage. The Detailed Project Report has not come out. Also, they have to get the Feasibility Report. For this, sufficient amount should be given by the Government of India. Then only we can take up all these river projects.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: I would lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

*Sir, I would like to express my thanks for allowing me to speak on the General Budget for 2008-09. Hon. Finance Minister has stated in this year's Budget speech that India's economy has been growing rapidly and that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased by 7.5 %, 9.4% and 9.6% resulting in an unprecedented average growth rate of 8.8%. I hope the UPA Government would maintain this growth in the current year also. It is certainly a matter of satisfaction. But there are many grey areas still to be taken note of and addressed effectively by the Government to extend relief to the vastly affected agricultural sector.

It is estimated that the agricultural sector would record a meager 2.6 % growth rate during 2007-08 though it registered a promising beginning. Farmers are as a whole in dire situation as they were caught in the debt trap as they are unable to repay the debts due to failure of crops and are forced to commit suicide. This has become a recurring feature in different States of the country. Of course, the silver lining of this Budget is the waiver of farmers debts to an unprecedented extent of Rs.60,000 crore. It is no doubt a bold initiative and also timely. It would go a long way in improving the lot of the farming community but I think, extraordinary efforts should be taken by the Government to ensure that this benefit of loan waver reaches to deserving farmers in time. Apart from this huge farming community, 140 million Farmers are in the clutches of private moneylenders. Government should also address this pertinent and very vital segment of farmers who bought loans from moneylenders for exorbitant rate of interest.

The farmers of dry land area too encounter many problems. Government should probe the real difficulties of dry land farming and address their issues before it goes out of hand.

In regard to the prices of food grains, in general and other essential goods, in particular, the less said the better. Everyone is aware of the spiraling prices over the last 4 years

* This Part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

of UPA Government. For example, the overall level of prices has moderately increased from 201.4 as on April 7, 2007 to 207 as on January 19, 2008. Between 14.1.2004 and 16.1.2008, the retail prices of 16 items of foodgrains and other commodities of daily use also went up extraordinarily. I strongly urge the UPA Government to address this issue on war footing as it affects the poor, downtrodden and middle classes very badly.

The other aspect, I would like to touch upon is the prices in the world market. We are in the process of globalisation and liberalization where the prices in the world market are bound to leave its impact on domestic prices too, which lead to inflation. What is the need of globalisation and liberalization and economy registering a whopping over 9 per cent growth, when prices of domestic and essential commodities are skyrocketing and the benefits are not reaped by a common man? Government should make the prices of at least essential items affordable for which the UPA Government has to initiate emergency efforts to curb the rise in prices of essential commodities.

The other grey area which is very closely connected with the farmers and escalating prices is unemployment. It is mentioned in the Economic Survey of 2007-08 that employment opportunities have been grown in the country over the years but it had made really no effect because of the corresponding rate of growth in the labour force and unemployment problem remained where it was earlier and in fact, has grown enormously. Hence, I strongly urge the UPA Government to make efforts to reduce unemployment immediately.

In the Budget, the Finance Minister has mentioned that it is possible to bring to the bidding stage the proposal for an ultra mega power project in Karnataka along with those in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. I welcome this announcement. He has also urged the State Government to provide necessary support. I would like to know the latest position of these projects in Karnataka.

Likewise, the UPA Government has taken efforts to promote Tamil language and has increased the allocation from Rs.5 crore to Rs.12 crore this year. I would like to only suggest that Kannada too deserves the status of a classical language. We, the Members of Parliament, and general public, have been demanding for the last 4 years. Kannada is one of the richest and most ancient languages of South India. It would be unfair to keep the matter of granting the status of classical language to Kannada.

Now, I would come to one of the main issues concerning Karnataka. We have been urging the Central Government to accord Special Status to Karnataka under Article 371 of the

Constitution for the all round development of Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur and Koppal districts. These districts have been backward for ages and hence need special attention of the Central Government.

The other matter which has caused a lot of heartburn is setting up of an IIT in Karnataka. But the Finance Minister has proposed to set up NTs in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan Karnataka has been pleading for setting up of an IIT for a long time. Hence, I would take this opportunity to consider setting up of an IIT in Karnataka keeping in view the desire of the people of Karnataka and efforts of Members of Parliament from Karnataka in this regard over the years.

The Finance Minister has also proposed 16 Central Universities in different States this year. It is certainly a welcome measure. I hail the effort wholeheartedly. But there has been a long-pending demand of Karnataka for a Central University in Gulbarga, Karnataka. I hope the Finance Minister would consider this request, it is not included already.

There are about 50 development schemes, and projects of Karnataka pending before the Centre which relates to power, railways, highways, airports, infrastructure, Jawaharal Nehru National Urban Mission and infrastructure development in Bangalore. These projects and schemes cover the whole of Karnataka and by implementing them cross sections of people would reap the benefits. Hence, I request the Government to take them up on priority and implement them early.

Now, I come to the next most important subject, that is, linking of rivers. I would like to suggest that rivers should be nationalized to solve this ever increasing water problem in different parts of the country and linking of rivers is the first right step in that direction. Irrigation and electricity are two important factors for the farmers. I hope the whole House would agree to this. Efforts should be made by the Central Government to ponder over generation of hydro electric power which would indirectly save or avoid the money of the Government spent or flood and drought relief and also agricultural debt relief.

The debt relief announced by the Government is not sufficient keeping in view the magnitude of the problems. Price should be fixed for their agricultural produce. So also prices should be fixed for the raw materials. Here, I would suggest that the Government should fix the prices not only scientifically but also reasonably. Agriculture Ministry should come out with an open heart in this regard to help farmers affected by prices of commodities. Agriculture falls in the domain of Central Government. Hence, I would request the Government to ensure fair prices for the agricultural produce. Sometimes, farmers get seeds of bad quality. Quality of the

[Shri Manjunath Kunnur]

seeds should be ensured. I would like to state here that we, Members of Parliament are sent to this august House by the farmers and we have a solemn obligation to attend to their problems. But the Government is failing in its duty by not ensuring right fixation of prices of agricultural produce. Action has to be taken by the UPA Government and attend to this grave matter instantly. I would like to know what action the Government is contemplating in this regard.

Regarding linking of rivers, I would like to state that there are about 30 links in the country which are waiting for undertaking Feasible Report and Detailed Project Report (DPR). We have to cross this first hurdle. We have to complete this first stage activities. I would request the Government to use the services of Geographic Information System for preparing Feasible Reports and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for these 30 river linking projects. I would also state that NTs and other Universities who are well-versed with these activities can be entrusted with collecting hydrological data and they should be allowed to use Carto Sat 2 Satellite. Huge funds are required for executing linking of river project. Hence, I would suggest to the Government to follow the Konkan Railway method which had floated bonds in the market and implemented the mammoth project.

There is a longstanding irrigation project Upper Tunga in my parliamentary constituency. This project requires to complete finance assistance from Govt of India. Hence I urge the central Govt to give money by way of grant or loan may be given to state Govt under accelerated irrigated benefit scheme.

In regard to Cauvery issue, I would suggest that Government should think of linking Netravati-Hemavati link and for the benefit of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, linking of Bedti-Varada rivers should be undertaken. I hope the UPA Government would take proper steps in this regard.

I would like to highlight two important rivers links - Bedti-Varada Link and Netravati - Hemavati Link - in little detail. In regard to Bedti-Varada Link, I would say that this link proposal envisages diversion of 242 Mcum of surplus waters of Bedti basin to water short Tungabhadra sub-basin, to be utilized under Tungabhadra Project Command. The irrigation that proposed under the link canal is 60,200 hectares in the drought prone Raichur district of Karnataka. Two powerhouses with an installed capacity 1.8 MW each are also proposed. The requirement of power for lifting the water has been estimated to be 61.10 MW for a total lift of 123.70 m. in three stages.

The Netravati-Hemavati link proposes to divert 188

Mcum of surplus water from Netravati basin to water short Cauvery basin to irrigate an area of about 33,813 hectares under the command of Hemavati Irrigation Project in the drought prone Tumkur, Hassan and Mandya districts of Karnataka. In this project too, the total lift shall be of the order of 81 m, in two stages; consuming a total power of about 6 MW. The total length of the canal is about 11 km., which includes 3 tunnels of total length of 8.4 km.

There is no iota of doubt that with the implementation of linking of the above two links would permanently solve the water problems in Karnataka to a very extent. Hence, I would fervently appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to allocate funds for the implementation of this all important links for Karnataka.

I would like to make a few suggestions for the consideration of the Government. These suggestions are also part of the representation made by Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA) to Parliament Members Farmers Forum (PMFF):

- An amount of Rs.50,000 which is being given by the banks to small farmers should be sanctioned without security and be made as the basis for waiving of agricultural loans.
- The cutout date for agricultural loans borrowed during Kharif 2007 (April to September) be extended from 31.3.2007 to 31.12.2007. At present, they are not eligible for waiver under the scheme.
- At present, there is no incentives for the farmers who promptly repay the loans. They should be given incentives as that would enthruse other farmers to promptly repay their loans in time.
- At present, poultry farmers and fishermen are not included in the 2% subvention. 2% subvention should be extended to medium and long-term loans. There are over 3.2 million poultry farmers in the country. Hence, I would suggest the loan waiver scheme must be made applicable to poultry farmers and fishermen.
- High rate of interest charged by private moneylenders is the actual reason for the suicide of farmers. The fact of the matter is that only 25% farmers receive institutional, finance and the balance 75% are forced to knock at the doors of private moneylenders. This is more so among the backward areas. This trend should be corrected forthwith. Hence, I would suggest the Government to study this issue in depth and come out with innovative measures to reverse this disturbing trend forthwith.

Now, I come to Railways. Hubli-Ankola railway line is a very important one. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has to clear from its angle. Efforts should be made to ensure

clearance of this project immediately. The other important fact is that sufficient funds have not been provided in the Budget for the implementation of this railway project in Karnataka. This aspect should be taken up, reconsidered on top priority. This is the main link for North Karnataka and hence, very important.

Doubling of line from Bangalore to Hubli and from Hubli to Miraj are also very important. New trains should also be introduced in this sector. There is also a long-pending demand for the introduction of a new train from Bangalore to Varanasi via Hubli for the benefit of people visiting Varanasi from Karnataka. There is also a need to introduce one more a new train from Bangalore Hubli to Pune on a daily basis. So also linking of new railway line, that is, between Dvanagri and Thumkur and from Dharwad and Belgaum via Bailhongal is also very vital. Hence, these trains should also be considered and taken action on top priority.

Recruitment of people of local and regional languages that is, from Karnataka should be considered in the right perspective. Preference should be given to Karnataka people in the South Western Railway (SWR), Hubli. At present, scores of graduates from Karnataka are frustrated due to unemployment. Agitations are taking place in Karnataka in this regard. Hence, this request of mine should be considered on top priority.

Regarding the formation of 4-lane road under Golden Quadrilateral Project in my parliamentary constituency, Harihar, Davangere, Chitradurga, Hubli that is, km. 280 to 404, work is moving very slow. National Highway road which ought to have been completed in September, 2003 is not yet completed. It is reliably learnt that there is a dispute between the contractors and the Government. It is also learnt that the contractor has even gone to the Supreme Court and hence, the work has come to a standstill.

Due to this inordinate delay, a lot of accidents have taken place and precious lives have been lost. I want to know the reasons for the Government not taking up the matter and resolving it on war footing. Necessary and emergent steps should be taken and the Government should come forward to resolve this matter at the earliest.

The National Horticulture Mission has identified many districts in Karnataka but it should also come forward to include Kaveri, Gadag and Dharwad districts of my constituency in Karnataka immediately. What measures the Government has taken in this regard? I am surprised to know that the Government has not even considered my request for inclusion of these districts in the Mission. On the other hand, farmers are committing suicides as they are only dependant on growing seasonal crops. Horticulture should be

encouraged in the current set up. Therefore, I strongly plead with the Government to include these districts in the National Horticulture Mission immediately.

With regard to sugar industries, the Government should announce a special package to the sick sugar industries throughout the country keeping in view the pathetic situation prevalent in regard to the sugarcane growers and sugar industries. Recently, it is noticed that in my constituency, Sangur Sugar Factory has been leased out for a lesser amount on a long-term basis. By doing so, the factory has sustained huge losses and farmers of that area are the worst sufferers of this policy of the Government. Hence, I would request the Government that it should encourage the sick sugarcane factories by extending sufficient funds which would indirectly restore the confidence of the sugarcane growers on the Government and the interests of the sugarcane growers would be protected. In this regard, I would also strongly urge the Government to extend the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the sugarcane growers.

Likewise, MSP should be extended to all agricultural commodities like wheat, paddy, jawar, ragi, chillies, etc.

I have raised many of these issues many a time in this august House. But no proper response has been given by the Government. Discussion the General Budget has become an annual ritual. This should be changed. Important and pressing problems and projects should be taken up and addressed early. I hope the UPA Government would attend to many of the issues, which are the lifelines of not only my constituency but also that of Karnataka, and resolve them to the satisfaction of Karnataka people. With these words, I conclude. *

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the budget presented by Hon'ble Minister for Finance has so many provisions for the farmers but as you all are aware that the condition of the farmers is deteriorating constantly, the prices are soaring high.

Hon'ble Minister for Finance should know the oil prices. The condition of farmers is pathetic and they are committing suicide in large numbers. Some solution should be found to improve the situation. I have noticed that Madhya Pradesh Government has demanded a lot for the state of Madhya Pradesh. As it is facing drought and famine in many areas, they should be given special package. Nothing has been done in this regard. The progress in case of roads are not satisfactory. There was progress of roads during the period of NDA Govt. Pradhan Mantri Sarak Yojana was implemented

* This Part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Ashok Argal]

during the regime of NDA and you revised it with 'Bharat Nirman' which is a good move but I want you to set up a special industry in Chambal area as the unemployment there is increasing continuously. People there are forced to take law into their hands, I would like the ravine in the backward areas of Chambal either be levelled or such schemes formulated so that the water out-flowing through Chambal is stopped which can generate employment or some small factories etc. be opened there. It seems that preferences are given to the powerful members like Mrs. Sonia Gandhi & Mr. Rahul Gandhi through special budget for their areas. I would like that proper attention be given to the small areas alongwith the large areas. I would like to lay my written speech.

* Through the Chair, I would like to bring into the notice of Hon'ble Minister for Finance that the General Budget has failed to tackle basic issues of the economy of the country. Hon'ble Minister for Finance have said so many good things and have announced schemes such as Bharat Nirman, National Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Health Mission, Polio Eradication Programme, Integrated Child Development Programme, Groundwater Recharge, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme and waiving off the loans given to farmers.

Sir, I am very distressed to state that there is no scheme to convert the ravine of Chambal in MP to Agricultural land. A scheme should be formulated for the same and special budget package be allotted for gauze conversion in Gwalior–Shyopurkalan Kota Extension.

Although the State Government have laid a road network in the Chambal region which is very backward but there is no industry for the lakhs of unemployed people which is most required. An arms factory be setup at Morena.

During rains several lakh cusec of water outflows from Chambal River. I want a scheme be made to check the outflow of water of Chambal, Kwari, Asan, Kuno & Parvati Rivers so that the farmers could get adequate water for irrigation.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is extended to 200 to 330 districts but the labours are given Rs.50-60 a day on which no labour is willing to work in Morena. I want that this amount should be raised to Rs. 150-200 so that the labour could raise their family in this time of soaring prices.

National Highway No.3, constructed by the NDA Govt. is 4 laned and keeping in view the increasing traffic movement 6 lane is required from Agra to Gwalior.

I request the Hon'ble Minister for Finance to consider my demands. *

..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

* SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur):

This is UPA Govt's fifth budget after taking the region since May 2004. They are trying to make fool of the people with their lies presented in the fifth budget after exhausting everything in the earlier four budgets. A poet has put it correctly that "Sab kuch luta ke hosh mein aaye to kya hua". Several people have committed suicide during their regime. Who will take the responsibility for that. They did nothing except making false promises and deceiving the farmers and labourers. Sir, I would like to discuss soaring prices and it is neither secular nor communal. It only hits the people hard without discriminating between upper and lower casts.

Sir, Bhagalpur is famous for teachers. It is called silk city. I want to make a demand that NIFT should be opened at Bhagalpur.

Communal disharmony has been tried to spread in this budget. Backwards and Dalits are given some money just like a drop in ocean.

Sir, ancient Bikramshila University is in Bhagalpur and I demand that the IIT allotted to Bihar be opened at Bhagalpur so as to enhance the historical importance of Bikramshila.

Sir, prices have been increased after the budget. Rates before and after the budget are like yellow gram has raised to Rs.42 from Rs.36 per kg, black gram from Rs.30 to Rs.35 per kg, lentil from Rs.38 to Rs.42 per kg. Gram from Rs.28 to Rs.35 per kg, refined oil has gone from Rs.67 to Rs.75 per litre, Dalda ghee from Rs.60 to Rs.68 and maida from Rs.13 to Rs.15. These prices have been increased after budget. This is the detail of total 4 yrs. I would like to put here datas since 24 May, the date when you came to the power till date. Now have a look at the rates of spices before and after the budget-coriander from Rs.58 to Rs.71, Black pepper from Rs. 160 to Rs.170, turmeric from Rs.38 to Rs. 45 and red pepper from Rs.50 to Rs.55. Prices of Mustard oil have increased from Rs.60 to Rs.72. I would like to say before the House that there is no such item of necessity of common man like Maida, sugar, tea, cement, stone and bricks etc. for construction of house, whose rates have not been increased. This will increase further and prices will soar high and there is no doubt in it.

Sir, instead of reading out the figures related to the increase in prices from May, 2004 to February, 2008. I would like to lay the same on the Table of the House. Dearness has increased from 20 percent to 200 percent. Four years ago you came in power on the basis of the slogan of reducing dearness. You just see, how a common man, a poor person has suffered a lot due to dearness. Flour was Rs.10 per kg., now it is Rs.30 per kg. Bread was Rs.8 per packet, now it is

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Rs. 15 per packet. Sugar was Rs.14 a kg., now it is Rs. 22 to 25 a kg. All such figures, I would like to lay on the table of the House. Who will face the brunt of this heavy dearness, only a common man and common woman. I would like to ask, which thing costs less after the budget. First, the price of cars reduced. Every car manufacturer reduced Rs. 16,000, Rs.20,000, Rs.25,000. After Budget, liquor costs less. Water, milk and essential commodities cost more. Dearness is such a breach of confidence. This dearness is countrywide let it increase. There is no reason of dearness like an earthquake or damage to crops etc. The reason of dearness is the commodity exchange, the retail business to hoarders and big business houses, and instead of F.C.I, you allowed these people to control all the things and the import of wheat. In his speech here, Shri Manmohan Singhji said that the reason of dearness was the less amount paid to farmers. Now, we are paying more to farmers. Do cement, steel, aluminum or such other things grow in fields? Wheat is being imported and on the contrary we talk about our farmers. Dearness increased due to your policies. This Government have a very shameful history in this regard.

1	2	3	4	5
Rajma	28	40	56	50-55
Juggery	14	20	18	20
Besan	20	40	50	48
Milk	14	20	21	24
Paneer	62	100	100-120	100-140
Kerosene oil	18	28	28	
LPG	244	295	295	295
Petrol	33.15	43.49	47	47.7
Diesel	22.50	30.45	33	32.5
Cement	125	170	193	240
Steel	23000/ tonne	28000/ tonne	28000/ tonne	44000/ tonne
Brick	1800/1000	3000/1000	3000/1000	2500/1000

Increased rate list

Commodities	Rates (Per kg. NDA May, 2004	Rates (Per kg. UPA May, 2006	Rates (Per kg. UPA Dec., 2006	Rates (Per kg. UPA Feb. 2008)
1	2	3	4	5
Wheat	9	15	16-22	14-16
Flour	10	17	15	18
Maida	12	17	16	17-20
Rice	10	20	25-32	22-28
Bread	8	12/packet	15	15
Sugar	14	25	20	18-24
Tea	80	135	150-200	150-180
Mustard Oil	40	60	55	80
Dalda Ghee	40	45	52	68
Desi Ghee	130	170	155-175	175-225
Moong dal	24	36	50	42
Arhar dal	26	40	38	44
Masoor dal	22	35	35	42
Chane ke dal	25	40	42	37

Sir, the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is also being projected much. Perhaps our friend wanted to make a mention of it. I don't want to mention what he said in Orissa. But he said that out of one rupee only five paise reaches to the common man. Rajiv Gandhiji said that out of one rupee, 15 paise reaches to the common man. But he says that only five paise reaches to the common man. It means, if you pay 60 rupees to the common man, only three rupees will reach to them. What an illusion the hon. Finance Minister has created in the Rural Guarantee Scheme! In the Budget of the last year this Scheme was implemented in 100 districts and it was stated that from this year it would be implemented in 200 districts. Now, you have declared that you have implemented this scheme in 596 districts. What provision was there in last year's budget. Finance Minister knows it, a provision of Rs.12,000/- crore was made for 100 districts last year. In the last year's budget, the Total Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was taken up and it was in addition to this scheme. Last year, a provision of Rs.12,000 crore and Rs.3420 crore was made for the National Employment Guarantee Scheme and the Total Rural Employment Scheme respectively. Last year a provision of total Rs. 15420 crore was made and now Rs.3420 crore have been ignored and amalgamated and this year a provision of Rs. 16,000 crore in total has been made. It means, for 100 districts a provision of Rs. 15420 crore and for 596 districts, a provision of Rs. 16,000 crore has been made. How justified is this! How can it be possible?

This Budget has been limited to the loan waiving of farmers. The entire House applauded it for long. It is an act of creating confusion among the people of this country,

[Shri Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain]

particularly farmers. I would like to read out what he has said, and analyze it a big and also would like the hon. Minister to tell the people and farmers of this country how many farmers would be benefited as a result of the declaration regarding waiving of loan of farmers. He has not made a declaration to waive of loans to all farmers. He has stated that farmers having land upto one hectare, i.e. small farmers will be benefited provided the farmers would have taken loan by 31st March, 2007 and would not have repaid by 31st December, 2007 and it would have become overdue. In addition if the overdue amount has not been repaid, till 28th Feb. 2008 those will be benefited. I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister and say that when the NDA Government implemented the Farmers Credit Card Scheme in the interest of farmers, loans were granted at a cheaper rate of 9 percent. Most of the farmers have taken loans under the Farmers Credit Card Scheme. If a farmer takes loan under the Farmers Credit Card Scheme, no period is fixed for installments. During the validity of the Farmers Credit Card, a farmer can withdraw the amount available in his account as per his requirements, and whenever he has the amount he can deposit it in the account. It means there is no scope of any overdue. Therefore, I would like to state that loan amount is never overdue on farmers as there is no fixed period of a monthly or quarterly installment under the cash-credit limit. Therefore, the loans will never be overdue. As a alternative to this, the hon. Minister has stated that if those farmers who are covered under the condition of having 2 hectares of land, do not repay periodically and repay a lump-sum amount of 75 percent of their loan, 25 percent amount of their loan would be waived off. This is also an illusion for the Bank Managers have the power to waive of an amount of 25 percent of the loan amount if a farmer is not able to repay his loan amount and the loan has become overdue, he has not been able to repay for long and he comes to the Bank Manager and urge him that he cannot repay the full amount and his loan may be waived off, enter upon an agreement with him, if he repays a nominal amount can waive off the balance loan.

What good has the Minister done to them with this announcement? This is their right. They are entitled to 20 to 25 per cent. It has been augmented to 25 per cent. That is why I say that the announcement made about the farmers is cheating with them. It is a serious mockery and they have been subjected to disrespect and dishonour. It will get them nowhere. I would like the Hon'ble Minister to state by what means benefits shall accrue to them and how many farmers will be covered in it.

Sir, what I am saying has also been published in a number of newspapers. Several newspapers have covered it. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister about the loans

disbursed to the people by the Nationalised Banks and the over-draft finds inclusion in its definition. Co-operative Banks are under the control of the State Governments and directly comes under the purview of the State Government. The economic condition of various co-operative banks is very miserable. They are in the rough patch. It would be very hard for them to effect waiver of loans. The hon'ble Minister has not made any provision in the Union budget as regards the waiver of this loan. If the reports published in various newspapers have anything to go by, it has been concluded that the hon'ble Minister has announced that the loans raised by farmers from the Nationalised Banks will be waived possibly with the cap of Rs. ten thousand crores. The institutions engaged in banking transactions with Government licences to operate and paying taxes in return should also be covered in this scheme. Similarly, no mention has been made about the waiver of loans by the Nationalised banks. That loan could be waived. I still demand to waive off the farmers loans raised from the banks, its records be called for and properly examined. If it is true, their loans should be waived off or otherwise they should be enquired into. I feel sorry to say that the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture who is known to be farmers' leader is playing a different card making a clarion call to the farmers not to repay the loans taken from money-lenders. By doing so he is trying to divert the attention of the farmers. Can it be possible? If such moneylenders happened to transact their business without licence, they should be identified and action be taken against them and they should be put behind the bars. In case they are having licence and have complied with administrative laws by paying taxes and are in the practice of lending money to the farmers, steps should be taken to waive off the loans taken by such farmers. Hon'ble Minister of Finance has done nothing of this sort and has urged them not to pay. The hon'ble Minister is advising the farmers to take laws into their hands. In case the farmers do not pay back the loans, will it not lead to any belligerent situation? Then too, the farmers will be compelled to commit suicide. Whosoever has lent the loans will definitely settle scores in vengeance.

I would like to advance one more suggestion. It would have been better if you would have charted out some provision for the protection of farmers in their interest over these four years but you did not make any such provision.

Sir, pollution does not find mention in this budget. Global warming is being witnessed across the world these days and it severely affects the environment, agriculture, industry, foodgrains, dams etc. Its' impact is going to be all the more adverse. Sir, two rivers of our country the Ganga and Yamuna have become awfully polluted. The Ganges which is a holy river, has shrunk into a drainage at many locations.

Sir, I belong to Bhalgalpur parliamentary constituency and people offer holy water of Uttarwahini Ganga in Baba Ajgaibe Nath temple. At the sametime, what merits attention is that the number of pilgrims visiting Kumbh equals to those visiting Baba Baidya Nath in Deoghar. Thus we see that no provision whatsoever has been put in place to remove pollution in the Ganges and in the other rivers.

* SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the General Budget. Sir, we can say that this budget is populist budget. We can also call it an election budget because in the budget the loan amounting to Rs. 60,000 crore to farmers have been waived off and the time in the future will hold testimony that what number of farmers will get benefited with this act. Hon'ble Minister has said that 4,000 crore farmers will be benefited but I am of the opinion that only a very few farmers will get the benefit. Sir, there is a limit of two hectare land that has been imposed while there are some States where there is more fertility in 2 hectares land, more production is seen and on the other hand there is such land where lesser production not more than Rs. 50,000 is seen in 10 hectares of land. Sir, it has to be viewed and ensured that waived loan of Rs. 60,000/- crore should benefit the farmers in the true sense. Hon'ble Minister should make provision about the debt of money lenders to the farmers because the private money lenders exploit the farmers to the maximum. Hon'ble Sir, I too hail from Uttar Pradesh, my other colleagues have demanded that a separate package should be given for Bundelkhand. Sir, here I would like to mention a point that waiving of loan is not a permanent solution. If we want that farmers remain prosperous they should get interest free loans, each and every ploughing field should get water for irrigation, every house and farm should get power and better arrangements should be made for education and farmers should get support price on market rate and agriculture should get status of industry and villages should be connected by road. Then only farmers will flourish.

Sir, my constituency includes two cities viz. Noida and Greater Noida and thousands of such units are installed there which now a days is a dominant IT sector. Due to this area we have made a place of our own in the world in this sector. Sir, millions of IT units are installed in the country and Government made a separate provision for the promotion of this sector. For the period of ten years their units that come under the jurisdiction of STPI whose period is going to complete. There is no mention in the budget for extending its period further. Millions of people will be ruined if this period is not extended and what will be the fate of the bank loans in this regards, it can be well assessed. Sir, these small units cannot be made to ruin for the sake of SEZ. Therefore, I request you to please extend its period for 10 more years immediately.

Sir, in my constituency, the land of farmers is acquired on a big scale may it be in the name of industries or SEZ or big townships. The situation is such that the persons benefiting from the acquisition of land for developing Special Economic Zones or townships made rapid progress while, on the other hand, the condition of farmers continued to deteriorate. Sir, I would like to submit that the farmer's land should be acquired at their will. If a farmer doesn't want to part with his land, he must not be compelled to do so and he should be duly compensated as per the prevalent market rates after having direct negotiations with him. Besides, if the farmer wants to keep some parts of his land with him, he should be allowed to exercise this right. The State Government should not exploit the farmers as far as the acquisition of land is concerned. The Central Government should ensure that the farmers are not exploited any more.

Sir, the people of this country are well aware of the price rise of commodities and they will make the UPA Government feel the same in the time to come. The people of the country are facing acute price rise. Sir, lakhs of small investors in the share market have been the worst hit due to the erroneous policy of the Government and this issue needs proper attention.

Before I conclude, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

*SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): FM has taken note of the GDP achieving an 8.7% growth rate. This is high enough but if it does not compare favourably with the rate of the previous three years then it is due to, as he says, considerable turbulence in the markets of the developed world which has not abated. We are also told that the growth rate of agriculture was a not too happy 2.6%. These pose a challenge to the India growth story.

The FM had to therefore come up with budget proposals that would maintain the growth trend. He has rightly focussed on the need to stimulate demand for manufacturing goods and has then identified 'services' and the 'manufacturing' sectors as critical to growth. He has proposed the reduction of excise duty on items of mass consumption such as reducing the excise duty on some of these items such as on two wheelers from 16% to 12% and on paper from 12% to 8%. He has also reduced the Central Sales Tax from 3% to 2%.

I compliment him for these commendable proposals, which we can expect, will increase the manufacturing growth rate. Here however I am not sure if his insistence on maintaining high interest rates is right. If he reduces these rates it will help the manufacturing and the services sectors and stimulate production.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

I therefore urge the FM to reconsider his view on interest rates and suggest that he may reduce these.

Agriculture:

It is expected that we will achieve record food grains output in this financial year and farmers are appreciative of the highly remunerative prices fixed by the UPA govt. It is commendable that the FM has proposed some extremely farmer friendly measures. These include: Debt waiver of farmers, Increase in the outlay for irrigation from Rs. 11,000 crores to Rs. 20,000 crores, A provision of Rs. 348 crores for the Rainfed Area Development Programme and a Provision of Rs. 500 crores for the centrally sponsored scheme on micro-irrigation so as to bring an additional area of about 4-lakh hectare under drip and sprinkler irrigation. These are all praiseworthy proposals and FM deserves to be complimented for them. I wish here to make a few suggestions:

- i) Agreements have been signed by the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka with the World Bank to repair, renovate and restore water bodies for a total of US \$ 738 million that will benefit a command area of 9 lakh hectare. A similar agreement needs to be signed with Bihar, which suffers heavily every year due to widespread water logging that adversely affects at least one crop. It is utterly essential to see that the state is rid of this curse.
- ii) The MSP of paddy and wheat that the UPA govt, has fixed is highly remunerative. My suggestion is that the MSP of rice may be fixed at Rs.1000 so that it is in tune with the MSPs fixed for wheat and paddy.
- iii) The Debt Waiver is indeed a revolutionary decision and has been welcomed by the entire farming community. In fact they feel it is too good to be true. It is important that it is implemented according to the time schedule announced by the FM. I suggest that every thing should be done to ensure that the entire exercise to complete the waiver is completed by 30 June 2008. The important consequence of the debt waiver is that farmers will be eligible for fresh loans and as they will require these loans around that time, it is important that the waiver exercise is completed by the stipulated period. Government spends a lot in subsidies but unfortunately not all of them reach the intended target. While the debt waiver is, I repeat a revolutionary decision; I do think it would have been better if the farmer had been paid the subsidy in cash directly. He spends

at an average of Rs.4, 000/ per acre per crop and had this amount been given to him directly I feel it would have been better. The payment could have been made by the District Revenue Collector who has all the necessary data about farmers in his district and the payment could have been made either block wise or even panchayat wise. It is also suggested that the issue of Kisan Credit Cards should be made an item of general issue just like the Identity Cards issued by the Election Commission. Farmers will be spared the tedium of running to the banks every now and then. Also, on the basis of these Cards credit should be paid also by the Collector. It should be made a single window operation.

- iv) Small and Marginal farmers will need to be redefined on the basis of their land classification. It will be advisable to base this classification on the land quality such as whether it is rainfed or arid or water logged. In each of these cases it will be only fair, for instance, to increase the area of land. Since I have no direct access to accurate statistics I leave it to the FM to fix this himself or in consultation with the Agriculture Minister. But in all fairness to the farmers such land reclassification is essential if the farmers are to gain comprehensive benefit of this revolutionary decision.
- v) The World Bank Loan Agreement signed with Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for the restoration of water bodies is a good initiative. But such an agreement is essential for Bihar too especially since thousands of acres of land remains water logged leading to the loss of one crop per year. Very special effort is required to deal with the problem of water logging and the agreement with the World Bank will prove to be extremely useful for Bihar. FM is requested to examine ways and means of getting Bihar to sign a similar agreement with the World Bank.
- vi) FM has referred to setting up fully fitted mobile labs for soil testing in 250 districts. This is a good initiative and should be particularly useful in selecting crops for cultivation. My constituency is a combination of well irrigated areas and those which lack irrigation facilities and so are dependent upon the monsoon. When monsoon fails, as it did two years running in 2004 and 2005, we experienced deep drought. Soil testing will help in enabling farmers to choose the type of crops he can cultivate as also in identifying crop diseases and crop diversification. A soil-testing lab will be of great value. FM is requested to kindly consider providing one of these labs to my constituency Aurangabad in Bihar.
- vii) It is possible to improve the low growth rate of agriculture through a conscious attempt to link rural and urban markets through a system of intelligent food chains.

- viii) High diesel costs lead to adulteration with Kerosene oil. This can be prevented by periodic checks of petrol pumps and it is suggested that such checks should be organized on a regular basis to be followed by effective implementation of the Essential Commodities Act. Unfortunately this is not being done in Bihar, which along with the utterly inefficient functioning of the PDS there has been no check on prices of essential commodities. I suggest that the central government may devise some suitable method to monitor the functioning of the PDS and the implementation of the EC Act.
- ix) It is good that the subsidy per unit of houses under the IAY has been increased from 25,000 to Rs.35, 000/. I compliment the FM for paying attention to this important matter. But even this seems to be inadequate given the current prices of cement, bricks and iron rods. It is suggested that if this scheme, that has been designed for the benefit and welfare of those living below the poverty line, is to be really helpful, FM should consider raising the amount to Rs.50, 000 per unit.

The budget has some other extremely commendable features such as provisions relating to education, youth, the Unorganized Sector Workers and the minorities. FM deserves compliments for these and our best wishes for the success of his proposals, which will encourage the manufacturing and the services sectors. I urge the FM to particularly devise a mechanism to monitor the expenditure on Social Welfare & Security Schemes and on the implementation of the recommendations of the Sachar Committee. Once again my compliments to the FM for producing a rare budget that caters for the aam admi, women, youth, minorities and the farmers.

[Translation]

* SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, I welcome the Budget 2008-09. The Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaramji has announced several important measures to speed up the growth of economy and to give justice to the weaker sections of the society like announcement of Rs. 60,000 crore relief package for agriculture loans to farmers, complete waiver of loans of small and marginal farmers which will benefit 4 crore farmers.

On behalf of the Republican Party, I welcome this Budget and the Finance Minister Shri Chidambaramji. As regards the loans to dalits and tribals (Tribals assistance scheme) in tribals areas, increased amount of loan should be sanctioned. Moreover, even the smallest schemes of agriculture development plan should be provided to dalits and tribals. An increased amount of Rs. 50 lakh should be given to SC/ST. There is a need to waive loans taken by

* Speech was laid on the Table.

dalits from financial institutions like SC/ST Mahamandal or NSFDC. There is a need to develop Chaityabhoomi-Shivaji Park, Mumbai as National Memorial. In the capital of India (Delhi) a 'Buddhist University' should be set up. There is a memorial of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar at 26, Alipur in Delhi. As you consider the development of Delhi region, efforts should be made to construct a new memorial in the name of Dr. Ambedkar in the same way. Non clearance of the Forest Bill is causing large losses to the tribals as they are not getting financial benefits. There is no proper facility of drinking water. Despite having a policy of settlement, laws have not been enacted in this regard because of which funds have yet to be sanctioned for Maharashtra. Dalit students must be given admission in Adivasi Ashrayashala so that their involvement in public life could be enhanced. SC, ST women must be given 33% reservation and a Bill in this regard should be brought soon.

The NGOs like NAFED, working in the field of providing finance to dalits/tribals through cooperative financing institutions should be given more funds in the Budget so that the work could be streamlined. There is a need to make an increase in this Budget. The number of Employment exchanges and training centers should be increased and provided with more funds. There is a need to increase the number of cooperative private limited and to make a separate financial provision for them. The package announced for North-East in the Budget is a welcome step. Packages for other areas should also be announced on the same lines.

There is a need to provide financial assistance to vegetables and food processing units. I would also like to demand that the benefits of the Budget 2008-09 must reach upto the grass root level. If this Budget is not implemented, it will be very regrettable.

17.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I have finished the list. I would now request the hon. Finance Minister to reply to the Debate.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am deeply grateful to my good friend, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra and 62 other Members, according to my count, who have participated in this debate on the Budget that I presented last Friday. As a number of Members have said, the Budget is not a mere statement of receipts and expenditure, though that is what the Constitution says it will be. Over the years, the Budget and the occasion for making a Budget speech has become a vehicle through which the Government can communicate with the people of India and a report on the state of economy and what the Government will do in the following year to promote

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

economic growth with social justice. That is why, the Budget speech has become an event. From my point of view, it is too much of an event these days, thanks to the media. Nevertheless, one must adjust one's own feelings and thoughts on the subject in order to meet the requirements of the situation. When I heard Shri Malhotra and certain others from the Opposition benches, for whom I have great respect, it occurred to me that they had, perhaps, forgotten that they had also been in office for six years. I think the habit of sitting in the Opposition is so ingrained that you have forgotten that for six years, they were in office. If that is where they would like to sit, let me wish them well. Continue to sit where you are. One should, therefore, make a true and correct assessment of what the state of economy was during the six years when the NDA was in office and what the state of economy today is. It is certainly far from my mind to claim that everything was wrong in the NDA period and everything is right under the UPA Government. That is not the purpose of my statement. The economic progress worldwide is measured on certain terms. If you and I speak the same language, we must accept the same grammar. We cannot claim to speak the same language, if each one follows different grammar. The worldwide economic growth and economic progress are measured in terms of the growth in the GDP, the growth in per capita income, the improvement in human development indicators, the fiscal deficit and the revenue deficit, the external account, particularly the balance of payments and the foreign exchange reserves, the rate of savings and the rate of investment in a country, employment and whether the benefits of growth are shared by a larger and larger number every year. Poverty has been a major stigma in this country for several thousand years.

Our common goal is to wipe out the stigma of poverty. The starting point of the journey, where we can claim that one day, not too distant future, poverty as we have known for five thousand years, has been wiped out, is growth.

As I have said many times before, and I say it with humility, with growth there is a chance for equity, there is a chance for inclusive growth. Without growth there is no chance for equity, there is no chance for inclusive growth. If you will measure what has been achieved in the last four years in terms which are accepted world-wide, you will find that in the six years that the NDA Government was in office, the average GDP growth was 5.9 per cent, in the four years that the UPA Government is in office, the growth has averaged 8.8 per cent.

Now, the difference between 5.9 and 8.8 is not simply a number close to three. The difference between 5.9 and 8.8 is the difference between modest growth, which will mean that

we will take many years to wipe out poverty, and spirited growth, which will help us double the per capita income every decade and wipe out poverty much sooner than we had expected.

Sir, let me give another figure. In the 24 quarters between 1998-99 and 2003-04, growth exceeded eight per cent only in three quarters. After the UPA Government came into office, since the last quarter of 2004-05, that is beginning January 2004, for 13 successive quarters, including the current one, growth has exceeded eight per cent. Never before, and I say this with some amount of pride but you will forgive me if I sound immodest, in the history of this country have we had eight per cent plus growth in 13 successive quarters.

Sir, this growth has given us a certain degree of freedom which we did not have. No Government has had in the past. This growth has given us enormous amount of revenues. I am not a magician. I do not produce revenues out of thin air. Revenues come to me because of high growth and because of the stupendous tax buoyancy which everybody has commented upon, we have the capacity today to spend on projects which could never have been imagined four years ago.

In 1997-98, the last year of the UP Government, the tax GDP ratio was 9.1 per cent, that is when the Principal Opposition Party led Government came into office. So, they inherited a tax GDP ratio of 9.1 per cent. When they left Government in 2003-04, the tax GDP ratio was 9.2 per cent. For six years, they crawled from 9.1 per cent to 9.2 per cent, which is what constrained Mr. Yashwant Sinha and Mr. Jaswant Singh.

In fact, Professor Malhotra is here and if the Leader of the Opposition was here, I would have appealed to him that he should ask me why Mr. Yashwant Sinha and Mr. Jaswant Singh could not do things that we are doing. They did not have the money because there was not adequate growth, there was not a corresponding increase in the tax GDP ratio and they did not have the money to do the things that we are doing.

When we came into office, as I said, we took over from where they left at 9.2 per cent. In the year that is coming to an end in 15 days, the tax GDP ratio will increase to 12.5 per cent. Next year, if I achieve my Budget targets, I would have achieved the tax GDP ratio of 13 per cent. From 9.2 per cent to 12.5 per cent is an increase of 3.3 per cent, which gives me today the strength and the confidence to undertake programmes and schemes which could never have been imagined irrespective of who was the Finance Minister or who was the Prime Minister at that time.

Another thing has happened; that is about the fiscal deficit and the revenue deficit. When the United Front

Government left office, the fiscal deficit was 4.8 per cent. Then the first Finance Minister of the NDA assumed office. He inherited a fiscal deficit of 4.8 per cent. Kindly note Shri Malhotra, he inherited 4.8 per cent. When he moved from North Block to South Block, he left for Shri Jaswant Singh a fiscal deficit of 5.9 per cent. Instead of reducing the fiscal deficit, the fiscal deficit increased from 4.8 per cent to 5.9 per cent.

Likewise, the first Finance Minister of the NDA Government inherited a revenue deficit of 3 per cent. When he left the office to his successor, he left it at 4.4 per cent. Surely, instead of creating fiscal space in order to do things which need to be done, the NDA Government in the first five years constrained the fiscal space, and therefore could not do the many things that we are able to do, and which has caused them such awe and such envy. Thankfully, Shri Jaswant Singh was a luckier Finance Minister or a more capable Finance Minister. He was able to reduce the fiscal deficit from 5.9 per cent to 4.5 per cent, and reduce the revenue deficit from 4.4 per cent to 3.6 per cent. When we took office, we had a fiscal deficit of 4.5 per cent. This year I have reduced it to 3.1 per cent, and next year I will reduce it to 2.5 per cent. Likewise, the revenue deficit, when we took over, was 3.6 per cent. This year I have reduced it to 1.4 per cent, and next year I will reduce it to 1.0 per cent.

I want my dear friends – they are all good friends – to please pay attention to what this means. What it means to keep the fiscal deficit at 2.5 per cent?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): They will issue bonds and other things. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will answer the bonds. Do not worry. I anticipate this question. I will add the bonds and tell you what it is.

Keeping the fiscal deficit below 3 per cent, when the FRBM which the Parliament has passed allows me to keep it up to 3 per cent, gives me so much fiscal space. Prof. Ramadass will understand this; many friends will understand this.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Which Ramdas?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Even Ramdas Athawale ji should make an effort to understand this!

This gives me fiscal space of 0.5 per cent on a growing GDP which means you and I can decide tomorrow what we will spend this money on? Do you want to spend it on capital expenditure? Do you want to spend it on agriculture? Do you want to spend it on education? Do you want to spend it on Defence? It will depend upon the context. It will depend upon

the particular need of the year. There may be a year when we have to spend more on education. There may be a year, God forbid, when there is a natural calamity like the Tsunami, we may have to spend on Tsunami relief. There may be a year, again God forbid, when we have to spend on security.

But I have created the fiscal space. I have created the fiscal space and I sincerely hope that every succeeding Finance Minister will keep for himself this fiscal space so that Parliament can decide what it wants to spend this money on depending upon the immediate need of that year. This, I think, is the most important achievement on the fiscal side by the UPA Government, namely the creation of fiscal space which gives us tremendous headroom to spend on what we want to spend.

Sir, Prof. Malhotra interrupted me to say you have issued bonds. I was not the first Finance Minister to issue the bonds. Your Finance Ministers also issued the bonds. Let us add the bonds. Even if we add the bonds, the fiscal deficit including the bonds was 5.58 per cent in 1999-2000 and came down to 5.15 per cent in 2003-04; including the bonds in 2007-08 I have brought it down to 3.66 per cent. Even so, our record is an impeccable record, a good record. I wish the record was better. That is because, as you know, of oil prices. When the NDA was in Office, the highest level to which crude oil reached was 37 dollars a barrel. Today, it is 110 dollars a barrel. It is easy to run an economy, it is easy to price petroleum products, it is easy to take a stand on petrol prices, diesel prices and prices of LPG and kerosene when crude oil sells at 37 dollars a barrel. How much more difficult it is when crude oil is 110 dollars a barrel. We are not playing in the same field. The whole rules of the game have changed today. We are playing in a very different league today. The same thing applies to all commodity prices. The same applies to edible oils which I said in the morning in answer to a question. The same applies to wheat and rice. We are in a very different world today than what it was in 2003-04. The world, where commodity prices and food prices have spiralled putting an almost impossible, intolerable burden upon the developing countries, yet the UPA Government, under the guidance of the UPA leadership especially Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji and under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has been able to deliver 8.8 per cent average growth in a world, where all commodity and food prices have almost doubled and trebled in some cases.

Sir, I have spoken about tax revenues. Tax revenues have been a great success of this Government. I wish to take this opportunity and I invite all hon. Members to join me, if they agree with me, to compliment the Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance for a remarkable job on tax collection. We are meeting our targets for indirect taxes year after year. In fact, we are exceeding it. On direct taxes we are far

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

exceeding the target giving us a large amount of revenue so that the Members of Parliament of both the Houses can then decide what we will spend on.

Let me give you a few examples of what this tax buoyancy means. In 2003-04, allocation to *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* was Rs. 1,951 crore. In 2008-09 – the Budget that we are debating – it is Rs. 13,100 crore. The Mid Day Meal Scheme, in 2003-04, had received Rs. 1,175 crore. In 2008-09 we have allocated Rs. 8,000 crore. For rural employment schemes, in 2003-04 it was Rs. 4,986 crore. In 2008-09 we are allocating Rs. 16,000 crore. I can go on but I do not wish to. The point that I am making is that growth is leading to tax buoyancy and higher tax revenues leads to greater opportunities for Parliament to decide what the money will be spent on.

Without growth, without the tax revenue we could not have done this. I will return to the subject briefly when we discuss the loan waiver, which has become the central piece of this Budget as I gather from the speeches made by 63 hon. Members. But there is more to this Budget than the loan waiver scheme.

There is a great emphasis on education. I think, Mrs. Tejaswani summed it up very well; she pointed out what we are doing through the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, the *Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya*, the *Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya*, the *National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship*, and above all, the *Institute of Higher Education*. Primary education is important. You mentioned it, and I fully endorse it. Primary education is the bedrock, on which the whole edifice of education stands. But the strength of India is also that despite the tremendous constraints on the education system, we are able to produce the best doctors, the best engineers, the best scientists and the best professionals. Why? It is because we have some very high quality Institutes of Higher Learning. But we must continue to emphasise Institutes of Higher Education. That is why we have announced a grand scheme for the central universities, for IITs, for IIMs, for IIITs, for IISERs, and we are providing large grants, something, which no university could have imagined. We are providing Rs. 100 crore each year for institutes, the *Indian Institute of Science* in the first year and now, the *Mahatma Phule Agricultural University* in Rahuri, Maharashtra. It is equally important that we pay attention to Higher Education because it is Higher Education, which will give us the intellectual strength to be leaders in different sectors of our economy.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You promised six per cent of the GDP in your National Common Minimum Programme. Why do you not come to that?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will answer that.

Sir, this is the standard question to which there is an evident answer. If the GDP is growing by eight per cent a year; if my allocation increased by less than eight per cent, we will never improve the share of education. But every year I am allocating to education, 20 per cent more than the previous year. So, if the GDP is growing by eight per cent and if I increase the allocation to education by 20 per cent every year, sooner than later, we will achieve the target. And, the point is that if we are in a position to allocate 20 per cent more than last year, it is only because our economy is growing and because we have tax revenues. If I turn around and ask the same question to you, Prof. Malhotraji, you will not be able to answer. I can provide my answer to my own question but that will embarrass you very deeply, and therefore, I shall not ask the question and not answer the question. ...*(Interruptions)*

On the health sector, the *National Rural Health Mission* is the product of this Government. The *National Rural Health Mission* is rolling out throughout the country. There are difficulties; nobody is saying that there are no difficulties. But *ASHAs* are being put in place; 24x7, *Primary Health Centres* are working today; more doctors are being appointed; more untied grants are being given; more district hospitals are being upgraded; and more money is being given to the State Governments to improve health.

Sir, on *Women and Child Development*, I need not say that the increase has been a massive increase for 2008-09. For elderly, we have a number of a number of fiscal concessions as well as non-fiscal concessions. On drinking water and sanitation, we are providing more money. On skill development – this is important – whether we have primary education or higher education...

(Translation)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Why has the budget for *AIIMS* not been enhanced?

...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

You can put a question and the Minister of Health will answer it more than adequately. He will answer it more than adequately; just put a question on Monday or Tuesday, during the Question Hour, when his turn comes.

Sir, skill development is very important. A large number of our boys and girls are leaving schools. For a variety of reasons, they leave school when they complete VIII classes; they leave school when they complete X classes. The effort is to keep them in school until they complete XII classes.

But that effort does not always succeed. There are a number of socio-economic factors, which pull them out of school. We are trying to improve retention. Retention has improved at the primary stage, and we have to improve retention in the secondary stage, that is, the upper primary classes. But these boys and girls who leave school are literate in the sense that they can read and write their names, and they can do simple arithmetic. But do they have skills? They do not have skills. What has this Government done in this regard? Please look at the four years. We started by saying that we will upgrade all our ITIs, and that programme is proceeding apace. I have given you the number in the Budget speech. Further, we have adopted a Skill Development Mission, which pulls together all the Skill Development Programmes across various Departments and Ministries. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House. Please do not disturb the hon. Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Thereafter, we decided that it is not enough to take the existing schools or existing institutes and upgrade them. We must start today a massive Skill Development Programme, which is quickly scaled up to cover the whole country. Therefore, we have announced an ambitious National Skill Development Mission. I will garner Rs. 15,000 crore of capital, and I assure this House that we would have rolled it out to many parts of India before the financial year 2008-2009 is out. We would rapidly upscale it, beginning 2008-2009 to cover every part of India, so that every boy and girl leaving school will leave school only with a skill in his or her hand. This is extremely important.

As regards the Unorganised Sector, the Bill is before the Parliament. But, we have announced three major programmes even before the Bill is passed, and these are not symbolic programmes. These are programmes that cover and benefit a very large number of people. The *Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana* will cover one crore families by 30 September. Why do I have the confidence to say this? It is because I have entrusted it to LIC, which I repeat is a jewel in India's public sector crown.

The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana is being rolled out on 01 April in Delhi, a State ruled by the Congress Party and in Rajasthan, a State ruled by the BJP. We are not discriminating between one State or another State. It is being rolled out beginning 01 April, and I appeal to all the hon. Members to impress upon their State Governments that the State Governments should quickly join the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana. Many of them have agreed to join, but they should quickly join. The money is available, and we can roll it out to all the States in 2008-2009.

Thirdly, there is the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme. Why was this pension kept at Rs. 75 in the six years of NDA Government? Not a pie was increased. We came to the office and we have not given a very large amount, but we have increased it to Rs. 200 and we have asked the State Governments to match it by Rs. 200. Today, let me say with a sense of gratitude that almost all State Governments are matching it with another Rs. 200, and Rs. 400 is available today to the pensioner. Now, we are trying to deliver this amount using technology; using the Post Office network; and using the bank account, so that there is no leakage on the way, and Rs. 400 is received by all pensioners. Earlier, the condition was that the pensioner must not have progeny on whom the pensioner can depend. Today, we say that the pensioner will get this benefit as long as the pensioner is below the poverty line irrespective of whether the pensioner has progeny or not and that is, whether pensioner has children or not.

I need not mention the numerous scholarships that we have announced. I was very very disappointed and very anguished when some hon. Members said that there is a communal colour to this Budget. I am deeply sorry. I only see a child when I see a young boy or girl in school struggling to remain in school; struggling to find the money from his or her parents to pay the school fee, to buy the books, to wear a uniform or to wear a pair of slippers. I do not see a Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh or a Buddhist child. I only see a child. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The scheme is the same. It only provides Rs. 25 lakh scholarship for minority, and it is not for Hindu child. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please sit down. I see a child like you see your son and daughter or like I see my son. I see a child who wants to study.

The point is we have a large number of scholarship programmes in this country, beginning 1947. It is not as though the scholarship programme was invented by the UPA Government. There are many, many scholarship programmes. What we found was a large gap in scholarships that are targeted towards the disadvantaged and neglected sections. Among them are Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and now because of the aspiration among the OBCs, the OBCs, and the minorities. Therefore, in the last two years, we have announced new scholarship programmes or expanded existing scholarship programmes. The numbers are being increased so that more children belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and the minorities can continue in school and college.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

I ask you what is wrong with this. We should provide more. But what is wrong if we find that there is a deficiency among certain sections, and there is a gap in certain sections. We are trying to fill the gap by enhancing the scholarships. Now, why do we do it for girl children? There are special programmes for girl children, why? There is gender inequality among boys and girls. It is not as though boys do not get scholarship. But when we lean a little in favour of girls and say we will provide a few more scholarships for girls, that is to bridge the gender gap or the gender inequality.

Similarly, when we find in society, there is a gap between what the so-called advanced communities have and the Scheduled Castes have; what the first group has and what the Scheduled Tribe has; and what the first group has and what the minorities have. What is wrong, I ask myself, if you lean in favour of those who are left behind. There is a gender gap, there is a caste gap, and there is a religion gap. That gap, that inequality is sought to be filled by providing a few more scholarships. You, Prof. Malhotra, not Vijay Malhotra but Prof. Malhotra, must be the last person to stand up and say that you oppose this scholarship programme. I am deeply disappointed.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There is a differentiation between the two.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You please ask Mr. Shah Nawaz; if he supports you, I will withdraw my statement. What is wrong, I want to know.

Sir, on agriculture, I need not dwell upon it. I have pointed out in my Budget Speech that the gross capital formation in agriculture has increased under the UPA Government from 10.2 per cent in 2003-04 to 12.5 per cent. There was a question this morning on this. The goal is to raise it to 16 per cent. At the present rate, we will achieve the target of 16 per cent by the end of the Eleventh Plan. We have raised it from 10.2 per cent to 12.5 per cent, but more investment has to be made in agriculture.

We have announced today an Irrigation and Water Resources Finance Corporation. Just as IDFC and IIFCL, this Corporation will mobilize a large amount of money to be spent on irrigation. I think the key for agriculture – there is, of course, the issue of seeds, the issue of fertilizer, the issue of power and the issue of credit – is water. Unless you provide water, there is no agriculture.

SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR (Mysore): What has happened to the interlinking of rivers?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please sit down. These are specific questions which can be easily put to the Minister concerned and you will get a comprehensive answer.

Water is the key. We are spending a lot on AIBP. AIBP was something which I started in 1996-97. Every Government has continued it. This year we are providing an outlay of Rs. 20,000 crore in 2008-09. But even Rs. 20,000 crore is not sufficient. Every Member has said that there is a medium irrigation project in his State, or there is a major irrigation project in his State, "give me more money". Tell me which party, which State, does not require money for irrigation. Everybody wants money for irrigation. We have provided Rs. 20,000 crore in 2008-09 for AIBP, but that is not enough. Therefore, we are floating this Irrigation and Water Resources Finance Corporation. We will garner a large amount of money and we will pour money into irrigation so that water is available to our farmers.

Soil testing: Sir, I discovered to my shock that there were not enough soil testing laboratories in this country. Without testing the soil, how do you provide fertilizer? That is why the NPK balance has completely gone awry today. Therefore, we are now providing soil testing laboratories. I have sanctioned 250 fully fitted mobile soil testing laboratories to be provided by the end of 31-3-2009.

I do not wish to go into all other things. These are all spelt out in the Budget Speech. The point I wish to make is that this is not a Budget which revolves around the loan waiver. There is so much to the Budget beyond loan waiver to farmers, although the loan waiver has turned out to be the centrepiece of this Budget.

We have looked at very carefully some areas which tend to get neglected. For example, climate change gets neglected. For the first time, last year in the Budget Speech, at the instance of the Prime Minister, we have included a paragraph on climate change. We have appointed the National Council on Climate Change. We are taking it forward this year by saying that we will have an institutional mechanism to deal with aspects of climate change in our own self interest. Let me repeat, this has nothing to do with Kyoto Protocol, this has nothing to do with the Bali meeting, this has nothing to do with what will happen tomorrow. In our self interest we must address the issue of climate change. There are many eminent scholars and thinkers in this House who understand what I say. It is in our self interest to address issues of climate change and have an institutional mechanism.

We have also looked at India's soft power. India's soft power is our music, our arts, our cinema, especially our cinema. Virtually in a way Bollywood is uniting this country. In a way Bollywood is uniting the Indian diaspora. We are proud of all these people. I hope that nobody will call this communal just because Bollywood is dominated by Shahrukh Khan and Saif Ali Khan! We are now going to spend Rs. 75 crore through the ICCR in promoting India's soft power.

I have not forgotten the tiger. I feel very passionate when I find that a tiger has been killed. Who are these poachers? Poachers are the actual killers. But Behind them are very powerful interests who can finance these poachers and make money out of the tiger skin and whatever they get out of the tiger. We have to eliminate the poacher before the poacher eliminates the tiger. Therefore, we are determined to set up a special Tiger Protection Force. We will raise the force, we will train the force, we will arm the force. I want to send out a clear message that this force will eliminate the poacher before the poacher attempts to eliminate the tiger.

17.37 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Now I come to what has become the most important part of this Budget, namely, the loan waiver. Loan waiver is debt forgiveness. Debt forgiveness is not unknown in this country. As early as 1938, under the then Government of India Act - and now it is Item 30 of List 2 – money-lending and money-lenders and relief of agricultural indebtedness was a State Subject, and is a State Subject today. The answer to many questions about what you are going to do about money-lenders is, it is a matter solely falling within the jurisdiction of the State Government. We can only help the State Government. Parliament or the Central Government has no executive or legislative power in respect of money-lending and money-lenders.

Be that as it may, a very wise man by name Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, fondly called Rajaji, passed the Madras Agricultural Debt Relief Act, 1938. I want hon. Members to please go to the Library and look at that Act. It is a far-reaching Act which said very simply, that particular operative section, "If a borrower has paid twice the amount that he has borrowed, either as principal or interest or both, the debt is completely wiped off." Now I ask hon. Members, why are our State Governments not emulating that Act and passing an Act and wiping out the debt of money-lenders? That is within the power of the State legislature. The point is, what is it that we can do and what is it that we have done?

I am glad the Leader of Opposition is here. Thank you, Sir, for doing me the honour.

For three days, you paralyse Parliament in anticipation that the Government will not do a loan waiver so that at 1215 hours on Friday you could stand up and say, "This Government has not done a loan waiver", and continue to paralyse Parliament.

You were stunned when at 12.15 p.m. I announced a loan waiver and now you are asking questions, where will the money come from? Where was this wisdom on Tuesday,

Wednesday and Thursday last week? Now you ask the question – how did you decide upon Rs.60,000 crore? How did you decide upon three crore small and marginal farmers and one crore large farmers? How will you deal with Vidharba and how will you deal with unirrigated land? Where was this wisdom on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday last week?

Anyway, this Government, after very careful consideration did this; I want to submit most humbly that it is most unlikely that Dr. Manmohan Singh and in a smaller way, I would venture to write an examination, without doing our homework. Even if I stumble and fall, even if I trip and fall, Dr. Manmohan Singh is not likely to do that!

We have done our homework; we have been doing our homework over the last 2-3 months; after doing our homework, we have come to the conclusion that the context, the time, the compelling need is that there must be debt forgiveness.

The IMF and the World Bank have forgiven the debt of Africa, of African countries; the External Affairs Minister is here; India has forgiven the debt of many African countries. In respect of the State Governments, after the Finance Commission headed by Dr. Rangarajan, we have given debt forgiveness – that is a word of art – or debt write off to State Governments. The total aggregate debt of State Governments waived so far, 'under the Dr. Rangarajan headed Finance Commission', is Rs.13,285 crore.

Under the CDR package announced in 2002, in respect of certain industries, the principal and interest of Rs.1,000 crore was waived and loss due to reduction of interest was Rs.5,000 crore. So, that is the debt waiver to those industries. In the case of the infamous Enron, which the short-lived 13 day Government signed at 1.30 p.m. on the last day of office, under their guidance, we have resurrected that company and made it as Rathnagiri Power and Gas, and we have waived Rs.2,500 crore. So, debt waiver is not new.

The most recent example and the most famous example of a straight loan waiver was the late hon. Prof. Madhu Dandavate's loan waiver in the 1990-91 Budget speech, as part of a Government which was supported by the principal Opposition Party. What did Prof. Madhu Dandavate say? Let me read out that paragraph and please contrast it with the scale and size of what we have done today.

This is paragraph 29 and 30 of his speech and I will read out a portion of paragraph 29 and of 30. He talks about farmers and says:

"Over the years, they have been caught up in a vicious circle of indebtedness and low incomes which keeps them in perennial poverty. In order to relieve our farmers from the burden of debt, an assurance was given in the National Front's manifesto, that relief would be provided to farmers with loans up to Rs.10,000, as on 2nd of October 1989. "

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

So, if you had a loan of Rs.10,001, you were not entitled to any benefit. He said:

"It is proposed to introduce a scheme for providing debt relief which will have the following features: The relief will be available to borrowers who have taken loans up to Rs. 10,000 from public sector banks and regional rural banks. "

So, the limit was Rs.10,000 and the cooperative institutions were kept out. He said:

"The relief will cover all over-dues as on 2nd October 1989, including short term as well as term loans."

There will be no limit on the size of the borrowers' land-holding. "However, wilful defaulters, who in the past did not repay loans, despite their capacity to do so, will be excluded." So, who will decide who is a wilful defaulter and who is a mere defaulter?

"The Central Government will compensate the public sector banks and Regional Rural Banks for the debts which are thus written off. "

Actually, when was this debt written off? In 1991, my late and good friend, hon. Prof. Madhu Dandavate, provided Rs.1,500 crore. After Dr. Manmohan Singh became the Finance Minister, in subsequent years he paid off the remainder of Rs.3,766 crore over a period of four years. So, the total amount paid was Rs.5,266 crore.

Today, we are announcing a debt waiver of Rs.60,000 crore. I am able to do that, as I said before the hon. Shri Advani came, because of the tax buoyancy and because of the fiscal space that we have created by four years of prudent financial management of India's economy.

Sir, as soon as this Government came into Office, the first policy announcement on behalf of the Government was made on 18th June, 2004 where I said that farm credit will be doubled in three years. We actually achieved it in two years. It was Rs.83,000 crore when the NDA laid down Office. This year, the target was Rs.2,25,000 crore. By 31st March we will reach Rs.2,40,000 crore. Next year I have set a target of Rs.2,80,000 crore. But in that policy announcement there was a very crucial paragraph and that paragraph read as follows:

"In some parts of the country farmers face acute distress because of the heavy burden of debt from non-institutional lenders, for example money-lenders. Banks will be permitted to advance loans to such farmers to provide them relief from indebtedness against appropriate collateral or group security. The Boards of RRBs and cooperative credit institutions will be encouraged to provide such relief by using their local knowledge."

This is a debt swap arrangement which has been in force since in June 18, 2004. Banks today, and let me make it very clear to hon. Members, so that you can carry it to your constituencies, have been authorized to provide money to a farmer to pay off the money-lender and then become a borrower from the bank. The scheme is there. In Andhra Pradesh the State Government has come forward with a *Pavala Vaddi* Scheme which encourages farmers to take money from the bank and pay off the money-lender. I agree, this scheme has not been a great success. I shall tell you why. For a variety of reasons farmers do not have any records. There are no *perchies*. The money-lender does not maintain any books of account. For a variety of reasons farmers are unable to take advantage of the scheme. I am seized of the matter. RBI is seized of the matter and I will, if I succeed in finding a way out, come out with a scheme by which banks can step in and lend money to the farmer to pay off the money-lender and become an institutional borrower.

So far, and I confess, we have been able to do it in 36,000 farmers' accounts and Rs.105 crore has been paid. But my effort will be to rapidly multiply this number so that more farmers can take money from the banks and pay off the money-lenders.

In Kerala, they have established a State Debt Relief Commission. That has just started. I was just told by a very authoritative source, I have not yet verified it but this can be verified that in Wyanad 1,40,000 farmers have applied to this Commission but there are no more than a handful of cases where they say that the lender is a money-lender. Out of 1,40,000 except a handful, everybody is a borrower from a bank who has come forward to ask for relief. So, there are apparently socio-economic inhibitions in paying off the money-lender. But I will try to find a way. There are socio-economic inhibitions in identifying the money-lender. Let us sit together and find a way in which farmers can be relieved from the clutches of the money-lender. The bank will give the farmer the money and the farmer will pay off the money-lender. I am fully aware of the gravity of the problem. But as yet I have no solution. I will try to work out a solution. Believe me, I am seriously concerned about the matter.

Finally, when the Prime Minister said that we are picking up the unpaid distress bill left by the NDA, there was an uproar. I do not think the Prime Minister exaggerated the issue. He was, in fact, being very kind to you when he used very kind words like unpaid distress bill. Why did farmers fall into this distress? It is because the Government paid unremunerative prices. The key to farmers' distress, apart from other things, is the unremunerative prices. We cannot get away from these facts. In 1998-99, the NDA Government gave Rs.550 as MSP for wheat and six years later in 2003-

04, they gave Rs.630, an increase of Rs.80 in a matter of six years. Today, we give Rs.1000 which is Rs.370 more. For paddy common variety, in 1998-99, the NDA Government gave Rs.440 and in 2003-04, they gave Rs.550 which is an increase of Rs.110. Today, we give Rs.745. Unless you give remunerative prices to farmers, they will be in distress.

How is this distress impacting the PDS? There was some claim that the PDS was functioning so well in the NDA Government. Not at all, the figures speak for themselves. The total off take – that is the measure whether the PDS is functioning well, not the number of shops but how much grain is lifted from the PDS – of wheat and rice in the NDA Government were and I am reading the numbers for six years – 186 lakh tonnes, 170 lakh tonnes, 120 lakh tonnes – goes down and then rises – 138 lakh tonnes, 200 lakh tonnes and 239 lakh tonnes.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, foodgrains in the market was available at such lower prices that one wouldn't feel the need to buy from the PDS.

[English]

Nobody wanted to go to the PDS.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It means there were no poor people in this country. There was no BPL card holder in this country.

So, 186 came down to 120 and rose to 200 lakh tonnes. In the UPA Government, the off take for the four years has been– 239 lakh tonnes, 293 lakh tonnes, 311 lakh tonnes and 313 lakh tonnes. Therefore, we are providing enough to the PDS. There are difficulties, as the report pointed out there is a leakage of 36 per cent throughout the country. Some States are less and some States are more but the average for the whole country is 36 per cent. But who is responsible for the PDS? We provide the food grains and we provide the subsidy. But the ration shop is under the control of the State Government. The shopkeeper is a State Government appointee or nominee. The monitoring is done by the State Government. So the State Government must improve upon this so that more people can access the ration shops. This is the reason for the distress and we are trying to address the distress in the best manner possible given the head room available for us to address this issue and given the context in which people have committed suicide. I can read the figures for every year from 1998-99. It is not as though suicides have been committed only today. Even if one farmer commits suicide, it is a matter on which we should all hang our heads down in shame. Nobody should commit suicide because he is unable to pay his debt. Therefore, we came up with what to

me is a doable scheme. When I come up with something doable, you are saying why are you not doing that. It is a strange logic which pits the undoable against the doable. The best can never become the enemy of good. Here is something which we are attempting on a scale and size that has never been attempted before. This, I believe, is doable. If we are all convinced that we can do more, we will do more. I have announced it on February 29; we are working on the doable package; we are gathering information; and I will make a statement now. If we can do more, we will do more but when I am doing something which is doable, what is the point in saying why are you not doing that and why are not doing this? Let me do what is doable and then let us put our collective heads together to see what more can be done.

Sir, I wish to make a statement on the loan waiver package and with this I shall conclude my reply.

Sir, in my Budget speech before the House I had announced a package of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers. It was in paragraph 73 of my Budget speech and it may not be necessary to repeat the same today. A number of hon. Members have made valuable and important suggestions so that the well intended debt waiver and debt relief package includes all the deserving farmers, especially the small and marginal farmers. I assure the House that I shall bear in mind every suggestion that has been made during the discussion and try and incorporate some of them to the extent possible in the final scheme.

Sir, wherever one draws the line, however one draws the line, there will be some people who will be at the edge requesting to be included. My intention is to include all deserving farmers and I shall do my best taking into account any compelling circumstances. I may also add that the final package must be affordable, non-discretionary, automatic, simple and easy to implement at the Branch level by the Branch Manager. This is the key. We cannot allow the farmers to run from pillar to post. It must be implementable at the Branch level by the Branch Manager in all the lending institutions throughout the country.

I shall now present the broad contours of financing the package. I surprised you on February 29 and some more surprises await you. At the request of the Government, the RBI and NABARD have asked scheduled commercial banks and RRBs and Co-operative institutions to submit particulars Branch-wise of the overdue accounts by March 14, 2008, that is, today. After the RBI and NABARD have examined the data, they have been requested to submit the data to the Government by March 20, 2008. Provisional estimates indicate that the relief to be offered will be around Rs. 60,314 crore comprising Rs. 50,524 crore of debt waiver to small and marginal farmers and Rs. 9,790 crore as relief to other

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

farmers as a one time settlement at 25 per cent of their overdues. Provisional estimates also indicate that about three crore small and marginal farmers and one crore other farmers will benefit if they have overdues as on December 31, 2007.

Hon. Members will note that the relief to small and marginal farmers will be about 84 per cent of the total package and the balance of 16 per cent will be the relief to other farmers. In terms of institutions, an estimated 55 per cent of the package will be to borrowers from co-operative institutions – really the benefit is going to the State Government institutions – 35 per cent to borrowers from the scheduled commercial banks and 10 per cent to borrowers from the RRBs. Above figures are provisional estimates. We will have firm estimates once complete data is available. Upon receiving the data we shall immediately authorise an audit of a random sample of Branches in order to verify the correctness of the data furnished.

As I had indicated in the Budget speech, our goal is to finalise the details of the package in consultation with the RBI, NABARD and the lending institutions so that the process of debt waiver and debt relief is completed by June 30, 2008. This will ensure that the farmers who will benefit from the debt waiver and debt relief will become eligible for fresh credit immediately thereafter.

As far as the lending institutions are concerned, the amounts overdue as on December 31, 2007 would have been recovered in the normal course over a period of time. Some part may not have been recovered, but I am not alluding to that now. They would have recovered it over a period of time. That is our experience in the past. Government has, therefore, decided that the lending institutions should be provided equivalent liquidity over a period of 3 years or 36 months. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Malhotra, please sit down. Please listen to the rest of the speech. You did this when I read my Budget speech. You are too anxious to anticipate what is coming.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to announce that the farmers' accounts will be cleaned up by June 30, 2008.

18.00 hrs.

The disbursement of funds to the lending institutions will be spread over a period of 36 months beginning from July, 2008. Hon Members will notice that the period of 36 months span three agricultural years but at the same time, the period falls within four financial years for the purpose of Government account. The three agricultural years are as follows:

Year-I	-	1st July, 2008 to 30th June, 2009
Year-II	-	1st July, 2009 to 30th June, 2010
Year-III	-	1st July, 2010 to 30th June, 2011

Hon. Members may be pleased and may I add that some sceptics like Prof. Malhotra may be surprised to note that I have already provided Rs. 10,000 crore in the third supplementary this year itself which I call Year – 0. This is Year – 0 and not Year – I. Taking into account what has been provided in Year – 0, I propose to release in cash the compensation to the lending institutions in the following manner.

Immediately after 30th June, 2008, as soon as the first supplementary for 2008-09 is approved by Parliament, Rs. 25,000 crore will be released to the institutions. In the Budget, 2009-10, Rs. 15,000 crore will be provided. In the Budget, 2010-11, Rs. 12,000 crore will be provided. In the Budget, 2011-12, Rs. 8000 crore will be provided. It is a total of Rs. 60,000 crore. In phasing out the package across institutions and over time, we have been and we will be mindful of the need to ensure that all institutions have sufficient liquidity to meet the fresh credit demand. In particular, we will frontload the package in favour of cooperative institutions and RRBs which are typically more liquidity constrained than scheduled commercial banks. Therefore, nobody needs worry that cooperative institutions and RRBs will be constrained. We will provide most of the money to them.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: How can you make a budget for the year 2010-2011? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)* Just remember what Prof. Madhu Dandavate did for Rs. 5200 crores over six years?

I am happy and proud that in the third supplementary for this year itself, I have been able to keep aside Rs. 10,000 crores to quick start the farmers debt relief fund. This has become possible because of higher buoyancy in tax revenue that we are able to establish the funds in Year – 0 itself and that too, with a substantial contribution of Rs. 10,000 crore as the demonstration of the UPA Government determination to ensure that debt waiver and debt relief package are fully financed and the lending institutions are adequately compensated.

Sir, even as the package is spread over three agricultural years, hon. Members will kindly note that as much as Rs. 25,000 crore will be reimbursed to lending institutions between 1st July, 2008 and 30th June, 2009, that is, within just 12 months. We will disburse a further amount of Rs. 15,000 crore by August, 2009 thereby completing two-thirds of the relief package in just 14 months. In 14 months, I would have given Rs. 40,000 crore to lending institutions. Financing of the package, Sir, should be relatively easy given the buoyancy in revenues and efforts of expenditure restructuring. Since I have been able to find Rs. 10,000 crore to establish the funds even in Year – 0, this will reduce the burden in future years. Given the potential for the rapid growth of the

economy, the burden in any single year, if you do a back of envelope calculation, will not be more than 0.25 per cent of the GDP. Actually, it will be 0.25 per cent of GDP only in 2008-09 and will decline in every successive year and will be only about 0.1 per cent of the GDP in 2011-12.

We can also look at this in terms of absolute numbers. The total expenditure projected for the Financial Year 2008-09 is Rs.7,50,884 crore. The average annual debt relief burden of Rs.15,000 crore is just two per cent of the total expenditure. In future years, the proportion will be even smaller. I am, therefore, very confident that we can finance a burden of this order as part of the regular Budget exercise. The sources of funds to the Government are: one, tax revenues; two, non-tax revenues, that is, dividends, interest, royalties, fees; three, non-debt capital receipts, that is, recovery of loans and advances, premium on the sale of sequestered assets and initial listing of public sector enterprises; and, four, additional borrowing, if necessary. The above indicates the hierarchy of the means of finance for the debt waiver and the debt relief package. We should be able to finance the package in each year out of the buoyancy in tax revenues alone. If that is not sufficient, we can tap non-tax revenues and non-debt capital receipts in that order.

Finally, if even that is not sufficient, there will be enough headroom for the Government to borrow. This will, however, be the last resort.

Sir, I was somewhat disappointed that many knowledgeable commentators had not quite grasped the significance of pegging the fiscal deficit at 2.5 per cent of the GDP well below the FRBM target of 3 per cent. This headroom opens up many possibilities. If, in the future also, we peg the fiscal deficit at 2.5 per cent or even lower, the fiscal space that we will create for ourselves will give us enormous flexibility to incur essential capital expenditure. I am, therefore, totally confident of the Government's capacity to finance the package over the next three agricultural years out of which two-thirds will be done in 14 months.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that one, the estimated cost of the loan waiver package is of the order of Rs.80,000 crore subject to figures being firmed up based on the data

that will be furnished by the RBI/NABARD. The number of beneficiaries will be about three crore small and marginal farmers, and about one crore other farmers. Two, the package will be fully financed through payments in cash during a period of 36 months between July 2008 and June 2011. Three, the financing package is largely front-loaded, as much as Rs.25,000 crore will be disbursed to lending institutions in July-August, 2008 and another Rs.15,000 crore in June-July, 2009. Four, at less than 0.25 per cent of GDP - and even this will decline every year - the total burden is very much within manageable limits. The Government is confident of financing the package as part of the regular Budget exercise and, five, additional borrowing for this purpose will be the last resort in the unlikely event of resorting to borrowing. It will be well within the FRBM limits.

Sir, with these words, I commend the Budget.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us extend the time of the House till half past Six of the Clock.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You raised the issue of inflation but how will you curb it?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have answered it in the morning. You were not present. In the morning, there was a Question. I have answered it.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2008-2009 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on Account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2009, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 33, 35, 36, 38 to 62, 64 to 74, 76, 77, 79 to 105."

LOK SABHA

Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2008-2009 voted by the House

No. & Name of the Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant 'On Account' submitted to the Vote of the House		
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	
1	2	3	
Ministry of Agriculture			
1	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	2117,89,00,000	14,24,00,000
2	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	446,67,00,000	...
3	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	320,98,00,000	2,67,00,000

1	2	3
Department of Atomic Energy		
4	Atomic Energy	482,83,00,000 333,84,00,000
5	Nuclear Power Schemes	247,31,00,000 254,48,00,000
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers		
6	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	30,22,00,000 8,37,00,000
7	Department of Fertilisers	6868,64,00,000 7,67,00,000
Ministry of Civil Aviation		
8	Ministry of Civil Aviation	79,34,00,000 28,66,00,000
Ministry of Coal		
9	Ministry of Coal	57,58,00,000 5,00,00,000
Ministry of Commerce and Industry		
10	Department of Commerce	470,62,00,000 118,50,00,000
11	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	103,91,00,000 8,33,00,000
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology		
12	Department of Posts	1260,35,00,000 71,10,00,000
13	Department of Telecommunications	989,88,00,000 33,46,00,000
14	Department of Information Technology	252,75,00,000 16,58,00,000
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution		
15	Department of Consumer Affairs	38,67,00,000 5,34,00,000
16	Department of Food and Public Distribution	5622,58,00,000 62,57,00,000
Ministry of Corporate Affairs		
17	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	26,33,00,000 7,50,00,000
Ministry of Culture		
18	Ministry of Culture	163,11,00,000 7,72,00,000
Ministry of Defence		
19	Ministry of Defence	1292,83,00,000 167,78,00,000
20	Defence Pensions	2593,96,00,000 ...
21	Defence Services - Army	6276,96,00,000 ...
22	Defence Services - Navy	1250,28,00,000 ...
23	Defence Services - Air Force	1881,14,00,000 ...
24	Defence Ordnance Factories	1108,99,00,000 ...
25	Defence Services - Research and Development	568,83,00,000 ...
26	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	... 7996,02,00,000
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region		
27	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	221,08,00,000 23,92,00,000

617	<i>General Budget (2008-2009) – Demands for Grants on Account Demands for Supplementary Grants</i>	PHALGUNA 24, 1929 (SAKA)	<i>General Discussion (General) (2008-09) (General) (2007-08)</i>	618
1	2		3	
Ministry of Earth Sciences				
28	Ministry of Earth Sciences	91,34,00,000	70,81,00,000	
Ministry of Environment and Forests				
29	Ministry of Environment and Forests	279,45,00,000	5,06,00,000	
Ministry of External Affairs				
30	Ministry of External Affairs	799,63,00,000	140,99,00,000	
Ministry of Finance				
31	Department of Economic Affairs	687,47,00,000	99,85,00,000	
32	Payments to Financial Institutions	1210,60,00,000	468,20,00,000	
33	Department of Financial Services	10,00,00,000		
35	Transfers to State and Union territory Governments	8680,56,00,000	...	
36	Loans to Government Servants, etc.	...	60,00,00,000	
38	Department of Expenditure	6,98,00,000	1,00,00,000	
39	Pensions	1321,79,00,000	...	
40	Indian Audit and Accounts Department	207,28,00,000	49,00,000	
41	Department of Revenue	1551,65,00,000	14,00,000	
42	Direct Taxes	315,00,00,000	70,33,00,000	
43	Indirect Taxes	300,77,00,000	148,36,00,000	
44	Department of Disinvestment	3,50,00,000	388,33,00,000	
Ministry of Food Processing Industries				
45	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	42,43,00,000	7,40,00,000	
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare				
46	Department of Health and Family Welfare	2992,51,00,000	155,28,00,000	
47	Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	103,50,00,000	33,00,000	
48	Department of Health Research	88,63,00,000	98,71,00,000	
Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises				
49	Department of Heavy Industry	35,83,00,000		
50	Department of Public Enterprises	2,42,00,000		
Ministry of Home Affairs				
51	Ministry of Home Affairs	148,20,00,000	11,71,00,000	
52	Cabinet	50,45,00,000	13,33,00,000	
53	Police	2753,30,00,000	890,75,00,000	
54	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	166,51,00,000	4,37,00,000	
55	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	294,73,00,000	12,00,00,000	

619	<i>General Budget (2008-2009) – Demands for Grants on Account Demands for Supplementary Grants</i>	MARCH 14, 2008	<i>General Discussion (General) (2008-09) (General) (2007-08)</i>	620
1	2		3	
Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation				
56	Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	117,50,00,000	25,00,000	
Ministry of Human Resource Development				
57	Department of School Education and Literacy	6637,00,00,000		
58	Department of Higher Education	1593,98,00,000		
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting				
59	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	249,62,00,000	68,72,00,000	
Ministry of Labour and Employment				
60	Ministry of Labour and Employment	352,89,00,000	21,61,00,000	
Ministry of Law and Justice				
61	Election Commission	2,58,00,000	...	
62	Law and Justice	114,31,00,000	1,00,000	
Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises				
64	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	182,67,00,000	1,39,00,000	
Ministry of Mines				
65	Ministry of Mines	64,51,00,000	8,83,00,000	
Ministry of Minority Affairs				
66	Ministry of Minority Affairs	156,47,00,000	12,50,00,000	
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy				
67	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	98,98,00,000	5,03,00,000	
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs				
68	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs	9,17,00,000	1,67,00,000	
Ministry of Panchayati Raj				
69	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	796,75,00,000		
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs				
70	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	1,00,00,000	...	
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions				
71	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	59,20,00,000	7,50,00,000	
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas				
72	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	485,50,00,000		
Ministry of Planning				
73	Ministry of Planning	15,98,00,000	1,67,00,000	
Ministry of Power				
74	Ministry of Power	1014,87,00,000	51,09,00,000	

621	<i>General Budget (2008-2009) – Demands for Grants on Account Demands for Supplementary Grants</i>	PHALGUNA 24, 1929 (SAKA)	<i>General Discussion (General) (2008-09) (General) (2007-08)</i>	622
1	2			3
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission & the Secretariat of the Vice-President.				
76	Lok Sabha		52,37,00,000	
77	Rajya Sabha		19,00,00,000	
79	Secretariat of the Vice-President		28,00,000	
Ministry of Rural Development				
80	Department of Rural Development	12594,96,00,000		25,00,000
81	Department of Land Resources	400,65,00,000		...
82	Department of Drinking Water Supply	1416,98,00,000		
Ministry of Science and Technology				
83	Department of Science and Technology	287,25,00,000		11,15,00,000
84	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	345,23,00,000		1,10,00,000
85	Department of Biotechnology	153,17,00,000		
Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways				
86	Department of Shipping	175,42,00,000		62,46,00,000
87	Department of Road Transport and Highways	2159,46,00,000		2224,38,00,000
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment				
88	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	383,33,00,000		23,17,00,000
Department of Space				
89	Department of Space	382,35,00,000		296,53,00,000
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation				
90	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	312,45,00,000		4,05,00,000
Ministry of Steel				
91	Ministry of Steel	17,34,00,000		2,58,00,000
Ministry of Textiles				
92	Ministry of Textiles	510,76,00,000		43,16,00,000
Ministry of Tourism				
93	Ministry of Tourism	81,00,00,000		93,50,00,000
Ministry of Tribal Affairs				
94	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	43,84,00,000		8,34,00,000
Union Territories (Without Legislature)				
95	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	205,67,00,000		125,14,00,000
96	Chandigarh	212,89,00,000		38,28,00,000
97	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	199,94,00,000		5,23,00,000
98	Daman and Diu	82,26,00,000		7,88,00,000
99	Lakshadweep	64,28,00,000		30,01,00,000

1	2	3	
Ministry of Urban Development			
100	Department of Urban Development	191,04,00,000	817,98,00,000
101	Public Works	132,35,00,000	59,20,00,000
102	Stationery and Printing	36,85,00,000	2,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources			
103	Ministry of Water Resources	132,26,00,000	18,29,00,000
Ministry of Women and Child Development			
104	Ministry of Women and Child Development	1209,50,00,000	
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports			
105	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	162,88,00,000	22,42,00,000
Total Revenue/Capital		90836,98,00,000	15896,38,00,000

The motion was adopted

MR. SPEAKER: We now come to the Supplementary Demands for Grants. I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2007-08 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital

Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2008, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 to 15, 18 to 26, 28 to 33, 35, 39 to 48, 50 to 61, 65, 69, 70, 72, 78 to 87, 89 to 99, 103 and 104."

LOK SABHA

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2007-2008 voted by the House

No. & Title of the Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House		
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	
1	2	3	
1	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	321,25,00,000	2,00,000
2	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	2,00,000	...
4	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Previously Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries)	1,00,000	
5	Atomic Energy	64,96,00,000	1,00,000
7	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	1,00,000	25,17,00,000
8	Department of Fertilisers	4000,00,00,000	...
9	Ministry of Civil Aviation	132,40,00,000	
10	Ministry of Coal	6,81,00,000	
11	Department of Commerce	3,00,000	
12	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	435,12,00,000	...

625	<i>General Budget (2008-2009) – Demands for Grants on Account Demands for Supplementary Grants</i>	PHALGUNA 24, 1929 (SAKA)	<i>General Discussion (General) (2008-09) (General) (2007-08)</i>	626
1	2		3	
13	Department of Posts	54,22,00,000		
14	Department of Telecommunications	1,00,000		
15	Department of Information Technology	2,00,000		
18	Department of Food and Public Distribution	5836,87,00,000	2,92,00,000	
19	Ministry of Culture	10,02,00,000		
20	Ministry of Defence	229,79,00,000		
21	Defence Pensions	595,00,00,000		
22	Defence Services - Army	232,22,00,000		
23	Defence Services - Navy	60,11,00,000		
24	Defence Services - Air Force	298,21,00,000		
25	Defence Ordnance Factories	193,93,00,000		
26	Defence Services - Research and Development	23,09,00,000		...
28	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	37,16,00,000	1,75,00,000	
29	Ministry of Earth Sciences	3,00,000	1,00,000	
30	Ministry of Environment and Forests	100,28,00,000		
31	Ministry of External Affairs	316,28,00,000		
32	Department of Economic Affairs	455,63,00,000	6259,39,00,000	
33	Payments to Financial Institutions	11536,76,00,000	10100,01,00,000	
35	Transfers to State and Union territory Governments	8296,60,00,000		
39	Pensions	1287,00,00,000		
40	Indian Audit and Accounts Department	12,98,00,000		
41	Department of Revenue	539,48,00,000		...
42	Direct Taxes	220,70,00,000	29,72,00,000	
43	Indirect Taxes	59,70,00,000	1,00,000	
44	Department of Disinvestment	4,00,00,000	1,00,000	
45	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	1,00,000		...
46	Department of Health and Family Welfare	2,00,000	11,95,00,000	
47	Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	2,00,000		
48	Department of Heavy Industry	7,26,00,000	165,76,00,000	
50	Ministry of Home Affairs	10,27,00,000	1,00,000	
51	Cabinet	2,96,00,000	26,00,000	
52	Police	324,89,00,000		...

1	2	3	
53	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	319,40,00,000	...
54	Transfers to Union territory Governments	55,64,00,000	
55	Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	1,00,000	
56	Department of School Education and Literacy	49,12,00,000	
57	Department of Higher Education	6,00,000	...
58	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	2,00,000	1,00,000
59	Ministry of Labour and Employment	88,63,00,000	1,00,000
60	Election Commission	1,00,00,000	...
61	Law and Justice	2,00,000	
65	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	1,00,000	
69	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	6,46,00,000	...
70	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	9326,09,00,000	...
72	Ministry of Power	2,27,00,000	1,00,000
78	Department of Rural Development	980,66,00,000	...
79	Department of Land Resources	1,00,000	...
80	Department of Drinking Water Supply	1,00,000	...
81	Department of Science and Technology	1,00,000	1,95,00,000
82	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	2,00,000	20,00,000
83	Department of Biotechnology	8,30,00,000	...
84	Department of Shipping	2,00,000	1,00,000
85	Department of Road Transport and Highways	161,88,00,000	1,00,000
86	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Previously - Ministry of Small Scale Industries)	1,00,000	
87	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	83,00,000	...
89	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	1,00,000	...
90	Ministry of Steel	...	5,00,00,000
91	Ministry of Textiles	509,68,00,000	1,00,000
92	Ministry of Tourism	1,00,000	1,50,00,000
93	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	1,00,000	...
94	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	99,00,00,000	1,00,00,000
95	Chandigarh	93,57,00,000	41,08,00,000
96	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	16,32,00,000	9,90,00,000
97	Daman and Diu	129,50,00,000	11,50,00,000
98	Lakshadweep	32,77,00,000	...
99	Department of Urban Development	2,00,000	589,06,00,000
103	Ministry of Women and Child Development	2,00,000	
104	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	4,00,000	
	Total	47587,56,00,000	17258,25,00,000

The motions was adopted.

18.10 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 2008*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we shall take up item no. 20 - Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2008-2009.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2008-2009."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2008-2009, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2008-2009, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section 2 dated 14.03.08.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.12 hrs.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 2008*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2007-2008.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2007-2008."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move for the consideration of the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move**:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2007-2008, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2007-2008, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 Dated 14.03.08.

** Introduced and moved with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.14 hrs.

KARNATAKA APPROPRIATION
(VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 2008*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we shall take up item no. 24 – Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2008.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Karnataka for the services of a part of the financial year 2008-2009.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Karnataka for the services of a part of the financial year 2008-2009."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move**:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Karnataka for the services of a part of the financial year 2008-2009, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Karnataka for the services of a part of the financial year 2008-2009, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 Dated 14.03.08.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.18 hrs.

KARNATAKA APPROPRIATION BILL, 2008*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the consolidated Fund of the State of Karnataka for the services of a part of the financial year 2007-08.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the consolidated Fund of the State of Karnataka for the services of a part of the financial year 2007-08."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move for the consideration of the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move**:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Karnataka for the services of a part of the financial year 2007-08, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Karnataka for the services of a part of the financial year 2007-08, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 Dated 14.03.08.

** Introduced and moved with the recommendation of the President.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.18 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when Tsunami struck, a bill was passed in this House to combat and protect the country against the natural calamities and for this purpose a commission had been constituted. The Commission has started working but in recent past but when floods hit the States like Bihar and Assam on the large scale the required arrangement that should have been made in this regard for protection from floods was not made. I would like to know from the Government through you whether the Government propose to decentralize the Commission upto the level of States and districts. Usually 17 districts of Bihar are affected badly by floods. Every year this matter is raised and till the talk or proper management after floods are gone. This year the water of flood has remained for 2 to 3 months but there was no much progress in rescue work. So, I would like to say the Government through you that adequate efforts should be made for safety from floods and pre-emptive action against natural calamities should be taken. ... (Interruptions) Sir, it is an important issue, I will conclude within a minute's time. Adequate arrangement should be made for protection against floods. There should be proper rescue operation after the calamities hit but Sir, I would like to know from the Government whether Commission would be decentralized at the district level? During recent past, two commissions have been constituted but no Commission has been constituted in Bihar which is always hit by floods and drought. I therefore, request the Government to do decentralization work in Bihar and protect the people of the State.

[English]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue regarding waiving the interest of loans extended to the people who are running cottage and village industries. Sir, village and cottage industries are backbone of our rural economy. They are mainly dependent on agriculture. But now a days these industries are facing many hardships. Rs. 60,0000 loan waiver scheme has been announced by the Union Government. There is no mention about waiving the interest of the loan, and any measure to protect the interest of the cottage and village industries.

Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to provide at least 25% subsidy from the Government of India to the Karnataka State Khadi and Village Industries Small Industries Borrowers Federation. So that those who have borrowed loan they may feel a sigh of relief. Since Karnataka has been facing consecutive drought situation for the last 7-8 years, production in agriculture has come down. That is why it has become difficult to run the cottage industries. It affected the sales of production of these industries. In the lines of waiving the interest of coffee planters interest of the loans of cottage industries should be waived. These cottage industries have taken loans from Karnataka State Khadi and Village Industries Small Industries Borrowers Federation. Since the cottage industries are suffering great loss, they could not repay loans to the K&V Ind. Federation. Therefore the Government should come to the rescue of these industries and protect the interest of the farmers.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Union Law Ministry has been issuing circulars from time to time calling upon the Chief Justices to consider the names of SC/ST/OBC candidates for selection to the posts of judges in Higher Judiciary. But till date, it has not been considered. The Parliamentary Committee on SC/ST headed by Shri Karia Munda had also submitted a Report during 2000 highlighting the total neglect of these claims and the violations of the orders issued by the Union Government.

Thereafter, the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution under the Chairmanship of Justice M.L. Venkatchelliah had again dealt with the issue. It had far-reaching recommendations. Now Shri Sudersana Natchiappan Committee has also considered the issue in depth and it has categorically recommended reservation in favour of SC, ST and OBCs in higher judiciary. For the past 60 years, there is no proper opportunity for the above categories in the higher judiciary.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps to implement Shri Sudersana Natchiappan Committee's recommendations and provide reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs in the higher judiciary. Thank you.

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

The new International airport at Shamshabad is going to be operational from 16th March, 2008 and will make Hyderabad an important aviation hub in South Asia. Hyderabad is well connected to important destinations in India and abroad. Therefore, there is a need to develop feeder channels within Andhra Pradesh. In order to improve the connectivity of the major growth centres within the State, development of Regional Airports on a hub and spoke model through Public Private Partnership is envisaged.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh is keen for development of eight regional airports at strategic locations in the State, namely, Nellore, Ongole, Ramagundam, Kothagudem, Kurnool, Tadepalligudem, Nizamabad and Bobbili. The concerned district administration has identified about 500 to 2,000 acres of government land for setting up of Greenfield airports.

Therefore, I humbly request the Ministry of Civil Aviation, through this House, to depute a technical team of AAI to the State of Andhra Pradesh, at the earliest, to finalize the details of location and alignment for the proposed eight regional Greenfield airports. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Hon'ble Chairman Sir, through you, I would like to bring a very important matter to the notice of the Union Government. Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme is being run by the Central Government. Under this scheme, the electric poles which have been erected for the electrification of villages in our Uttar Pradesh are of very substandard quality and in the event of slightly strong wind, they breakdown. Along with this, the electronic wires that has been used are also very thin and have low capacity. Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I had also written a letter on 5 May, 2007 to the Minister of Finance and the hon'ble Prime Minister. The Minister of Power received that letter on 21st May, however, no investigation has been made into the matter till today. I would like to demand the Central Government that inquiry should be held into the substandard quality work carried out there and the guilty officers who are involved in this bungling should be punished.

[English]

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): Sir, I wish to

raise a very important matter regarding unaffordable prices of construction materials. To have a house is an ambition of everybody. But now-a-days, as far as the low income group in the society is concerned, construction of a house has become a dream only. This is due to unaffordable prices of construction materials such as steel, cement, sand, etc. The price of steel has increased by Rs. 10/- per kilogram within a period of one month. The price of cement has increased by Rs. 10/- to Rs.15/- within a period of four months. There is no justification for the abnormal increase of price in these materials since there is no increase in the production cost. All the attempts made by the Government to decrease the price did not find any result. While the production cost of one bag of cement comes to Rs. 60/- only, the consumers are compelled to pay Rs. 265/- per bag. The major cement manufacturers in the country paid 175 per cent dividend to the shareholders for the last year. So, the profit of the companies comes to 250 per cent. In view of these facts, there is no justification for increasing the prices of construction materials arbitrarily.

So, the only solution which I would suggest is that the system of levy cement may be reintroduced in the country so that the low income group people in the country can get cement at a subsidized price. The Union Government may kindly consider the suggestion seriously and come forward with a helping hand to the common people in the country so that they can get the building materials at a reasonable price.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN (Ladakh): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like draw the attention of the Government of India to a very important project. Ladakh has been the most sensitive border of our country and there is a proposed scheme to link it with other parts of the country. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Gemo, Padum and Dacha road. Sir, the said road project has been taken up under the Prime Minister's Jammu and Kashmir Reconstruction Programme. I am very sorry to say that the pace of work going on this project has been very slow for the last two-three years. The said road is targetted to be completed by 2012. However, if the work proceeds with the existing pace then probably it will take another 15-20 years in its construction. I would like to request the Government of India to release more funds to the Border Roads Organization for the construction of this road at the earliest. It is on account of shortage of manpower that the pace of construction of the road has slowed down. So more and more manpower, labour and machinery should be made available for the construction of this road. The road is targetted to be completed by 2012 because through this road Ladakh will remain open round the year for the other parts of the country. This road is essential

not only for the economic development of Ladakh rather it is also in the interest of the national security because so much amount is spent on defence forces deployed in Ladakh. So, the construction of this road will be beneficial not only for the people of that area but also to the defence forces.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you would like to request that more funds should be given for this road and initiative should be taken to complete this road at the earliest.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, presently, lakhs and crores of retailers in the country are engaged in trading. Their livelihood is based on retail trading. However, after liberalization and globalisation, the Government have allowed foreign investment in retail sector and have permitted multinational companies to operate in retail trading. It is on account of this that it has become difficult for the retailers to survive. Small traders are suffering heavy loss on account of foreign investment and entry of big companies in retail sector. As per the survey conducted by the Standing Committee on Ministry of Commerce, every day, every hour, one shop is getting closed. If the foreign investment is not checked in time, lakhs of small retail traders will be rendered jobless. Mr. Chairman, Sir, few days back a conference of hundreds of representatives of retail traders of 26 States was held in the Capital in which serious concerns were expressed regarding the foreign investment and entry of multinational companies and corporate houses in retail sector.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the Government of India that it should immediately ban the foreign investment and entry of multinational companies in retail sector for the protection of employment and livelihood of crores of retail traders of the country and smooth functioning of retail sector.

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution towards distribution of substandard quality wheat and red corns through fair price shops in Udaipur district of Rajasthan State and on account of its consumption common people are falling ill. The wheat is of such substandard quality that the flour made from it is of very bad quality and those who are consuming it are falling sick. Various diseases are spreading on account of its consumption. Poor people do not have even money for the treatment.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister and the Government towards this and would request them to stop the distribution of such substandard quality food grains and arrangement should be made for the distribution of good quality ration.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways about a serious problem of my Constituency. In the year 2001, almost 250 farmers of Dumuka Revenue Circle under Marshaghai Block of Kendrapara district in Orissa have been deprived of their agricultural land under the Land Acquisition for the Hardaspur-Paradeep railway line by the Union Ministry of Railways. The compensation given to these farmers at that time was much below the actual value of the land lost. However, they were persuaded by the Railway Authorities to accept the compensation value for the time being along with submitting their legitimate grievance regarding the inadequacy of the compensation to the concerned authorities. For the sake of large national interest, these small farmers willingly gave away their land. Unfortunately, their legitimate grievance regarding adequate compensation at the proper rate has not yet been addressed till today. As a consequence, the ongoing construction work of this important railway line has been obstructed by these deprived farmers.

Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Railways to kindly intervene in the matter so that the farmers are given their due, and the construction work of the Haridaspur-Paradeep railway line is thus facilitated.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. It is a matter of great concern that nearly 400 Indian workers are subjected to ill-treatment and discrimination in the United States of America (USA). These workers are working with Pascagoula Shipyard in New Orleans, USA. They have been recruited by a recruiting agency named Diwan Consultants in Mumbai for a signal company in the USA. They had to pay huge amount to the consultants, and they were offered Green Card in the USA. But they did not get the Green Card. Further, they were subjected to ill-treatment and discrimination. They are accommodated in a very small room in which 25 workers live together. Further, they were not properly paid; they were not given treatment; and they are even struggling for their daily food. The company is not paying any attention to them, and the Consultants are also not properly attending to them.

The matter has come to the notice of the Indian Embassy, but they are not getting adequate service from the Indian Embassy also. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to look into the matter, and give proper care and service to them.

This particular consultant, like several others in our country, is operating without any licence and is recruiting people to different foreign countries. Therefore, the functioning of this particular company should be enquired into. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Please come to the point. What can the Government do in this regard? Only that is necessary, and not all these details.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Further, I would request that proper attention should be given to the workers who are trapped in the USA. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. P. C. Thomas, two issues are mentioned against your name, but only one issue will come on record. It could be either related to the issue of Good Friday or on the issue of school leaving certificate. I would also like to mention that you were not present when your name was called. Therefore, I am calling you again to mention your issue.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I am very grateful to you. I would like to bring to your notice that a *dhama* is taking place in Delhi by *dalit* Christians. Christians of *dalit* origin have been on *dhama* on the issue of including them in the Schedule as per the Presidential Order of 1950. They are all in the same circumstance as *dalits*. Therefore, I would humbly submit that the Government should look into it immediately, and do something to bring them also into the Schedule. The Muslims are also converted Muslims. They may not be denied it just because they believe in Muslim religion or Christian religion. The *dalits* of this country who are already getting the benefit should also not be affected. Therefore, we should think of a strategy whereby all these people are included without affecting them, and we should work out a strategy considering them also. Hence, I would submit that the Government should immediately take a view on this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Athawale, you came as the last person. Hence, I have called your name to mention your issue even after the scheduled time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a Women Commission in our country. Atrocities are committed against dalit and tribal women. They are raped and their modesty is outraged. Besides, there are many problems related to their economic development as well. I would like to request the Government of India that there is a need to constitute a Dalit Women Commission for Dalit and tribal women. Though, the Government have constituted Woman Commission, which are addressing the problems of all the women, however, it should constitute a Dalit Woman Commission for Dalit and tribal women. The services of this Commission can be fruitfully utilized to provide justice to the Dalit women.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Chairman,

Sir, I have time and again said that the farmers of Vidarbha region have not been benefited by loan waiver scheme. Only 30 percent farmers have been benefited and even today 70 percent farmers are deprived of its benefit. Just now, I was hearing me speech of hon'ble Minister of Finance. I thought that he would say something in this regard, however, the clarification that he has given on my query regarding 30 percent and 70 percent farmers, is vague. His intention is good, however, the hon'ble Minister of Finance has failed in preparing the scheme. I had said this earlier also that the Government should give Rs. 50 thousand or Rs. 1 lakh in cash to every farmer, however, the scheme that has been prepared is wrong. People say that it is election agenda and the Government might have introduced loan waiver for election gains. This should be modified. If it is for election purpose, then, how will they win elections if 70 percent farmers are annoyed with them? But, that is also not there. It is totally wrong, so the Government can modify it a little bit. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government can do it even now because the recent clarification is only regarding the time of overdue and due; however, the benefit that is to be given to the farmers is not being given.

I would like to request only this to the Government that it can revise it even now. If the Government want to take advantage of it, it should think about it, otherwise, we will have to come on the streets to lodge our protest against you.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards serious law and order situation in our Bodoland area of Assam.

Some unruly cadres of NDFB have created this disturbance by putting on fire the offices of Youth Wing of Bodoland People's Front in various areas of Kokrajhar and Shirang district of Bodoland area since 16th February till yesterday. On 13 March, police had to resort to firing at Bengtol in Shirang district. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary you only mention the point. As a special case I am allowing you to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: At least four persons were killed there and some persons got injured. That is why, through you, I would like to urge the Government of India, that it should immediately send adequate number of police personnel and Para Military Forces and Army personnel in Bodoland areas. There is an urgent need of sending forces there. The total internal security

system has got disturbed there. The Government of India must do something to protect the life and property of the people. It is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can place it on the Table. You cannot go on like this. We do not have time. As a special case, I have allowed you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: My hon. friend, it is a State matter. It is for the State to decide. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: The situation there is very serious. So I want the Government of India to intervene in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am going to adjourn the House. Please sit down. It is a State matter. You now conclude your submission in one sentence.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Through you, Sir, I want the Government of India to take certain pro-active policy measures to control the overall law and order situation and to ensure protection and safeguard of the life and property of the people of Bodoland area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough.

The House now stands adjourned to meet on Monday, March 17, 2008

18.44 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, March 17, 2008/Phalguna 27, 1929 (Saka).

Annexure-I**Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions**

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	224
2	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	238
3	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	240
4	Dr. Barq, Shafiqur Rahman	228
5	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	226
6	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	222
7	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	223
8	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath Mahadeo	221
9	Shri George, K. Francis	230
10	Dr. Jagannath, M.	239
11	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	240
12	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	230
13	Smt. Madhavraj, Manorama	225
14	Prof. Malhotra, Vijay Kumar	238
15	Shri Masood, Rasheed	225
16	Dr. Meinya, Thokchom	222
17	Shri Mondal, Abu Ayes Mondal	237
18	Shri Nandy, Amitava	229
19	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	235
20	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	231
21	Shri Ramesh Dube	228
22	Shri Rana, Kashiram	223
23	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	236
24	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	236
25	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	233
26	Shri Singh, Dushyant	224
27	Shri Singh, Mohan	227
28	Shri Singh, Sugrib	235
29	Shri Singh, Suraj	234
30	Shri Singh, Uday	232
31	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	234
32	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	239
33	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	221
34	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	233

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	2251
2	Shri Acharia, Basu Deb	2206, 2289, 2330
3	Shri Adsul, Anandrao Vithoba	2208, 2258, 2279, 2334, 2342
4	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	2227, 2286, 2303, 2341
5	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	2204, 2264
6	Shri Angadi, Suresh	2161, 2247
7	Shri Appadurai, M.	2177, 2273
8	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	2170, 2276, 2323, 2349
9	Shri Azmi, Ilyas	2179, 2275
10	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	2152, 2246, 2271, 2321
11	Shri Barman, Hiten	2157, 2212, 2240, 2362
12	Dr. Barq, Shafiqur Rahman	2255
13	Shri Bhagora, Mahavir	2224, 2297, 2337
14	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	2165, 2253, 2266, 2317, 2346
15	Shri Bhargava, Girdhari Lal	2159, 2182, 2251, 2280, 2358
16	Shri Budholia, Rajnarayan	2306, 2317
17	Shri Chakraborty, Swadesh	2146
18	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	2181, 2278
19	Prof. Chander Kumar	2342
20	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	2253, 2309
21	Dr. Chinta Mohan	2191
22	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	2172, 2267, 2318, 2342
23	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	2350
24	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	2250, 2264, 2342
25	Shri Deo, Bikram Keshari	2215

1	2	3
26	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	2234, 2361
27	Shri Deora, Milind	2158, 2242, 2304
28	Shri Dubey, Chandra Sekhar	2217
29	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	2174, 2269
30	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath Mahadeo	2249, 2264, 2306, 2342
31	Shri Gamang, Giridhar	2331, 2342
32	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	2178, 2274, 2286, 2336, 2365
33	Shri Gehlot, Thawar Chand	2264, 2306
34	Shri George, K. Francis	2256, 2311
35	Shri Hussain, Syed Shahnawaz	2145
36	Dr. Jagannath, M.	2246
37	Shri Jain, Pusp	2190
38	Dr. Jatiya, Satyanarayan	2197
39	Smt. Jayaprada	2162, 2306, 2344
40	Shri Jena, Mohan	2219, 2356
41	Shri Jha, Raghunath	2199, 2306
42	Shri Jindal, Naveen	2150
43	Shri Jogi, Ajit	2196, 2295
44	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	2207
45	Shri Kanodia, Mahesh	2174, 2269
46	Dr. Kathiria, Vallabhbhai	2174, 2269, 2286
47	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	2260, 2313, 2348
48	Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	2142, 2232, 2279, 2318
49	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	2143, 2233, 2265, 2345
50	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	2147, 2235, 2301, 2340
51	Dr. Koya, P.P.	2212
52	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	2226, 2299
53	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	2342

1	2	3
54	Shri Kulaste, Faggan Singh	2342
55	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	2188, 2306
56	Adv. Kurup, Suresh	2200, 2285, 2306
57	Smt Lakshmi, Botcha Jhansi	2188, 2223, 2298
58	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	2171, 2214, 2294, 2335
59	Smt. Madhavraj, Manorama	2263
60	Shri Maharia, Subhash	2194, 2198
61	Smt. Maheshwari, Kiran	2182, 2280
62	Shri Mahtab, B.	2342
63	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	2342
64	Prof. Malhotra, Vijay Kumar	2336
65	Smt Mane, Nivedita	2249, 2264, 2306, 2342
66	Dr. Manoj, K.S.	2160, 2188, 2244, 2319, 2334,
67	Shri Masood, Rasheed	2252
68	Ms. Mcleod, Ingrid	2180, 2277
69	Dr. Mediyam, Babu Rao	2166, 2312
70	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	2139, 2287, 2327
71	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	2272, 2364
72	Shri Mehta, Bhubneshwar Prasad	2193, 2292, 2342
73	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	2218
74	Shri Mohale, Punnu Lal	2182
75	Shri Mohan, P.	2191, 2222, 2264, 2296
76	Shri Mondal, Abu Ayes Mondal	2168
77	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	2277
78	Shri Murmu, Rupchand	2279
79	Shri Nandy, Amitava	2229, 2279, 2310, 2355
80	Shri Oram, Jual	2184, 2282, 2325
81	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	2148, 2191, 2236, 2326, 2353

1	2	3	1	2	3
82	Shri Pallani Shamy, K.C.	2140, 2228, 2300, 2339	112	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	2151, 2302, 2351, 2354
83	Shri Panda, Prabodh	2163, 2265	113	Adv. Satheedevi, (Shrimati) P.	2185
84	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	2192, 2264	114	Shri Satyanarayana, Sarvey	2186, 2220
85	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	2237	115	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	2145, 2264, 2316, 2342
86	Shri Paswan, Ram Chandra	2172, 2225, 2306	116	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	2295
87	Shri Patel, Jivabhai Ambalal	2201, 2308	117	Smt. Scindia, Yashodhara Raje	2220
88	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	2259, 2342	118	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	2277
89	Shri Patil, Pratik P.	2230	119	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	2258, 2279, 2342
90	Smt. Patil, Rupatai Diliprao Nilangakar	2144, 2307	120	Shri Shivanna, M.	2263
91	Shri Pradhan, Dharmendra	2342	121	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	2267, 2284
92	Shri Prasad, Anirudh Alias Sadhu Yadav	2249, 2264, 2306, 2342	122	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	2155, 2315, 2351
93	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	2183, 2248, 2261, 2309, 2314	123	Smt. Sikdar, Jyotirmoyee	2211, 2291, 2322
94	Shri Prasad, Lalmani	2210	124	Chau. Singh, Bijendra	2306, 2342
95	Shri Rajagopal, L.	2183, 2322	125	Shri Singh, Rana Gurjeet	2195
96	Shri Rajendran, P.	2352	126	Shri Singh, Brijbhushan Sharan	2203, 2212
97	Prof. Ramadass, M.	2267, 2284	127	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	2189
98	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	2257, 2312, 2350	128	Shri Singh, Dushyant	2189, 2283, 2333, 2354
99	Shri Ramesh Dube	2238, 2329	129	Shri Singh, Ganesh	2183, 2198, 2317, 2331
100	Shri Rana, Kashiram	2248, 2308, 2343	130	Shri Singh, Mohan	2254
101	Shri Rao, K.S.	2205, 2264, 2265	131	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	2156, 2241, 2295, 2331, 2352
102	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	2164, 2191, 2288, 2328	132	Shri Singh, Rakesh	2153
103	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	2243, 2331, 2359	133	Dr. Singh, Ram Lakhnan	2172
104	Shri Rawale, Mohan	2208	134	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	2175, 2264, 2270
105	Prof. Rawat, Rasa Singh	2149, 2286	135	Shri Singh, Sugrib	2259, 2342
106	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	2154, 2239, 2318, 2332, 2342	136	Shri Singh, Uday	2245, 2305, 2344
107	Shri Reddy, K.J.S.P.	2169, 2262	137	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	2191
108	Shri Reddy, M. Sreenivasulu	2168, 2263	138	Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	2174, 2269, 2360
109	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpat Rao	2230, 2253, 2320, 2336	139	Shri Subba, M.K.	2141, 2231
110	Shri Rijiju, Kiren	2264	140	Shri Subbarayan, K.	2167
111	Shri Sai, Nand Kumar	2173, 2221, 2278, 2319, 2342	141	Smt. Sujatha, C.S	2185, 2187

1	2	3
142	Shri Surendran, Chengara	2337
143	Shri Thomas, P.C.	2306, 2342, 2345
144	Shri Thummar, V.K.	2201, 2320
145	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	2192, 2264
146	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	2173, 2221, 2268, 2319, 2347
147	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	2189, 2357
148	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	2261, 2314, 2343
149	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	2293, 2338
150	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	2258, 2279, 2334

1	2	3
151	Shri Virupakshappa, K.	2213
152	Shri Waghmare, Suresh Ganapatrao	2208
153	Shri Yadav, Devendra Prasad	2216
154	Shri Yadav, Paras Nath	2202, 2306
155	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	2176, 2272, 2322, 2364
156	Shri Yaskhi, Madhu Goud	2209, 2264, 2290, 2342, 2363
157	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	2171, 2271, 2281, 2324, 2350

Annexure-II**Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Corporate Affairs	:	
Finance	:	221, 223, 226, 227, 229, 231, 237
Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	:	
Law and Justice	:	
New and Renewable Energy	:	224
Power	:	228, 232, 234, 236, 240
Rural Development	:	222, 230
Tribal Affairs	:	239
Urban Development	:	233, 235
Women and Child Development	:	225, 238

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Corporate Affairs	:	2205, 2226, 2238, 2260, 2265, 2282, 2313, 2329, 2348
Finance	:	2140, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2157, 2159, 2160, 2163, 2166, 2174, 2175, 2178, 2181, 2186, 2187, 2190, 2193, 2197, 2198, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2204, 2206, 2209, 2210, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2218, 2222, 2232, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2240, 2244, 2247, 2250, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2259, 2262, 2264, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2277, 2278, 2280, 2281, 2283, 2284, 2286, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2292, 2295, 2296, 2298, 2299, 2308, 2310, 2311, 2314, 2319, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2328, 2330, 2333, 2335, 2340, 2347, 2349, 2350, 2355, 2358, 2363, 2367
Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	:	2194, 2228, 2261, 2294, 2301, 2315, 2326, 2332, 2343, 2353, 2364, 2365
Law and Justice	:	2185, 2191, 2327
New and Renewable Energy	:	2161, 2189, 2251, 2266, 2339
Power	:	2141, 2169, 2173, 2176, 2177, 2184, 2192, 2195, 2208, 2221, 2231, 2258, 2275, 2293, 2306, 2316, 2336, 2338, 2341, 2342, 2345, 2359, 2366
Rural Development	:	2145, 2150, 2152, 2172, 2179, 2182, 2183, 2188, 2196, 2225, 2230, 2234, 2243, 2257, 2279, 2302, 2312, 2317, 2318, 2322, 2331, 2344, 2352, 2354, 2360, 2368
Tribal Affairs	:	2149, 2167, 2170, 2213, 2219, 2220, 2224, 2227, 2246, 2297, 2301, 2303, 2337
Urban Development	:	2151, 2156, 2158, 2162, 2164, 2165, 2168, 2171, 2180, 2199, 2203, 2207, 2217, 2223, 2229, 2233, 2239, 2241, 2242, 2245, 2249, 2274, 2276, 2285, 2287, 2304, 2305, 2320, 2346, 2351, 2357
Women and Child Development	:	2139, 2211, 2212, 2248, 2263, 2291, 2307, 2309, 2334, 2356, 2361, 2362

INTERNET

The original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address :

<http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in>

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on Lok Sabha T.V. Channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. on everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

LOK SABHA DEBATES ON SALE

Printed copies of Lok Sabha Debates of Original version, English version, Hindi version and indices thereto, DRSCs reports and other Parliamentary Publications and Souvenir items with logo of Parliament are available for sale at the Sales Counter, Reception, Parliament House, (Tel. Nos. 23034726, 23034495, 23034496) New Delhi-110001. The information about all these publications and items is also available on the website mentioned above.

© 2008 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in
Lok Sabha (Twelfth Edition) and Printed by Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006
